



# Campden & District Historical and Archæological Society

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## NOTES & QUERIES

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### Contents

	<b>Page</b>
From the Editor	61
Letters to the Editor	62
Seventy Years of Craftsmanship: A brief look at the life of Alec Miller	
Jane Wilgress	63
Putting their hands to the Plough, part I	
Margaret Fisher & Pearl Mitchell	65
Extract from Memoir of Guy Desmond Griffiths	69
Campden Workhouse	70
Judith Ellis	

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### *From The Editor*

We are now at the beginning of a new year, 2008 and it is hard to believe that I shall soon have lived in Campden for 20 years. I met Jane Wilgress quite early on in my time here, when she was on an extended visit to Campden from California and I am delighted she has sent this article, which she wrote a while back about her father Alec Miller. The Ploughing Match researches done by Pearl Mitchell and Margaret Fisher at the Leicester Record Office are most worthwhile, containing useful farms and workers names of our district and giving a good description of these events. Part II will appear in the next issue. Judith Ellis's research into the Workhouse provides us with answers to many questions – where, when, what happened to it? I also found the Memoir of Guy Desmond Griffiths fun, with its fascinating descriptions of his early family life in the late nineteenth century at Bedfont House, Campden. There is only space for a short extract here, but more will follow in future issues. Thank you all for your valuable contributions to your publication, Notes & Queries.

## Letters to the Editor

Correspondence of August 2007 from **Paul Whitfield**, brought to my attention by member **Leila King**, related indirectly to the article in issue V no 4, on Emily Hale, but specifically to Stanley Cottage in Leysbourne. I quote from it:

“It may interest you to know that my father, Christopher Whitfield, lived at Stanley Cottage during the 1930s, leaving it only when his ideal bachelor home, the Tithe House opposite the Church, was finished, in 1940. Within a year he had married, and in 1942 I appeared! He later wrote a History of Chipping Campden and a book on Robert Dover, which you may have come across. He had a housekeeper at one time, called Polly Wain I think, who lived in the cottages opposite; her father was supposed to have fought at Waterloo. He either leased or sold the cottage to his aunt, Dorothy Chatwin (also great-aunt to Bruce, the writer) and she shared it with Phyllis Gearey who had been my father's nanny before the First World War, and was briefly mine during the Second; she later worked as in the Wardrobe at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and moved to Stratford. I remember visiting the cottage often as a child, and the narrow garden opening out into the part that borders Dover's Court.”

Member **Dorrie Ellis** (via Jill Wilson) sent information about the 1948 B.B.C. Programme "Have a Go" in Campden and Teapot Williams:

“The "Have a Go" radio programme mentioned in last month's Bulletin was recorded in 1948 and was originally intended to cover Ebrington - probably at the suggestion of Bill Payne, who was a member of "The Archers" team at the time. However, a suitable venue for an audience was difficult to find in Ebrington, so the Campden Grammar School Hall was eventually decided upon. Five Ebrington residents were picked as interviewees with two Campden entrants diplomatically added. The list was as follows - Mrs. Daubany, Mrs. Drinkwater, George Hawkins, Bill Payne and Joyce Baker from Ebrington and Eileen Keyte who lived at the Dial House in Campden and Teapot Williams. The B.B.C. team was the usual one of Wilfred Pickles and his wife, Mabel, producer Barney Colehan and pianist Violet Carson with various technical colleagues. Wilfred Pickles gave his usual Yorkshire banter hoping for audience participation but Yubberton Yawnees and Campden regulars respond best to their own local folklore. As far as I remember, response was limited, as were the answers to the usual programme questions. Teapot gave his usual tale of "baked rats for breakfast", but the main result of the subsequent later broadcast was the gift of several cigars for Teapot from listeners - when he was asked who he would like to be if he had a choice, he replied, "Ah, that chap up in London wot smokes they cigars"!!

Member **Diane Evans** also reported that: “the owner of Leasebourne Cottage mentioned that 'one of the old ladies' told him that his cottage used to be called Teapot Cottage.”

Assistant Archivist **Monica Bedding** sent me this cutting from the Cotswold Journal Archives, commenting that some things do not change in a 100 years:

“August 24, 1907, a large number of residents in the district have recently been considerably astonished on receiving an apparently type-written circular informing them that they have won a valuable piece of jewellery as a prize, though it is not stated what the competition was or how they won. The astonishment of the recipients at their good fortune is increased by the attachment of their autograph, evidently genuine, to the circular, and it is a matter of wonder how the signatures and addresses are obtained. The astonishment and pleasure which may have existed at the opening sentences give place to others as the circular is perused, and it is discovered that the prize will not be forwarded until the 'winner' has forwarded a small sum of money which purports to be the price of another piece of jewellery.”

## **Seventy Years of Craftsmanship:**

### **A Brief Look at the Life of Alec Miller, Sculptor**

**Jane Wilgress**

When Alec Miller, aged 23, joined C. R. Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft in 1902 he was no neophyte. One of six children of a master cabinet maker in Glasgow, he had behind him a five-year apprenticeship in the woodcarving studio of one Mrs. Anstruther MacKay, and a further five years in her employ. All the Miller children, despite strictures of a degree of poverty and somewhat narrowed religion, would seem to have been well endowed with the typical Scots drive for education and a widened horizon, for all went on into cultivated and interestingly developed lives. The background provided some strength and vision - not least for Alec, whose gifts in power of observation and manual control were manifested early in his apprenticeship and were to support him in a long, internationally recognized career in the practice of sculpture and teaching.

In writing of his early years, in which he attended drawing classes at night school and later at Glasgow School of Art, Alec records having seen in an 1898 loan exhibition at Glasgow Art Gallery "Two small heads carved in pear wood by Tilman Riemenschneider ... These heads filled my mind for days, and I returned again and again to see them. And though it was 15 years later before I ventured on similar portraiture in wood ... these Riemenschneider heads have been and remain today a source of inspiration" (written in 1946).

Alec took classes in anatomy and modelling at the School of Art rather than life drawing. "I was" he says, "less interested in making drawings than in studying form" - a distinction which, perceived at such a young age, had deep significance for him and was to govern a working life devoted to sculptural expression. Thus, while the move into Ashbee's sphere, where such perceptions could be discussed and where art and craftsmanship were lived out together, was a definite advancement, Alec had already and literally carved out his way to a successful career. The key factor in his move out of artisan life in Glasgow was the remarkable character of Mrs. MacKay, who besides recognizing Alec's creative drive made initial contact with Ashbee on his behalf. Of Mrs. MacKay, Alec writes that, as Miss C. P. Anstruther, she had come to Glasgow, having studied woodcarving at the Royal College of Art, to show her work at the big Exhibition of 1888, then stayed on to open a studio for teaching woodcarving and undertaking commissions. About 1892 she married Duncan MacKay of Plockton and the couple pursued their great interest in the cause of Scots culture as exemplified in folklore and crafts.

After the dissolution of the Guild, Alec found a place to live in Campden which also afforded him work space, and formed a partnership with his younger brother Fred (also a "graduate" of Mrs. MacKay's studio) and Guildsman Will Hart - "Messrs. Miller & Hart, Architectural Sculptors and Carvers, The Studio, Campden, Glos." They did not lack commissions and in 1909 Alec married Eleanor Bishop, young sister of Guild Director Gerald Bishop. "The Studio" was their first home, and there my two brothers and I were born. The place helped sustain the family through the deprivations of the 1914-18 war, for its enclosed garden had fruit trees and space for chickens and vegetables.

In the Guild years Alec had in his spare time created some modelled portraiture in relief and in the round. In 1913 came the first carved portrait, of Eleanor with her baby on her arm. With its vitality, its slight anatomical oddities and much-emphasized drapery, it has indeed a quality to bring it in touch with Riemenschneider - perhaps a vision that did not always accompany commissioned portraits of later dates, skillful and lyrical as they are. The head of my brother Alastair, carved in 1919, has a comparable, compelling quality.

So, from about 1920 on, portraiture in wood is increasingly to be found in Alec's work, interspersed with much carving for churches. There exists no complete inventory; it may safely be said that work in wood and stone by Alec Miller is to be found in at least 22 English counties and in a number of London churches. In Gloucestershire are many examples and in Oxfordshire also, where he frequently worked in co-operation with architects F. E. Howard, Thomas Rayson and Harold Rogers. In the city of Oxford, in the colleges particularly, he has left much work in stone - some simply repair or replacement of damaged corbels and such, some figures in churches - Holywell, St Luke's and St. Peter's. The city War Memorial in St. Giles' is his work, and indeed carving memorials probably formed the biggest part of his livelihood in the early '20s. However, another means of earning was by then beginning to open up for him; he was sought out not only as portraitist, but also as lecturer.

The earliest lecture text extant is dated 1919, on "The Craftsman: His Education and His Place in Industry," given at a Cambridge conference on New Deals in Education. Alec takes a stance much in accord with William Morris. "Are our schools of art useless?" he asks, and gives the answer "nearly so, because when the student leaves the school and is shot out into the workshop, the industrial system grinds him between the millstones of quantity and profit." Alec gave frequent talks at Maude Royden's Guildhouse Church in Eccleston Square, about which she commented, "Mr. Miller shows us the meaning of sculpture as an expression of life - of human history - a thing not of galleries or museums, but of the common life of the people." It was not unknown for Alec to spend a day upon scaffolding working on an Oxford college façade, then climb down, get into evening clothes and lecture that night to academics at the same institution. This disarming kind of authority made Alec a popular speaker, in the United States particularly, where he established connections throughout the 1920s and '30s, lecturing at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and at Yale University among others, and fulfilling many carved portrait commissions, despite the Depression. Alec stated that he had carved "at least 200" portrait heads; I believe that is an underestimate.

So, here is a rich field for research, calling for insight into what Lewis Mumford calls "the ancient and deeply healthy tradition of the artist as a master craftsman"- a tradition through which Alec Miller enriched church heritage and domestic culture as exemplified in portraiture on both sides of the Atlantic. Says the Washington D.C. Society of the Fine Arts: "No other artist since the sixteenth century has brought the technique of sculpture in wood to such perfection." Throughout his life, which ended in 1961, Alec cheerfully carved whatever he was asked to carve, and brought to these assignments an apprentice's eagerness, a journeyman's competence and frequently a master's touch.

## Putting Their Hands To The Plough, Part I

**Margaret Fisher and Pearl Mitchell**

*This is an edited extract from a longer article donated to CADHAS archives about the history of ploughing matches in Campden and District. It contains much fascinating detail and many local names and will be an invaluable research source to be consulted for farming references.*

During the first half of the 19th century enormous changes were brought about by the abolition of the open field system and the passing of the Enclosure Acts, which made significant alterations to the countryside. Stone walls were built and hedges planted, dividing the land into separate holdings with smaller fields resulting in a more efficient management of farming. At this period agriculture was reacting to the stimulus given to it by the noble gentry and farmers who were endeavouring to improve the performance of every practical part of farming by spreading all available information on the subject and by also trying to advance the skills of the labourers. Agricultural meetings and ploughing matches had already done much to further this success. Campden followed the trend with their first ploughing match held in 1841 on Mr. Hancock's farm at Old Comb, promoted by the Earl of Gainsborough who held extensive estates in the area and it is from his archives that we are able to tell you the story of that day.

On Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> 1841 the ploughs were scheduled to start at Old Comb Farm for the Cup and Premiums at 7 o'clock. The ploughing on this day was said to be "Not first rate" as the weather was unfavourable and it being the first meeting of its kind the ploughmen were "rather embarrassed and not able to do their best." Three classes were competed for with a silver cup, given by the Right Honourable the Earl of Gainsborough to the owner of the First Prize Plough, Class I or II. The competition was open to entrants from the parishes of Campden, Ebrington, Aston-Subedge, Mickleton, Weston-Subedge, Saintbury, Broadway, Willersey, Snowhill and Blockley and prizes ranged from 3 sovereigns to a crown (5/-).

A goodly number of agricultural labourers and children came to witness, and participate, in the pleasure of this new occasion. The rivalry of the ploughmen who played such an important part in the performances of the day was urged on and encouraged by the cheering voices of the crowd. The judging was performed by Mr. W. Bell, Mr. W. Bullimore and Mr. W. Wheatcroft. The type of plough used was recorded next to the name of each ploughman with most of the prize winners ploughing with wheeled ploughs, that is one with a furrow wheel and a land wheel. Three ploughmen who won prizes were working with the older wooden swing ploughs which had longer handles, to give the man a good leverage, and a short beam to limit the leverage of the horse. The wheeled ploughs had only been a recent introduction at this time and there was still controversy as to the merits of the wheeled plough versus the swing plough, which was much lighter in draught.

Class I (the Ploughman who shall plough in the best manner half an acre of Land in Three Hours and a half, not less than four inches deep, Horses abreast, without a Driver) had seven entries and Mr. John Baldwin of Northwick Hill, with Richard Hall as his ploughman using Iron Plough Wheels, was declared the winner. Thomas Beavington ploughing for Lord Northwick took the second prize, and Edmund Hollis ploughing with Ransome Wheels for Henry Roberts of Paxford was third. There were only two entries in Class II (for the Ploughboy under 18 years of age) both entered by



Henry Roberts of Paxford. William Widdows took the first prize and Joseph Handcock was second with both ploughboys using Ransome Rutland Ploughs. Ransome's of Ipswich had advertised these ploughs in 1834, with the following description; "Each wearing part is contrived that it may be replaced by the ploughman without sending the plough off the field. The shares are case-hardened on the under side to the temper of steel, which occasions their wearing to a thin cutting edge while at work." Class III (Ploughman or Boy who shall Plough Half an Acre of Land, as in Classes one and two, with Three Horses and a Driver) attracted eight entrants, but Mr. Charles Southam of Ebrington and Mr. William Izod of Westington did not compete on the day. Mr. Richard Reynolds of Paxford with ploughman Stephen Taplin was declared the winner, Mr. Stephen Hancock of Old Comb with ploughman George Oldacre was second and Mr. Richard Keen of Campden with ploughman John Carter using his wooden plough was third. A fourth prize was awarded to William Carter using Iron Plough Wheels and employed by Mr. George Penson of Draycott. Lord Campden remarked upon the use of the old Gloucester Plough at work in the field, which had a mouldboard nearly 2 yards long but had nevertheless come in for a prize. He was also glad to see the Ransome Ploughs in the hands of boys under 18 years of age and it was on them he placed his hopes of ultimate success in the art of ploughing.

At the meeting in Chipping Campden Town Hall following the competition, the Chair was then taken at 3 o'clock by the President, Lord Viscount Campden\*, being supported on his right by the Reverend Mr. Kennedy, R. W. Baker Esq., R. Ransome, Esq., on his left by The Reverend Mr. Jones, Mr. Keen and the High Bailiff. Tickets for this event cost 2s 6d each and a discussion upon agricultural subjects was advertised to follow the meal. A party of about 60 persons sat down to an 'Ordinary', the name used at that time for a good quality dinner, provided by the landlord [*Ed. Hugh Mullins*] of the Noel Arms. There had been twenty subscribers to this inaugural meeting, paying amounts ranging from £5 to £1 but the Right Honourable Lord Northwick, the Honourable Gen. Lygon and some other subscribers had not yet named their amounts. Henry Roberts of Paxford, who was Treasurer, had also received several subscriptions under £1 each. The Right Honourable Earl Fitzhardinge had generously given £5 and also a coat, waistcoat and hat to the winner of the First Prize in Classes one and two.

To date we have found no more written accounts of any further matches in the Campden area at this period, but there were most probably some follow up competitions after this initial success. Industrialisation and the increasing population fuelled the drive to continue improving agriculture. The first steam plough had been produced in

1833 and machinery-smashing rioters protested against unemployment and the introduction of the threshing machine. In 1836 a combine harvester was patented in the U.S.A. and in 1839 came the forming of the English Agricultural Society, later to become the Agricultural Society of England. Great efforts were being put into improving livestock breeding and in 1838 the Jersey Herd Book began to be followed in 1846 by the publication of the first Hereford Poll Book. The inaugural Royal Show was held at Oxford in 1839, the Farmers Club was founded in 1842, the Rothamsted Experimental Station in 1843 and the year 1845 saw the opening of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

Sadly at this time no one realised that all this optimism was to be severely tested in the second half of the century with extreme weather conditions ruining crops, wide spread epidemics of disease in cattle and sheep and the vast quantities of grain imported from America all causing increasing distress across the agricultural world.

The North Cotswold Farmers Association was formed in 1889 to promote farming in the district. Following the appointment of a working committee with Hon. Secretaries Mr. Harry Coldicott and Mr. W. N. Izod, Jnr., this Association's first ploughing competition was arranged to take place on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> 1904 on Westington Hill. The schedule consisted of six classes, which were advertised in local newspapers and inns. The secretaries received 34 entries with 31 participating on the day and the farmers and ploughmen of the district showed the public that they could "hold a plough as well as anybody could wish." A large number of spectators witnessed the competition, which had to take place in two fields (the original one not being large enough for the number of entries) adjoining the roadway, one being on Mr. T. Robins' Farm and the other belonging to Mr. W. N. Izod jnr. It was regretted that on this day, the Auction Sale of the late Mr. John Timins' live and dead farming stock at Dorn near Moreton-in-Marsh, drew away a number of farmers who were no doubt interested in the advertised "13 fashionably bred shire mares and foals."

The land at Westington was a fairly light stubble and the rain of the previous day was said to have made it "muffly". As well as this, there was the rock to contend with, so the ploughmen were unable to give their work a finished appearance. Competitors had to plough three chains each, with either three-horse teams or G.O. tackle according to the class entered. 'G.O.' was a regional Midlands term originally used by the ploughmen to instruct the horses to turn right, and then became the definitive name for the plough gear, in other words the harness. Work was commenced at about half past ten, but it was well into the afternoon before the judging was concluded. The judges were Mr. John James of Whitchurch and Mr. John James of Stanway, both described as practical men. The first prizewinners were as follows:

Class I for ploughing three chains with three horses and a boy – James Unite ploughman to Mr. Spencer, Hidcote. Class II for G. O. tackle - J: Pritchard (Mr. John Morris, Broad Campden). This class proved to be the best of the day with Pritchard also winning the Champion Prize of £1 for the best ploughing in the competition. Mr. T. Ellison of Campden gave a whip for the reserve man who was T. Keyte (Mr. P. J. C. Howard, Foxcote.) Class III was for farmers or farmer's sons ploughing with two or three horses - the first prize being a Cooke and Sons (Lincoln) K.L.2 plough specially adapted for sticky land and given by Coake's area agent, Mr. Booth of Ilmington. This was won by Littleton's Mr. A. Warner. Class IV was for ploughmen not exceeding 20 years of age with G. O. tackle - F. Hawcutt (Mr. S. Stanley, Ebrington). Prizes were also offered for the tidiest teams, man and plough, and this was won by B. Kilby who used two Suffolk horses which attracted a good deal of

attention being a kind not often seen in this district. Kilby and his outfit were particularly tidy and it was said "he had all the etceteras with him." He was employed by Mr. T. Wells, who owned Top Farm, a model holding in Broadway village. Benefactor Mr. Wells stood a stallion and a bull on his farm for the use of the villagers. Generally it was noted that the two horse ploughing was the best, the three horse not quite so straight but was well turned over.

After the advertised competitions were concluded there was an additional match for a sovereign between Mr. J. C. Haydon and Mr. Albert Tanner of the Noel Arms Inn in Campden which aroused a good deal of amusement. Mr. Tanner won working with a Larkworthy's Wood Beam Plough. It was noted that the representative of the Worcester firm of Larkworthy and Co was on the ground and booked several orders. This firm were manufacturers of all kinds of agricultural implements and machines in their Lowesmoor Iron Works and also agents for all the other leading makers.

The prizes on this day were distributed by Lord Lifford and in proposing a vote of thanks Mr. U. C. Stanley referred to the great value of such competitions saying "The knowledge gained between the plough tails, in the sheep fold or in the cow-shed was the kind of knowledge they most appreciated rather than theory learned from books and such trials of skill could not but enhance the value of labour, both to employer and employed." Replying Lord Lifford agreed with these sentiments saying "A pound of practise was worth a ton of theory" and he hoped that the competitions would grow in the future. At the meeting of the North Cotswold Farmers in Campden, following this event, the members congratulated themselves on their first successful ploughing competition but had found that, at the finish, they were £1 in debt. The meeting agreed with the Chairman that they should donate this amount from funds.

*\*Ed. It is interesting to see this group of people on the top table attending this 1841 Campden event. The Viscount Campden is the 23 year-old Charles George Noel, his father Charles Noel having been created Earl of Gainsborough in this same year. 1841 was a big year for Charles George as he was married on November 1st to the 20 year-old Ida Hay and the new Campden House at Combe, where the young couple would live, was being done up. Robert Ransome was the son of the founder of Ransome's Iron Foundry, an important Ipswich Quaker farm machinery business. Richard Westbrook Baker served the Noel family for 40 years as the agent of the Exton Estate. He instituted the Ploughing Meeting at Exton, invented the Rutland Plough, which was manufactured by Ransome, was a renowned stockbreeder, a prime mover in the formation of the Rutland Agricultural Society, an agricultural innovator and philanthropist. In 1854 his daughter Sarah Jane married Robert Ransome's son, Charles, whilst in 1856 his son, William Henry, married Elizabeth Keen and they lived at the Cedars (now Abbotsbury) in Westington. I wonder if the Mr Keen is Elizabeth's father John, the Westington farmer. Who were the Reverends Kennedy and Jones? Is Kennedy an error in the original record and meant to be Kennaway, vicar of St James's, Campden from 1832-72 whose first wife was Emma Noel, the Viscount's cousin?*

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**Extract from**      ***Memoir of the Life of Guy Desmond Griffiths***

*An email to the Archive Room in 2006 from Heather Griffiths of Australia enquired about the Griffiths family. We sent photos of the Griffiths family and their home Bedfont House, much family tree detail and some anecdotes. In return we learnt that Heather's husband, Ronald Desmond Griffiths, was the grandson of Guy Desmond Griffiths, born Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 1879, the youngest son of William Higford Griffiths b.1829, d.1910 and his wife Ellen b.1837, d.1912. Guy Desmond Griffiths had left England and settled in Australia. Heather is transcribing a Memoir he wrote for his children about his life and has kindly shared his memories of Campden in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with us. This is a short extract from his first 8 years and more will follow in future issues.*

I was born in the village of Campden [21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1879]. I am quite sure of this, because that's where I found myself from the time I can remember anything. I have also the testimony of my younger [of two] sister, [Lola b.c.1865] who is much older than myself, who one day when she was talking to me when I was a boy of about 8 years old, said, "when I came back from Germany", (my two sisters [Josephine b.c.1864 and Lola] were partly educated in Germany, mainly I believe to learn the language), "when I came back from Germany, I went up into mother's room and saw you laying on a bundle of cushions, nobody expected you and nobody wanted you". From this I gathered there can be no doubt that I was born in the village of Campden.

As early as I can remember, I and my brother [Brinton Crossley Griffiths b.22 March 1877] about two years older than myself, were under the care of various nurses – some of these nurses were very nice, and some were not. We liked the good nurses and everything went smoothly, but we did not like the bad nurses at all. Their procedure when they took us out for walks was to grab us by the hand and absolutely pull us along the street like a bundle of hay. This procedure did not suit me at all. I promptly flopped down, and started to howl and kick for all I was worth. This invariably had the effect of stopping the manoeuvre of dragging, but the relations between the nurse and myself became very much strained. Nothing she did was right and nothing I did was right, and when we got back to the nursery things did not improve. Either we wouldn't eat our tea or we would upset it on to the floor, but I now remember these sorts of nurses did not stay very long, in fact they always seemed to vanish very quickly after there had been such playing up and a fresh nurse took their place. But really of the few nurses I had they were mostly very nice, and I used to love them. Our walks were often exchanged for rides on our donkey; we used to sit in panniers, one each side of the donkey with the nurse in charge. These donkey rides generally went off all right, but not infrequently the donkey got tired of his burden and tried to get rid of it by laying down and starting to roll. Invariably the nurse was too nimble for the donkey and pulled us out of the panniers before the donkey had a chance to flatten us out. We were never put back in the panniers but had to walk home.

I suppose life in the nursery was a bit monotonous to me, and I used to play up a lot, smash everything up and tear up all the paper I could find to make imitation snow drifts and any other sort of mischief I could find to do. I think it was on account of this that I was packed off to an old Dame's school miles away from home. It near broke my little heart, when I had to leave home. ... When I went home for the holidays what joy it was to me to be home again, and away from school and teachers. The last time I went to the old Dame's school I went to say goodbye to my old Grandmother [Eleanor Sherborn, née Wilkinson, b.c.1801]. She was very old, 85 I think. She was very fond of me and said "next time you come home for the holidays dearie, I'll have your favourite feed all ready waiting for you". It was roast chicken and bread sauce, cherry tart and cream. When I came home next time for the holidays I

asked maid about Granny. She didn't say a word but took me into the kitchen where Grandmother's meals were cooked – on the table ready spread was a hot roast chicken, and a steaming bowl of bread sauce, a great big cherry tart and cream standing by it. I was very hungry after the railway trip and soon filled myself up, and while I was eating, the maid, she was Granny's own special maid, told me that Granny had gone .... [*Her death was registered in Shipston between Oct. and Dec. 1885*] When I had eaten as much as I could, I went to hunt up my dear old mother. It was a rambling old house with a very large and beautiful garden. Granny had her own special quarters, Mother and Dad had theirs, and the children were scattered about in different parts of the house. The kitchens, pantrys [*sic*], cellars, pump rooms and so on were nearly underground, about half their heights above the surface, so it was nearly always cool down in these parts. I found mother and when my burst of joy at being back home was over, she told me I was not going back to the old Dame's school any more. Gee, but I was glad, I used to hate that school.

To be continued ...

## Campden Workhouse

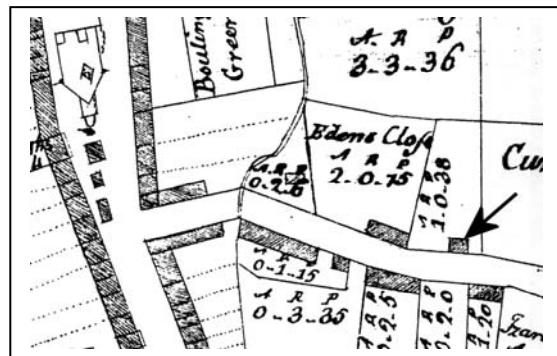
Judith Ellis

*Allan Warmington and Judith would occasionally talk and wonder about the exact site of Campden workhouse: they knew the general whereabouts from the name 'Workhouse Bank' in Sheep Street but there was no specific knowledge. Judith now unravels the story, too late for Allan, but this account is in his memory.*

At a vestry meeting for the parish of Chipping Campden on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1724 it was agreed that 'the overseers of Campden shall employ workmen to putt the house in repaire ... for a workhouse and the moneys expended in repaires to be raised by the Poores Rate and likewise that the Overseers shall raise moneys according to the late Act of Parliament directly to pay for this workhouse and we do appoint Mr William Eden and Mr Nathan Izod Overseers to see that the repaires be fairly done'.<sup>i</sup>

The 1723 Act allowed churchwardens to hire a house 'for the maintenance and settling to work of the poor'. Any poor people refusing to be housed there would be denied relief.

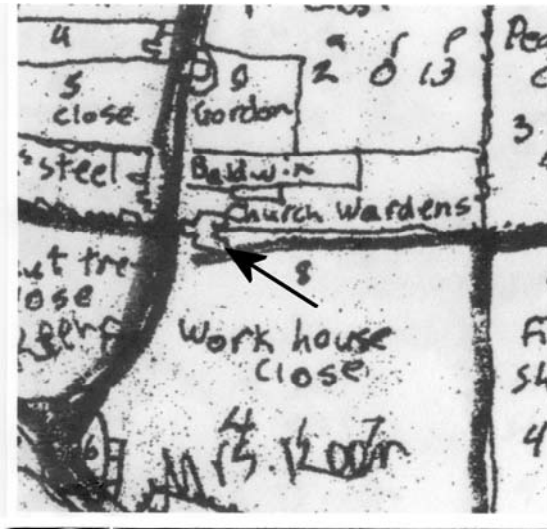
This section of the 1722 map of the Countess of Gainsborough's Estates (see right) shows a building (arrowed) in a lane that is now Sheep Street. Although it is a sketch map it seems likely from subsequent evidence that this is the location of the building that was rented by the Churchwardens. Entries in the Overseers' Accounts show that £2.12s annual rent was paid for the building in



the following years. The Churchwardens appear to have taken full possession as repairs were regularly made and in 1742 a workshop was built.

A second estate map of Campden, drawn in 1818, (see below) shows a building now within a plot of land apparently owned by the Churchwardens and adjoining Workhouse Close where farm animals could have been kept (the Overseers' Accounts show sales of animal hides as income for the Workhouse). The building has a

different shape to the usual domestic dwellings and it seems very likely that this was the workhouse.



The Poor Law Amendment Act was passed in 1834. One of the conditions of the Act was that workhouses were to be built in every parish or, if parishes were too small, in unions of parishes. Campden became part of Shipston Union and when the Union workhouse was ready in 1835, the Campden inmates were transferred, leaving empty the building in Sheep Street.

Canon Edward Kennaway, who became the Vicar in 1832, was particularly conscious of the need to educate the children of the parish and it appears that he was personally subsidising the costs of

the Infant School ‘because there are about one hundred and forty children in the Infant School and the cost of educating each is about four pence a week’.<sup>ii</sup> He may have seen the empty building as a potential source of funds, because on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1836 a Resolution was passed by the Ratepayers of Chipping Campden on ‘the best mode of disposing of the Workhouse belonging to the said Parish’. It was resolved unanimously that ‘the Parish Workhouse with outhouse and land be sold by Public Auction or Private Contract.’<sup>iii</sup>

The Guardians of the Parish were requested to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners (in London) for approval.<sup>iv</sup> However, there was a problem: under the terms of the 1834 Act the proceeds of the property sale did not belong to Campden parish but to Shipston Union, and for two years application forms and letters were exchanged between the Charity Commissioners, the Guardians of Shipston Union and the Campden Churchwardens resulting, in October 1838, in a letter of refusal signed by Sir Edwin Chadwick, Secretary to the Commissioners. A letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1838 from Shipston Union to the Poor Law Commissioners referred to ‘property supposed to belong to the Parish of Chipping Campden .... A similar application was made to the [Shipston] Board of Guardians, which they refused to forward, both because they considered the proposal could not be entertained and because approval was doubtful from evidence that it was not parish property of such a character as to admit of the interference of the Guardians’.<sup>v</sup>

The Churchwardens must have been expecting this response as Canon Kennaway was already exchanging letters with the Earl of Gainsborough’s agents. On 12 Jan 1838 a letter was sent by John Bridges, for the Earl of Gainsborough, with a draft agreement with blanks for amounts to be paid. Lord Gainsborough would build cottages on the site using workhouse materials. ‘The cottages when erected are to be charged with £ ... pa as an endowment for the Infant School’.<sup>vi</sup> Vestry agreement must have been given, for an Agreement was made on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1838 between Mr. J. Keen, agent to the Rt. Hon. Lord Barham (who was acting for his father) and William Stanley of Campden, builder, on the other.

‘...the said William Stanley does agree to build twelve cottages on a piece of land known as the Workhouse Gardens, the property of the Rt. Hon. Lord Barham for the

sum of eighty one pounds per cottage, agreeable to plans drawn by Mr. Kendall of Kington ..... The present building known as the Old Workhouse to be taken down at the expense of the builder with all outbuildings thereto belonging and the materials appropriated to his use, a proper allowance for the same having been made in the amount of the estimate.’<sup>vii</sup>

The location and story of Campden Workhouse can now be understood: the workhouse was demolished and the stone was used to build eight, rather than twelve, cottages now known as Gainsborough Terrace. Initially, according to the 1841 and 1851 censuses, the row of cottages was called Mount Pleasant – perhaps to remove the taint of workhouse stone!

There are still some mysteries to be solved: the Churchwardens were still paying rent for the Workhouse in 1799: an entry on 24 March shows that £2.12s was paid to Mr Hall for ‘rent of the workhouse’<sup>viii</sup> - the same amount that was being paid fifty years earlier. Yet the Land Tax records for Campden at this time do not list Mr Hall or the Churchwardens – the building was probably exempt from tax. More research is still to be done on the Vestry Minutes for this period and it may become clear as to who owned the land and buildings, but by 1836 the Churchwardens had certainly assumed ownership. The agreement with Lord Gainsborough was apparently only in relation to the use of the land on which the cottages had been built, for which he was to pay an annual rent towards the upkeep of the Infant School, but even this arrangement continued to be debated in a series of letters, with a settlement in 1843.

The problem surfaced again in 1870 when the new Earl of Gainsborough refused to pay the annual rent charge of £10 for the land and the Churchwardens had to seek legal advice. As no deed had ever been prepared relating to the ownership of the land, it was difficult for the Churchwardens to prove their case [and the money spent in legal fees must have far outweighed the sum owed]. Ownership was key to future use of the workhouse land and again the crucial documents relating to final agreement are not so far found in the Record Offices. However, the land where the workhouse had stood, together with the cottages and Workhouse Close were purchased by Albert Wilkinson from the Gainsborough estate in 1922 and then sold to Percy Rushen in 1924. The child of a family living in Gainsborough Terrace in the 1940s has a memory of a man (she thinks it was Mr Rushen) coming to collect the rent, dressed all in black ‘looking like a crow’.

Gainsborough Terrace has had some alterations over the years, but the view of the row and the outbuildings behind give us some sense of their original state – though no workhouse graffiti have been found!

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<sup>i</sup> Overseers receipts and disbursements 1709-73: Gloucestershire Archives P81 OV 2/1

<sup>ii</sup> Gainsborough papers: Leicester Record Office DE 3214 26/28/1-6

<sup>iii</sup> *ibid*

<sup>iv</sup> *ibid*

<sup>v</sup> *ibid*

<sup>vi</sup> Gainsborough papers: Leicestershire Record Office DE 3214 559/15

<sup>vii</sup> Gainsborough papers: Leicestershire Record Office DE 3214 26/28/1-6

<sup>viii</sup> Overseers receipts and disbursements 1773-1817: Gloucestershire Archives P81 OV 2/3

The maps shown are from the Gainsborough estate map 1722 (LRO) and 1818 (GA)