

PAINSWICK CHRONICLE



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Painswick Chronicle is published by Painswick Local History Society. It aims to present articles on a wide range of aspects of Painswick's history. All contributions, including letters and comments, are welcome and should be sent to:

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Copies of the Chronicle are available from officers of the Society.

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Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village

by Carl Moreland in association with Painswick Local History Society.

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Painswick Local History Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month between September and June at the Croft School, Painswick. The annual subscription is currently £6.50 per person or £10 per couple. Membership application should be made to the Membership Secretary:

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The Society is grateful to John Bailey for many of the drawings in this issue.

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PAINSWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Lord Dickinson

EDITORIAL

The Society is now into its ninth year.

It is worth commenting on the contributors to this second issue of *Painswick Chronicle*, but in particular to three who have been (and, in one case, still is!) very influential in the formation and development of the Society.

It was at Elisabeth Skinner's suggestion, following a course on 'Sources of Painswick History', jointly tutored by Elisabeth and Bryan Jerrard, that a meeting of participants was arranged to discuss the possibility and desirability of forming a local history society. With Elisabeth's encouragement a steering committee was formed and an Inaugural Meeting held in June 1990.

The thread was taken up by Tony Bradley who became the first Chairman and occupied this position for five years. When originally asked to take the Chairmanship, he said he knew nothing of local history (which proved to be over-modest!) but that he could bring his organisational skills to bear. The Society's success is due in no small measure to the sound foundation that was established under his leadership. Tony was an engineer, and was followed in the Chairmanship by Peter Minall, who was also initially - an engineer.

Peter is now commencing his fourth year in the Chair having already achieved significant advances and instigated a number of new projects. There must be something in the engineering discipline!

The editors would like to thank all those who have helped in the compilation and production of this issue of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

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PAINSWICK ROADS, ANCIENT & MODERN

by

Peter Minall

INTRODUCTION

In this article I attempt to review the development of the roads in and around Painswick, from the earliest trackways to the 19th century turnpikes. I have looked at the early maps, the first of which to be of much use in searching out local roads is Taylor's map of Gloucestershire (1777). I have read some of the findings or theories of historians and archaeologists. For example, there was a book with map published in Cheltenham in 1881 called the *Archaeological Handbook to the County of Gloucestershire* by G.B. Writts; there were the learned amateurs like Baddeley at the turn of the century, Colleen Haine in very recent times, and the very thorough Christopher Cox in the 1960s who researched the building of the turnpike roads around Stroud.

I have walked round the neighbourhood tracing out the routes of some of the old roads and tracks on the ground, looking for depressions in the fields, trying to account for a sudden swerve or right angle, tracking ancient hedgerows, guessing the most likely course on a map and then trying to find some supportive evidence on the site. The relative depths of ancient hollow-ways give some indication of the age of a road. One might also be lucky enough to detect an ancient roadway by the casting of long evening shadows in pastureland, or discolouration in hot summer weather.

The facts are hard to come by, and I admit that I have sometimes resorted to supposition in putting together this account.

EARLY TRACKWAYS

I start by considering the series of Iron Age settlements strung along the escarpment to east and west of our own Kimsbury Camp. Commencing at Leckhampton, through to Crickley Hill Camp, Birdlip, Brotheridge in Buckholt Wood, Kimsbury, Haresfield Camp - it is unthinkable that there would not have been communication between these settlements, a track linking them. This must be the origin of our present road from Birdlip through Cranham Woods, across what we now know as the Beacon, on to Seven Leaze Lane, through Edge to Haresfield Camp in Standish Wood (Fig. 1 **1**). I believe this to be the oldest road passing through the parish, following a prehistoric track between the Iron Age fortresses.

Another ancient road is the ridgeway that runs from Birdlip to Bulls Cross and on along the very top of Frith Wood, over Wickridge Hill, down to Folly Lane and eventually to

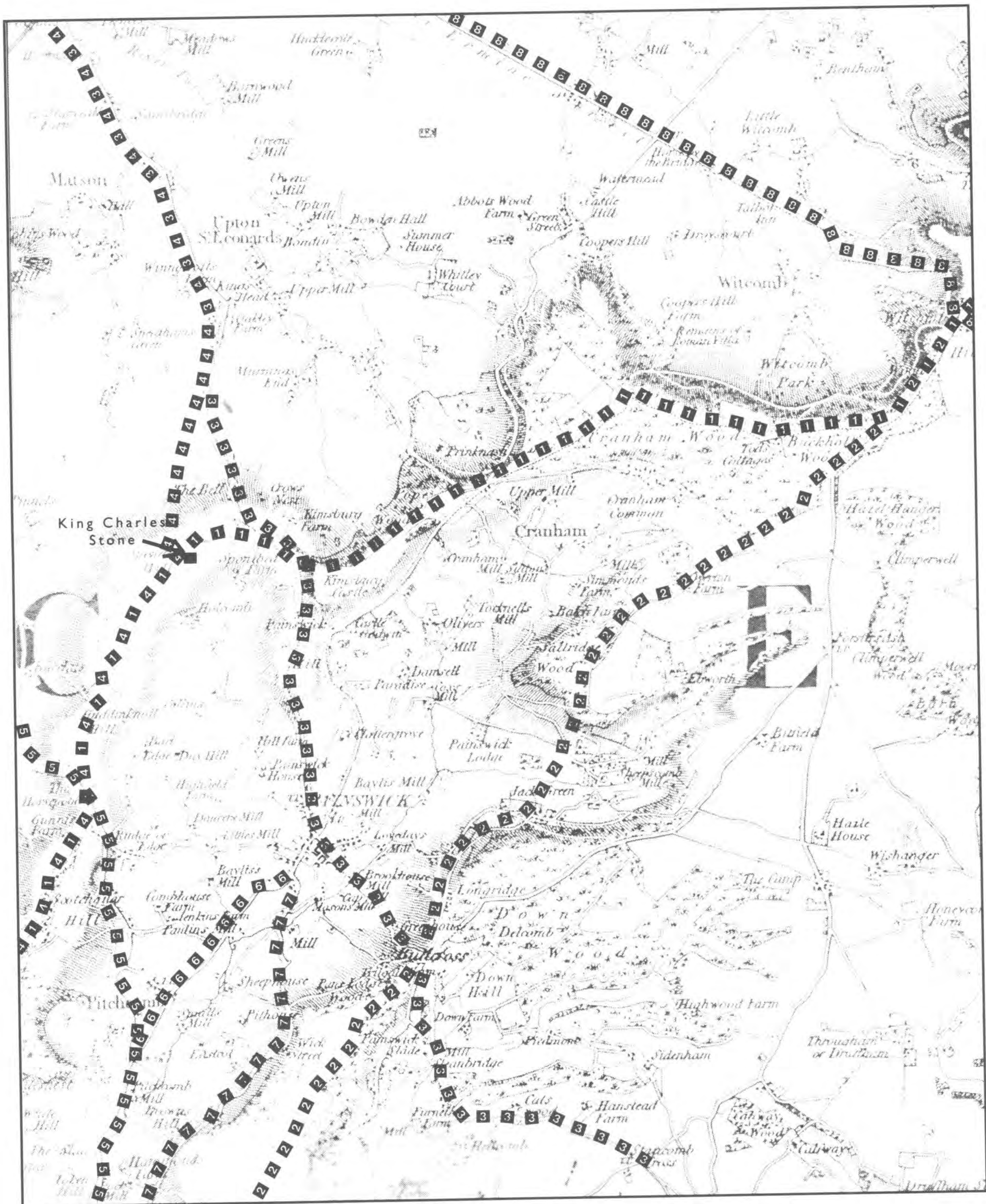


Figure 1

Key:

- 1** Birdlip/Cranham Woods
- 2** Ridgeway
- 3** Bisley Path
- 4** Portway/Stockley Way

- 5** Bacchus Way
- 6** 1818/19 Stroud/Cheltenham Road
- 7** Wick Street
- 8** Ermin Street

the Frome crossing at Dudbridge (Fig. 1 **2**). It is still possible to walk all but half a mile of this route. From Domesday times or even earlier it was part of one of the old Salt Ways (there were several). Salt of a high degree of purity was brought from Droitwich to the South Cotswolds (in this case as far as Sodbury) via Winchcombe, Cheltenham and Leckhampton.

Saltridge Hill, just north of Sheepscombe, provides strong evidence in support of this, but its position also suggests that the old Saltway, after following a more or less straight line in a south-westerly direction for a mile after leaving Birdlip, then left the path taken by today's road and headed for Overtown Farm, passing along the east side of Saltridge Hill to the centre of Sheepscombe, and so to Longridge and Bulls Cross.

This old road, from Bulls Cross to the south, was also the original route from Painswick to Dudbridge and beyond, long before Stroud came into being, until superseded by Stepping Stone Lane and Wick Street (Fig. 1 **7**), following the development of New Street in the early 15th century. This was only one of several major roads that met at Dudbridge in order to cross the Frome.

Dudbridge is first documented in the late 12th century. Without a doubt it has been a crossing point since prehistoric times. The old bridge has recently been carefully dismantled and re-assembled by courtesy of Messrs. Sainsburys.

THE BISLEY PATH

Neither of these ancient roads, however, actually passed through the village. For centuries, the main highway through Painswick was what we now call Bisley Street, formerly known as High Street. This was the ancient road that ran between Gloucester, Painswick, Bisley and Cirencester (Fig 1 **3**).

Leaving Gloucester Eastgate, it passed through Matson, Upton, Kimsbury Camp, Painswick (Gloucester Street, Bisley Street and Tibbiwell), Bulls Cross, Steanbridge (first documented in 1248), up to its highest point at Stancombe crossroads, and so on over the Frome at the Gulph, passing through what is now Cirencester Park, and entering Cirencester by Cicely Hill. At the Cirencester end it was known as The Bisley Path, and is still so marked on the 1991 2½" Ordnance Survey map, in the Cirencester Park section.

Until the end of the 18th century, this was also the preferred route for travellers from Stroud to Cirencester, but with the construction in 1814 of the turnpike road from Stroud to Cirencester through Minchinhampton and over Aston Down, the Bisley Path fell into disuse and was de-piked. For some time after that, however, it was still being advised as a wet-weather route! Much of the eastern end is now no more than tracks and footpaths, and some of it even untraceable.

Christopher Cox¹ goes to some length to support the view that this road was in use in Roman times. He sums up his arguments thus:

“.....taking together the various Roman sites on or near the line of the route, the fact that it was a much-used highway for several centuries, and the evidence of topography that it is the only really feasible way across the headwaters of the system of the Frome from east to west between Ermin Street and the Minchinhampton plateau, it seems not unreasonable to think that the way called here the Bisley Path was in essence, and at certain points, the actual route used in Roman times between Glevum and Corinium for the villas and settlements between those two important urban centres.”



Painswick Bisley track at Bulls Cross

The route of this road in the vicinity of Painswick has not changed for hundreds of years, with one intriguing exception. At the lower end of Bisley Street (formerly High Street), the road now turns sharply to the right, passing along the south side of the old market square, before turning left down Tibbiwell Lane. Baddeley² must be right when he states that the road originally passed through the site of modern houses on the south side of Vicarage Street, and continued on in a straight line down to Tabitha's Well. He suggests that the change came in 1820, but why the deviation came about is something of a mystery.

THE PORTWAY

According to the 19th century archaeologist Witts³, there was another ancient route passing close to Painswick, known as The Portway. This connected Glevum (Gloucester) to Aquae Sulis (Bath). It left the city by the East Gate, ran from there to Matson and Upton St Leonards where it ascended the scarp to a point "below Kimsbury Camp" (in his words). Passing along the brow of the hill above Brookthorpe, it went over Horsepools, along the top of Standish Park, below Randwick Camp, down to Pagan Hill, and so on to Woodchester and the Nailsworth valley. The considerable number of Roman villas, stations and camps clustered along this road suggests that this route was a main road in Roman and probably pre-Roman times (Fig 14).

A word of warning is needed at this point to avoid confusion. Local readers will tend to think of the Portway as the ancient hollow-way between Upton St. Leonards and Prinknash Park, but Witts described this road as a branch off the 'real' Portway.

However, road-building did not begin with the Romans! They built their long straight roads such as Ermin Street (Fig. 18), Akeman Street, Fosse Way, necessary for the swift deployment of armies and the maintenance of rapid communications. They also made much use of the old British trackways, and developed them for access to the numerous villas and farms that sprang up during their occupation, especially in the Cotswolds. Villas such as Ifold and Brownshill were reached by adapted British tracks. They were essentially roads used by local communities over shorter distances. They took into account difficult topographical features such as rivers and steep gradients and went round them instead of confronting them. Not all Roman roads were straight!

There are one or two indications of routes taken by local roads in Roman times. In a nondescript patch of grassland, below Cud Hill and behind Hazel Grove, there lies buried beneath the surface a stretch of paved track which is said to be probably Romano-British in origin⁴. I have seen a photograph of this paving taken at some time recently when it had been uncovered, but all you can see if you walk there at present is the large kerbstones running on both sides for about 100 yards. This suggests that before the present road down to Upton was developed, there was an earlier (paved) track well to the west of Hazel Grove which climbed up to the point in Seven Leaze Lane where King Charles's Stone stands today.

A further pointer to the Roman use of the roads we still travel over today is found in the derivation of certain place-names, e.g. Strat-ford, where today's Wick Street crosses the Wick stream. Baddeley⁵ believed that the *Strat-* element was derived from the Latin *strata*, or street. If so, the meaning of Stratford would be "the ford carrying the Street", i.e. Wick Street.

Wick Street appears to be a very old road, perhaps Roman, which ran from the present Stratford Park to Bulls Cross. It became more important to Painswick when New Street

was developed in the early 15th century, and then, as the volume of traffic increased, it replaced the ridgeway from Bulls Cross as the main route from the village to Stroud.

McWhirr⁶, by the way, tells us that the occurrence of the word "*straet*" in Saxon charters, indicates a properly laid road surface rather than a dirt track, and this is a clue to the status of Wick Street in early times.

MEDIAEVAL ROADS

In mediaeval times, the busy routes already described continued to be heavily used. We find fascinating evidence on the ground of the way local roads have come and gone. Greenwood's map of 1824 shows two tracks climbing up the Cotswold escarpment, one from Brookthorpe, the other from Upton.

Both of these tracks, now mere footpaths through fields, were important access roads from Gloucester to the Cotswolds in their day. They both climb directly up the steep scarp, making no attempt to ascend by means of zig-zags. This is so typical of the roads in use before the days of wheeled traffic. Pack-horses, pedlars and other foot travellers were mainly concerned in getting to their destination by the shortest possible route, so long as it was relatively dry. They were not put off by steep hills.

The way from Brookthorpe, known as Bacchus Way (Fig. 15), was for hundreds of years part of the direct route from Gloucester to Stroud. It was defended by a series of earthworks at the top, the Huddinknoll entrenchments, according to Wits⁷, and there is on record an account of a sharp encounter here during the Civil War⁸, but the signs are that the earthworks are of far older construction.

This road, having fallen into a bad state of repair, was turnpiked in 1726, and a further Act of 1746 to clarify the earlier Act said that the road was too long and ruinous to repair from parish rates, "many heavy carriages frequently passing thereon". When it came to the point, however, there was not enough money to carry out improvements from toll income and the road fell out of use, to be replaced by the new road from Brookthorpe to Horsepools in 1817. It was still a charge on the parishes in the 1830s and 1840s.

There are indications that the old road up from Upton, now no more than a grassy track in its upper stretch, was well used at one time. For one thing, it was equipped with mounting blocks at top and bottom, the lower one still stands outside the Kings Head, and the other, if my guess is right, is the stone that stands beside Seven Leaze Lane and is known to us as King Charles's Stone. This old route leaves the modern road just above the Hatton Court Hotel, passes behind Hazel Grove (over the piece of Roman pavement I mentioned earlier), and then heads straight up Cud Hill. The old name for this track was Stockley Way.

Among the antiquarians, only Baddeley appears to make any mention of the earlier routing of this road. My own view is that it was in use certainly until the mid-17th

century, and that it was probably up this track that Charles I retreated from the siege of Gloucester in 1643. It would have been here, then, that his two young sons came to him and put the famous question "When shall we go home?"⁹

At some point that old track was replaced by the present road. Perhaps this happened when wheeled vehicles (particularly those carrying stone from the quarries on the Beacon) required an easier gradient. That may have been after the Charles I incident, but before the appearance of Taylor's map in 1777.



King Charles Stone - Seven Leaze Lane

KINGS WITH THEIR ARMIES

Charles I was not the first king to bring an army through these parts on the way to battle. In 1471, during the Wars of the Roses, Edward IV came this way. He was chasing Queen Margaret's army, trying to prevent her reaching Wales. In a celebrated march, he brought his army along the Cotswold Ridgeway from Sodbury. Margaret's army had a much more difficult traverse through the low-lying lands of the Vale. By choosing the higher road, Edward could watch her progress, betrayed probably by the great cloud of dust which such a large number of men and horses would create. Both armies marched 30 miles in one day (Churchill in his *History of the English Speaking Peoples* (Vol I) says it was 40 miles!). Edward came through Woodchester, crossed the Frome at Dudbridge, moved on to Cainscross, climbed up the hill at Paganhill and Whiteshill, to the top of Standish Park, then along to Horsepools and Kimsbury Camp and so down to Upton¹⁰. Both armies arrived exhausted at Tewkesbury, where the King brought Margaret to battle and defeated her at the Battle of Tewkesbury. I myself think that Edward's army probably passed down this now disused Stockley Way.

THE SPOONBED VALLEY

The rich fertile lands of the Spoonbed Valley belonged to the monks of Llanthony Priory Secunda in Gloucester. It must have been down the two ancient roads to Brookthorpe and Upton already described that much of the farm produce passed on its way to the markets and docks.



A network of minor roads criss-crossed the valley between the farms and villages. This is well brought out in Bryant's map of 1824 (Fig. 2). The valley is bisected by the ancient hollow-way that passes Holcombe House before joining Seven Leaze Lane. Baddeley¹¹ suggests that this would have been the natural route for villagers to get to Gloucester, and they would have left the village along Blakewell Lane, now known as Edge Lane.

One road that traversed the Spoonbed valley is now no more than a footpath running between high hedges. You can still walk the length of it from a point just north of Highfold Farm to Edge Farm. Aerial photographs reveal that this one-time road passed through ancient field systems and inhabited settlements in the Washbrook valley which had probably disappeared by the time of the Conquest.

THE COMING OF THE TURNPIKE ROADS

By the end of the 17th century, the state of the roads in Britain was a national disgrace. No serious road-building had been carried out since Roman times. During the 16th and 17th centuries the number of wheeled vehicles increased rapidly. Not only did they cause damage to road surfaces, but they also created a demand for better roads to match the potential for swifter travel.

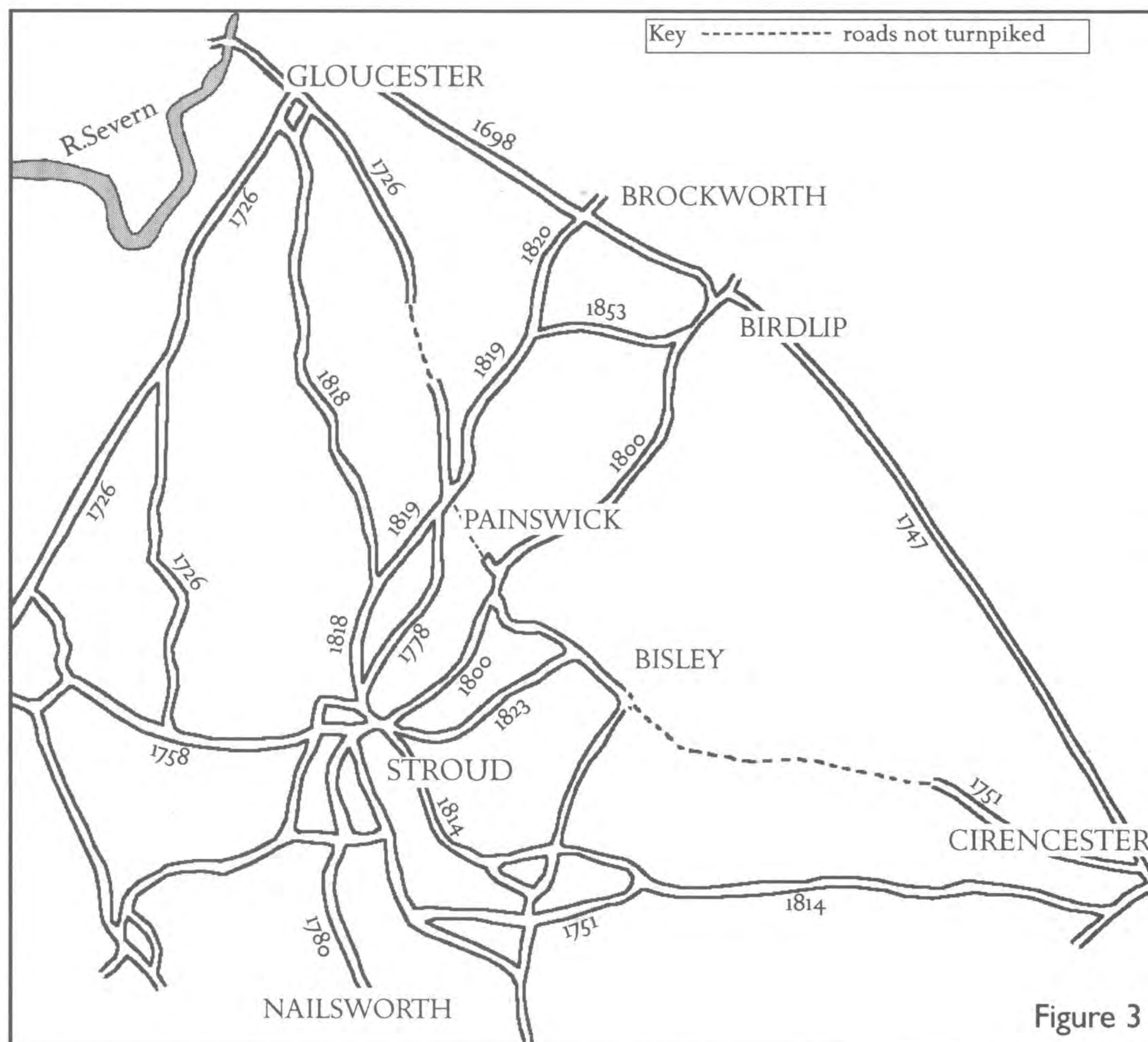


Figure 3

The problem, as always, was money! The will of Lady Margaret Choke, widow of Sir Richard Choke, Lord Justice of the Comyn Pleas, 1483 (12 years after the Battle of Tewkesbury), illustrates the haphazard way in which funds were raised for the maintenance of roads in the middle ages:

Item: XX£ to be spent there where most need is for to mend badde weys in Gloucestershire for the soul of my husband, William Gifford [her first husband], and me.¹²

During the 16th century a major step forward in local administration had been taken by requiring a parish to appoint two highway surveyors to be responsible for the upkeep of its roads, and making each parish bear the cost of such maintenance without outside assistance. This was a crude method and grossly unfair. I have already mentioned

Bacchus Way, the road up from Brookthorpe, and the inability of the parishes to keep it in good condition.

The remedy to this national scandal was to authorise the setting up of Turnpike Trusts, with power to raise an income from tolls to be applied to maintenance. The changes brought about by the construction of a nation-wide turnpike system have been described¹³ as one of the most striking developments in the history of transport.

The earliest Turnpike Act in Gloucestershire (1698) applied to the two roads from Gloucester to Crickley Hill and Birdlip. Defoe¹⁴ describes this latter road as

“.... formerly a terrible place for poor carriers and travellers out of Wales, etc., but now repaired very well”.

A number of roads radiating from Gloucester were turnpiked by an Act of 1726. Among them were the two roads previously mentioned, climbing the scarp from Brookthorpe and Upton. In 1751, it was the turn of the eastern end of the old road from Cirencester through Bisley (the Bisley Path), followed in 1778 by Wick Street from Stroud to Painswick.

Wherever a road was turnpiked there had to be toll-houses and probably milestones. Quite a number of these milestones remain, albeit in a damaged condition. There is a record in 1733 of a toll-gate at the entrance to Butt Green, later moved a little further up the road to Pound House. This Barton Street Turnpike was said to have made a clear profit of £422 in 1817, which gives some idea of the traffic between Painswick and Gloucester. In 1843, £100 shares in the Painswick-Gloucester road were available, having produced 5% interest the previous year.

There were constant complaints about the failure of these older turnpikes. For example, Samuel Rudder who travelled the county in the late 1770s seeking material for his County history, wrote about the major Bristol-Gloucester turnpike:

“.....surely there cannot be a more infamous turnpike road... for incredible as it may seem, the writer of this account, in the winter of 1776, saw a chaise mired in it, about half a mile from the Swan Inn (in Wheatenhurst), and was there told, that a horse had like to have been smothered in the same place two days before, but was luckily saved by some persons coming accidentally to the poor animal's assistance.”¹⁵

No such problems appear to have beset King George III when, twelve years later, during his famous visit to Cheltenham in 1788, he took time off to visit Onesimus Paul at Woodchester. He came from Leckhampton and Birdlip, Buckholt, Prinknash, and then by the old road that ran through Pope's Wood, across the Beacon, as it is called now, and so into Painswick on the Gloucester Road, and out again by the turnpike road, Stepping Stone Lane and Wick Street.

This was the route taken also by the regular Cheltenham-Bath stage-coaches. At this

time there was also a regular coach travelling from Gloucester to Bath through Painswick. It took just one day, and the fare cost 11 shillings.



The old road to Birdlip across the Beacon facing south

THE NEEDS OF THE MILLS

Roads in the Stroudwater district at the beginning of the 19th century fitted into one of three main categories¹⁶. There were the long-distance roads, the so-called 'Great' roads crossing the plateau, linking the major towns and cities such as Gloucester, Oxford, Bath, etc. These roads are still in general use today.

Then there were the local roads running more or less horizontally along the hillsides, connecting settlements, and usually following the contours just above the spring line, e.g. Wick Street.

But there was a third category - the vertical roads that led up and down the hillsides from the mills to the local roads, essential to getting goods and products in and out of the mills. Some of these are still in use, like Pincot Lane. Others have gone out of use but have left traces of their existence - like Ticklestone Lane and the path above Lovedays Mill.

At the turn of the century we come to the peak of the industrial activity around the village. It was the beginning of the period in which the local manufacturing processes were shifting from cottages to mills. The masters needed improved communications to and from the mills, and easier roads to the plateau. They had greatly benefited by the French wars, and expected their prosperity to continue.

THE NEW ROADS

So there came the second wave of turnpike roads in the district - new roads - the motorways of the time. Wide roads, easy gradients, gentle curves, metalled surfaces employing the new invention by Macadam - a generation grew up using routes unheard of by their fathers.

In 1800 the road from Stroud to Birdlip was built up the Slad valley via Bulls Cross. In 1818, Stroud was connected to Gloucester by a totally new route, the road over Horsepools Hill. The following year the stretch from Pitchcombe through Painswick to Prinknash Park was built, and in 1820 it was extended to Cheltenham. These were all toll roads. New toll houses came into being on this Cheltenham road, and the house in Cheltenham Road we know today as Melrose was one of them.

A whole new network had come into existence in the space of 20 years. The final throw came in 1853 when the old road through Buckholt and Cranham Woods was turnpiked. These were only a fraction of the new roads throughout the Stroud valleys as a whole. The revolution meant that a number of old roads went out of business, along with the inns and other industries that lined them.

The road from Bulls Cross to Bisley and Cirencester, and the ancient track up from Brookthorpe to the scarp became no longer viable. Wick Street and Tibbiwell Lane lost much of their importance. The old road across the Beacon was completely superseded by the road (the modern A46) built under the supervision of Charles Baker, of Castle Hale, in 1819 (Fig. 16).

By 1825, however, the mills were in decline and there was no need or scope for new roads. From now on there was to be little change in the road system in and around Painswick. There was a suggestion of a by-pass in the 1930s, of course, and if there is ever to be extensive development in the Painswick valley, who knows what the future might hold ...!

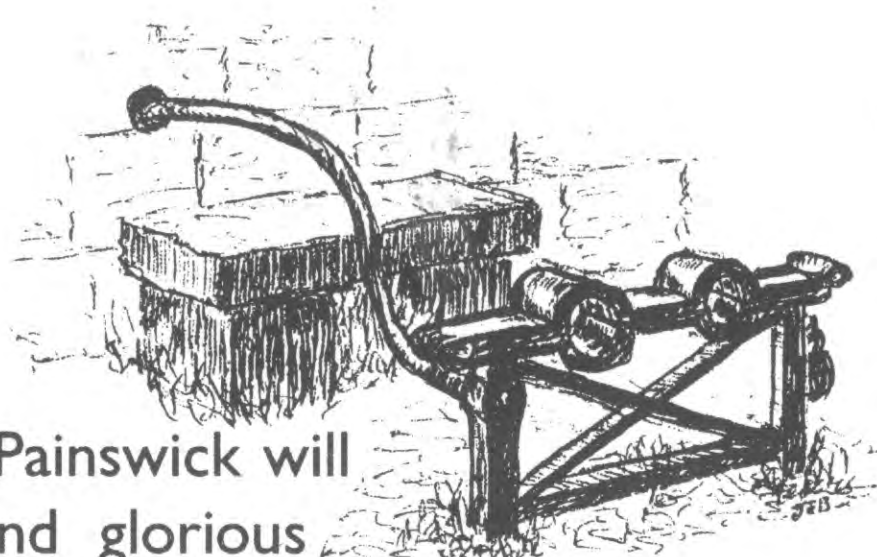
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JOTTINGS

We have to make the ominous announcement that a pair of Stocks have been erected for the punishment of those who carry on their carousals to the annoyance of their more sober neighbours. The late unwonted hilarity which has called for their erection has been attributed by the parties concerned to the purity of the air, but although we have heard a good deal lately about the virtues of "the wind", we are inclined to agree with our teetotal Friends that the liberal supply of "Stroud water" laid on at some places in the town has more to do with it.

"Fetch forth the stocks!
As I have life and honour,
There shall he sit till noon"
(Shakespeare King Lear II,2)



is now no empty threat, and we hope the folk of Painswick will for the future be content with being happy and glorious without getting uproarious.

Stroud Free Press,
Friday, January 17th, 1851

LONGEVITY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

On the 25th February 1837, the death was announced of a somewhat remarkable old man, though not a centenarian, at Painswick. This is as told in the Newspaper -

"Died on 17th instant at Painswick, aged 89, William Cook who for nearly seventy years filled the situation of gravedigger in that parish. During that period he provided graves for nearly double the population of the parish, having dug the extraordinary number of 6,267 graves, and in that time he also provided graves for seven of the parish clerks."

- thus showing apparently, that duty in the burial-ground is more conducive to long life than duty in the church.

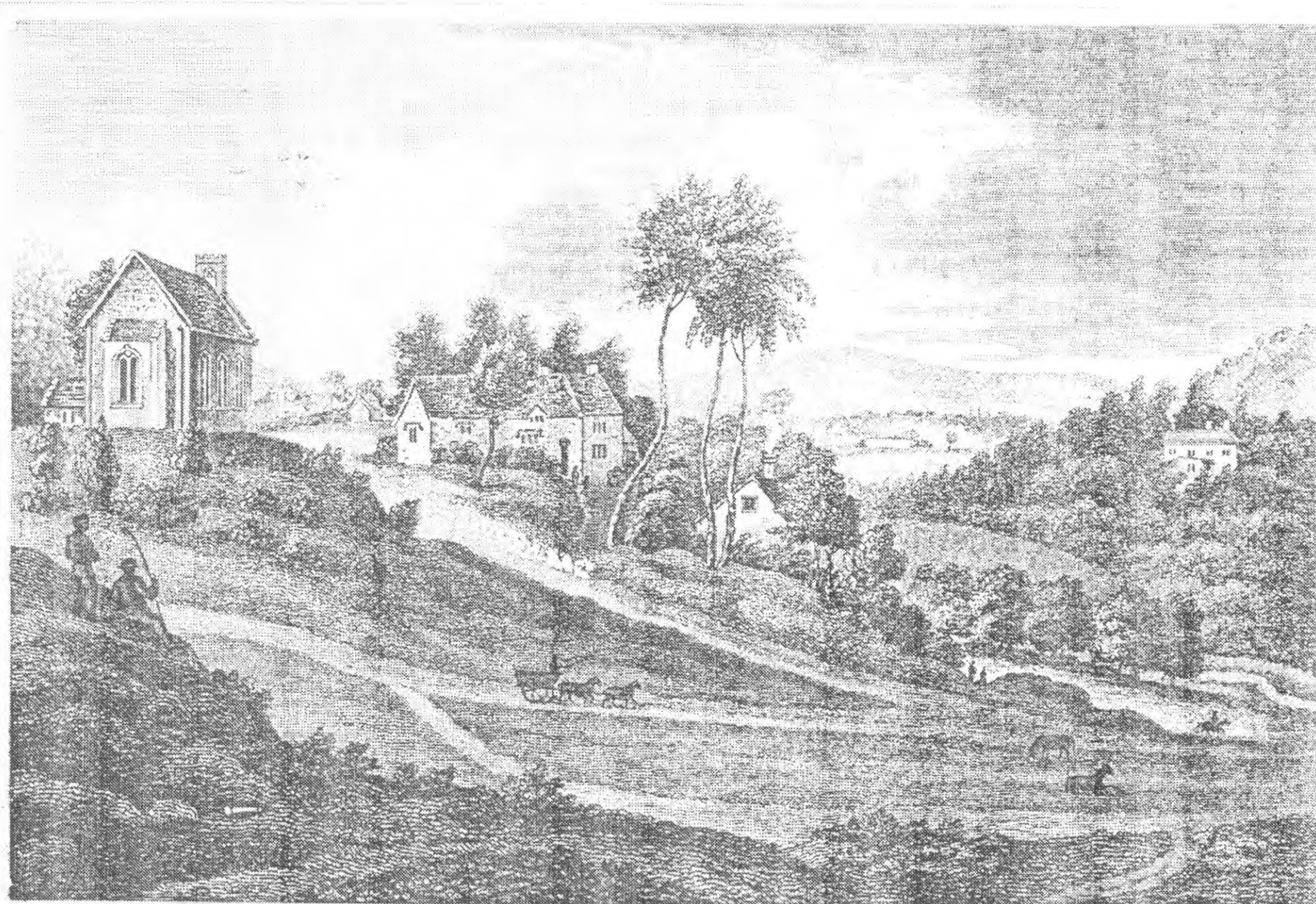
Gloucestershire Notes and Queries ii p478

MARY ROBERTS: THE BEAUTIFUL DUCHESS

by

Elisabeth Skinner

Mary Roberts was not really a duchess, but tradition suggests that local people called her the 'beautiful duchess' because she was rather tall and striking. Mary was a writer and is best known locally as the author of *The Annals of My Village*, published in 1831 at 12 shillings a copy.



To face the Title.

THE VILLAGE.

Engraved by Josiah Neele 352 Strand.

On Page 21

Mary was born in London in 1788 to Quaker parents Daniel and Ann Roberts and in 1790 they moved to Painswick, the home of the Loveday family to whom they were related. Mary remained in the village for about 20 years and for part of that time she lived not far from the Friends Meeting House, at Mundays, now known as Yew Tree House, in Vicarage Street. Mary and her three brothers were raised in an environment where writing was the norm; her father made his living as a merchant but he was also a philosopher who wrote about health and war and the relationship between religion and politics.

Strangely, Mary was later expelled from the Quakers as a supporter of the dubious prophetess Joanna Southcott, but her Quaker upbringing was very powerful. Quakers are particularly interested in the natural world and the family was strongly influenced

by Mary's maternal grandfather who was a botanist. Mary and her brother Oade, a barrister, were fascinated by plant life, and through their life in Painswick developed a great love of the countryside. Of Painswick Beacon Mary later wrote in *The Annals of My Village*,

"I loved that spot from my early childhood. It was my greatest joy to watch the morning mists, as they hastened, chased by the sunbeams, across the vallies; or, in the stillness of a calm summer's evening, to observe the glorious sun shedding his parting beams across the broad expanse of the Severn, that rolls a pomp of waters along the richly wooded vale of Evesham, while in the distance, bold Malvern, and further still, the blue mountains of Merionethshire, were gilded with a softened light." (p171)

Mary and Oade both took up writing but Oade died in 1821 without seeing any of his sister's many publications. The first in 1822, was *Select Female Biography*, a subject which remained unusual for Mary; later titles show that she preferred to write about plants and animals. For example:

- 1822 *The Wonders of the Vegetable Kingdom*
- 1824 *The Conchologist's Companion*
- 1833 *Domesticated Animals considered with reference to Civilisation and the Arts*
- 1834 *Sister Mary's Tales in Natural History*
- 1835 *The Seaside Companion*
- 1836 *Wild Animals, their Nature, Habitats and Instincts*
- 1837 *The Progress of Creation*
- 1839 *Sketches of the Animal Productions of America*
- 1845 *Flowers of Matins and Evensong*
- 1850 *Voices from the Woodlands*
- 1851 *Popular History of the Molluscs*

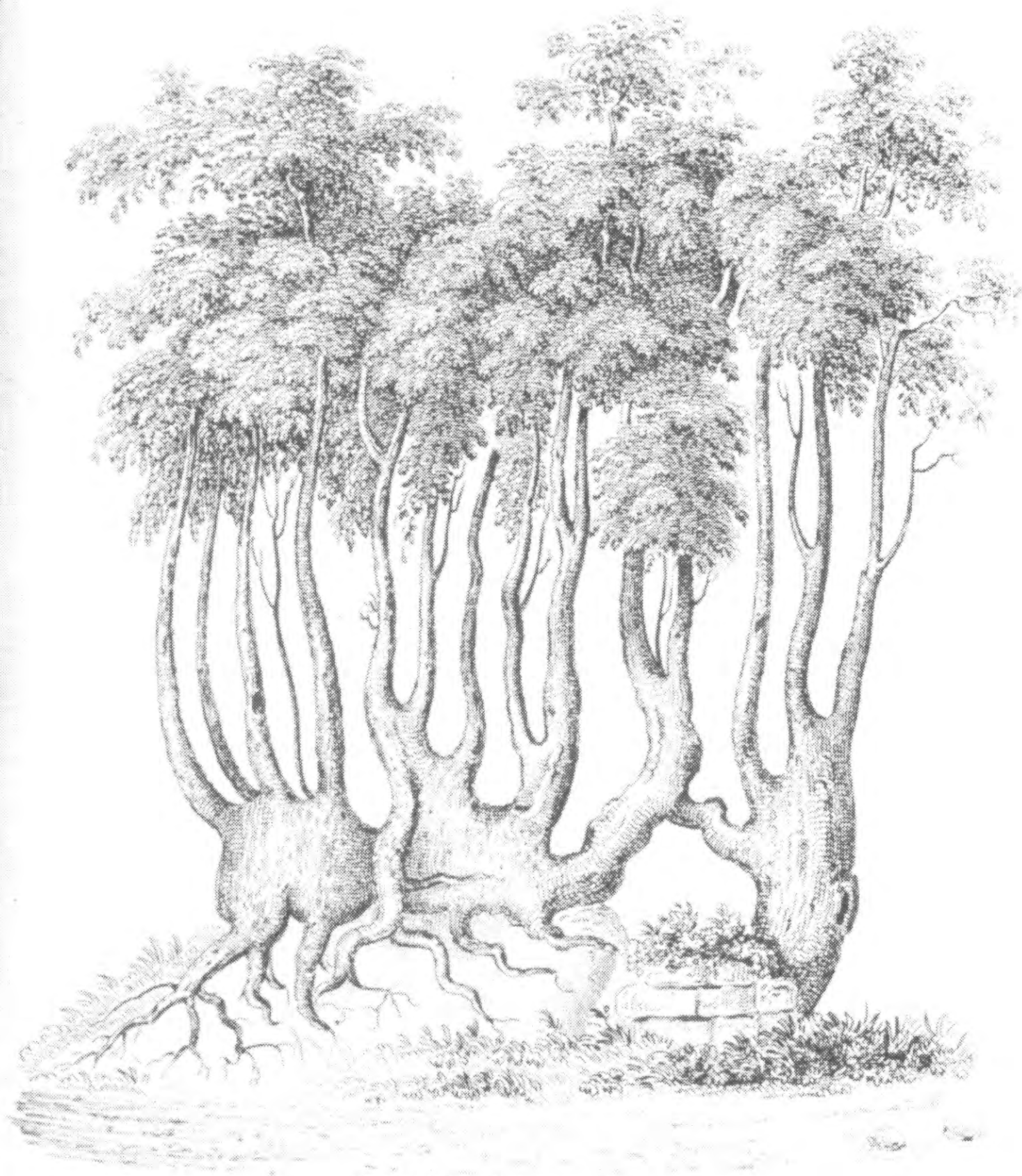
The most important book for the local history of the Painswick area is *The Annals of My Village*. Although Mary returned to London with her mother following her father's death in 1811, she probably used detailed notes as the basis for the annals, which did not appear on bookshop shelves until 1831. The book describes the natural history of the hills and valleys around Painswick, one chapter for each month of the year. It begins with an engraving of the church in the Sheepscombe valley, then newly built and prominently positioned in an old quarry. As the book was being published the church was being extended and so the engraving of it in its original form without tower, chancel or south aisle is extremely valuable.

The book places an emphasis on the Sheepscombe valley which, in the early 19th century, was simply a part of Painswick accommodating outlying clusters of cottages, farms and a cloth manufactory. Mary writes that her village

"stands on the side of two adjacent hills and partly fills the little valley between them. It is sheltered from the sharp east wind by a beautiful sweep of extensive beech woods, and skirted by a wild heath." (p179)

Mary clearly walked extensively from Standish Woods along the Beacon to Cranham, across to Ebworth and over to Longridge. Many familiar places are mentioned in the book, for example,

“the most curious of these picturesque beeches is in a narrow lane leading from the Cheltenham-road to the hamlet of Paradise. Twenty five separate stems spring apparently from one root, which wreathes fantastically over a steep scarry bank.”



Engraved by Josiah Neale MS Strand

Page 46

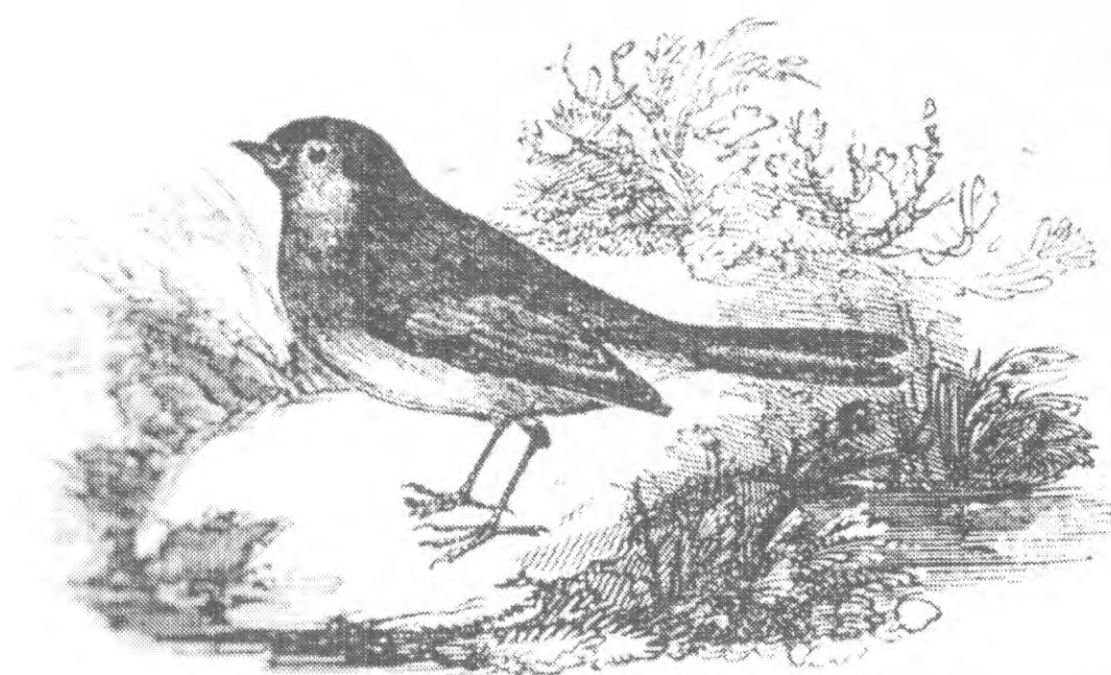
*An ancient beech in a lane leading from the
Cheltenham Road to the hamlet of Paradise*

She walked out in all weathers and sometimes in the dark before writing up her findings for future reference.

Mary explains in her preface that the book was written to raise the interest of people

who live in the country

“in the birds, the flowers, and other natural objects that surround them, and in the changes of the seasons.”



She has spotted a gap in the market for although many books on natural history are available, there is

“none to supersede a calendar of every month in the year, with such anecdotes and remarks as a residence in the country has afforded facilities for making.”

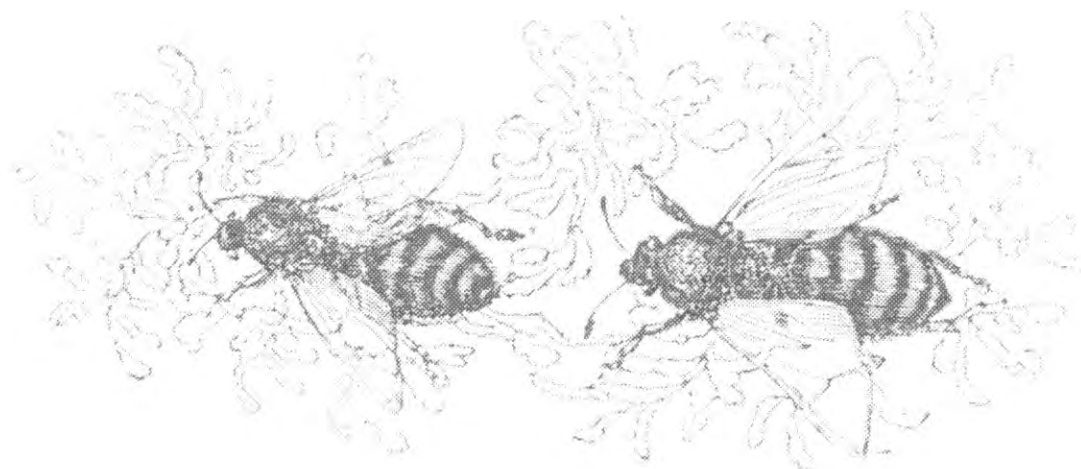
Although she is aware that some people might find her “moral reflections” rather difficult, she

“indulges an humble, but gratifying confidence, that ... the work ... may be found to comprise much original matter, with popular descriptions of the details of country life, and a variety of facts, that will leave no season of the year without its own peculiar sources of instruction and delight.”

For the modern naturalist the book is a treasure trove; not many places have such a well-informed account of plant and animal life in the early 19th century which acts as a benchmark for comparison with the present day. For example, does helleborus foetidus (bear’s foot) still grow on Jack’s Green? Is erigeron acre (blue flea bane) still to be found on Spoonbed hill? (pp205-7) Can anyone these days spot

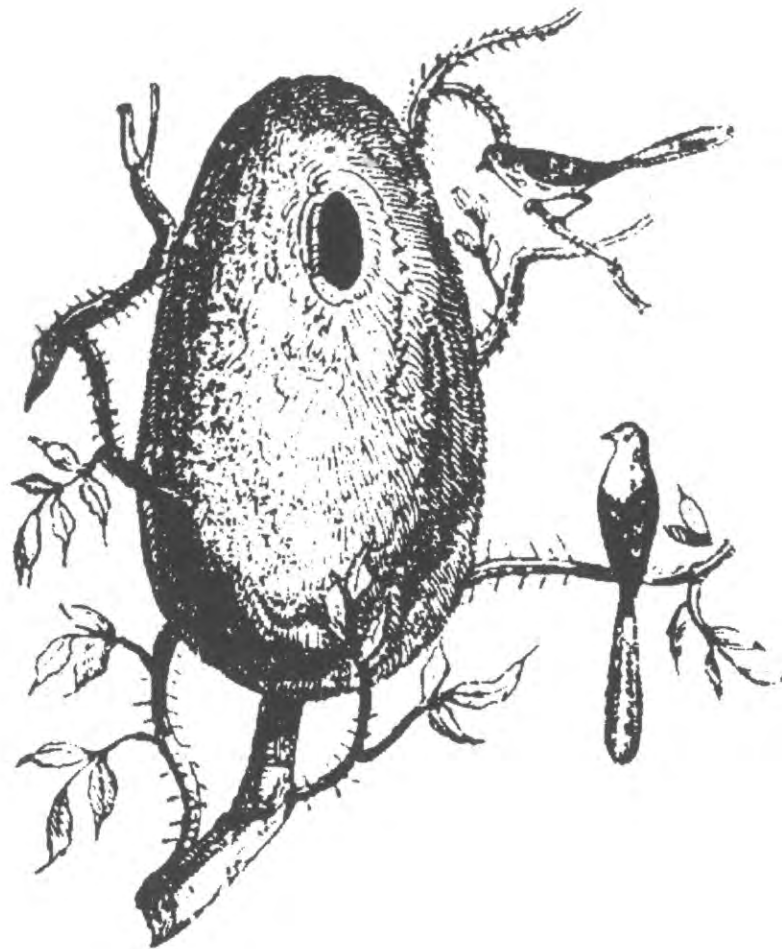
“water crane, or spotted gallinule, a rare bird, which is seen occasionally on our pools and streamlets, among willows and tall reeds, where it lurks and hides with great circumspection”? (p116)

For the local historian, the book also contains tantalising glimpses of local village life. There is, for example, an insight into local festivities and attitudes to young people:



"Maypole days are also gone by; at least, none but the wildest of our youth would be seen dancing round the one, which is annually erected at some distance from the village." (p147)

The work of the farmer is a significant feature of local life. In February he "repairs his hedges, drains wet lands, plants beside his brooks and streams the willow, alder, and all such trees as delight in moisture, ploughs up his fallows, and sows spring wheat and rye, beans and peas." (p41)



In August, everyone becomes involved in the work of the farm:

"If you were to pass through the village at this season of the year, you would scarcely find a family at home. They are 'all away' to the harvest field, and very pleasing it is to see them thus employed. You may count twenty or thirty in one field, all eagerly collecting the scattered ears, which the custom of the primitive ages bequeathed to their humble wants." (p271)

We see life behind cottage doors:

"The village matron regards [crickets] with a kind of superstitious reverence; and though the heated atmosphere, which they inhabit, often inclines them to sip her milk and broth, or even to gnaw holes in her wet aprons, and woollen stockings, when hung up to dry, they are her barometers that never fail."

"The canary, too, sings in concert with the flying shuttle of the weaver, or to amuse the village matron at her wheel, when the rain is beating against the casement, and the wind rudely shakes it, as if to force an entrance." (p350)

Mary has a tendency to create pretty images of peoples' lives as they struggle to make a living from the land and from clothmaking:

"Though not professedly a cider neighbourhood, we have a great deal

of orcharding around the village, and the apples are generally good and plentiful. Several of the cottages have small orchards attached to them, and the gathering in of the crop summons the weaver from his loom and the family from the labours of the manufactory. The father mounts the tree, and carefully gathers the choice fruit into his blue apron; meanwhile his wife and elder children shake the outer branches with long poles, while the younger joyfully collect the fallen apples into heaps." (p285)

Mary's writing has a strong theological tone coming from a belief in God the Creator of the natural world and of humankind. Spring is referred to as a "miracle of nature", but this is "only another name for an effect of which the cause is God". (p66)

She is saddened that many local people

"have lived and died in total forgetfulness of Him, who made them". (p149)

She is concerned, when writing about the wassel bowl, that

"these ancient customs read well in poetry, but they were baneful in their consequences... The misery that resulted from these festivities is only known to those, who have traced their demoralizing consequences from one cottage to another."

And yet more seriously

"secluded scenes afford no security for the innocence of youth, nor can all that is verdurous and joyful restore fallen man to the image of his Maker." (p148)

Accounts such as these are incredibly important for the history of the Painswick area. Two hundred years ago Mary and her parents arrived as newcomers to the village, well-educated and intellectual, middle class people from London. We have every reason to be grateful that they came, for the contribution to our knowledge of the local environment and its history written by the 'beautiful duchess' is really very special.

Mary died early in 1864 and is buried in Brompton Cemetery in London.

Sources:

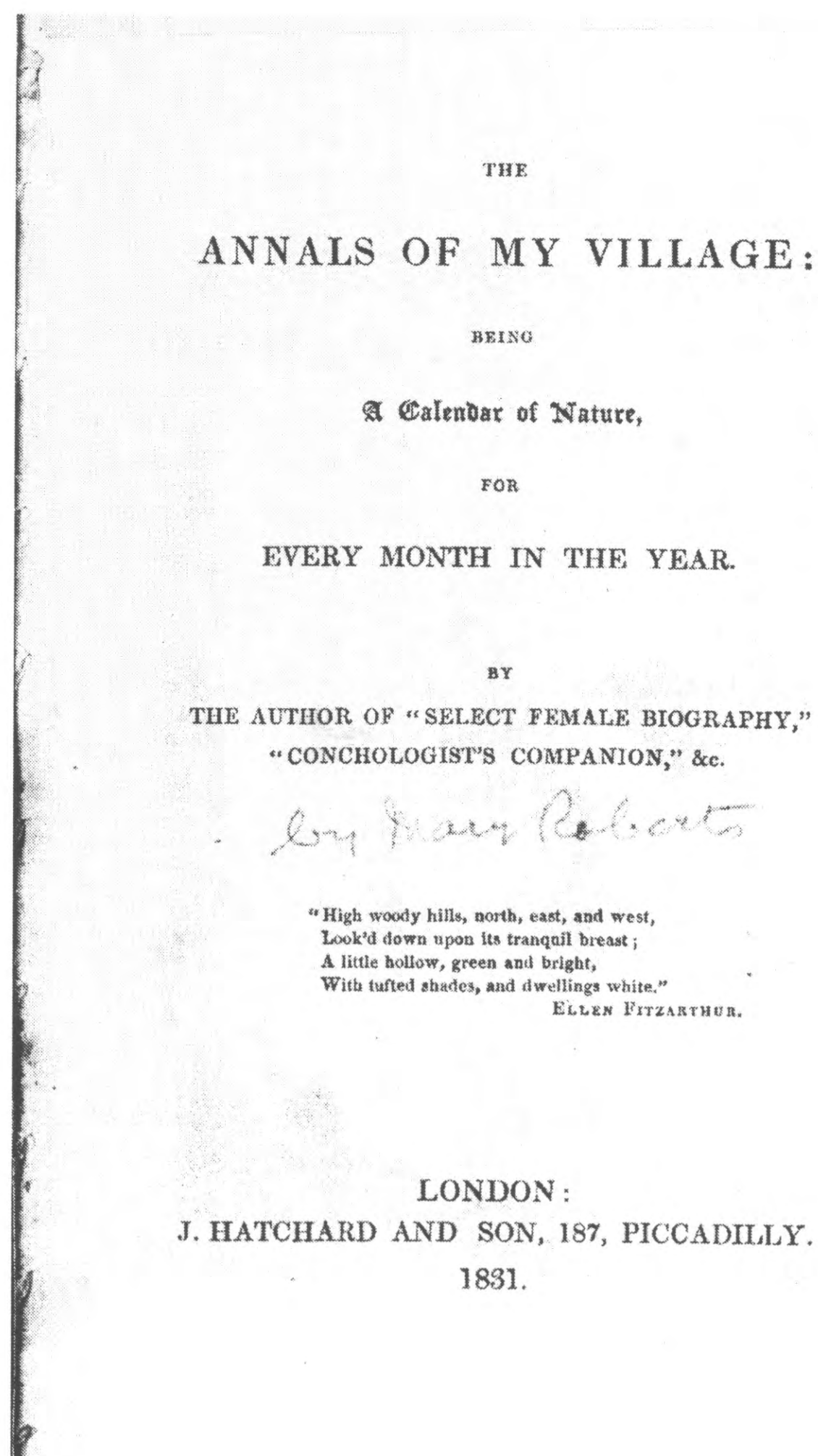
The Annals of My Village (Sheepscombe History Society has a copy in its collection and has a second copy on loan from the Sheepscombe Parochial Church Council.)

The Sheepscombe History Society Archive contains references to Mary Roberts in File 30.

Dictionary of National Biography

Mary Roberts - Forgotten Naturalist, an article by Gillian Lindsay in *The Countryman*, 1992

Painswick Friends Meeting House and the Dell Burial Ground, an article by Roland Pepper in the *Painswick Chronicle*, No 1, 1997



A DOUBLE CENTENARY

by

John Bailey

This year - 1998 - is a significant one for the much admired stained glass east window of Christchurch United Reform Church erected by Morris and Company. The year marks two centenaries relating to it.

The artist whose design was used for the main subject of the window, Sir Edward Burne-Jones, died suddenly, aged 56, one hundred years ago, in 1898. He was a man of tremendous drive and energy; a major painter of high Victorian ideals, as well as a designer of stained glass windows. As an illustration of his vigour, it is stated by Professor Sewter that between 1872 and 1878, Burne-Jones produced 270 cartoons, an average of 39 per year, remarkable for an artist engaged solely with designing stained glass windows; but these years included some of Sir Edward's most productive years as a painter and included several major works. He was designing windows right up to the year of his death. Mr Martin Harrison, an authority on Victorian glass, considers that, more than any other single person, Burne-Jones did more to raise the quality of design of stained glass windows than any other in the second half of the 19th century.

We are fortunate indeed, therefore, to have such an outstanding example of his work here in Painswick at Christchurch. The east window, erected by William Burdock in 1898, is to a design known as 'Angeli Laudantes' - 'Angels Praising'. It depicts two golden-haired angels, each with a golden harp. The angels are clothed in generous, deeply folding drapery, with sumptuous red wings forming a large part of the background. The border is of grape foliage and bunches of fruit. Overall the window gives a very complete and satisfying decorative effect.

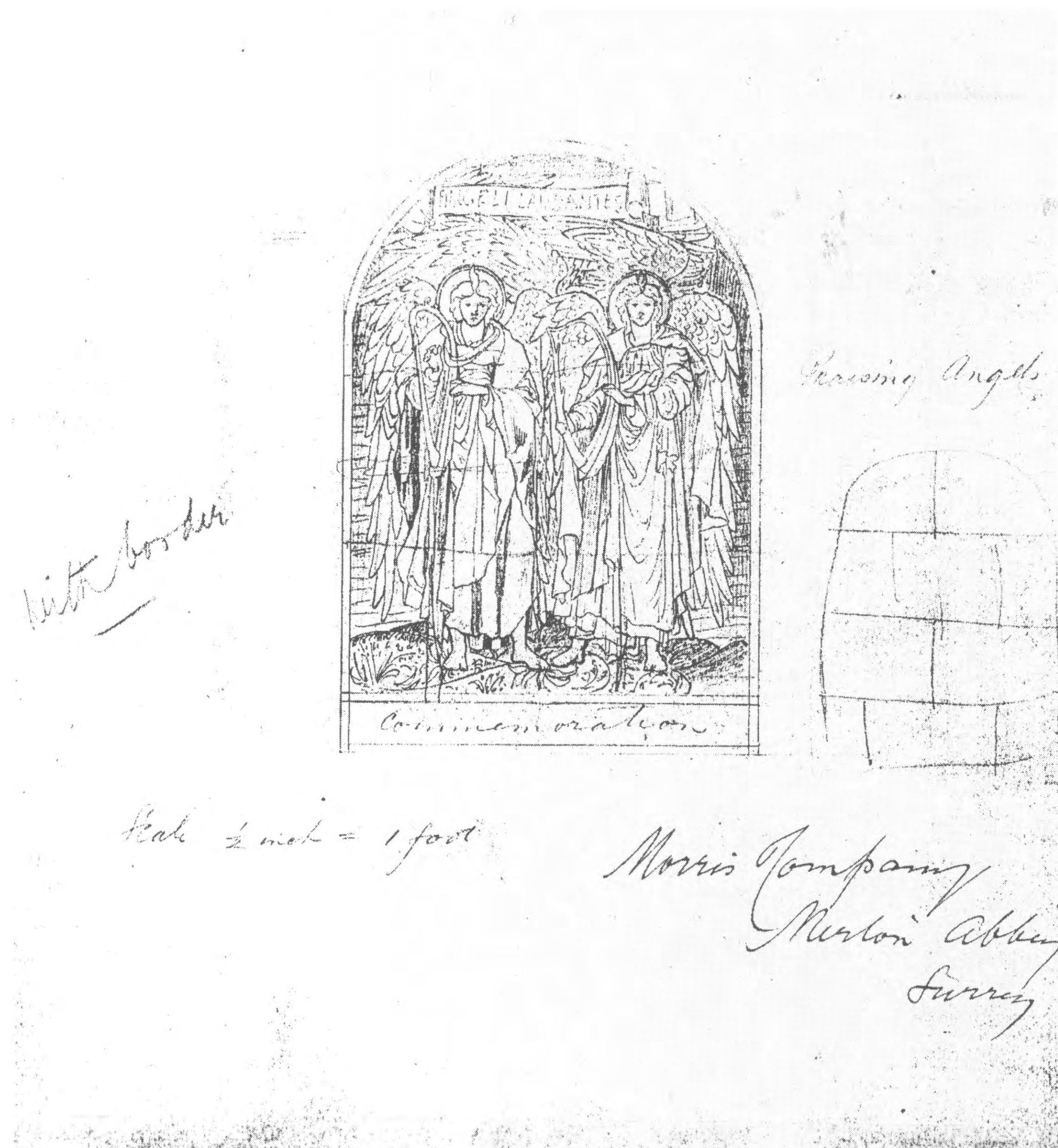
The window was installed at the behest of Mrs Ellen Skinner, widow of Mr John William Skinner. It commemorates the four generations of the Skinner family who had worshipped at Christchurch, and the Rev. Richard Skinner who was for 30 years a minister at Huddersfield. In the absence of Mrs Skinner the window was unveiled by Mr G.P. Watkins.

As mentioned above, Burne-Jones died in 1898, the year that Morris & Co erected the Christchurch window. The Company by this time held a large number of designs by Burne-Jones and others and continued to use them until the Company closed in 1940. Morris & Co's surviving records show that a number of craftsmen contributed to the Christchurch window. The Burne-Jones 'Angeli Laudantes' design was translated onto glass by the glass-painters, Bowman and Walters; the border was drawn by Henry Dearle and painted by Wren. The title scroll was also painted by Wren and the inscription was by George Campfield. Even before Burne-Jones died, it was usual



Company practice that the principal design, usually a figure, was drawn by Burne-Jones, whilst the background, border, inscription were often allocated, under supervision, to other craftsmen in the studio.

A sketch, reproduced below, for the Christchurch window has survived and is in the William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow.



A far cry from the finished article, it would have been produced only to give a rough indication of the appearance of the finished window to the client. In all probability the sketch would have been accompanied by a photographic enlargement of Burne-Jones's original cartoon for Salisbury Cathedral, for which 'Angeli Laudantes' was initially drawn in 1878. The cartoon, reproduced opposite, is in coloured chalks and to a higher state of finish than is normal for a cartoon intended for a stained glass window. It is now in

the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and was included in the 1996 William Morris Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.



The cartoon has a companion piece, entitled 'Angeli Ministrantes' - Ministering Angels - and the two designs were drawn by Burne-Jones, for a two-light window which was installed in the south choir aisle of Salisbury Cathedral. The 'Angels', in rich red clothing with blue and red wings, occupy the upper third of the large windows, and a foliage design covers the remaining two thirds. Whilst the position of the windows does not display

them to best advantage, the windows appear unbalanced and unfinished. Indeed, it is known that three tiers of figures had been intended, but the Cathedral ran out of money. The Fitzwilliam Museum also has Burne-Jones's own account book, which shows, in an entry for August 1878, his fee for the work -

Norfolk Island	St Stephen	10	-	-
Salisbury	Colonial and Cathedral			
	sublime figures of Angels	£20	ca	80

At the time that the Christchurch window was installed, it was said that the Salisbury Cathedral window was the only other window to Burne-Jones's 'Angeli Laudantes' design. Whilst that was true at the time, in 1898, the design proved to be a most successful and popular repeat choice. The 'Angeli Laudantes' design, often with colour changes and periphery border variations, was also used in five other windows -

- 1902 - a private commission for a house in Queens Gate, Kensington
(the house was bombed during the last war but a substantial portion of the window survived and is now in the William Morris Gallery)
- 1919 - George Street Methodist Church in Burton-on-Trent
(‘Angels’ split between two windows)
- 1919 - St Stephen and West, Broughty Ferry, near Dundee (a single ‘Angel’ only)
- 1921 - Temple Street Methodist Church in Keighley, but now removed to the Cliffe Museum, Bradford (a single ‘Angel’, upper background of Holy City)
- 1901 - Crescent Street Church in Montreal (but destroyed by fire in 1946)

The popularity of the 'Angeli Laudantes' design was not confined to stained glass only. William Morris translated the Burne-Jones design very successfully into the most superb tapestries. A large tapestry, 93 inch x 73 inch, of 'Angeli Laudantes' - Angels in grey/gold clothing with red wings, with floral background and border by Henry Dearle - was woven at Merton Abbey in 1894, and is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. It was displayed (still in pristine condition) in the 1996 William Morris Exhibition.

Further tapestries were made incorporating 'Angeli Laudantes' design for -

- 1902 - All Saints Church, Brockhampton (two panels, each with an Angel, each side of the altar)
- 1904 - Harris Art Gallery, Preston (a single Angel)
- 1905 - Eton College Chapel (with heraldic devices, to right of the altar)

Further, an embroidered version was made in 1898, with medieval figures, which is now in Much Wenlock church.

And that was not all; the design was also used by Morris & Co for tiles, wallpapers, textiles and furniture.

Sir Edward Burne-Jones was one of the most admired of English artists, who throughout his 40-year career, ever sought to present beauty. There is no doubt that the Christchurch window is a fine example of his art.

Sources:

Professor Charles Sewter, *The Stained Glass of William Morris and His Circle*, 1974

Martin Harrison, *Victorian Stained Glass*, 1980

Linda Parry, *William Morris Textiles*, 1983



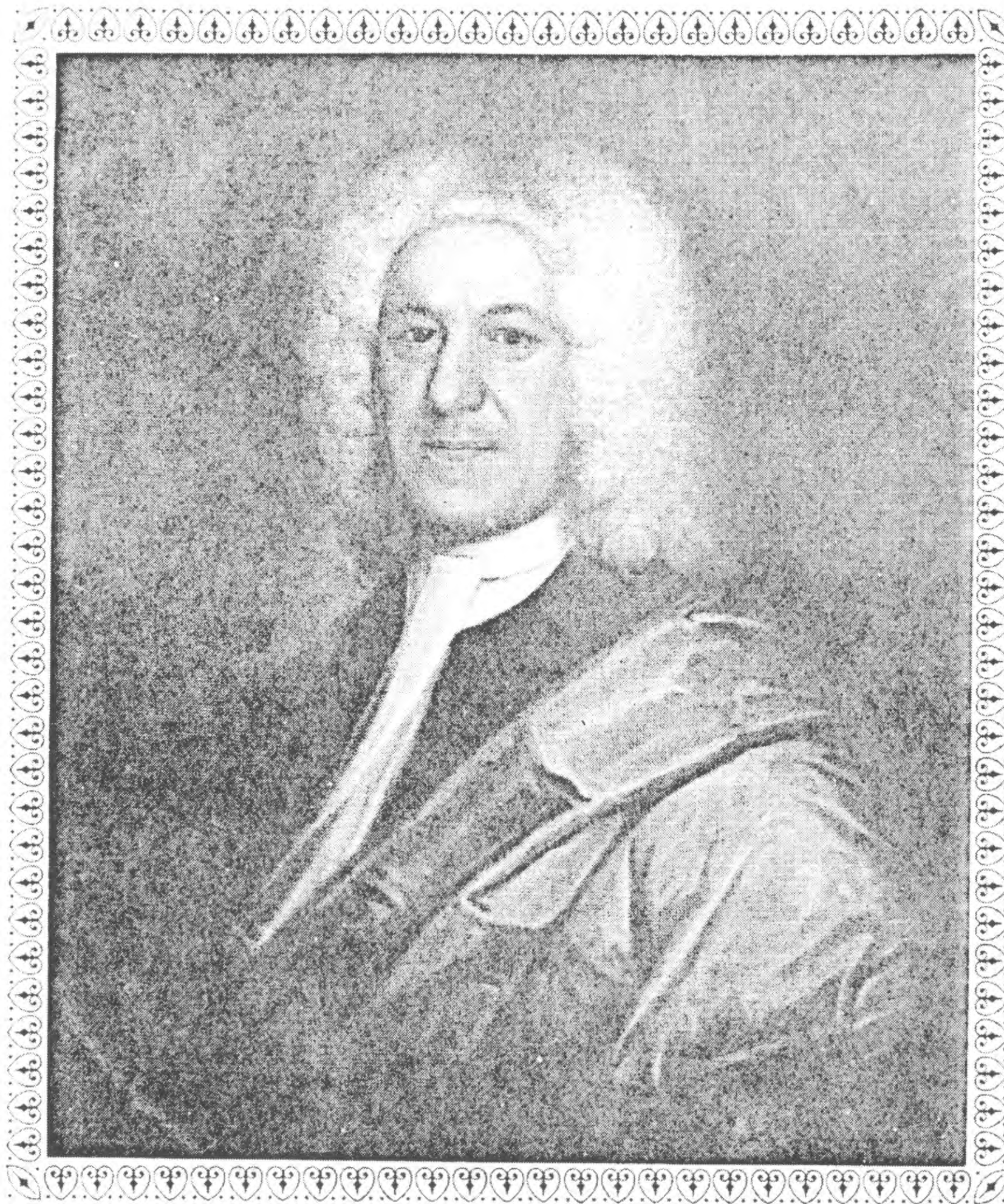
Edward Burne-Jones

THE TWININGS OF PAINSWICK

Twining is one of the most famous names associated with Painswick.

In 1684, during an acute depression in the woollen industry, Daniel Twining of Painswick, an unemployed weaver, moved to London in search of a better life for his two sons, Daniel and Thomas, the latter being born in the village in 1675.

In London Thomas served an apprenticeship as a weaver but, in 1706, after employment with an East India merchant, he became proprietor of Tom's Coffee House in the Strand where he soon realised the potential of the new 'habit' of tea drinking and started to sell tea in competition with many other tea and coffee houses in the area. This marked the beginning of The House of Twining, the oldest tea and coffee firm in the country.

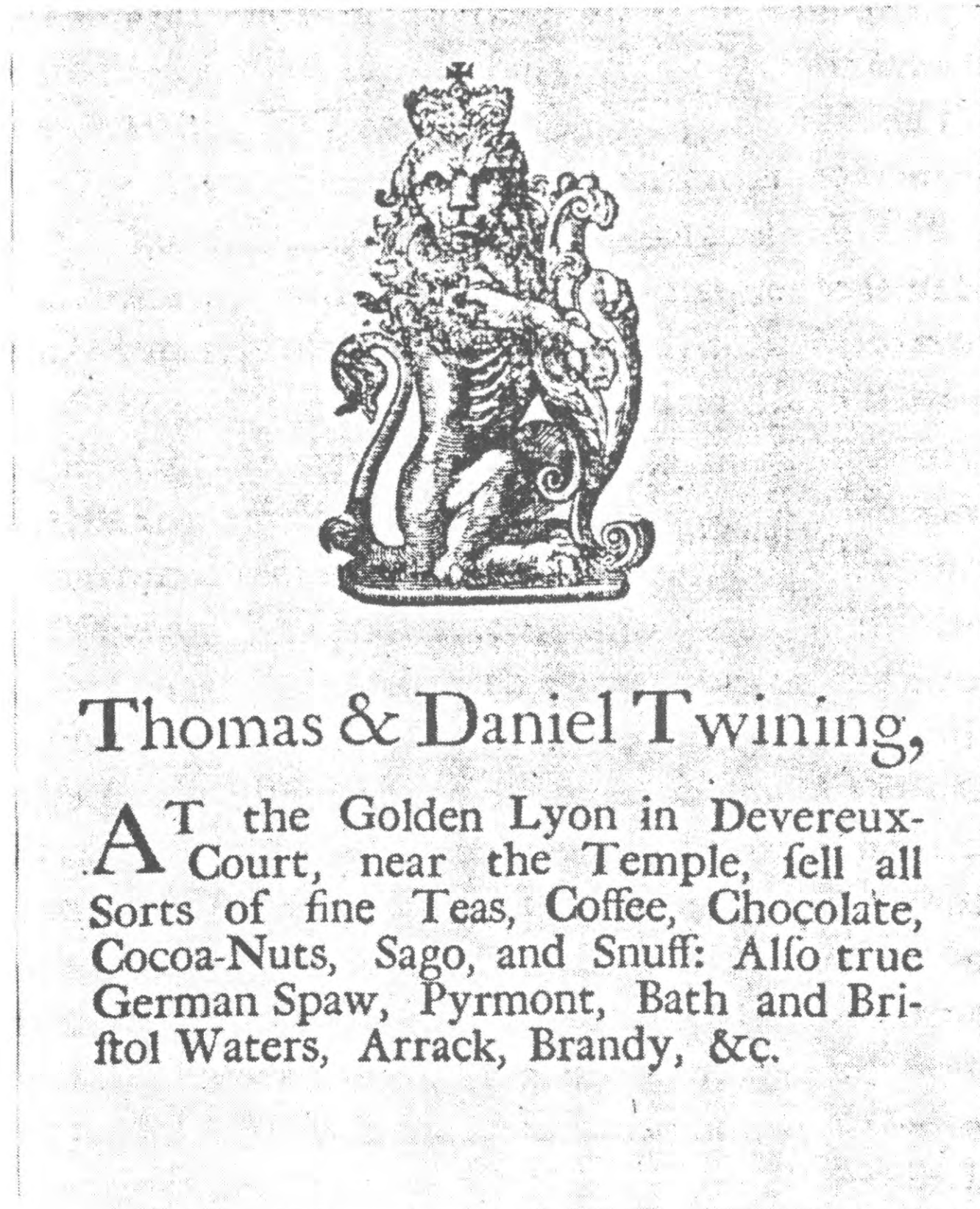


THOMAS TWINING

1675-1741

Founder of the House of Twining
After the original painting by Hogarth

Thomas chose for his sign the King of Beasts and clothed him in gold. He took his son Daniel, after seven years apprenticeship, into partnership in 1734. A wrapper showing commodities sold makes interesting reading.



Sources:

W.St.C.Baddeley, *A Cotteswold Manor, being the history of Painswick*

Stephen H.Twining, *The Twinings*, a history of the family privately printed in the 1950s



COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

National recognition was achieved for Painswick in August 1997, in a very graphic way, in the selection by Royal Mail of Painswick Post Office to appear in a set of commemorative stamps featuring sub-post offices in the United Kingdom. Painswick was selected as the English representative being the oldest building in England used as a post office. The 14th century stone and timber building is beautifully represented on the 26 pence stamp. Other post offices depicted in the set are located at Haroldswick, Unst, Shetland on the 20 pence stamp; at Beddgelert, Wales on the 43 pence stamp; and at Ballyroney, Northern Ireland on the 63 pence stamp. The set was designed by Terence Millington and was printed in Haarlem in The Netherlands.



The stamp issue marked the centenary of the year when 20 sub-postmasters convened in Wakefield on 19th April 1897 to better their working conditions. From this meeting the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters was founded. The nation's sub-postmasters maintain a network of more than 19,000 post offices in the United Kingdom – said to be the largest 'retail chain' in Europe!

Monday 4th August 1997 was the official launch-day arranged by Royal Mail. The stamps were delivered symbolically to the Post Office from a coach and four.

The coach, an authentic working road coach, was dressed in the Gordon tartan with scarlet and black base. At the Post Office, the Postmistress Mrs Heather Appleby, Mr Appleby and Mrs Barbara Harley, boarded the coach and took seats 'aloft'. With a full complement 'up-top' the coach was driven up New Street in order to turn around and make a return journey down New Street.

MORE JOTTINGS

PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY OF CHURCH LIVINGS 1649 - 1650, COUNTY GLOUCESTER

In the Hundred of Bisley

Payneswicke

That Payneswick is a Market Town, and hath a Vicaridge presentative worth aboute Eighty pounds per annum. That Mr George Dorwood, a constant preacher, is the present Viccar, and taketh the profytts thereof - that it hath in it aboute two hundred families.

(one of the) witnesses upon oath

John Lygon of Payneswicke, gent.

Gloucestershire Notes and Queries ii p217

THAT WINDOW TAX !

THE WINDOW TAX : England is the highest taxed country in the world; and none of its taxes are more obnoxious than that imposed upon us for the enjoyment of the light of heaven.

Stroud Free Press,
Friday, January 3rd 1851

A STROLL THROUGH MEDIEVAL ENGLAND !

Walk back in time in the Cotswolds

Friday : Town of the day was pristine Painswick, where I mailed some cards at England's oldest post office, built in the 15th century, then walked in the churchyard of 14th century St Mary's, a showplace of sculpted yew trees.

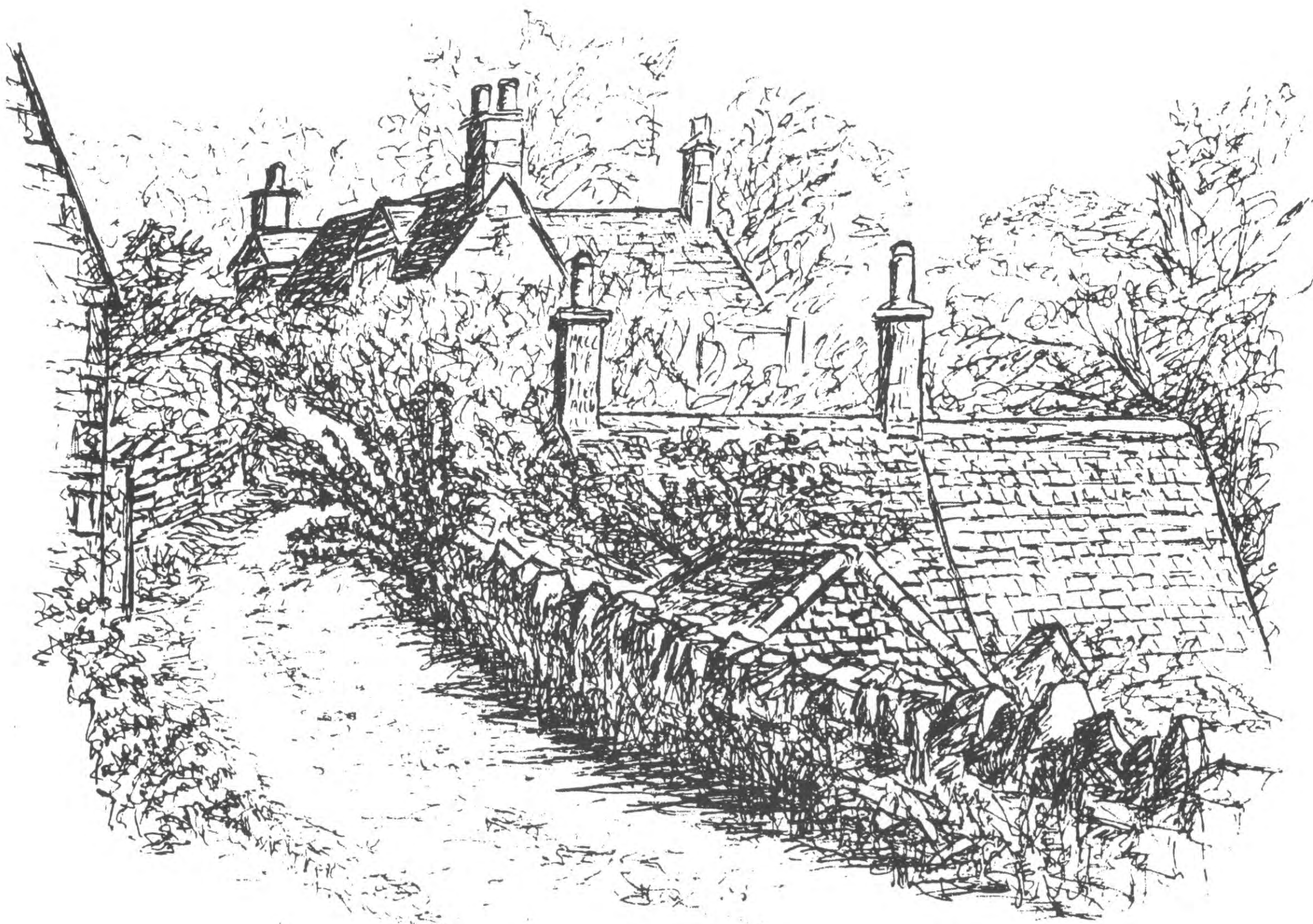
The Times-Union,
Jacksonville, Florida, USA
Sunday, September 14, 1997

MY PARADISE AND ITS INHABITANTS

by

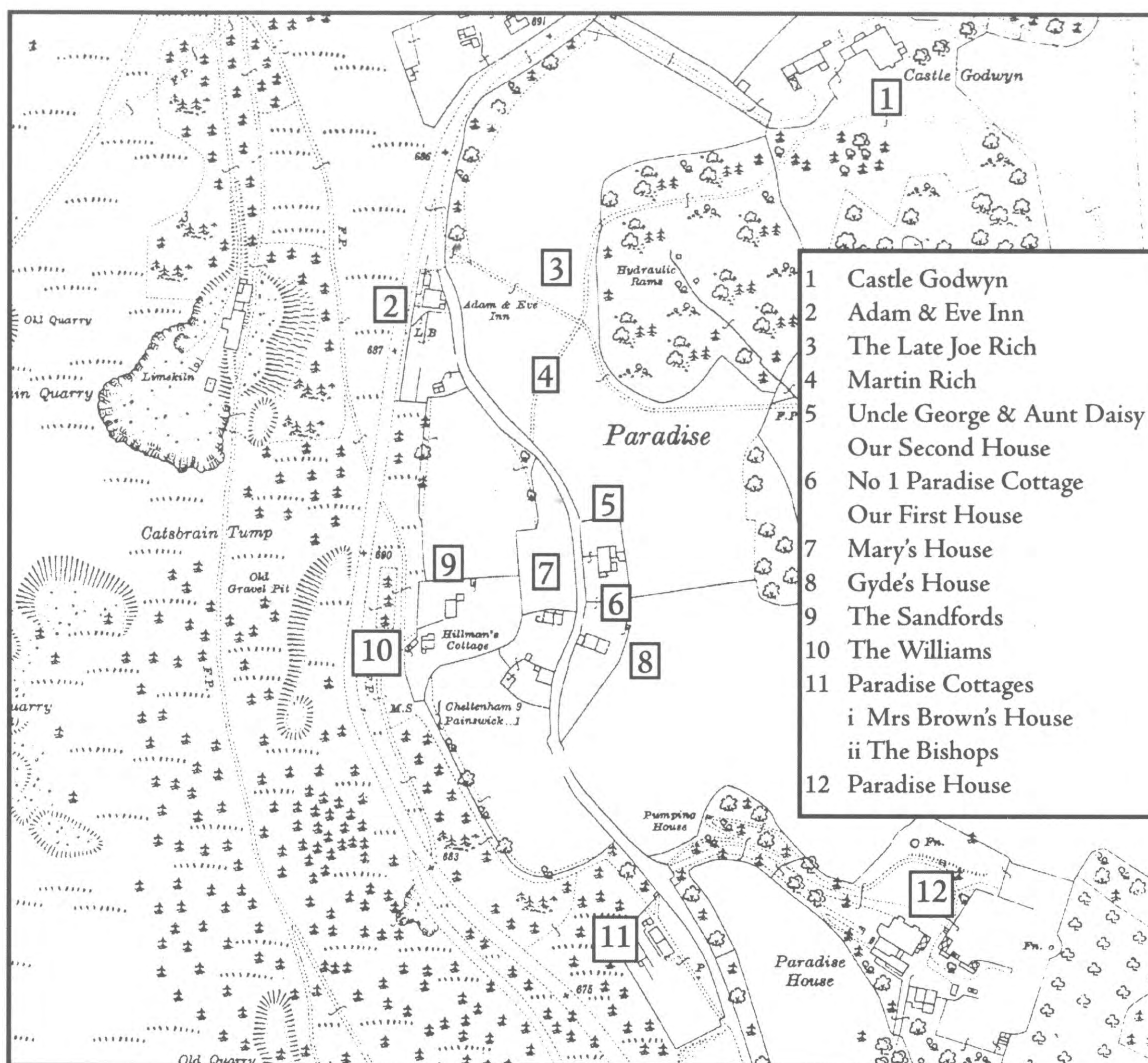
Doreen Hartley, 1994

I lived in Paradise from 1930 - 1935. Life there was so peaceful it really is a paradise, even to this day. Paradise is reputed to have been so named by King Charles I when he 'discovered it' after the siege of Gloucester. He is supposed to have called it paradise because of its pure spring water, and for its beauty. It has been said that he hid in an oak tree at nearby Lodge Farm. Paradise lies at the foot of Painswick Beacon, and is now a hamlet of 10 cottages, and in addition, Castle Godwyn, Paradise House and the former Adam and Eve inn.



Gyde's House and, beyond, our first house

I will start by explaining how the Thornton family eventually arrived at Paradise. My parents, Mollie and Bill, were born and bred on Tyneside. My father was born at Jarrow in 1904, and was christened at St. Pauls, Jarrow (where Christianity started with the Venerable Bede). He was always proud of his Geordie roots. He worked as a maritime engineer in the shipyards, but the 1920's slump came and my father was out of work for some time. A staunch member of St. Mary's Church, Tyne Dock, he was offered the job as chauffeur to the Vicar, the Rev. Hiram Craven. The Cravens had recently married, and Mrs Craven was always wanting to be on the move; they left Tyne Dock and went to a



living at Milton near Cambridge. My father went with them but missed my mother, so she got a job as a nanny and also moved to Cambridge.

From there, the Cravens moved to Sandhurst in Berkshire, where my parents were married, and where my brother David and I were born. The Cravens then moved to Gotherington near Cheltenham racecourse, and finally to the living at Painswick. As you can imagine, furniture was no sooner in place than it was moved out again. The Cravens bought the house called Castle Godwyn at Paradise. Mrs Craven was renowned for not keeping maids. It was a standing joke with the bus conductors, when they dropped maids off at Castle Godwyn, that they would be picking them up there the next month.

We moved, in September 1930, into No. 1 Paradise Cottages which belonged to Castle Godwyn; it was one of eight cottages at Paradise at that time. The house had previously been a coaching inn as the road through Paradise was the main Cheltenham to Stroud road. My father evidently suffered a septic throat from the stale fumes which arose when he first opened the cellar door. The garden gate opened on to acres of fields and like all children of that era we made our own amusements. With my friend Mary who lived opposite and my brothers, David and Peter, we made cabins in the woods, and

trekked miles. Daffodils, bluebells and snowdrops were in abundance in the Spring and for years, even after we had left the hamlet, my youngest brother Peter would go back and gather a bunch of daffodils for my mother on Mothering Sunday, always hoping the owner's dogs wouldn't see him.



Father at Castle Godwyn

My brother Peter was born on January 4 1931; we always called him 'Our Paradise Angel.' I don't think there has been a birth at Paradise since! You can imagine the look of disbelief on the recruiting sergeant's face when Peter was called up to do his National Service, and said he was born at Paradise; the retort was 'and I'm the Angel Gabriel' or words to that effect! The night Peter was born my father walked the two-mile round trip between Paradise and Painswick four times. No telephones in those days! He went to get the nurse, the doctor and Mrs Bridgeman who was the village lady called upon to look after the new babies and their families.

When I look back I realise it must have been hard for my mother, coming from a town, to have to cope with oil lamps, blacklead grates and to draw every drop of water from a pump across the road.

Although the road had been a main road, during my days very little traffic passed that way. Mr Goddard, the local farmer, delivered the milk by horse and cart, and a man from Painswick regularly called selling tea out of a suitcase. Mr Whale, the fishman, delivered his fish from his motorbike and side-car. It was quite an event when the road was resurfaced, and the steam roller came along. In those days the Benedictine Monks from Prinknash Abbey often walked through Paradise; my mother said I called them 'the men in their white nighties.'



Mary and me

My father's job included having to make an early start to go into the woods to get the water pump started for Castle Godwyn, and to ensure the electric power was running. I can still smell the carbide, even now.

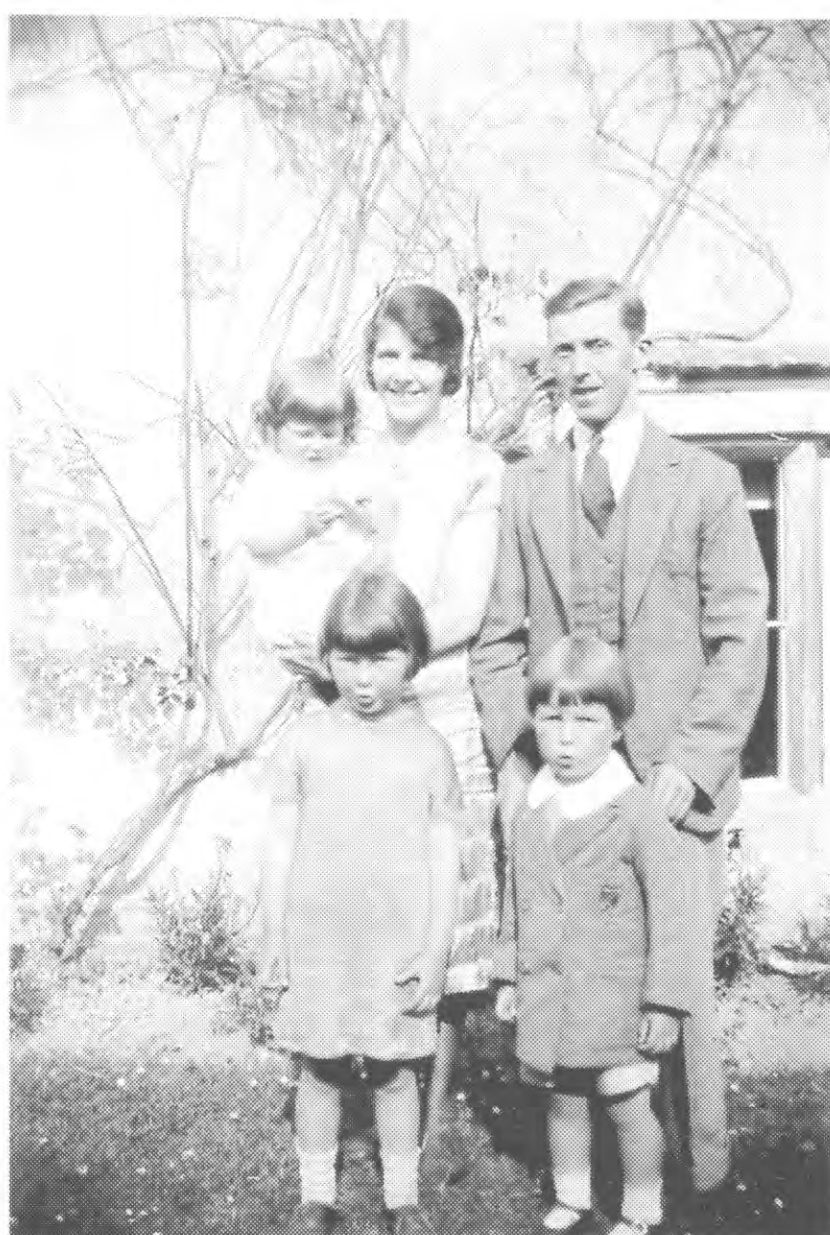
We children called our next door neighbours Uncle George and Aunty Daisy. He, Mr Jones, was gardener at Castle Godwyn. They had twin sons, one of whom became a teacher and married one of the sisters from the Gyde Orphanage, Painswick.

Across the road lived my friend Mary Whittome. Her father had died and she lived with her Aunty Ethel, as her mother had been left with a young family. Her aunt's first husband Arthur Hawkins was the headmaster of Matson school on the outskirts of Gloucester. They had a daughter, Ann Ferrier, a very pretty child who won a photographic competition.

Unfortunately Ann's father died when she also was quite young and after his death Aunty Ethel started up a hire car business in her little Austin car, which must have been quite a venture for a woman in those days. She was a great golfer; we met many Gloucestershire business people who congregated at her house before going on to the Beacon to play on the lovely 18-hole golf course.

Aunty Ethel later married Jim Ferrier and had John and Jennifer. They left Paradise during the early part of the war.

Ann, Mary and the Ferrier family emigrated to Australia in 1950, to live in Sydney. Ann has sent me some of her memories of Paradise. She recalls pestering Mr Gyde to feed his rabbits; and remembers the decadents who frequented the Adam and Eve inn and how she loved the rocking horse there. She mentions picking the wonderful wild



The Family

strawberries along the banks of the lane. We children knew where every plant was and patiently waited for them to ripen, along with the Victoria plums from the tree at the bottom of their garden.

Further up the road at Paradise Cottages lived a Mrs Brown. She could never remember anyone's name and called everyone Mr or Mrs "Whatsit." She was the local lady called upon when someone died, to do what was then called 'to lay them out.' Her son helped to build Prinknash Abbey's new monastery. Next door to her was the Bishop family and we played with their daughter, Kathleen. At the other end of the road was the Adam and Eve inn, run by Mr and Mrs Toombs. Paradise House was occupied by Captain and Mrs Stafford.

School was at Painswick which we were able to travel to and from by bus. Although there was very little traffic, I managed to get myself knocked over by a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce, after running from behind the bus. Another time the snow fell so thick and fast my brother and I were stranded at school. Fortunately, Mr Whale the fishman, came and took us home on his motorbike and side-car.

We used to be afraid of the lady who lived in a house which was in a dip. Her name was Granny Gyde and she always dressed in black. She would sit in her porch calling to us children. Of course, looking back now we realise she must have been lonely as she was immobile, being paralysed down one side.

Life, as I have said, was very tranquil. We had bonfires and baked potatoes in the barnyard below Mary's house. Bonfires were lit on the Beacon for King George V Jubilee and the Coronations of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Around 1933 the Rev. Craven decided he could no longer afford a gardener, so Uncle George and Aunt Daisy had to look elsewhere and moved to Oswestry. We moved

into their house next door. My father then became chauffeur and gardener to the Cravens, but had his wages dropped to 37/6d per week. It was a real 'roses around the door cottage.' The only sad recollection I have of that cottage is of my mother sitting at the table by the old black-leaded range, crying because Peter, my youngest brother, was in hospital with scarlet fever. He got so upset when mother visited him, because she was allowed to see him only through the window. How different hospital visiting is today!

We remained at Paradise until 1935 when my father decided he had had enough of working all hours and got a job, in what was really his trade of engineering, with the Gloster Aircraft Company. They made the Gloster Gladiator, Hurricane, Javelin and the first jet engined fighter - the Meteor.

As the house was a tied one, we had to leave. We moved to rooms in Painswick, then finally to Enfield Villa, a cottage at The Park, a hamlet halfway between Paradise and Painswick. We were moved on November 11th 1935, by the local coal merchant's lorry which carried our furniture and us kids on the back.

My parents lived at the Park for 47 years. The house looked across the Cranham, Sheepscombe and Slad valleys. My mother would never go abroad; she always said she would never see a better view than the one from her own back door.

I still go back to Paradise whenever I can. Although Painswick House is renowned for its wonderful show of snowdrops, my memory of snowdrops is of the ones under the hedgerows at Paradise. Two more houses have been built at Paradise, but it remains the tranquil hamlet that I remember as a child and is set among the most beautiful countryside. My parents always said their life at Paradise was the happiest time of their lives!

I still find a walk to the top of Painswick Beacon exhilarating, and where on a clear day, you can see the Malvern Hills and the Welsh Mountains. As children we often took a picnic up on the Beacon, and I can still taste my mother's coconut pyramids, shaped in an egg cup. Now my grandchildren love climbing what they call 'The Mountains.'

BETHELL FAMILY OF PAINSWICK

by

Dr David Bethel C.B.E., 1992

The Bethells were an ancient Welsh family whose name derived from the Welsh AP ITHELL and was Anglicised around 1450, adopting the English custom of using family names in place of the Welsh custom of calling people 'the son of' i.e. Ap. The Welsh at this time, were still legally restricted from domicile in England, but the Act of Union, 1536-43, removed those restraints and many Welsh families moved over the border into England.

The Bethells moved from Flintshire to Herefordshire, and from there, one branch went to Yorkshire (where they inherited estates in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I) and later a branch moved, possibly via Worcestershire, to the triangle of land where the three counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire meet, and, later, to the Cotswolds around Painswick, when members of the family began to appear in official records.

The first occasion of a Bethell found connected with Painswick is the apprenticeship in 1721 of a William Bethell of Stroud to John Mayo of Painswick, carpenter, for £5, a sizeable sum then. The following year on 8th April, Thomas Beathell (there were quite a few varieties of spellings used this depending on the Parish Priest or lay official writing the document) married Sarah Gardner in the Parish Church of St Mary, Painswick. This started over 125 years of Bethells living in Painswick.

Thomas Beathel was probably a brother of Walter Bethel of Minchinhampton, and his wife Sarah, a descendant of Thomas Gardner, the local clothier who built the Court House around 1605 (Figure 1). Between 1723 and 1831 there were 38 Bethell baptisms and 20 marriages between 1722 - 1817 recorded in the Parish Registers. Between 1733 and 1804 there were 27 burials recorded although only two graves in the churchyard are known to be of Bethells - numbers 24 and 225 on the *Plan of the churchyard of St Mary at Painswick shewing the position of the Tombs and Monuments existing in 1926*, surveyed between 1908 and 1926 by H. C. Carter, Max Clarke and Ellis Marshland. (The original is now in the Gloucester Record Office). Of course, then as now, many of the memorial inscriptions in the churchyard are illegible.

From where, when and why the Bethell family members came to Painswick in the early 18th century has not yet been discovered, but they appeared almost simultaneously in Gloucestershire, in the Painswick district, around Tewkesbury and in the south. Family oral history indicates that they brought weaving skills from Yorkshire, but there is little evidence to substantiate that view.

Amaziah Bethell & Painswick 1777

At: of Will of Amaziah Bethell of Painswick Co. Glouce Broad Weavers
 Whereas I had a son named Amaziah Bethell who many years
 since went & resided in London but is since dead & I have heard &
 believe he married 2 wives the first wife left my name the second
 had one son & 3 daughters which children I suppose are left
 to my 3 granddaughters all my 6 houses in Silver Street
Shoud & 2 tenements in Painswick & £80 all to be
 divided equally when youngest shall attain 21 but then
 my wife Hannah Bethell to have the rent & income from
 the £80 one part for herself & the other 3 parts for use of my
 1st granddaughter & my 1st son had any other children
 then I give them of each Whereas I have several sums of
 money now at interest viz
 £60 on an estate belonging to Samuel Brit
 £31 on Copyhold house belonging to the heir of Wm Fisher decd &
 £50 on Copyhold house belonging to Wm Edes all in Painswick
 & £20 on house belonging to Peter Stagg at Sturfield
 to pay debts & expenses
 all above & residue of my estate I give unto my said wife
Hannah Bethell & appoint her Sole Executrix

= 1st Mary Turnering
 22 Dec 1754
 = 2nd Hannah Painswick
 30 Nov 1764

Will dated 20 June 1777

mark X of Amaziah Bethell

Witnesses

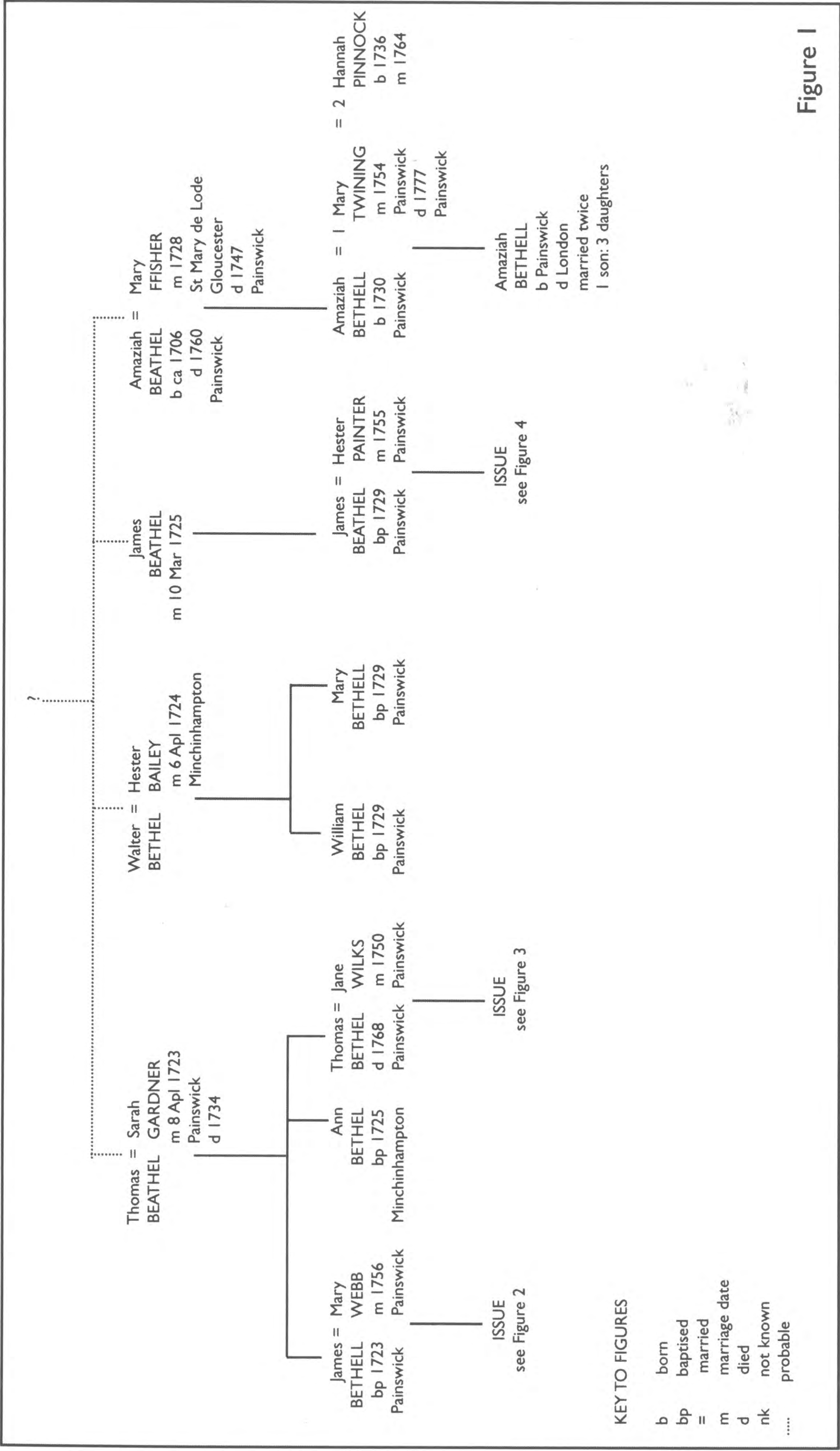
Wm Candwell

John Jones

John Smith

Will proved 22 Sept 1777 by Hannah
Bethell Relict & Sole Executrix

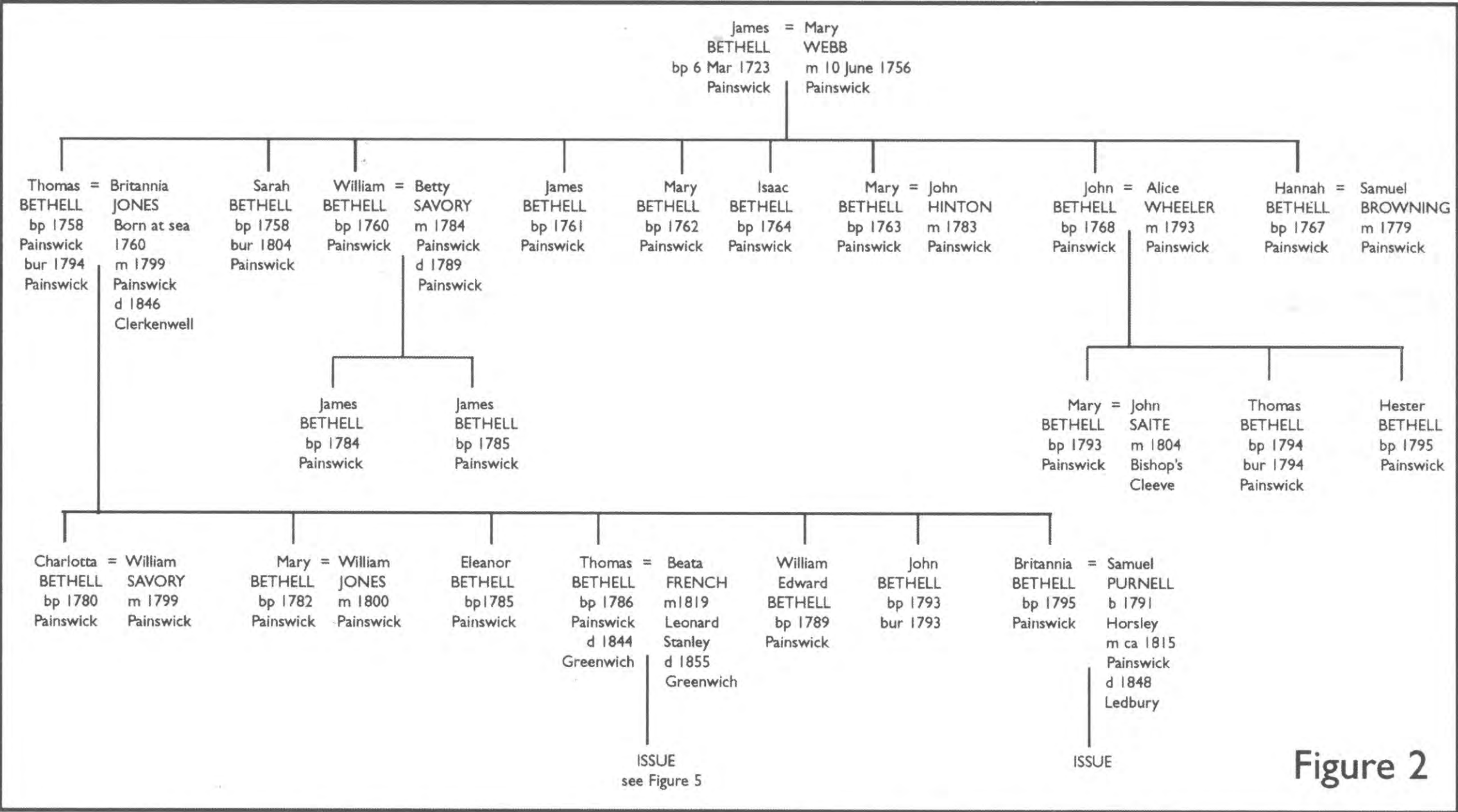
Will of Amaziah Bethell



A pedigree of the first Bethells in Painswick

From the records it is clear that those Bethells who came to the Painswick area brought with them a variety of skills connected with sheep farming. That would not have been uncommon, for England had then an agricultural-based economy and Gloucestershire was a centre of sheep-farming and, as one outcome, of weaving. Thomas Beathel was a yeoman-farmer of some substance. Amaziah Bethell, probably Thomas's nephew, owned six houses in Silver Street, Stroud, two tenements in Painswick and an investment in other Painswick properties including a house known as Gardners. From his Will dated 20 June 1777 we know that his son,Amaziah, went to live in London where he married twice and had a son and three daughters by his second wife.

The families of the four early Painswick Bethells began to grow:-



The children and grandchildren of James and Mary Bethell of Painswick

During the period of the first three generations of Bethells in Painswick, various references have been found to them. In 1756 another William was apprenticed to Henry Vrenn, cordwainer of Painswick, for £5. Whether he became a saddler or a shoe-maker or both is not known. A James Bethell was the Constable of Painswick in 1769 according to the *Gloucester Journal* reporting a story about him apprehending a malefactor. A William Bethell was Constable of nearby Bishop's Cleeve in 1770; perhaps the Bethells produced strong physical stock or they had a reputation as a law-abiding lot!

The *Journal* reported another incident involving a Bethell, this time on 23rd October 1786:

“On Wednesday morning last, Mary Bethell, of Painswick, coming to this city, was attacked a little beyond St Bridge, by two ruffians, who treated her with great cruelty, tearing her handkerchief from her neck, cutting off her pockets, and threatening to cut her throat. She described the men

as of shorter stature, very ill-looking fellows, and meanly dressed. They robbed her of ten half-crowns, two pocket handkerchiefs, a pair of pockets, a white apron, and a pair of buckles. The poor girl was coming to Gloucester to buy her a gown."

It would appear that, generally speaking, things have not changed all that much!

One interesting insight into the morals of the time is a record by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Gloucester dated 12th December 1793. Mary Pegler, a spinster of Painswick, brought a charge of defamation of character against Thomas Bethell, a carpenter of Painswick. She alleged that in September, October and November 1793, he publicly accused her of committing the crime of adultery with Nathaniel Holder of Painswick. He had said to Nathaniel, "That the woman you keep company and do go with, is as damned a whore as any in Painswick", and, what was said was repeated before credible witnesses "in an angry, reproachful and invidious manner". He was found guilty and "condemned in the costs of this suit" and to appear before the Justices at a later date. Was it a case of jealousy or malice, or that Thomas simply did not substantiate his charges with credible evidence?

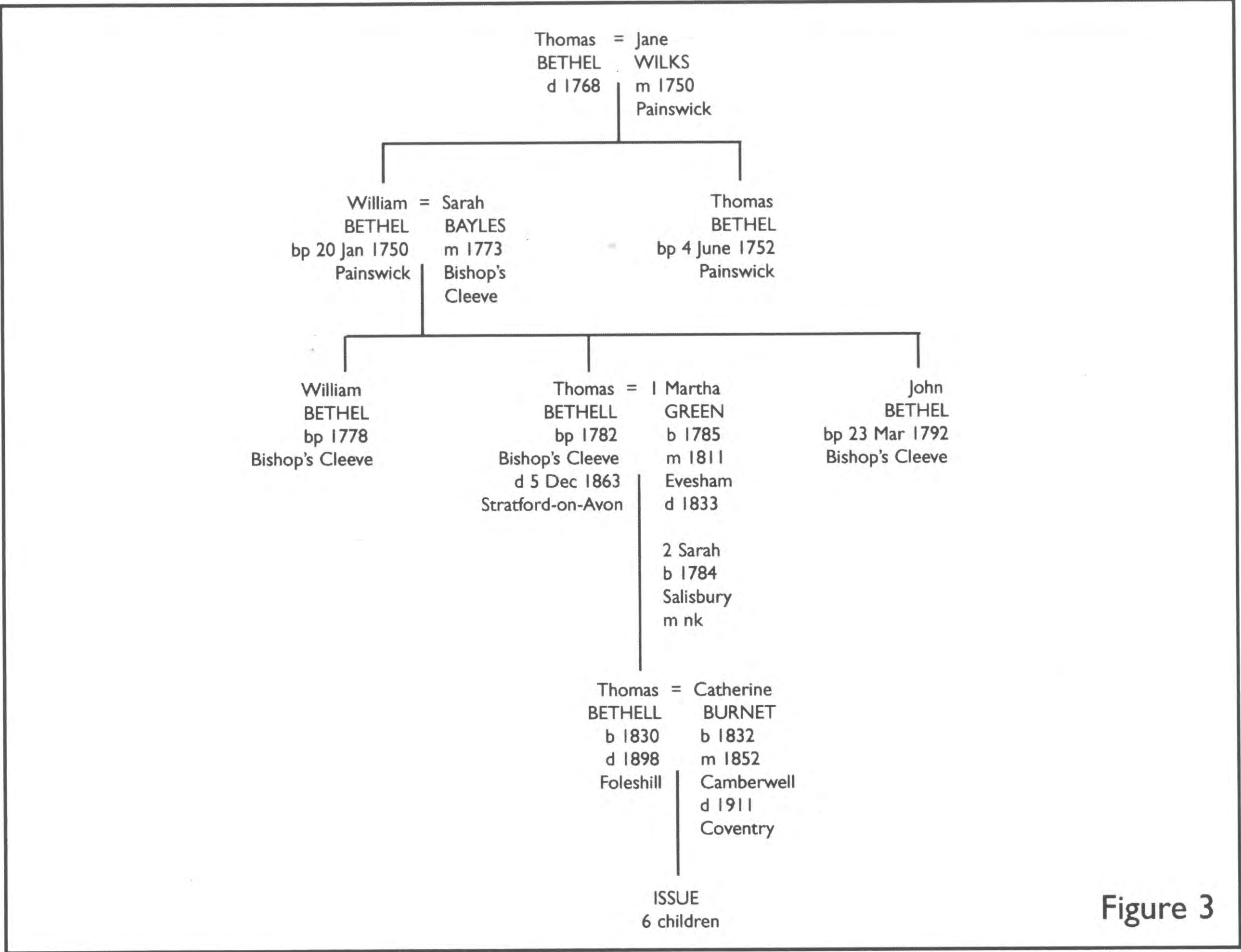
From the Will of Zacharias Horlick of Painswick dated 1798, we know that James Bethell rented a house in Vicarage Lane from him at £26 per annum. There are several plaques in St Mary's church tower commemorating record bell-ringing achievements, which name Thomas Bethell as a member of the ringing team. He was 8th ringer in "The greatest Achievement of change Ringing in England" 5th May 1817. He took the 10th bell 9th December 1833 when the Painswick Youths, according to the Parish Magazine - "eclipsed all previous Feats of Change Ringing". This Thomas later moved to London and raised a family of ten children. Of his many descendants one, at least, had a very interesting career which will be referred to later.

By about 1820 many of the Painswick Bethell family began to seek new pastures to the extent that by 7th June 1841, when the national census was made, it is likely that only one Bethell was living in Painswick. That was Britannia, née Jones, aged 82 years (Figure 2) who had been born at sea and had married Thomas, the moralist and accuser of Mary Pegler, in Painswick in 1795. She moved to London soon after Thomas's death and died in Clerkenwell in 1846.

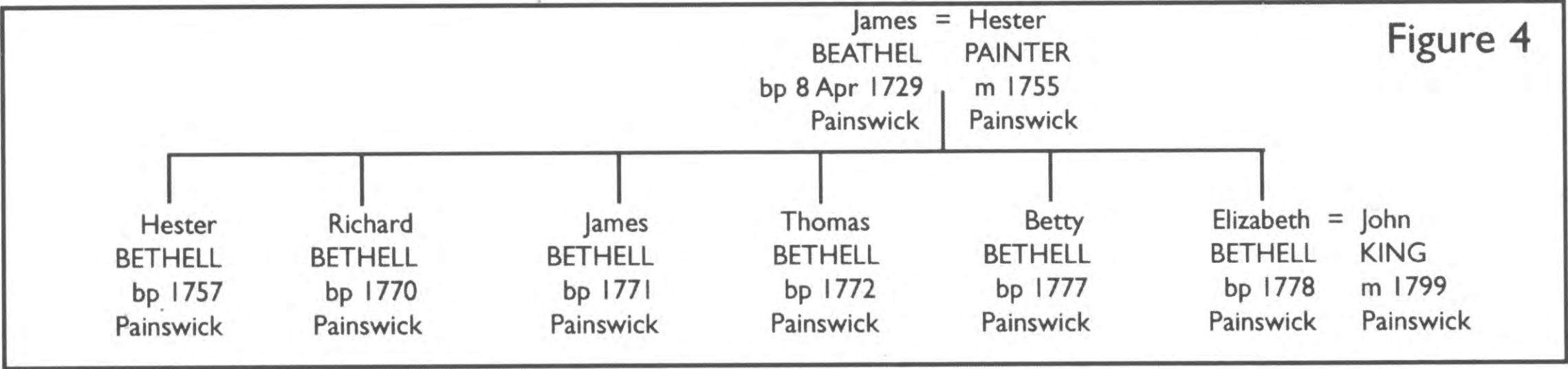
The next census returns are legible and it is clear that there were no Bethells living in Painswick on 31st March 1851. Of course, there will be Bethell descendants there, the offspring of Bethell daughters who married, but they would bear other surnames.

However, there was at least one more Bethell event in Painswick; this was the marriage in 1861 at St Mary's of Richard Bethell, a widowed farmer of Awre, aged 63 years, to Elizabeth Pulling, a spinster of Painswick aged 50. No doubt after the wedding they lived on Richard's farm at Awre.

Where all the surviving Painswick Bethells went by 1841 has not been established. Some went to Cheltenham, Birmingham and London; others emigrated to Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.A. Some of their careers are worth mentioning as they illustrate how the Industrial Revolution changed the agricultural-based economy to a manufacturing and service economy and how rural craft skills were used to develop new skills required by the new market forces.



The children and grandchildren of Thomas and Jane Bethel of Painswick



The children of James and Hester Beathel of Painswick

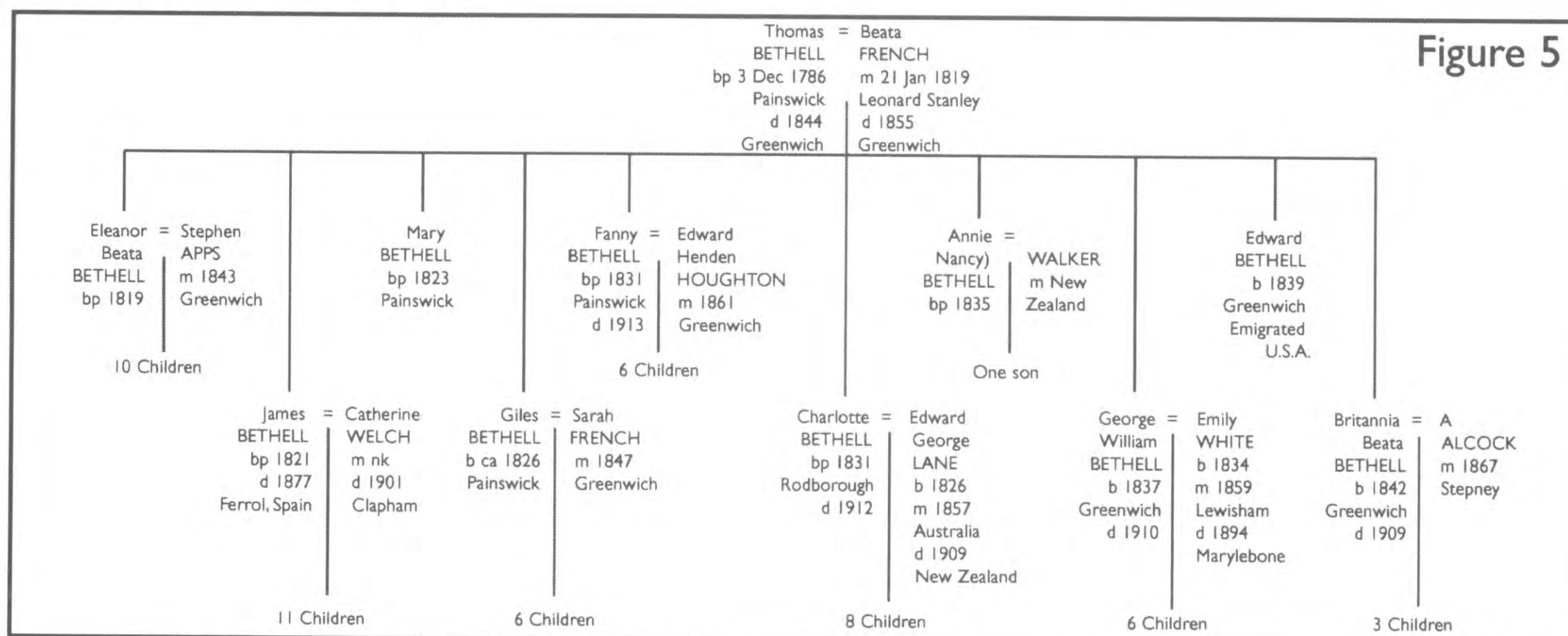
An example of this was Thomas (1830-1898) who married, in 1852, Catherine, a descendant of Bishop Gilbert Burnet (1643-1715), who was known as ‘Queen Anne’s Bishop’. Their Bethell descendants to this day have invariably used Burnet as a second Christian name. Thomas became a schoolmaster and Parish Clerk of Otterbourne, Hampshire and then schoolmaster at Ettington near Stratford-upon-Avon where his

son, Thomas, was born in 1859. This Thomas prospered and married into the Matterson family, the Coventry narrow-weavers. James, the eldest son, was a commercial traveller who lived near Leicester. Catherine, the eldest child, married in Leicester and her sister, Letitia, who had had ambitions to become a concert pianist but abandoned them for lack of money, ran a day school for ladies at 49 Evington Street, Leicester.

The next generation followed various professions including law and medicine. From an agricultural-based family in Painswick, this particular branch of the Bethell family became thoroughly urbanised within two generations.



Another Thomas (1786-1844) (Figure 5), the bell-ringer of Painswick, who married Beata French there, produced 10 children who in their turn produced 51 children. Three of Thomas's children emigrated: Charlotte to Australia, Annie to New Zealand and Edward to the U.S.A.



The children and grandchildren of Thomas and Beata née French

Thomas had moved from Painswick to Greenwich by about 1835, where he traded as a millwright. No doubt this essentially rural craft demanded practical skills to keep the machinery going. At all events, his eldest son, James (baptised at Painswick in 1821), became an engineer and was employed by the Spanish Government at the arsenal at El Ferrol, the principal Spanish naval base which was built in the 18th century. (The town is now better known as the birth-place of Generalissimo Francisco Franco). Five of his children were born there and registered with the British Consulate in Vigo. They grew up being bi-lingual. James was killed by an explosion at the arsenal. *The Times* obituary stated:

“On the 20th April (1877) at Ferrol, Spain, from injuries received in the Royal Arsenal at the above place, the previous 24th of December, James BETHELL, for more than 20 years in the Spanish Government service, aged 56, deeply lamented.”

Probably James Bethell (1821-1877), the engineer, could have claimed to have had the most exotic career of all his Painswick contemporaries. To have been born into a rural agricultural community high in the Cotswolds, son of a Painswick millwright and bell-ringer, and to die in an explosion at a Spanish naval base, must be unusual even today when mobility of labour is far more usual.

At least two of these Painswick Bethell descendants had (and, in one case, have) long lives. William (1867-1958), a grandson of Thomas the bell-ringer, became the general manager of the Royal Arsenal (Woolwich) Co-operative Society and, at his death, was the oldest living Society member, as *The Times* obituary of 11th January 1958 claimed. Juel Millicent, one of Thomas's great-grand-daughters born in 1889, is happily still living now (1992) in her 103rd year.

This extended Bethell family, whose first traced association with Painswick began in 1721 with an apprenticeship and who had all left the township by 1851, probably reflects the history of many English families with a natural ability to develop marketable skills, to be mobile in seeking new opportunities and, one would like to think, contributing to the well-being of the community in which they live.

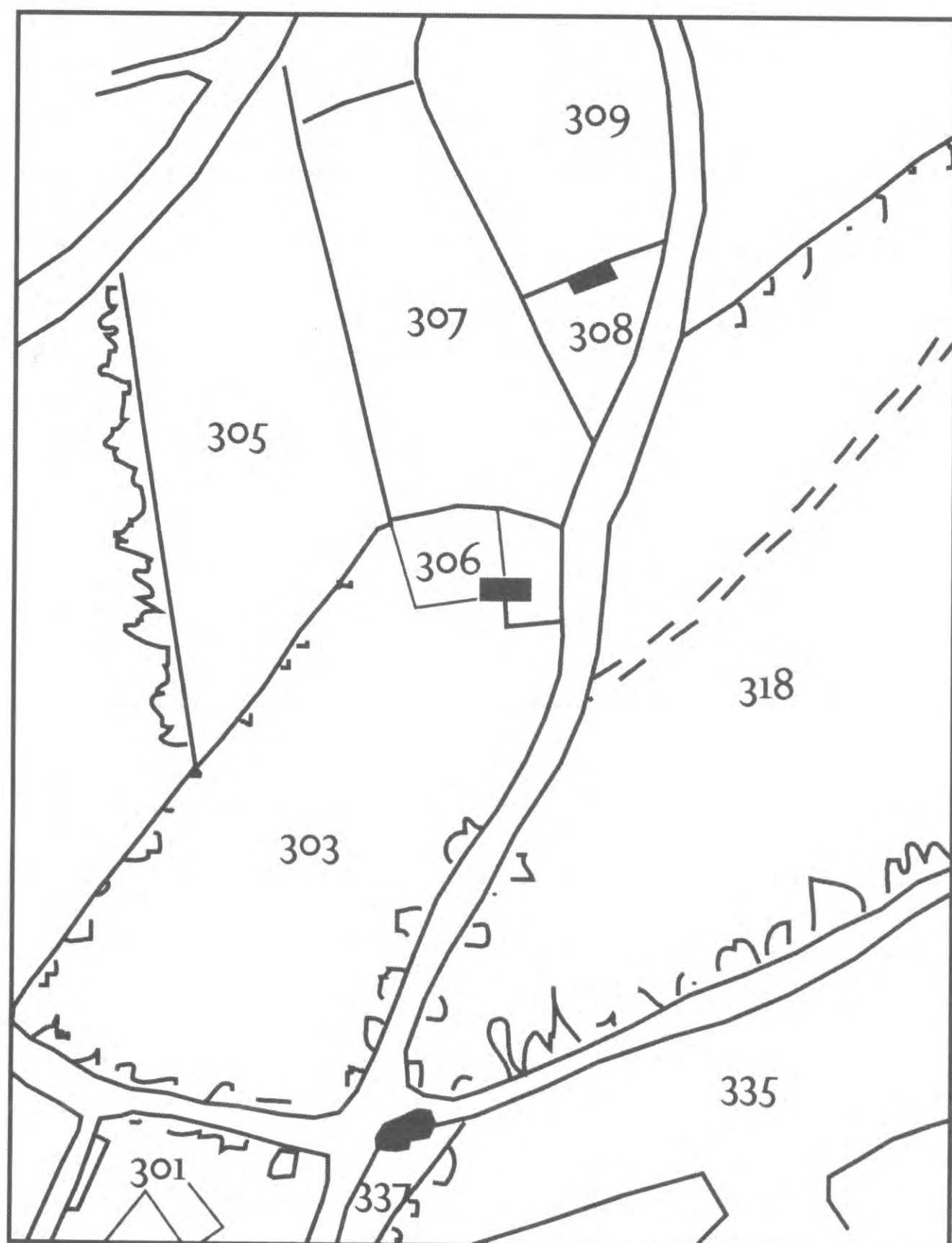
A HOUSE 'IN STAMAGES LANE'

by

Tony Bradley

Stamages Lane, on the west side of Painswick village centre, runs south from the Stroud Road, to where the former Cross Hands Inn stands at the crossroads with King's Mill Lane. The lane is steep and can be slippery in winter. Mary's Acre is about 400 yards down the hill on the west side of the lane.

Baddeley¹ tells us that in about 1608, the owner of Castle Hale – a property off the top of Stamages Lane - sold one acre of land to Thomas Starrage (sic) for his house and lane. The *Customs of the Manor of Painswick*² contain a schedule made in the Court of Chancery "on the seventh and twentieth day of November in the eleventh year of the reign of King James". It shows that Thomas Stamage was due to pay eight shillings on the 5th of December 1613, six shillings on the 5th of December 1614 and a further six shillings in 1615. That was a lot of money in those days, so we assume that Mr Stamage was a man of some substance. Did Thomas Stamage give his name to the lane? Where did he build his house? We cannot be certain, but we like to think that the lane was named after him and that he built his house soon after the above dates.

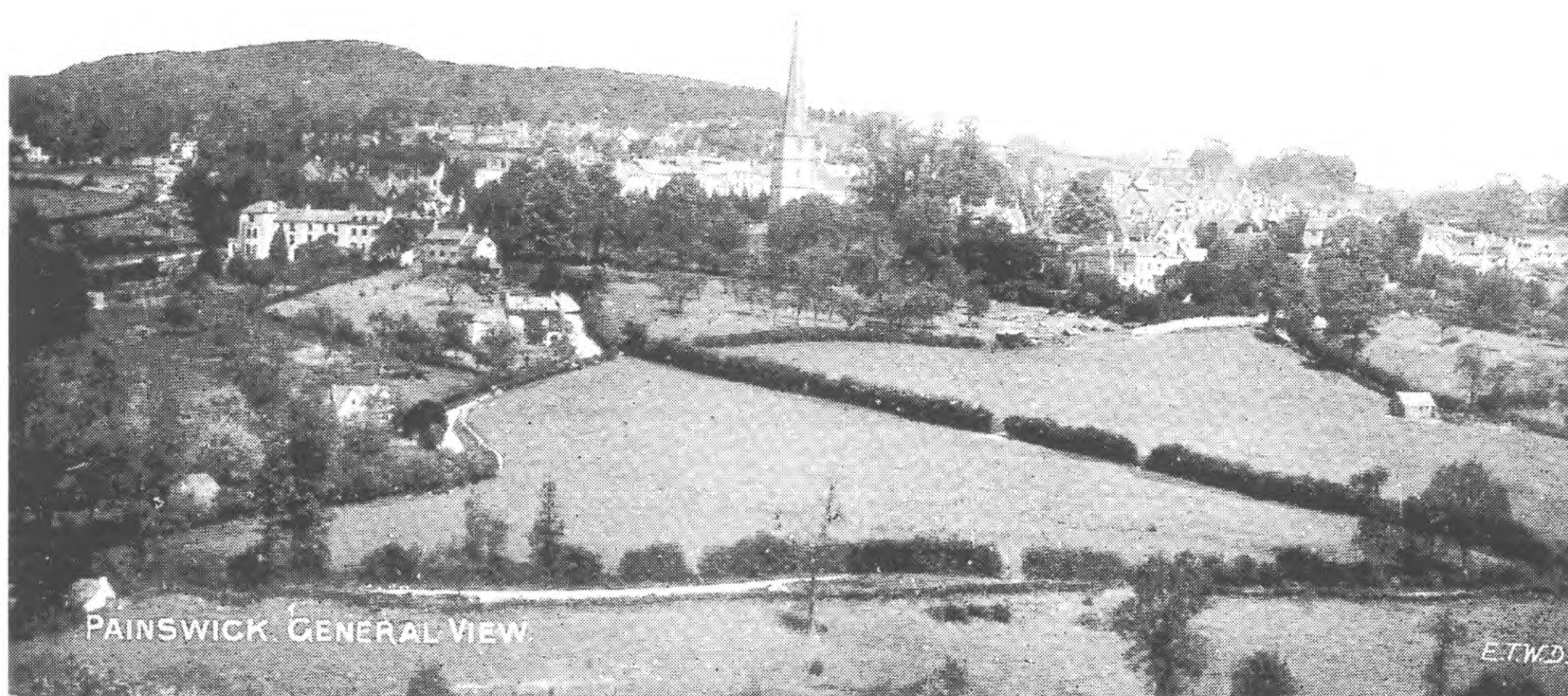


The earliest detail map relating to Painswick is the Castle Hale Estate map of William Rogers drawn in 1694 by Stephen Jeffrey. The Stroud Road did not exist then but the lane is shown, with orchards both sides, and is marked "The Way to Stroud" being the main road to Stroud at that time. The map coverage, however, did not extend to the site of Mary's Acre.

In 1820 Charles Baker, surveyor, who lived at Castle Hale, produced the first detailed map of the whole of Painswick Manor. The section relating to the Tithing of Edge shows our house and garden as plot 306. The house was at that time known as Lower Stamages. The orchard field to the south, marked

303, was later divided - the southern portion later formed what is now Queen's Mead, whilst the northern portion remained with the house and garden. The Manorial rolls show it to be owned by Charles Horlick and tenanted by John Smith for six pence per year. In the 1840s the house was owned by Charles Powis and his wife Ann. They had seven children most of whom had a Horlick among their Christian names. Perhaps Ann was the daughter of Charles Horlick? Charles and Ann had three boys and four daughters. In their will they left one seventh of their estate to each child, the three boys getting absolute ownership, the girls only a life tenancy, followed by a rather complicated entail, so complicated in fact that it fell foul of the custom and practice of the Manor of Painswick and resulted in law suits. The estate passed into Chancery, trustees were appointed and it was not until 1902 that the house and garden became owned outright by one person.

Recent restoration work has revealed features which indicate that the house has been much altered over the years. The western two-storey portion, about one fifth of the area of Mary's Acre, now the kitchen and scullery, is clearly the earlier structure. It is substantially stone built having decent quoins with rubble infill. The 'A' frame of the roof is formed with 12 inch x 8 inch timbers. We uncovered an old fireplace with hearth some 18 inches below the level of the present floor. Beneath the floor we found an old stone drain. It consisted of stones laid flat, with stones laid edge-wise vertically on top to form a channel, and capped by further flat stones. There were hand-hewn timber beams and a trimmer for a staircase long since removed. These and other features showed clearly that it was a small cottage, two up and two down, which could well date from the 1600s and may have been part of the original house. The 1820 map does, in fact, show an internal boundary within plot 306 which separates this western portion from the remainder and very probably was the small cottage identified. The rest of the house appears to have been rebuilt - certainly the roof was extensively altered - sometime in the late 1880s.



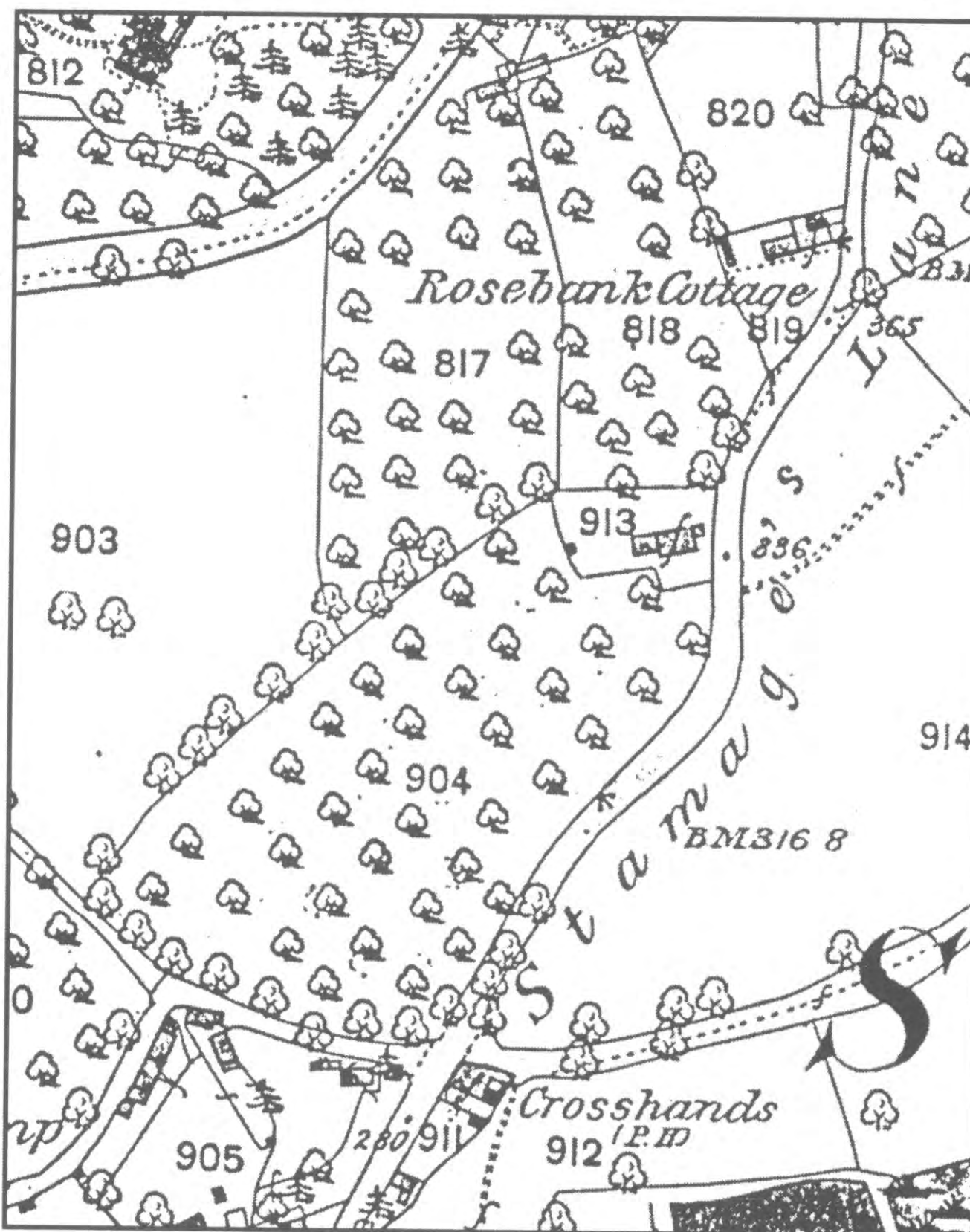
A postcard (see previous page) posted in 1906 but probably circa 1885, showing Stamages Lane viewed from the facing valley, shows Mary's Acre, edge-on to the lane, as a two-storey building with an attic storey containing two large gables which face south. A sketch drawing made in 1881 by Mr R.H. Lane of Northampton depicts a house, and is titled 'In Stamages Lane' but otherwise unidentified. It is edge-on to the lane, with



IN STAMAGES LANE.

two large gables in the roof and is remarkably similar to the house in the postcard. Further confirmation that Mr Lane's drawing is of Mary's Acre comes from the first edition of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map issued in 1885. The ground-floor plan of the house shown on plot 913 - Mary's Acre - shows a central building with adjoining smaller structures, east and west. This ground-floor plan identifies exactly with Mr Lane's drawing.

The 1885 Ordnance Survey map also shows the position of a benchmark about halfway down the edge of the orchard field 904 - BM 316. The benchmark can still be clearly seen on the stone post of the



gateway into Mary's Acre orchard, just down the lane from the house. The number 316 indicates the height of this mark above sea level.

A later postcard, also undated but probably early this century, shows a quite different roof construction, with two relatively small dormers having replaced the two large gables. What happened to the house and why it was rebuilt, during the period it was in the hands of trustees, remains a mystery.



The house, still known as Lower Stamages, was bought in 1902 by Mrs Isobel Seddon, wife of the Rev. W.H. Seddon, vicar of Painswick. She was wealthy in her own right, being the daughter of Mr J.D. Perrin of Malvern, joint owner of the Lea and Perrin 'Worcester Sauce' business. Incidentally, Mr Perrin died in 1887 and his widow, Frances Sarah Perrin, married the Rev. T.J. Williams. In 1906 she was instrumental in having the Painswick Institute built and its presentation, together with the recreation ground, to the people of Painswick. Her portrait, a benefaction, hangs in the Green Room of the Institute.

Mrs Seddon rented out Lower Stamages. One of her tenants was Captain Berkeley, father of Sir Lennox Berkeley, 1903-1989, famous composer and, in turn, father of Michael, born 1948, who composes, produces programmes for Radio 3 and runs the Cheltenham Music Festival. In response to an enquiry Sir Lennox gave a most courteous reply saying that as a young man his principal memory was of the lovely views across the valley from the attic windows. They remain to this day.

Other tenants were Charles Gere and his half-sister Margaret Gere. They were known to be in Painswick in 1902. Charles was churchwarden in 1906 and by 1916 they had moved to the house above Lower Stamages called Rosebank Cottage. Whilst still living

in Lower Stamages, they employed Detmar Blow to re-model Rosebank Cottage and then they changed the name to Stamages. Margaret Gere was a noted artist and when she died in 1965 she left Stamages to the late Robert Payne, her nephew and former member of Painswick Local History Society.

In 1921 Mrs Seddon gave Lower Stamages to her daughter, Ruth, who in 1922 sold "the land with two cottages" to a Miss Alice Hardingham. It appears that the house consisted of two establishments but we do not know when the two were made into one. Miss Hardingham, whose address is given in the Deeds as St Mary's House, Painswick, bought the house with the help of a mortgage of £500 from the Misses Cathcart of Goxhill in Cainscross. What the relationship was we do not know, but she changed the name of the house from Lower Stamages to Goxhill.

Miss Hardingham had a covenant in the deeds requiring a continued supply of water from the well in the field above. We never knew where this was until a large machine fell into it a couple of years ago. There was a lot of pipework in the well, which we presume connected with similar pipework that I found in a covered pit below our scullery window. What we do not know is whether, at the time, this was the only water supply.

In 1936 the house was bought by a Miss Miles who changed its name to Pear Tree Cottage. Was this because of the large perry pear tree or because of an espaliered pear on the outer wall, no longer there?

By this time the Deeds make mention only of a house and garden, but in 1938 Miss Miles bought Stamages Orchard (sometimes called Brooklands Orchard) - which stretched all the way to King's Mill Lane. (Plot 904 on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map)

It may have been at that time that the garden was extended into what had been the orchard, with a path down to the field gate, with rose beds and literally thousands of bulbs under the trees. Fred Spring, who is remembered fondly by two generations of children as the school 'lollipop man' at the Lychgate corner, helped me in the garden. He told me that 'old Garraway', landlord of the Cross Hands and 'old Webb' who operated the sewage farm, no longer in existence, and where Dr Baddeley now keeps his Jacobs sheep, did a lot of work for Miss Miles. Mr Garraway is shewn as landlord of the Cross Hands in the 1935 Kellys Directory.

In 1944 the house and orchard were bought by Mr and Mrs Hall who, with their daughter, a qualified nurse, turned it into a maternity home. They advertised it in the *Stroud News and Journal* in 1946. The Halls altered the house a bit, putting washbasins in all the bedrooms, a new hot water system and a new kitchen, but the Maternity Home did not last long as Mrs Hall died in 1947.

**Painswick
Maternity Home**
(Fully Trained Staff)

Apply:

Miss E. Stuart Hall,

S.R.N., S.C.M.

Pear Tree Cottage,

Painswick Glos

Tel. Painswick 2201

A Miss Levett bought the house in 1948 and re-named it The Little Place. We do not know anything about her except that in 1958 she sold off two acres of the orchard to a developer, who built what is now Queens Mead. She sold the house and one acre to Harry Baker in 1959 and went to live in Hollyhock Lane. She took the name The Little Place with her, leaving a covenant in the house Deeds that it should never again be called The Little Place. Faced with the necessity of finding a new name Harry Baker used the name of the house he and his wife had left in Broad Campden - Mary's Acre - a house we were very tempted to buy in 1974 when we were looking for somewhere to live in the Cotswolds. Imagine our surprise to find another Mary's Acre in Painswick only a few months later.

Sources:

(1) Baddeley, W.St.C.

A Cotteswold Manor, being the history of Painswick

(2) Croome, Thomas

The Customs of the Manor of Painswick contained in a decree made in the High Court of Chancery in a sit between the Lord of the Manor and the Copyhold Tenants

SOCIETY MEETINGS IN 1997

by

Gwen Welch

BEHIND THE SCENES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

At the first meeting of 1997 Hugh Conway-Jones showed how the landscape had evolved and how the changes had been influenced by several factors, mainly religious and economic. During the Middle Ages monasteries were the major landowners, having been given land by benefactors in the hope of gaining a place in heaven. After the dissolution of the monasteries their former properties were distributed to lay owners. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries much rebuilding was carried out in the county. In the Cotswolds local stone was used; in the Severn Vale elaborate timber-framed houses were built. Changes in agriculture in the 18th century resulted in the enclosure of fields, either with hedges or drystone walls, and the building of farmhouses in the fields instead of in villages as had been the custom. Improvements to roads and the construction of canals brought more changes to the county; several industries were established in Gloucester, and Cheltenham was developed as a spa town.

By bringing together many strands of Gloucestershire history and illustrating contemporary developments in Cotswolds, Vale and Forest, Mr Conway-Jones brought an interesting approach to local history.

LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY

Aspiring landscape detectives were given much helpful advice by Dr Nicholas Herbert at the February meeting. Dr Herbert, the editor of the Victoria County History, described how the history of the landscape can be discovered by observing the present day scene and comparing it with information in old maps and other records. There had been three major influences on the landscape: economic change, the great estates and changes in village life. Examples of each of these influences were described in detail by Dr Herbert. The area north of Gloucester around Corse and Tirley had been common land until the Enclosure Act of 1797; the land was then enclosed, forming a pattern of square fields surrounded by hawthorn hedges. When the price of corn rose, the fields were ploughed to grow corn and large barns were built to store the harvest; several of these barns are still in use today. The influence of a great estate on the landscape can be seen in Cirencester Park where, in the mid-18th century, Lord Bathurst had the 5-mile long ride constructed together with several ornamental features. Lord Bathurst was an enthusiastic supporter of the Thames-Severn canal. The spoil heaps from the construction of the canal were made a feature of the landscape – planted with beech trees to form a row of copses which are still clearly visible today.

As an example of changes to villages, Dr Herbert described in detail the history of two areas in the west of Gloucestershire. High Meadow, near Newland, is now a farmstead, but it was once the site of a large hamlet. Highnam comprised many small farms in the 17th century; these gradually were amalgamated until the 36 farms listed in 1755 were reduced to six by the end of the 18th century. While some villages were disappearing,

new ones were being established around industrial areas. Squatters built cottages on common land and, in this way, villages such as Chalford were formed.

A GYDE HOUSE BOY REMEMBERS

Mr Fred Seamark at the March meeting gave a brief history of the children's home and recounted his childhood experiences of living there between the years 1928 and 1937. Mr Seamark's talk was published in full in the Number 1 issue of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

BELLS, COINS AND MILESTONES

The April meeting was devoted to research undertaken by three members of the Society. Derek Hodges gave a brief history of the bells of St Mary's Church, Painswick. The first written reference to the bells is in a document of 1686 where it is stated that two bells were added to the tower to bring the number of bells to eight. Through subsequent recasting and additions, there are now 14 bells in the tower. Derek spoke of the rivalry between the bellringers of Painswick and those of Stroud, which was manifested in the attempts to ring record peals. On 5th May 1817 the Painswick ringers rang a peal of Grandsire Caters which had 12,312 changes and lasted nearly eight hours.



The meeting was brought down to earth when John Bailey spoke about the Painswick horde of coins discovered in a field by the late Cuthbert Webb in 1941. The 42 gold and silver coins had been brought to the surface where the passage of cattle had eroded the ground. It is thought that the coins were hidden at the time of the Civil War when there were skirmishes around Painswick, and were probably owned by a Royalist supporter. The coin horde has a face value of £22; John estimated the present day value to be £14,000.

Finally, the audience was taken by Peter Minall on a hunt to find treasure of a different kind – old milestones. It is unfortunate that few complete milestones exist today as they show the routes of old roads and tracks. In the Painswick area there are several dating from the building of the turnpike roads in the 18th century. Peter identified four routes which pass through Painswick illustrating the sites of the milestones along them. Several of the milestones have been damaged, others moved and some have disappeared.

VISIT TO 'HILLES'

For the May meeting the Society visited 'Hilles'. Amaury Blow explained that the house had been designed and built between 1914 and 1919 by his grandfather, Detmar Blow. A noted architect of the Arts and Crafts Movement, he had intended a larger house but the money ran out. The house was designed to avoid being dominated by the panoramic view of the Vale of Gloucester; the house should be inward looking.

The Great Hall is large, in the Arts and Crafts style, with much plain woodwork and lit by six simple black iron candelabra. A splendid fireplace and overmantle carries the royal arms of James I ("Architects' perks!" said Amaury). Blow intended this room to be the hub of the house where all – family, visitors, servants – would meet one another, thus breaking down social barriers in accordance with the teachings of John Ruskin. However, Amaury told us, the servants objected to this idea; it would be beneath their dignity to eat with the family!

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

The Annual General Meeting and presentation by Mrs Blatchley brought to a close the 1996-97 programme. The Chairman noted the increase in membership and the successful launch of Carl Moreland's *Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village*, published in association with the Society.

After the business part of the meeting Mrs Barbara Blatchley showed, in an audio-visual presentation, the ways in which local stone has been used for buildings in the Painswick valley since Roman times. The quality of Painswick stone makes it suitable for interior use and fine carving; superb examples of the stonemasons' skills were shown in close-up views of intricately carved ceilings and mantelpieces.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

The new season 1997-98 opened with a talk on 'Some Painswick Characters' given by Mr Martin Slinger. His anecdotes and recollections of past and present residents revived memories of characters and exploits long remembered. His stories also revealed the many changes that have taken place in the parish, especially in agricultural practice, employment and place names. References to steam-powered threshing machines, horse-drawn wagons and milk churns described a world which seems far removed from the combine harvesters and milk tankers of today, a world in which there was a pin mill and light engineering works in Painswick, and the Edgemoor Inn was called the Gloucester House. It was also a world in which the local 'bobbies' patrolled their beats on bicycles and did some rabbit catching en route!

DEER IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

At the October meeting the author and naturalist, Duff Hart Davies, shared his extensive knowledge of the three types of deer to be found in Gloucestershire: fallow, muntjac and roe. The differences in size and markings of the deer were illustrated as were the habitats in which deer are found: wooded areas such as those around Edgeworth and Paradise, and large country estates.

TWO GLOUCESTERSHIRE SURVEYORS

At the final meeting of 1997 Dr Anne Bailey talked about the lives and work of Ferdinand Stafford and Charles Baker. Stafford produced estate maps within the county from 1748-1760. He then became involved in engineering projects in Bristol and carried out a survey for the route of the Kennet and Avon canal.

Charles Baker, surveyor, architect and civil engineer, produced, between 1816 and 1825, 17 maps. These included maps of the Painswick tithings and of roads in the Painswick area. He married Ann Bayliss, daughter of the wealthy mill-owner, William Bayliss of Castle Hale, and subsequently moved into Castle Hale after the death of his father-in-law. While living there he made extensive alterations to the house and was also involved in other architectural projects, including the Stroud Union workhouse and the church and vicarage in Slad. Despite these commissions, however, he fell deeply into debt and had to leave Castle Hale.

