



LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Impression of Leckhampton Moat



Collum End Farm



Church Farm



Verandah formerly at Trowscoed Lodge

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- Houses named after Leckhampton
- Leckhampton in literature
- Leckhampton's Farms
- Trowscoed Lodge and its occupants
- Survey of the Moat
- The Hargreaves of Leckhampton Court
- 12th-century tithes

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EDITORIAL

This, the third issue in our occasional series of Research Bulletins, demonstrates yet again that 'local' history need not be parochial or dry-as-dust. The article 'A Celebration of Leckhampton' explores the meaning of the village's name and its occurrences in literature and elsewhere and contrives to find a variety of points in common with Cambridge, Grimsby, Derby, Harrogate and, further afield, Brisbane, Cape Town and Chicago, among others. In 'Trowscoed Lodge and its Occupants' we glimpse nineteenth-century Cheltenham's shifting population of clergymen, soldiers, manufacturers and property developers with connections in Birmingham, Bristol, Clifton, Cornwall, South Wales, Ireland and the West Indies, while 'The Hargreaves of Leckhampton Court' reveals powerful Lancashire connections. The article on Leckhampton's farms is more firmly rooted locally, though here too we find absentee landlords and dues payable to the Abbot of Cirencester.

The account of the Moat is prompted by a geophysical survey, of a kind familiar to viewers of 'Time Team', carried out recently on our behalf by the Gloucestershire and District Archaeological Research Group (GADARG). This exercise was an attempt to solve the long-standing question of whether a manor house might once have occupied the site. We also take the opportunity of summarising the results of the 1933 excavation of the Moat.

The extract from the Cartulary of Llanthony Priory is a further reminder that over the centuries various authorities elsewhere have had an interest in Leckhampton, though the village's medieval field names are the actual theme of the article. It was kind of John Rhodes to offer it to us. He is currently Chairman of GADARG and the editor of *A Calendar of the Registers of the Priory of Llanthony by Gloucester*, published by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Stalwart members of our Society have supplied the remaining articles – Terry Moore-Scott, Mike Rigby and your Editor: is there anyone else out there?

I am grateful to Mike Rigby for arranging the printing of this Bulletin. Thanks to the success of our earlier publications, we have been able to reduce the cover charge to £3.00.

SERENDIPITY

Most people will at some time or other have had a taste of 'serendipity', of making a happy and unexpected discovery by accident. A more neutral term, taken from the field of psychology, is 'synchronicity', a coincidence in time of two events linked by meaning but without any causal connection. However you describe the experience, it is one to be savoured by local historians, and is always accompanied by a thrill, as if an unseen hand was in control. A chance remark, a casual meeting, the opening of a book at random: any of these can open up an Aladdin's cave, send you off on a lifelong search or maybe provide the answer to a nagging question, as shown in the following illustrations:

- Browsing at a book fair, I found myself standing beside a fellow member of the Society (David Maughfling). He had in his hands a copy of the souvenir programme for the Gloucestershire Historical Pageant performed in Cheltenham in 1908. The booklet was open at a page showing a previously unseen advertisement for the Cotswold Potteries, which I was at that time researching.
- I was trawling through the 1881 Census for Cheltenham, looking for instances of a particular surname. One of the occurrences was not relevant, but the person concerned turned out to be a servant in the household of a family which was of interest in another context but which I had assumed to be in Russia at the time.
- I happened to go to Leckhampton Church with my wife one weekday, as she had to see if the flowers needed watering. A previous visitor had left behind a letter from a genealogical researcher. I took it home, planning to return it to the original recipient, but before doing so noticed that it included details of an inscription on the tombstone of a relative of the addressee. Today the stone is badly eroded and this chance find, which relies on much older information, supplied the missing family names and dates.
- Last but by no means least, earlier this year a new hymn book was bought for use in Leckhampton Church. The very first hymn to be chosen ('Hark what a sound and too divine for hearing...') had words written by F W H Myers, who as is described in the following article was particularly attached to that church. None of those involved in the choice of hymn knew of this connection. It happens that Myers was also a founder member of the Society for Psychological Research. Was he perchance casting a benign eye over Leckhampton from beyond the grave?

However, I doubt whether it is right to put such discoveries down entirely to accident or coincidence. If you are immersed in a topic you are sensitised to anything related to it and recognise connections. There must also be a 'reverse serendipity', when you fail to acquire something by the skin of your teeth, as when a mortgage deed for Leckhampton Court, dated 1782, was advertised for sale. I was told about it too late, and the actual purchaser was not prepared to discuss the contents. By extension, there must also be occasions when you miss something without realising it. (One is reminded of Donald Rumsfeld's 'known and unknown unknowns' concerning intelligence on Iraq.)

It is more constructive, perhaps, to draw up a 'wish list' of items we would dearly love to find. Obvious gaps are account books and visitors' books for Leckhampton Court and other large houses in the locality, or diaries kept by past inhabitants. But let us be thankful for what we have already got. There is a wealth of material in the archive left to the Society by Jean Bendall, just waiting to be exploited. We hope that some of it will be written up in the next *Bulletin*.

A CELEBRATION OF LECKHAMPTON

THE NAME AND ITS MEANING – ITS USE AS A SURNAME, ON BUILDINGS AND ELSEWHERE

By Eric Miller

This article looks at the varied manifestations of the name Leckhampton. Our Leckhampton is, as far as we can establish from an exhaustive search of atlases, gazetteers and the Internet, the only place in the whole wide world to bear the name (or its variant forms 'Lackington' or 'Leckington'). In the case of the USA, correspondence from the United States Information Service has confirmed this belief.

On the other hand, buildings bearing the name 'Leckhampton' are to be found in other parts. In Cambridge and in Australia the edifices are rather grand, and their backgrounds and the people who had them built are of interest and there are others, yet to be fully researched, in South Africa.¹ A steam locomotive once bore the name 'Leckhampton Hall'.

A few other place-names in England share a similar meaning, related to the growing of leeks or garlic, but there are some notable 'red herrings'. The name Chicago in the USA offers a remarkable parallel, however.

Many surnames are formed from the locality where an ancestor may have originated, and some rare instances have been found of Leckhampton and Lackington/Leckington.

Leckhampton Hill provides the setting for James Elroy Flecker's poem 'November Eves', and it is glimpsed in the distance from 'Norton Bury' (Tewkesbury) in Mrs Craik's novel *John Halifax, Gentleman*. While taking a walk on the hill, Lewis Carol found the inspiration for one of his characters in *Through the Looking-glass*. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was published by one John Lackington.

THE PLACE-NAME AND ITS MEANING

The technique of studying place-names is an inexact science. All that the informed layman can do is try and piece together the most likely explanation in the light of expert opinion. A H Smith's *The Place-Names of Gloucestershire* and E Eckwall's *The Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* are obvious sources, supplemented by the 2003 revision of the latter and *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*, published this year.

Leckhampton is known to have been one of the settlements in the Cheltenham hundred. 'Hampton' (Old English *hām-tūn*) means 'home farm' or 'settlement' or the enclosure in which a homestead stands. This farm served the royal manor of Cheltenham and as such would have cultivated any of the limited range of root vegetables available at that time. Typically, these would have included leeks (Old English *lēac*) or garlic (*gar-lēac* meaning 'spear-leek') and from them the settlement gained its name, 'home farm where leeks are grown'. Various spellings were in use until 'Leckhampton' became the standard: Lechameton and Lechantone (in the Domesday Book, 1086 – the first recorded mention), Leachampton, Laghampton, Lackhampton, Leihamptone, Leckanton and Lekanton. 'Leck' with this meaning is unusual in English place-names.² The only others I can

¹ It is beyond the scope of this article to cover thoroughfares named after Leckhampton, though it is noted that Blackpool has a Leckhampton Road.

² Samuel Rudder, in *A New History of Gloucestershire*, 1779, suggested that 'Leck' might derive from Celtic *Lech*, meaning stone, a view that is not taken by modern authorities.

find are Leckhampstead (in both Berks and Bucks), Lackham (Wilts), Lackford (Suffolk), Lickhill (Worcs), Lickfold (Sussex) and corruptions of *Lēac-tūn* which appear as Langton, Latton, Laughton, Leighton and Letton, in various counties.

There are a number of 'red herrings' to beware of. Such likely-sounding names as Leek itself (Staffs), as well as Leck (Lancs), Leckford (Hants), Leake (N Yorks) and Lechlade (Glos) turn out to be derived from *Læcc* meaning 'brook' and are unrelated. Leckby (N Yorks) is 'Let's farm'. White Lackington (Somerset), which strictly should be written as one word, looks tantalisingly like 'our' Lackington though it derives from a personal name, 'Wihtlāc's farmstead'.

Similarities in other countries?

As an aside, it would be of interest to find out whether any place-names in languages other than English are derived from a word meaning leek or garlick and consequently might indicate a similar vegetable-growing origin. The German for 'leek' is *Lauch*, an element that appears for example in Lauchheim and Lauchdorf. Correspondence with the relevant town authorities in Germany indicates that this notion is unfounded, and in these and several other cases, 'lauch' turns out to be a corruption of words with unrelated meanings.

Much nearer the mark, however, is the name of the US city of Chicago. When the French first arrived at what is now the site of the city, they found wild onion or garlic growing profusely in the marshlands along the shore of Lake Michigan and adopted the Native American word for the area, *Chécagou*, which means 'onion fields'. This seems a remarkably close parallel to the origin of 'Leckhampton' and the possibility that other parallels may exist surely deserves further investigation.

'Leckhampton alias Lackington'

A variant form 'Lackington', also seen as Lekynton, Lechington, Le(c)kington, was in relatively common use from the 16th century until at least the 1930s. How and why the alternative ending '-ington' was adopted remains a mystery, as it implies 'the farmstead associated with a particular individual', eg Whittington, 'Hwitta's farmstead'. The heading 'Leckhampton, otherwise Lackington' was printed on a poster advertising the beating of the bounds in 1835, suggesting that they were officially recognised alternatives. Even in the 1920s and 1930s the latter variant must have been in current usage, to judge by remarks in Leckhampton Parish Magazines. The pantomime of 1922 was said to have 'gladdened the hearts of the folks of LACKINGTON'. The parish priest (the Reverend F R Standfast) capitalised the word and clearly enjoyed the pun, for on another occasion he urged parishioners not to be 'lacking in the love of God and gratitude to our pious forefathers: Leckhampton need not be "LACKING-TON" in these things'. In 1932, when the Headmaster of Leckhampton School, Mr E H Parsons, retired to Kingston-on-Thames, he named his house there 'Leckington'. (Is the name still on the gate, one wonders?)

Most recently of all, a lady who had grown up in Leckhampton during the 1920s,³ in the course of an interview in 2003 put on for me the rich Gloucestershire accent that she and her brothers once used in the playground but which was frowned on at home. Spontaneously, she spoke of 'gwine whoam up Lackington', and affirmed that that was a perfectly accepted way of referring to the village. Perhaps that unprompted mention of 'Lackington' was the last occasion on which the word was uttered in earnest!

³ Miss Isobel Vaughan, of Hampton House.

PARISH OF
LECKHAMPTON,
 Otherwise
LACKINGTON,
 In the County of Gloucester.

WE do hereby give Notice, to all to whom it may concern, that on *Monday the Nineteenth day of October* Instant, a *PERAMBULATION* of the whole *CIRCUIT* and *BOUNDARIES* of the said Parish of Leckhampton, otherwise Lackington, in the County of Gloucester will be made by the Inhabitants of the said Parish, in order

Part of poster advertising beating of bounds, 1870

*Gloucestershire Record Office*⁴

THE PLACE-NAME USED AS A SURNAME

Leckhampton

The convention of denoting a person's heredity by the use of a surname, or family name, gradually gained currency among the population at large from the 12th century and had become general by the 15th.⁵ One class of surnames records the locality or place where ancestors originated, sometimes preceded by 'of' or 'de'. The Prior (later Abbot) of Cirencester Abbey during the period 1393-1416 was John of Leckhampton.⁶ I have come across no other instances of Leckhampton as a surname. This is probably not surprising, given the small size of the village, and Abbot John presumably would have been without legitimate issue.

Lackington/Leckington

These alternative versions of the place-name, on the other hand, have been somewhat more enduring as a surname. Genealogical lists and gazetteers include a very small number of Leckingtons, and even fewer Lackingtons, chiefly in the United States. Today, out of 85,000,000 listed phone numbers in the USA there are only 51 Leckingtons, and according to one reckoning Leckington is the 70,886th(!) most popular surname there.

At the time of the 1881 British Census, a dozen households were listed at which the head's surname was Lackington. One Lackington is to be found in the current London telephone directory, but no Leckingtons are listed. A nationwide search for a surname is evidently easier in the USA.

Probably the most celebrated holder of the name was the London bookseller James Lackington, who flourished during the late 18th-early 19th centuries, together with his younger cousin George Lackington. They specialised in somewhat sensational material and their 'Temple of the Muses' undertook the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The National Portrait Gallery has a

⁴ GRO P198a CW 3/1

⁵ Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames*, 1967.

⁶ *The Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey*, ed. M Devine.

portrait of James Lackington.⁷ In a related occupation, a US bookseller earlier this year advertised a book which had been rebound in 1937 by the *Leckington Bindery*, but no further details are available.

LECKHAMPTON HILL IN POETRY AND PROSE

James Elroy Flecker's November Eves

Leckhampton Hill provided an inspiration for the poem *November Eves* by James Elroy Flecker. The opening lines are:

November Evenings! Damp and still
 They used to cloak Leckhampton Hill,
 And lie down close on the grey plain,
 And dim the dripping window-pane,
 And send queer winds like Harlequins
 That seized our elms for violins....
 ...Is it the mist or the dead leaves,
 Or the dead men – November eves?

James Elroy Flecker is best known for his play *Hasan* and the poem 'The Golden Journey to Samarkand'. He came to Cheltenham in 1886 at the age of two when his father, the Reverend Dr W H Flecker, was appointed Headmaster of Dean Close School. From their home in Shelburne Road he would have seen Leckhampton Hill and the Cotswold escarpment beyond the elm trees at the bottom of the garden. This view clearly made an impression on the small boy, and he later recalled it in this poem, written around the time of his birthday on 5 November when the misty season accorded with his melancholy temperament. He described himself as the 'lean and swarthy poet of despair' and in 'Oak and Olive' he wrote of 'Autumn leaves like blood and gold that strew a Gloucester lane'.

Whether he knew Leckhampton Hill any more intimately is not known. In his youth he was familiar with Painswick Hill and 'Cranham's sober trees' and later stayed for a time in a sanatorium at Cranham. He died of tuberculosis in Switzerland in 1915 but is buried in Cheltenham Cemetery.⁸

John Halifax, Gentleman

Mrs Craik's novel *John Halifax, Gentleman*, written in 1857, is set in Tewkesbury, though the town is thinly disguised as 'Norton Bury'. The fictional setting encompasses certain nearby places, their names changed but still identifiable. Cheltenham, for example, is 'fashionable Coltham, famous for all the scandal and *haut ton*'. Amberley, where Mrs Craik (née Dinah Maria Mulock) lived for a time before her marriage, is 'Enderley'. She also stayed on several occasions in Charlton Kings, at Detmore House, home of the poet Sydney Dobell. Once, in 1853, when staying with the Dobells, she visited Tewkesbury and made notes which, together with information doubtless gleaned by other means, provided local colour for her novel.⁹

In Chapter 25, the narrator, Abel Fletcher's son Phineas, describes seeing 'the morning sun ... creeping down the broad slope of our fields; thence towards Redwood and Leckington – until, while the dews yet lay thick on our shadowed valley, Leckington Hill was all in a glow of light'. A few chapters later John Halifax is portrayed as watching the sun set behind Leckington Hill.

⁷ *The Cambridge History of English and American Literature.*

⁸ Plot W20306

⁹ Article on Mrs Craik by Rose Hagan, Tewkesbury Local History Society *Bulletin* No 2, 1988.

BUILDINGS NAMED AFTER LECKHAMPTON

There are several houses whose name incorporates the word 'Leckhampton' dotted about England and the English-speaking world. The name may have sentimental connotations or be chosen quite arbitrarily. This process is still in vogue, as exemplified by the Yorkshire firm of Leckhampton Computers, whose headquarters in Harrogate occupies *Leckhampton House*. Formerly called the Mullions, this house was renamed by its present owner in 1983 when he transferred his business from Quarndon, on the outskirts of Derby, where the house he used to live in was called Leckhampton House.

This apparently simple explanation of course begs the question of how the house at Derby came by its name. That may be a topic for future research, and for present purposes this article confines itself to discussing three cases. In two of them, at least, the personal link is of considerable interest.

Leckhampton House, Cambridge

Today this is the name of the graduate campus of Corpus Christi College in the University of Cambridge. It is a modern development on Grange Road dating from 1961, but it is centred on a house built in 1880 for a Fellow of Trinity College, Frederic William Henry Myers. The house is modelled after the style of a Cotswold manor, and its architect was Myers's maternal cousin, William Cecil Marshall. At the time of the 1881 Census William Marshall was a visitor at the house (then unnamed), as was his barrister brother Ernest.



Leckhampton House, Cambridge, built in 1880 for F W H Myers

Photograph © James Brabazon, by permission of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Frederic Myers was a pupil at Cheltenham College from 1856 to 1859, before going on to read Classics at Cambridge. He and his younger brother Ernest entered Cheltenham College as day boys. Though their entry forms do not show where they were lodging, in fact their widowed mother moved from London to be near the College, living at Brandon House, Painswick Road, where she continued to be listed as the occupant for many years afterwards. This house is situated in Leckhampton, close to St Philip and St James's church, and Frederic will have known Leckhampton well. The hill forms a backdrop to the College playing field and he had doubtless taken walks on it, for pleasure or for nature study.



Brandon House, Grafton Road, where F W H Myers lived when a day boy at Cheltenham College

*Gloucestershire Library Services*¹¹

Later, however, Leckhampton came to have a more intense meaning for him, as his diary entries reveal. During one weekend in May 1878, when undergoing an emotional crisis (he had been unlucky in love), he returned from Cambridge to visit his mother at Brandon House. He spent some time in Leckhampton Church¹² and walked on Leckhampton Hill, stressing the fact that he went alone on both occasions. Then in 1880, after his marriage to Eveleen Tennant, he twice referred to taking walks on Leckhampton Hill during the Christmas holidays. It is not surprising, therefore, that when he had become established as a don at Cambridge, he chose to call his new home Leckhampton House (though the family had also debated whether to call it Leckhampton Hall).¹³

¹¹ *Cheltenham Looker-on*, 1919, 2nd Vol p 200

¹² St Peter's; his mother normally attended St Philip and St James's.

¹³ Correspondence with Peter Lewis, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; Prospectus for Corpus Christi College; *Cheltenham College Register* 1841 - 1889; *Cheltonian Society News* 1987 -1988; *Cheltenham Annales* 1860; Cheltenham Voters' List 1876.



Memorial to F W H Myers in
Cheltenham College Chapel (detail)
*Cheltenham College*¹⁵

Frederic Myers is considered one of the most distinguished Old Cheltonians, an outstanding classical scholar, poet, writer of hymns and essayist and one of the earliest of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. He was also a founder member of the Society for Psychical Research, and as its Honorary Secretary undertook the initial investigation of the case of the 'Cheltenham Ghost' which was alleged to have haunted St Anne's in Pittville Circus Road.¹⁴ He invented the term 'telepathy', for which he was convinced there was satisfactory evidence. His house in Cambridge was the scene of many seances, and in 1882 it was used for an intensive series of experiments in the paranormal. A message received through a medium warned Myers that he would die in 1902, and he planned his work with reference to that date. In fact, he died of a heart attack in Rome in 1901.

There is a striking memorial to Myers in Cheltenham College Chapel, executed in the workshops of H H Martyn & Co Ltd. It includes a bronze bust and a symbolic Tree of Life. At its foot is a tiny mole, recalling the time when the sight of a dead mole brought home to him as a child the awful finality of death and set him to wonder whether there was another life to come. Happily, in the carving, the little mole is again alive and well and busily burrowing.

Leckhampton, Brisbane, Australia

Leckhampton is the name of the house, illustrated opposite, at 59 Shafston Avenue, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. It is a listed building, considered to be a fine example of a Victorian gentleman's residence. It was built for the prominent Brisbane jeweller Charles William Snow soon after 1889, when he acquired a plot of land in one of the city's earliest suburbs. The size and character of the house make it suitable today for commercial or institutional use (it was at one stage considered as a possible Youth Hostel). It has recently been refurbished and a second building in a matching style has been erected beside it. The complex was recently sold for over \$3 million, for use as a 60-bed care home for the elderly.

Charles Snow was born in England in 1838, at Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire, where his father, William, had been a Custom House Officer. He emigrated to Queensland in 1864 and in the same year opened a jeweller's shop in Brisbane. There was a London office at 7 Thames Inn, between Covent Garden and St Paul's. At some stage he was in business together with his brother John, though by 1898 they were trading independently at different addresses. Trade directories for Grimsby show no evidence that the Snows engaged in the jewellery trade there.

Charles Snow returned from Australia to Grimsby for the marriage, which took place in October 1881. According to a subsequent report in the *Grimsby News* the couple spent a short honeymoon in London before sailing for Australia. Charles Snow had no obvious family connections with Leckhampton or Cheltenham or Gloucestershire.

¹⁴ See B Adby Collins, *The Cheltenham Ghost*, and J A Brooks, *Ghosts and Witches of the Cotswolds*, 1986.

¹⁵ By permission of the Headmaster and Council



Leckhampton, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. The house on the right is the original, the second building dating from 1974. The whole complex has recently been sold to a care home company. Daniel O'Neill

It is his wife, Lucy Emily Garn, who provides a clue to the name of the house, as she was born in Cheltenham, in 1856, the daughter of Thomas Garn and Mary Ann, formerly Bishop. Their address was 5 York Street (between Winchcombe Street and All Saints Road). In 1851 the parents had been living in Hungerford Street, off St Pauls Road. By 1877, according to the *Cheltenham Annuaire*, her mother was living at 1 Princes Place, Duke Street (off Hewlett Road, and not far from York Street).

Virtually nothing is known of Lucy's life in Cheltenham, nor of how and where she meet Charles Snow. However, it is of note that on the wedding certificate Lucy's father was stated to have been a 'school master', although his occupation was given as 'draper's porter' on her birth certificate. This proud claim harks back to her great-grandfather and members of another branch of the family who had filled the post of schoolmaster at the Cheltenham Parish Church Boys' School since 1788.¹⁶

Lucy also followed that profession. In the 1871 Census, at the age of fourteen, she had been listed as a pupil teacher; the family had by then moved to Angle Row in Mount Pleasant (today's Fairview Road).¹⁷ In the 1881 Census (by which time she and her mother had moved to Grimsby) she gave her occupation as 'certified teacher'. Cheltenham school registers during the mid-nineteenth century are sparse and offer no help in establishing at which school she had been a pupil. She would not have needed to attend a teacher training college, though she would have had to sit an

¹⁶ W G Errington, *A Cheltenham Bi-Centenary 1713-1913, Part II*.

¹⁷ I am indebted to Dr Ian Baker for his interpretation of this Census return and for other information on the Garn family.

examination in order to gain her certificate. Her name does not appear in the admission registers of St Mary's College in Cheltenham, the most likely one for her to have chosen. Whether as a teacher or not, she evidently excelled musically, since the account of the wedding particularly mentions 'how largely the young lady has won her way into the public esteem by her wonderfully gifted powers of vocalism and the readiness with which she has placed her services at the disposal of all promoters of charity concerts'. This wording seems to imply that she had only comparatively recently arrived in Grimsby society.

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Advertisements for Charles and John Snow's jeweller's shops

Queensland Directories, Society of Genealogists

Lucy was married from the home of the groom's cousin Henry Smethurst, junior, where Charles Snow was staying as a guest during his stay in England. His maternal uncle, Alderman Smethurst, gave the bride away. There is no mention of any members of her family being present at the ceremony, which the *Grimsby News* reported as having been extremely well attended: 'many hundreds of people for whom scarcely standing room, and certainly not seating room, could be found in the church' crowded into the churchyard and neighbouring streets. The level of interest is not surprising. Not only had Lucy become popular, but the Smethursts were important figures in local trade. According to the 1881 Census return, Henry was a trawler owner and fish merchant, employing 50 men and 50 boys.

Lucy died in the house she named Leckhampton on 24 October 1902 and her husband in 1913. Their son, Charles Smethurst¹⁸ Snow, born 20 September 1882, grew up to be a distinguished citizen of Brisbane. He helped found the Scout movement in Queensland, and an Environment Training Centre at Victoria Point is named in his memory. His heritage is bound up with Leckhampton, and like the descendants of the Norwoods who helped found New England, he was a worthy ambassador for Leckhampton. Furthermore, the house which his parents built can be regarded as a glorious outpost of Gloucestershire on the other side of the world.

Cape Town, South Africa: Two Leckhampton Courts?

There appear to be two buildings in Cape Town, Western Cape, bearing the name *Leckhampton Court*. One is in the district of Kenilworth, and the other is in the district of Clifton. In neither case is there a ready explanation for the choice of name.

Leckhampton Court, Kenilworth Main Road, Postal Code 7700

A member of this Society¹⁹ was told some years ago of the existence of a building in Kenilworth named Leckhampton Court. It seemed at one stage that there might have been some confusion with the one in Clifton, until I found a message posted on the Internet by a gentleman at the above address 'seeking employment, willing to travel'. I replied with an inquiry about the house, but received no response. However, the Chairman of the Cape Town Local History Society has kindly sent a photograph, reproduced below. The building, evidently an apartment block, may date from between the wars and has recently been refurbished.



Leckhampton Court, Kenilworth, Cape Town

Photo by Derek Pratt

¹⁸ Sometimes also written as Smedhurst.

¹⁹ John Randall

Leckhampton Court, 234 Kloof Road, Clifton, Postal Code 7780

Correspondence with local inhabitants and authorities in Cape Town has established that the land on which the building in Clifton stands was established before 1923 as 'Lot A, Clifton Estate'. It was sold first to John Robert Frater in 1931 and then in 1939 to Hector Cecil Gourlay. A block of six flats was erected in 1940. In the following year the block of flats and the land were sold to John Camille Marsh. By 1979 the whole development was owned by Hlala Investments (Pty) Ltd and in 1981 each flat became individually owned.

The block of flats was among several built in Clifton during the 1940s on plots which had originally been occupied by luxury villas. In some cases the new block was named after the earlier villa. This could well have applied in the case of Leckhampton Court. Mr Gourlay and Mr Marsh appear to have been born in South Africa (in 1882 and 1899 respectively), and neither they nor Mr Frater are known to have any Gloucestershire connections.

Any reader prepared to volunteer to go to Cape Town and find out more can rent an apartment in the block itself. It is advertised on the Internet as 'occupying an enviable position with views of the four Clifton beaches ... perfect for a couple looking for space, style and luxury'. An attempt to obtain more information from the letting agent or owner proved unsuccessful.

The block is not solely for residential use, it appears. Last year No 5 Leckhampton Court was occupied by the office of a civil engineering concern, Bay Consulting. The firm has since moved. It has so far not been possible to obtain a photograph of the exterior.

Loose Ends

The above survey of the varied uses of Leckhampton's name may have been an eye-opener to some readers but at the same time it will have raised many fresh questions, not only about the Cape Town properties but also about Lucy Garn's background, the precise reason for her interest in Leckhampton, where she was educated and how she came to meet Charles Snow. It is hoped that readers may be prompted to follow up some of these leads.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the following for their help while I was preparing this article:

on F W H Myers and the Cambridge connection: Mr Peter Lewis of Corpus Christi College and the Headmaster and Council of Cheltenham College;

on the Garn and Snow families and the Brisbane connection: Dr Ian Baker, author of *Henry Daniel Garn - Tailor of Cheltenham and Fremantle*, Dawn Montgomery and Marianne Eastgate of the Queensland Family History Society, Margaret and Stan Somers of Brisbane, Sue Stafford of the Gloucestershire Family History Society, Fiona Service of Grimsby Central Library, Daniel O'Neill, recent owner of 'Leckhampton' in Brisbane, and Colin Parkes of Leckhampton, who first showed me a photograph of that house;

on Leckhampton Court in South Africa: Faye Inder of the Cape Town Region Property Management and Derek Pratt, Chairman of the Cape Town Family History Society.

CAUTION: CENSUS!

Anyone who has tried to make use of 19th-century census returns will soon have realised that they need to be treated with some caution. This is true whether they are originals or facsimiles or transcribed in an electronic format.

The subjects themselves may have given wrong information, either through ignorance or deliberately, as when a wife might want to conceal her true age from her husband. A place of birth may be incorrect, or at least placed in the wrong county. Carelessness, incorrect spelling or abbreviations can be frustrating, while popular phonetic renderings of place names may sometimes puzzle or amuse. There is a further complication with the 1901 Census, since (or so I am led to believe) not all those who transcribed it were familiar with the personal and place names to be found in the United Kingdom.

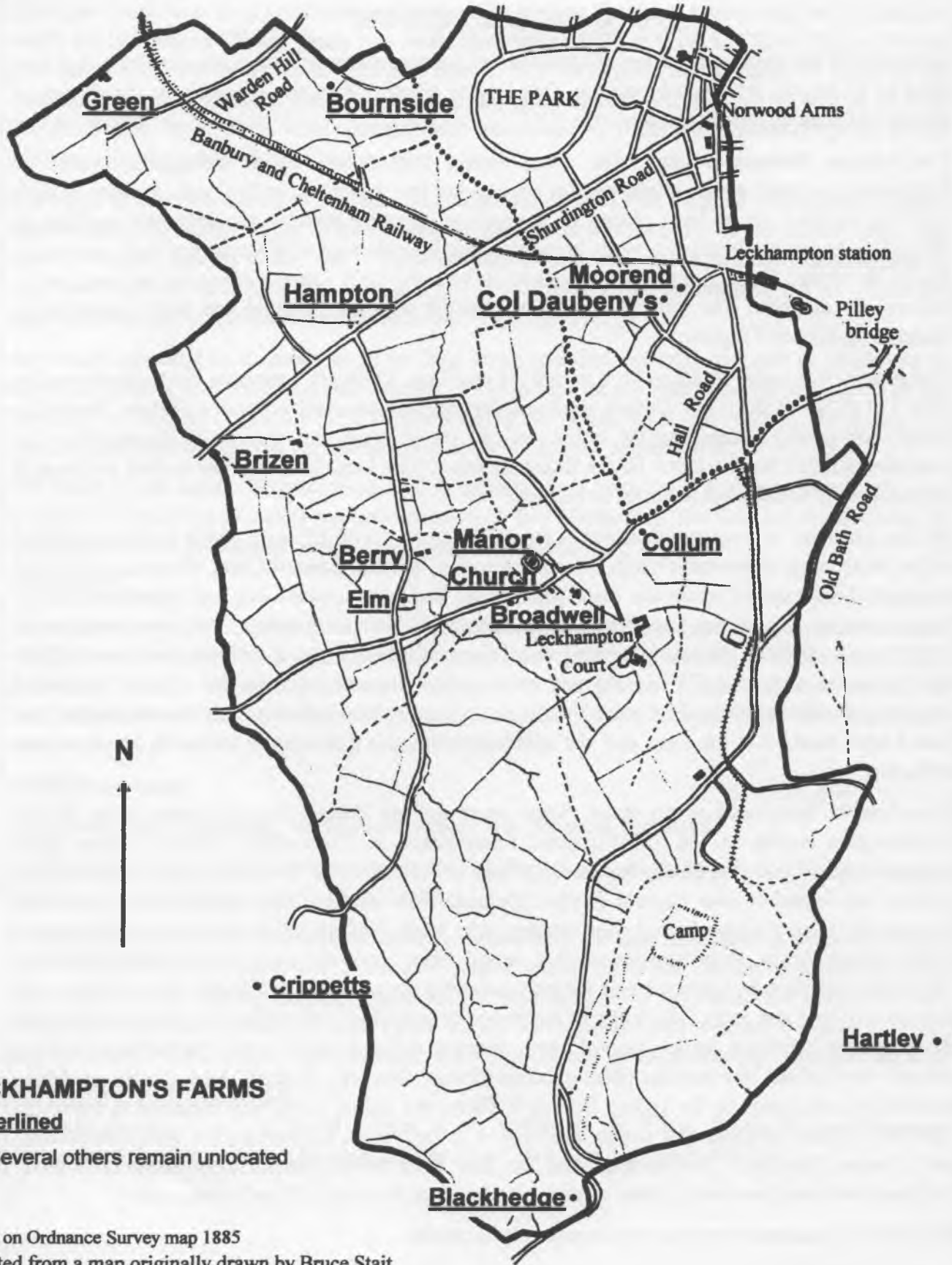
Fortunately, it is easier to allow for a variety of spellings if you are searching in electronic media. (The CD-ROM of the 1851 Census produced by the Gloucestershire Family History Society is particularly good.) Interpreting the result can call for an eagle eye, though. With regard to the preceding article I have to thank Dr Ian Baker for identifying Lucy Garn and her mother as living in Great Grimsby in 1881 but recorded as Garner.

Ian also managed to reconstruct entries in the 1871 Census for that family which had been garbled as the result of an enumerator's slip. There was a son, William Edward Garn, whose age (14) had originally been entered under the male column but had been crossed out and transferred to the female column. In addition, his occupation was given as Assistant Teacher. Ten years later, in the 1881 Census, William Edward was listed as a 29-year old bricklayer, and it therefore seems likely that the enumerator in 1871 had skipped a line when transcribing from his original notes and combined the entries for the boy and his older sister Lucy, while omitting Lucy's other details. She would have been 14 at the time, and our conclusion that she was a pupil teacher is based on this evidence.

Errors can be introduced at any stage. Some years ago our Society inherited some notes on the Leckhampton entries in the 1871 Census, microfilmed in Cheltenham Library. These notes suggested that in that year Leckhampton Court was in the care of an 'Indian Servant'. As the Court was in fact leased to one Captain Burlton Bennett, who shortly afterwards sub-let it to John Hargreaves, I had visions of a turbaned retainer, who might perhaps have served under the Captain in the Indian Army. How appropriate that would have been, reminiscent of Queen Victoria's 'Munshie'. But then by chance I was recently scanning the same microfilm for another name and happened to spot that entry. The writer of copper-plate script had evidently grown tired by then and the name was indistinct: Joseph Leury/Lewry, perhaps, or (as it turned out) Lowry. None of them seemed very Indian. Nor was the place of birth: County Dromore, Ireland. Alas, closer inspection showed the occupation to be 'Indoor Servant'! There was indeed a military connection, however. The 1881 Census indicates that Lowry had moved to Lowestoft, his occupation being Shopkeeper and Chelsea Pensioner. To confirm that he had been present here in at least 1870-1872, Leckhampton was given as the place of birth of a daughter then aged 11 and a son aged 9.

So beware: sometimes even your own eyes can't be trusted.

Eric Miller



A HISTORICAL LOOK AT LECKHAMPTON'S FARMS

By Terry Moore-Scott

General Background

Having researched and published accounts of the manorial estates, ancient field systems and old roads and tracks of Leckhampton, I felt that the next logical topic to study was that of the parish's farms which featured so prominently in the life and economy of the village over the centuries. This alone makes them worth chronicling but, in fact, many of them turned out to have interesting histories in their own right, well worth recording.

The historian Dr H P R Finberg suggested that in early medieval times Leckhampton served as the 'home farm' for the royal manor of Cheltenham. Whether or not this is entirely correct, it is certainly true that from ancient times right up to the 19th century, Leckhampton presented a rural landscape with wide open fields and throughout the centuries the main employment for its people was on the local farms. A reflection of this is seen in the Men & Armour Survey for Gloucestershire of 1608, a document that lists for every parish the occupations of all its able-bodied men and their suitability for bearing arms. The list for Leckhampton is quite short containing only 27 names but, of these, eight are either 'yeomen' (freehold farmers) or 'husbandmen' (tenant farmers), the rest mostly being labourers or servants.

Much of this industry could be described as subsistence farming, primarily arable crop growing, aimed at supporting the lords of the manors and their estates and at providing for the local inhabitants. With the start of the 19th century, however, this all changed. The old manorial hold over the land was disintegrating and gradually mechanisation brought about more efficient methods of farming, all of which had a significant impact on the old farming community. The farms however soon found themselves in demand as important providers of food, especially meat and dairy produce, to the rapidly expanding town of Cheltenham Spa. This, though, meant a switch from traditional arable farming to less labour-intensive highly commercial pastoral farming. A consequence of this was unemployment among farm workers who had to move to other jobs such as quarrying and trades serving the burgeoning 'big houses' of Cheltenham. (According to statistics for Gloucestershire, between 1800 and 1900, the population of the county more than doubled but the number of people employed in agriculture halved.)

Even so, up to the 1850s, the spread of urbanisation had reached no further into Leckhampton than The Park, Moorend and Naunton, leaving the rest of the parish still with its farms and broad acres of fields. The latter continued to be worked (some now in market gardening) but inevitably the status of many of the former working farmhouses changed. Many underwent conversion to residential homes although often these continued to be referred to in the records as 'farms' and occasionally to have 'farmers' occupying them, thus giving a false impression of the real situation. By the time of the 1891 Census, just three 'farmers' were listed with their farms (Fred Hicks at Leckhampton Farm, Wm Hicks at Collum End and Wm Mustoe at Blackhedge); Charles Richings was listed as 'dairyman' at Church Farm and there were three so-called 'farmers' at private addresses who may or may not have been active farmers. In addition to these, there were in all nine listed 'market gardeners'.

As the following paragraphs show, it has been possible to identify at least ten farms, each with its associated land, as having existed in and immediately around the parish, but if one includes other so-called 'farms', the total number could be half as great again. Some, like Moorend, Blackhedge, Collum End and Leckhampton are historically of considerable interest and Leckhampton Farm in particular has the added distinction of probably having had a key role as the centre of one of Leckhampton's ancient manorial estates. Also included is Hartley Hill Farm for, despite always having been in Coberley parish, it was for centuries a part of the Leckhampton Court estate; Crippetts Farm (actually in Shurdington parish but with close associations with Leckhampton) is also included.

I would not claim this to be an exhaustive account of Leckhampton's farms and their histories but it includes all the established farmhouses with which we are familiar as well as a number of less well-known sites whose status as true farms is doubtful. If nothing else, it provides a salutary reminder of just how important farming was in old Leckhampton and how much all of this has changed. Of all the working farmhouses that once existed here, only one now remains (Hartley Hill) and that is not even within the parish.

The principal sources that I used in this study are as follows:

- Department of Environment's List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
- Survey of the manor and hundred of Cheltenham, 16 July 1617, by John Norden the Elder and John Norden the Younger (GRO D855 M50)
- Plan of the Leckhampton Estate of Wm Norwood Esq by James Crow, 1746 (GRO D303 P2)
- Schedule to the Leckhampton Inclosure Awards (GRO D2025 10)
- Abstract of Title relating to Norwood estates, 1815 (GRO D303 E1)
- Survey of Leckhampton Parish by W Croome, 1835 (GRO P168a VE1/2)
- Particulars of Leckhampton Tithe-free Estates, 1841 (Glos Collection RX.134, GRO D1388 S63)
- Various Ordnance Survey maps from 1889
- Kelly's and other directories for Cheltenham town.
- The 1891 Census (as in *Leckhampton 1894: The End of an Era* (1994))
- Personal recollections supplied by Mrs Daphne Oliver (née Hicks).

Individual Sites

Berry (or Leckhampton) Farm

Possibly one of the parish's most interesting farms, this site will be remembered by older residents as the working farm it was right up to 1954. The usual view of it is from Farm Lane but the house itself actually faces east. It used to be approached by a track which still exists leading off Leckhampton Lane from a point near to the stream, although originally there would have been an approach via a drive or track leading from the direction of Moat Cottage. The farmhouse and its principal barn are both Grade II listed buildings, the house (in its present form) dating from around 1800 with 19th-century extensions, and the six-bay barn behind it from possibly as early as the late 16th century, with a partial rebuild in the early 1800s (this last date being provided by a date stone on the west gable end bearing the inscription 'J Clark/Bilder/1819'). A former resident of Leckhampton, Mrs Daphne Oliver, is a member of the Hicks family which for many years was associated with farming in the parish, including Leckhampton Farm. She recalls it being said in the family that timbers in the original Leckhampton Farm house and its old barn were reused ships' timbers brought up from Berkeley 'by bullock cart' and that one beam in the attic of the house bore the date 1625.

The earliest documentary record of the farm is in a title deed of 1724 indicating that the farm, then known as Berry Farm, was occupied by a Mr John Iles. On Crow's plan of Leckhampton made in 1746, the farm is described as 'Mr Isles' Farm' and shown to be situated within an area, depicted as 'Mr Isles' Land', which lay on the north side of Leckhampton Lane stretching from the western edge of the parish almost over to the Moat (see Figure 1). The Iles connection with Leckhampton seems however to go back much earlier for a manorial court record of 1691 for Leckhampton indicates that the Iles owned land in the parish from as early as 1625. Their interest in Leckhampton did not last much beyond 1746 though the schedule to the 1778 Inclosure Act for Leckhampton describes the farm as belonging to an Abraham Wallbank. (For a further discussion of Iles and Wallbank and the case for identifying the farm as the original centre of a manorial estate, see T Moore-Scott, *The Manorial Estates of Leckhampton*; Gloucestershire History (2002), 18-19.)

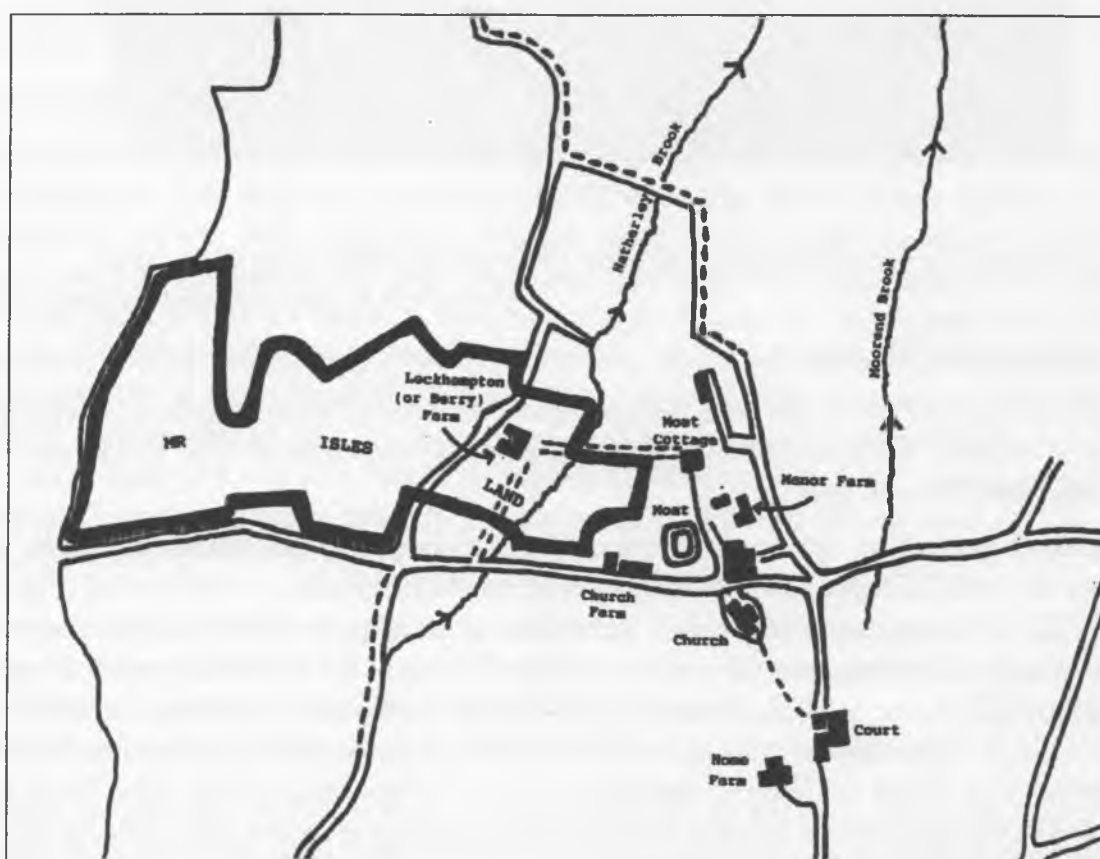


Figure 1. Mr Iles's Land and Berry Farm, 1746

We next encounter the farm in records of 1824-25 which note that a parcel of land in the Berry estate was acquired from Henry Trye by a William Read King and indicate that the farm was still known as Berry Farm. In Croome's survey of 1835 however Berry's Farm House and surrounding lands are shown as being owned and occupied by a W S Evans. As late as 1889, the Ordnance Survey map shows the farm still as Berry Farm but by 1891 the census gave the name as Leckhampton Farm owned by Mr Frederick Hicks. From then on the farm remained in the ownership of the Hicks family until around 1954. Subsequently, the farm was allowed to fall into a bad state of neglect but in 1992 work began to resurrect the building as residential accommodation (Leckhampton Farm Court), enabling us to appreciate to some extent how the house looked in its heyday. (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Leckhampton Farm in the early 1900s with members of the Hicks family

Photograph by kind permission of Daphne Oliver

Blackhedge Farm (also Blackedge)

For a property of no obvious distinction, the history of this farm is full of surprises, providing as it does links to eminent families in the land, to locations as dispersed as The Arctic and South America, and finally to local golf playing.

The name Blackhedge first appears in Norden's 1617 Survey of Cheltenham, and later parish records note the burial of Joyce Jones, wife of John Jones of Blackhedge, in 1680 and of John Jones himself in 1721. It is not though until 1815 that a farm is actually mentioned and that is in a title deed relating to the Norwood estate that names a John Theyer as the tenant of around 61 acres of land at a rent of £150 p.a. In 1835, Croome's survey lists Blackhedge Farmhouse as being in the ownership of H N Trye and occupied by a John Gregory at a rent of £5 p.a. sale particulars for Leckhampton Court Estate in 1841-42 featured as one lot Blackhedge Farm (then let to a Mrs Elizabeth Bubb) and surrounding lands of over 96 acres stretching on either side of the valley down to Medley Green; the rent for this was £386 p.a.

The property then appears to have been bought by a John Wilson Croker. The Rt Hon John Wilson Croker (1780-1857) was an eminent national figure, politician, essayist, MP, for 20 years Secretary of the Admiralty and a Privy Councillor. In 1806 he married Rosamund, daughter of William Pennell (at one time HM Consul-General in Brazil). Each of their two children died when young so Croker adopted his wife's sister (also called Rosamund) who later married Sir George Barrow 2nd Baronet (1806-1876), son of Sir John Barrow, Secretary of the Admiralty from 1807 to 1845 and a great protagonist of Arctic expeditionary voyages in search of the North West Passage (Cape Barrow and the Barrow Straits are named after him). Following Croker's death, the Blackhedge property passed to his widow and, upon her death in 1880, to Rosamund the adopted daughter. In 1879, an annuity of £40 was granted by Lady Croker senior to a Henrietta Boilesve 'from the Gloucestershire estate' (presumably a reference to Blackhedge). Daughter Rosamund died in 1906 whereupon Blackhedge passed to Sir Francis Laurence John Barrow 4th Baronet of Ulverston, Lancs.

It is highly unlikely that such eminent persons as the Crokers lived at Blackhedge and engaged in farming there. The 1891 Census in fact lists a William Mustoe as farmer at Blackhedge Farm but over the period 1876 to 1910 the Blackhedge land appears to have been leased out in two halves (or 'moieties'), one of around 121 acres to Frederick Hicks (of Hampton Villa Farm) at a rent of £126, and the other of around 122 acres to Arthur Pearman for £170. Eventually, in 1910, the Blackhedge Farm estate of 267 acres was acquired by Messrs E Baring, and Harold A and Roland J Webb, local businessmen having an interest in setting up a golf course (see LLHS *Research Bulletin* No 2 (2001)). The Blackhedge estate was up for sale again in 1914 featuring the farmhouse, a house on Birdlip Road called Shrublands and various isolated parcels of land extending from around the farmhouse as far down as the golf club house at the foot of Crippetts Lane, the whole of the northern part being by then given over to golf links. As we know, the golf course had ceased to operate by 1922 and the land mostly returned to its former agricultural use. As for Blackhedge Farm itself, Kelly's Directories between 1932 and 1938 list a Stanley Jenner in possession but it is not clear whether he actually held any of the land around it.

Bournside Farm

Lying beneath today's Bournside School might still be the remains of a small farm that existed there from at least the 1920s until the mid- to late-1960s when the site was redeveloped for the new comprehensive school. Older Hatherley residents speak of an unprepossessing bungalow-style building in the fields, surrounded by high hedges and approached by a long straight track leading off Warden Hill Road. It does not appear to have been of any antiquity nor of any great size. Successive Kelly's maps between 1890 and 1913 show no building at this site but those from 1926 onwards, and Ordnance Survey maps between 1930 and 1971, vouch for the existence of Bournside Farm there. Kelly's directories for 1936-38, under farms, also list Bournside Farm and indicate that at that time it was occupied by a Walter Theobald. Daphne Oliver recalls that Mr Theobald was a rather reclusive gentleman of sufficient means to possess a coach and horses but only one cow!

Brizen Farm

This Grade II listed house is situated in the north-west corner of the parish on the south side of Shurdington Road. According to English Heritage, it is a 16th-century timber-framed building having a thatched roof with decorative ridge thatching. Some old records refer to the site as Brays End or Brazend but most commonly it has been known, as it is today, as Brizen.

The earliest documentary evidence to the farm is provided by an 1815 title deed relating to the Leckhampton (ie Norwood Trye) Estate which cites 'Brays End Farm' as consisting of just over 208 acres with an annual rent of £400, the tenant at that time being a John Herbert. A change of circumstances seems to have occurred soon after however. In 1833, according to the Voters' List, a Thomas Peates, Overseer, was living there, and in 1835 the property was said to be in the ownership of W S Evans (another major landowner in the parish at the time - see under Berry Farm) and described, not as a farm, but as a cottage and ground with a rickyard, barn and stable, the whole worth £4 per annum.

The 1889 Ordnance Survey map has 'Brizen Farm' marked on it and this description also appears in a number of Kelly's Directories between 1926 and 1938. Daphne Oliver recalls that her grandfather Frederick Hicks farmed there in the late 1880s but its status as a working farm and the extent of its lands thereafter are unclear. The listed occupant in 1926, one Sydney Organ, was actually described as a farmer but in 1932 it was a Mrs D Weston and in 1936-38 a Mr Arthur Gilbert, in both cases without any statement as to occupation. In the late 1940s, a small acreage of land around Brizen was being worked by dairy farmer Preston Dennis. Initially he did this from his home in Charlton Kings

but eventually he also acquired the farmhouse and lived there until around 1958. (This information is provided by Mr Dennis's daughter, Rosamond, now living in Minsterworth.)

The house today is a private residence.

Brizen House Farm

There are entries in the Kelly's Directories for 1936 and 1938 for a 'Brizen House Farm' which was apparently located on the north side of Shurdington Road roughly opposite Brizen Farm and near to the junction with Greatfield Lane. In 1936, the occupant was a William Younger Jnr and, in 1938, a Victor Townsend, neither specifically described as farmers. According to Mrs Oliver, Mr Townsend appears to have had some cattle but his activity there was more a small holding than a farm. No other record of it has come to light and there is no obvious trace of the building on the ground today. In these circumstances therefore, its status as a working farm is difficult to confirm.

Broadwell

There is a local popular notion that the private house in Church Road known as 'Broadwell' was once a farmhouse but the evidence for this is slim. There are only two references in the available record to support the theory: the 1891 Census which lists an Elizabeth Smith, laundress, as occupying 'Broadwell Farm' and the *Looker On* for Cheltenham & Gloucestershire of 1913 which lists Broadwell Farm in Church Road occupied by a Mr Lionel Smith (presumably a relative of the aforementioned Elizabeth). Only two other references to this property have come to light: Croome's 1835 Survey which refers simply to 'house, yard, gardens etc' owned and occupied by John Smith (yes, another Smith) and the 1889 Ordnance Survey map which identifies the building on this site simply as 'Broadwell'. The present-day house appears to be of relatively modern construction but it clearly also incorporates an earlier building. Whether this really constituted a 'farm' as such is questionable and there is no suggestion that the Smith family associated with it were farmers.

Church (or Church End) Farm

This handsome Grade II listed house on Church Road just beyond the church dates back to the 18th century with some 20th-century additions. Immediately obvious is the high quality of ashlar stone with which it is constructed and it is said that the building incorporates stone taken from the Court, some of it still displaying a black colour from the fire there in 1732. Associated with the farm was a once flourishing dairy and milk distribution centre; this continues to operate on land now separate from but formerly part of the farm complex.

The placename 'Church End' is recorded by Smith (in *The Place-names of Gloucestershire*) as far back as 1570 and a set of buildings on the site of the farm is shown on Crow's 1746 map. It also appears on the 1778 Inclosure plan, which provides the first reference to 'Church Farm'. The name 'Church End' appears in the first half of the 19th century starting with a title document of 1815 concerning Norwood estates which lists Church End Farm, comprising around 121 acres, as being leased out to Samuel Bubb at a rent of £300 10s 0d. In 1824, a number of fields associated with Church End Farm were acquired from Henry Trye by William Read King (see also under Berry Farm). It is not obvious that this transfer also included the farmhouse but by the time of the 1835 survey, Church End Farm, comprising farm, yard, moat and garden (all owned by C B Trye), is occupied by Elizabeth Bubb at a rent of £5. By the end of the 1800s, the name had returned to being Church Farm. In the 1891 Census, Church Farm is listed as being occupied by dairyman Charles Richings along with a Charles Hawker, who is described as 'foreman and coal wharf'. Subsequently, various records between 1913 and 1933 indicate that the farm was in the hands of the Misses Hicks, the three daughters of William Hicks, although the associated land may have been farmed by their brother Frederick. It continued in the Hicks family and at one time William Hicks

ran a dairy and milk distribution centre from there. Since 1960 it has been occupied by Ann Hicks who moved there from Collum End Farm.



Figure 3. Church Farm Today

Photograph by Eric Miller, by permission of Mrs Hicks

Incidentally, Church Farm is not the only recorded dairy operating in Leckhampton about this time. Kelly's Directories of 1936 and 1938 list (under farmers) a Leckhampton Court Dairy in Church Road, the proprietor of which was Mrs Muriel Elwes. This was presumably in the vicinity of the Court but the business must have ceased by the time the Elweses left the Court just prior to the Second World War (see also Leckhampton Court Farm below). A dairy delivery business also operated from Collum End Farm, see next paragraph.

Collum End Farm

Of all the farms associated with Leckhampton, this is perhaps the oldest and, being at the heart of the village, it will be very familiar to most local residents. A Grade II listed building constructed of limestone with some timber framing, it originates from the late 16th-early 17th century. In more modern times it was converted into two separate residential homes but it has not lost any of its old charm and character. Some may still remember the horse-worked cider press that reportedly was always an attraction at the farm.

Smith dates the earliest occurrence of the placename Collam End to 1570 and we know from Norden's survey of 1625 that a Collum End Farm existed in the village then. Various records from the 18th century testify to the existence of farm buildings on the present site and at some point in the 1830s (according to R C Barnard), the farm was occupied by a John Finch. That it was part of the Court estate however is clear from the 1835 survey which indicates that the farmhouse was owned by H N Trye and leased to William Hicks at a rent of £5 p.a. In 1841, the property comprised: 'farmhouse, garden, buildings, canal (a reference probably to the water feature that was once in the

field below the Court), pond etc, cottage garden and 10 fields including Church Meadow Grove and various lands on the hill around the Court'. The value of all this was £250. Collum End Farm appears on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map and in 1891 the Census listed Collum End Farm as being occupied by William Hicks, farmer (probably a later namesake), but in the sale details for Leckhampton Court estate in 1894 the 'present use' of the property is given as a dwelling house.

Entering the 20th century, the farm was occupied by Mr Arthur Pearman who ran a dairy products delivery service from there (see illustration in *Leckhampton In Old Photographs*, p.18). We don't know how long that situation lasted but by 1913 the *Looker On* for Cheltenham And Gloucestershire lists a Mr W Greening and Miss Mills as occupants – indicating that at least by then the house had been split into two. In 1926, Kelly's gives a Henry Millard living there and in 1932 Henry Millard Jnr was in residence. A sketch of the building produced in 1947 (Figure 4) shows the farm still looking decidedly quaint and rustic, not at all like a working farm any more. However, another photograph from 1960 shows that when the property around the farmhouse was being developed to create Collum End Rise, quite extensive stables and other outbuildings still existed, a reminder of its earlier working life.



Figure 4. A pencil sketch of Collum End Farm, 1947; drawn by one of the German prisoners of war quartered at the Leckhampton Court camp. (*Leckhampton In Old Photographs*, p.18)

Court Farm

Crow's 1746 map of Leckhampton shows outbuildings in an area just south west of the Court which it describes as 'the Farm Yard'. The same area is shown on the 1835 plan described as 'Plantation, Yard, Buildings etc.' The implication is that a home farm may have operated at the Court (see Figure 1) and this theory is supported by the reference in an 1815 trust deed relating to the Leckhampton estate to a 'Leckhampton Court Farm'. Its lands, though, were quite extensive, comprising just over 325 acres, and at that time it was leased out to a John Edwards for a rent of £500 (by far the highest rent quoted for any of Leckhampton's farms around then). The same John Edwards was also tenant of Hartley Farm in 1815 (see below) so one might deduce that the Court Farm lands in question were the fields on top of the hill which were traditionally part of the main Leckhampton manor estate.

Crippetts Farm

Strictly speaking, this site is in Shurdington not Leckhampton but its close associations with our village over the years and, in particular, its associations with Edward Wilson, the Antarctic explorer, qualify it for inclusion here. Its history is certainly interesting.



Figure 5. The Crippetts, 1886; drawing by Edward Wilson

Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

Approached by an avenue of Spanish Chestnuts, the present house is built of brick painted black and white to imitate half-timber work and is held to date to the late 19th century. Past observers though have commented on the 6-foot thickness of some of its walls, suggesting that the building could date back much earlier. The earliest documentary reference to the site is in Rudder (1779) and dates to 1573 when Lord Chandos was recorded as possessing Badgeworth manor and a 'grange' (ie barn) called 'Crippits'. A deed of 1591 refers to a 'watermill etc' at Crippetts for which a rent of £10 was paid. Around this time, the property became the home of the locally well-known Gwinnett family. They left Shurdington around 1700 and the next record we encounter is in the 1778 inclosure plan for Leckhampton which describes Crippetts Lane as the road from 'Crippetts Farm'.

In 1885 the Wilson family leased The Crippetts and it was there that the young Edward Wilson, during his school holidays, was able to indulge his interest in wildlife and drawing, and his mother her interest in rearing Dexter cattle. Pigs were also kept and there is a photograph showing haymaking in progress there. The Wilsons may have remained at The Crippetts until at least 1909 although there is also a record to the effect that Edward's mother sold the lease of The Crippetts in 1900. The accompanying illustration (Figure 5) is a reproduction of a drawing of the farm done by Edward Wilson himself in 1886, ie shortly before he entered Cheltenham College as a day boy. It shows a less familiar view of the house, as it then was, in its hillside setting with Bittums Wood in the middle distance and the cliffs of Leckhampton beyond.

On the 1889 Ordnance Survey map the site is described simply as 'Crippetts' but sale particulars from 1930 describe the property as 'a pasture known as Crippetts Home Farm comprising a farmhouse, built as recently as 1911 (*sic*), with land and orcharding'. Crippetts Farm next appears in Kelly's of 1936 and 1938 when it was occupied by Arthur Phelps. Various other occupants have been associated with the farm since then including a Dr Kennett who reportedly acquired it in the mid-1960s.

[*Author's Note:* For much of the foregoing, I am indebted to Mr David Elder who, with D M Wilson, co-authored *Cheltenham in Antarctica, The Life of Edward Wilson* (2000).]

Elm Farm

The house once known by this name occupied a site on the east side of Farm Lane just below the junction with Leckhampton Lane. 'Elm Farm' is shown at this spot on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map and the 1891 Census records its occupant as Charles Ballinger, gardener. Daphne Oliver recalls her family moving into the house in 1919 until when it had been a farm worker's cottage. The 1926 Kelly's shows it was occupied by Dennis Hicks, farmer, but by 1933 Mr Hicks was listed as being at Hampton Villa on the Shurdington Road (see Leys Farm below) and by then an Arthur Masey occupied Elm Farm. Some time later, the name of Stambridge was associated with it. The house standing on the site today goes by the name of 'The Berries'; it appears to date in part to the mid- to late-19th century and that part at least is probably the old Elm Farm building. The present-day small gothic windows on its front however are not typical of a working farmhouse.

Green Farm

By its name, Green Farm Stores on Alma Road seems to indicate that this modest premises situated just inside Leckhampton parish might once have been a farm but extremely little is traceable of its past. The 1835 survey shows no farm building there, but the name 'Green Farm' appears on a number of Ordnance Survey and Kelly's maps of Cheltenham from 1889 onwards. It is even marked as such on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map but older residents of Hatherley may recall that it was already operating as a shop in the mid-1950s.

'Halfords' and the Kearsseys

In the 1815 title deed relating to the Norwood Trye estate, details are given of a farm described as 'Halfords' (or possibly 'late Halfords') comprising over 18 acres leased to a Richard Kearsy at an annual rent of £52. There are very few clues as to the location of this property. Among those persons listed in the 1778 Inclosure Award as having common rights in Leckhampton were a Robert and Elizabeth Halford who leased land from Henry Norwood; the 1815 reference may therefore well have been to land that had once been theirs. Its location is not known but we do know that in compensation for their loss of common rights, the Halfords were awarded land in Upper Sandfield (probably the same as Upper Sands field which lay in the vicinity of Leckhampton Road and Charlton Lane).

According to the same 1815 deed, Richard Kearsy also leased another property described as a 'farm at Leckhampton' comprising over 38 acres for which an annual rent of £72 was payable. Once again, the location of this land is unclear but, by the time of the 1835 survey of Leckhampton, a Fred Kearsy was recorded as leasing 12 acres described as 'the remainder of Homefield' (a parcel of land which lay across the Shurdington Road from Brizen Farm).

Hampton Villa (Leys) Farm

Hampton Villa is a Grade II listed detached house situated on the north side of Shurdington Road near to the junction of that road with Kidnappers Lane. Today it is a private residence but in earlier times it was known as Hampton Villa Farm and, before that, as Leys Farm (this name probably derived from the group of 'Leys' fields that once existed in the same vicinity).

The earliest record of the farm is in Croome's 1835 survey of Leckhampton which identified 'Leys Farm house, yard and buildings' as being owned by H N Trye who rented it out to an F Padmore for £40 p.a. In 1842, The Leys Farm and just over 71 acres were put up for sale, the sale particulars indicating that the house and certain fields were held by a Mr Parker on a 14-year lease. Subsequent to this, the farm was renamed so that by 1876 (according to documents held by the Local History Society (LEG/27)) the building had become known as Hampton Villa Farm and seemingly was now a part of the Blackhedge estate. Along with an adjacent cottage, it was now let to Frederick Hicks for a rent of £130. Mr Hicks was still there in 1904, working his share of the Blackhedge estate land (see Blackhedge Farm). All this seems to point to the farm ceasing to be the full working farm it once was probably following the sale in 1842, leading to its renaming as Hampton Villa. Various different occupants (none obviously farmers) were listed in local directories between 1905 and 1913 but, by the 1930s, Kellys Directories were listing the house in its farmers section identifying the occupant as Dennis Hicks (formerly of Elm Farm). He lived there with his family from 1927 to 1937 eventually selling the house to John Holborow; he in turn sold it in the late 1930s to a Major Dugdale. Its most recent owners for some considerable time have been Mr and Mrs Don Horwood.

Hartley Hill Farm

Despite being in Coberley parish, this farm and its associated land on the top of Leckhampton Hill were for many centuries part of the main manor of Leckhampton. As early as 1295, an inquisition post mortem of Adam Despencer referred to 40 acres of arable land and a pasture lying 'on the wold' and, in about 1540, Ralph Norwood, lord of the manor of Leckhampton, was in dispute with the lord of the manor of Coberley over rights of access to 300 acres on Hartley Hill. This ownership continued on through the 18th and 19th centuries and in the 1815 title deed for the Leckhampton estate there was mention of Hartley Hill Farm, comprising just over 322 acres which were let to a John Edwards for £240 p.a. In 1838, the farm was held on a 14-year lease by Mr George Finch

(quite conceivably a relative of John Finch who was at Collum End Farm around this time) for a rent of £200 p.a.

When Leckhampton manor was put on the market in 1841, the sale particulars included a description of Hartley Farm as 'a valuable freehold estate extending to Hartley Bottom – a fine stock and arable farm of about 322 acres lying in a ring fence in the parish of Cubberley'. According to R C Barnard's notes written in the 1890s, one subsequent owner of the farm was the eminent Canon Lysons (who had connections with the Trye family) and he subsequently sold it to a Mr Camp (the builder of Salterley Grange). In Barnard's time, the owner was a Mr Theodore Williams. These persons were represented as owners of the farm (not necessarily of the associated lands) hence it seems odd that the farm should have been included in the sale particulars for Leckhampton Court in 1894 at which time it was being let to John Stanbridge for a rent of £30.

Despite the demise of Leckhampton's farms over subsequent time, Hartley Farm is remarkable in continuing to operate as a working farm right up to the present day.

Manor Farm

There is little or no trace of this farm today but there is good documentary evidence of it having stood in a small enclosure just north east of the Moat behind the rectory (see Figure 1). Its origins date back at least to the 17th century when the Partridge family held the second manor of Leckhampton, an estate centred on Berry (or Leckhampton) Farm (which at that time appears to have served as the court for this manor). One member of the family, Oliver Partridge, was granted lease of a house and some land in Leckhampton and it was this gentleman who, in 1679, occupied what was described as 'Mr Partridge's house and garden'. The 1746 map of Leckhampton shows the house on the site behind the rectory but by then it had become 'Mr Nurse's farmhouse', Mr Nurse being a later owner of the manor (but not of Berry Farm itself which had passed to a different landowner).

It is not until 1778 that the property is described by the name 'Manor Farm', presumably reflecting the fact that it was possessed by the so-called lord of the manor (by then a Mr Critchett) although the manor in question had diminished considerably in size. In the 1835 survey of Leckhampton, the site is described as a 'farmhouse, buildings, yard etc, the property of W S Evans, rent in-hand £5'.

Little is known of the subsequent fate of this building. It is not shown on the earliest (1889) Ordnance Survey map of Leckhampton, making it seem that it had been demolished some time earlier, and there is no reason to think that the building had any other special status or particular architectural merit to justify its continued existence.

Moorend Farm

The placename Moorend usually denotes a location at the edge of a marshy area, in this case probably the one-time marshy area west of Moorend Road covering what is today the lower part of Burrows Field and Allenfield (even by the time of Croome's 1835 survey, Moorend Grove is still described as boggy land).

The earliest reference to Moorend occurs in a 13th-century document recording various parcels of land in Leckhampton from which tithes were payable to the Abbot of Cirencester but it is not until the 17th and 18th centuries that we encounter any real detail about Moorend and its fields. Just how long the farm had existed there is not known but it is reasonable to assume that at least one farm was there from earliest times to work the land in that part of the Leckhampton manor estate. Crow's 1746 map shows two sets of buildings. One is labelled Moorend and is probably the farm, and the

other, slightly to the east and labelled Tanseys, is probably a group of cottages; behind the farm is what appears to be semi-circular pond. This lay-out appears to be unchanged in 1778.

In 1815, a title deed relating to the Leckhampton estate describes Moorend Farm, comprising just over 124 acres, as being rented out to William Trye at a rent of £195 6s 0d although by the time of the voters' list of 1833 a different tenant, namely William Burrows, was in occupation. The 1835 survey of Leckhampton no longer shows Tanseys but the farm is listed, together with its Home Close field, yard and fold as being owned by Henry Trye but now occupied by a Thomas Weldon. The last recorded detail of the farm is a notice of sale in 1842 relating specifically to Moorend Farm and accompanying lands which were described as lying on two sides of Leckhampton Road (indicating that the new road had cut through Moorend's land). The property is described as an 'improvable' brick-built house with stabling for five horses, a brewhouse, garden and paddock. It is likely that the house did undergo 'improvements' since, according to Daphne Oliver, in the 1840s it was rebuilt as a wedding gift for Ann and William Hicks who lived there prior to moving to Collum End Farm.

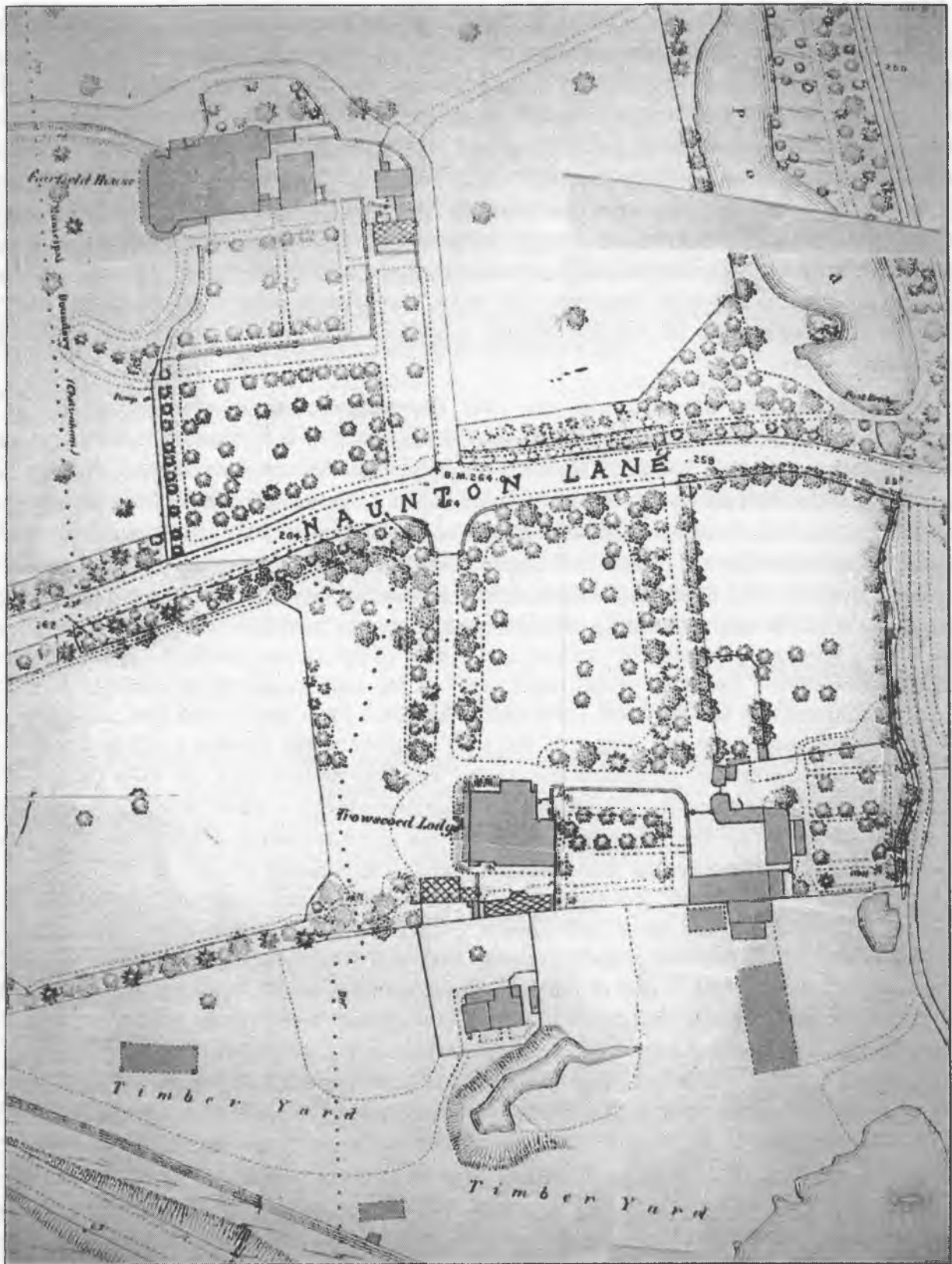
By comparing the plan provided with the 1842 Leckhampton Estate sale particulars and a present-day Ordnance Survey map of this part of Leckhampton, it is clear that the farmhouse became what is now nos 17, 19 and 21 Moorend Road, opposite the ambulance station. The original outbuildings of the farm are now covered by houses further along Moorend Road. Interestingly, the semi-circular pond of a century earlier still existed behind the farm. It also appears that the 1842 farmhouse was larger than the present buildings notably at the front where it appears to have had a large porch or front wing. Sadly, in the absence of any contemporary drawings, we can do no more than imagine what the original building looked like before it was 'modernised' in the 19th century.

Colonel Daubeny's Farm

As well as showing that the Norwood Tryes owned Moorend Farm and farmed land around there, the 1835 survey also shows that further to the west (roughly where Gordon Road is today) was another property described as 'farmhouse and garden' also with its yard, fold, etc. This, though, was owned by a Colonel Daubeny who also owned the fields immediately north of Moorend. These were presumably worked by his tenant farmer whose name was given as George James. There is no other record of this farm and I have so far been unable to find a local name for it

Warden Hill Farm

It is questionable whether a farm ever existed here and the evidence for it is slim. Croome's 1835 survey records a small parcel of land at Warden Hill described as a 'rick yard' and alongside it is a field called 'House Ground'. This could imply the presence of a farmhouse nearby but no such property is mentioned in the survey. The late 1880s Ordnance Survey map of Leckhampton shows a small group of structures just south of the hill itself but describes them only as 'Warden Hill' with no reference to a farm. Interestingly, Kelly's Directories between 1926 and 1936 list, under farmers, a Philip Weaver, farmer, at Warden Hill but add the note that 'letters should be sent via Up Hatherley'. Some form of farming may therefore have taken place at Warden Hill but the evidence for an established farm being there does not exist and it seems more than likely that the activity actually related to nearby Up Hatherley farm which was situated just across the parish boundary from Warden Hill (hence the postal directive). The existence of Up Hatherley Farm is well attested on Ordnance Survey maps up to the 1970s, occupying a site now covered by the Safeway store!



The Trowscoed Lodge and Fairfield House estates

Detail from Ordnance Survey map, 1885

THE TROWSCOED LODGE ESTATE AND ITS OCCUPANTS

By Mike Rigby <mike@cheltenhamlearning.co.uk>

Trowscoed Lodge was probably built at some time after the mid 1820s and certainly by 1837 and demolished between 1917 and 1919. Though the life of the house was not long, and the estate was not large by Cheltenham standards, their history has intrinsic interest and reflects aspects of the physical and social development of the town in the Nineteenth Century. The name survives in an avenue which leads off Naunton Lane. Though there are no known pictures of the house, we do have is a tantalising glimpse of the chimneys in the background of a 1906 photograph of Leckhampton Station.

The chief personalities involved in the creation of the estate and the building of the house were John Petherick and his widow, who married the Reverend John Griffiths Lloyd. Among the subsequent occupants and owners, the most illustrious were Edmund Carrington and Major-General Rainey. The break-up and development of the estate for housing, together with the adjoining Fairfield House estate, was carried out by John Bendall and Frank Jenkins.

The Estate

Its bounds are defined in an 1851 indenture:

All that messuage or tenement with the garden, stables, coach house and outbuildings ... lying or being in the several parishes of Cheltenham and Leckhampton and ... bounded:

On the north east by a certain brook called Nolty Brook (*now Mead Road*)

On the south west by The New Bath Road (*now Leckhampton Road*)

On the north west by the public road leading from New Bath Road into the Thirlestaine Road called Naunton Lane and

On the south by a brickfield and land now or late of Samuel Page (*now the Maida Vale industrial estate*)

And the whole of said premises contain together, by estimation, nearly five acres or thereabouts.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (see opposite) provides a good impression of the situation of house, in its landscaped grounds, and of the stables and coach house.

Sale particulars, related to an aborted sale in 1903, provide more information about the house and land:

The glass houses comprise conservatory, vinery and propagating house. The grounds are exceedingly well timbered with trees of mature growth and thickly shrubbed, and laid out in lawns, flower gardens, walks etc. There is a tennis lawn (with summer house) with small orchard ... planted with fruit trees. Partly walled-in productive kitchen garden ... second kitchen garden planted with fruit trees. Small paddock with fowl run, tool house and potting shed. The stabling is situated at a convenient remove from the house, is approached by a separate drive lower down the lane ... comprises 3 stalls and 2 loose boxes. Double coach house. Trap house, wash house, saddle room, WC, loft etc. Cottage for coachman, containing kitchen and 2 bedrooms. There is a large field in front of house well timbered and thickly shrubbed round borders which affords effectual seclusion.

Prehistory – 1726-1837

Unusually, we have a surviving recital – forming part of an indenture of 1858 – which lists interests in the lands of the estate from 1726, when the parties concerned were John Pruen and Edmund Ballinger.¹

In January 1817 the name of John Ferris Petherick arises for the first time, in an indenture drawn up between him, Thomas Gilderdale, and Thomas Fletcher and in 1824 he and Samuel Howell were involved in a lease and release (ie sale) of the land. By December 1826 the list of interested parties had grown and included Henry Norwood Trye, Mary Trye, William Read King, Walter Lawrence Lawrence, John Aubrey Whitcombe, William Griffiths, John Ferris Petherick, John Packwood and Samuel Lovesey.

The land was probably in agricultural use but, in view of its location, there might have been clay digging for pottery or bricks.² The array of local dignitaries involved in the last of the transactions might suggest copyhold issues. Some of the land was sold, in 1834, to George Harvey who was assembling the Fairfield House Estate on the other side of Naunton Lane.

John Ferris Petherick

For the purpose of this study, the main interest is the involvement of John Ferris Petherick from 1817. Petherick was baptised in Truro in 1776, son of Ezekial Petherick and Jane Ferris. He married Sarah Ann Scott at Lewisham, Kent, in 1811. It is not clear what brought them to Cheltenham or what the source of his capital was. A nineteenth-century transcription of the memorial of his wife and son in St Mary's churchyard describes him as 'RA' – presumably Royal Artillery - though I have not found him in Army Lists of the time. Petherick clearly had business and property interests in and outside the town. *The Times* of 4 September 1827 advertises the sale of 'a villa called Exmouth Villa or Southville ... late the residence of J F Petherick Esq'. His will of 1828 refers, unhelpfully, to 'the whole of my freehold and leasehold property either in the town and parish of Cheltenham or elsewhere'. At the grant of probate, his signature is attested by William Holmes of Lyons Inn (of Court), The Strand, who declares that 'he knew and was well acquainted ... for several years before [and] had often seen him write and subscribe his name'. Further, the will of Petherick's wife in 1852 refers to properties in London – at Doctors' Commons and Basinghall Street in the City – which are likely to be part of his bequest to her.³ The sale of 1827 might be related to the building of a new house on the Trowscoed Estate land.⁴ Croome's 1835 map of Leckhampton parish shows part of a building on the land.⁵ The front lawn is, of course, in Leckhampton parish and the site of the house in Cheltenham, so only a fraction of the building is shown. The plot is owned by 'Petherick widow' and the occupier 'late Mrs Monro'.⁶

¹ Contracts made during the early nineteenth Century involved Benjamin Bullock, John Fisher, John Parrot, Thomas Fisher, Robert Gilderdale, William Gibbs and Thomas Little.

² See, for example, the map on page 4 of LLHS *Bulletin* No 2

³ William Holmes served as a financial intermediary for Napoleon's agent during the former Emperor's imprisonment on St Helena. He was far from open in his dealings, however, and various sums of money intended to cover costs incurred by Napoleon, and another amount due to an English officer, were unpaid. Holmes was alleged never to have discharged the letters of exchange nor rendered any account of his clients' business. Source: Arnold Chaplin, *Napoleon's Captivity on St Helena*.]

⁴ The sale particulars mention a fishing pool and hut. A small pool is shown on the TL land on the southern edge of Merrett's map of 1834 - though none is marked on later maps. It is possible that the 1827 sale was withdrawn and that Exmouth Villa was later renamed Trowscoed Lodge. No house is shown on the site on the Cheltenham parish perambulation map of 1823. See Terry Moore-Scott's article in *Cheltenham LHS Journal* 18.

⁵ W Croome, *Plan of the Parish of Leckhampton*, 1835. GRO P198a/VE1/1 & 2

⁶ A Mary Monro, who died in 1845, is commemorated at St Philip and St James church.

The Reverend John Griffiths Lloyd (1837-43)

After her husband's death, in 1830, Sarah Ann Petherick remained in Cheltenham and, in October 1837, she remarried at Charlton Kings. Her new husband was John Griffiths Lloyd who was a widower with an eleven year-old daughter, Florine. They moved into the house in that year. Griffiths Lloyd writes from the house in December 1841 'I have now been at my present residence between three and four years'. The house was clearly named for or by him. He was born at Guilsfield in Montgomeryshire in 1795 - where the family home was Trowscoed Hall. He graduated MA from Cambridge in 1826 and was ordained in 1828. Griffiths Lloyd had probably been in the Cheltenham area for some time. Florine was baptised at Maisemore in 1826 and his mother appears in Pigot's 1830 directory. In a letter to Francis Close, Perpetual Curate of Cheltenham, in 1841, he writes 'I have been your parishioner the better part of seventeen years'.

The letter to Francis Close was self-published and arose from a personal attack (allegedly unwarranted) on him by the fiery Curate at a public meeting about Sunday observance – an issue on which, all Cheltenham knew, the evangelical Close had strong opinions. Such public disputes between clergymen were not at all uncommon in the 1840s - a period when the Evangelicals were vying with the Puseyites and Tractarians for influence within The Church.

A LETTER
TO THE
REV. FRANCIS CLOSE, A.M.

PERPETUAL CURATE OF CHELTENHAM,

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

FROM

J. GRIFFITHS LLOYD, Clerk,

IN REPLY TO A VERY VIOLENT AND EQUALLY VOLUNTARY ATTACK
MADE BY THE FORMER UPON THE LATTER CLERGYMAN,
IN THE PUBLIC ROOMS, AT CHELTENHAM, ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER THE 27th, 1841.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up
anger."—*Prov. 15, 1.*

Printed for the Author, and therefore not to be Lost.
S. V. P.

CHELTENHAM:
PRINTED BY J. MAYER, 9, CLARENCE-STREET.

1841.

Title page of the published letter to Dean Close

Griffiths Lloyd seems not to have been involved in pastoral work in Cheltenham - or ever to have held a church appointment. The letter contains some interesting insights into his life at Trowscoed Lodge. In answer to a reference to his wealth, he replies:

(my) 'wealth' to which you alluded is, alas, where you too often are – *in nubibus* [in the clouds]....I have to thank God, that he has been graciously pleased, through two not very unusual agents, death and matrimony, to render my temporal affairs more comfortable than when I came here....So much, Sir, for my wealth, or rather the want of it. [Punctuation amended – *Ed*]

The cynic might think that he protests too much. The death referred to was that of his mother in 1833. She left him £1680. It seems that, in one version of her will, she made this bequest subject to the proviso that he have no hand in the upbringing of his daughter, but she later relented.

He also writes:

Some men, Mr Close, like to pass all their mornings in going about to make speeches, and all their evenings, ditto. Others like to pass *their* mornings in the solitude of their study, communing with their own hearts, and seeking instruction ... and their evenings in the bosoms of their families.

John Griffiths Lloyd died of tuberculosis at Hotwells, Clifton, in 1843. Sarah Ann, widowed for the second time, stayed on at the house until 1851 when she sold it to Richard Ferris for £950 and moved to Belle Vue Place, where she died the following year

At Trowscoed Lodge

ON THE LECKHAMPTON ROAD

An unprotected SALE of very Elegant and Fashionable Effects comprising the FIRST CLASS FURNITURE of a Drawing Room, Dining Room, four Bed Rooms, Dressing Room, Hall and Domestic Apartments, a splendid SILVER TEA SERVICE, Silver Candlesticks, Waiters and other articles of Plate and Plated Goods; a few specimens of rare INDIAN CHINA including a pair of costly jars quite perfect; Italian Marble and other ornaments; Tortoiseshell Tea Chest mounted with Silver; a set of carved IVORY CHESS MEN exquisitely finished; some fine ENGRAVINGS including the Waterloo Banquet, Council of the Anti-Corn Law League, Declaration of Independence in 1644 and many others; some fine specimens of CHINESE DRAWINGS on rice paper; a few books among which is the Art Journal; the Racing Game; a BAGATELLE BOARD; Bows and Arrows; a Double Garden Roller; 200 choice Greenhouse PLANTS; a quantity of new Wall Netting; four Cucumber Frames; Garden Tools &c. &c.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By Mr. G. Sweeting

On the above Premises on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY
The 24th and 25th of April inst. beginning each day at
12 o'clock to the minute.

THE Auctioneer has peculiar satisfaction in Recommending with *great confidence* this sale to the notice of his friends and persons requiring really good Modern Furniture. The Drawing Room contains a superb Walnut Loo Table of singularly choice wood with a set of chairs covered in worked satin to match, a splendid rosewood chiffonier, with plate glass doors and carved back of large dimensions, couch, sofa, Chinese whatnot, handsome chimney glass, tapestry carpet and mosaic rug, suite of curtains &c. The DINING ROOM FURNITURE is equally good. The Chambers and Dressing Rooms are fitted up in a style of superior taste and comfort seldom to be met with, the Wardrobes, Bedsteads, Bedding &c. being all of the best kind. (In the Dressing Room may be noticed a Costly French-made Escritoire of Botany Bay wood); while the Pantry, Kitchen And other domestic offices are fully replete with the usual requirements, and all in the highest possible order. The whole may be viewed on Monday, the 23d, from 11 to 5 o'clock by catalogues only, which will be ready, 6d each, at Mr. Sweeting's Offices, next the Plough Hotel, four days antecedent to the sale

Occupiers and owners

Richard Ferris appears as resident in 1853 but between 1854 and 1877 the house was occupied by tenants. For all classes, at this time, owner occupation was a much less common model than might be expected. This is, of course, particularly true of a resort town where seasonal and long-term rental were an important part of the economy. The changes of ownership, which are not co-terminous with changes of tenancy, have their own subtext of trusts, mortgages, redemptions and re-mortgages.

The early 1850s were a busy time at Trowscoed Lodge. In the four years from 1852 there were four residents – RW Kent, Ferris himself, E Allen and a Mr Holman. In April 1855 there was a ‘Sale of very Elegant and Fashionable Effects’ at the house. This might have arisen from the death or bankruptcy of a tenant but a likely explanation is that it was to clear the house in readiness for longer-term, unfurnished letting. The sale details, from *The Examiner* advertisement, provide a taste of the style of the house at that time.

Richard Ferris (Owner 1851- 68)

Mary Ann Ferris (Owner 1868-71)

The March 1851 indenture of sale involves Richard Ferris, of 34 Portland Square, Bristol, and George Turner Bubb, an attorney and member of a prominent Cheltenham family. Bubb is to hold the property in trust after the death of Ferris in default of ‘any directions in his life’. This, and a further mortgage agreement with William Henry Bubb, leads to a series of mortgages, remortgages and wills and trust deeds over the next sixteen years, which ultimately involve six members of the Bubb family as trustees and mortgagors.

Ferris, as well as being the purchaser, was a co-executor and beneficiary of Sarah Ann Griffith Lloyd’s will - in which she refers to him as her friend.⁷ The relationship was clearly a close one. There is no direct evidence of any connection to her husband through the Ferris line although they certainly share Cornish roots - both were born in Truro.

Ferris was, at the time, a widower. He had married Susan Edgecombe, in Launceston, in 1813. Through the 1830s he appears in documents as a chemist and druggist in Bristol. Another indenture of 1851 also mentions a part interest in property in Salisbury Square, London. In 1852, two weeks after a second mortgage on the Lodge, he married Mary Ann Coote in Cheltenham. Mary Ann was a widow of Thornbury and daughter of ‘John de la Roche, gentleman’. Richard is also described as a gentleman. In the 1852-53 Bristol directory, however, he is not listed under gentry but as a wholesale druggist trading as Ferris and Score. William Score was his son-in-law and, on this occasion, his best man. Another son-in-law, James Henry Butler, merchant of Liverpool, is party to a further mortgage on the estate in 1858. This involves the raising of £1000 to repurchase the household effects of Butler following his bankruptcy in 1857.⁸

Mary Ann has a very interesting history. She was the daughter of John Delaroche (*sic*) who died in 1823. In his will, made in 1812, he is of ‘St Elizabeth, in the County of Cornwall, Island of Jamaica’. The 1851 Census shows Mary Ann to have been born at Carisbrook, Jamaica in 1792-93.⁹

⁷ The other executor was Captain Robert Younghusband who was for some years a Cheltenham Town Commissioner and a Director of the ill-fated Bayshill Company from 1837. He was also on St Helena during the time of Napoleon’s exile.

⁷ Ferris acquired these sons-in-law at a double wedding at Clifton in 1836. This was reported to those ‘back home’ by a Cornish newspaper, *The West Briton*.

⁹ The Delaroche family had been in Jamaica since early in the 18th Century. In common with other expatriate families, many births, marriages and deaths took place in England - in Thornbury, in this instance.

Jamaican *Almanacs* add further detail. In 1816, the John Delaroche Estate at Carisbrook has 150 slaves and, in 1825, the Estate of Coote and Delaroche at Longwood has 30 slaves. It is not clear who Mary Ann's first husband was but there is the intriguing possibility that she was connected to the family of General Sir Eyre Coote who served in Jamaica in the early 1790s and returned, as Governor, in 1806-08. Eyre Coote is claimed, by the way, as an ancestor by General Colin Powell, the current US Chief of Staff.

Richard Ferris died in Cheltenham, at Lansdown Parade, in 1868 and his will appointed his wife, Richard Edgecumbe Prockter and Henry Hall Bishop, gentleman of Bristol as trustees of the property for his wife. Prockter was a prosperous Cheltenham chemist who had a shop on the High Street, by Cambray, from the late 1830s. The 1881 Census shows him to have been born in Launceston in 1807-08. He was, presumably, related to Richard Ferris's first wife, Susan Edgecombe. Henry Hall Bishop married Elizabeth Score, Ferris's granddaughter, at Lambeth in 1858. He is described as a gentleman but was, in fact, a maltster and brewer. By 1901, he was Managing Director of The Stroud Brewery Company.

Mary Ann did not live in the house: in 1868 she is 'of Bath' and she died at Clifton. In her will she appointed Prockter, Bishop and John Bayley Darvall¹⁰ of Hardwick Hall, Whitchurch (Oxon), as her executors. After her death, age 79, in 1871 the executors delayed sale of the house until 1873.

Edmund Carrington (Occupier 1856-70)

The family of Edmund Carrington occupied the house from 1856 until 1869-70. The *Cheltenham Examiner* report of his death in 1883 summarises his career:

Mr Carrington had been for many years a Justice of the Peace and, at the incorporation of the borough, was one of its first Aldermen.... Mr Carrington, who was we believe, a member of an old Liverpool family, married a daughter of the late Mr T Henney JP through whom he became largely interested in local property and by whom he has left three sons, one of whom Colonel Carrington, has gained much distinction in South Africa. Soon after incorporation of the borough, Mr Carrington, on his own behalf and that of other members of the Henney family, presented to the Corporation the handsome badge and chain of office since worn on official occasions by successive Mayors. The Mayoral chair was, on more than one occasion, offered...but he shrank from the public life it involved. He was we need hardly add a Liberal in politics.

Carrington was living in Leckhampton at the time of his marriage to Sarah Louisa Henney in 1841 and they were married at St Peter's, Leckhampton. Their first child was born in Belgium in 1843 – possibly during a post-nuptial Grand Tour – and the family was at Redlands, Clifton, in the early 1850s. At the 1851 Census, Edmund is described as 'fund holder and proprietor of houses'.

Thomas Henney was a key figure in the development of Regency Cheltenham. In 1818 he was, with Samuel Harwood, co-developer of Sherborne – later Imperial – Spa and its approaches. Gwen Hart writes of him:

Little credit has been given to the Harwoods and Thomas Henney by whose enterprise the former swamp became the present Promenade.¹¹

⁹ Darvall was related to Mary Ann through his marriage into her mother's family – the Shaplans of Marshfield. He emigrated to New South Wales in 1838 and was to become Attorney-General and a member of the State Legislative Council. He returned to England, after 1865, and was knighted in 1877.

¹¹ *A History of Cheltenham*, page 177.

His 1851 will shows that he owned several properties in central Cheltenham as well as cottages and land at Pilford. He was also an active politician – a member of the Cheltenham Vestry Committee, a Town Commissioner and a Poor Law Guardian. He would have served as an excellent patron for Carrington. Carrington, though, scarcely needed one. He was ‘a member of an old Liverpool family’ that had made its money in the Triangular Trade. Edmund was the younger son of George Carrington of Missenden Abbey who had married, in 1809, Anna Maria daughter of David Parris of Barbados. UCLA Library has the account books of the Carrington Plantations in Barbados (1810-55) and the abstract notes: ‘journal entries for the four Carrington Plantations of David Parris and his heirs Anna Maria Carrington, wife of George Carrington and Paul Carrington Parris’. The Carrington and Parris families had been in Barbados – and Virginia – since the Seventeenth Century¹². Edmund was left £12,000 by his father in 1853 and his wife had benefited from her father’s death in 1851. They could have bought the Trowscoed Lodge Estate – perhaps any other in Cheltenham – but chose to rent.



Portrait of Sir Frederick Carrington

The Colonel Carrington referred to by *The Examiner*, was Frederick, the second son – later Major-General Sir Frederick Carrington KCB KCMG. He is one of the most distinguished of Cheltenham’s many military connections. He was born, in 1844, at Clarence House on The Promenade – Thomas Henney’s residence – was educated at Cheltenham College and entered the 24th Foot in 1864. *Celebrities of the Army* by Commander Charles Robinson, published in 1902, summarises his career well, if uncritically, and in a style appropriate to the man and his time. The story starts in 1875 – with ‘difficulties’ in The Diamond Fields:

He volunteered; his services were accepted. It was there that he laid the foundation of his reputation. Two years later found him at the head of ‘Carrington’s Horse’ on the occasion of the annexation of the

¹² Samuel Parris brought the black slave, Tituba, from Barbados to Massachusetts in 1689. They were leading figures in the affair of the Salem witches.

Transvaal. In the Kaffir War of 1877, in the Transkei, he for the third time raised a mounted corps – the Frontier Light Horse – and was highly complimented. In the operations against the native chief Sekukuni, in 1878-79, he commanded the Transvaal Volunteers, and so high stood his good name, that to him was entrusted the charge of the advanced guard. ...November 1880, to March 1881, he commanded the Cape Mounted Riflemen, the corps he had been instrumental in raising. In these operations he was severely wounded, but with the pluck of a true soldier he would not yield his command, and his 'gallantry, organising ability and wonderful resourcefulness' were brought prominently to the notice of the Colonial Office.

In the troubles in Zululand in 1888 Colonel Carrington, as he had become, was at the head of the Native Levies, who, it was said at the time, would have followed him 'even to destruction, without a murmur', such was their belief in him. In May, 1894, he was promoted a Major-General, and a year later was appointed to the command of the Infantry Brigade at Gibraltar.

During the Boer War he commanded the northern, Rhodesian, front and his successes were limited. Robert Baden-Powell was his Aide at the time and later cited him as an inspirational influence: 'Sir Frederick wheezed an infectious laugh to shatter every difficulty when it cropped up'.¹³ His reputation lives on. His name has appeared, within the last two years, in discussions of the present problems in Zimbabwe. *The Guardian*, in February 2002, had a piece on the resentments of Zimbabweans that includes:

The savagery with which the uprising was suppressed can be measured by the words of Sir Frederick Carrington: the entire Ndebele race, he publicly advocated, should be removed or exterminated

He married late, to Susan Elwes, and one of their two daughters, born in 1910, was Dorothy Carrington, the noted historian of Corsica and biographer of Napoleon, who died in 2002. Sir Frederick retired to an estate at Perrotts Brook, North Cerney, and died there in 1913. He is buried in Cheltenham Borough Cemetery.

The Carrington family left the Lodge in 1870 and moved to 4 College Lawn. Mrs Carrington and her son, Harold, barrister-at-law, were still listed at this address until early in the last century.

William Henry Butt (Owner 1873-77)

The house was sold, by the executors of Mary Ann Ferris, to William Henry Butt, gentleman of Bristol for £1800. Butt was, again, an absentee landlord and does not seem to have lived in Cheltenham during the period of his ownership. His involvement might have arisen through the Bristol connections of Ferris and Henry Hall Bishop. It is possible that he was connected with the Butts of Arle Court.

Charles Cooper (Occupier 1871-75)

Cooper appears in a Birmingham directory as a 'refiner' in 1826 and, at the 1851 Census, the family were living at Hagley House, Edgbaston and he is described as a metal refiner employing twelve men. Hardly a gentleman's occupation, but this did not prevent his listing under local gentry in the *Annales*. The Victorians were forgiving of trade and manufacture as a source of wealth as long as it was distant in time and/or place. Buying into a new community in retirement was an established route to gentrification and, of course, the fluid society of a spa town was the ideal context. One suspects, though, that a manufacturer from Birmingham would find it easier to be described as a

¹³ R Baden-Powell, *Lessons from the Varsity of Life*, 1933.

gentleman than to be accepted as one. Charles died in 1873 and is buried in Leckhampton churchyard. His wife remained at the house until 1875 when she and her daughter moved to Montpellier.

A Mr Holme is listed as resident in the 1876 *Annuaire*.

Major-General Arthur Jacob Macan Rainey (Owner and occupier 1877-1906)

In May 1877 W H Butt sold the house to Major General A J M Rainey for £1800. He had been living at Lansdown Lawn the previous year. He came from a landed and influential Ulster family and was born at the Mount Panther estate in Down in 1826 - the son of Major William Henry Rainey - and was named for his uncle, Arthur Jacob Macan, who was Sovereign and Portrieve of Armagh at the turn of the century. His maternal grandfather was High Sheriff of Armagh in 1814. Rainey's wife, Caroline, was granddaughter of Sir John Robinson Bt of Rokeby Hall, County Louth.

At the 1881 Census, he is described as 'Retired, Indian Army'. It could not have been otherwise. His father served in the 4th Bengal Cavalry, his uncle, Arthur Macan also served and died a 'merchant of Calcutta' in 1819. Another uncle and at least two cousins also served as officers in the Indian Army. India Office records show that Rainey was at The Honourable East India Company College at Haileybury in 1842-3. He is named as a cadet, in 1844 and, by 1847, he is with the 5th Light Cavalry in Madras. He remained with the 5th until its disbandment, in 1860, when HEIC units were merged with the British Army. The 5th Madras Cavalry certainly saw action - and sustained casualties - during the Indian Mutiny of 1857-9. He was a member of the Bellary Field Force in 1858-9. Rainey was, according to *Hart's Army List*, with the Madras Staff Corps until at least 1873.

The tradition was continued. Three of his sons were on the roll of Queen's India Cadets in the 1880s and the youngest, Edmund, was serving as a Major with the 72nd Regiment of Punjabis in Burma at the time of the probate of his father's will in 1906. The middle son, Robert Maximilian Rainey-Robinson, married in Bengal in 1888 and was himself with the Madras Staff Corps in 1889. By 1906, he was Lieutenant-Colonel at the Indian Staff Corps. The eldest son, Arthur Henry, served in India but died at the Lodge in 1888. The Raineys seem to have lived quietly at Trowscoed Lodge and there is no mention of social or political involvements in the newspapers of the time. The family motto was *fuimus* - 'we have been'.

The end (1902-1920)

The end did not come quickly. Rainey's wife died in late 1901 and he left the house shortly afterwards to return to his roots in County Down - his daughter, Esther, was living in Ulster. He died there in 1906. The house was apparently unoccupied from 1902 until 1907, and there was a half-hearted attempt to sell the house in 1903. The opening paragraph of the sale particulars, quoted above, is revealing:

Valuable building frontages

viz: about 203 feet to the Leckhampton Road and 605 feet or thereabouts to the side lane, ripe for immediate development, modern houses of medium size being in great demand in this neighbourhood, and the value will be greatly enhanced by the extension of the Cheltenham and District Light Railway, which is expected to be laid within the next 12 months.

The relationship of Leckhampton to Cheltenham and, therefore, the social and development value of its land was changing rapidly. There had been a horse bus service along Leckhampton Road since the 1890s and in 1905 the first Leckhampton light railway service was established. The area

was no longer the preserve of those with private carriages and was ripe for a second wave of suburbanisation.

The end of the house is part of the story of the break-up of the two adjacent estates, Trowscoed Lodge and Fairfield House, and the redevelopment of the east side of Leckhampton Road. The main protagonists were J D Bendall and F E Jenkins. Their relationships were complex and involve a number of purchases, sales, subdivisions, mortgages and re-mortgages.

John David Bendall was born at Warden (*sic*), Leckhampton, in 1860 and is first listed in a directory, in 1891, as a bricklayer at Brookville, Ewlyn Road. From the mid-1890s J D Bendall & Sons are listed regularly at Brookville, Leckhampton Road. He seems to have acquired Home Orchard on Church Road about 1910.

Frank Ernest Jenkins has a less predictable background. From 1897 he is shown as a confectioner at seemingly prestigious premises in The Colonnade, High Street and Bayshill Parade.¹⁴ By the 1901 census he is living at Larchville, Gloucester Road and is described as 'builder's merchant and confectioner'. In later documents he is described as both builder's merchant and contractor.¹⁵

There is not space here to offer more than a summary of the main events:

January 1903	Jenkins buys the Fairfield House estate for £6250. He recovers £1177-10-0 of this by selling part of the Leckhampton Road frontage to J D Bendall.
1904	Jenkins' development plans for Fairfield House estate finally approved. Hodsdon says that they had been rejected 'at least six times' ¹⁶
June 1907	Jenkins buys Trowscoed Lodge estate from the Rainey family
1908-11	Jenkins listed as occupier of Trowscoed Lodge
Between 1907 & 1909	Jenkins sells Leckhampton Road frontage of Trowscoed Lodge estate to J D Bendall and J Beale Ransford ¹⁷
June 1911	Jenkins sells balance of Trowscoed Lodge estate to J D Bendall
1912-1917	Bendall listed as occupier except for 1913 when Jenkins reappears - Bendall is at Home Orchard. J Bendall & Sons are listed in 1916-17. I suspect that during much of this time Trowscoed Lodge was used as a builder's office and yard rather than a home
1916-17	Bendall sells the Leckhampton Road frontage ¹⁸
June 1920	Bendall applies for a housing subsidy relating to houses built at Trowscoed Avenue
June 1920	Bendall sells 3 Trowscoed Avenue to C J Taylor
July 1920	Bendall applies for planning permission for Trowscoed Avenue!

¹⁴ His mother is described as a confectioner at the 1881 Census.

¹⁵ Jenkins' 1897 Marriage Certificate gives his full name as Frank Ernest Ilawds Jenkins. He was living at 1 Lyme Villas, Leckhampton (on Shurdington Road) and describes himself as an ironmonger.

¹⁶ See Hodsdon, *An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham*, 1997

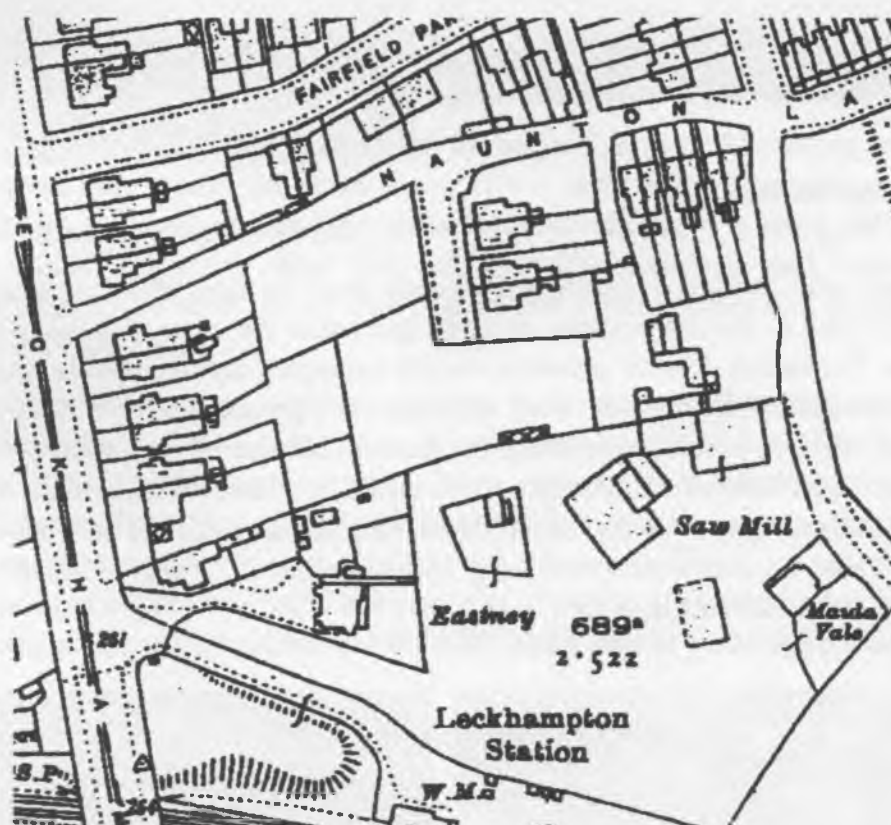
¹⁷ James Beale Ransford appears as a grocer/draper/postmaster/bank agent in Bourton-on-the-Water Censuses, 1871-1901. He is first listed in Cheltenham at Edgefield, Leckhampton Road in 1904.

¹⁸ Letter from Mrs Bendall to her son, Alf, (July 1917?). 'Trowscoed is still empty and likely to be. Dad has sold the front part of the land - a church will be built after the war'. Was Bendall, at this late stage, hoping to let or sell the house? (Leckhampton LHS, Bendall Archive)

Bendall and, particularly, Jenkins were involved in other developments in the area and elsewhere in Cheltenham during this period.¹⁹ Large amounts of purchase and working capital were needed. Jenkins was certainly involved in a round of purchase, sale, mortgage and remortgage during this period.

Aftermath

The redevelopment of the Trowscoed Lodge estate was laggard. Three pairs of houses were built on the Leckhampton Road frontage at some time during, or shortly after, the 1914-18 war but the war would have limited opportunities for further progress. There was a slump in house building which started before the war began²⁰. The 1923 OS map shows that Bendall had, by then, completed two pairs of semi-detached houses on Trowscoed Avenue (on the site of the drive to Trowscoed Lodge) and three pairs on the Naunton Lane frontage. Development of the rest of the site took place sporadically in the next fifty years. The bungalow at the end of the Avenue was probably built in the early 1930s. It was a family home of the Jenkins until very recently and is built almost exactly on the site of the Lodge. The right hand side was built in the 1960s. The small close at the right hand end of the Avenue was built in the 1970s on a remaining part of the orchard.



Detail from 1923 Ordnance Survey map.

The urban history of Cheltenham provides many case studies of delayed and sporadic development. In this case, it is arguable that Bendall missed out on the pre-1914 boom that drove the development of the Fairfield House estate. All speculative builders are dependent on the forces of the Trade Cycle and here post-war austerity led to the Great Crash and the Depression of the early thirties. I

¹⁹ See Hodsdon, *op cit*

²⁰ For example, the Webb Brothers brickworks at Battledown were closed from 1913 until the early 1920s. See O'Connor, *The Hole in the Ground*

think that another factor is relevant. The Trowscoed Lodge estate was, in some ways, not prime but marginal development land. From the 1840s at least, it abutted brickyards, wood yards and industrial use. There was, and still is, a very clear and sharp discontinuity between the houses and gardens and what is now the Mead Road/Maida Vale light industrial estate. The photograph of the remaining stable building – with its blind back – suggests that this was always a factor to the owners of the estate.

All that remains....

A surprising number of fossils of the Lodge remain. The most substantial was once part of the stable and coach house complex.



The remains of the stable block ...



... and the stable block from Maida Vale

Joy Lloyd-Davies, who lived at 4 Trowscoed Avenue from the time of its construction until the 1990s, first pointed out to me that post-war austerity had led to the reuse of building materials. One of the houses on Trowscoed Avenue provides several examples. Its two marble fireplaces are not typical of a 1920s semi and clearly were once in a larger and grander house.²¹ There is also a large, rear ground floor window which is a striking, but unlikely feature of such a house. It is also said that the ornamental ironwork on the frontage of Homeland, on Church Road – built by Bendall – is from the Lodge; this may also be true of its staircase. One remnant that has only survived in a poor photograph is the elegant conservatory – clearly shown on the 1923 map – which was destroyed when a bomb fell on Maida Vale in 1940.



The conservatory



Ornamental ironwork at Homeland

²¹ The fireplaces are mentioned in sale particulars in 1903 and 1907.



The moated site as it might have been in the 14th century.

Eric Miller based on an idea by Terry Moore-Scott

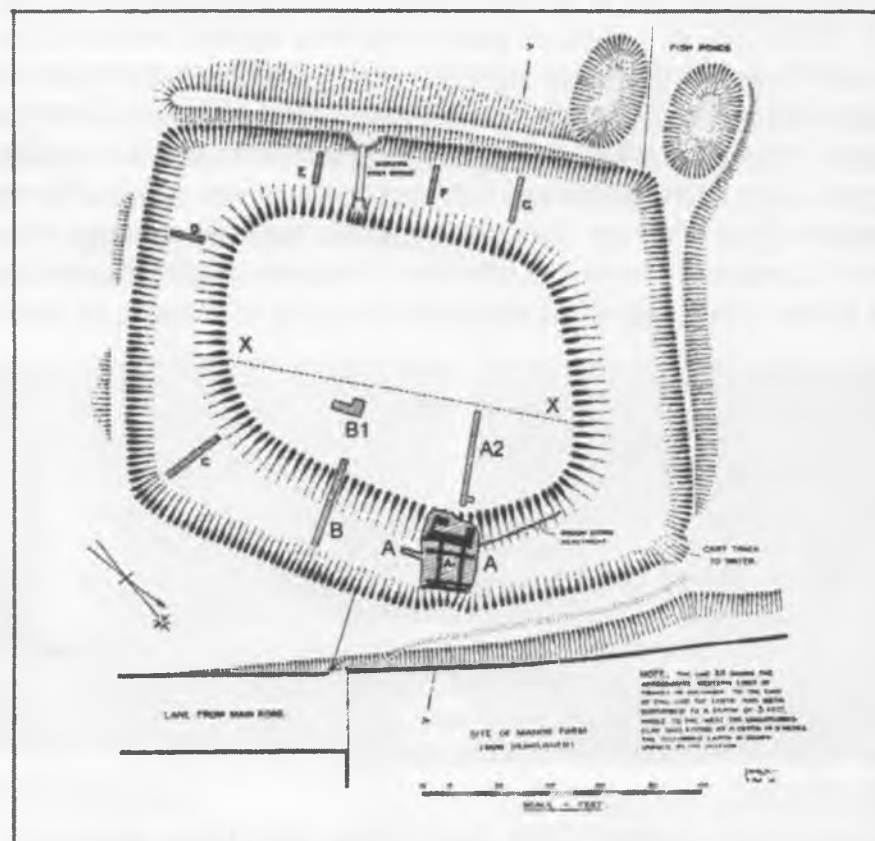


Figure 1. Leckhampton Moat: plan of 1933 excavations

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF LECKHAMPTON MOAT: EXCAVATION AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

By Terry Moore-Scott

Interest in the archaeology of the Leckhampton moated site located just north-west of St Peter's church¹ was being shown as early as the 1870s/1880s. The private papers of G B Witts, a noted 19th-century Gloucestershire antiquarian and a Leckhampton resident,² reflect the interest he personally was taking in the site in 1879, and in 1881 members of the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society (BGAS) visited it and noted the presence of masonry on both sides of the ditch on the eastern side, indicative of foundations for a bridge.³ It was not until 1933, however, that an excavation of the site was actually carried out at the request of the BGAS. The findings of that excavation are summarised below.

In the Spring of 2004, the moat was again the object of interest when members of the Gloucester and District Archaeological Society (GADARG) carried out a geophysical survey at the site. This was done in collaboration with the Leckhampton Local History Society which was interested in finding out more about the extent of any buried buildings on the moat's platform and their nature and purpose. The survey came up with a number of interesting findings and these are also dealt with below. This article concludes with a discussion of the findings of both investigations in terms of how the moated site may have fitted into the early history of Leckhampton.

The 1933 Excavation

[Note: The details of this excavation were fully reported in the Transactions of the BGAS, No. 55 (1933). That report did not include the photographic illustrations shown below. These come from a limited quantity of excavation archive material held by the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and are reproduced here with the museum's permission. The artist's impression, reproduced opposite, was specially commissioned for this article]

The excavation, led by a Major J G N Clift, took place in the summer of 1933 with the object of acquiring information regarding the supposed bridge, the extent of any buildings upon the moat's island and the approximate date of structures found. The excavation focussed mainly on sectioning the ditch at a number of points around the moat but the island platform was also investigated by means of probing and digging two test trenches in the eastern half of the platform (see Figure 1). Most of the sections dug around the ditch yielded little of significance but one trench towards the north-east corner of the moat (trench A on Figure 1) produced clear evidence of a bridge. A square framework of four well-preserved oak beams lying in the silt at the bottom of the ditch and extending across its full width was clearly identifiable as the remains of the cill upon which the timber supports of the bridge would have stood (see Figure 2). Each of the timbers, which varied in length between 16ft 9in (5.1m) and 19ft in (5.86m), still showed the mortice sockets which presumably took the stub tenons of vertical timber supports for the bridge. Overlying the cill were fragments of what appeared to have been planking from the bridge itself.⁴

¹ Ordnance Survey grid reference SO 9415 2195

² Contained in the Witts Archive at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

³ TBGAS 46 (1924).

⁴ A very similar design of bridge cill was found at the Wood Hall moated manor site at Wood Hall in Yorkshire, dating from c.1250. (*Wood Hall*; Current Archaeology No.166 (December 1999), 364-372).



The moated site as it might have been in the 14th century.

Eric Miller based on an idea by Terry Moore-Scott

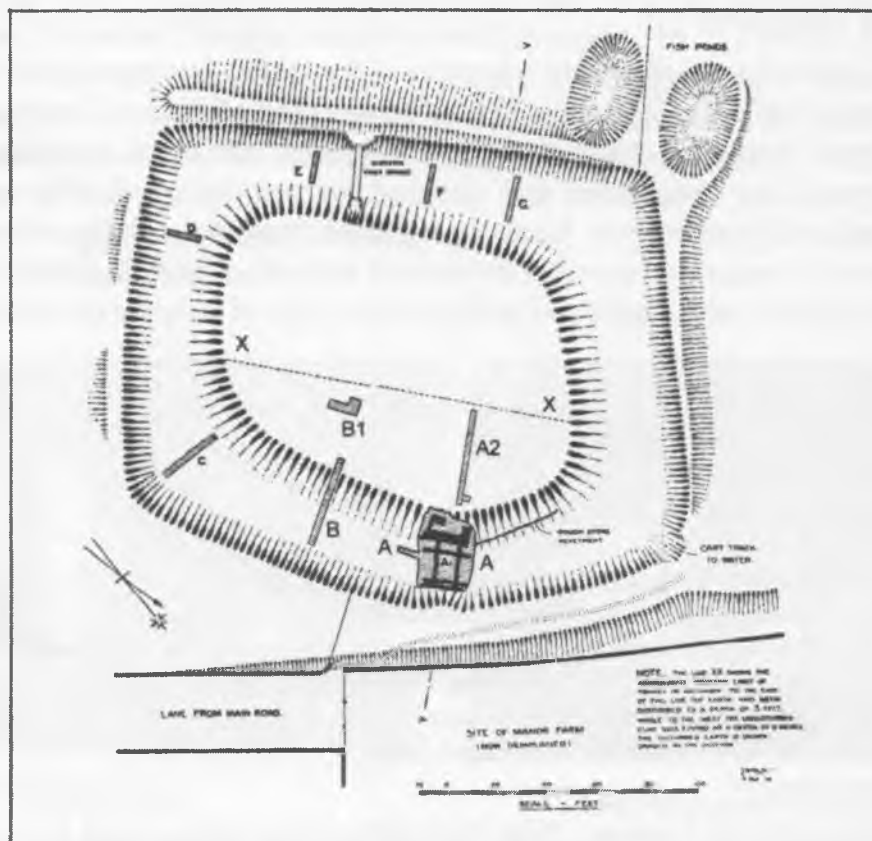


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Figures 2 and 3. Timber supports for bridge and bridge abutment



Figure 4. Remains of wall and latrine viewed from the south

Also uncovered in trench A were the lower courses of dry stone revetment walls on both sides of the ditch which would have formed the abutments at each end of the bridge (see Figure 3). No top cills remained to indicate the full height of these walls and what the height of the bridge was, but on the evidence available the width of the bridge was at least 9ft 6in (2.9m) and its span (i.e. the distance between the stone abutments) 17ft 6in (5.3m).

A short distance back from the face of the abutment wall on the island side, a length of well-built stone walling was found, evidently the remains of a building and, in front of it and bonded into it, was a rough stone-built structure identified as a latrine which seems to have been fed by a chute from an upper storey (Figure 4). The excavators then dug a further trench in from this spot towards the centre of the island (trench A2 on Figure 1). This revealed a layer of considerably disturbed soil down to a depth of 2-3 feet and a large quantity of unstratified broken building material comprising stone (including some dressed masonry), roof tiles and pottery fragments. By contrast, over the western half of the island (i.e. west of line X – X on Figure 1), the clay soil was largely undisturbed below about 9in (23cm) depth. A similarly interesting picture was found in two further trenches excavated further to the south (trenches B and B1 on Figure 1). Trench B dug across the ditch revealed that the surface of the island scarp was littered with building stone, earthenware roof tiles and pottery fragments. Trench B1 dug further towards the centre of the island provided evidence of building foundations having been grubbed up and filled in and soil then deposited on the surface.

The discovery of late 19th-century pottery at the bottom of this trench suggested that this activity had taken place around the late 1800s. These findings, together with the evidence of ground probing over the surface of the island, indicated that not insubstantial buildings must once have existed in the eastern half of the island.

The discovery of 14th-century pottery fragments immediately beneath the cill timbers in the ditch indicated that the date of bridge structure could not have been earlier than the 14th century, though it might well have replaced an earlier structure. The fact that the majority of other finds were unstratified prevented precise dating of features but taken as a whole they still served to indicate the likely dates of structures on the island and when they were occupied, as follows (all dates 'provisional').⁵

Building materials:

earthenware tiles (including ridge tiles)	14th cent .
glazed ridge tiles	15th cent.
floor and other tiles	16th cent. and later
a single piece of moulded stone*	13th cent.

(*although this fragment may just as well have been imported from a different building nearby)

Pottery:

portions of a rim and handle	12th cent.
the rest	13th cent. to modern

Ferrous objects:

nails (some in association with bridge cill)	14th to 17th cent.
a ploughshare	probably 17th cent.
a pitchfork	probably 18th cent.
a knife	19th cent.

In addition to the bridge, it would appear that a building or buildings had also existed at the moat from at least the 14th century. Even earlier structures could have existed there but, as far as this excavation was concerned, nothing indicative of occupation earlier than the 12th century was found.

The 2004 Resistivity Survey⁶

Having first obtained a licence from English Heritage – a necessary step, as the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument – a team made a reconnaissance to establish a suitable base line from which the survey grid squares could be set out. A standard method was employed involving the setting out of four 20m x 20m grid squares (in this case on a roughly north – south axis) covering most of the moat platform. A fifth square 20m x 10m was added on the south side to complete the coverage of the platform. Thus parts of the ditch could also be surveyed (although it should be noted that all of the ditch to the south and much of the western ditch were filled in by the property owner some years ago).

The equipment used was a standard twin-probe resistivity meter. Readings were taken every metre along lines one metre apart (equating to 400 sample points in a 20m x 20m square), moving across each square in up and down fashion, each reading being automatically stored on the equipment's built-in computer. There were some trees and patches of impenetrable undergrowth on the site,

⁵ Unfortunately none of the finds from the excavation is available for examination today.

⁶ Resistivity surveying works by measuring variations (in ohms) in the electrical resistance of the sub-soil which in turn is determined almost entirely by the amounts of moisture in that sub-soil. Certain buried archaeological features such as ditches, stone walls or compacted layers may display variations in moisture content and thus be detected by a resistivity meter. In most favourable circumstances, buried features may be detected down to a depth of one metre.

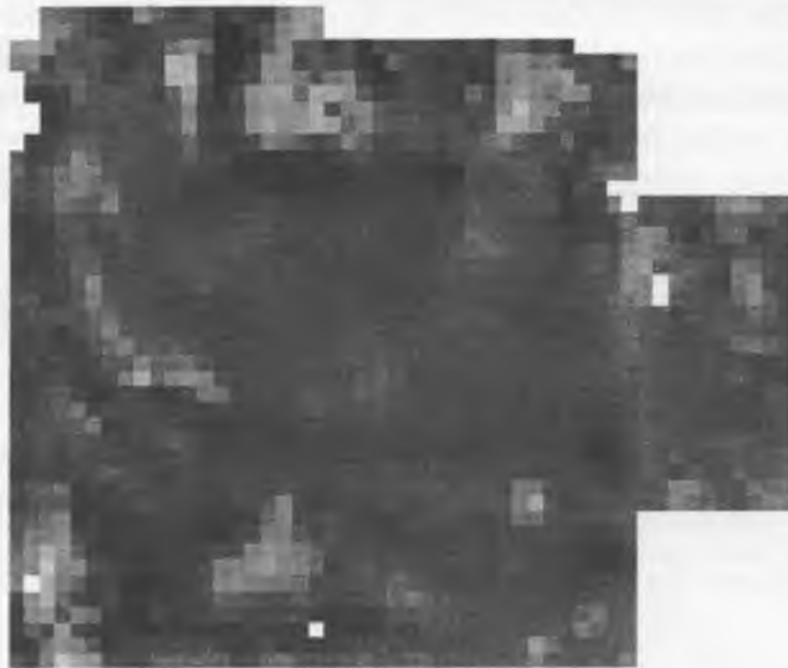


Figure 5a. Overall Plot of Resistivity Survey

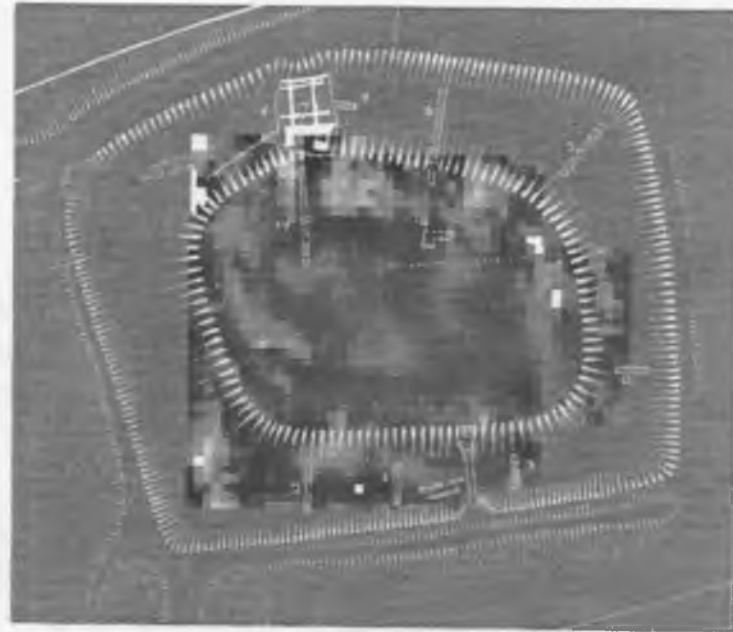


Figure 5b. Resistivity plot with with excavation plan overlaid

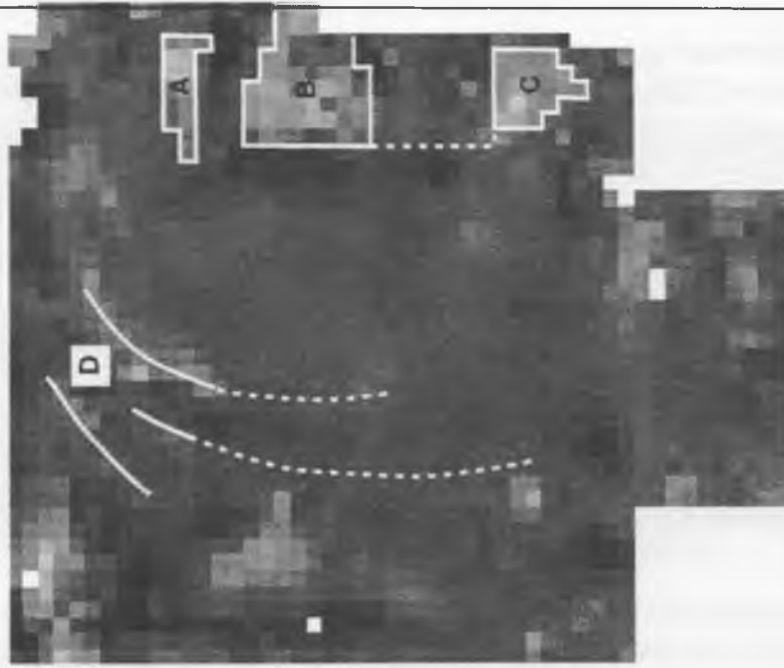


Figure 6. Interpretation of plots

Note: the darker areas = more conductive ie wetter areas, lighter areas = less conductive ie drier layers and white squares = 'dummy' readings).

necessitating the occasional insertion of 'dummy' readings into the plot data. In the event, these do not appear to have significantly distorted the final results. Weather conditions on the day of the survey were moderately fine and the soil was quite damp.

The resulting overall plot is shown at Figure 5a. Figure 5b shows the plot with the excavation plan overlaid. The interpretation of resistivity plots can be subjective since the technique does not always lend itself to precise identification of features depicted. Even so this plot produced several interesting characteristics (Figure 6). The hemispherical area around the centre of the plot appears to reflect the largely undisturbed western half of the island platform referred to in the excavation report and the lighter areas down the eastern side seem to indicate the presence there of substantial amounts of building remains. In particular, there appears to be a direct correlation with the bridge at its island end suggesting the presence there at one time of perhaps some kind of gatehouse (feature A). The larger of the lighter areas to the south of that (feature B) measures roughly 8m x 8m (around 680 sq ft) which, even allowing for debris spread, could still reflect a sizeable building, especially taking into account the excavation evidence of a latrine chute in this area indicative of there having been a second storey. The other lighter area to the south and still at the edge of the moat (feature C) probably reflects another building but smaller in area, possibly around 5 metres square (about 270 sq ft). There is just the hint that the area of higher resistance may run continuously down the eastern edge of the platform, which could suggest a single range of buildings down that side of the platform. These findings are consistent with the excavation observations of buried building debris over this part of the platform and on its eastern scarp.⁷

The darker (wetter) areas over the western and southern parts of the plot would be consistent with in-filled ditch and the occasional random patches of higher resistance with stony materials that we know were dumped into the ditch as filling. Another feature of interest (feature D) is the group of two or three concentric bands of alternating high and low resistance at the north-west corner of the platform. They are a slight distance in from the supposed edge of the ditch as shown on the excavation plan but they actually line up with the approximate edge of the platform indicated by resistivity. One explanation may be that they reflect a series of ditch abutments constructed over a time at least around the western side of the platform representing attempts to expand the area of the platform. The bands appear not to continue around the south side of the platform but that may be due to the heavy disturbance of that part of the site. It does however raise the possibility that in earlier times the island scarp of the whole ditch may have been revetted and not just the section at the bridge.

Discussion

The Leckhampton Moat is one of a large number of moated sites in Gloucestershire, the majority located in the Vale where, it has been suggested, clay for lining the moat was easily available.⁸ Whilst an element of fortification may have been involved, this need not have been the prime purpose behind having a moat. Between the 12th and 14th centuries, it was fashionable among estate holders and minor nobility to surround their houses with a moat, emulating perhaps the castles of their grander and more powerful contemporaries.⁹ Very often such sites were the centres of manorial estates occupied either by the lord of the manor or, in his absence, by a steward or

⁷ The possibility of additional timber buildings having at some time existed on the platform also has to be considered but any remains of these would have long ago decayed and would be unlikely to show up in a resistivity survey.

⁸ Barbara Rawes, *A Preliminary Checklist of Moated Sites in Gloucestershire*; *Glevensis* No. 12 (1978), 35-37.

⁹ It has also been suggested that in clay areas like the Severn Vale, a ditch around a house may have helped keep the soil damp all the year round and the foundations of the houses more stable. (Gwladys Davies, *Moats*; *Glevensis* No. 11 (1977), 47).

bailiff; many would thus have been where the manorial court leets were regularly held. The Leckhampton moated site may well have fulfilled this function.

From Domesday Book, we know that in the 11th century Leckhampton possessed three manorial estates.¹⁰ The best known was that held by the Saxon thegn Brictric which by the early 12th century had passed into the house of Despenser. Thereafter for over 500 years its descent is traceable through a series of prominent Gloucestershire families, the Giffards, Norwoods and Tryes, all inter-related by marriage. The centre for this manor was the site of Leckhampton Court where a manor house was erected in the early 14th century, presumably as a new seat for the Giffards following the loss in 1322 of their castle at Brimpsfield. The second 11th-century estate in Leckhampton, held initially by William Leuric, came to be associated with Walter of Broadwell and his heirs who, from the early 14th to possibly the late 15th centuries, held it from the Mortimer earls of the Marches. Little else is known of this estate save that by the early 1600s, when still known by the name Broadwell, it had been subsumed into the main manor of Leckhampton. The third manor for centuries was held by a succession of non-resident lords (of Monmouth then of Berkeley) until the 17th century when it appears to have been sub-divided and passed into the hands of various minor local gentry. The centre of this estate seems likely to have been located where in modern times Leckhampton Farm stood.

We can be reasonably confident that the moated site at Leckhampton was built upon and occupied from at least the 14th century and that the buildings on it, although relatively modest in scale, could have constituted a minor manor house.¹¹ It is just possible though that the site may have existed and been occupied from as early as the 12th century. It appears to have continued in use until around the 16th century but by then its status had seemingly been much reduced and by the late 19th century any buildings remaining there were razed to the ground and materials robbed. We can only speculate about which of Leckhampton's manorial estates the moated site should be linked to. One possibility is that it was the original centre for the main manor of Leckhampton before being replaced in 14th century by the grander Leckhampton Court. Finds evidence though indicate that it continued in occupation for another 200 to 300 years. An alternative, and perhaps more likely, explanation is that the moat was the centre of the Broadwell estate whose continued existence is recorded until at least the 15th century. The actual location of the tithing of Broadwell remains an enigma but one suggestion put forward is that its centre was around and just north of the moat. When this estate was absorbed into Leckhampton manor, the moat would have lost its earlier importance and its buildings put to more basic uses before finally falling into neglect and ruin. One way or the other the moat, now a forgotten backwater in the village, would once have known grander times.

Acknowledgements

The author is extremely grateful to Mrs Anne Hicks of Church Farm, Leckhampton for kindly allowing the resistivity survey to take place on her property, and to Rick Kedge and others from the Leckhampton Local History Society for their positive support for the project. Sincere thanks also to those other GADARG members, especially Don Mayes, who collaborated in the survey.

¹⁰ T Moore-Scott, *The Manorial Estates of Leckhampton*; Gloucestershire History No.16 (2002), 9-22.].

¹¹ Typically, these buildings would have been constructed either all of stone or of half-timber on low stone walls; evidently stone and ceramic tiles were used on the roofs.

THE HARGREAVES OF LECKHAMPTON COURT

By Eric Miller



Mrs Hargreaves, née Edith Platt, and John Hargreaves
Henry Elwes

John Hargreaves and his wife came to live at Leckhampton Court in 1872. While it is intriguing to speculate what prompted them to move here, it is also important to realise what they brought to Leckhampton.

They were Lancastrians, John Hargreaves being from Westhoughton, near Wigan, and Edith Platt from Oldham. Both were extremely wealthy, from influential entrepreneurial families living at the zenith of the Lancashire cotton industry's prosperity.

John Hargreaves

I have elsewhere¹ described John Hargreaves as being like 'a breath of fresh air' when he arrived at the Court, which the Reverend Charles Brandon Trye had vacated five years earlier to live at the Rectory. Estate agents' adverts stressed the good hunting nearby, which we know John Hargreaves enjoyed, and he was clearly comfortable in company of county families and readily accepted in Cheltenham society. Senior military men and aristocrats were numbered among his dinner guests (and was not the Prince of Wales, with or without Lillie Langtry, reported to have been a visitor?) From Cheltenham it would have been easier to get to London (where his Club was Boodles) than from Manchester. From 1879 he was an officer in the Gloucestershire

¹ In *Leckhampton Court - Manor House to Hospice*, Matador Publishing, 2002. This article adds newly acquired information.

Yeomanry, a member of the Berkeley Squadron.² This was a source of pride to him, and his Commanding Officer Lord Fitzhardinge was a frequent guest. At the 'Gentlemen's Fancy Ball' in 1880 Lieutenant (later Major) Hargreaves wore the uniform of the Hussars. He was a founder member of the New Club in 1881.³

John Hargreaves was a tenant at the Court from 1872 - four years after his marriage to Edith Platt - and he became its owner when it was put up for sale in 1894. Sadly, his wife died in 1882, leaving him with 2 small daughters (one of them the future Mrs Muriel Elwes). On his death in 1900 the Reverend Clifford Aston commented in the Parish Magazine: 'I can never forget the generosity shewn on the occasion of the Fête, in the Spring of '98, when for a week he surrendered all the ground floor of the Court for various uses....'

It is sometimes suggested that John Hargreaves was related to James Hargreaves, the reputed inventor of the 'Spinning Jenny'. The Hargreaves family tree makes no mention of James (who in any case made little money from the invention and died in obscurity in Nottingham in 1778). John's father was Thomas Hargreaves, of Oakhurst, in Westhoughton, near Wigan.⁴ He and his family had made their money not directly from cotton but as carriers and removal men: the 'Pickfords' or 'Eddie Stobarts' of their day. They also owned property and shares.

Edith Platt

Mrs Hargreaves is of even greater interest, however. How many of their acquaintances in mid-Victorian Cheltenham had any conception of the newcomers' background, and the enormous wealth and power wielded by the Oldham families of entrepreneurs and industrialists? *Nouveaux riches* they may have been, but by any standards their achievements were awe-inspiring.

Edith was the only daughter of James Platt of Oldham. In 1857, when she was only 8, her father lost his life when he was accidentally wounded on Saddleworth Moor during a grouse shoot. Her mother died five years later and from then on Edith lived at her uncle John's house at Werneth Park or at the family mansion near Llanfairfechan in North Wales.

James and John Platt were the largest employers in the area and largest makers of cotton manufacturing equipment in Lancashire - and hence, at that time, in the world. In two huge factory complexes Platt Brothers and Company produced every possible type of machine for spinning and weaving. At its height, the firm employed 7000 workers and exported throughout Europe, as far as Russia. John Platt's dynamic leadership was legendary, and he was all in one as engineer, inventor, patenter and salesman.

The Platts were also local benefactors, paying for the library and the Mechanics' Institute and providing a public park for the people's enjoyment. They must have had tremendous energy, combining public service (at the time of his death James Platt had been the (Liberal) MP for Oldham, and his brother John followed him in that rôle) with stupendous feats in developing and directing a great company. In North Wales the Platt family lived the life of country squires. At Llanfairfechan they built an Anglican church (to cater for the English-speaking community) and the railway station. There were also plans to build a harbour to accommodate their three sea-going steam yachts, but these plans were cut short in 1872, when aged 52 John Platt died in Paris, during a tour of the continent with the aim of obtaining furnishings for their house at Llanfairfechan.⁵

² W H Wyndham Quin, *The Yeomanry Cavalry of Gloucestershire and Monmouth*, 1898

³ New Club Rules and Regulations, 1881 (*Gloucestershire Library Services*).

⁴ Oakhurst has since been demolished but is commemorated in a local street name.

⁵ Reginald Eastham, *Platts Textile Machinery Makers*, 1994



Werneth Park, Oldham
Oldham Local Studies and Archives

In 1868 John Platt had given away his niece in marriage. The wedding reports in the local papers give some idea of the family's standing in Oldham. The ceremony took place at St Thomas's church, Werneth (a district of Oldham) - a building which had been built ten years earlier by the Platts. Admission was by (free) ticket. By 10 am all 420 seats in the interior had been occupied and thousands were standing outside in the churchyard and beyond. Over twenty carriages brought the invited guests and the bride arrived at 10.40. The service was conducted by a great-uncle of the bride. Afterwards the guests adjourned to Werneth Park for a '*dejeuner* of the most *recherche* and lavish description (*sic*)'.⁶ Afterwards a toast was drunk to the Prince and Princess of Wales and all joined in singing 'God bless the Prince of Wales'. (Was John Hargreaves already acquainted with His Royal Highness?) The presents were described as 'exceedingly numerous and costly' and the newspapers listed them in full. Heading the list was 'a carriage', from Mr Platt. (Was this by chance the one that the Hargreaves reportedly left behind in Carlsbad years later, or the one sold with other effects at Leckhampton Court in 1956?)

Reginald Trye

What brought the Hargreaves to Leckhampton? The 1881 Census returns include an entry for the Reverend Reginald Trye (later to succeed his father, the above-mentioned Charles Brandon Trye, as Rector of Leckhampton) as Curate at Cranham, Glos. His eldest daughter Kathleen had been born seven years previously at Westhoughton, Lancs. Westhoughton was of course John Hargreaves's place of origin: had Reginald Trye served there, and had the two men met?

Reginald Trye held an exceptionally large number of Curacies.⁷ Three held between 1870 and 1873 were in south-east Lancashire, the last being at Westhoughton, and although that was after John Hargreaves had gone to Leckhampton it seems highly likely that the two men would at some point have met and that Reginald Trye would have said that Leckhampton Court was available to let. They were of an age (born within a year of each other) and were likely to have had social contacts, especially in the light of the following.

⁶ *Oldham Standard*, 13 June 1868.

⁷ *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, 1892.



The Reverend Reginald Trye and family in front of Leckhampton Rectory, c.1891

*Rex Trye*⁸

Cheltenham College and other Oldham connections

John Platt's two oldest boys were educated at Cheltenham College, where they are bound to have known Reginald Trye. Henry and Samuel Radcliffe Platt (see also below) had been at the College for two years when Reginald Trye entered in 1856.⁹ Furthermore, a trawl of the tombstone inscriptions for Leckhampton churchyard¹⁰ reveals an entry for 'Werneth'. In a prominent plot near the vestry, and only a few yards from the Trye family vault, was buried in 1867 John Frederick Lees, of 3, Lansdowne Villas, Cheltenham and of Werneth, Lancs. Five other members of the Lees family were later buried in the same plot. What was the connection between Werneth and Leckhampton, or at least with Cheltenham?

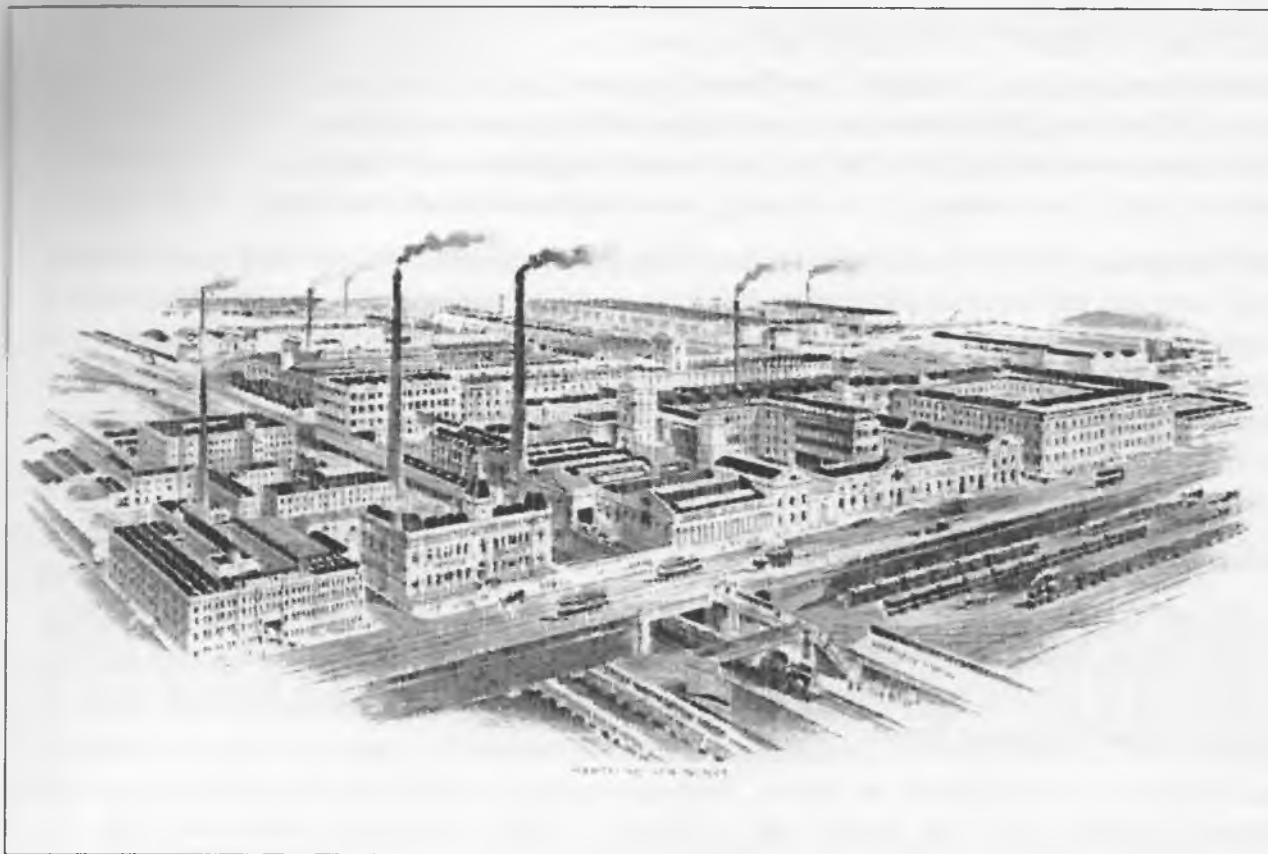
Werneth Park was originally the base of four of Oldham's most powerful industrialists - John Platt, Eli Lees, and Samuel and Josiah Radcliffe. If two of the Platt boys had gone to Cheltenham College, what about the other families? Edward John Lees (home address Werneth) and Francis Gerald Lees (home address Cheltenham) were pupils there, from 1851 and 1853 respectively, and Joshua Walmsley Radcliffe and John Edward Radcliffe (sons of Josiah Radcliffe of Werneth Park) from 1854 and 1860 respectively. Captain Edward John Lees, who died in 1861, is among those named on the tombstone in Leckhampton churchyard.

⁸ Great-grandson of Philip Trye, seen in the photograph holding a bicycle, who emigrated to New Zealand.

⁹ Cheltenham College Register, 1841-1927.

¹⁰ See link on Leckhampton LHS website: <www.llhs.org.uk>

So the association between the Tryes of Leckhampton and the 'cottontots' of Oldham seems to go back further, and to have been more intertwined, than we might have imagined. This raises another intriguing possibility: perhaps it was they who tempted Reginald Trye to move to Lancashire in the first place?



Souvenir impression of Hartford New Works, Werneth
Oldham Local Studies and Archives

POSTSCRIPT

The Platts

Samuel Radcliffe Platt, who entered Cheltenham College in August 1854 (at the same time as Frederic Myers, mentioned in an earlier article) was the head of the firm for thirty years. Among other civic offices, he was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1897. He died on board his yacht in the Menai Straits in 1902.

During the 1930s there was some collaboration between Platt Brothers and a Japanese builder of looms, named Kiichiro Toyoda. Platts paid £83,500 for the patent to a high-speed loom. This sum enabled Kiichiro to set up a car plant – today's Toyota Motor Company.¹¹

Dame Sara Lees died at Werneth Park in 1935, after which the house was given to the people of Oldham, and the beautiful music rooms (once played in by the Platt family's private orchestra) are now a cultural centre for the area.

¹¹ *Weekend Telegraph*, 8 October 1994

Leckhampton Court under Colonel and Mrs Elwes

The Hargreaves's younger daughter Muriel married Captain, later Colonel, Cecil Elwes in 1901. Some idea of what life was like at the Court shortly after the First World War is to be gleaned from the childhood memories of Hermione, Countess Ranfurly,¹². Hermione, whose maiden name was Llewellyn, was the niece of Algernon Elwes. The Ranfurlys lived at Leckhampton Court in 1920-21, at Mrs Elwes's invitation, while their own house, Coombend Manor near Elkstone, was undergoing major alterations.

Hermione, at the age of 8, found The Court 'a rather gloomy place', but it had a garden and paddocks for her and her brother and sister to play in. They were taught by a governess who came to the Court each morning. Their father gave them riding lessons and made little fences for their ponies to jump. Every evening in the drawing room their mother read them stories.

Concerning Cecil Elwes, she describes him as 'large, noisy and cheerful'. He had been wounded in the war and had scars on his forehead and 'one of his eyes looked glassy'. He had been a Colonel in the Scots Guards and won a DSO and MC. 'We loved him because he was so surprising: he flew a fox's brush from the radiator cap of his car and blew his hunting horn whenever he wanted to pass another car on the road.' 'Eccentric Uncle Cecil' was endlessly surprising and amusing, while Aunt Muriel 'in her quiet way took care of everything and everybody'.

Acknowledgements

In addition to the sources and individuals mentioned in footnotes, I thank Mrs Terry Berry, Local Studies Officer, Oldham Local Studies and Archives, and Mrs Sue Peet of Westhoughton Library for their help in locating information and illustrations, and also Mrs Elizabeth Horne of Jersey, a member of the Hargreaves family.

¹² Entitled *The Ugly One*, 1998.

TITHES OF LLANTHONY PRIORY IN LECKHAMPTON

By John Rhodes

The following deed and schedule, concerning tithes of demesne given to Llanthony Priory before 1158, are printed as a challenge to local historians and geographers. Where in the manor of Leckhampton were Salterswell Hedge, Sheepengreen House, Fiftyland and Sixtyland? The king's highway through the manor (*via regia*), also called the broad way leading to the hill, has been identified convincingly with the north-south route of the Old Bath Road,¹ but how does one interpret contexts which require it to run east-west?

The documents are translated from copies appended in the late 14th or early 15th century to the Great Register of the priory. The schedule evidently describes the original 12th-century extent of the grant in relation to 14th-century landmarks, since the register is comprehensive and does not record any composition of the tithes during the interval. In 1481-86 and 1535 they were being farmed by the rector of Leckhampton for 3s 4d a year paid to the prior's bailiff at Prestbury.²

A deed of Simon Dispensator³ concerning our tithes in Lechampton⁴

To all sons of mother church to whose notice our present gift will come, Simon Dispensator sends greeting in the Lord.

Know that we, in consideration of God's piety and for the sake of our soul, have given and granted in frankalmoin⁵ to God, St. Mary and the regular canons (present and future) of the church of St. Mary of Llanthony-by-Gloucestre all those divided and designated portions of tithes of our demesne of *Lechantone* which our chaplain Audomar previously had and held for life by our gift and collation; to have and to hold all the said tithes with appurtenances, as they are bounded there, to the said canons and their successors completely, freely, peacefully and quietly for ever without retention or impediment by us or our heirs or by any present or future rectors there.

And because I wish this our gift and alms to be secure and inviolate, we have caused this our grant and deed to be validated with our seal. Farewell.

[The manuscript continues:] In a confirmation of Pope Adrian [IV, dated 1158] concerning various possessions of the church of Llanthony there is contained among other things the following⁶: By gift

¹ Terry Moore-Scott, 'Old Roads and Tracks of Leckhampton', *Leckhampton LHS Research Bulletin* 2 p 45, Route 1

² *Registers of The Priory of Llanthony by Gloucester 1457-1525*, ed John Rhodes (Glos Record Ser 15, 2002), Appendix pp 189-94; *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, ed John Caley (Rec Comm 1810-34), 2 p 425

³ Alias Dispenser, lord of Leckhampton: Terry Moore-Scott, 'The Manorial Estates of Leckhampton', *Glos History* 2002 p 10

⁴ Public Record Office C 115/77, s 6 f 119v no 90; Glos RO microfilm 1104

⁵ Free tenure of land granted to a religious house which is able to take the income from it on condition that they give alms or provide a chantry (doubtless, in this case, to pray for Simon's soul!) [Terry Moore-Scott]

⁶ Public Record Office C115/75, s 26 f216 no 25

of Simon Dispensator, tithes of the demesne of *Lechamtone*. And in a confirmation of Pope Celestine [III, dated 1191] there is contained among other things⁷: Tithe of the demesne of *Lechampton*.

Tithes of the prior of Llanthony-by-Gloucestre in the demesne and fields of *Lechampton*⁸

All tithes of the following belong to the said lord prior and none to the rector.

In the field called *Nethur Colam*⁹ 11 selions by the hedge of the lord of *Lekathon* vill, of which a moiety begins at the top; an ash-tree there is held to mark the beginning [?of the rest] (*undecim seliones propinquiores sepi domini ville de Lecathon, unde medietas illarum cellionum a superiore parte incipiendo; decime illarum pertinent ad dictum dominum priorem, et habetur ibidem quoddam signum incepcionis, videlicet fraxinus*).

In the same field towards the east, 6 selions next to the 11.

In the furlong called *Midul Colam*, 14 selions by the hedge of the lord's manor (*proximi sepe manerii domini*).

The whole furlong called *Understream alias Pilford* except 19 selions on the east.

In the upper part of the furlong called *Abovestream*, 15 short selions by the boundary of the lord of the vill (*iuxta ad pomerium domini ville*).

In the furlong called *Above the Orchard*, 16 selions beside the broad way leading to the hill on the north, beginning at the end of a hedge and extending eastwards to a place called *Schepns Grene* (*incipiendo a fine unius cepis iuxta viam latam que ducit ad montem ex parte boriali versus orientem usque ad certum locum vocatum Schepns Grene*).

Adjacent to the 16 selions, 34 selions extending eastwards from *Schepns Grene* to the tenants' land on the north side of the said king's highway (*que extendunt a predicto loco de Schepns Grene versus orientem usque ad terram tenencium ex parte boriali dicte vie regie*).

A furlong called *Gore Ende* on the other side of the way, opposite to the said 34 selions on the south and extending from the way to the hedge called *Saltereswelle Hagge* (*ex alia parte vie ex opposito triginta quatuor cellionibus dictis ex parte australi, de uno furlongo vocato Gore Ende extendente a dicta via usque ad sepem vocatam Saltereswelle Hagge*).

A furlong called *Slad Forlong* and its gores by the land called in English *Fyffetey Londe*.

A great furlong beside the said highway, lying between *Slad Forlong* on the south and *Saltereswelle Hegge* on the north and extending from the lord's park on the west to land called *Sixtety Londe* [on the east], except 12 butts¹⁰ by the said way by the place called *Schepnsgrene House* (*preter duodecim buttes proximas dicte vie et cuidam loco vocato Schepnsgrene House*).

⁷ Ibid s 26 f 218 no 27

⁸ Abbreviated from P.R.O. C 115/77, f 314; Glos. R.O. microfilm 1104

⁹ ie Lower Collum Piece, as mapped (with some other fields mentioned here) by Terry Moore-Scott in 'Leckhampton, the Fields Beneath', *Leckhampton LHS Research Bulletin* 1 p 26

¹⁰ ie a particularly short strip in common fields, often abutting adjacent lands at more or less a right angle

Comments

Taking up the author's challenge to identify the elusive selions (ie cultivated ridges of land in open fields flanked by furrows for indentification and drainage), two local experts have been invited to interpret the cryptic references in the foregoing schedule.

Terry Moore-Scott observes that the parcels of land referred to are all adjacent to the upper sections of Old Bath Road (see map overleaf showing the fields of Leckhampton, reproduced from *Research Bulletin* No 1). The only route that would fit the descriptions of *the broadway leading to the hill* and *the said king's highway* does run largely north-south, veering westwards on two stretches, but only slightly. *Nether Colam* could be Lower Collum Piece (which would have bordered on to the lord's land around the Court) but I have no record of a 'middle' piece. In my article in *Research Bulletin* No 2 I speculated that we can see evidence of a three-cycle rotation in Collum and, bearing in mind that Leckhampton Road came much later to bisect the Collum open field, it may well be that the 12th-century references are to the whole Collum system which may once have had lower, middle and upper portions.

Understream alias Pilford and *Abovestream* probably equate to what was later known as Upper and Lower Pilford. As it happens, they are adjacent to the old parish boundary which was probably also the boundary of the lord's manor.

It is tempting to think that *above the orchard beside the broadway leading to the hill* and the adjacent 34 selions are in the vicinity of Court Hill Piece or Upper Crow Park but I do not know where the orchard was nor where Sheepen Green and the tenants' land were. The only area where one can go east from the Old Bath Road/Birdlip Road and still be in Leckhampton is of course the section above Pilley brook. *Gore End on the other side of the way* appears to have been on the hill side of the road (gore normally refers to a small, often triangular, piece of land filling out odd corners in open common fields) and *Salterswell* may have a connection with the suggestion that the Old Bath Road/Birdlip Road may once have been an old salt way (cf also *Salterley* further up the road).

The whereabouts of *Slad Furlong*, *Fyffetey Londe* and *Sixtey Londe* are unknown but *the lord's park* could be what later became Crow Park and Upper Crow Park. Presumably the latter two field names refer to two parcels of land containing respectively 50 and 60 ridges or selions of ridge and furrow.

Eve Andrew adds that the Old Bath Road/King's Highway cuts through the south end of the Leckhampton parish, exiting at the most southerly point of the boundary. To anyone living in the village, the far side of the road would be in the direction of the hill summit and hence 'on the south side'. Conversely the village side of the road would be the 'north side', even where the route is, for short distances, almost due north - south.

Above the orchard. An orchard is unlikely to be situated far from a settlement, which suggests possibly south of the Leckhampton Court area.

Salterswelle. This could be a general name of the distinctive coombe which forms the head of the valley with its abundance of springs feeding the head waters of the Hatherley Brook. Any long-established hedge in that area could be the *Salterswelle Hagge*. (*Salterley* occurs in three of the 18th-century field names.) Alternatively, if the road was a 'salt way', what about the 'seven wells' shown on Crow's map of 1746? These lie to the south of the road opposite the Upper Crow Park and just before the gate at the edge of the Hill Common.

THE FIELDS OF LECKHAMPTON

(Based on Pinnell's plan of 1778 and Croome's survey of 1835)



Note: Field numberings are taken from the tithe apportionment records for Leckhampton of 1835 and the letters in brackets (denoting former common fields) from the Leckhampton Inclosure Act of 1778.