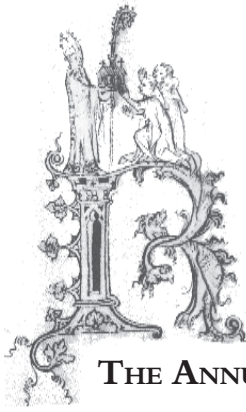


THE



RECORDER

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

EDITORIAL

After last year's bumper issue, this year's Recorder is down on contributions and I would urge all members to try to contribute even a short article of county interest for 2017. We try to include all sorts of articles, from the homely and amusing, to the academic; so no-one should feel they are not 'up to it'. As long as it is Wiltshire-orientated and is not *solely* genealogical, we will consider it for inclusion. Think about what constitutes an archive: it could be deeds, diaries, journals or letters; even military colours have been written about, as well as graffiti (this issue), name variants, sale particulars, workmen's bills, a murder and a voyager, to name but a few subjects. Anything which uses or constitutes a record of some sort is ripe for inclusion.

This year we have an article on the requisitioning of horses for use in the First World War, which arose from the WWI project carried out by the Codford Local History Society in 2014. An article on church graffiti reflects the national project to record these fascinating items of social history. Two further volumes of William Small's diary have come to light (the first two volumes were published by this society in 2011, WRS vol.64) and is documented in an article by the editors of the original two volumes. The archives of Fonthill, the goodies and baddies of the Banks family in Lacock and evidence for Melksham's manorial pound are also detailed here. So although we are short on quantity this year, it will be seen that we have a good variety, as usual.

The 2015 AGM took place on June 13th at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Chippenham, where Mr Kenneth Rogers and Mr John d'Arcy gave a joint talk on their years spent as County Archivists. We were regaled with many interesting and amusing anecdotes from both gentlemen and it was obvious that they had both been pioneers in accruing valuable archives for the Record Office over the years, sometimes against all odds. Between them they clocked up almost forty years as County Archivists, though they have contributed many more years in other roles.

This year's AGM will take place on Saturday 25th June at 2.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Devizes.

Sally Thomson, Editor

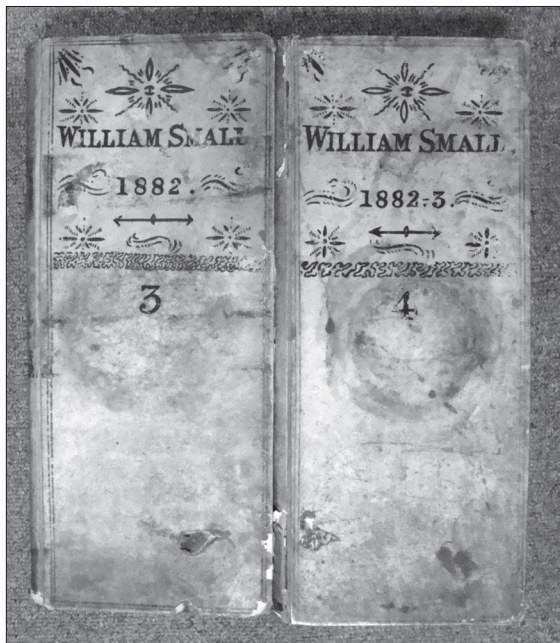
BUYING HISTORY

In 2011 we edited a volume for the Wiltshire Record Society of William Small's *Cherished Memories and Associations*, written in 1881. William Small (1820-90) was a painter and glazier who lived and worked in Salisbury. We transcribed a significant part of the two books from the Wiltshire & Swindon Archives, and wrote a substantial editorial introduction. The first volume in particular gives valuable new information about early 19th century Salisbury, its commercial, political and religious affairs as well as the successful painting and glazing business set up by his father (also William). There are also details about 'our' William's childhood and education, house, family, employers and neighbours, plus notable houses in the area on which the Smalls worked. He even climbed to the top of the Cathedral spire. By the end of volume 2, having lost his parents and beloved sister, Henrietta, his business was suffering and he was in debt. We traced William to a different, smaller, house and then to Trinity Hospital, the almshouses where he died.

At that time, after due searching and enquiries, we found no clue that William Small had written any more. Imagine our amazement on receiving an email from a friend containing a link to an Ebay sale of Volumes 3 and 4. The covers looked identical to the first volumes, and the photographs supplied of the contents were in William Small's handwriting with which we were so familiar. We wanted those books! There were two days remaining of the auction. First we checked with Steven Hobbs at WSA; the last thing we wanted to do was to bid against the Record Office, or indeed against anyone else who would give us access to the books.

Fortunately Ruth's daughter Gill is an expert at Ebay dealing, and offered to make the bid for us – which we gratefully accepted. We are now the de-

lighted owners of William Small volumes 3 and 4. Subsequent correspondence with the bookseller did not throw any light on their provenance as we had hoped, but he was delighted at the outcome and with the fact that we will donate them to Wiltshire & Swindon Archives when we have completed our research. What the new volumes give us is a continuation of what happened to William Small, confirming some of our earlier research. His debts have mounted and his misery increased. Some of his financial difficulties were probably due to the economic recession of the 1880s affecting small craftsmen (he writes of 'the depressive state of trade'). But by this time he was 'no longer as quick' nor as competitive, and he lacked the necessary business skills.



Comparison of the covers of the two volumes

Close family ties were a feature of the first two volumes, and William felt a responsibility for his two brothers into old age. In Volume 3 George 'met with a shocking accident' when he fell off a ladder and broke his leg. He spent weeks in Salisbury Infirmary where William visited him regularly (at Christmas taking him 'some mince pies and a newspaper'), and described his progress, commenting 'ours is a hazardous business'. John and his family lost the cottage they rented from the Methodist church in St Edmunds Church Street when it was demolished to make way for chapel alterations.

William's own problems reached the point where he was unable to pay the rent and was evicted from his much loved family home. Details of his attempts to borrow the money, and the subsequent sale of his belongings make sad reading. We did not know he painted pictures as well as windows and boats! Despite increasing age, William still walked to Britford most weeks to visit the family graves, taking 'a small flower from the garden'.

These volumes tie up all sorts of loose ends and we are looking forward to investigating them in detail. It was chance that someone spotted them for sale who knew of our interest in William Small, chance that the bookseller hadn't already sold them from his shop without putting them 'online', chance that there were not more bidders who pushed the price beyond our reach ... such is serendipity. The bookseller wrote of a 'happy ending' and we endorse that.

Jane Howells and Ruth Newman

THE ARCHIVES AT FONTHILL A HISTORY OF THE MORRISON FAMILY

James Morrison, the founder of the family fortunes, was born in 1789 in modest circumstances in the Lower George Inn, Middle Wallop, Hampshire. By the time he died in 1857 he was one of the most successful but least known merchant millionaires. He went to London as a youth, both parents having died, became apprenticed to a retail haberdasher in Fore Street in the City of London and married his boss's daughter.

Within a few years he had shown his genius for making money and had been dubbed 'the Napoleon of shopkeepers'. By 1830 his business, by then a wholesale haberdashery, had a turnover of nearly £2 million per year, the equivalent of £200 million today. He invested large sums in American companies, particularly railways, was involved in global trade and bought land, houses and works of art in unbelievable quantities. He became a Member of Parliament for various constituencies, including the Inverness Burghs, for nearly 20 years and moved in the highest circles.

When James died, all his ten surviving children were left fortunes and his six sons inherited extensive country estates. Three of his sons, Charles, Alfred and Walter either added enormously to their wealth by their investments or created huge collections of autograph letters of famous people and objets d'art of great importance. Of James' estates, Basildon in Berkshire and Malham in Yorkshire were sold in the 1920s by one of his grandsons – James Archibald – but an enlarged estate at Fonthill, Wiltshire, and part of the island of Islay in Argyllshire continue to this day in the family's possession.

Six of James's male descendants have been Members of Parliament and Charles and Walter gave away huge sums of money in their lifetimes to a wide variety of charities. John Granville Morrison, James's great grandson, 1906–96, inherited the Fonthill estate and a large house, called at first Little Ridge, built by his father, Hugh. This was to become the fifth house on the estate to be pulled down or replaced and the current house dates from 1972. Having been MP for Salisbury since 1942 and Chairman of the Conserva-

tive Party's 1922 Committee for over 10 years, John was raised to the peerage in 1964 as Baron Margadale of Islay.

Dr Caroline Dakers' book, *A Genius for Money – Business, Art and the Morrisons*, published in 2011 by the Yale University Press, gives a very informative and comprehensive study of James Morrison's life and that of his two eldest sons up to 1909.

The Archives at Fonthill

The archives are very extensive, now catalogued on an ADLIB database and shelved in 290 large boxes in the Archive Room at the Fonthill Estate Office. There are nearly 3000 catalogue entries, some very substantial.

The personal, family, 19th century estate and business elements of the archive of James and many other members of the family spent most of their life up to 1970 in the Morrison Estate Office in Coleman Street, London, and survived both world wars intact. They were then brought down to Fonthill in nearly 100 tin trunks and tea chests and resided in the old kitchens in the basement of the newly-rebuilt Fonthill House. It was there that Richard Gatty, James Morrison's first biographer and second cousin of John Morrison, and a few other hardy researchers, including Caroline Dakers, struggled to find the material they needed for their biographies. By 2007 the archives had arrived at the Estate Office in Fonthill Bishop.

The later Fonthill Estate records, which survived Mabel Morrison, Alfred's widow, and her presumed archival destruction, and which had probably been maintained locally by the estate's agents in Salisbury, accumulated in the Estate Office or in the Old Creamery at Berwick St Leonard Farm, until gathered in for appraisal and cataloguing between 2007 and 2012.

James Morrison appears to have been ordering his papers in the last years of his life in preparation for writing his memoirs, because various correspondence was copied out, relating to his take-over of his father-in-law's haberdashery business, and through other signs, but the writing stage was never reached. The content and range of the collection matches the typical country house estate archive of its time, but with three substantial and very untypical elements – those recording James the exceptionally successful businessman, banker and politician and the multi-millionaire acquirer of landed estates, pictures and objects. All the usual parts of a family archive are here, deeds of property, family letters, personal account books, estate accounts and papers, a very few estate maps and plans, photographs and very extensive probate papers. There are good series of records for James's management of the Fonthill and Basildon estates up to his death, but they are poor thereafter, until the 20th century at Fonthill.

Two other estates are well represented in the surviving archives, that of Islay, Argyllshire, Scotland, from the 1890s, now largely in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, and here in these archives that of Walhampton, Boldre, Hampshire, the country home of Dorothy Morrison, Viscountess St Cyres, one of James's granddaughters, who left this estate to Charles Andrew Morrison, John Morrison's second son. For the estates of the other children of James, after they had inherited and sold them, there is very little here.

The unusual elements in the archive are extensive and should prove useful material for research. The papers of James Morrison's haberdashery business in Fore Street, London, have survived well, although there were 6,000 account books probably destroyed when the firm was sold in the 1860s. The banking and investment business is represented in thousands of letters and should be of interest to historians of the growth of trade and industry in North America and elsewhere.

James Morrison was an MP for three constituencies and had interests in a number of others. He considered himself 'an independent member' and in Parliament was recognised for his commercial expertise, which developed particularly around railways. He later turned down a baronetcy, considering it a poor investment. These archives are full of documents of a wide variety illustrating his thirst for information, having had no formal education in his youth.

His collecting interests are well represented in his papers, with accounts and letters from art dealers and artists, and comprehensive inventories in his diaries, prepared by a contemporary art historian. In contrast, what survives for Alfred, who inherited his father's collecting instincts and took them to much more intensive levels, is far less in quantity and, except for the huge inventories of autograph letters, medals and coins and a modest batch of accounts, this is a disappointing series.

In the 20th century, John Granville Morrison left little surviving of his political work, but one of the interests closest to his heart – hunting – is well illustrated by the substantial South and West Wilts Hunt records, as is the record of the steady increase in the size and development of the Fonthill estate in this period.

John Morrison's youngest son, Peter, who became a Conservative MP for Chester and Mrs Thatcher's Parliamentary Private Secretary in the last years of her premiership, in addition to various earlier ministerial posts, has left detailed papers of his work and, in particular, of her standing for election for the leadership of the Conservative Party in 1989 and 1990, which are important.

What's Missing from the Archives

James Morrison's presumed intention to write his autobiography has secured the survival of his archives to

a very large degree and his descendants probably saw them as too important to their family history to let go. It is very likely that his widow, Mary Ann, who outlived him by thirty years, and their eldest son, Charles, may have removed his very personal records. Charles, his eldest son, the inheritor of Basildon in Berkshire, has left little personal material, except his substantial draft works of philosophy and religion. All of his estate archives were probably destroyed when Basildon was sold in the 1920s, by his much-married and extravagant nephew, James Archibald. Almost everything since 1857, when James died, and its sale to the Iiffes, is not in this collection, except for a few items kept by the Estate Office in London and now here or in the Berkshire Record Office.

Alfred's management of the Fonthill Estate between 1857, his death in 1897 and his son Hugh's succession until his death in 1931, is very little recorded, probably because estate agents were used and few papers may have resided at Fonthill itself. The disappearance of Alfred's personal papers, relating to his collections of autograph documents, engravings, coins, medals, porcelain, glass, metalwork and enamels and the rebuilding and redecoration of Fonthill House and 16 Carlton House Terrace in London, is a far greater loss. This was probably effected by his widow, Mabel, who outlived him by nearly forty years and who lived in their matrimonial home for twenty years after his death, with only the catalogues of his collections and a few acquisition papers still in existence.

James Archibald's life was so much spent on the move, hunting and shooting big game, fighting in military campaigns and changing wives; and his occupation of Basildon and the management of the estate, after his uncle Charles' death, was so transient, that it is not really surprising that few of his papers survive. 'Modern' country house archives before the opening of County Record Offices were very vulnerable.

From the 1920s, when John Granville Morrison took on the management of Fonthill, the survival of estate archives improves dramatically, although he authorised the destruction of most of his Salisbury constituency records after he retired from Parliament in 1964.

For genealogists seeking the stories of their ancestors working on the family's estates, the survival of personnel records is very patchy indeed and little of any consistent regularity exists from before 1920. One remarkable survivor is a photograph album of all the Fonthill Estate employees, made for Hugh Morrison, when he came of age in 1889. But the separate key to the names of those photographed, some probably for the only time in their lives, has not yet come to light.

John d'Arcy

LACOCK: GOODIES AND BADDIES

We are always delighted to find people who were 'somebodies' in our family history. Such delight, say, if we find that 'Great Uncle Henry' was a builder, a middle-class somebody. Not often do we search for, or find, the baddies. Some family baddies found here in Lacock!

Robert Banks

Not sure where he fits into the family tree, but as he was a Lacock Banks and as there were dozens of Banks in Lacock, he is most likely to be a relative, somewhere along the line.

Summary Conviction: Devizes Session January 15th 1822 No.41 Robert Banks aged 22; Charles Hudd aged 22

Committed by J.R.Gosett, Esq. Charged on the oath of Thomas Knee of Lacock, with having entered his ground and with having feloniously stolen therefrom a bushel of turnips, his property, and also with having at the same time and place violently assaulted him, the said Thomas Knee.

To be severally confined in the House of Correction at Devizes for three Cal. months to hard labour. And for the assault fined 1/- cash and to be further imprisoned till such fine be paid.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal

Sat. July 15th 1826

An Assize record includes: Robert Banks for stealing a hen at Lacock. Imprisonment in the House of Correction one year.

This is likely to be the same Robert Banks committed in 1822.

Indictment Quarter Sessions 29 Geo 3 (1789)

Edward Banks – late of Lacock	Mason
Thomas Fry – late of Lacock	Sawyer
William Angle [Angel]	Tanner
Thomas Robbins	Labourer
Emanuel Hibberd	Labourer

Riotously and monstrously assembling and gathering together to disturb the Peace and being so assembled contemptuously did go into a certain Dissenting House and then and there making a very great riot. The Dissenting House in question was in an upper room in The Axe Inn, now The Carpenters' Arms, Church Street, Lacock.

There is an endorsement on the entry: E29 G3 Transversed.

Removed by Certiorari June 17th 1789.

The meaning is that the case was removed to another Court, but nothing further has been found about this.

In the indictment, Edward is the first named, so he was probably the ring leader, as the entries are not in alphabetical order; his age at the time was about thirty.

By 1788 toleration had so far become the normal round in Wiltshire that the Chippenham petty sessions could be warmly commended in the local press for roundly rebuking ten inhabitants of Lacock, charged with ringing of bells and other noisy and shameful misdemeanours before the protestant Dissenting Meeting House in Lacock . . . With a view to break the peace and discompose the minds of the people therein quietly assembled for the worship of Almighty God. [source unknown]

More evidence is to be found in the records of the Wiltshire Meeting House Certificates 1689–1852¹:
21 Aug 1788, 25 Aug 1788 [the date signed and the date registered and the licence issued] *Lacock, a dwelling house, the property of Thomas Dowsell, formerly known by the name of The White Hart. Independent. Robert Stevens, James Naish, William Hitchens, John Angel, jr., John Angel, sr., James Smolken, Joseph Angel, John Pritchard, residing in Lacock.*

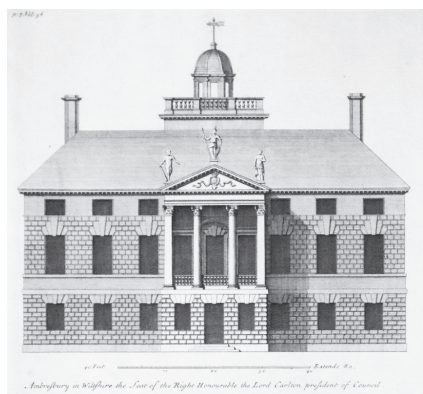
In the indictment, the description ‘late of Lacock’ probably means last known locality. The description of Edward Banks as a mason, tallies with his bridge work.

The Recognisance of Ale-house Keepers in the Hundred of Chippenham 1745 includes a Licencee Thomas Dowsell (probably a forebear of Thomas 1788), the White Hart, Lacock. In 1780 The White Hart became The Carpenters’ Arms, the present name of the inn. There is no doubt as to the site of the disturbance. Thomas Dowsell appears again in the 1745 lists as a surety for Thomas Webb at The Angel.

References:

1. Chandler, J., ed. 1985 *Wiltshire Dissenters’ Meeting House Certificates and Registrations 1689-1852* Devizes: Wiltshire Record Society, vol.40.

Brian Howells Banks

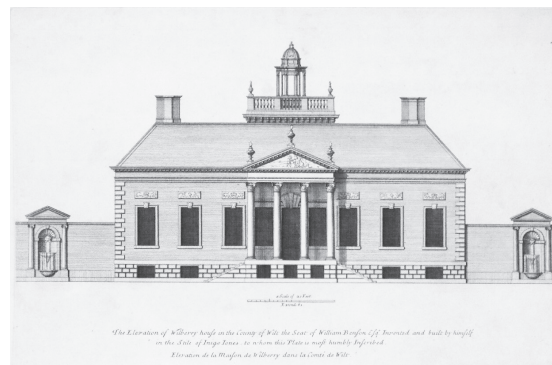


WILBURY HOUSE, NEWTON TONY

This latest contribution to my series of articles on sources for Wiltshire history held outside the county draws on a collection of personal, diplomatic, East India Company, financial and estate papers of the Malet family preserved by the South West Heritage Trust (incorporating the former Somerset Record Office) at Taunton. The family held lands and other assets predominantly in Somerset, but also in several other counties, including Wiltshire, and overseas. Their Wiltshire estates included Wilbury House and estate and the manor of Newton Tony, which Sir Charles Malet, baronet, purchased about 1803 from John Bradshaw, after the death of his brother, Thomas Bradshaw in 1800.¹

Thomas Bradshaw had acquired the Wilbury estate about 1783. The house had been designed by and built for William Benson, about 1710. It seems likely that it was influenced by John Webb’s 1661 design for Amesbury Abbey, of which Benson had been lessee since 1708. It was smaller than Amesbury, having a single main first-floor storey with rusticated basement at ground level and small attic rooms above. The south front had a portico with a pediment extending from ground to first floor and a belvedere and cupola atop the roof. Sketch drawings of the exterior of both houses were published in Colen Campbell’s *Vitruvius Britannicus* of 1725, which show similarities between the two designs in the early 18th century.²

The house has been altered considerably since 1710, but opinions differ on the dating of such changes. Nikolaus Pevsner suggested on stylistic grounds two phases of alterations: widening of the south-front portico and addition of an upper floor (c. 1740–1750) and the addition of a top frieze, north entrance hall and short wings in place of east and west flanking walls about 1775. The English Heritage listing suggests a date of c. 1760 for the two new wings and of c. 1770 for changes to the south entrance, but is unclear about when the second floor was heightened or added. Further alterations were probably made after



Amesbury Abbey (left) Wilbury House, Newton Tony (right). Both illustrations from Colen Campbell’s *Vitruvius Britannicus*
Courtesy of Mike Jones: www.rareoldprints.com/wiltshireprints

1783 by Bradshaw and certainly by the Malets after 1803. *VCH Wiltshire*, vol. 15, 143–153 sees the major changes, including the heightening of the attic rooms to form a second floor and the removal of the cupola and east staircase, as dating after 1773 and probably made after 1783 for Bradshaw.³

The Malet Papers contain accounts, rentals and surveys of the estate and also inventories of the contents which provide some information about the constituent rooms. Two inventories of the furniture and fittings and another of the books in the Library were made in 1800 by James Clarke and are preserved among the Malet Papers.⁴ Clarke appears to have occupied the Farm House; while the main house was said to be occupied by Francis George Smyth, Esquire. One inventory of contents (50 in 54 folios) is much fuller, marked up with valuations or prices in letter code and marked off as a checklist; the shorter contents inventory (14 in 16 folios) and the Library inventory (14 in 16 folios) were presumably compiled for probate purposes. Bradshaw's will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, though no inventory appears to have survived among the records of the court.⁵

The second inventory provides some indication of the rooms in the house, apparently beginning with the rooms on the upper floor, including attic rooms of servants. In 1797 Thomas Bradshaw and his resident chaplain, the Abbé Pierre-Guillaume-François Benoist had certified to the Wiltshire Quarter Sessions at Marlborough a chapel in the house for Roman Catholic worship.⁶ Most of the servants' bedrooms appear to have been on the upper floor; and this seems to be where the priest had his room, as did the steward. The inventory mentions in a later section one bedroom overlooking an area of the garden called 'The Grove' as being on the 'Chapel Floor', probably a floor at ground level since a 'Grove Room' is also recorded, possibly where there was side access at basement level to the garden and the park. From published sources it seems that the chapel was in the south room (now a bedroom) in the east wing.⁷

The chapel is noted after the main house, but before the Farm, outbuildings and workshops; and in the shorter inventory with the Sacristy, the Temple and the Farm House. There is no mention in either inventory of the ornamental tower on Tower Hill outside the park well to the east of the house and known locally as Benson's Folly; presumably there were no contents to be listed. The Temple contained only an octagonal painted table and six painted stools and 'a plan to Room' stored there. The temple, a summerhouse and two grottoes (one north of the house in the mound beneath the octagonal, domed Gothic summerhouse; the other beside the Bourne south-west) date from at least 1773.⁸ The temple and the tower had been demolished by 1817,⁹ though the summerhouse and grottoes still exist. The shorter

inventory mentions the temple, but not the summerhouse or the grottoes. The Sacristy, the Chapel and Temple were all sparsely furnished; the former contained three framed and glazed prints; the Chapel more fittingly 'two white Window Curtains, Lines, Laths and Tassels (complete) Callico, 6 Mahogany Pews and 2 Forms with Feet Boxes covered with Carpet, Painting and the Altar Piece'. The chapel had a fitted carpet and two pair of candlesticks. The entries for the buildings outside the house, including the outbuildings and the farm, give little indication of their structure, but the contents identified as belonging to the estate indicate that there was a fully functioning farm before Park Farm is said to have been established.¹⁰

The principal bedrooms and family rooms were probably on the first and second floors above the ground floor basement rooms and below attics in the roof.¹¹ Most rooms were identified by decoration or position: white, blue, chintz, crimson and green, and 'Dome bedroom' or by their use or location: dressing rooms (one 'Japan'), dining parlour, drawing room, front hall, library and saloon, though two rooms recalled a former use: old drawing room and old hall. These appear to have been near rooms and offices of the butler and the housekeeper, the servants' hall, kitchen, scullery and other domestic offices probably on the basement floor, perhaps recalling a period before the house was extended. Some rooms were identified as overlooking the courtyard or garden. Out of a total of about 43 rooms, 18 were used by the family, 12 were occupied by senior or lesser servants, with 13 rooms used for the general service of the household. Beside the main house there were the chapel, sacristy, temple, workshops, timber and farming stores and outbuildings and the Farm, as well as livestock, including a range of fowl and table birds, rounded off with a lone ferret. The total value of the chattels, excluding the books in the Library, amounted to £1,261 14s. 0d.

The Library contained standard reference works, such as Rushworth's Collections and Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, Statutes at Large, Journals of the House of Commons and dictionaries. There were works of classical authors with a substantial proportion of more modern French and other European works, which may reflect the interests of the Abbé Benoist. The collection is predominantly literary, but also covers foreign history and travel, some English topography and local history, agricultural and husbandry, sporting and veterinary subjects. Subjects which may have reflected Bradshaw's political and religious interests (and possibly Benoist's influence) were works on the lives of the Popes and cardinals, the Marriage Act, and historical studies of revolutions and political and philosophical memoirs and published correspondence.

Duncan Chalmers

Notes:

1. South West Heritage Trust, Archives (DD\MAL)
2. Architectural sketches of the original house were included in Colen Campbell *Vitruvius Britannicus*, vol.1, 1715, plates 51 and 52 (elevation of south front and plan of principal floor), and in his 1725 edition, which contained illustrations of both Wilbury House and Amesbury Abbey. Nikolaus Pevsner & Bridget Cherry *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire* (1975), pp. 92 and 573 contain similar sketches for Amesbury and Wilbury. *VCH Wiltshire*, vol. 15, 147-8 also reproduces the sketch of c. 1710 and notes that Wilbury lacked Amesbury Abbey's tall ground floor, and had its two staircases in different positions from the staircases in Amesbury Abbey. Additionally John Bold, *Wilton House and English Palladianism: some Wiltshire houses* (HMSO, 1988), pp. 124-135 reproduces Campbell's drawing of the south front elevation and plan of the house as designed in 1710, a comparative drawing of the original and extended house, together with an 1813 engraving of the south-front of the house and modern photographs of the house and related structures in the park. The 1813 engraving by John Chaloner Smith, based on a watercolour drawing by Samuel Prout, showing later alterations was published in E.W. Brayley & J. Britton *The Beauties of England and Wales* in 1813.
3. N. Pevsner & B. Cherry in *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire* (1975), pp. 573-57. *VCH Wiltshire*, vol. 15, 147-148 dates the changes mentioned by Pevsner as after 1773 (citing Andrews' and Dury's map of that year, presumably as negative evidence for an earlier date) and presumes that they were carried out for Bradshaw, inferring that it was then that the attic rooms were heightened to create a higher second storey and the cupola and the east staircase were removed. If so, the reference in the Bradshaw inventories (see below) to 'the Dome room' in 1800 is puzzling, though the name may simply have persisted and survived the removal of the cupola. It is generally agreed that the attic rooms appear to have been staff rooms, and the basements housed the kitchen, cellars and other service rooms. This reflects the arrangement of rooms in the inventories of 1800.
4. South West Heritage Trust, Archives (DD\MAL/110)
5. The National Archives, PROB 11/1343 ff. 454v-456v.
6. *VCH Wiltshire*, vol. 3, 91. Benoist (1759-1835) had been educated in France at Lisieux College and later in a seminary, before being ordained and returning to his birthplace of Honfleur, where he served as one of twelve priests in the parish church of St. Leonard. Following the revolution he left, with his fellow priests from St. Leonard, for England, where he served the Catholic community as a preacher and confessor. (*L'Ami de la Religion*, vol. 85, pp. 565-566 (Paris, 1835).
7. *VCH Wiltshire*, vol. 15, 147 and John Bold, *Wilton House and English Palladianism: some Wiltshire houses* (HMSO, 1988), p. 133.
8. On the evidence of Andrews' and Dury's Map of Wiltshire, 1773 (see Wiltshire Record Society, vol. 8).

9. *VCH Wiltshire*, vol. 15, 148; the ornamental tower is not shown on the first edition of the 1" Ordnance Survey map sheet of 1817.

10. The Farm was obviously already an integral part of the estate and the farmhouse in existence before the erection of Park Farm (later Manor Farm) which *VCH Wiltshire*, Vol. 15, 150 dates from the early 19th century. The inventories of Thomas Bradshaw's personal estate conclude with a lengthy list of goods in the Farm occupied by John Clarke, including carpenter's workshop, timber and iron stores, barns and farming assets of livestock, grain, hay, ale, seed and farming tools and implements. Clarke was still there in November 1813, when he was identified as the bailiff at Wilbury Farm House in a letting advertisement in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal on 30 Nov 1813 for property in Newton Tony.

11. It seems probable that when the attic floor was heightened to form a second storey of taller rooms, the attic rooms immediately above the south portico, which retained a pediment rising above the floor line of the second storey, were unaffected, though the 1813 engraving shows two windows above the portico. If the engraving and its original drawing can be relied upon these windows were replaced at some time after 1813, when the portico was raised and the pediment removed, by the present three small windows at a level slightly higher than the other second floor windows east and west of the portico. This would account for the occurrence of an attic storey and rooms in the second inventory of 1800.

Editor's note: Members might be interested to know that Mike Jones of Bath holds a number of antique maps and prints, of both English counties and foreign countries, many of which are for sale: www.rareoldprints.com. And members with long memories will recall the enjoyable AGM held at Wilbury House some years ago, which ended with glasses of Guinness in the basement!

MELKSHAM MANORIAL POUND

Paul Rendall's accounts of 1761-9 (WSA 947/1000) for cash received and paid on behalf of Walter Long of South Wraxall and Bath show that in 1762, as lord of the manor of Melksham, Walter rebuilt the pound. In October £2. 18s. 3d. was paid to John Franklon & Co. for masons' work. In November William Webb was paid 11 shillings for carriage of 'morter earth' and Widow Hunter was paid 3s. 2d. for lead for cramps (to join stones together). The same month, the firm William Usher & Co. was paid 5 shillings for breaking stones and wheeling them in to floor the pound. In December William Rawlings was paid £3. 0s. 10d. for 'coaping etc' indicating that the walls were complete. In January Mr John Marshman was paid £6. 2s. 0d. for carrying stones there. Finally, in April, Joseph Terrell (of Hilperton) was paid for carpentry work at the pound and elsewhere and Thomas Wyatt was paid 9s.

9d. for gravel and carriage etc. Was this a member of the famous Wyatt family of surveyors and architects living in the Devizes area?

Families often continued in the building trades for many generations. Thus John Hunter was a painter and glazier at Melksham in the period 1793-8 and Hunter and Berry were plumbers, painters and glaziers at Church Street, Melksham in 1830 (both in WRS vol. 47). William 'Rawlins' is also known as the builder of the lock-up on the Green at Steeple Ashton in 1773.

Pam Slocombe

REQUISITION OF HORSES BY THE WAR OFFICE, 1912-15

Before the outbreak of WWI, the War Office was already keeping a close eye on the availability of any likely horse or vehicle which could be used as part of the deployment to meet the needs of the Army in the event of a National Emergency. The horses would be required by the cavalry, mounted officers, the artillery and for the movement of stores and ammunition. Therefore, by 1912 booklets had been distributed detailing the type of horses that might need to be requisitioned. One such booklet was kept by Mr. Keevil who lived near Melksham, Wiltshire, and who is believed to have been a horse dealer. Additionally, requisitioning officers would keep up-to-date registers of suitable horses or vehicles. This certainly happened in Wiltshire, according to the correspondence between Mr. Keevil and Capt. Kennedy Shaw, Deputy Assistant Remount, Teffont Magna, Wiltshire. The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre has some of their correspondence, referring only to the north and north-west of the county and between 1912 and 1915. The 1912 booklet uses some horsey language and photographs to illustrate the horses the War office might wish to impress should there be a National Emergency:

In peacetime horses should be 4-7 years old and 6-12 years old during wartime.

Colour – white, or grey, for special purposes and always specially ordered. Light or washy colours not accepted.

No unmanageable, vicious, crib-biters, wind-suckers, parrot-mouthed, or undershot, no capped elbows, damaged knees, injured or deficient teeth. No droopy lips.

Horses with short docks not acceptable by cavalry.

No worn out, upright or overshot joints and none with hocks.

Need to be sound in wind, eye and limb.

Then there is a more defined list:

The Household Cavalry need black horses of 4 years, 15.3 hands or at 6 years 16 hands.

Cavalry of the Line. The horse needs deep, short legs, short back, good barrel (of the hunter stamp), light, active and moves easily without brushing of joints. Well

ribbed and plenty of bone. Need 1,000 horses.

Royal Artillery. Need weight carrying hunter. Able to take its place in a gun team in an emergency. At 4 years, 15.2 to 16 hands.

Royal Engineers and ASC. Draught horses known as "parcel vanners", able to trot with a good load behind. At 4 years, 15.2 to 15.3 hands. Need 1,360 horses.

ASC horses. At 4 years, 15.2 to 15.3 hands.

Mounted Infantry of the cob or Galloway class. Quick, active and gallop short distances. At 4 years, 14.2 to 15.1 hands.

May be used in polo. Need 140 horses.

Before 1913 Mr. Keevil had received more information about the training of horses. It is unknown if he trained them for the Army, but he did supply them, if and when they were suitable. In 1913 he was informed that draught horses needed no more training but that cavalry horses would need further training; the War Office having realised that cavalrymen and their mounts require joint training. During the previous three years, however, these requirements seem to have been vaguely expressed. The requirements of the Territorial Force of 14 Divisions and 14 Mounted Brigades needed to be catered for besides those of the Regular army.

The War Office estimated that its planned Expeditionary Force of six infantry divisions and one of cavalry, to be deployed wherever needed, and the mobilisation of the remainder of the country's army of Reservists and Territorial Forces, would require the requisition of 140,000 horses.

Mr. Keevil kept a memo dated 1912 which explains how horses would be acquired should there be a National Emergency. It reiterates the Army Annual Act 1911 which states the King would declare a National Emergency and authorise the requisition of horses and vehicles needed for Service, which were to be promptly impressed according to section 114 of the Army Act and collected and issued to troops needing them.

Counties were divided into areas and controlled by authorized officers who had the power to enter private stables between 6 am and 9 pm to see what horses or vehicles suitable for military use they contained. If entry was refused, the Deputy Assistant Director of Remounts, Capt. Kennedy Shaw, of Teffont, in our example, would call to explain the urgency and authority. Failing co-operation from the owner, a search warrant provided by a Justice of the Peace would direct a constable to accompany the officer to the premises to affect the requisition. Care was taken not to deprive owners of all their animals. Forty-eight hours' notice was given to requisition and any horse or vehicle acquired by the Army would be taken to an already prepared centre within 10 miles, before being consigned to the unit in need. 'Horses' may also have included mules.

All registers, according to section 114 (2), needed to be available for inspection. A dissatisfied owner could complain to a court of summary jurisdiction, which had the authority to alter a register. Likewise the horse dealer, who in the official form is called a Prominent Gentleman, who would be acquainted with the value of horses or vehicles, would act as the purchaser on behalf of the War Office. The Army had already issued their trusted agents with cheque books and Mr. Keevil was in receipt of one.

Once the National Emergency had been declared, the Requisition of Emergency was issued and signed by a General or Field Officer and authorized by a Royal Warrant. Then a Justice of the Peace would issue the Impressment Warrant. If this warrant was refused by an owner, a 'written demand' for the animals or vehicles needed the conclusive authority of the Chief Constable. If this occurred the constable holding the warrant would execute his duty in the presence of the army officer and with a collecting party remove the required horses and vehicles. The army officer would give the constable the warrant signed by the Justice of the Peace and a list of horses and vehicles required. The constable would sign each form as he went round with the collecting party and serve the proper notice of each to the owner. At this point, after the payment to the owner for animals and vehicles requisitioned, the duty of the constable was over. If there was any difficulty or the animals or vehicles were not handed over willingly the constable then had the duty to ensure the order was enforced by reminding the owner a fine would follow failure to comply with registration of animals or vehicles, or refusal to allow them to be impressed. Once the animals or vehicles were handed over to the collecting party the officer then assumed charge of them on behalf of the military authority.

This was the situation in 1913 and although the above refers to Wiltshire, it could also be repeated throughout the United Kingdom.

Correspondence from the man signing himself as Shaw - Remount Teffont was kept by Mr. Keevil for several years. It includes much ponderous correspondence especially in the early days and includes letters covering the four months it took to get a branding iron needed by Mr. Keevil to be sent to him from Tidworth. During 1914 there seems to be more communication and as time wore on letters were replaced by telegrams. On 31st July 1914 Mr. Keevil was told 'immediate purchasing of horses to be done on receipt of this telegram and to waive the 10 mile radius to a collecting point. Pay fees for horses - no quibbling and direct horses to railway stations. Police and Railway companies notified'.

Capt. Shaw sent a telegram saying, 'from noon today (3rd August 1914) you can commence "draw pay" for horses'. Mr. Keevil had already been sent another army cheque book in May because the 'army

thinks they have underestimated the number of horses they will need'. £100 had already been deposited at Capital and Counties Bank, Melksham. He would need to mention N 1531 for the relevant forms to be filled in and also the need for receipts for over 5s. and any receipt over £2 would need a stamp as per the Stamp Act.

4th August saw Mr Keevil beginning a whirlwind of a day. A telegram was received from Capt. Shaw with the heading OHMS and this meant that the Nation was at War. However, many of the local gentry had already left for their summer holidays, which complicated the requisitioning of their horses: one man sent a telegram telling Mr. Keevil to meet him at the kennels at 3.30 pm and he could have any horse for the price he had paid for it, signed Preston; another from Lord Bath, sent 8.20 am and received 8.37 am saying quite clearly, 'Am counting on you to provide 45 horses by Saturday', signed Thynne; then another from a person called Lopes (*most likely one of the Lopes family of Westbury, ed.*), 'Away from home, please see my coachman'. And finally a few days later, on 6th August, another official telegram saying, 'horses belonging to railway companies are not to be impressed and spare as many as possible'.

A week later another telegram instructed Mr. Keevil not to buy any more draught horses until asked to do so. So obviously either the farmers were losing too many draught or cart horses, or the military had already requisitioned sufficient. It seems that all requisitioned horses were examined by a vet because the telegram also says 'tell your vet that we do not mind a few blemishes or a few bumps, but no side bones as they may have to do a lot of road work. If necessary go over £50-£60 bound for Field Artillery and must be good ones. 60 horses to be sent to Wilts Yeomanry.'

I have no idea if Mr. Keevil used or owned a telephone, but probably he did not, because the telegrams sent to him could also be used as receipts of instructions. Poor Mr. Keevil must have been running in circles and the telegraph boy cycling around trying to find him. The Army had earlier stressed the need for a deputy whom Mr. Keevil could trust to hold purchasing papers and instructions on how to contact the army-approved veterinary surgeon. When the time arrived for horses to be sent to units the Army expected six horses to be handled by one rider even if the horses were to travel by train, when the rider would have a return third class ticket. The vet in question was Mr. Galledge of Trowbridge who apparently would need to travel to Melksham to visit Mr. Keevil's farm. We have no idea how he managed to get there.

It seems that Mr. Keevil kept horses as well as trading in them. It was agreed with the Army that if any horse needed a rest period, 5s. per horse for grass would be paid for up to eight weeks. And as time

wore on mares who were found to be in foal were put to pasture locally. This included several from the Canadian forces on Salisbury Plain and some that were shipped home from the Continent. Mr. Keevil would bill the Army for looking after these animals and one animal, a Canadian mare, incurred a bill for over £6. There seems to have been a mishap with Yeomanry horses needing rest because their bill was 7s. 6d. a week and Capt. Shaw said they had to pay the excess themselves. By May 1915 the vet was asked to check all mares on Mr. Keevil's farm and the question of ownership of foals was now addressed. It was agreed that all foals could be kept by Mr. Keevil and the mares boarded free of charge until the foal was weaned. But Mr. Keevil needed to have all 'feet trimmed and shod before sending on'.

The end of the correspondence is in sight and there is no more saved communication between these two men. There is a memo from Mr. Keevil which says he had sent 44 horses to the Reserve Park at Portsmouth, including some from the Co-op, Church Street, Melksham and from Stratton and Son, High Street, Melksham, and that he had had to use civilian labour and had entrained the horses at 6 pm at Melksham on the day of mobilisation. Some horses must have been beauties because there is a note, dated 14th August 1914, which states he had sent 45 horses to 4th Wiltshire Yeomanry at Warminster: 31 horses for £1,238, (an average of £39.94 per horse); 10 for £466 with a total bill for £1,772 for all of them.

The correspondence sent to Mr. Keevil ceases mid-1915. Maybe this is because there were no more suitable horses to be acquired locally for the Army. Horses, wild and not broken in, were now being purchased from Argentina, USA, Canada and Australia and shipped to the United Kingdom to replace those already lost in the conflict. One of the areas to which these horses were sent was on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

The above, concerning Mr. Keevil: see WSA 2681/1 at Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

As a postscript: WSA 2515/210 box 183 contains correspondence between the Principal Secretary of State for War and Great Western Railway on behalf of the Army Horses Reserve – Artillery. This agreement was in force from June 1st 1913 with a three year term. It lists the payment per horse and also the extra amount to be paid if the collar is also taken. Issued by Mint Stables, Paddington.

Barbara Saunt

GRAFFITI AS RECORDS

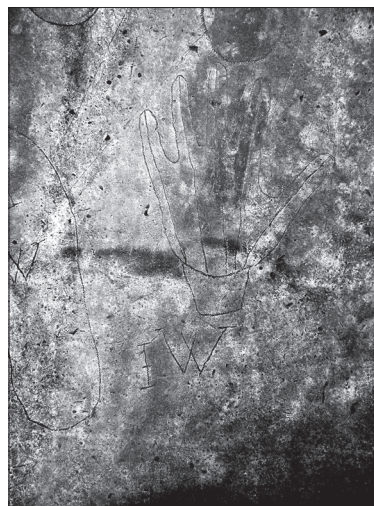
The ringing chamber of the tower of St Peter's Church, Codford, and the lead roof of the tower of St Mary's would seem, at first glance, to be an

unlikely source of social or even family history. But a couple of members of the Codford Local History Society examined both a few years back, and made some interesting discoveries.

The ringing chamber is of Chilmark stone and well-known for its facility of carving and a number of graffiti decorate its walls. These are mostly straightforward initials and dates, the earliest of which appears to be: I [J] S · 1687. Several men (and we are assuming that the graffiti were made by boys and young men) at the time might fit those initials, not least the Rector, the Rev. John Swayne. But there was also a John Searchfield, baptised in 1672, who would have been 13 when the graffiti were made, so a highly likely candidate.

Other graffiti on the walls record ST 1715, John Sturges 1791 and R^d Sturges 1864. W [Walter] Ford, who was born in the editor's house, was proud enough of his birthplace to add: Codford June 26 1875, to his name, and F I Flower, the organist son of Isaac Flower, Codford's 19th century resident surgeon, left his mark in October 1864. There are several sets of early 20th century initials, mostly from the Ford family, who were carpenters and builders and therefore had the best excuses to be up in the tower, outside ringing hours. Of course, there is always the possibility that it is the work of bored bell ringers across the centuries; but bell ringing needs concentration and there is little time for hanging about looking for something to do!

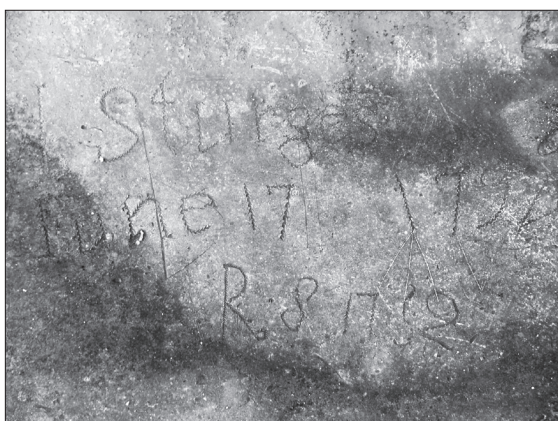
The tower of St Mary's Church is better represented by its graffiti in the leadwork. The motifs here take the form of outlines of shoes and of spread hands, the shapes having been pecked round with, perhaps, a centre punch. Shoe outlines, which are sometimes very pointed, have C.A. 1776, JS 1794 and I[J]N 1769 inscribed in or across them. JB 1794 was probably here at the same time as JS; and CA (1776) appears to have made his mark again in 1778. A hand outline has what may be CRA 1778 on it. And a very pointed shoe simply reads WS. A very neat hand, converted into a glove, with I[J]W beneath it.



Not all the graffiti here consist of hands and feet. These were the easiest to draw, the template being very much to hand! On a plain piece of lead is the legend James King 1794. No baptism has been found for him in either parish:



and another with J. Sturges June 17 1799 (possibly John, baptised 1780);



beneath it is another which reads R.S. 1752 [?]. possibly a Richard Sturges.

But most intriguing of all is a crude drawing of a male figure in profile, with a large eye, stick arms and fingers, stick legs with shoes, a small hat and small, but definite male appendages. Inscribed along his body are the words John George, but there is no date. No baptism for a John George has been found in the registers of either parish, but a likely candidate may be one John George who was born in Tilshead about 1658. It over- or underlies a shoe shape, inscribed C.A. 1776, but it is difficult to say which was drawn first.



There is a county project in progress at the moment, run by Tony Hack of WANHS, to record all the extant graffiti in standing buildings within Wiltshire. This is part of a nationwide attempt to do the same and has been successfully undertaken by the county of Norfolk. Tony Hack is coming to Codford in the early part of 2016 to mentor the CLHS in their attempts at making a complete record of the graffiti in both parish churches.

Sally Thomson

AGM

The AGM for 2016, as noted earlier, will be held on Saturday 25th June in St Mary's Church, Devizes. This is a redundant Church and the former congregation have been invited to attend our meeting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions to the Society are now due. Please send subscriptions to: Ivor Slocombe, 11 Belcombe Place, Bradford on Avon, Wilts. BA15 1NA, cheques made payable to Wiltshire Record Society. The subscription remains at £15 annually.

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