

The Survey

of Bath and District

The Magazine of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.7, June 1997

Editors: Mike Chapman

Elizabeth Holland



The west front of Bath Abbey Church in 1788. This issue of *The Survey* features its stained glass windows, and the connection between the Abbey and the Chapman family.

NEWS FROM THE SURVEY

A short study of the Southgate and Ham area, in the same format as before and funded by B&NES Grants to Voluntary Bodies, is now being published.

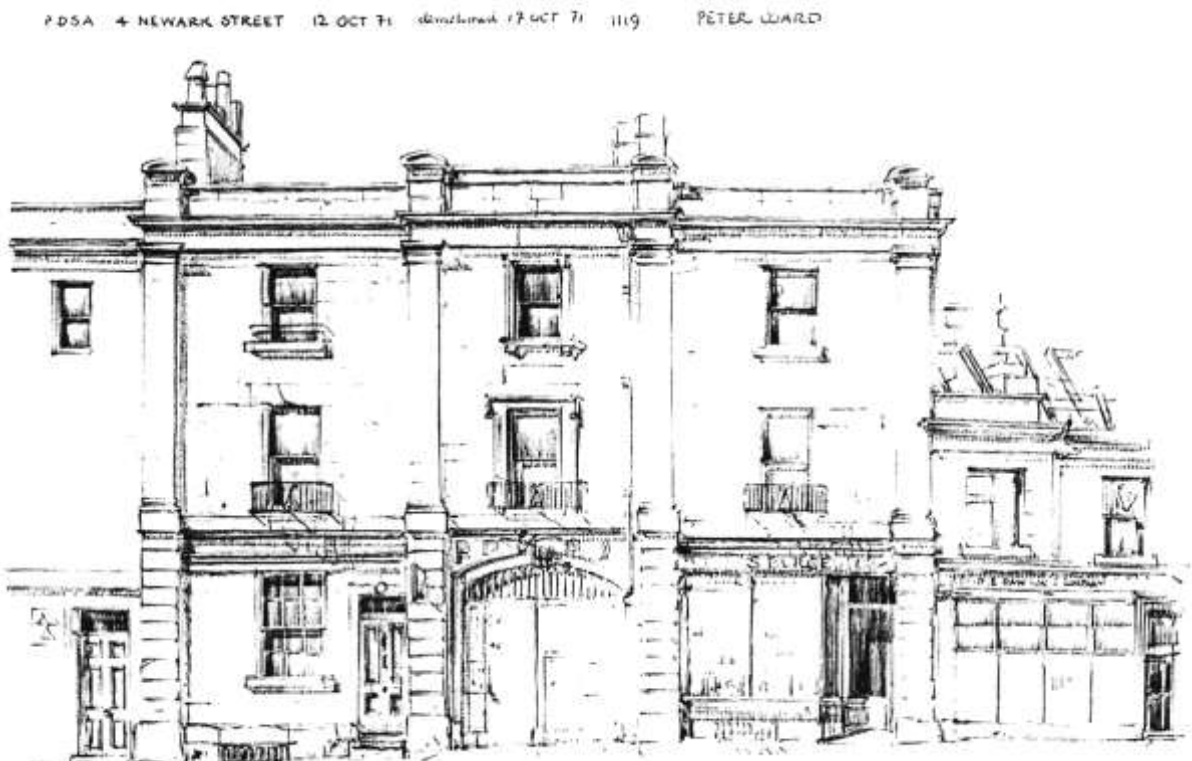
The effects of trying to study the life of Scarborough Chapman of Widcombe are still with us. With the assistance of others, the Survey managed to determine, by last October, that the real manorial centre of Lyncombe and Widcombe was not Scarborough's Widcombe House, but the site of Lyncombe Hall in Lyncombe Vale, bought by William Chapman the distiller in 1727. Other Chapmans had held the site before him, and the truth about Lyncombe Farm, as it used to be called, became the basis of the legend of Widcombe House/Manor. Lyncombe Hall stands in a beautiful spot, and Mike and Elizabeth spent a marvellous afternoon there in May taking slides for a talk Mike will be giving to the WLHSG in September. Meanwhile John Hawkes will be leading a walk around Lyncombe Vale on Thursday 31 July, starting at the Paragon School gates at 7 p.m. Notices advertising this walk have already been sent out.

We are holding talks about raising funds for our proposed Georgian map, but grants for historical topography are very difficult to raise, as we already know. A B&NES grant has been received for a publication on Twerton, which will be created by Mike Chapman. Elizabeth meanwhile hopes to make progress with the Chapman leatherworkers.

We have put together a summary of some of the research on the spa done in Bath in the last twenty years or so. Copies will be made available at the Record Office, Library, etc. We are planning an exhibition in the Central Library in 1998, and hope to re-exhibit some of our own displays on the baths. We have also been helping the Record Office prepare catalogues for its coming computerisation. As recorded under "Notes and Queries", the Record Office holds the main body of sources on our subjects of topography and Bath buildings and will eventually hold the major database on these subjects.

Chairman of the Survey: Mike Chapman, 51 Newton Road, Bath BA2 IRW. 01225 426948

Secretary-Treasurer: Elizabeth Holland, 16 Prior Park Buildings, Bath BA2 4NP, B&NE Somerset. 01225 313581



We are sorry to announce the unexpected death of Tony Simons, a member of the Committee of the Friends. The Survey and the Friends are glad to have had the opportunity to hear Tony speak about the stained glass windows of the Abbey at the November 1996 meeting, a subject for which he had a great enthusiasm. A booklet on these windows had been planned by the Abbey. Priscilla Olver has provided an account of his talk, with a tribute to Tony, printed below.

Our other speaker in November was Robert Bell, who discussed recent excavations south of the Abbey. Rob's article "Bath Abbey: Some New Perspectives" appeared in *Bath History* VI 1996. Mrs.Hodkinson and her team once again served a wonderful lunch at the meeting.

The President of the Friends, Dr.John Wroughton, will be speaking at the Pump Room at 8p.m.on Friday 27 June, as part of the Bath Abbey 2000 lecture series. Tickets, if still available, from the Secretary of the Friends of Bath Abbey, 13 Kingston Buildings, Bath BA1 1LT, at £5 each, including coffee and biscuits afterwards. The lecture will be preceded by a service in the Abbey to mark its patronal festival, beginning at 7 p.m. John's lecture will cover the history of the Abbey and religion in Bath from the Civil War to the Age of Reason. His new book, *The Stuart Age, 1603-1714* is now being published by Longmans. A notice of it appears under "Publications".

John now lives in one of the flats in the refurbished Empire and has invited the Friends to hold their A.G.M. there on 19 June 1997.

Mrs.Ruth Haskins published an article on 6 May in the *Chronicle*, "Lively City Square", on recent happenings in Queen Square. On 8 March 1997 she was featured in their series "On the Record", under the title "Historically speaking". She was photographed at home by pictures of her four children, and her Top Ten record choices followed. Marek Lewcun had already appeared on 15 February, under "Hello to the history man", also by Angela Marks, portraying him standing by the Great Roman Bath. His first record choice went to his mother, the singer Daphne Whittock, rendering "Ave Maria". We shall be glad to share these articles with anyone who missed them.

David McLaughlin has accepted the invitation to speak to the Friends on John James Chapman's volume of calotypes on 7 November 1997.

Mrs.Phyllis Thomas of New Zealand has become a Life Member of the Friends of the Survey. Phyllis Thomas is a descendant of Captain John James Chapman, and has supplied much of the material used in our studies of Captain John James. Her grandfather was John James' son Richard John. She has visited Bath more than once, including visits to the Abbey.

Professor Robert Alexander has now been appointed Dean. As his letter says, we prophetically appointed him Dean in an earlier issue. We must have thought he was Dean material.

Mrs.Barbara Lowe of Keynsham has also joined the Friends. Barbara Lowe, who is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, is well known for her work on Keynsham Abbey and on special items there like the floriated crosses. We have quoted from her publications on medieval floor tiles. She is Vice-Chairman of the Keynsham Heritage Trust which hopes to establish a Keynsham Museum, with the backing and support of B&NES officials such as Stephen Clews. The *Chronicle* carried a picture of Barbara on 6 January 1997, beside a beautiful Romanesque carving of Samson and the lion which she discovered during a dig on the site of Keynsham Abbey. Mrs.Lowe's discoveries have received international attention.

Secretary of the Friends of the Survey: Mrs.June Hodkinson, 55 Connaught Mansions, Great Pulteney Street, Bath BA2 4BP. 01225 465526



(this and following page)
Medieval floor tiles of
Keynsham Abbey, from
Mrs.Barbara Lowe's book



FRIENDS OF THE SURVEY OF OLD BATH

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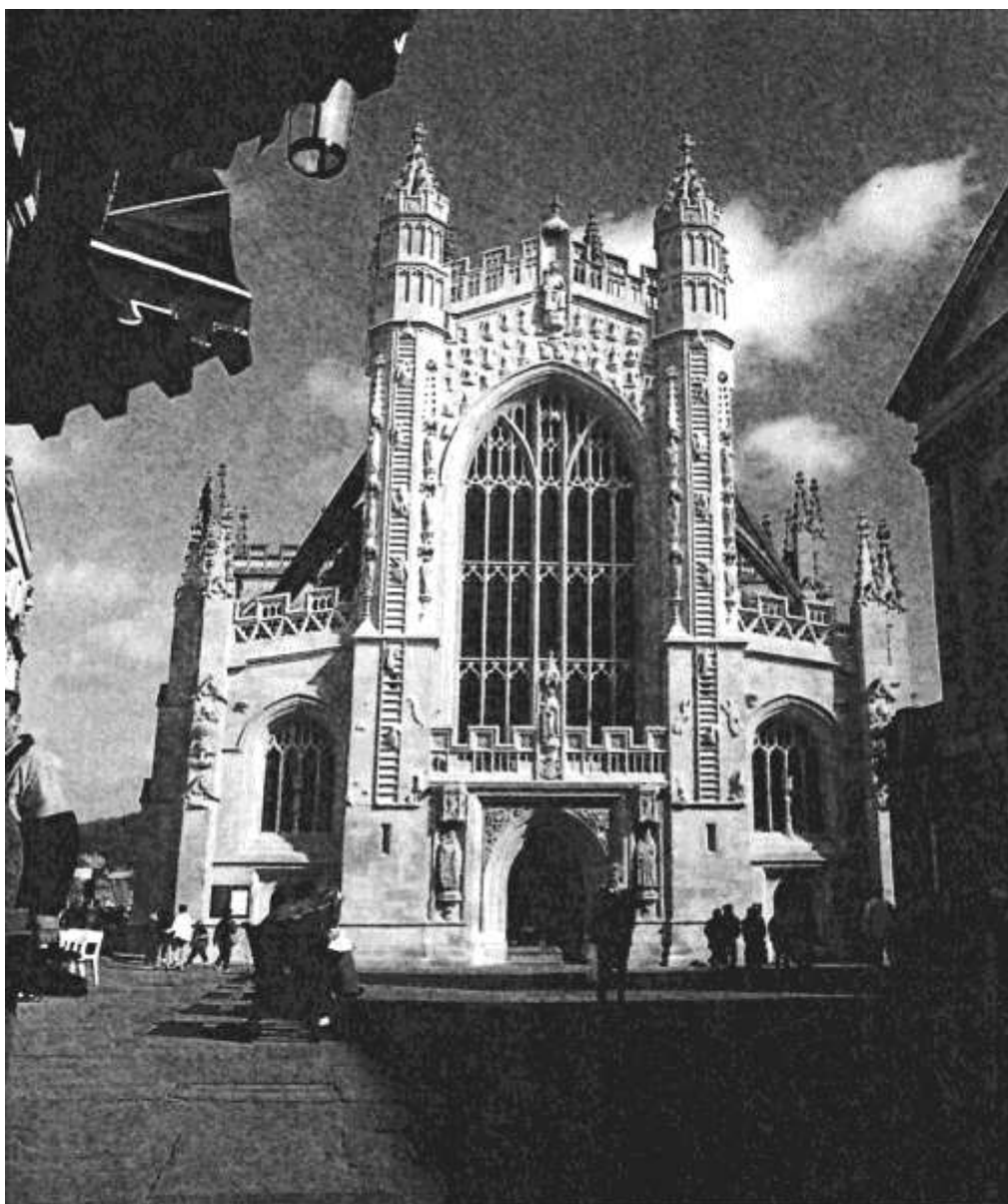
ANTHONY CALTON SYMONS

Anthony Symons died on 23 May, 1997, very suddenly at home, aged 72. He leaves a widow, Hazel, like him a founder member of the Friends of the Survey of Old Bath, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Tony, as he was known to everyone, retired to Bath in 1985 having previously worked at the Tate Gallery where he was the Librarian. From the time he arrived, Tony put his knowledge and experience at the service of local history and art. As a volunteer at the Victoria Art Gallery, he made a filing system of all the history files since 1900. At Bath Abbey he was involved in implementing research, notably of the stained glass, and with the Heritage Vaults.

When the Friends was first mooted, Tony was on the steering committee and gave the association his active support thereafter. Friends and Abbey guests will long remember his excellent presentation on the Abbey Church's stained glass windows last November.

Tony will be sadly missed by so many people who shared his wide interests and valued his knowledge and sense of humour and very particularly so by the Friends for his sustained interest and encouragement in its formative years. We hope that Hazel will feel able to continue her own warmly appreciated involvement, in due course.



Photograph by Marek Lewcun.

BATH ABBEY CHURCH'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS
A talk with slides by Tony Symons on Friday 8 November, 1996.

Report by Priscilla Olver

The excellent slides, taken mainly by Marek Lewcun with some taken by Tony and Hazel Symons, were greatly appreciated by the large audience of Friends and their guests as they revealed the beautiful colours of the glass which are being rediscovered as the cleaning proceeds.

Tony introduced the talk with two slides of the patron saints of the Abbey Church, ST.PETER and ST.PAUL, to be found at the bottom of the window of 1922 origin in the North Transept. It is hoped this window will be more easily accessible when the restoration of the organ has been completed.

As Tony proceeded to describe the windows, working in a clockwise direction, he showed another window which it is easy to overlook, situated over the N.W. PORCH, installed by the Chance Brothers in 1862.

The ST.BARBE is a heraldic window. The original window was in place in 1614 bearing the arms of the St.Barbe family. The window was restored by Clayton and Bell in 1866.

The next slide shown was of the SODEN MEMORIAL window also by Clayton and Bell, in 1897, depicting scenes from the New Testament.

THE SHIELDS OF THE 17TH CENTURY BENEFACTORS, originally in the clerestory windows damaged during World War II, were restored into a window fitted in 1951 using as much of the recovered original armorial glass as possible.

Another window by Clayton and Bell in 1870 was a gift of Preb.Kemble. It illustrates "YOUTHFUL PIETY". Preb.Kemble lost a son at sea and it is believed this window, depicting Samuel and Timothy, was installed in his memory.

The SELWYN MEMORIAL window. It is Whitefriars' glass with a White Friar concealed in a border on the lower right-hand slide. It was designed by James Powell and Sons in 1948.

THE EDGAR WINDOW, known also as the HERBERT BRICE MUNDAY, depicts the Crowning of the First King of England, King Edgar, in the Saxon Abbey of Bath on Whitsunday, 11 May 973 A.D.

THE EAST WINDOW: also by Clayton and Bell, it was started in 1872 and completed within six months. The window depicts fifty-six events in the life of our Lord from the Annunciation to the Ascension. Some diamonds of coloured glass from the previous East Window given by Thomas Bellott are said to be incorporated in the clerestory on the North side of the chancel. It was damaged in 1942 but restored by Mr.C. Farrar Bell, great grandson of the original designer.

THE BOYD MEMORIAL WINDOW in the Norman Chapel was installed in memory of Prebendary Sydney Adolphus Boyd, Rector 1901-1938, Archdeacon of Bath 1924-1938. It depicts Bishop John de Villula, the first Bishop of Bath, consecrating the Norman Cathedral as it might have been.

THE GOMM WINDOW was given in memory of William Gomm and his descendants who are buried in the Abbey Church. Work by Burlison and Grylls of London.

"ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS": this window in the South Transept was the gift of the Canterbury Diocesan Authorities and came from the Church of St Michael's (now demolished), Folkestone in 1953. It is presumed that the window was plain glass before 1953.

"A JESSE WINDOW" in the South Transept shows the genealogy of Our Lord's family from the stem of Jesse (St. Luke:3.) in the upper portion. It is one of the three great Abbey Church windows, together with the East and West windows.

THE NOKE WINDOW: given in memory of Major Edward Noke, first V.B., Somerset L.I. and his sons. It represents "THE PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND" and "HEROES OF THE WEST COUNTRY".

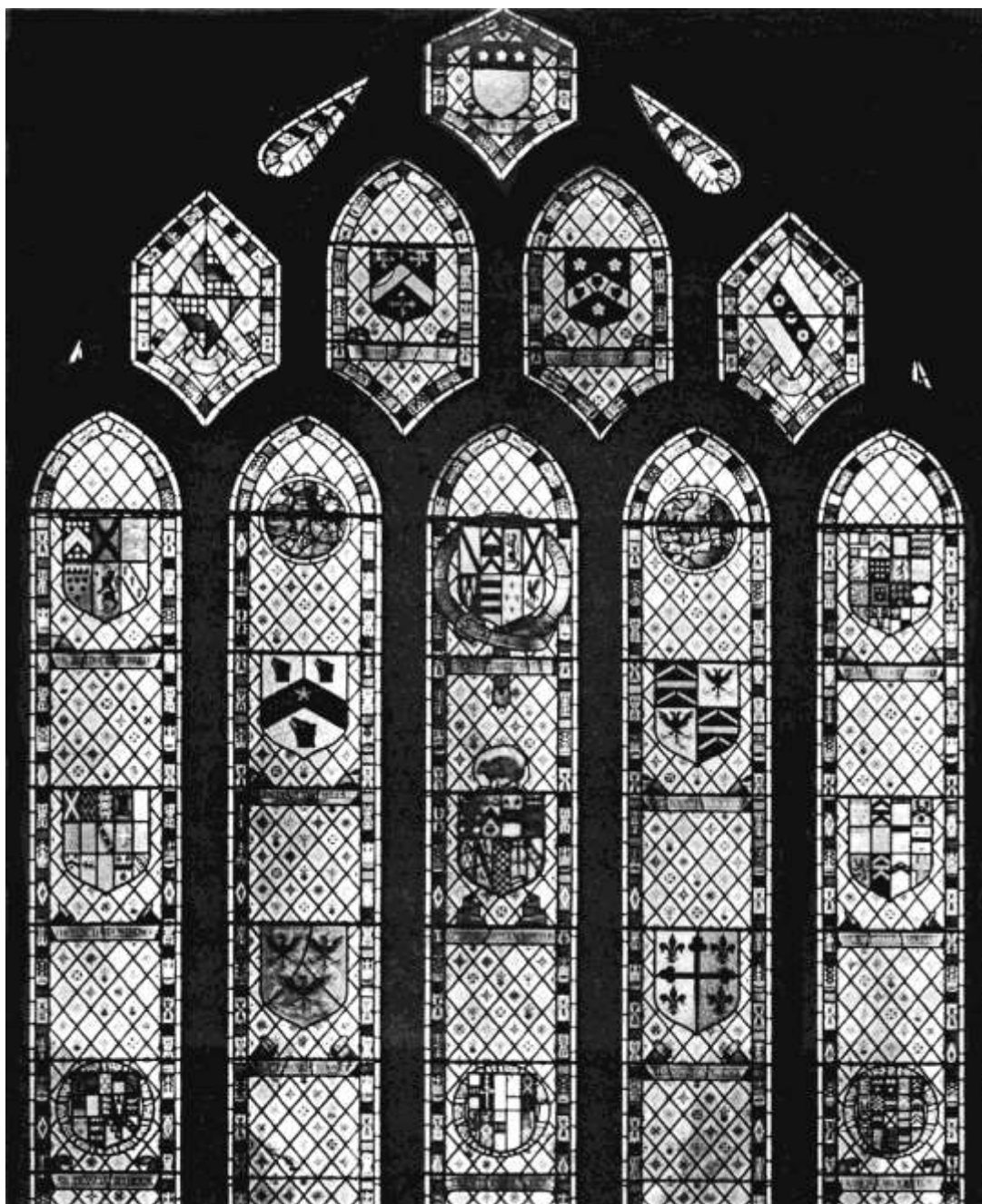
"BUILDERS AND RESTORERS OF THE TEMPLE" above the S.W. Porch. This window was designed by Bell of Bristol and presented by the contractors engaged in the 19th century restoration of

the Abbey Church.

THE WEST WINDOW: this window illustrating twenty-one scenes from the Old Testament was also designed by Clayton and Bell. There were various donors but no records are currently available.

THE CLERESTORY: the clerestory windows were destroyed in the bombing of April 1942. Originally they contained the arms of some of the 17th century benefactors, of which only one example remains on the South side of the clerestory, second window from the West end. As mentioned, some of the glass was salvaged after bombing and incorporated into "THE SHIELDS OF THE 17TH CENTURY BENEFACTORS" window.

In the relatively brief time available, Tony ably succeeded in conveying to his audience something of the beauty and history of the Abbey's stained glass, hidden in recent times by scaffolding but soon to re-emerge in all its glory.



The heraldic 17th century glass representing the benefactors to the restoration of the Abbey.

APPLICATION FOR MILLENNIUM GRANT

In February the Millennium Commission announced that Bath had reached another stage in its application for a Lottery grant to “revive spa culture”. The media reported this as though the grant had actually been allotted, which was not actually the case. Paul Simons has corrected the statement publicly. Bath’s is one of 119 projects in Round Three of the Millennium applications which have now been put on a “long list”. 37 applications have been held over from earlier rounds, making 156 projects in the running still. About 1 in 3 will succeed. Among the alternatives are English Heritage’s bid for £41½ m for a park and visitor centre at Stonehenge, and a plan to build an observatory and planetarium at Falmouth.

Further details from the publications of the Millennium Commission are included in our list of recent spa projects. Paul Simons, Head of Economic Development and Tourism, is in charge of the overall spa venture. Rhodri Samuel is Special Project Officer. Gus Astley and David McLaughlin of Built Heritage are overseeing buildings, and a firm of architects has been chosen to create plans for the detailed package.

CONFERENCE ON HYDROGEOLOGY

Dr. Geoffrey Kellaway, consultant geologist to B&NES, is arranging a conference from 5-9 October for the Commission on Mineral and Thermal Waters of the International Association of Hydrogeologists. It will not be open to the public, but it is hoped it will help arouse international interest in the spa. B&NES is providing a conference room at Bath Guildhall and a tour of the Roman Baths is planned. Dr. Roger Rolls, who spoke at the conference on Bath’s thermal waters in London, will speak on the history of Bath spa, while Dr. Kellaway will discuss its geological background.

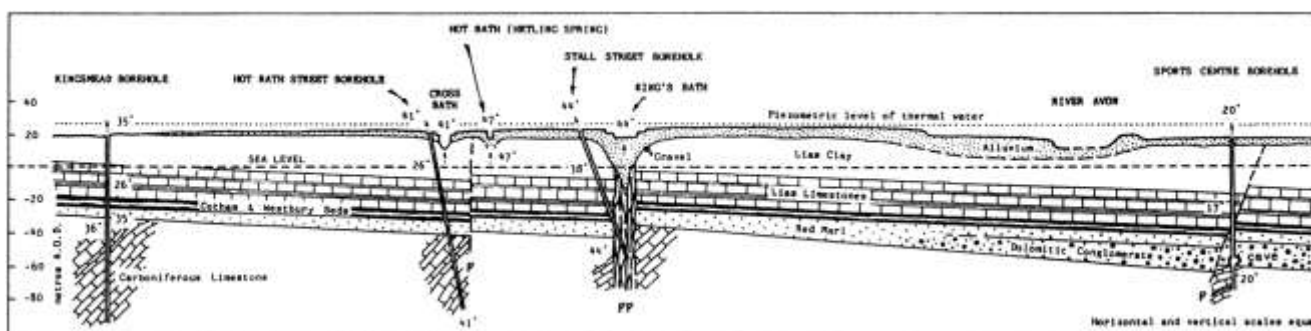
RETURN OF ROMAN ALTAR STONE

The latest issue of the B&NES *Council News* reports that a Roman altar stone has been returned to Bath from Compton Dando. The *News* wonders how it got there. Compton Dando was of course named for the De Alneto family, who were closely associated with Bath Priory in the medieval period. One day one of them obviously said to another, “That looks like a nice piece of stone”.

BATH INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

A meeting was held at the Centre on 30 April to discuss how the Centre could interact with local history groups. Stuart Burroughs is approaching the groups to see if they will take part in an exhibition in the Centre in 1998. It was suggested at the meeting that an association of Bath history study groups might be formed, which could exchange news on different activities, and perhaps supply the Avon Local History Association with more Bath news than it currently receives. The Survey of Old Bath has offered to compile a newssheet once a year, since we already collect local news for this magazine.

Of the Survey and the Friends, Mike and Elizabeth were there (Mike also for the Somerset Coal Canal), Ruth Haskins, Marek Lewcun (Bath Archaeological Trust), Jack Sparrow for Family History, A.J. Green from Bathampton, and Doreen Collyer from Widcombe and Lyncombe.



Geological section through the city showing the hydrogeology of the springs and boreholes.

BA
TH RECORD OFFICE

The album of calotype views of Bath, presented to the Record Office last year (Newsletter 5), is soon to be photographed as part of its conservation strategy. A freeze on Council spending last year postponed this work, which will provide a new print of each view, and thereby minimize future handling of the delicate originals.

New accessions to the collections include the Somerset volume of *Records of Early English Drama*, a substantial and impressive study of all documentary references on the subject, published by the University of Toronto Press. The section on Bath is the culmination of many years' work by Professor Robert Alexander, a member of the Friends.

The return of "lost and strayed" documents is always welcomed, particularly when the item is part of an existing collection. A long-retired Council officer recently handed in some papers which contained a 1757 letter from the trustees of Bruton Hospital regarding the water supply in Widcombe. This document has now been re-united with other papers to which it clearly belongs.

The vast collection of title-deeds relating to Council-owned properties will remain available to researchers for the time being. The removal of the Council's legal staff from Bath to Keynsham threatened the availability of this much-used resource, with the possibility of the deeds also being relocated. Long-term arrangements are still unsettled.

Colin Johnston, Archivist

LYNCOMBE AND WIDCOMBE HISTORY STUDY GROUP

April 1996 - April 1997.

Bath Union Workhouse was where many of Widcombe and Lyncombe's past residents ended their days and in April of last year Brian Wetten spoke about its history from opening in 1838 to becoming St.Martin's Hospital in 1936. Brian was Secretary to the hospital for 30 years and we heard a wealth of interesting detail about the Poor Law and on "Old Basty", Bath's contribution to its workings. This was followed by some statistics from the Census Returns which have been compiled by Heather Noad and Dave Southern. This almost definitive study of the 19th century Workhouse population has been presented to the City Record Office and researchers will find it both fascinating and useful.

On a bitterly cold evening in May Mike Chapman led some intrepid explorers out to follow the railway line from Sydney Gardens to the station - a short distance but packed with interest. Our contribution to Bath's 1996 festival was also slotted into May. The event was held in St.Thomas à Becket church in the heartland of Widcombe, and the Festival theme "Migrations" gave Andrew Ellis and Doreen Collyer the opportunity to introduce some of the many famous past visitors to the area. In June, Andrew Ellis led a walk along Alexandra Road, and in July Doreen Collyer led another along Holloway. Both occasions were considerably enhanced by contributions from other members and long-time residents.

The September meeting was held in the home of Annie Rose at Prior Park Cottages, when she and neighbour Margaret Jones told us something of the history of the houses, built in the 1820s, and of their researches into the Census Returns and 19th century politics. Trevor Fawcett came to the October meeting to pass on some of the references to Widcombe and Lyncombe that he has noted in his detailed trawls through documents, journals and newspapers. In November we were invited to the home of member Eda Pomeroy at Prospect Place, where Connie Smith and others talked about the house and its neighbours and various owners and occupiers.

We finished the year with our usual miscellany of contributions from members: Bagatelle House by Fay Briddon, the Bowler family by Don Lovell, and the Crimea War Memorial in Abbey Cemetery by Bill Hanna. And mince pies of course by everyone. More detailed accounts of these meetings can be found in the group's *Proceedings* compiled by Don Lovell (50p). Copies are deposited at Bath Record Office.

Then, following the winter break, we began our 1997 programme in March this year with Jack Sparrow talking about starting a family history study, and in April Connie Smith gave us some results from her research into the origins and development of Prior Park Road, and Don Lovell spoke of his recent research into St.Martin's Chapel.

Doreen Collyer, April 1997

CORRESPONDENCE

Tilly Kettle (see The Survey, November 1996 p.24), the artist who may have painted a portrait of Col.Charles Chapman (1716-1795), was born in London in about 1740. His father was a house painter but also exhibited. Tilly studied and became a portrait painter. He exhibited portraits until 1770, when he first went to India, remaining there for seven years, and made his fortune. He continued to send portraits home for exhibition. His subjects included native Indian worthies as well as lesser subjects and British colonials and depictions of people and events for the East India Company. After returning to London and marrying, he became bankrupt. He retired to Dublin and in 1786 attempted a second visit to India overland. He was taken ill and died at Aleppo.

Among his portraits is one of Warren Hastings. Examples of his work are in the National Portrait gallery and the Bodleian Library
John Macdonald, Freshford, April 1997

Sorry. The idea that this was a lady artist did not come from Susan Sloman but from my own feeling that "Tilly" was short for "Matilda". There were some intrepid lady travellers in the old days and I supposed this was one, though I did wonder at the bold style with which she (supposedly) had painted an almost full-length portrait in oils. The portrait of Colonel Chapman is virtually life size, not a miniature. Christopher Holland reports seeing Tilly Kettle's work in Berlin.

Elizabeth Holland

Those were fascinating talks about the Abbey glass and excavations - and the lunch was delicious. Hooray for the Committee! The Chapman Saga slots in with fragments of other biographies. Very few people around, so they must often have been connected. Many thanks to you, or was it June? who sent the magazine.

Alison Hannay, Yeovil, December 1996


I very much value the copy you sent me of the No.6, November 1996 edition of The Survey of Bath and District. Thank you for making me a Life Member of the Friends of the Survey of Old Bath.

Phyllis Thomas, Te Atatu South, Auckland, New Zealand, January 1997

I just wanted to let you know that the dramatic records of Bath are at last published and on their way to Colin Johnston. I couldn't send them air mail because of the expense, but they should arrive in a few weeks. Sally gave me a surprise party in honour of the records. Your reference to me as Dean in a recent newsletter has become prophetic, because the last Dean resigned in the middle of the year and I was asked to take his place. I enjoy the Survey newsletter. How is everyone in Bath?

Robert Alexander, Pittsburgh, U.S.A., January 1997

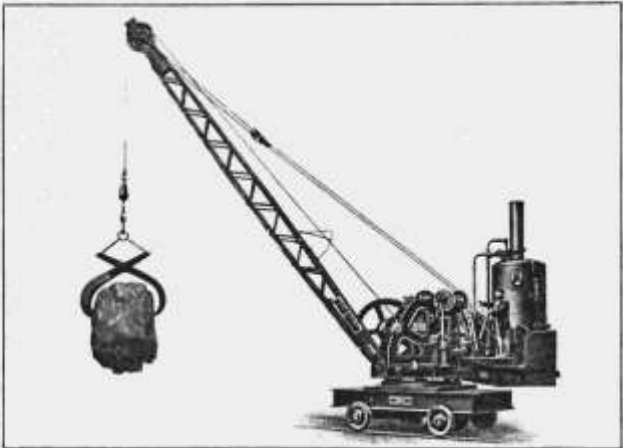
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BATHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

In 1994 Bathampton Parish Council celebrated its centenary year with a display in the village hall of features and documents representing aspects of the village's history in more recent decades. Inspired by the interest shown in this display by members of the community, the late Judith Boxall canvassed opinion as to the need for a local history society in the village, and a public discussion was held in May 1995. With sufficient interest proved, Bathampton Local History Society was formed at an inaugural meeting on 4 June 1995. Topically, the Society's first illustrated talk was on the excavations carried out by Bath Archaeological Trust on the Bathampton Bypass, where the primitive Iron Age roundhouse dwellings forming the origins of the village were discovered not far from the parish church.

The Society's principal aims are to research and record matters relating to the history of Bathampton (the original home of Plasticine, it will be remembered) and to encourage the study of and interest in local history. Since its formation programmes have included talks on maps and deeds, sources of information, the parish church, a display of old postcards of the village, the Somerset Coal Canal and its connection to the Kennet & Avon, the Civil War in and around Bathampton, a visit to and private tour of the fabric of St.Paul's cathedral in London and, more recently, an evening of identification for old artefacts found in the village. Summer events have consisted of walks around the village and a tour of the archaeological features of the Iron Age settlement on Bathampton Down.

The Society has 68 members, and the yearly subscription is £5 per person. Meetings are held monthly, at which visitors are most welcome on payment of £1. The chairman of the Society is Pat Watts, who can be contacted at 99 Hantone Hill, Bathampton, Bath BA2 6XE.

Marek Lewcun

KEYNSHAM'S HISTORIC HERITAGE

The new Unitary Authority, Bath & North East Somerset, has inherited ownership of the internationally famous "Keynsham Collection" which consists of exceptionally high quality Roman and mediaeval artefacts. These include mosaics from a very large courtyard villa discovered under Keynsham Cemetery in the late 19th century and exquisite mediaeval sculpture rescued by volunteers from Bristol Folk House Archaeological Society when a by-pass was cut through and below the site of Keynsham Abbey during 1961-66.

Unfortunately, these artefacts are not on public view but remain boxed-up in store, because Keynsham has no museum. Keynsham Heritage Trust was set up in 1985 to try to obtain a suitable museum here, and architect Julian Hannan designed an attractive building to be built on a Council-owned site at the end of Temple Street, Keynsham. Planning permission was granted in 1987 and renewed in 1992, but funds were not available for the construction.

Application to the Lottery Fund has been delayed because of the lack of the necessary local core funding but it is hoped to be able to apply later this year. Following a presentation, short slide show and exhibition of photographs of artefacts given by Peter Roberts (Chairman of the Trust) and Barbara Lowe (Vice-Chairman), members of Keynsham Town Council expressed unanimous support for our project.

Mr.Stephen Bird, Ms.Jane Bircher and Mr.Stephen Clews have been very supportive, encouraging and helpful to the Trustees. In order to allow the new B&NES Councillors to see the quality and importance of the "Keynsham Collection", Mr.Bird gave them an illustrated presentation on 27 January at Keynsham Town Hall. Keynsham Heritage Trustees conducted the Councillors around the store rooms where selected artefacts were displayed for their inspection.

Keynsham has long suffered, and is still suffering, from the wanton destruction of its heritage. Some of us have tried to salvage what we can [I have asked that "She spent the last 35(?+) years of her life trying to rescue and preserve Keynsham's Heritage for future generations" be put on my tombstone]. Please support us in our attempts to preserve what is left.

Barbara J. Lowe

PUBLICATIONS

The Survey's booklet on the Southgate and Ham areas, written by Mike Chapman, will soon be on sale, *An Historical Guide to the Ham and Southgate Area of Bath*, price £3.95. It provides a brief review, with maps and illustrations, of the areas from early times to the present development.

By combining research done by Elizabeth for our booklet *Citizens of Bath*, with Mike's interest in industrial archaeology and Jane Root's recent documentary research undertaken for Bath Archaeological Trust, it has been possible to show that Stothert's works in Southgate Street were on the site held by Stuart smiths and probably by medieval smiths before them. Smithies stood on all the major routes into Bath, whether in or outside the gates. We have also shown that Stothert expanded into 6-10 Newark Street, on Manvers land. The Newark Foundry probably belonged to 9 and 10 Newark Street.

These studies, exciting for the study of industrial archaeology, have been made possible by the co-operation between ourselves and Bath Archaeological Trust.

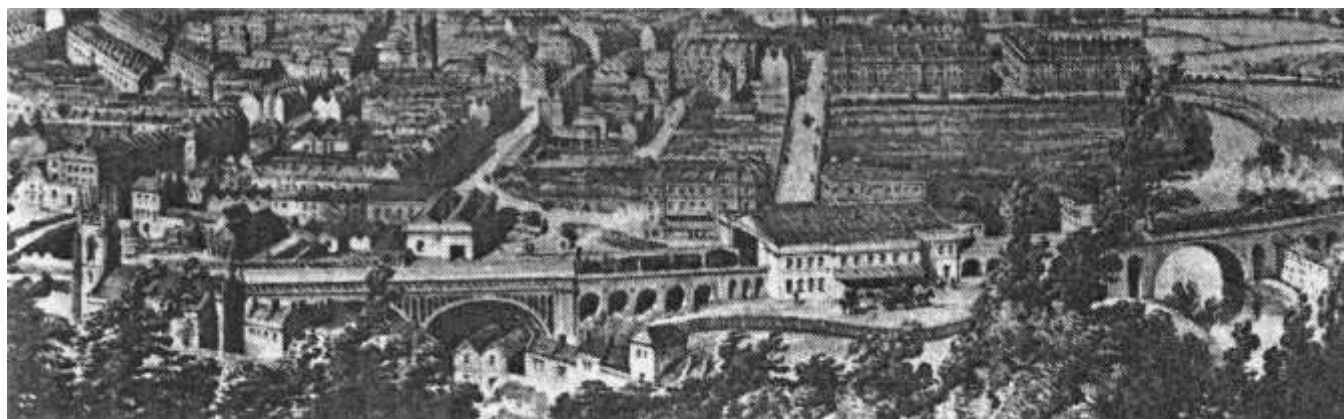
Dr. John Wroughton's latest book, *The Stuart Age 1603-1714* was due to be published by Longmans in May 1997 and should be available by the time this magazine appears. The volume is one of Longman's "Handbooks to History Series". It is essentially a most comprehensive reference book, aimed at all those who study or teach the period, with detailed chronologies, over 100 mini-biographies and an extensive bibliography covering over 1000 publications.

Whiteman's Bookshop are stocking Vera Dyer's new study, *A Bathampton Family*, at £3, already reviewed in the *Chronicle* by Peter Rixon. This is her second Bathampton book, and traces the history of different branches of her family, drawing on her own grandfathers's memories. Meanwhile Keith Dallimore's coloured title map of Monkton Combe is still available at Whiteman's at £3.

Bruce Osborne and Cora Weaver are advertising a new volume on spas, self-published, *Aquae Britannia, Rediscovering 17th Century Springs & Spas in the Footsteps of Celia Fiennes*, at £16.99 from Ms. Weaver, 4 Hall Green, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 3QX. 288 pages, with 41 illustrations, maps, diagrams and analysis tables.

Mrs. Barbara Lowe has supplied us with a list of the publications of the Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society, which we shall be glad to share with any interested enquirer.

In our spa researches we have been reminded about the biography of Dr. Caleb Hillier Parry by S. Glaser, F.R.C.S., *The Spirit of Enquiry: Caleb Hillier Parry MD FRS*, Alan Sutton, 1995. Mr. Glaser calls Parry an outstanding 18th century polymath and writes: "He lived first at 13 Catherine Place, built and lived in a house on Lansdown called Summerhill, of which only a balustrade remains in the grounds of No.1 Sion Hill Place. With one minor exception, he is the only Bath doctor to appear in standard medical history books for his original observations and writings. He bred sheep on Lansdown and wrote two important books on the production of fine wool, among others. The fine monument erected by his colleagues is on the wall of the south aisle of the Abbey." In *Bath Abbey Monuments* Bernard Stace refers to this monument on p.29, with a reference to Parry's son the explorer. Britton gives a transcript of the monument and a brief biography of Parry in his history of the Abbey. There is a commemorative plaque to Dr. Parry on No.27 the Circus.



The Ham and Southgate areas of Bath from the south, c.1846 (lithograph by John Syer).

NOTES AND QUERIES

BAGATELLE

Because the names of the three houses on the Widcombe site once belonging to Wicksteed or Wickstead cause some confusion, we have been collecting data on them. The list is not complete yet but when finished will be deposited with the Record Office (in our Widcombe file) and with the WLHSG. Sources quoted below include the 1813 sale particulars of the Bennet estate; 1821, a deed of the land called Pullen's north of the site, with "Bagatelle" with its present outline at the bottom (and possibly also a house on the site once called Lyncombe Rise), Record Office, Accession 199 43/6; 1839, schedule of the Tithe map; 1852, Cotterell's map.

In his Ralph Allen Estate *Guide* Mike used the 1839 name "Bagatelle House" for the present Welton Lodge. "Bagatelle House" is now the name of the former "Lyncombe Rise". It seems likely that the original house connected with the pleasure gardens was on or near the site of Welton Lodge. A bagatelle is a trifle. It is possible the name came from the items of jewellery engraved on Wicksteed's Machine.

Welton Lodge:	1813	The Bagatelle ("modern built")
	1821	Bagatelle
	1839	No.360, Bagatelle House
	1852	Bagatelle Villa
	1980s	Welton Lodge
Bagatelle House:	1821	Possibly shown, but not named (an earlier house on this site, before the present one, is supposed to have been destroyed by fire, see Fay Briddon's study. The Bruton map of 1799 shows a small building where 1821 shows a corner of a building.)
	1839	No.361, name not yet known
	1852	Bagatelle Cottage
	1980s	Lyncombe Rise
Ashley Lodge:	1839	not yet built, site part of No.360
	1852	Ashley Villa
	1980s	Ashley Lodge

AVON STREET

Allan Keevil points out that his notes concerning two quite separately dated developments west of Southgate Street were unfortunately misquoted in the Survey November 1996, p.10, in the comments on the New Inn. This is what one might call a slip of the typewriter. Avon Street appears, of course, on John Wood's map of 1735, running from Kingsmead Square and through Little Kingsmead to the Avon. A contract for the development of the Ambury in 1765 is mentioned in John Macdonald's article in this issue. Broad Quay is also shown on John Wood's map. He uses the spelling "Amery". Our spelling "Ambery" was taken from the Kingston material, selected as being halfway between the other choices.

DR.WILLIAM OLIVER IN QUEEN SQUARE

It has been pointed out that Dr.Oliver's name is on the wrong house in Queen Square. Jane Glaser writes: "The plaque is currently placed on the BRLSI building (a late addition to the square) but the records in the city archives show that Dr.Oliver actually occupied the house on the top corner of the square (No. 19)." Early pictures of Queen Square show the central section set back, and as Jane Glaser says, the RLSI building came later. We have already donated a file of pictures and cuttings on the square to the Record Office (Accession 350).

THE DAY OF THE DATABASE

Earlier issues of the Survey have mentioned the need for co-ordination and for avoiding overlapping of research. The creation of databases is now going forward on all sides. Built Heritage are upgrading their Listed Buildings database by adding plans. Mike Chapman is involved in this project. The

Record Office have been holding discussions on computerising their catalogues. Any delay is due to the problem of finding a programme which will cover all the Record Office's resources. When completed, the buildings side of their catalogues will be the major housing database in Bath, since the Record Office holds the largest collection of original sources on Bath buildings. We are happy to tell anyone briefly what material we have donated to the Record Office or have retained ourselves, for the use of their database.

THE SAXON ABBEY

Following his interesting talk last November and his article in *Bath History* VI, 1996, Rob Bell has confirmed one or two points we raised with him in discussion. The graves discovered south of the Abbey were indeed orientated east-west as in the illustration on p.14. It was the rows of graves which were at right angles to the Abbey (p.15). Rob also confirmed that carbon dating has a wide spread. The expression "ninth- to tenth- century dates" (p.15) is not meant to suggest the presence of an Abbey here around 900. There was of course no monastery here in 900 A.D. and Rob himself writes that there was silence at that time. It was the practice of the Danes to sack and plunder the monasteries, and all able-bodied monks who were not slaughtered, forsook the cloister and joined Alfred's armies to fight against the Danes. After the defeat of Alfred's forces at the Battle of Chippenham in 878 A.D., one can be absolutely certain that the Danes sacked Bath and burnt the Abbey: as in the legends. Efforts to restart the monastery seem to belong to the 930s and it appears that after a period when the monks lived in the traditional hut community, the Abbey was actually rebuilt in the mid-10th century.



The Danes sacking Tavistock Abbey, in 1002, from a 19th century Danish mural at Fredriksborg Palace in Denmark.

TIM O'LEARY AND THE MAPPING OF OLD BATH

As the Friends gain new members, it seems time to stress again the role of Tim O'Leary in instigating the Survey of Old Bath. Before Elizabeth Holland's work in the 1970s, we know of only two or three modern attempts to map old Bath from the historical point of view. These include P.R.James, whose map (at the Library), based on the Corporation Survey of 1641, was not meant to be very accurate, and Peter Greening, who began to read through the Corporation leases in hopes of recreating the Saxon and medieval city one day, but abandoned the project because of the difficulty of matching up the earlier leases. Barbara Robertson also made some very interesting diagrams of the medieval city based on the Ancient Deeds.

Elizabeth wished to pinpoint the Chapman sites. She was unaware of P.R.James' larger map, but saw that the Survey of 1641 would be the axis around which the other Corporation leases could be assembled. She made a digest of the Survey in index form, assembled all the previous Corporation leases in the correct places, and indexed all the property owners alphabetically. She then obtained an enlarged copy of Speed's map and transferred the data on to it, checking exact sites from the plans on later leases. A draft of this map was finished by 1976, and was shown to John Wroughton, the leading writer on Stuart Bath, who has remained a supporter of our venture ever since. A copy of the map will be donated to Bath Record Office when there is time to copy it neatly.

No one else was mapping old Bath at that time. Elizabeth sat day by day with Bob Bryant in the Record Office, working at the Chapmans, the map, and related subjects, and never saw anyone take out a lease for the purpose of historical topography, until Tim O'Leary and his diggers came in their "hard hats" in 1979. Elizabeth first met Tim in the Library, where she had the map with her, and he immediately took the subject up, having been told of it by Stephen Bird. His immediate reaction was, "Why do you use Speed, and not a scientific scale map?"

Elizabeth and John Wroughton were satisfied with Speed's map as a vehicle for social history, and still are. However Tim, then employed by the newly founded Bath Archaeological Trust on digs in the Orange Grove and at the North Gate, wanted to see science and exact scale drawing. He employed Elizabeth on his research team, and Frog Lane (now New Bond Street) was chosen as a project. Using the resources of the city archives, Elizabeth was able to lay it out in detail, and to bring to light plans showing the line of the old city wall. She remembers arriving in triumph at Elton House to show the diggers the plan of the Seven Stars, with old and new outlines superimposed, and Tim delighted with the success of his project. The name "Survey of Old Bath" was adopted in 1979, and - as recorded in Elizabeth's diary - a special meeting was held in July 1980, with Tim, Elizabeth, and others. Only then, following Tim's inspiration, did anyone else take an interest in mapping old Bath.

Tim's dream of a professional team to divide the city up and finish the task promptly never materialised, because of the usual lack of funds for topography. However after completing many allied projects, such as the Kingston map, we are seeking funds to create a team for a Georgian map. For truly scientific work, the Georgian layout always needs to be drawn first, as the earlier topography, before the leases carry plans, must always be conjecture.

Tim's message spread, though some have not always been as willing to admit his inspiration of their work as they might have been. Other influences also came in, and a great deal of valuable historical topography has lately been done in Bath. The Survey does not wish to forget that scientific mapping of the past came to Bath with Tim O'Leary.

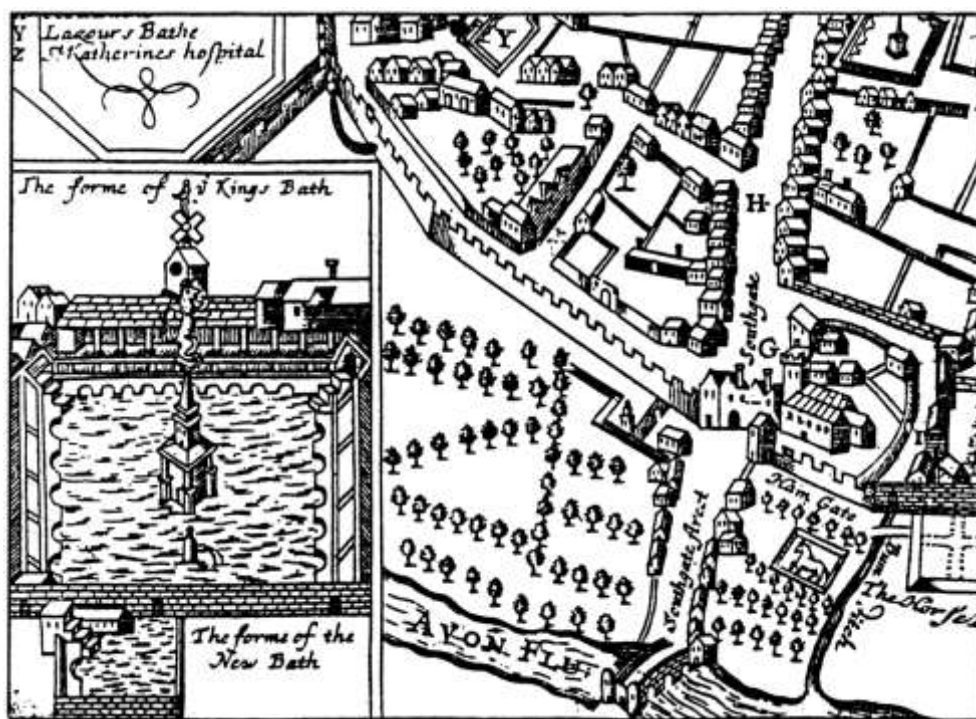
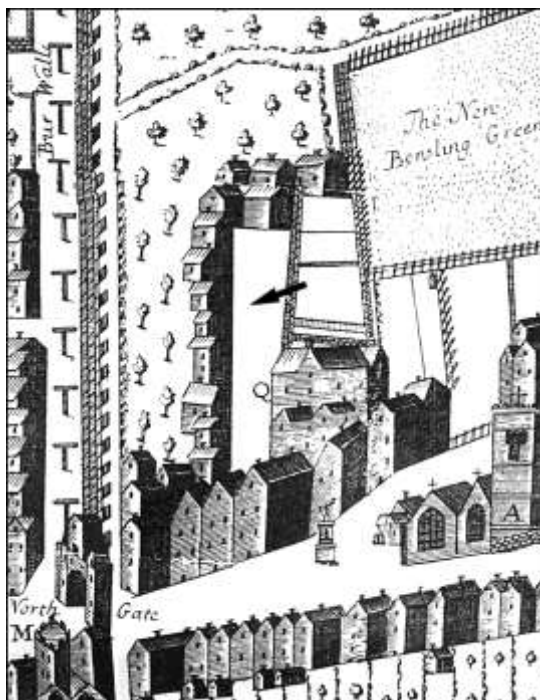
1979-1980 was an exciting time, the threshold of a new age. Bath Archaeological Trust had just been founded, the Survey of Old Bath was founded, Bob Bryant had not many years since been appointed the first City Archivist. Elizabeth remembers standing with Tim on a cold windy evening on the site hard by the North Gate, looking at the mass of mud which represented the medieval "Froggemere", and realising that the old city could now indeed be recreated - the idea which had first begun to form when reading the work of P.R.James and John Wroughton.

There has been an explosion in family history and local history since then. The Record Office, which

the Survey still supports, is thronged with people seeking source material. When Bob Bryant first began work, the city archives were standing about in dumps, some of them in the dome of the Guildhall, where they had been partly destroyed by fire. Colin Johnston and B&NES Record Office, now usually full, are entering the computer age.

Tim himself said that he regarded it as part of his job to encourage community projects which would be related to the work of the Trust. Tim was himself an example of the modern archaeologist, not one who is intent on some great “find”, nor someone to whom, as Michael Willcox once said to us, “One stone is a Norman Abbey, and two stones together are the Great Wall of China,” but a person who saw his work as the central point in a network of different disciplines, which could be combined to recreate the past.

Extract from Gilmore’s map, showing Frog Lane (indicated by the arrow) outside the North Gate.



Extract from Speed’s map of 1610, showing the Ambury at bottom left.

THE AMBURY

John Macdonald

Before the Georgian expansion of Bath, the traveller approaching the city from the south would have crossed the river Avon by the bridge, slightly downstream of where the modern (1960s) footbridge is. On the northern rife of the river, to the right lay an area of meadow known as the Ham, lying in the bend of the river, an area now bounded by Southgate and North Parade. Southgate Street or Horse Street would have presented houses on either side along part of its length. To the left another area of meadow, known as the Ambury, stretched across approximately to the line of the present Bath College and up to the Lower Borough walls. The name Ambury is still retained for a street running up from the river.

John Leland was that traveller in about 1543:

Or ever I cam to the bridge of Bath that is over Avon I cam down by a rokky hille fulle of fair springes of water: and on this rokky hille is sette a long streate as a suburbe to the cyte of Bath; and [in] this streat is a chapelle of S.Mary Magdalen. Ther is a great gate with a stone arche at the [c]entre of the bridge.

The bridge hath v. fair stone arches.

Bytwixt the bridge and the south gate of Bath I markid fair medows on eche hand, but especially on the lift hond, and they Iy by south west on the toun.

Dr.Johnson defined an Ambury as “A bloody wart on any part of a horse’s body”. Peach wrote that “Ambury or almetry was so called because the Mead led to the Almonry of the Monastery”.

Speed’s inset plan of Bath on his map of Somersetshire published in 1610 shows a development just outside the city wall at the South Gate which may include a building with a tower, perhaps a belfry, the whole forming a small court. There is also an indication of some structure by the city wall in the north-east corner of the Ambury. On a 1650 map of Bath this is shown as a small gateway through the city wall and a path leading to a small building. Gilmore as published in 1731 shows a more obvious courtyard development in the same place as Speed, but with no tower evident.

In 1750 the Kingston Estate plan continues to show the site of this court and describes it as “..a tenement and garden called the Ambery granted to Mr.Sam’l Purlewent”. The shape and position of this feature exist today around the former St.James’ Church Hall and burial ground. The authors of *The Kingston Estate* echo Peach’s theory that it might be the site of a former Almonry of the Prior.

In 1765 a five acre site in the Ambury was developed for sixty houses, the parties being Thomas Jelly, Henry Fisher and Richard Jones.

The origin of the name Ambury remains in some doubt. Was it indeed derived from the small portion of buildings outside the South Gate or did it apply to the whole meadow which covered a much greater piece of ground? Another suggestion for the former includes Armory but perhaps Ambury is made up of two words; Ham meaning a meadow especially a flat low-lying meadow on a stream, and Bury meaning town. The Ambury then would be the Town Meadow, perhaps an area of meadow lying securely between the town and the river, for the enjoyment of the citizenry as opposed to the Ham which was for the use of the Priory¹. Alternatively the word Bury implies an enclosure or a fortification, so perhaps either the Enclosed Meadow or the Fortified Meadow would be more appropriate.

The Western Boundary of the Ambury.

Speed’s inset plan of Bath on his map of Somersetshire depicts a prominent stretch of battlemented walling apparently with a moat or ditch, extending from an angle in the City wall towards the river. Unfortunately, apart from this short stretch, the boundary is obscured by a further inset depicting the King’s Bath, but it is clear that a wall did indeed exist here in the early 17th century.

When William Stukeley visited Bath over 100 years later in 1723, he was also able to depict the wall, this time extending in an unbroken line from the City wall to the river and again showing evidence of a moat or ditch, connected to the river. In both cases the wall is shown apparently of the same height and appearance as the adjoining City walls.

Gilmore's map of Bath of 1731 again shows the wall. This time it lacks the evidence of battlements and the portion nearest the river has been replaced with a section of ranch style fencing with two paths or tracks leading across it. There is no evidence of a ditch or moat. Both Gilmore and Stukeley show the curiously shaped strip of land west of the wall, called Little Kingsmead on Gilmore, running up from the river in front of the Ambury wall and the City wall up to the west gate. John Wood's plan of Bath 1735 again shows the line of the Ambury wall, but this time only in plan view. The line of Avon Street is represented cutting across Little Kingsmead and Kingsmead Square occupies it by the West gate. It is noticeable that Avon street respects the Ambury wall.

In the 18th century developments covered Kingsmead and the Ambury. The old walls were either demolished or incorporated in new buildings. An excellent post-development plan of the area was provided by the Ordnance Survey of 1886. From this survey it is not difficult to locate the position of the old Ambury wall. The development of Avon Street is shown west of the line, but with only one exception, the Bath City Iron and Brass Foundry, it respected the line of the wall. One street, Corn Street, cut through from Avon Street originally to Southgate Street, but Back Street running parallel to the south, stopped short at the line of the wall.

The Ordnance surveyors marked the line of the wall with two words; Rampart and Fosse (site of). They at any rate were quite clear that a substantial boundary had formerly existed here. The line was now the western limit of the parish of St.James.

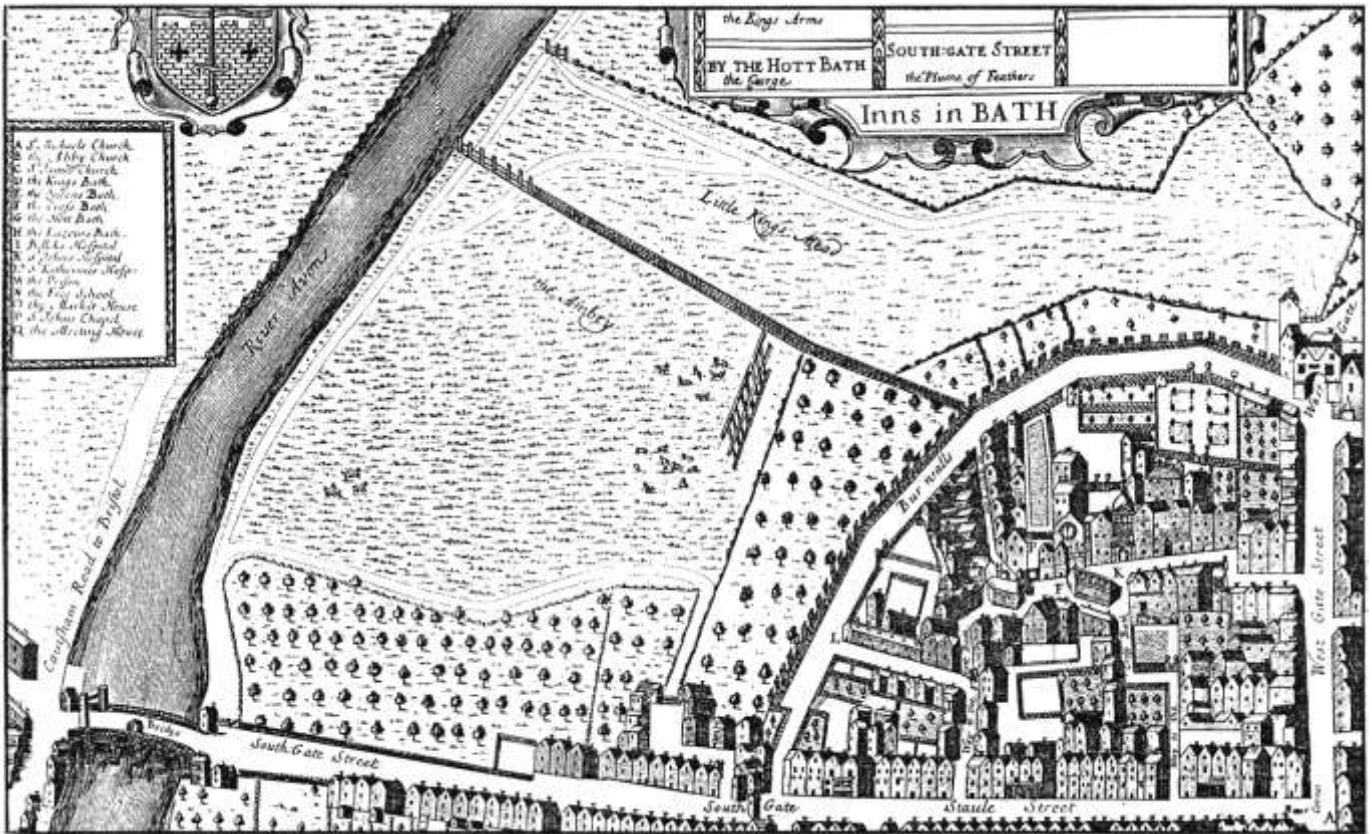
The Ambury wall ran from the river at the back of houses at the end of Avon Street, straight towards the city wall opposite Hetling House. If Gilmore is correct, it altered course as it approached the City wall, apparently to join it on an angle, but this is not substantiated on other plans. The Bath blitz effectively cleared the area occupied by the Ambury wall and much to either side, but the Ordnance Survey of 1952 shows a portion of wall standing behind houses towards the lower end of Avon street and a long line of wall on the site of Bath College.

The Date and Purpose of the Western Wall.

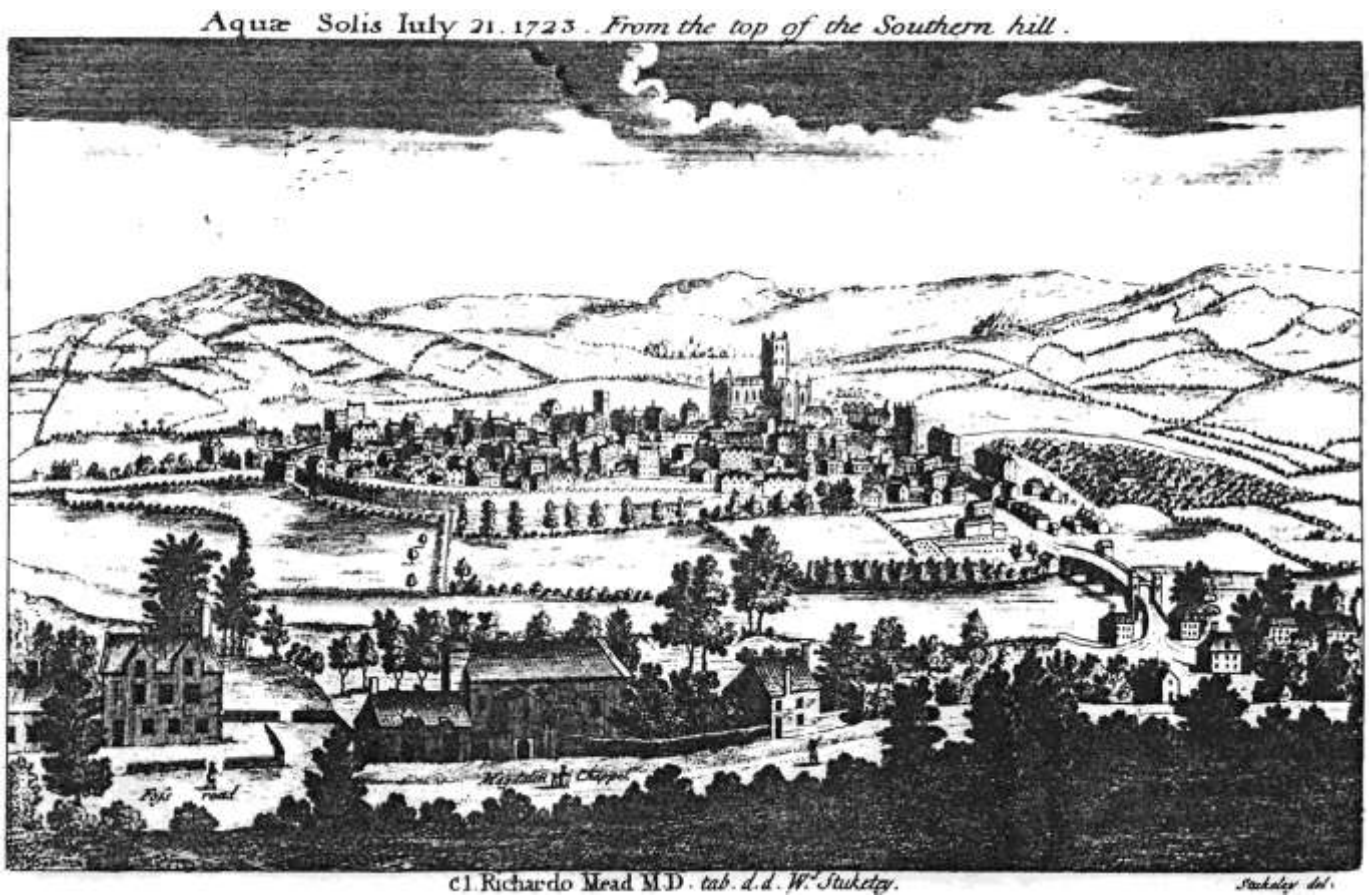
If the evidence cited is to be believed, and there is no reason why it should not, then the original purpose of the Ambury wall is likely to have been defensive. Bath, although set in an oxbow of the river Avon, is only defended by the river from the south and east, relying otherwise on the City walls. The Ambury wall would have provided additional valuable defence from the west.

It has been suggested that the Ambury wall might have been the work of King Stephen. In the 12th century the men of Bristol attempted to take Bath. Following the incident, Stephen arrived at Bath and inspected the existing fortifications. He commanded that the City walls should be increased in height and outworks should be constructed. In particular, he marked a place where defences could be raised to defy assault. Certainly by cutting off access to the land between the western City walls and the river, Bath's defences would have been considerably strengthened and it is possible that a shorter corresponding work was carried out on the line of the north wall, extending it the short distance to the river, although this narrow strip of land was more capable of defence.

Although the meadow known as Little Kingsmead lay outside the Ambury, it should now perhaps be considered. Two possibilities are suggested for its curious shape. The first, that it was originally a portion of the Ambury meadow, isolated by the wall. The second, that Little Kingsmead represents an area of land originally cleared of trees in front of the Ambury and western City wall to enhance further the defences of King Stephen².



Above: The Ambury, as shown on Gilmore's map of 1694 (republished 1731).
 Below: Stukeley's view of the south side of Bath of 1723.



c1 Richardo Mead M.D. tab. d. d. W. Stukeley.

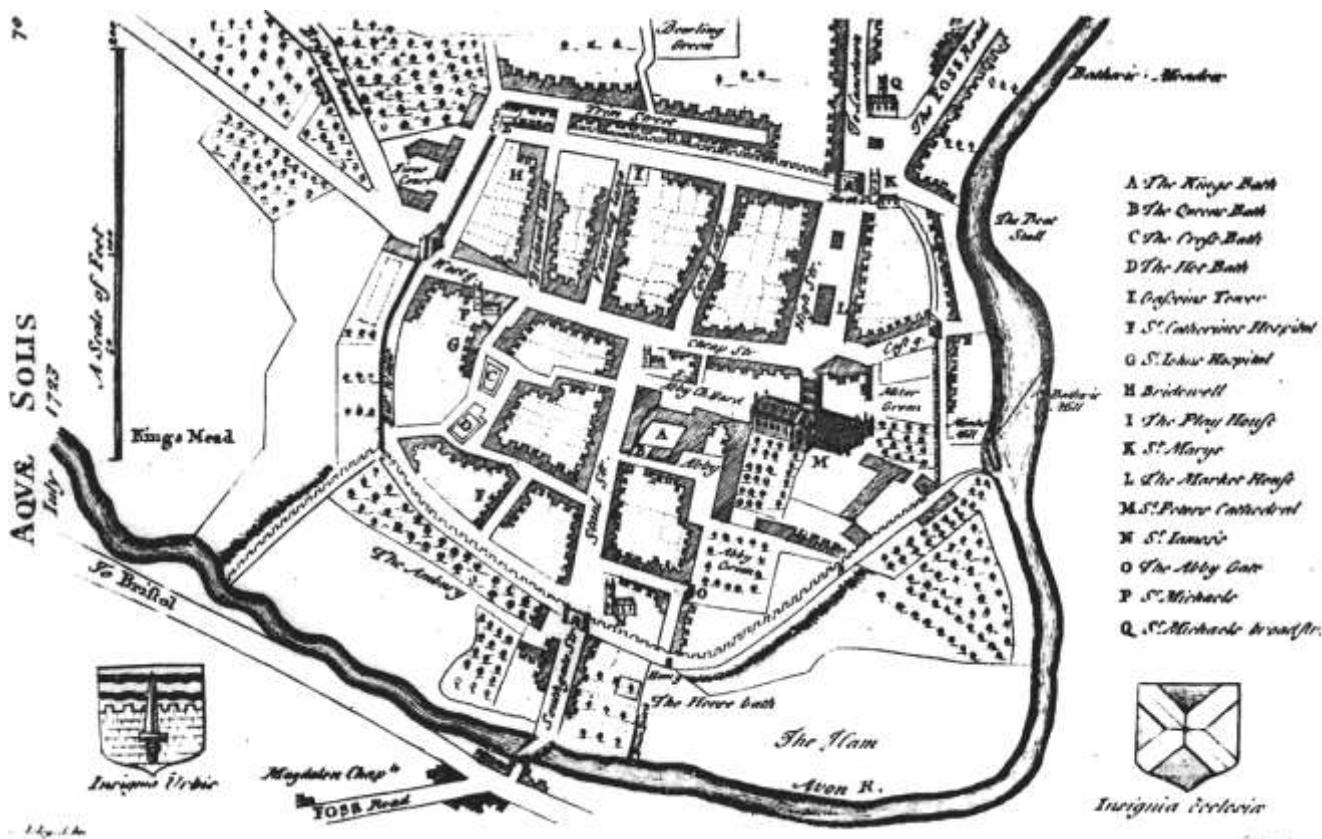
Stukeley del.

The Ambury: Suggested Outline Chronology

- Prehistoric** Area of low lying ground, probably swamp and subject to periodic flooding. Some outflow from hot springs leading to colonisation by plants benefitting from the special conditions.
- Roman** Roman town development set back from the river because of the nature of the ground in this area. Some development may have commenced outside the South Gate.
- Norman** Development of western wall.
- Medieval** Development of houses in Southgate Street. Development of court/ ?Priory Almonry outside the South Gate. Bath bridge.
- Tudor/Stuart** Housing in Southgate Street.
- 18c** Redevelopment of entire area with new streets. Destruction of walls.
- 19c** Continuation of 18th century development with some new buildings and alterations
- 20c pre-WWII** Refinements to street plans. Selective redevelopment especially Forum cinema and surrounding area.
- WWII** Large areas of the Ambury destroyed by enemy action.
- Post WWII** Some redevelopment of bombed areas. Bath College, Avon Street car park, much of Southgate Street. New relief road beside river. New office blocks at Broad Quay. Changes to street plan including loss of Peter Street.

Notes

1. By the Dissolution the Priory owned both sites.
2. Little Kingsmead became the property of St.John's Hospital.



THIS FAMOUS CITY THE STORY OF THE CHAPMANS OF BATH

470 YEARS OF HISTORY: THE CHAPMANS AND BATH ABBEY

Elizabeth Holland

My body to be buried in the cathedral church of SS.Petir and Powle in Bath.

Thomas Chapman, "citezen of Bath", 1524.

To be buried in the north aisle of the church of SS.Peter and Paul near my father.

Peter Chapman, one of the yeomen of Bath, 1600.

...for the Honour of our Fathers, they were the Repairers.....

Henry Chapman, alderman and mayor, *Thermae Redivivae*, 1673.

Wunderschön das alte bunte Glasfenster im Chorraum und beiderseits des Eingangs an der Aussenfront eine originelle Darstellung von Jakobs Traum von der Himmelsleiter...

Ludwig Becker, descendant of Thomas Chapman, 1996.

Part I:1524-1808

Thomas the Clothier, died 1524

The present Abbey, as it is called, is nearly 500 years old. It was built to replace the ruined Norman Abbey in the reign of Henry VII and Henry VIII, was despoiled after the Dissolution, and restored at the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th. During this latter period, it was said that the Tudor building had not been finished, but this was probably because the citizens then had never seen anything except the ruined building portrayed in Speed's map. Leland wrote that Oliver King began a right goodly new church and the priors finished it, especially the last prior. When Thomas Chapman asked to be buried in the cathedral church, it would have been a site of which to be proud. Whether he actually meant the Prior to have two legacies of 20s. or whether this is a mistake, is not clear. In all, his monetary legacies to the Church amount to £3.16.8. As described in our first issue, only 42 people in the city were assessed as worth more than £5 in 1524. Thomas himself was assessed at more than 25 times that.

August 31st., 1524. Thomas Chepman citezen of Bath diocese of Bath and Wells. My body to be buried in the cathedral church of SS.Petir and Powle in Bath. To the same church for my burial place, the glasing of a wyndowe as well as my wife shall ordre hit. To the moder church of Wells 3s.4d. To the Priour of the same church of Bath 20s. To the same Prior and to master William Smyth of the Exchequer 40s. a pece to defende my testament, if need be. To the Prior and Covent of the same church of Bath 20s. To the church of Stalls and to the obit of the benefactors of the same church 26s.8d. To the chapell of S.Kateryn 6s.8d. Also the purches that I have of S.Kateryn I will be restored again to the behofe of the said chapell. To Sir William Rogers my curat, vicar of Stalls, my best skarlett gown for my forgotten tithes.

Thomas Chapman, 1524 (26 Bodfelde): Weaver, Somerset Medieval Wills, Second Series, S.R.S. Vol.19, p.231.

Peter Chapman, c.1506-1602

Peter, who became a soldier, was the last-named of Thomas's sons and presumably the youngest. At his father's death he was about 18. When he left Bath for his military career, he left a city already in decline, with the wool trade deserting it for the countryside, but with a magnificent Abbey church. When he had occasion to return on leave in the latter part of the 1540s, it would have been wrecked, standing roofless and desolate in the middle of the town, making a gruesome picture from the upper windows of the Hart, over the houses between.

Of Peter's five brothers, one of the Johns lived in London, and the other died in 1544. Robert disappears from the records. There remained William (probably not the William Chapman who was a friend of Crouch), and Richard the clothier. One can imagine the three brothers standing by their father's grave in the roofless north aisle, with the rain dripping down, and wondering even then what they could do to give the alderman more dignified surroundings.

They were the logical people to drive for the Abbey's restoration, even though there is no contemporary record of Peter's efforts. The story of Peter's work for the Abbey comes from John

Wood, who was using the memoirs of Peter's descendant Robert the apothecary (buried in the chancel). The story told later that it was Peter who persuaded Edmund Colthurst to donate the Abbey building to the town, is quite feasible. That it was always Peter who rode to London, after his return to Bath, to negotiate the return of the Abbey, is not really certain.



Left: Peter Chapman, adapted from the representation in the Abbey Heritage Vaults.



Below: The Chapman arms in the roof of the choir.

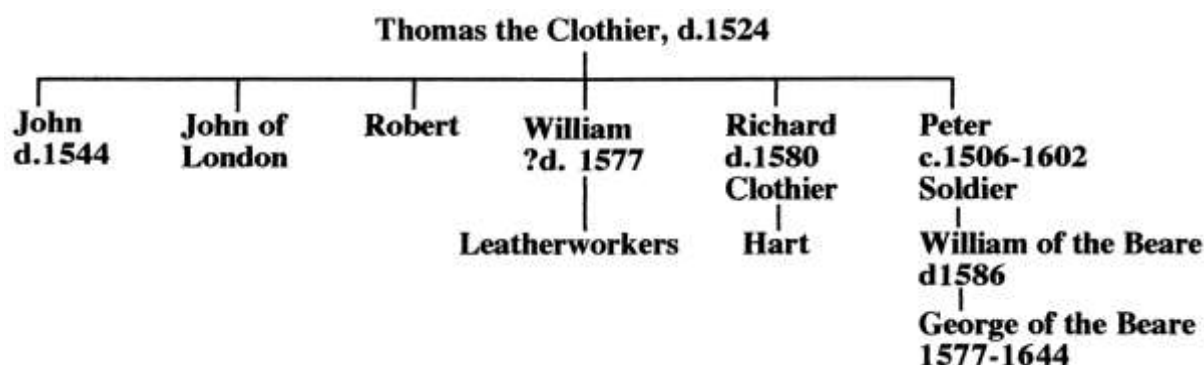


A licence was granted in 1572 for Edmund Colthurst to donate the Abbey and the Monks' Churchyard (the Orange Grove) to the city, and presumably the Chapman family, led by the efforts of Peter, immediately repaired the east end of the north aisle, and retired to the Hart or to Peter's inn the Beare to celebrate. This exhausted their available resources, and the Queen was persuaded to give permission for Letters Patent for collections throughout the kingdom, granted in 1573. According to the Book of Benefactors, as cited by Britton, this collection lasted seven years, and was the first phase of the restoration. "...the upper part thereof was all covered (i.e. the choir at the east end), with the north part of the cross isle as it now standeth". (Britton, Appendix, Num.V.)

The second work seems to have been the rebuilding of the south transept (wrecked when the claustral buildings were taken down) and the repair of the tower. Sir William Paston and Daniel Walters were the first benefactors. Sir William Paston's man is mentioned in the Chamberlain's accounts for 1603 as bringing £100 for the Church. The principal benefactor to this second work is named as Thomas Bellott (Britton, as above).

The principal benefactor named for the third stage was Bishop Montague. Henry Chapman wrote in *Thermae Redivivae* that this phase began in 1606, presumably referring to Harrington's efforts to interest Montague. Bishop Montague's first gift is stated to be £1000. Through his efforts, the church was finally restored.

Peter did not leave any money to the Abbey, but 20s. to the poor. He asked to be buried in the north aisle by his father. He is mentioned in prayer among the benefactors, and is shown on the far left of the simulated stained glass window in the Heritage Vaults, as the first restorer of the Abbey. A wooden memorial to him once existed, now lost. The Chapman arms by the chancel have always been attributed to Peter. They have lately been discovered to have been in gold, not silver.



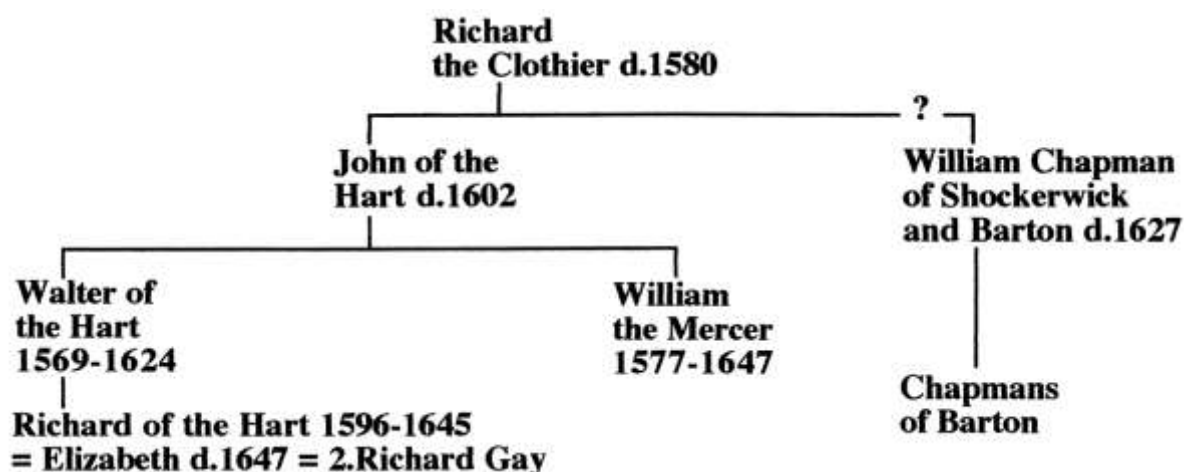
Richard the Clothier, died 1580

In his valuable booklet, *Bath Abbey Monuments*, Bernard Stace points to the oldest surviving attribution in the Abbey (Stace p.6), that to Richard Chapman at the east end of the north aisle. This is listed by Harrington as No.1, a small Freestone Monument to Richard Chapman, alderman, died 1572, and William Chapman (whom he calls son of the said William), died 1627.

When John James Chapman visited the Abbey in the 1840s, he had Peter's monument placed in the vestry (the verger had taken it home), and adds, "The monument to Richard was found, with the inscription much defaced by whitewash. It was cleaned and repaired..."

John James came to face the same problem as ourselves, that according to the register no Richard Chapman was buried in the Abbey in 1572, that the only known Alderman Richard Chapman was buried in 1579/80, and that there is no trace of Peter's having had a son Richard, even though Wood ascribes this Richard to him. Who then was this mystery Richard? Could it be that this was really a memorial to Richard the clothier, which time and whitewash had obscured? John James came to think that this was so, and describes it in one place as a memorial to Peter's brother.

William Chapman the elder alderman, who died in 1627, was also William Chapman of Shockerwick and of Barton. We sought the will of Richard Chapman of Shockerwick, but like so many Bath wills it had been lost. It seems possible that Richard the clothier was also Richard of Shockerwick and William the elder alderman's father. Any clues will be very welcome.



Walter of the Hart, 1569-1624

According to Britton's record of the Book of Benefactors, on 29 October 1603 Walter Chapman, Thomas Wint and Peter Sherstone paid £35.18s. towards the second work of restoration, which they had given and gathered. This must be Richard the clothier's eldest grandson Walter of the Hart, alderman, mayor, and from 1616-1624 Master of St.John's Hospital (the city having become disillusioned with Bewshin). It was Walter's daughter-in-law Elizabeth, the wife of his son Richard of the Hart, buried in the Abbey on 29 December 1645, who gave a silver tankard to the Abbey in 1646. She herself was buried in the Abbey 22 December 1647 as Elizabeth Gay, having married Richard Gay.

George Chapman and John Chapman.

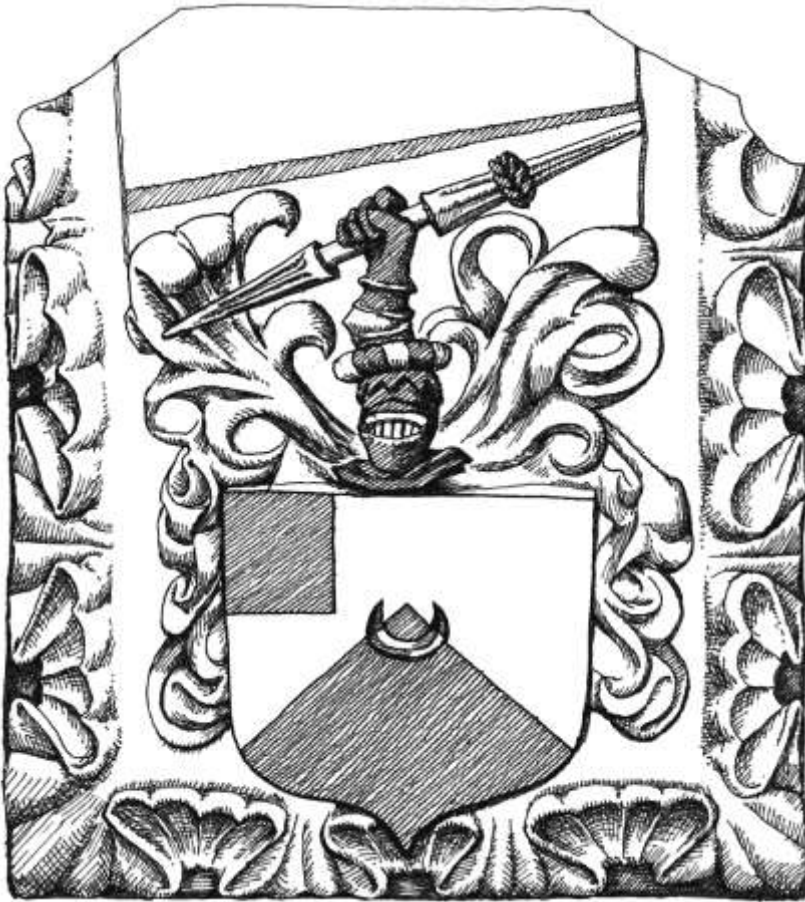
Britton records that in the second work, George Chapman and John Chapman "collected of Bachilers towards the buyinge of the bell" £3.14.4. This would be Peter's grandson George (1577-1644), landlord of the Beare. Possibly the John was John Chapman of Barton, son of William of Barton, the elder alderman who died in 1627. (John became an agent on the Barton estate). George married Philippa Hull in 1616, a convenient move, as the Hulls held the property next to the Beare Lodgings by the King's Bath.

William the Mercer, 1571-1647

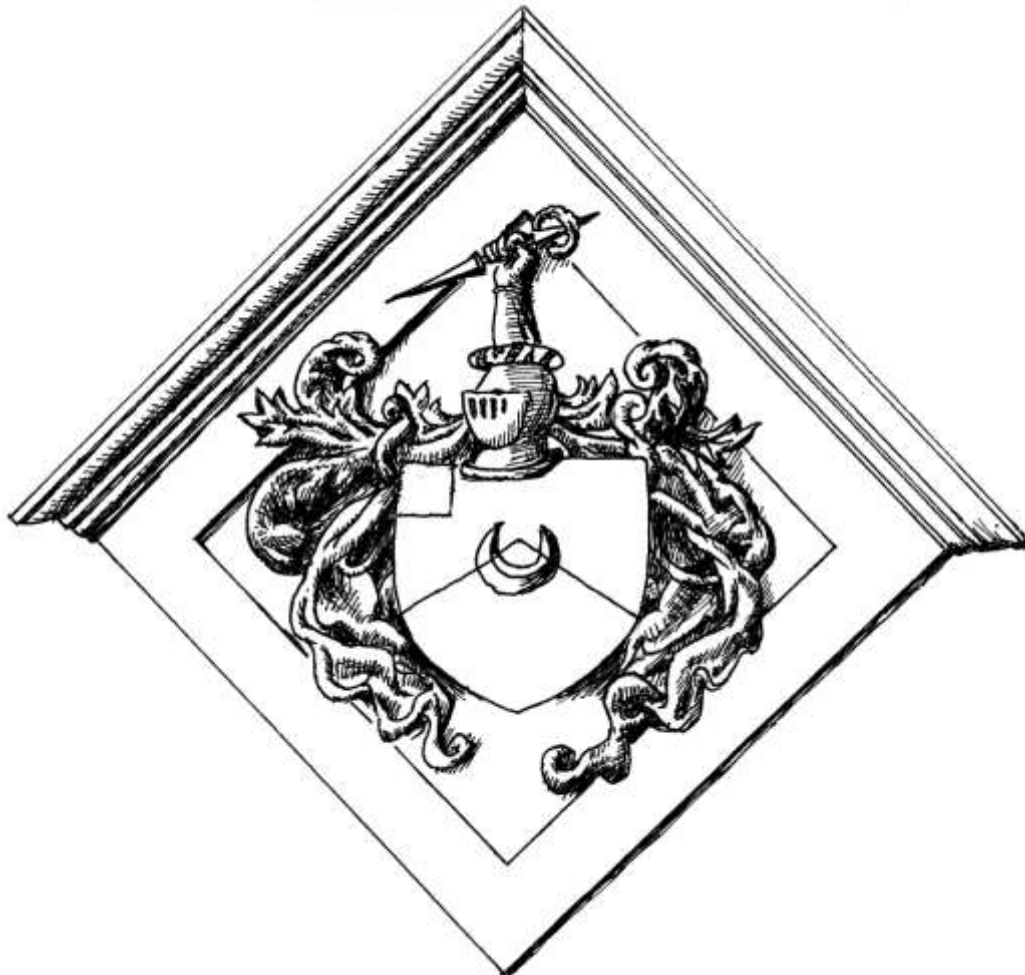
William the mercer was the younger brother of Walter of the Hart and lived next door to him, on the south side of the Hart. Harington in the 18th century wrote that he had a large freestone monument in the north aisle, with his bust and arms, and a Latin inscription, much defaced, followed by a poem. Other records have been cited as saying that the bust had moustachios and a pointed Stuart beard. Ruth Young cites the whole inscription from Dingley, with the translation, "With exemplary honesty and wisdom five times held worthily the office of Mayor of this town". (N.B. she gives the dates incorrectly.)

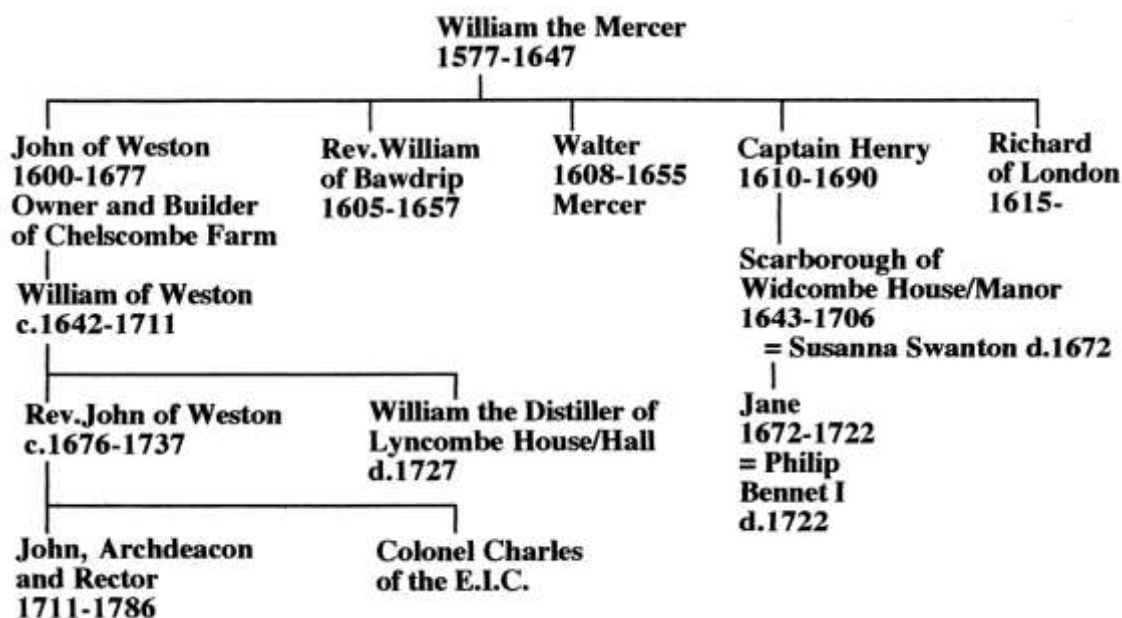
Presumably the monument was put up, no doubt after the Civil War was over, by William's five surviving sons, John of Weston, Rev.William of Bawdrip, Walter the mercer, Captain Henry, and Richard the grocer of London. John of Weston could have supplied the mason, Rev.William, who attended both Magdalen and Christ Church, Oxford, the Latin inscription, and Captain Henry, who saw himself as a writer, the poem. It read:

Hear a Chapman lies, who left his Trade on Earth,
 To merchandise in Heaven, in his second Birth;
 Relinquish'd all, to purchase that true Gemm,
 His life's Estate in New Hierusalem.
 Dignum laude! virum musa vetat mori.



The Chapman arms in the roof of the south transept (left), compared with those at Chelscombe Farm (below).





John Chapman of Weston 1600-1677

During the recent cleaning of the Abbey a second Chapman coat of arms was revealed, to the right on the east side of the south transept, once again red and gold instead of the correct Chapman colours of silver and red. In the Abbey improvements of the later 19th century Gilbert Scott replaced the plaster roof vaulting of some of the Abbey by stonework. A photograph supplied by Roland Symons shows that this Chapman stone has been set into place, not carved on site. It is angled so as to be well visible from below, though it is not absolutely clear whether it was originally carved with that in mind. It is 17th century in style and greatly resembles the arms on the front of Chelscombe Farm, where the arm holding the spear is rigid instead of bent.

John Chapman of Weston was the eldest son of William the mercer, and married Elizabeth White. Because of his family and his connection with Weston, we presumed him to be a clothier, but so far the records have only revealed him as a property owner and a builder, and it seems possible he was called “of Weston” because of his purchase of Chelscombe Farm. When he bought it in 1650 he was described as belonging to St.Michael’s parish outside the North Gate. Robert Meade, citizen and stationer of London, and his son Thomas, appointed Thomas Pope of Weston their attorney to yield up into the hands of the Lord and Lords of the Manor of Weston and the Steward of the Manor, for the use of John Chapman, a copyhold messuage, and a copyhold ground called Chelscombe which later deeds say was the site of the messuage. John appears to have rebuilt it immediately, since “1651” appears on the front, with the Chapman arms, and initials, now obscure, “C.J.E.”. It seems to have become the jointure of his son William’s wife Hannah or Anna Sparrow. She died in 1674 and a deed of that year refers to “William Chapman of Chelscombe”. (See the Record Office, Accession 102, Additional documents, Bundle 422.)

John Chapman himself was buried in the Abbey on 22 October 1677, “Mr.John Chapman, alderman”. He had been mayor in 1667. He built the Chapman lodgings by the King’s Bath, in the 1650s, and seems also to have built or refaced “Webb’s”, shown in the right-hand bottom border of Gilmore, a house on the Crystal Palace site.

William, whom we call William of Weston, appears second on Harington’s list of the north aisle, with “A small Square Marble Monument”. He died in 1711 and his second wife Frances in 1709.

Captain Henry Chapman, 1610-1690

The numerous little churches and chapels of medieval Bath, founded for the saying of the Mass, mostly became disused in the Protestant era, which centred its worship on preaching and praise and looked for a large congregation. The restored Abbey became the central church of the town, and the Chapman family continued to show their support of it and their pride in it. The Interregnum which followed the Civil War in the mid-17th century did see some of the Chapmans, with their in-laws the Fishers, in conflict with the Puritan Rector over the Abbey’s rights in Widcombe, but Henry, who had been part of this conflict, later wrote in praise of the Abbey.

Henry Chapman, at one time Captain of the trained bands, William the mercer's fourth son, was one of the most turbulent of the Chapman family. His career has been described by John Wroughton. After he had finally been elected mayor - as most of his close male relations were - Henry seems to have reformed (in 1680 a Government spy described him as an 'old honest Cavalier'). In 1673, after his second term as mayor, he brought out a book to advertise the spa, *Thermae Redivivae: the City of Bath Described*. This, he said, was a plain and cheap (not Scholastick) Divulgarion. Considering its author, he said, the Reader could not expect anything but plain ordinary English. He devoted considerable space to the Abbey. He particularly mentioned the Hoptons, some of whom were in-laws of his family and held a garden in the Hart Lane which once went with the Hart.

Henry described the Abbey, or Church of St.Peter and Paul, as:

justly challenging to itself the Pre-eminence, for Lightsomeness, Stateliness and Elegance of Structure, of all the Parochial Churches in the Kingdom; the Tower whereof, is One hundred and sixty-two Foot high; in the upper Loft whereof, is a noble Taunting and Musical Ring of Bells, whose loud peals have been distinctly heard Five, Six, nay, sometimes Seven miles distant. The Tenor is called Hopton, mostly the gift of that Honourable Family; what wanted in their Bounty, was supplied by the City...

GOD raised up Bishop Montague, Mr.Thomas Bellot, and other pious and generous Benefactors, by whose great Bounty and good Example, it now enjoys its present Splendor and Glory...

Next, for the Honour of our Fathers, they were the Repairers; and that, in the last place, we, their Survivors, may not be branded of having so much faith, that we have lost all good Works, (we) continue the Reparation, and that not niggardly neither; of which those famous Battlements and Pinnacles, almost round, give sufficient and pregnant Evidence.

It is from Henry that the phrase "this famous city" comes, speaking of the city and its suburbs:

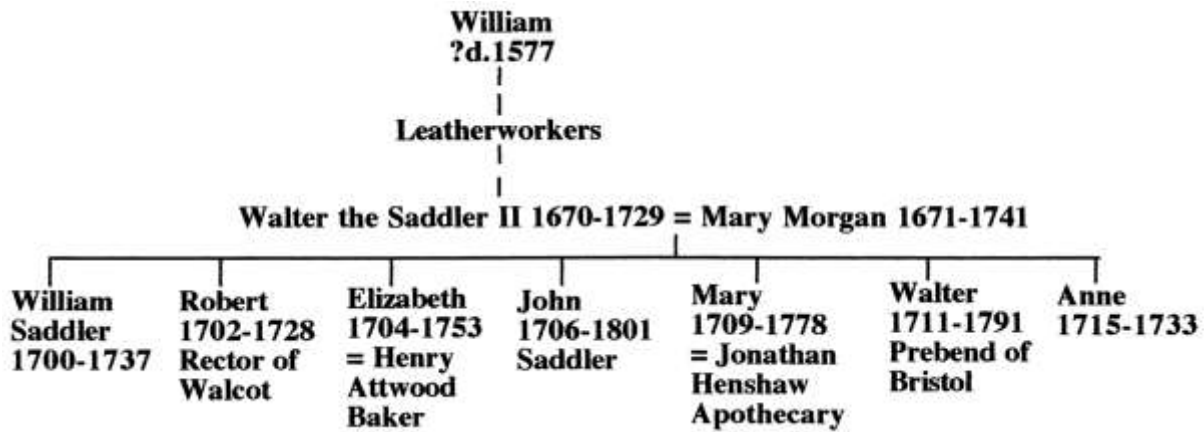
... and all together, computed by some that pretend to have calculated its Dimensions, takes up not much more than Fifty Acres; in such a narrow compass is this antient, famous, little pretty City contained...

Susanna Chapman, died 1672

Henry's only surviving child was Scarborough (apparently named after a Dr.Scarborough), the builder of Widcombe House (Widcombe Manor). In 1668, when he was twenty-five and she about nineteen, Scarborough married his step-cousin Susanna Swanton. She died in 1672 shortly after the birth of her daughter Jane. Their only son, Robert, died just before Christmas, in his third year. Harington records their memorial as being No.8 in the north or Chapman aisle, "a small Wooden Monument, with a painted COAT of ARMS". Susanna is described as "Pia Pulchra Pudica Puerpera", a pious, beautiful and modest young mother. Her monument is also mentioned by Britton, 1825.

Walter the Saddler 1669-1729

The efforts of leading citizens like Henry to promote the spa were all too successful. In the 18th century fashion discovered Bath, fashion crowded into the Abbey, and monuments to fame and fashion appeared on its walls. Room was still found for some of the more prosperous tradesmen. One of these was Walter the saddler, alderman and mayor, whose memorial appears at the east end of the north aisle. The Chapman leatherworkers appear to have been descended from Peter's brother William. They did not achieve prominence until the 18th century, perhaps because that century brought a greater demand for harness, saddles, shoes and gloves. Walter himself lived at the Star and Garter, at the south end of the old High Street. Several of Walter's family are mentioned on the memorial: his wife was Mary Morgan (c.1670-1741). Omitted is his son William, who in 1727 was accidentally shot with a pistol he had just bought. Included is John the saddler, mayor six times and an executor of Ralph Allen. By 1800 John the saddler lived at 7 Kingsmead Square. Also missing because he was buried elsewhere, is Walter, Prebend of Bristol, Master of St.John's, Bath. Walter's son-in-law Alderman Jonathan Henshaw, apothecary, has a fine memorial at the west end of the north aisle, with the Chapman arms impaled.



Archdeacon John Chapman, 1711-1786

Over the centuries, dozens of the Chapman family were baptised, married or buried in the Abbey. We have noted all the entries in Jewers' transcripts up to the 1830s, but have not totalled them yet. One of the family finally became Archdeacon and Rector of Bath, John Chapman, son of the Rev. John Chapman of Weston. Archdeacon John was a pluralist, after the fashion of the times, and was buried in his parish of Newton St. Loe, though the Abbey registers also note his death. His name is on the list of Rectors on a south pillar of the chancel.

Archdeacon John's life would really require a separate essay. Judging by his will, he seems to have been a kindly and thoughtful man, leaving legacies to his servants, and then in a codicil stating particularly which shall have his Shirts and Sheets, or his Draft Bay Horse and a Rick of Hay. His will and the epitaph he composed for himself make no mention of a wife, and yet the Becker family of Germany possessed a silver service, inscribed 23 July 1748 and apparently presented to him on his marriage. We have not traced this marriage yet. The Beckers buried the silver in the war, but when the advancing Russians swept over Herrnhut they dug it up, all but a piece or two which Ludwig Becker still possesses.

The last Chapman on Bath Council, George, linendraper, died in 1808 and was buried in the Abbey. With him ended the Chapman reign in Bath. Gradually the rest of the family seem to have left the city. We have not yet traced any connection between the "Chapmans" living here now and those of the past. Anyone descended from old Bath must be in part descended from or connected to the Chapmans, but surnames differ, as with those known descendants of the family who have returned to Bath.

From the 18th and 19th centuries onwards, the Abbey began to play a new role for the family. Instead of being the local church, it became a spiritual centre to which people looked back from around the world, and to which they could come on pilgrimage, say from Germany, New Zealand or Australia. It is hoped in a later issue to publish an account of some of these visitors, in Part II of this essay.

The present Rector, Prebendary Richard Askew, has suggested placing a brass replica of the previous wooden plaque commemorating Peter Chapman, in the north or Chapman aisle of the Abbey. Both the Friends of the Abbey and members of the Chapman family worldwide will surely welcome this step, as without the legendary efforts of Peter, the Abbey might not have survived. The cost should be £150-£200, with some funds perhaps available from the Abbey itself. If anyone is interested in subscribing to this scheme, they should contact Prebendary Askew at the Abbey Office, 13 Kingston Buildings, Bath BA1 1LT, B&NES, England.

With thanks to everyone who has helped in compiling the material for this study, especially Connie Smith for her notes on Peter Chapman's will.