

The Survey

of Bath and District

The Magazine of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.6, November 1996

Editors: Mike Chapman

Elizabeth Holland



Left: John James Chapman, Royal Artillery, from a miniature owned by the family, copied from an original portrait. In the 1840s Captain Chapman lived at 6 Old King Street. He must have made his collection of calotypes towards the end of his stay there.

Right: John James Chapman's father, Captain Thomas Chapman of the Welsh Fusiliers. Captain Thomas Chapman fought in the American War of Independence "with gallant and desperate valour". After the British defeat, he met and married a beautiful Quaker girl, John James' American mother.

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NEWS FROM THE SURVEY

Our article on the Bishops' Palace, written with Peter Davenport, has now been published in the *Archaeological Journal*, Vol.152, labelled "1995". Mike's booklet on the Ralph Allen Estate was published in time for the A.G.M. of the Friends in June this year. Mike spoke at the A.G.M., and has also conducted two parties round the walls of the Bishops' Park. He has been invited to speak to the History of Bath Research Group and also the Bristol & Avon Archaeological Society. There is talk of another walk for the Mayors' Guides, next spring.

A number of people are now concerned with the Southgate area, and we have been glad to discuss various problems with them. We ourselves are concentrating now on the Ham area, and also on the Lower Abbey Orchard, where the North and South Parades were built, and material connected with the Duke of Kingston's Estate beyond the city walls. We shall be glad to receive further items from the Friends on all these areas.

Any further large-scale projects run by the Survey will be directed by Mike Chapman. As Mike is a professional surveyor, this means they will have to be funded. The Survey will be seeking contracts as other professional bodies do. No change in the constitution is needed, as it provides for both paid and voluntary work.

The Survey will continue with voluntary projects which can be completed fairly quickly. Mike is taking an interest in producing a map of Twerton. Elizabeth will be bringing out our report on Widcombe Manor when we have looked further into a point raised by a dissentient opinion. She is also assembling material for a study of "Mr. William Chapman of Lyncombe and Widcombe". As well she has been making a study of the deeds of Prior Park Buildings for the Residents' Association there, with the possibility of a pamphlet, leading perhaps to a booklet by the Association.

Mike has become an Associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and we are sure the Friends will be gratified. Work done for the Survey was amongst the material he submitted, including the Bishops' Palace article, his study of Irvine's finds at the White Hart Inn, our Kingston map, the Bishops' Park, and so on.

Our gathering in July for Professor Robert Alexander of the U.S.A. is discussed under "News from the Friends". We are planning a sherry party in the spring at which guests can if they wish display work which has been published or exhibited, based wholly or partly on sources in the Record Office. The Friends have all received a note on this, and further information will be circulated.

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



NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

The A.G.M. of the Friends of The Survey was held on 14 June 1996, at Abbey Church House as usual, and chaired by Mrs.Ruth Haskins. Dr.John Wroughton, the President of the Friends, sent his apologies as he was occupied in moving into his flat in the newly converted Empire. The Committee was re-elected, with the addition of Mrs.Priscilla Olver and Mrs.Hazel Symons. The Treasurer, Mrs.Ann Cridland, presented the accounts, with especial thanks to the honorary Auditor, Mrs.Elizabeth Wicks. Mike Chapman's talk on the outlines of the Bishops' Park was very well received, and plans were made for walks. Colin Johnston spoke briefly on his new role as B&NES Archivist, and was presented with files on Freshford and Radstock, the latter including a sales brochure of Freshford Manor, and some pictures taken by Mike and Elizabeth on an excursion. Extra pictures were also presented for the Survey's Queen Square file, to mark Philip Jackson's article on the Queen Square Chapel. Refreshments were served, under the able direction as usual of the Secretary, Mrs.June Hodkinson, helped by the committee.

Mike later led two parties around the perimeter of the Bishops' Park. The tour on Wednesday 21 August was attended by Peter Addison, Mrs.Doreen Collyer, Mr.and Mrs. Ken and Shirley Cookes, Mrs.Ann Cridland, Arthur Green and John Hawkes. On Thursday 5 September the party consisted of Mr.and Mrs.Cope, Mrs.Ruth Haskins, Mrs.June Hodkinson, Allan Keevil, Mr.and Mrs.Philip Jackson, Mrs.Priscilla Olver, and Mrs. Mary Stacey of Built Heritage. June Hodkinson writes: "We were fortunate in that both walks took place on pleasant light evenings with firm ground underfoot. Mike recommended using the minimum number of cars to make it easier to negotiate the narrow lanes and to park, and it also proved to be more enjoyable as well.

In addition to showing us the boundaries of the Bishops' Park, Mike gave us a 'brief' history of the development of the natural parkland of the area. By all accounts both evenings were appreciated and enjoyed, so much so that the stars were twinkling above before anyone was persuaded to go home! Many thanks indeed, Mike."



Earlier, on Friday 12 July, a small group met Robert Alexander at 16 Prior Park Buildings, for coffee, wine, and cream trifle made with summer fruit from the garden. Robert had just come from a conference in Leeds. Guests discussed their recent activities, and Dr.John Wroughton revealed that his book on the Stuart age for Longmans was now completed.

Philip Jackson will be speaking on the Queen Square Chapel to the Bath Group of the Bristol and Avon Family History Society on Monday 25 November, 7.30 p.m., at St.Mary's Church Hall, Darlington Street, Bathwick. Philip has now finished the Walcot Index of Baptisms for 1813-1816. Copies are available both for the Archives and Bath Central Library.

Stuart Burroughs of the Bath Industrial Heritage Centre has joined the Friends of the Survey. We hope to be hearing from him about his research into the Stothert and Pitt works in Southgate Street, perhaps in the next newsletter. John Brushfield has also joined. John is interested in producing maps of Widcombe as in the "Common Ground" project (East Twerton and Oldfield Park Local History Group are also taking an interest in such a map of their area).

Mrs.Ruth Haskins writes that after completing the article on the Victorian Markets for our last issue, she found an index entry to early photographs of the Market in the Hunt Collection, now on film in the Library, but without the photos.

“About this time the Mayor’s Guides invited me to give one of the four talks for Heritage Open Day, at the Guildhall. It seemed appropriate to talk about the Market, so I went back to the Library to enquire if I could look at the original, which the staff kindly allowed. There on p.115 were four photos of the Market, obviously early, with traders in stove hats, plus a cutting from the Bristol and Gloucester newspaper, 1851, with a drawing of the Market with its new dome, and describing the improvements”.

Ruth was told that she might donate copies of these pictures to the Archives if she could find a suitable photographer. “Marek Lewcun offered his services, and with Colin Johnston and Mrs.Bevan consulted, he agreed to do the photographs and make a set of five slides. He managed to get them developed just in time for me to use at the end of the talk. Since then they have been deposited with Colin Johnston for use by other researchers. A complete set of my research will be deposited shortly, it is being put on computer and printed out. This proved a very interesting subject: this winter I hope to continue with the Market Committee Book II. My thanks to Colin and Mary for their help and patience, also the staff at the Library and of course Marek for his excellent work.”

Arrangements have been made to photograph the calotypes deposited at the Record Office by Ludwig Becker, and David McLaughlin will be continuing his study of them. We hope to be hearing more about these pictures, perhaps at the proposed sherry party at the Record Office next spring. The date for this will be arranged later when we have more information on committee meetings, as we look forward to inviting the appropriate B&NES committee.

Stephen Clews was another speaker at the Open Day, his subject being the Guildhalls of Bath. We understand the Day could have done with more publicity, or so some of our contacts told us. The new City Centre Manager had only just arrived.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

I was much impressed by the Survey’s and Mike’s Ralph Allen publication. I have bought two copies - one for myself and one for our archive.

Andrew Ellis, Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group, 28 September 1996.

Your newsletter is so enjoyable. I guess Pittsburgh has something like this, but I haven’t seen it.

Robert Alexander, Pittsburgh, USA, 26 June 1996.

I was glad to see the picture of Mike Chapman in connection with our map of the Ralph Allen Estate (*The Bath Chronicle*, August 31). There was one slight omission. The Survey of Old Bath specialises in pre-Georgian, not in Georgian Bath. In order to study pre-Georgian Bath it is also necessary to make detailed studies of the later city. When Mike had traced the Ralph Allen Estate map at the Record Office, in the Guildhall, Bath, he realised he could see the outlines of the deer park mentioned in your article. No one had noticed these outlines before because the map had been too large to take in. In the same way, our map of the Duke of Kingston’s Georgian estate, south of the Abbey, led to some ideas on the layout of the Bishops’ Palace, ideas which confirmed that Peter Davenport’s excavations in the Swallow Street area must indeed have found the remains of the residence of Bishop John de Villula. An article written in conjunction with Peter has just appeared in *The Archaeological Journal*, the 1995 issue, somewhat late. One way and another, we always find that studies of the old and new city go hand in hand.

E.A.Holland, 9 September 1996

FRIENDS OF THE SURVEY OF OLD BATH

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Mr. R. V. Chapman, Australia		Mrs. E. Pomeroy
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Mr. & Mrs. I. Crew		Dr. N. Tiffany
Mr. N. J. Cridland		Mrs. D. Wedge
Mr. P. Davenport, Bath Archaeological Trust		Mr. John Brushfield
Mrs. P. G. R. Graham		Mr. Stuart Burroughs
Mr. A. J. Green		



CITY NEWS

BATH 1996

It is reported that B&NES is applying for £5-£6 million from the Lottery Millennium Fund, to pay part of the cost of reviving the Spa. A new City Centre Manager, Ms. Ann Crosbie, has been appointed, replacing Kimberley Paumier. Ms. Crosbie has identified traffic and begging and busking as the prime targets. In a thoughtful letter to the *Chronicle* not long ago, Stephen Beck suggested that Bath had lost the atmosphere of a spa town, because of its emphasis on short-term tourism. Traffic, pollution, open-top buses, beggars and buskers, shops specialising in knick-knacks, are not what Continental spa towns offer people seeking to recruit their health. The clash between a spa as a health resort, and the atmosphere of commercial tourism, he suggested, is something the authorities will have to face.

MUSEUM PURCHASES

It is reported that the Holburne has launched an appeal for £400,000 to purchase a marble group, Diana and Endymion, made by Guisepe Plura in Bath in 1752, and offered now to the museum for £395,000. An anonymous benefactor has already pledged £50,000.

The Museum of Costume will receive £56,500 from the Lottery Heritage Fund towards conserving and restoring two of their historic collections of gloves. Bath Preservation Trust will receive £5,000 towards buying paintings of Ralph Allen, Elizabeth Allen, and General Wade, to hang at No.1 Royal Crescent. The remaining £11,000 is being donated by B&NES, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Beecroft Foundation.



The New Inn during the demolition of the Post Office on the opposite corner. The construction of the Forum can be made out in the background.

DISTRICT NEWS

SURVEY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN NEWTON ST.LOE

This project has been set up by B&NES with the support of the Duchy of Cornwall and the tenants of Newton St.Loe. The purpose of the project is to record the historic buildings in the parish, and it should provide valuable information on the development of the village.

The work is being undertaken by volunteers under the guidance of John Dallimore, a member of the South Somerset Vernacular Architecture Research Group. They are preparing measured surveys of the properties, and these will eventually be published.

This is a very useful way of extending our understanding of our local history, and I hope that similar projects can be established in other parts of B&NES.

The volunteers will be out recording every second Saturday (until it gets too cold!). If anybody is interested in joining the project, please contact:

Mary Sabina Stacey,
Built Heritage Manager,
Bath & North East Somerset.
01225 477537



The New Bridge at Newton St.Loe in the days of the tram.



PUBLICATION NEWS

Reprints from our article in the *Archaeological Journal*, Volume 152, for 1995, are available from Mike, price £1. The *Guide to the Estates of Ralph Allen around Bath*, by Mike Chapman, and *The Kingston Estate Within the walled City of Bath*, by Mike and Elizabeth, have been selling well at Whiteman's. Peter Addison contacted the *Chronicle* about the Ralph Allen guide, and they published a photograph of Mike in front of the Palladian Bridge, which helped sales.

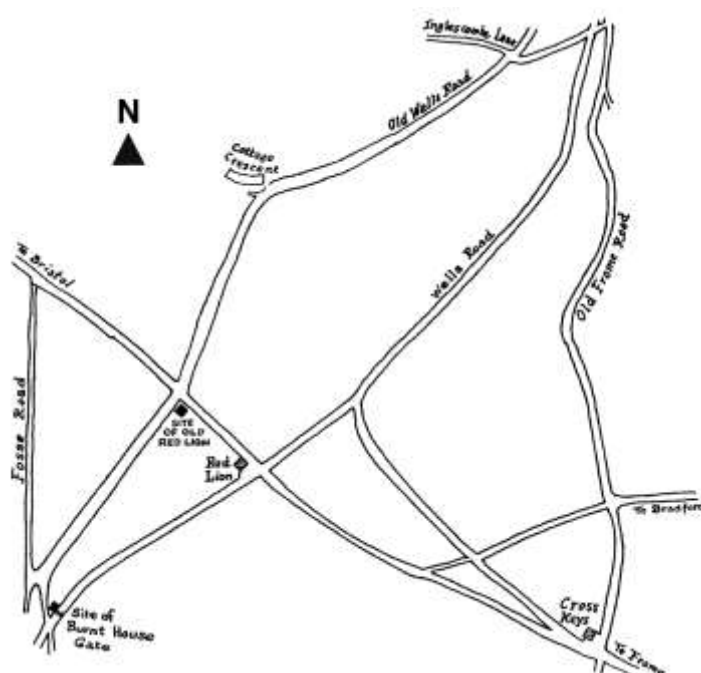
Keith Dallimore has produced the 1851 tithe map of Monkton Combe, price £3, published by Millstream Books.

The anticipated issue of *Bath History*, Volume VI, was published in September, including the following articles; *Bath Abbey: Some New Perspectives*, by Robert Bell; *The Barton of Bath*, by Allan Keevil; *Life and Litigation in Bath and its Environs in the Sixteenth Century*, by J.H.Betty; *The Avon Navigation and the Inland Port of Bath*, by Brenda Buchanan; *The Cloth Industry of Twerton from the 1780s to the 1820s*, by Nicholas von Behr; *Bath and the "Bath and West of England Society", 1777-1851*, by Helena L.H.Lim; *Artists' Picture Rooms in Eighteenth Century Bath*, by Susan Sloman; *Jerom Murch and Bath Politics, 1833-1879*, by Alex Kolaczowski.

The authors have as usual all taken great pains with their work. Allan Keevil's article will provide useful source material for those who like the Survey are interested in pre-Georgian Bath. Valuable additions are the Notes on Contributors, and the Index to Vols.I-VI.

A new history of St.John's Hospital by Mrs.Jean Manco is proposed, replacing the existing dreadful product by Peach. The three Chapman lay Masters of St.John's, in the early 17th century, cannot have made any money out of St.John's, as they did not handle the lettings nor the revenues as individuals. Income went to support the old folk, fines were paid into the City account as a kind of Council Tax, and leases followed their usual path through the "lives". And even if anyone had deprived St.John's of money - which it is possible the later Masters did, though we have not studied the evidence yet - what is there to make such a noise about, as Peach did, when one considers the corruption that prevailed elsewhere?

Messrs.Nicholas Pearson's management plan for the grounds of Widcombe Manor has been circulating, "produced for Mr.and Mrs.Davisson, owners of Widcombe Manor, with assistance and funding from The Countryside Commission and Bath City Council". Our own report on the Chapmans and Widcombe Manor is pending. We met with a dissentient opinion on the building date, and are seeking more documents. An interesting point in the Pearson report is that they believe they have found the torso of the old Neptune statue, somewhat ivy-clad, but apparently restorable.



Site of the Old Red Lion on Odd Down, showing the new site on the Wells Road.

NOTES AND QUERIES

THE RED LION, ODD DOWN

The present “Red Lion”, by the roundabout on Odd Down, at the present Frome Road/Wellsway junction, was moved from its old site after Macadam had laid out the new part of the turnpike route to Wells in the 1820s (cf. Thorpe’s Survey of a 5-mile radius of Bath, 1742, and the Lyncombe & Widcombe Tithe map, 1839).

The corner site of the old “Red Lion” is now marked by the Odd Down Pharmacy, with its modern frontage built onto a much older structure (possibly part of the old “Red Lion” premises), standing on the south-eastern side of the junction of Frome Road with the “Old Wells Road” (now Upper Bloomfield Road).

The whole length of the present Bloomfield Road and Holloway, although an ancient route, is not to be confused (as it, and the present Wells Road from Odd Down to the Bear Flat, often have been) with the Roman Fosseway from Wells, which almost certainly turned at Odd Down along the line of the Saxon boundary of Lyncombe (still partly represented by the present Old Fosse Road there) to reach the river in the vicinity of the present Victoria Bridge, nearly half a mile west of the old walled city of Bath.

Allan Keevil



Site of Old Red Lion - looking west.

The modern structure of Odd Down Pharmacy has been built on to what is possibly part of the Old Red Lion Inn. The road in the foreground is simply a side road leading from Frome Road into the former Old Red Lion Quarry. Upper Bloomfield Road runs across the direction of focus beyond the car parked on the wide pavement in front of the premises. Part of the Co-op. can be seen at Noad’s corner on the opposite side of Bloomfield Road.

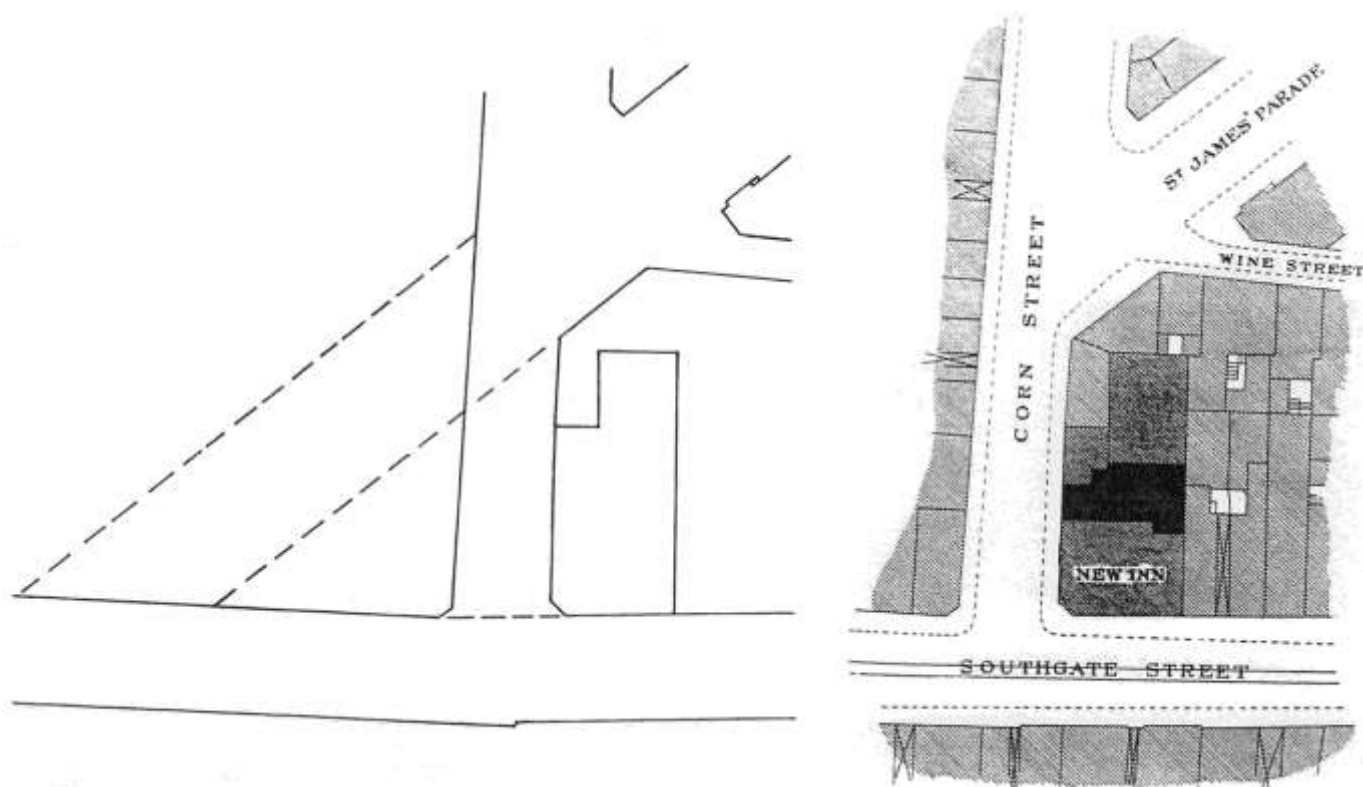
BATH BRIDGES

Apparently Richard Jones, Ralph Allen’s Clerk of Works, was connected with both the Old Bridge at Bath and the New Bridge of Newton St. Loe. Allan Keevil points out that after the rebuilding of the Old Bridge between 1754-1755, the Corporation paid Richard Jones five guineas “for his Extraordinary Care about the bridge”. Niall Allsopp in Images of Kennet and Avon called the New Bridge the river gateway to Bath.

THE NEW INN AND THE FORUM, SOUTHGATE STREET (THE AMBERY)

The New Inn, mentioned in Dora Wedge's article, once stood on the east end of Corn Street, but the streets were rerouted in the 1930s and the Forum built. The Forum is first mentioned in the directory of 1935. Robert Membery's once occupied all the space between Somerset Street and the old Corn Street. It moved northward and was allowed to build on Corn Street and block up the southern windows of the New Inn. The New Inn also gave up land on the east for street widening. Plans exist in deed packets. There is an 1805 lease for the New Inn in Accession 59, the Record Office, Bundle 2, No.7.

The New Inn was never the Corporation's property, but marks the northern end of the old Ambery Mead at that point. Corporation houses ended north of it. The site, 41 Southgate Street, is now the home of the Midland Bank. Allan Keevil has pointed out to us how the Fishers, with others, developed the Ambery area from 1736 on, at about the same time as Avon Street.



The New Inn at the corner of Corn Street. The pecked line shows the present road alignment.

BAGATELLE GARDENS

John Hawkes is continuing his work on identifying the early fields of Widcombe. He has traced the tithe map of 1839 and is now working on its schedule of names. Like us, he believes Wicksteed's extra land for pleasure gardens may have been within the grounds of Widcombe House, as mentioned in his article. Both John and ourselves are collecting further material on this. Trevor Fawcett has been of great assistance here, with his indexes of 18th century material.

John is one of those who query whether the two sides of the gardens were really joined by an underground tunnel, as mentioned in our booklet on Ralph Allen. We accepted this idea not solely from Maurice Scott's book, but from the reported testimony of old folk who had seen a tunnel in their lifetime, "big enough to drive sheep through". It is true that on a visit to what we believe to be the site of "the House on the Fan" (Prior Park Road garage) and a look around the drained millpond and its outlets, Mike did not see anything like a tunnel suitable for people. However the road has been widened and the area banked up, and this remains another subject on which more evidence has to be collected.



An early Talbotype of the New Inn in 1849.



The New Inn in Southgate Street before the demolition of the Post Office.

MY MEMORIES OF THE HAM AND SOUTHGATE AREAS

II. Walking to St.James's Church

Dora Wedge

After I had finished working in Trowbridge, in 1935, I went to Southampton for a time and worked at No.145 Above Bar, in premises over the Bungalow Café in the main street, where all the lovely shops were. A Bristol firm owned this hairdressers. I stayed here about eighteen months and then returned to Somerset, where I worked in Ilminster, a small market town. Mr.and Mrs.Pym had a newsagent's, tobacconist's and ladies' and gents' hairdressers. I had digs with a very nice young couple, living in with the family. I was then twenty-two, in about 1936.

After Ilminster I returned to live in Bath and commuted to a job in Bradford-on-Avon. After that I worked for a time in Union Passage in Bath, at William Bett's, and during that time returned to taking my Manvers Street walk every morning.

About 1939 my sister Vera took a partnership with Mr.R.Nicolls at No.2 Bath Street, over Potter's the tailors, so I began to work there. This was on the south side. The whole of the north side was occupied by the Treatment Centre, beside the Grand Pump Room Hotel. My aunt Kitty, then resident at 9 Manvers Street, used to do massage in the Centre. Spa water was laid on there and patients did not have to go to the Hot or Cross Baths.

I never went into the Centre myself, but often after work we went swimming in the New Baths, Beau Street. (The Corporation Baths near the Treatment Centre were then called the Royal Baths.) The New Baths were open until about eight o'clock. We went in a crowd of friends and changed in the little cubicles. After swimming we would go somewhere for refreshment.

I worked in Bath Street until 1941 when I was called up for war work. I did land work at the Smallcombe Nursery. They had rabbits and fowls and ducks, which I had to clean out. They also grew flowers, fruit and vegetables. My sister Vera continued hairdressing in Bath Street, where she had bought the business, until Mr.Shutter bought the premises as an investment. By then I had returned there to work, and we moved to York Street.

In the period 1939-1941 I had to take a different way to town from my Manvers Street walk. I went through Newark Street, then past St.James's Church, and up Stall Street to Bath Street. As I came out of the railway tunnel by the river, I turned left instead of walking straight on past the Royal Hotel. I remember the Salvation Army Hostel across the road, but I don't remember any drunks or other unfortunates. In the 1930s there had been a great deal of unemployment in Bath but one did not see any beggars in the streets. At the Labour Exchange near the Little Theatre in St.Michael's Lane the queues used to stretch round the corner into Westgate Street. By the 1940s employment had improved because of all the work at the "Dump", as it was called, where the munitions were kept, at Farleigh Hungerford.

I could see Long's Timber Yard in Railway Street, next to Stanley Road, more or less on the site of the present Bus Station. During the war it was blitzed. It was moved down by the Avon, where it burnt down again in 1952. People stood in Spring Gardens Road, on the bank on the other side of the river, watching the flames and smoke, which continued for several hours.

In those days there were a number of different streets where the Bus Station and Car Park now stand - Newark Street, Philip Street, Railway Street, Ham Gardens, Kingston Road. The houses were chiefly private residences, with little shops in them, like greengrocers. They were tall old Georgian houses, with a basement, ground floor, and three floors above. Some were bombed in the war. My route lay along Newark Street. There were no trees there, but plenty of cats. It seemed that everyone in the street owned a cat. I continued through Philip Street past the site of the present Car Park, and then turned left through New Orchard Street. Newark Street still runs between the Dorchester Market and Somerfields, though it is now completely different. Where Iceland's is now was a pub called the Ship. This was a rather rough quarter.

The Edinburgh Castle stood by the entrance to the old Marchant's Passage, farther north than the present one. The Great Western was on the site of Somerfields. In Widcombe I had already passed the White Hart at the end of Prior Park Road, the Ring O'Bells, the Ram, the Cooper's Arms and the Claverton Arms. I reached my ninth pub with the Crown, opposite St.James's Church. There was no

unpleasantness there that I can remember. The Crown did not seem to worry the people who used St.James's Church. Very nice people kept this pub. It was an old-fashioned hostelry, and I think belonged to George's, Bristol Beers.

Spear's bacon factory and pig slaughterhouse stood opposite the Ship. One saw the pigs arriving in lorries and going in. The firm produced pork pies and also sausages, bacon and pork steaks. Their shops were on the other side, at 4 and 5 Southgate Street. Spear's offices were at the corner of Philip Street, and the Crown came next.

St.James's was a lovely old church which was bombed in the war. Outside the church on Saturdays Mrs.Tiani, an Italian greengrocer, had a hand-truck with vegetables from 8 a.m. in the morning until gone 6 p.m. at night, and did a roaring trade. Her kids spent the day going back and forward to the family greengrocers in Westgate Street to keep her supplied. I used to see her, as I always worked all day on Saturdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. All sorts of people came to have their hair done on a Saturday.

After the church came the shops, Leonard's the shoe shop, Mrs.Grant's the greengrocers, Marks and Werry's the bakers and confectioners. As I came near to Bath Street, flowersellers were standing under the pillars near the Pump Room, with great big baskets of flowers from the Bristol Market. I think there were about six of them there.



PUBLIC TRAUMA OVER THE OLD BRIDGE OF ST.LAWRENCE

Connie Smith

Apart from the several pedestrian ferries, the 14th century stone bridge over the Avon served Bath as the sole vehicle crossing place until well into the 1700s when it itself was also redesigned. The second river crossing came not as might be expected as a follow on from the Turnpike Trust era, but from the undertaking to improve river navigation between Bristol and Bath. In graceful style a new bridge near Newton St.Loe came around 1735 to assuage public clamour for a replacement for the previous ford (the present New Bridge is yet another replacement). Later on towards the end of the same century, to give access to the prestigious growing suburb around Bathwick, came the elegant toll free Pulteney Bridge.

Such structures materialized during the period when people were accustomed to be charged for the privilege of using the improved highways and were equally conditioned to pay the tolls levied at the new river crossings. It created a situation which was to put the “Old Bridge” of St.Lawrence (as it continued to be called) into the shade, for it was toll free. Care, maintenance, and any improvement came out of the pockets of the rate-paying public; fine that may have been when the city waxed in the public appeal of a fashionable resort, but not so clever during the city’s stagnatory period of the first half of the 19th century.

In their wisdom the City Councillors rejected Thomas Telford’s 1823 plans for easing the repeated inundations of the low-lying flood plain and also refused to approve his ideas to improve or replace the Old Bridge of St.Lawrence ... too costly, they said. River crossings were then very much a talking point, especially as only four years later another New Bridge was completed in 1827. Of cast-iron construction to take both vehicles and pedestrians on the eastern side of the city, it was later called the Cleveland Bridge. It was a private enterprise undertaking with extra funding for the raised approaches from the Bathwick Manor lordship of Cleveland. Success was instant, and it prospered, much to the satisfaction of the shareholders.

As to the Old Bridge it may be argued that lack of public awareness combined with negative thinking caused Bath Councillors to dither. They sat on the fence and did nothing. Hadn’t they the assurance from Thomas Telford anyway that the masonry appeared to be in a state to last another century? In a sluggish economy it was a good defence, though there existed a wave of public opinion that put the Old Bridge in a bad light. Indeed, some went so far as to say quite publicly that it was regarded as out of bounds for females of respectability.

Another facet in the argument for an improved bridge, or a replacement, was that usage, especially from the south side had grown quite dramatically by reason that the population of Lyncombe & Widcombe parish had increased tenfold. True, but let the coin be turned over in order to understand why those City fathers chose to do nothing. In the 1830s came the Municipal Reform Act which spread the benefits of policing, street lighting, cleaning and so on, all amenities which today are regarded as of paramount importance. But they were not welcomed by many reluctant locals who were faced with the added expense.

It will also be remembered that the early years of that century had produced intermittent income tax and that this was resented by all. Those years had also seen changes in society far beyond the understanding of the accepted teachings of the classical economists of the day; no wonder, then, that people were indignant, charged with bigotry, and full of misunderstanding of the social and economic requirements. Then there was that word “respectability” which was to become a plague upon Victorian society. It was also the crux of an argument to fund a pedestrian toll crossing of the Avon near to the Old Bridge.

An interesting letter has survived from the 1820s which succinctly mirrors the tide of public opinion and the muffling of comprehension. The writer was a lawyer who reported to his employer, Earl Manvers. The successful launch of the Cleveland Bridge company had evidently not been lost upon the Manvers estate but the Bath agent, William Board, firmly clamped a stop to the project, as follows:

Opinion on the building of a bridge by Gibbs Mill [i.e., the southern side of the Avon bounding upon Claverton Street]:

It would be of no benefit to Lord Manvers' estate, inasmuch as a free passage there would be letting in a neighbourhood that is far from respectable, and, I am sorry to say, growing worse from the wretched buildings now erecting on the Dolemeads.

As to the people on the southern bank of the river, they had to wait another 40 years until 1863 for a pedestrian toll crossing (the ill-fated Halfpenny Bridge).

Another private enterprise bridge came along in 1835 which was the North Parade Bridge; was it prompted by the imminent Great Western Railway which was scheduled for 1838 but did not transpire until 1840? That unfortunately, brought an adverse repercussion upon the long established Whitehall steps ferry on South Parade and it closed.

As to a replacement of the Old Bridge of St.Lawrence, William Dredge's suspension bridge of 1844 was also rejected, though some improvements were then made to the old structure. In the 1870s the elegant stone balustrading of the Old Bridge was removed and footpaths were constructed on brackets on each side. In this form the bridge remained until the 1960s. It was then replaced by the present Churchill Bridge in 1966, with its accompanying footbridge to carry service conduits. The new structures were to have been named the Southgate Bridge and Southgate footbridge but the death of Sir Winston Churchill provided an opening for naming them after him.

Notes and Sources

R.Angus Buchanan, "The Bridges of Bath", Bath History III, 1990, pp.1-21.

Paul De'Ath, Bath, Archive Photo Series, 1995.

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D.McQuillon, The Engineer 7:7, 7 April 1992.

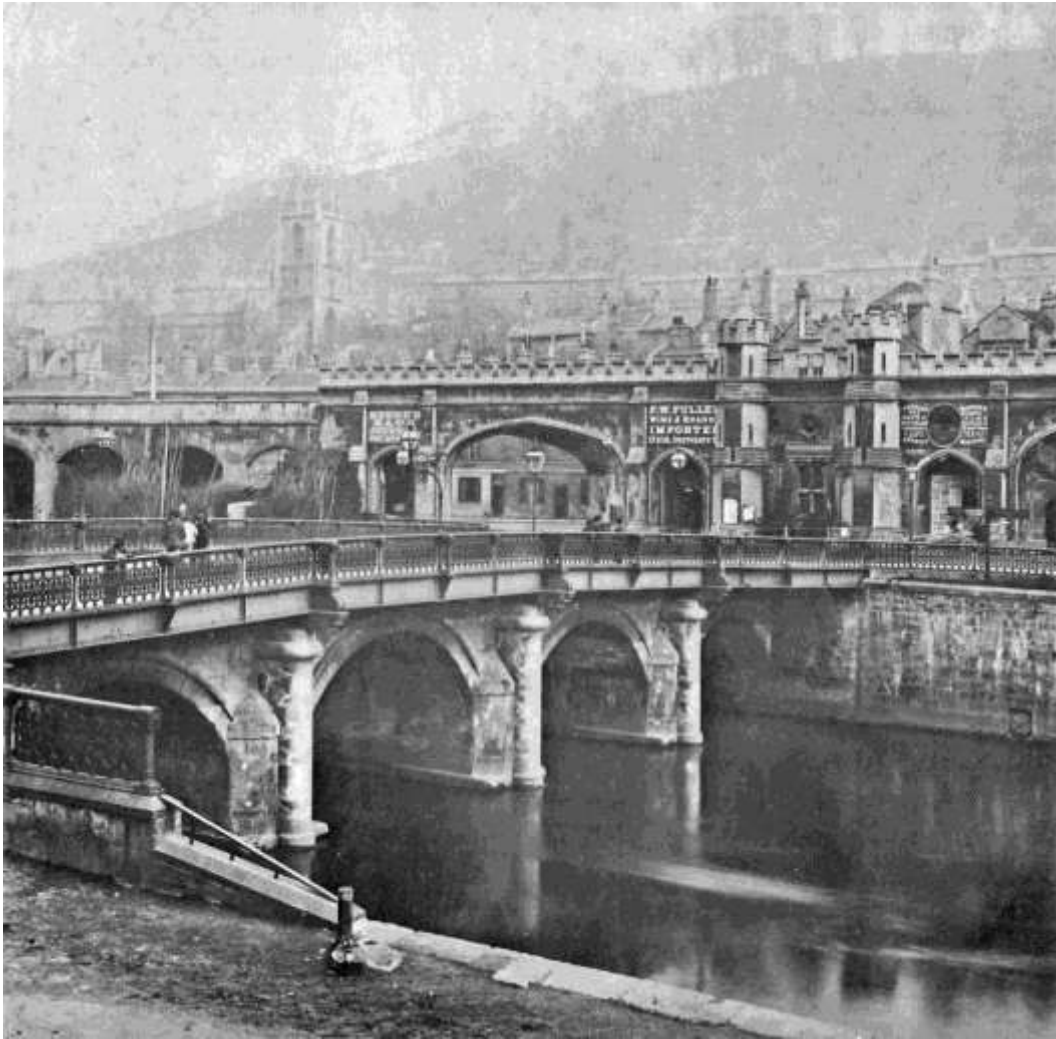
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Correspondence, Manvers Estate papers, 4 158/5, Hallward Library, University of Nottingham.



Dredge's proposal, designed in 1844, for a bridge over the Avon to replace the Old Bridge.



The Old Bridge at Bath, built 1754-1755.



The Full Moon public house which once stood on the north side of the Old Bridge, at the bottom of Southgate Street.

MY MEMORIES OF THE HAM AND SOUTHGATE AREAS

III. Walking Home Through Southgate Street

Dora Wedge

Sometimes on my way home, I walked down Southgate Street for a change. On the left, on the east side, there was Holloway's the butchers, right on the corner. All the poultry was hung outside in rows at Christmas, turkeys, chickens, ducks. There were Christmas illuminations in Southgate Street then as there are today. Among the next shops were two or three belonging to Spear's. Then came the passageway called Marchant's Passage, which led right through with the Edinburgh Castle on the other end of it. This Marchant's Passage was farther north than the present one.

After the passage came Cater's Wine Vaults. They had two or three shops in Bath - their main one was in the High Street. Nearby, David Greig's had a big grocer's shop and butcher's department. Farther down was the Odeon, which used to be called the Regal and before that the Picturedrome. It was still there after the war. Next to it was a wine and spirit shop called Oliver's. A little later there was a men's outfitters called Spearman's, and later a shoeshop which used to be called the Original Public Benefit Boot Company.

At the corner, there used to be once the Cliff Hotel, on Dorchester Street, opposite the Full Moon, and by it, there was at one time a tobacconist's called Miller's. I was friendly with their daughter, Tilly, who was very tall and fair. The family were Jewish refugees from the First World War. Tilly was married about 1939 in the Synagogue in Park Row, Bristol.

On the west side, Boot's stood at the northern corner. Mitchell's occupied about five big shops, with a fishmonger's in the middle. Mitchell's was a draper's. It was said that if you couldn't get the buttons you wanted at Mitchell's, they didn't exist. Then you came to Poole's restaurant, followed by Lock's, a small draper's. Eventually the daughter of Mr. Lock married Mr. Mitchell's son. Spear's had another shop at 44, and then came Miss Hunt's, a confectioner's. She sold everything from two pennorth of raspberry drops in little triangular white paper bags, to boxes of chocolates.

A little later there was a pub called the New Inn. It used to stand on Corn Street and beyond there was a little street called Wine Street which led through to Lower Borough Walls by way of Amery Lane. Spear's had a large warehouse or garage there where they kept their vans, and there was a back entrance to Mitchell's. At the corner by the Lower Borough Walls was the Bristol Evening World and Evening Post offices. This was all old original Bath. There was a pawnshop in Wine Street too. I can remember the sign of three golden balls.

Once there was a post office opposite the New Inn, and grocer's, Weekes and Graham. It was very small: there was a country atmosphere about it. The Post Office was just a counter and the vegetables and stuff stood in the middle. Robert Membery's took this site over, a builder's merchants who sold nuts and bolts and screws. By 1939 the Forum Cinema had been built, now a bingo hall. Once, Little John's café stood at the corner of Somerset Street where after the war they had the government surplus stores, Best's. There was a new post office where it stands today, and later on, Bladwells, builders' merchants. "Membery Bladwell's" was formed after the war.

I did not have much to do with Broad Quay. Fairs used to be held there before the war, but as children we had never been allowed to go to them. Broad Quay was associated with ladies of ill repute. The fairs came about twice a year. An attraction was the chair-o-plane which swung right out over the river. One day one of the chairs gave way and a girl fell and broke her leg on the cobble stones. Tucker's, Hay and Straw and Corn Merchants, were situated on Broad Quay.

Southgate Street was often flooded. The river used to overflow, so the basements of the houses were very damp. I have seen the water flowing as far as St. James's Church. This was all stopped by the Flood Prevention Scheme. The swans used to float up and down the flood water as they had no idea where they were except that they were on water. The police used to go up and down in boats to see if anybody wanted any help, because people used to live over the shops. The whole area was badly bombed in the war. By the Old Bridge, opposite Broad Quay, there was the pub and hotel called the Full Moon, and the electric works, which took up the best part of the south side of Dorchester Street. The swans came up the river to the works and the men fed them with their sandwiches.

Next I can remember the station and the taxi ranks. The taxis waited where the car hire is now. There was no café downstairs in the railway station then, only one on the platform, so we did not go in for a cup of tea. Downstairs there was the Booking Office, with the machines for platform tickets, then the stairs, and the platform lift available to anyone who could not mount the stairs. Upstairs were the platforms and the machines with bars of chocolate, and the weighing machine. You could buy bars of Nestlé's chocolate for 1d ($\frac{1}{2}$ p).

So I was back at the river. When I was a child I used to see the barges drawn by horses, going to the malthouse at Sydney Buildings, but they were gone by the war. Until the war you paid $\frac{1}{2}$ d, a ha'penny, at the toll house, so I paid one old penny a day. Otherwise you had to walk down Claverton Street via the Old Bridge. I think the toll had stopped by the war. I remember paying it when I worked in the Orange Grove, but not when the war started.



Looking south down Southgate Street in the 1930s. The New Inn can be made out half-way down on the right.



WIDCOMBE MANOR MOUNT AND CASCADE

John Hawkes

The earliest view of the Mount, Pool and Cascade at Widcombe Manor (Fig.1) is by Thomas Robins (1716-1770), known as “the Limner of Bath”. Robins was in Bath by 1742, when he subscribed to Thorpe’s map, and between 1747-1766 he made 45 known drawings of the city and surrounds, including many around Widcombe, which appear to be in the late 1750s.

The sketch has been incorrectly identified by Harris as “The Pleasure Gardens of Lyncombe with a chinoiserie prospect temple on top”: he adds, “At one time he (Robins) was sitting in the pleasure gardens of Lyncombe drawing the garden mount with its chinoiserie pavilion and the view across the valley to William Chapman’s house which had below it another pleasure garden called King James’s Palace” (1).

It can be seen from the diagram (Fig.2) that Robins probably sketched the view sitting at the foot of the grand flight of steps in the Manor grounds shown on his other sketch of the Manor. In the foreground is the pond and cascade, with the mount surmounted by a chinoiserie temple, which hides the Wicksteed Machine. To the left is the doorway by the Prior Park Lodge (now blocked) with a gate to Perrymead, and beyond Lyncombe Vale Farm and Lyncombe Spaw House. To the right are the Parsonage House and gardens with Rosemount Farm and Lyncombe Hill Farm. The distant skyline is of Foxhill, the Tumps and Beechen Cliff. (Chapman’s house is hidden in the fold of the valley.)

The Mount

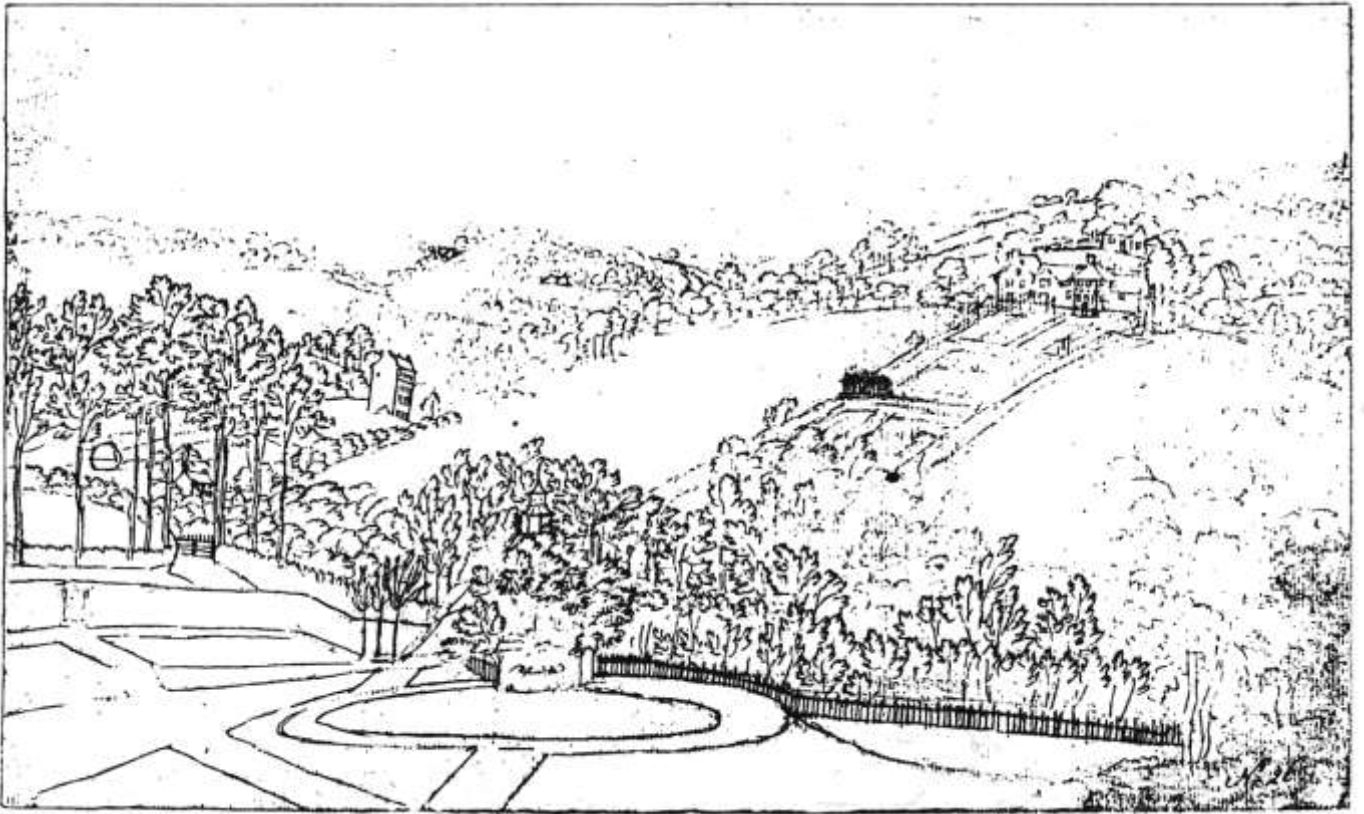
The “Mount”, a mound like a tumulus, was sometimes a feature of medieval gardens, such as at New College, Oxford. In 1533 Henry VIII erected a mount at Hampton Court, overlooking the Thames, with a path that wound up “like the turnings of cockle shells” to a three storey arbour (2).

The first record of the Widcombe Manor mount is on the map to Thomas Thorpe’s 1741 Survey of Ralph Allen’s estate and adjacent properties, which included Widcombe Manor owned by Philip Bennet II. The plan shows a stream running through the Manor grounds linking two circular pools (only the lower one now remains), and a spiral (where the mount is today), with the stream continuing down to the mill. The presence of the mount is confirmed in Thorpe’s map of 1742, which shows a black circle where it was sited. Thorpe obviously saw this garden feature as important, it would provide excellent views down Widcombe to the Abbey, up Lyncombe Vale, over the Manor gardens and church, as well as up and down Allen’s tramway (a fashionable visitor attraction) (3).

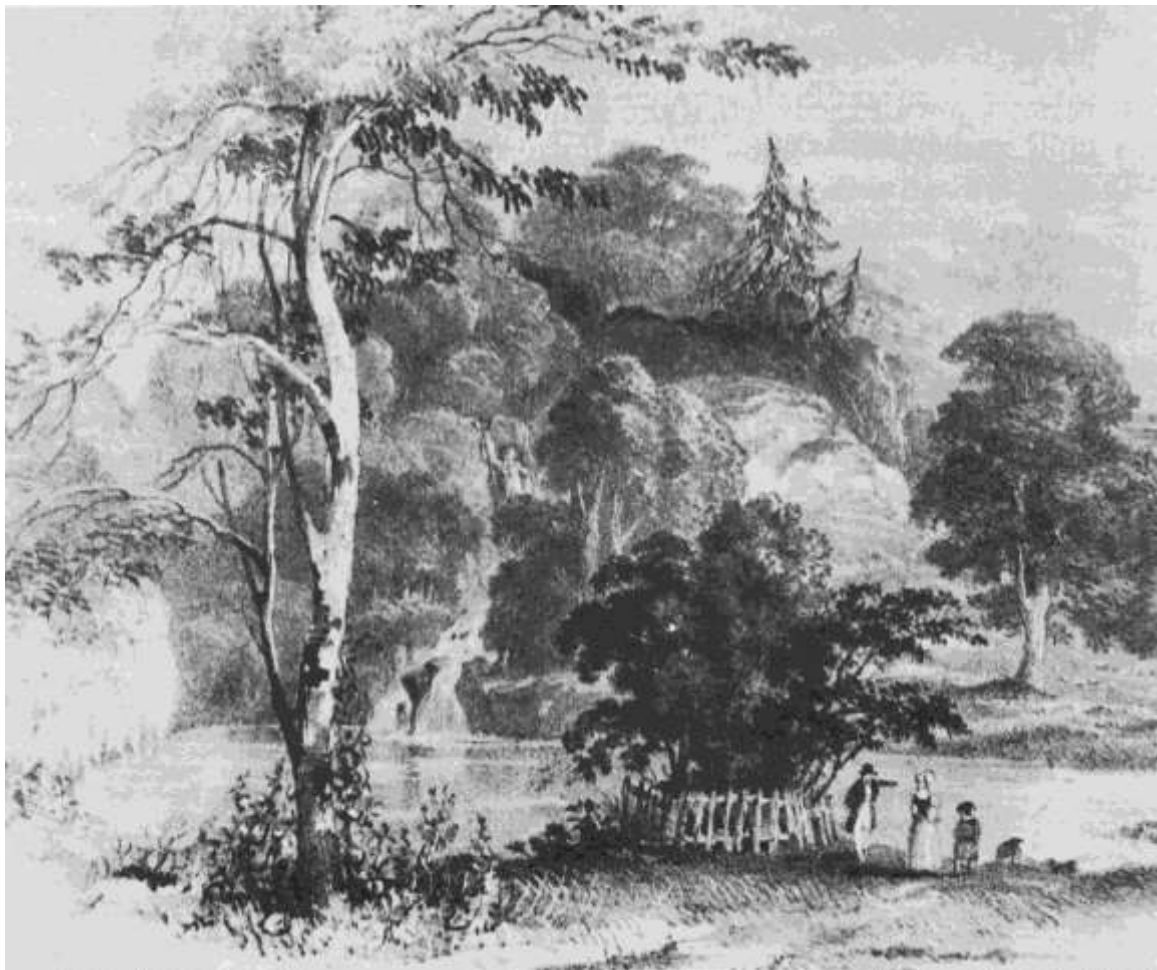
When the mount was constructed is not known, although it was almost certainly built with spoil from the mill ponds.

John Worlidge published *Systema Horticultura* in 1683, at the time when many drainage schemes were being carried out, and wrote, “It is not unusual to raise a mount with the waste Earth or Rubbish ... whereon you may erect a Pleasure or Banqueting-House or such like place of repose ... etc ...” (4). The mount, therefore, might well have been built in the time of Scarborough Chapman, who is thought to have built Widcombe Manor in about 1690, or it may be even earlier. An indenture of 1730/31 refers to the tramway already built through the Mill Ground (late belonging to Scarborough Chapman, but still charged by a Mortgage) and the curve in the Allen tramway at this point may have been to avoid the already existing mount (5).

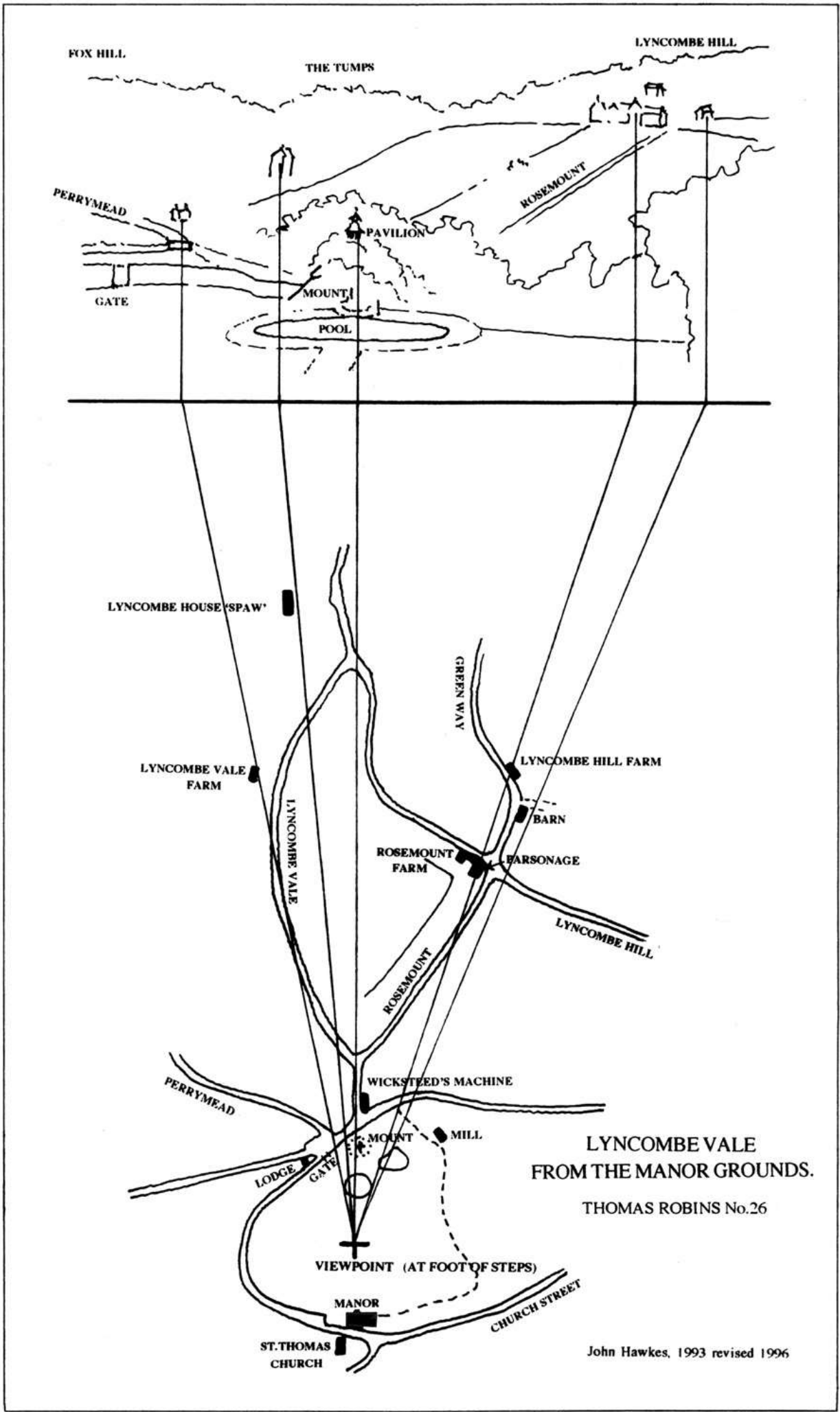
On the other hand the mount could be the work of Philip Bennet II who inherited the estate in 1722 at the age of 19 or 20 and carried out extensive fashionable improvement works to it. Early in the 18th century a revolution in garden design had started a move towards nature and the abandonment of symmetrical formality - the creation of “wilderness” paths through glades, “natural” lakes, streams and waterfalls, and incidentally sited garden features and grottos. In 1722 Alexander Pope, the proponent of the new fashion in garden design, built a grotto tunnel under the road to link his Twickenham house and garden and close by erected a large mount with spiral path (6). The mount, together with modernisation of the mill and pools, therefore may have been carried out in the late 1720s or the 1730s, as part of Bennet’s estate improvement in line with the newly fashionable garden design. It was most probably constructed before 1729, and definitely by 1741.



Thomas Robins' drawing No.26.



A later (Romantic) view of 1839.



LYNCOMBE VALE
FROM THE MANOR GROUNDS.

THOMAS ROBINS No.26

John Hawkes, 1993 revised 1996

A later view of the mount is provided by Grimm's sketch of 1789, "Mount near school on way to Prior Park, Bath" (7). The mount and spiral path and seat are clearly shown on the O.S. Map of 1886 and today the outline of the path is still visible on the overgrown mound.

Certainly a later feature is the chinoiserie temple sketched by Robins. The first Chinese garden pavilion is thought to have been "the House of Confucius" at Kew, designed in 1745 (8). The Widcombe temple was probably constructed between 1745 and 1756, after which date Bennet lived away from Bath altogether (9). Robins also sketched the Chinese Gate into Prior Park.

The Cascade and Neptune

Of particular interest in the Robins sketch is the unfinished area of the drawing to the rear of the pond at the foot of the mount, which indicates a cascade and a possible statue. The 1748 edition of Defoe's *Tour through the whole Island of Great Britain* refers to the waterfalls and statue of Moses at Prior Park (10). This is thought by writers to have been created in 1741, and may have inspired the creation of the cascade and statue. The cascade would have required a diversion of the stream and upper pool shown on the 1741 plan, and therefore be likely to have been constructed between then and 1756. After Bennet's departure it may well be that the gardens were taken over as part of Wicksteed's Cupid's Garden, which included a lake with a pleasure boat and a "luminary cascade" (11).

The cascade and statue of Neptune are clearly shown in Madeley's lithograph of the grounds in 1839 (12), and a photograph of 1890 shows Neptune (13). The auction particulars of 1927 include "The turfed grounds slope away ... towards Two spring fed Fish Ponds, the first one being supplied from a Cascade Waterfall surmounted by a large stone figure of Neptune" (14).

It has been said that some of Robins' sketches are landscaping proposals and it is possible that this is the case here, although his other nearby sketches are of existing scenes and all features of the sketch with the exception of the temple are known to have existed later. It is therefore probable that the chinoiserie temple existed and that Robins' sketch represents the actual scene in about 1760.

Notes

1. John Harris, *The Gardens of Delight: the Rococo English Landscapes of Thomas Robins the Elder*, 1978. The Robins sketches show: No. 26, the Manor Mount and Lyncombe panorama (Courtauld Institute AD 18 ENG, 26 687/10(30)); No. 46, Manor, Church and flight of steps to pool.
2. Fleming and Gore, *The English Garden*, 1979, p.24.
3. *Survey of the Manours ... completed c.1760, from 1741 survey*. Record Office, Bath. Thorpe, *An Actual Survey of the CITY of BATH in the County of Somerset; and of Five Miles Round*, 1742. Record Office, Bath.
4. Fleming and Gore, pp.61-62.
5. Indenture 20 March 1730/31, transcribed in R.E.M.Peach, *The Life and Times of Ralph Allen*, 1895, pp.78-80.
6. A.P.Quennel, *Alexander Pope*, 1968, pp.126-127, 184, 187.
7. S.H.Grimm, *Mount near school on the way to Prior Park*, 1789 (BL Add.MS.15547, f.82).
8. D.C.Stuart, *Georgian Gardens*, 1979, p.56.
9. R.E.M.Peach, *Bath - Old and New*, p.227.
10. Daniel Defoe, *Tour through the whole Island of Great Britain*, 1748 edition.
11. Maurice Scott, *Discovering Lyncombe and Widcombe*, 1993, p.106.
12. Lees-Milne & Ford, *Images of Bath*, No.419. A companion view No.415 shows the Manor with title, "For Sale by Auction by Mr.Geo.Robins, Thursday, June 27th 1839".
13. Nicholas Pearson Associates, *Widcombe Manor Historic Landscape Survey and Management Plan*, 1995.
14. *Widcombe Manor, Bath*. Auction particulars 23 February 1927, V&A Museum Library (dated 16.2.1927, L271).

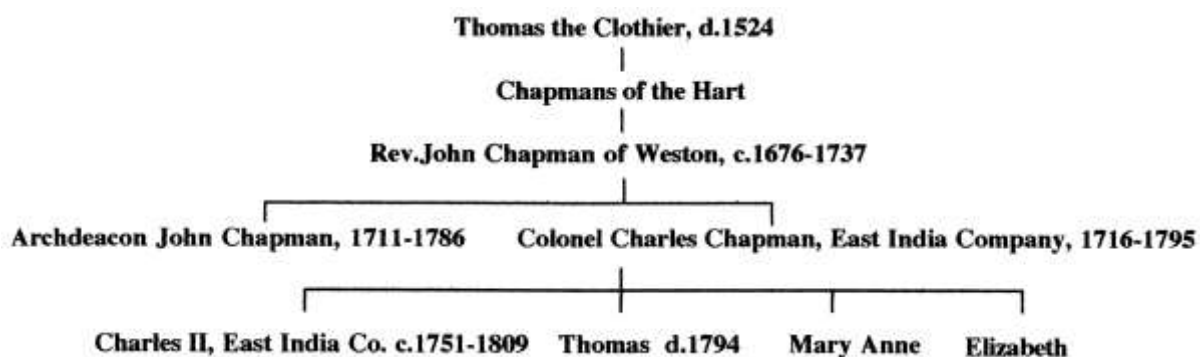
THIS FAMOUS CITY: THE STORY OF THE CHAPMANS OF BATH

CAPTAIN JOHN JAMES CHAPMAN AND HIS FAMILY CIRCLE

Elizabeth Holland

John James Chapman of the Chapman Collection, Bath Central Library, has lately been in the news because of the exciting reappearance of his personal volume of Bath calotypes which has been deposited at the Record Office by his descendant, Ludwig Becker of Germany.

John James Chapman (1790-1867) was baptised at Hungerford, where his uncle by marriage lived. He may have been known as “John”, but his relations today prefer “John James” to distinguish him from all the other Johns. He was the grandson of Colonel Charles Chapman of the East India Company (1716-1795), himself the brother of the Rev. John Chapman (1711-1786), Archdeacon and Rector of Bath. Their father was the Rev. John Chapman of Weston (c.1676-1737), Master of St. John’s Hospital, John James’ great-grandfather. Archdeacon Chapman was also Rector of Newton St. Loe, where both he and Colonel Chapman were buried.



John Wood and his supporters, past and present, always write as if the coming of Georgian Bath was an unmixed blessing, but to the community that belonged here, it could in some ways be accounted a curse, in the destruction of the ancient town, “considered one of the loveliest of cities”, and its way of life. For hundreds of years the Chapmans had lived here as industrious burghers, in a city where as Henry Chapman wrote there were not many very rich nor many very poor, but where the family were always able to put money by, and to lend to others rather than borrow themselves.

With the dawn of the eighteenth century, and the life of fashion, gentrification, and social emulation, one finds some of the Chapmans in financial trouble. Scarborough, discussed in Issue 4, mortgaged some of his land at the end of his life and his descendants the Bennets of Widcombe House (Widcombe Manor) were often in debt and took out frequent mortgages. Col. Chapman’s own personal problem was that though he could make money, he could not keep it. At this time the East India Company allowed its officers to engage in trade. Col. Chapman made a fortune, but he retired to Bath, engaged in one of the city’s chief recreations, and gambled it all away.

John James Chapman recorded in his reminiscences: (1)

My Grandfather was Colonel Charles Chapman of H.M.S, was educated at Winchester and was an excellent scholar as some M.S. which are in my hand, beeing translations of the Greek Anthologie prove. He accompanied the Great Lord Clive to India on his return from England and is believed to have been on the staff of that person. He had the local rank of a General Officer and remained in India until he had attained the position of Commander in Chief when he returned to England. He had amassed a large fortune with which he retired to Bath where he dissipated in play the whole of it until he was reduced to dependance on his eldest son Charles Chapman, a civil servant in India. - He is not known to have borne any part in the actions of his Commanding Officer the Immortal Clive.



Colonel Charles Chapman (1716-1795). Mrs.Susan Sloman suggests that this picture may be by Tilly Kettle, a lady artist who visited India and painted members of the East India Company.

The family tradition that Col.Charles became Commander in Chief at Bengal cannot be substantiated, apparently being due to confusion with Champion. Elizabeth Holland remembers an aunt showing her a copy of a letter from one of the Wiltshires (as far as she can remember, of Shockerwick), to Charles II on the death of his father, begging him to refrain from the evils of Play. Charles' father had lost his fortune at Play, the writer said, but he himself must think of his Mother and Sisters, who had been left dependant on him. The same aunt also quoted Sir Keith Feiling's *Warren Hastings* as saying that Charles Chapman (apparently the son) was "one of his young men", and that "Chapman ruined himself at the gambling table". Even if Charles II gambled in early life, he must have given it up, as he spent most of his days supporting his relations, and left a considerable sum of money at his death, if his will is a fair account (2). John James recorded that his Uncle Charles was a man of unusually morose manners. As he had had to support both his parents, then his mother and sisters, and later on his brother's widow and seven children, he perhaps had reason. He had no known children himself except an illegitimate son Henry, mentioned in his will. Henry is to be paid his share in rupees in India, suggesting that he was half Indian by descent.

John James' Uncle Charles played a large part in his upbringing. The monument in St.Swithin's, Bathford, deciphered "with a field-glass", apparently records that he died in Bathford in 1809 after a short residence there, at the age of 48, having "served the East India Company in Bengal with righteousness and integrity nearly thirty years" (3). It must mean 58, so that Charles Chapman would have been born about 1751. He returned from India about 1801 and lived in Stratford Place, London. In 1802 he was returned as M.P. for Newton, or Frankville, in the Isle of Wight, and he "supported the East India interest in the Opposition", which suggests that he was a Whig. In 1802 Addington was Prime Minister, replaced in May 1804 by Pitt. Both were Tories, the party acceptable to King George III.

In 1805 Charles Chapman took the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, i.e. resigned. The family already owned Church Farm at Bathford, once called Chapman's, which had been bought in 1719 by the Rev.John Chapman of Weston, and in 1805 Charles II also bought Eagle House, which was sold by his direction at his death. John Wiltshire of Shockerwick was his trustee in this purchase, and also his executor. The Wiltshires were Lay Impropriators and the owners of Bathford House, the Old Rectory (4).



Charles Chapman II (detail), John James Chapman's uncle and guardian.



Mary Shaftesbury (Williams) Chapman.

Charles II's marriage is recorded at Calcutta, 4 February 1784, to Mary Williams, called by John James "Mary Shaftesbury Williams of Hall, Glamorganshire". Legend says she was a ward of Warren Hastings. Again, the monument calls her 49 in 1823, making her ten at the time of her marriage, which is impossible. A new excursion with field-glasses is needed. A mourning brooch for her still exists, with a plait of her hair, dark brown, and certainly evoking a youngish person.

John James Chapman's aunt Mary Anne married the Rev. John Clarke, Vicar of Hungerford in Berks, brother of Field Marshal Sir Alured Clarke. His aunt Elizabeth married firstly a Colonel Atwood of the East India Company, and then General Francis Ferguson. Their brother Thomas was John James' father, the common ancestor of most of the family known today. His eldest son, Charles III, was an ancestor of the Hollands. Thomas seems by his portrait, which has been hanging in Germany for some time alongside a miniature of John James, to have been one of the most handsome and dashing of all the Chapman family.

In *Notes and Queries* Brigadier Bullock records that Thomas was made a 2nd lieutenant 20 May 1776. If about eighteen then, he was born in 1758, so once again Charles II, his elder brother, cannot have been born in 1761. Thomas became a 1st lieutenant on 20 May 1778 and captain 31 March 1790. He served in the American War of Independence and "was wounded in a skirmish at Wetzell Mill on the march into Carolina in March, 1781".

John James' own account of his parents' marriage was as follows, rearranged slightly to make the order chronological:

My Father was Capt. Thomas Chapman of the 23rd Regiment or Welsh Fusiliers who served with credit in the North American Revolutionary War...

My Mother [Mary Lowndes] was one of the Society of Friends and was a native of Philadelphia, her ancestors having accompanied Penn in his expedition to Pennsylvania. There was a party of three brothers of the name of Lowndes from Yorkshire who arrived too late to house themselves and who were obliged to take refuge in a cave in the Banks of the Scuykill River. During the winter one of them died and the ground was so hardly frozen that they were unable to bury him during many weeks.

Her father had moved from Philadelphia to, which on the conclusion of the Revolutionary War was selected for one of the places in which the English officers were placed on parole. Here my Father fell in love with my unusually pretty Mother from whence he persuaded her to run away with him. Her father with true worldly wisdom followed them and saw that they were married and they then returned. My poor Mother was the child of persons of the highest integrity but of no experience of the world and was literally a child of the forest, but little calculated to contend with the difficulties of her new situation. [Referring to her widowhood, discussed below.] Her smile was one of the sweetest I ever met with and was combined with a frankness of character which made her not only beloved by her children but an universal favourite.

The American War of Independence ended in October 1781 when Lord Cornwallis was surrounded at Yorktown and forced to surrender, about six months after Thomas, then a first lieutenant, received his wound. He must then have been in his mid-twenties. The family account tells that the couple did not believe that her Quaker father would ever give permission for Mary to marry a soldier, so there seemed nothing for it but to elope. They were married for about thirteen years, until Thomas' death in 1794, in what seems to have been his mid-thirties.

They had seven children - Marianne, the eldest, baptised at Hungerford, 1784; Charles III of the E.I.C., baptised at Bradford, Yorkshire, 1785; Elizabeth, Bradford, 1787; Charlotte, Chatham (a military centre), 1788; John James, Hungerford; 1790; Sarah Ann, Armagh, 1792; and Louise, baptised after her father's death, at Bath, 1794, the year before their grandfather Col. Chapman died.

John James said that his father "afterwards embarked on the fatal expedition against St. Domingo where he died of the Yellow Fever in three days after the surrender of Port Au Prince." On 4 October 1794 *The Bath Chronicle* reported:

In June last, died at Port-au-Prince, Captain Thomas Chapman, 23rd Regt., second son of Colonel Chapman of this city and nephew of the late Archdeacon John Chapman. He has left a widow and seven children to lament the ravages of that fatal disorder, the yellow fever.

John James continued:

My Mother was thus left a widow with six children born and one unborn at the period of his death. She in consequence became entitled to the pension of a Capt's Widow of £50 per annum and her seven children were placed on the Compassionate Funds of £7 each per ann. With these very slender finances my poor Mother had to contend, fortunately only until my Uncle Charles was made acquainted with her necessities. He immediately made her such an allowance as enabled her to place her children at school and to enjoy every comfort at home.

In the year 1801 or 1802 my Uncle Charles returned from India. In the same ship General Sir Alured Clarke came home, he had been Commander in Chief in India and had amassed considerable wealth. His only brother the Rev. John Clarke was married to Mary Anne, a sister of my Father and had recently died leaving five children. The rich Commander in Chief and the wealthy Civilian thus had similar duties to perform.

It appeared from the Sequel that Sir Alured was more liberal than my Uncle [i.e. in supporting his own five nephews and nieces], and on the instigation of my Aunt Clarke my poor Mother reproached my Uncle on the ground that he owed his appointment of the most lucrative salt works at Conti to Lord Cornwallis, due to the fact as avowed by his Lordship that he himself had owed his life to the gallant and desperate valour of my Father during his Lordship's command in North America. The result was a breach between my Mother and my Uncle. In the year 1803 she returned to America with her second daughter Elizabeth and leaving the other six children to the uncontrolled guardianship of my Uncle.

I owe it to dear Elizabeth to state that when the arrangement was made known to her she firmly declined abandoning her mother and resolutely embarked with her to share her fate. As for me the question was never asked and I most painfully was made to feel the difference between an unusually cold mannered Aunt and my warm hearted and devoted Mother.

My Uncle was a man with unusually morose manners. In the latter end of 1802 I took up my abode with him in London. I was there kept during the greater part of a twelve month without any instructor besides himself and was thus left for society to the butler, who took me out to Covent Garden from Stratford Place in the mornings, and to his valet with whom I proceeded in the evenings to Hyde Park for exercise.

In 1803 I was taken by my Uncle to Charing Cross with the intention to go to Woolwich, but this intention was altered on meeting in the coach an officer of Artillery at whose recommendation we stopped at Mr.Green's preparatory School for Woolwich Cadets at Deptford. After an interview with Mr.Green, my Uncle decided that I should go to this school where I remained until late in January of 1804, my Uncle having procured a nomination for a Cadet on the 17th of January 1804, I having attained the required age of 14 on the 10th of that month. I am not aware that I had seen my poor Mother since I went to London until I went to take leave of her with my brother at Lyme Regis and in London, and subsequently alone prior to her embarkation to America.

Phyllis Thomas, a descendant of John James in New Zealand, points out that Mary Chapman did not leave six children behind, at least not permanently. Charles III, already eighteen, joined the East India Company. Marianne, nineteen, remained, and in 1826 married Sir George Smith Gibbes of Bath. John James lived with his Uncle Charles from 1802, as described. Charlotte, fifteen, also stayed. In 1811 she married Thomas Inglis of the E.I.C., and in 1830 Rev.Maurice James of Pembridge, Hereford. Elizabeth, Sarah and Louise all went to America, where Elizabeth married Samuel Harvey in 1817 and Sarah married Thomas Ash of the Society of Friends in 1815. Efforts have been made to trace John James' American descendants, but without success.

In his will their Uncle Charles made Marianne, then aged twenty-five and apparently living with him as she was described as "of Bathford", one of his executors, while John James, then a 1st lieutenant, became the heir of Church Farm (entailed). Charles desired to be buried in the Church Yard of Bathford and to be carried there by some Poor Persons of the Village without the attendance of Horse or Coach. He left his wife £8000 and some effects. Marianne had £5000, her grandmother's plate and a choice of furniture, Sarah and Louise £2000 each. Henry Chapman in India had 4000 Secca rupees, lawful money of Bengal, reckoned as equivalent to £500. Although the family joke is that his portrait shows him looking in his pocket for the last guinea left him by the family, Charles II seems to have died affluent. Charles III, Elizabeth and Charlotte received no legacy. John James, Marianne, Sarah and Louise were the residuary legatees.





Lady Gibbes, John James Chapman's sister Marianne.

Our first issue has already told something of John James' residence in Bath in the 1840s and it is hoped it will be possible at a later stage to say more of the lives of himself and his brother Charles, and their descendants. John James did see his mother again, as he visited America and had his portrait taken there. Mary Chapman died in Philadelphia in November 1837, after forty three years of widowhood, thirty-four years after the breach with her brother-in-law. With the marriage of her daughter Sarah to the Quaker Thomas Ash, the "child of the forest" celebrated her return to the community from which she came.

This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks...

This is the forest primeval; but where are the hearts that beneath it

Leaped like the roe, when he hears in the woodland the voice of the huntsman?

Mrs. James, John James Chapman's sister Charlotte.

Longfellow, *Evangeline*.

Notes and Sources

1. *Anecdotes related by my Father commencing on July 21.1861*. Typescript forwarded by Mrs. Phyllis Thomas, made from notes by Capt. Chapman's daughter Mary Anne. She was 11 in 1861 and her father 71. The text has been edited very slightly throughout for the sake of clarity.
2. It is not feasible at this stage to embark on research into the E.I.C. or into Indian records. All this material has to be taken at second hand. Warren Hastings, governor-general of British India, was impeached for corruption and extortion, though the charges against him broke down. His trial began in 1788, brought about by the Whigs. It seems strange that Charles II should thereafter have become a Whig.
3. *Notes and Queries, London*, 18 October 1947, pp.457-458. Notes by Brigadier H. Bullock. The Bullocks were related to the Chapmans by marriage because Col. Chapman's first cousin, William Chapman of Lyncombe and Widcombe, married Mary Bullock in 1729.
4. Extensive transcripts on the documents of Church Farm and Eagle House were made by the late Commander Craig. Copies are at the Record Office and in the possession of the Bathford History Society. The owners of Church Farm have hospitably welcomed Phyllis Thomas, Elizabeth Holland, and the Becker family on visits to Bathford. Commander Craig's diagrams show the original extent of the farm's property. It was part of the Manor of Ford, and after the Dissolution was held by the Cottle family.



The Chapman Arms
drawn by Marianne, Lady Gibbes

T. J. Chapman, Capt. R.A.; F.R.S.