John Wood's Brother

David Crellin and Penny Gay

The focus of the research now moves away from Bath to West Somerset and North Devon; in particular, to a small village named Selworthy, four miles west of Minehead, and to the Bristol Channel port of Bideford.



From Selworthy to Bideford – a distance of about 44 miles

Apart from naming his wife, Jenny, and their four surviving children – John, Jane Maria, Elizabeth and Thayer Allen – in his Will (1754),¹ and a brief comment about taking his eldest son to Stonehenge as his 'chief assistant' in order to imprint on his mind 'the strongest ideas of accuracy in this his first practical lesson of surveying'...², John Wood himself seems to have made only one written reference to any other member of his family – an unnamed brother.

Whilst working for William Brydges on the design and building of Tyberton Court in Herefordshire in 1729, John Wood received urgent news that the ship carrying materials he had ordered for this project had run aground near Bideford Bay. Back in Bath after a visit to London, he sent a letter by the Cross Post addressed to William Brydges Esq., Tyberton, near Hereford, to tell him that the cargo was now safe and the ship due to sail again soon.³ He began with the following words of reassurance:

... Sir

Bath April 3rd 1729

I have receiv'd yours without dates and had given you the trouble of a Letter from London but the moment I came there I had the news sent me that the ship wherein was your glass and marble, my Deals and Lead to near the value of 500 pound was run on ground near Biddeford Bay in Devonshire. There was on Board the same ship 75 Ton of Iron and a great Quantity of Canvass. The ship was saved and the whole Cargo w'ch receiv'd no damage and Mr Burch and my Brother (who I sent down to Biddeford to take care of the Goods) tells me that the ship is now mended the cargo put on board again and the ship was to sail again this Spring tide so I hope to be able to send by Morgan all your things ...

John Wood's own account of the ship running aground near Bideford Bay and his brief reference to an unnamed brother, sent post-haste down to North Devon to rescue the all-important cargo, suggested that a different approach to this research was certainly viable and might prove to be very worthwhile. It had already been established that John, son of George and Mabel Wood of the parish of Bath St. James, had an elder brother named George, baptised in 1698. Now it seemed essential to discover what happened to him and whether this same George Wood could possibly have been the unidentified brother urgently dispatched to Bideford by John Wood in 1729 to safeguard the goods bound for Tyberton. If that could be confirmed, it would finally prove that John Wood the architect had been baptised in Bath and that his father had been George Wood, exciseman and writing master.

The two original sources most likely to include further references to George, son of George Wood and his wife Mabel, appeared to be either Mary Chapman's Will (1721) or the Indenture drawn up in 1727, soon after the fire in Southgate Street which had completely destroyed the property previously bequeathed 'In Trust' to Mary's cousin, Mabel Wood.

Mary Chapman's Will had made it clear that, following Mabel's death, the property in Southgate Street was to be sold and the money from the sale divided between her surviving children.⁵ There was no indication of how many of Mabel's children were still living in 1721 and no mention of any names.

The Indenture drawn up after the fire ensured that a different agreement was legally put in place. The land on which the house had stood was now to be leased in reversion, for 99 years or the span of three lives – and those named on the lease were Mabel and her two youngest children, John and Ann Wood. There was no mention of George Wood, their older brother, which was not unusual in a lease of this kind where the hope was for a family to benefit from the agreement for as many years as possible. It was often the custom, therefore, to name at least one younger child in a lease in reversion, in the expectation that he or she might well survive longer than any older siblings. However, George may simply have been omitted from the reversion agreement in favour of his younger brother and sister because he had married several years before the Indenture was drawn up and was no longer living in Bath by 1727. On the 17th of February 1723/4 a George Wood married Elizabeth Harrison – but the marriage did not take place in Bath, but in Timberscombe, West Somerset.



St Petroc's Church, Timberscombe, Somerset 8

By kind permission of Yale Center for British Art

The marriage entry in the parish register of St Petroc's Church in Timberscombe was formal and brief, with no additional details to suggest that the bridegroom might have been the son of George and Mabel Wood of Bath. Fortunately, an image of an official Licence for this marriage, also published online, included the significant information that George Wood was of the parish of 'Sancto Jacobo Juxta Bath' and Elizabeth Harrison was from the parish of Selworthy, a small village near Minehead.⁹

There was nothing to prove beyond doubt that this was the George Wood/Atwood baptised at the church of Bath St James in 1698 – but it did seem distinctly possible. Mary Chapman's Will, proved in 1721, and the 1727 Indenture confirmed that Mabel Wood very likely continued to live near the church of St James until her burial there in 1731. No burial record has been traced to suggest that the George Wood baptised in 1698 had died before 1724. Furthermore, no records have been discovered to identify any other George Wood of Bath who might have been eligible to marry in February of that year. His wife, Elizabeth Harrison, was probably the Elizabeth baptised in Selworthy on the 14th of July 1705, daughter of John Harrison and Mary. ¹⁰

But this may not have been George Wood's first marriage. An entry in the Combe Hay parish register confirms that in October 1716 a George Wood of the City of Bath married Elizabeth Wyatt of Widcombe, by Licence. More than seven years later, in February 1723/4, George Wood of Bath St James and Elizabeth Harrison of Selworthy were married in West Somerset, but it was not until October 1726 that the burial of a Mrs. Elizabeth Wood, in the Chancel of Bath Abbey, was recorded in the parish register. There are no further details to prove that Mrs Elizabeth Wood was the former Miss Elizabeth Wyatt of Widcombe, but given the fact that the marriage between George Wood and Elizabeth Harrison took place in Timberscombe (away from the parish of residence of either party) and by virtue of a Licence, it is tempting to speculate on circumstances that may have resulted in an unlawful second marriage.

Why or how George Wood of Bath came to meet and marry Elizabeth Harrison of Selworthy will probably remain a mystery. So far, no evidence of any family link between the numerous Wood families of West Somerset and the Woods of Bath during the 1600s or early 1700s has been found. The most likely explanation is that, possibly in his early twenties, young George Wood left Bath in search of work and a new life elsewhere and decided to settle in the Dunster area. But, if there is any truth in the theory that a person is often unaccountably drawn to a place where his ancestors once lived, it is intriguing to discover that, as early as the 15th century, a family named Wood held Deeds for properties and land in the Selworthy area of West Somerset. 12

After their marriage, George and Elizabeth Wood must have lived in or near Selworthy. The parish register confirms that they had four children baptised there, in the church of All Saints: Betty (1726); James (1733); George (1735/6); and Jenny Maria (1739).¹³

Betty and George were probably named after their parents, but the names James and Jenny Maria might also have had some family significance. John Wood the architect and his wife Jenny named their eldest daughter Jane Maria — and also had a son James baptised in 1737 at St Swithin's Church, Walcot, Bath. This is intriguing, although it could merely have been a coincidence; just one more piece of this tantalising puzzle that looks as if it should fit, but is impossible to click neatly into place with any conviction.

There was also a burial record dated the 16th of January 1738/9 in the Selworthy parish register for a George Wood, but no further details. If this was the George Wood who was already father of Betty, James and George, it seems strange that his fourth child, Jenny Maria, baptised on the 16th of September 1739 (eight months after his burial) was recorded in the same church register as 'daughter of Geo. Wood and Eliz. his wife', with no hint that George had died or Elizabeth was by then a widow. 15

Nonetheless, since further evidence was eventually found to confirm that the George Wood buried in early 1739 was indeed Jenny Maria's father, ¹⁶ it would seem that, at the time, the parish clerk of

Selworthy may have considered it unnecessary within this close-knit village community to make any official note in the church register of additional family details such as this.

All Saints' Church, Selworthy, Somerset 17



By kind permission of Yale Center for British Art

George Wood died without leaving a Will and this resulted in a further puzzle. A brief reference to a document no longer in existence establishes that a full nine years passed before Letters of Administration, known as Admons, were issued to allow Elizabeth Wood to administer her husband's Estate. ¹⁸ Unfortunately, the full original document must have been amongst the many Somerset records destroyed in the bombing of Exeter in 1942. That it ever existed at all is only established by the fact that it was indexed in one of several Volumes listing a great number of lost Somerset Probate and Administration records. ¹⁹

A logical explanation for the seemingly long delay between the burial of a George Wood in 1739 and the Letters of Administration granted to his widow Elizabeth in 1748 is unlikely to be found, but a Chancery document discovered in the National Archives catalogue and dated 1753 not only reaffirmed the fact that George Wood had died and that Elizabeth Wood had indeed eventually been granted permission to administer his estate, but also provided a further fragment of information concerning the deceased George Wood: he had been a bookseller in Dunster.

This first Chancery record was entitled Wood v Leigh and described as a 'Bill and Answer'.²⁰ The Plaintiff was named as Elizabeth Wood of Minehead, Somerset, widow and administratrix of George Wood, bookseller deceased of Dunster, Somerset, who had died intestate. But any hopes that this document would include further information about George Wood and his family were soon dashed. There were no more details about George Wood and, even though being a bookseller might be seen as a fitting occupation for the son of a writing master or schoolmaster, this new discovery proved nothing at all.

The dispute between Elizabeth Wood and Thomas Leigh concerned a leasehold in reversion, set up during George Wood's lifetime, and the properties and land named were How's Tenement, Court Fields and Hill's Cottage. At the time the lease was drawn up, George Wood's mother-in-law, Mary Harrison, was the occupant of one of these properties – and the terms of reversion were said to be valid for 99 years or life. Elizabeth Wood claimed that after her mother's death, the lease was to pass to her and then to her daughter, Betty.

Mary Harrison lived until February 1750/51,²¹ but by the end of 1748 Elizabeth had already agreed to sell the lease to Thomas Leigh when her mother died. As plaintiff in the case, Elizabeth Wood alleged that Thomas Leigh had originally agreed a price of 100 guineas, but had eventually offered her only £45. Leigh, the defendant, explained that the reason for this was that he had doubts about the daughter Betty being part of the original reversion agreement. He seems to have been right about this. Evidence recorded in a draft witness statement, written in about 1753 on behalf of Henry Fownes Luttrell, confirms that Elizabeth, after much evasion, eventually confessed that she herself had added her daughter's name to the lease.²² She declared

... her sorrow and shame for what she had done And asked how she could be so wicked as to do so vile a thing, she answered that her poverty and the badness of her circumstances induced her to do it or to that effect.

Further evidence in the official Bill and Answer document described the dispute in great detail, but there was nothing that might help to establish the identity of George Wood deceased. Nor was there any evidence to suggest any possible family connection between him and John Wood, architect of Bath.

Nevertheless, proof that George Wood of Selworthy had been a bookseller did serve to highlight one piece of evidence that might otherwise have gone unnoticed. In his book *The Parish of Selworthy in the County of Somerset,* Frederick Hancock included a number of details relating to an account book kept by the Overseers of the parish in the mid 18th century and referred in particular to the fact that *'the [Accounts] book itself in 1739 cost 8s and was purchased of one Mrs Wood.' 23*

The likelihood that the Mrs Wood who provided the account book was the widow of George Wood is strongly supported by evidence that, during the years after her husband death, Elizabeth had *'followed the business of teaching writing and arithmetic and the occupation of book-binding'*. ²⁴ This significant additional information, found amongst the witness statements included in the Wood v Leigh Deposition (which followed on from the Bill and Answer), also lends greater credence to the theory that Elizabeth's deceased husband, George Wood of the parish of Bath St James, had been the son of George Wood, writing master of Bath, who was described in 1702 in the Minute Book of the Board of Customs and Excise as able to *'...understand Arithmetick & write a good hand...'* ²⁵

Theoretically, the son of a schoolmaster would have felt well able to tackle some teaching in the basic skills of writing and arithmetic and it seems likely that Elizabeth tried to continue with her husband's work following his early death. The possibility that George Wood may have combined his business as a bookseller with some private teaching might also be surmised from an entry in the Luttrell Family Accounts indicating that one James Perrott was paid for going to Mr Wood to 'acquaint him that Master Luttrell would visit him.' 26

24 dels - - Ford for a so toffer from in Jolfon at Down flor felt 00 00 -09

31 dels - Ford James Bornoth as gooing to in Wood to arguands or of -06.

hun that maffer Sullroll would refet hun - 00-01-10

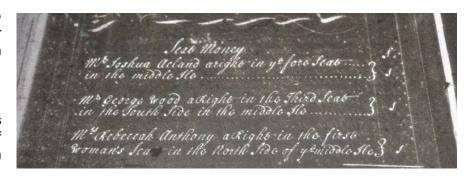
The entry was dated the 31st of May 1720 when the 'Master Luttrell' referred to would most likely have been Francis, then aged just 11, the younger son of Alexander Luttrell of Dunster Castle and his wife Dorothy.

This would have been nearly four years before George Wood's marriage to Elizabeth of Selworthy – evidence, perhaps, that George Wood had moved from Bath to Dunster and set himself up as a bookseller and private tutor well before meeting and marrying Elizabeth. On the other hand, there

were a few other Mr Woods living in Dunster in 1720 who might have received news of a forthcoming visit from Master Luttrell.

A George Wood is also recorded as paying rent for a pew in Dunster Church in 1727/28.²⁷

If this was George Wood, bookseller, then it does suggest he was a person of some means and status in the town.



Regarding the possibility that George Wood of Selworthy was the elder brother of John Wood, architect of Bath, there is one further point that could be relevant. Evidence found so far suggests that John Wood did not use a seal displaying the crest and arms of the Woods of Harston, impaled with the Withers arms, until December 1739.²⁸ He was certainly still using a non-heraldic seal displaying a single tree up until 1735.²⁹ This is puzzling. If an ambitious young man like John Wood believed he had a claim to a coat of arms, then it is difficult to explain why he would have delayed advertising the fact. The recently discovered heraldic bookplate designed for John Wood the Elder by Jacob Skinner in 1744 included a cadency denoting that the bearer of the arms was a second son of a first son ³⁰ – so this was presumably a fact that John Wood, was anxious to make known. George Wood was buried in January 1739. If John Wood was a second son, then perhaps he had more respect for the traditions of heraldry than previously thought and therefore felt reluctant to claim the Wood coat of arms while his older brother was still living.

Conclusion:

As with every other aspect of this investigation so far, some interesting new information has been found, but no conclusive result has emerged. It is certainly conceivable that the George Wood who became a bookseller in Dunster was the son of George and Mabel Wood of St James', Bath, but no evidence has yet been found to confirm that this same George Wood was the brother known to have been speedily dispatched to Bideford by John Wood, architect, when the ship carrying materials for the building of Tyberton ran aground; no proof, therefore, that John Wood the architect was baptised in Bath in 1704 and the son of a writing master. Even so, from a speculative point of view, the fact that Bideford is only about 44 miles from Selworthy might be seen as circumstantially significant. John Wood was in London in 1729 when he received the news about the ship being stranded. If he had a brother who lived in Selworthy, a natural reaction might have been to ask him to make the relatively short journey to North Devon to check that the ship was salvageable and the cargo undamaged. News that the ship had been repaired and was ready to set sail again with the cargo safely on board would have come as a welcome relief.

It has been assumed by some researchers that, since this anonymous brother was involved in the saving of the cargo stranded in Bideford Bay, he may have been employed by John Wood on a regular basis. However, a more logical interpretation could be that, on this occasion, John Wood enlisted his brother's help to deal with this particular crisis simply because he happened to be placed in a very convenient location at a moment when urgent action was essential.

Postscript:

There was to be a tragic end to the story of widow Elizabeth Wood and her children. Following the burial recorded in the parish register for a George Wood in January 1738/39 and Elizabeth's dispute with Thomas Leigh in 1753, it seems that in 1761 all four children born to George and Elizabeth Wood were buried within the space of just eight months. The eldest, Betty, would by then have been over thirty, and the youngest, Jenny Maria, in her early twenties. None of them

seems to have married. All four were buried in Selworthy, but the burial entries in the parish register confirm that they were 'of Minehead'. 31

In his previously mentioned notes on the history of Selworthy, published in 1897, Frederick Hancock recorded that

... In 1761 we find George Wood buried the 24th of May, Jenny Maria Wood buried the 31st of May, Betty Wood the 2nd of August, James Wood the 13th December – all of Minehead – a whole family killed off by some fatal ailment. Was the plague in Minehead as late as the year of Grace 1761? 32

The exact cause of these four deaths therefore remains a mystery, but in the mid 1700s it would not have been uncommon for an outbreak of smallpox or some kind of fever resulting from poor sanitation and hygiene to destroy a whole family within a very short space of time. There is certainly evidence to indicate that Elizabeth and her children suffered poverty and difficult circumstances following the early death of her husband.

Hancock concluded that 'these Woods were doubtless descendants of the John Wood who was rector of Selworthy 1669–1687.' ³³ They may, perhaps, all have shared an earlier common ancestor, but so far no evidence has been found to establish any direct line of descent from the rector John Wood and his wife Cecily – daughter of the previous rector, Henry Byam – to George Wood and his four children. John Wood and his wife Cecily are believed to have had five sons, probably born between 1655 and 1670, but none of them was named George.³⁴

George Wood's widow, Elizabeth, seems to have survived until 1788, but by 1779 she was noted by the parish Overseers to be *'poor and in distress.'*There are Manorial records to confirm that she had Harrison relatives (probably a cousin and his son) living in the area who were not without means. In 1744, George Harrison, yeoman of the parish of Minehead, was renting a copyhold messuage and tenement, together with 23 acres of land, at Wydon, between Selworthy and Minehead.

George Harrison (Mr) was buried in Selworthy in 1781 and his son John, a farmer, died ten years later, aged 62.

Perhaps for some reason Elizabeth was firmly resolved to reject family help following the deaths of her four children – or maybe it was never offered.

An entry in the parish register confirms the burial of Betty Wood, widow, on the 16th of March 1788 at All Saints' Church, Selworthy.³⁸ Her age at death was recorded as 88, but if she was the Elizabeth Harrison baptised on the 14th of July 1705, daughter of John Harrison and Mary, she was probably in her 83rd year.

References and additional notes:

- 1 England & Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384–1858: ancestry.co.uk John Wood Esquire of Walcot, Somerset; Probate 20 JUN 1754
- 2 Choir Gaure, Vulgarly Called Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain, Described, Restored and Explained; in a letter to The Right Honourable Edward late Earl of Oxford, and Mortimer; by John Wood, Architect; Oxford; Printed at the Theatre in the Year 1747; p.49
- 3 Herefordshire Record Office: Ref. A 81/111/68: Letter from John Wood to William Bridges, Tyberton, near Hereford, 3d April 1729:
- 4 South West Heritage Trust: Somerset Parish Registers: Bath St James parish register. Images published online: Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials 1531–1812 (ancestry.co.uk)
- 5 South West Heritage Trust: Probate record of Mary Chapman of Bath, 20 March 1721/22. Images published online: England & Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384–1858 (ancestry.co.uk)
- 6 Bath Record Office: BC/6/2/3/1523: Lease of a plot of ground and backside in Southgate Street; 30 December 1727: part of the collection of Title Deeds to properties owned by Bath Corporation known as 'Furman Counterpart Leases', previously researched by The Survey of Old Bath and currently being transcribed and catalogued in detail by Elizabeth Holland

- 7 Ibid. ref. 4: Timberscombe parish register: George Wood married Elizabeth Harrison 17 Feb. 1723/4
- 8 Yale Centre of British Art, Paul Mellon Collection: [One from] A Volume of Drawings and Prints: No. 22 – watercolour of St Petroc's Church, Timberscombe (undated) by Rev. James Bulwer, (1794–1879): online sources: http://collections.britishart.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3630079; https://www.watercolourworld.org
- 9 Ibid. ref. 4: Various (Marriage Licences) 1705-1760: 16 Feb. 1723/4: Licence for George Wood of St. James', Bath to marry Elizabeth Harrison of Selworthy at St Petroc's Church, Timberscombe
- 10 Ibid. ref. 4: Selworthy parish register: Elizabeth baptised 14 July 1705, daughter of John Harrison and Mary
- 11 Somerset Heritage Centre: D\D/ol/56: Marriage Licence: 8th Oct. 1716: George Wood of Bath and Elizabeth Wyatt, aged 23, spinster of Widcombe, whose parents gave their consent. William Wyatt was the only signatory.
- 12 Somerset Heritage Centre: DD\WY/8/Z1n: 1432 –1602: Various deeds including several relating to the Wood family of West Lynch in Selworthy, Porlock, and lands in North Tawton (Devon) and Boynton (Cornwall)
- 13 Ibid. ref. 4: Selworthy parish register: baptisms of four children of George Wood and Elizabeth his wife
- 14 Ibid. ref. 4: Selworthy parish register: George Wood buried Jan. 16th 1738/9 Also confirmed in witness statements, see ref. 16
- 15 Ibid. ref. 4: Selworthy parish register: Jenny Maria daughter of George Wood and Elizabeth his wife baptised Sept. 16th 1739
- 16 The National Archives, Kew: Chancery Record C12/1921/28: Wood v Leigh, deposition: witness statements
- 17 Ibid. ref. 8: No. 7 graphite and watercolour of All Saints' Church Selworthy (1837) by James Bulwer
- 18 Dorset Wills and Administrations in the possession of the Dorset field Club and preserved in the County Museum at Dorchester: Wills and Administrations, 1312–1799; Vol. (Part 3) Administrations at Taunton, 1599 to 1799: listed in Index only: Letters of Administration relating to death of George Wood of Selworthy who died intestate
- 19 Ibid. [Unfortunately the order of events with regard to the Taunton Wills and Administrations is not completely clear, but at some time before the Second World War the wills proved in the dioceses of Bath and Wells and Exeter were transferred to Exeter to be held centrally, and unfortunately they were all destroyed in the bombing of Exeter in 1942. Therefore the index regarding the Taunton Wills and Administrations in this volume is an indication that a will or admon was made, but the original document no longer exists.]
- 20 The National Archives, Kew: Chancery Record C11/2147/14: Wood v Leigh. Bill and answer. Plaintiff Elizabeth Wood of Minehead, Defendant Thomas Leigh
- 21 Ibid. ref. 4: Selworthy parish register: Mary Harrison buried 17th February 1750/51 Also confirmed in witness statements (ref. 16)
- 22 Somerset Heritage Centre; Manorial Records; Manor of Blackford: DD/L2/16/87; copy of witness statement of Henry Fownes Luttrell
- 23 (i) Somerset Heritage Centre: D\P/sel/13/2/1 1739–82 Overseers' Accounts:
 - (ii) The Parish of Selworthy in the County of Somerset: Some Notes on its History by Frederick Hancock, M.A., S.C.L., F.S.A., Rector of the Parish; Published 1897 Taunton: Barnicott and Pearce, Fore Street; p. 120
- 24 Ibid. Ref. 16
- 25 The National Archives, Kew: CUST: Minutes of the Board of Customs, Excise and Customs and Excise, 17 June 1702
- 26 Somerset Heritage Centre: DD\L/1/4/11/2 1688-1738 A/C Thomas Prowse Accounts to Mr Luttrell; photograph by Lynne Cleaver
- 27 Somerset Heritage Centre: D\P\du/4/1/2 1670-1738 (fiche): Parish Records for Dunster: Churchwardens a/c; photograph by Lynne Cleaver
- 28 Bath Record Office: BC/6/2/9/2629/1: Agreement between John Wood and Ralph Allen, 17 Dec. 1739
- 29 Herefordshire Record Office: A/81/111/91: Letter from John Wood, Bath to William Bridges, Tyberton; 3 May 1735
- 30 Mike Williams: The Bookplates and Coats of Arms of John Wood the Elder and John Wood the Younger of Bath; April 2019: https://doi.org/10.1081/jhstoryofbath.org
- 31 Ibid. Ref. 4: Burials 1761: Selworthy Parish Register

- 32 Ibid. Ref. 23 (ii); p. 106
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 The History of the Part of West Somerset: Comprising the Parishes of Luccombe, Selworthy, Stoke Pero, Porlock, Culbone and Oare by Sir Charles Edward Heley Chadwyck-Healey; Pedigree of Byam and Wood at Luccombe: p.170–171
 - Pedigree confirmed by images of the following Wills downloaded from The National Archives website: Prerogative Court of Canterbury: PROB 11/330/526: Will of Henry Byam of Luckham, Doctor of Divinity, 1669; PROB 11/505/120: Will of John Wood of East Anstey co. Devon, clerk, 1708; PROB 11/687/184: Will of Byam Wood of Luckham: dated 1723, probate 1737
- 35 Somerset Heritage Centre: Overseers a/c D\P\sel/13/2/1:1739-82 fiche: Betty Wood recorded as 'poor and in distress' receiving assistance briefly
- 36 Somerset Heritage Centre: DD\L/1/6/19/3: Dunster Survey from 1739: 17th January 1744, copyhold lease of property and land in Wydon in the Manor of Minehead
- 37 Ibid. Ref. 4: Selworthy parish register
- 38 Ibid.

With acknowledgements to:

Lynne Cleaver Research Services, AGRA researcher – for her meticulous search through numerous documents at Somerset Heritage Centre concerning people, places and events in Selworthy, Minehead and Dunster during the 1700s; for discovering and photographing the two brief but relevant extracts from archive documents included in this paper and for her enthusiasm, interest and advice throughout.

Elizabeth Holland of the Survey of Old Bath for information and advice about the 1727 Indenture relating to a new lease of the land in Southgate Street following the fire which destroyed Mary Chapman's property.

Susan T. Moore M.A., Historical and Legal Researcher – for her expertise and perceptive understanding of the particular details required from the mass of information included in the Chancery Cases referred to in this research and for her ability to focus on whatever was relevant, thereby unearthing important additional evidence relating to George and Elizabeth Wood of Selworthy and also the Wood/Byam family of Luccombe.

Bath Record Office - for access to Deeds and Lease documents.

Herefordshire Record Office – for information about the seals used by John Wood on his letters to William Bridges of Tyberton up until 1735.

South West Heritage Trust – for copyright permission to publish photographs of two entries from Archive documents; for general advice on copyright and consent for the inclusion of a brief quote from the draft copy of a witness statement from Henry Fownes Luttrell.

Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut – for kindly releasing the watercolours by The Reverend James Bulwer into the public domain so that they can be freely reproduced for people to appreciate and enjoy.

Watercolour World for publishing images of the James Bulwer paintings on the internet

If we have inadvertently used copyright material without permission/acknowledgement we apologise and will make the necessary revision at the first opportunity.

September 2019