



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### The Cleeve Prior Find of 1811 – G.H.Heywood.

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The Chronicler confirms that this is an actual Transcript of the letter below, including the punctuation wording etc.

*“Concerning the great discovery at Cleeve Prior , made in 1811, of Roman coins, one hundred of which were of gold, I have received the following letter which contains much interest in connection with the find:-*

*I am pleased to see an account of this in print. When I was a youth my Grandfather [Joshua Baylis of North Littleton] told me about it. He said that when he was ten years of age [he was born on March 25<sup>th</sup> 1801] he was driving a plough in the three cornered field on the left hand side of the road leading from Littleton to Cleeve Prior[This field, now an orchard occupied by Messrs, Careless & Sheaf] and when they got to a certain place in the field the plough share caught against a stone, supposed to be a rock, and if my grandfather did not keep the team steady at this place he was sure to get a thrashing from the carter, whose name was Sheppey, but as he could not keep the team steady he was obliged to put up with a good thrashing.*

*After administering the thrashing the carter went to dinner and whilst he was gone my grandfather took his shovel and handy[?] the horses were at tye in a field close by, the shovel was used to throw about the horse droppings and the handy[?] to knock it about afterwards], unearthed the stone which the plough share caught against, but before he could raise the stone the carter appeared on the scene, and of course he could see it was no rock, but a stone that had been placed there by someone; but being unable to raise it with the shovel and handy[?], he went to some men who were quarrying near by, and borrowed a pick and crow bar, and came back and raised the stone, and underneath there were two iron pots full of gold, silver and copper or bronze coins, which he took out and took home, but being an uneducated man he did not know what to do with them, but his find got to the ears of Mr Bennett and this gentleman offered to dispose of them in London as they were old coins, and he considered them to be worth a great deal. So he[Sheppey] entrusted them to Mr Bennet who disposed of them and handed the proceeds to Sheppey, and with this money Sheppey bought a house and garden at North Littleton[ Now occupied by Giles Moore ?], also a horse and cart and set up in business as a haulier. My grandfather lived to the age of 86 Sheppey’s son John, who I remember well, lived to a ripe old age, as did his son George, who carried on the haulage business until obliged to give it up due to adverse circumstances, some eight or ten years ago. My grandfather said that the general belief was that the coins were hid during the Battle of Evesham, and those who had hid them got killed in the battle and of course could not come to collect them.*

*My Grandfather got the thrashing, but not a single coin of the money.”*

*G.H.Heywood – Blackminster, Evesham”*



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#### The Letter

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Concerning the great discovery at Cleeve  
Prior, made in 1811, of Roman coins, one  
hundred of which were of gold.  
I have received the following letter  
which contains details of much interest  
in connection with the find:-  
I am pleased to see an account of this in print.  
When I was a youth my grandfather  
(Joshua Baylis, of North Littleton) told me about  
it. He said that when he was ten years of age  
(he was born on March 25<sup>th</sup> 1801) he was driving  
plough in the three-cornered field on the left  
hand side of the road leading from Littleton  
to Cleeve Prior (this field, now an orchard,  
is now occupied by Messrs, Coulson & Sheaf)  
and when they got to a certain place in the field  
the plough share always caught against a stone  
supposed to be a rock, and if my grandfather  
did not keep the team steady at this



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place he was sure to get a thrashing from the carter, whose name was Sheppey, but as he could not keep the team steady he was obliged to put up with a good thrashing. After administering the thrashing the carter went to dinner, and whilst he was gone my grandfather took his shovel and bandy (the horses were at eye in a field close by, the shovel was used to throw about the horse droppings and the bandy to knock it about afterwards) unearthed the stone which the plough share caught against, but before he could raise the stone the carter appeared on the scene, and of course he could see that it was no rock, but a stone that had been placed there by someone, but being unable to raise it with shovel and bandy he went to some men who were quarrying near by and borrowed a pick and crow bar, and came back and raised the stone, and underneath the stone he found two iron pots full of gold, silver, & copper or bronze coins, which he took out and took home, but being an uneducated man he did not know what to do with them, but his find got to the ears of a Mr. Bennett, and this gentleman offered to dispose of them in London, as they were very old coins, and he considered them to be worth a good deal. So he (Sheppey) entrusted them to Mr. Bennett, who disposed of them and handed over the proceeds to Sheppey, and with this money Sheppey bought a house and garden at North Littleton (now occupied by Giles Moore also a horse and cart, and set up business again as a haulier. My grandfather lived to the age of 86. Sheppey's son John (whom I remember well) lived to a ripe old age, as also did his son George, who carried on the haulier business until obliged to give it up through adverse circumstances. Some eight or ten years ago my grandfather said that the general belief was that the coins were hid during the Battle of Bosham, and those who had hid them got killed in the battle and of course could not come to retrieve them.

My grandfather got the thrashing, but not a single coin of the money. -  
G. H. Heywood Blackminster Essex 1811