



# CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF CLEEVE PRIOR WORCESTERSHIRE



BY ROBERT F. TOMES

The following contributions towards a history of Priors Cleeve will be found to be more like a number of fragments than a connected history. They were collected by the writer during a long period more or less in connection with the parish and consist of records taken from various public sources, such as county histories, subsidy rolls, court rolls, wills, etc., as well as from title deeds and other private documents.

Two old papers have come to hand giving the names of property owners in Cleeve which are deserving of special notice. The one includes the whole of Worcestershire and is dated 1703-4, and that part of it which relates to Cleeve will be given verbatim. The other is a list of the names of those who were freeholders or copyholders in Cleeve at the time of the Inclosure Act, and is dated 1775, which will also be given in full. It is of considerable value in the compilation of these "contributions", and all the more so as I have never had access to a copy of the parish award; my acquaintance with the contents of that document being confined to very brief examinations of the award itself preserved in the Shirehall, Worcestershire. This must be my excuse for not giving the names of the owners and their lands as allotted to them by the Inclosure Commissioners, which, had it been done, would have been a Domesday book, in so far as Cleeve Prior is concerned.

Before proceeding further I am especially anxious to record my indebtedness to certain friends, without whose help these contributions would have been even more fragmentary and disjointed than they are. To the Rev. J Moreton, formerly Vicar of Cleeve, I am greatly indebted for free access to the parish register, as well as for much friendly and personal assistance; while the late Rev T.P. Wadley, for some time a curate at Cleeve, furnished me with a great number of notes relating to that parish, which were of special interest. I need hardly explain that that help was rendered some years since. To my friends and



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THE BUSHELL FAMILY.

Of the Bushell family Nash says "The Bushells were the chief tenants in the manor" that is of Priors Cleeve, ;and he continues, "They descended from Edward Bushell, of Broad Marston, in Gloucestershire, Esq., whose ancestor, Sir Allan Bushell, Knt. was seated at that place Anno 1245. Thomas Bushell, of Prior Cleeve, entered his pedigree at the visitation of Worcestershire in 1636. C

30,35 and Vincent 115 in Coll. Arms. They afterwards took the name of Fettiplace.”

Strictly speaking, the Worcestershire pedigree of this family contains more of the Gloucestershire than the Worcestershire Bushells.

And I do not therefore propose to give a detailed account of the whole of the family, but to confine myself to the mention of such members as are more immediately connected with the latter country. The name of Bushell, I may here observe, is a corruption of the Norman name Boisselle or Busselle. Thomas Bushell, of Broad Marston, and also of Cleeve Prior, whose will, preserved in the Probate court, is dated 1558, left lands in Priors Cleeve. North Littleton, South Littleton, Long Marston, Broad Marston, Bidford, Temple Grafton, and Brailes. He left small sums to the churches of Long Marston, Mickleton, Dorstinton, Quinton, and Pebworth. He mentions a grandson, Edward, his heir, the son of his son Edward. He left two of the Sheldon family and one of the Daston family as executors, relatives of his wife, who was Anno, the daughter of John Norwood, of Broadway.

For the following Bushell entries, transcribed from the Cleeve Prior register, I am indebted to the kindness of the late Rev. T.P.Wadley.

## BAPTISMS

1604-Edward Bushell baptized the first of September

Ano prdicto.

1605-Leonard Bushell baptized 28<sup>th</sup> of September

Ano prdicto

1606-An'e Bushell baptized 4<sup>th</sup> of October

Ano prdicto

1607-Margaret Bushell baptized 20<sup>th</sup> of October

Ano prdicto

1608-Mary Bushell baptized 10<sup>th</sup> of March

Ano prdicto

1609-William. Bushell baptized 24<sup>th</sup> of March

Ano prdicto

1611-Anthonye Bushell baptized 4<sup>th</sup> March

Ano prdicto

1616-Barbara Bushell baptized Dec'ber 8<sup>th</sup>

Ano prdicto

1632-Anne the daughter of Mr Edward Bushell  
was baptized September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1632

1634-Thomas Bushell the sonne of Edward  
Bushell was baptized the 19<sup>th</sup> day of

- August . . . . 1634.
- 1635-Edward Bushell the sonne of Edward Bushell was baptized the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1635.
- 1637- John Bushell the sonne of Edward Bushell was baptized the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1637.
- 1638-William Bushell the sonne of Edward Bushell was baptized the eight day of November 1638.
- 1641-Mathew ye sonne of Edward Bushell and Elizabeth his wife was baptized ye 13 day of Aprill.
- 1697-Thomas the son of Mr. Robt. Bushell baptized June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 1726-Edmund son of Thomas Bushell Esq. And Frances his lady, April 2
- 1727-8-Edward son of Thomas Bushell Esqr. And Francis his lady, Feb 29
- 1729-30.-Robert son of Thomas Bushell Esqr and Francis his lady. Jan 29.
- 1733-Diana daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, June 26<sup>th</sup>
- 1735-Frances daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 1738-Mary daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 1742-Arabella daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>
- 1744-Charles son of Thomas Bushell Esq. and Francis his lady, August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 1762-Arabella daughter of Richard George Esq and Frances his lady, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

## MARRIAGES

- 1608-John Harward and Margaret Bushell married the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1608.
- 1619-Mr. John Norton and Mrs. Dorothe Bushell married the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1619
- 1634-Edward Sauage and Anne Bushell were married the 19<sup>th</sup> of February Anno Dom 1634



- 1696-Mr. Robert Bushell and Mad. Diana  
Fettiplace were married by license Aug 6<sup>th</sup>  
1698-Mr Francis Broderick and Madam Sophia  
Fettiplace were married by lycence May 19<sup>th</sup>

### BURIALS

- 1609-Wm.Bushell buried the last of March  
1615  
1615-Margaret Bushell buried jany. Xvith  
1615  
1619-Barbara Bushell buried Oct 24<sup>th</sup>  
1661-Mrs Anne Bushell ye daughter of Mr.  
Edward Bushell was buried ye last  
Day of December.  
1662-Mr Anthony Bushell was buried ye 16<sup>th</sup>  
day of December 1662  
1671-Mr Edw. Bushell gent was buried 26<sup>th</sup>  
day of September  
1680-Ann the daughter of Major Bushell buried  
May 28<sup>th</sup>  
1683-Mrs Ann Bushell July 17th  
1684-Mrs Elizabeth Bushell Widd and Joyce  
her daughter buried Sep.17<sup>th</sup>.  
1704-Thomas Bushell buried April 19<sup>th</sup>.  
1712-Mr Thomas Bushell buried Jan.14<sup>th</sup>.  
1715-Mr Edward Bushell buried Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.  
1716-Cecilia Bushell, widow buried Oct ye 7th.  
1720-Robert Bushell Esq Bruied Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.  
1726-Edmund son of Thomas Bushell Esq  
buried April 18<sup>th</sup>.  
1728-Madam Bushell buried April 21<sup>st</sup>.  
1728-9-Edward son of Thomas Bushell Esq.  
Buried Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.  
1733-Diana daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq  
and Francil his Lady buried July 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
1799-Robert Fettiplace, Esq. of Swinbrook  
Park Oxen. Buried Jan 28<sup>th</sup>.  
1805-Charles Fettiplace Esq Ox'shire, buried  
Dec 28<sup>th</sup>.

The name of Bushell was dropped after the connection with the Fettiplace family of Swinbrook, near Burford, Oxfordshire, as was also Fettiplace, the Cleeve property passing into the Gorge family, who were the principal owners, but there were several small shares held by others.

In the list of freeholders of Worcestershire dated 1703-4 already given are the following entries of the Bushell family:

Theomas Bushell senr.

Robert Bushell senr.

Thomas Bushell junr.

The following monuments to the Bushell family are recorded by Nash:

Below the communion rails.

Mrs Dorothy Norton, widow, died April 11,  
1654 aged 69.

Thomas Bushell gent died July 16<sup>th</sup> 1656 aged 75

Joyce the wife of Thomas Bushell died Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1656 aged 87.

Edward Bushell gent died Sep 25 1671 aged 65.

Elizabeth wife of Edward Bushell eldest daughter of John Savage of Egiok, esquire, died Sep 14 1648, aged 73. She had issue nine sons and three daughters.

Memoriae Sacrum Antonii Bushell generosi, qui post Multa sub regus bexillis fortiter gesta placide in Domino abormivit Dec 20 1662.

Thomas Bushell son of Anthony Bushell died April 17<sup>th</sup> 1701, aged 50.

On a small mural monument fixed to the east wall of the chancel.

Thomas Bushell, esquire, son of Edward Bushell Esquire, and Elizabeth his wife died Jan. 13 1712. Also his widow Ccecilia Bushell, daughter of Francil Sheldon Esquire of Abberton and Mercy his wife died Oct. 2, 1716.

Edward Bushell died Sep. 13, 1715.

On a Murial monument:

Robert Bushell, Esquire died Oct. 3. 1720, aged 67.

A rather curious illustration of the life of the Bushell family of Cleeve Prior in 1707 is given by Francis Taylor, of South Littleton, who made the following entry in one of his account books:

1707. May 12. Given to the maid at Coz Bushells I dining there that day.....00-00-02.

Note:- There dynded there 2 High Sheriffs. Viz..

Mr Gardner, for Worcestershire, and Mr Burton for Shropshire.

The arms of the family of Bushell are as follows:

Sa a chev. Betw. Three water bougets ar. Crest: An arm from the elbow, in armour, holding a caltrap.

About the year 1626 a Thomas Bushell, said to be a native of Cleeve Prior, took up his abode in Enstone, Oxfordshire, and set about the construction of some very remarkable water works on the north bank of the stream which runs beneath the road passing through Neat Enstone, There was at that spot a spring known as Goldwell issuing out of the rock near to the residence of Mr. Bushell, which he so much developed and made so remarkable as to have attracted the notice of Charles I., who with his Queen Henrietta visited it on its completion in 1636. Plots in his History of Oxfordshire gives the following particulars respecting that memorable occasion:

“As they were entering it there arose a Hermite out of the ground, and entertained them with a speech; retiring again in the close down to his peaceful urn. Then was the Rock presented in a song answered by an Echo, and after that a Banquet, presented in a sonnet within the pillar of the table; with some other songs all set by Simon Ire.

Another account of the proceedings on that occasion says that the imitation of the notes of a Nightingale were ingeniously contrived by the action of water pressing upon and expelling air from artificial tubes. Particulars of the waterworks constructed by the Cleeve Prior genius may be found in a publication entitled “The several speeches and songs at the Presentments of the Rock at Enstone to the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty” which bears date Oxon. 1636.

There is also an account of the ceremony in woods’ Athence Oxon.m vol. iii.;.1.007. as well as in Evelyn’s diary, vol .i. p. 283, ed. Of 1850. The latter author coming there in September. 1664, in company with Viscount Cornbury when on a visit to Cornbury Park, spoke of the place as follows: “Hence to see the famous wells, natural and artificial Grotts and Fountains called Bushells Wells at Enstone. This Bushell had been Severtary to my Lord Verulam. It is an extraordinary solitude. There he lay like an Indian.”

Who and what jThomas Bushell. The originator of these water works was, will be best understood by the following extract from Wood’s work above mentioned. He says, “Thomas Bushell was born of and descended from a genteel family of his name living at Cleeve prior in Worcestershire, received some education in Oxon, particularly as I conceive in Baliol College, and afterwards for his generous spirit and mind much addicted to curiosities, he was taken into the service of Sir Franc Bacon, Viscount of St. Albans before whom, when Lord Chancellor he bore the great seal, got much by that office but more by the generosity of his master who was as ‘twere an indulgent father to him.” It appears from Wood that he afterwards travelled beyond the seas “to satisfy his curiosity in many matters of nature”, and after reading his Masters Philosophical Theory of Prosecution or discoveries, settled down at Enstone Oxfordshire. “where, or else near that place, he had lived, and did use several times in summer to retire.” Here it was that he constructed and presented to Queen Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles i., on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 1636, the above mentioned waterworks. Wood further says that after that presentation he became farmer of his Majesty’s minerals in the principality of Wales, particularly in Cardiganshire, “where he seems to have laboured with great exertions, much engenuity, but apparently to little profit.”

We next hear of Thomas Bushell, from Aubry, the Surrey historian, who speaks of him as follows: “Not long before Oliver took upon him the Protectorate, Mr. Bushell (a man well known for his intimacy with the great Lord Bacon), absconded in a fair house in this marsh (Lambeth Marsh) where the piqued Turret is. He was obnoxious to the managers of those times, and would have lost his life if he had been discovered; but he sent several letters from foreign

parts, which were afterwards printed. Only the faithful servant, Mr John Sidenham, and an old woman was privy to his concealment. This private life in the day with his nightly division in the orchard he led for above a year till his friends made peace with Cromwell, which was compassed by the interest he had in the mines in Cardiganshire. He lay in a garret which was the length of the whole house, hung with Black Bayes; at one end was painted a Skeleton extended on a mattress, which was rolled up under his head; at the other end was a low Pallet Bed on which he lay, and on the Wall were depicted some emblems of mortality. He was an ingenious and contemplative man, and an Intemado and admirer of his Master Bacon”.

Wood again speaks of him and says that after the restoration he, though old, prosecuted his projects, and that in April, 1662, Charles II, confirmed agreements between himself, Thomas Bushell and the miners in the Mendips Somersetshire, for the recovery of their deserted works, which work he carried on until his death.

“He died in April in 1674, aged 80 or more, and was buried in the little cloyster belonging to the Abbey Church of St. Peter in Westminster leaving there behind him the character of one always troubled with a beating and contriving brain, of an aimer at great and high things, while he himself was always indigent, and therefore could never accomplish his mind to his original desire, of one always borrowing to carry on his designs, but seldom or never paid”

He had a son baptized and buried at Enstone in 1626, and his wife’s name was Isabell.

I have searched the pedigree of Bushell, of Cleeve Prior, prepared by the Heralds, as well as a much more ample one compiled by the late Sir Thomas Phillips, but have hitherto failed to discover the Lord Chancellor’s secretary in any of them. He died, we are informed, in 1674, aged 80 or more, and must therefore have been born as early as 1594. The oldest register of the parish of Cleeve does not contain a Bushell entry before 1604, which records the baptism of an Edward Bushell. We learn nothing, therefore, from the parish register. It has been asserted, but I do not now know on what authority, that one of the Bushell family of Cleeve Prior or Broad Marston married the sister of Queen Catharine Parr, who, as is well known, was buried at Sudeley. None of the pedigrees of Bushell record this, which they probably would have done had it been known when they were registered by the heralds.

#### THE CHARLETT FAMILY.

The earliest mention of the name of Charlett in connection with Cleeve which I have seen is in a Subsidy Roll of a date about 1280, when Johannes Charlot was taxed to the amount of iij shillings. In a later Roll, dated 1327, there is no mention of Thomas Scarlet, which may probably have been Charlett. That the name of Charlett occurs subsequently to the above-mentioned dates associated with Cleeve and the neighbourhood, the following will show.



In a bond dated January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1624, John Keighley, of South Littleton, is bound to John Charlett, D.D., to secure the sum of £1.200, in which he is described as John Charlett, of Overberie. "Sacrae Theolog. Doctori."

Habington, writing about the middle of the seventeenth century, mentions Dr. Charlett as having been a Justice of the County of Worcester, and recently buried at Cleeve Prior, where his forefathers had lived.

A letter in my possession dated 1631 and signed Hannibal Potter is directed "To the right Wor. My beloved good friend Dr. J. Charlett at his house in Crophorne this be deliv'd."

In 1635 the same Dr. Charlett is mentioned in a terrier as living in South Littleton, in a house south of the vicarage ; that is to say, south of the old vicarage, not of the present one.

By the will of the daughter of the above-named Dr. Charlett, wife of William Taylor, of Norton, near Evesham, and mother of Francis Taylor, of South Littleton, and also of Ralph Taylor, Rector of Severn Stoke, one of the Non-Jurors, which is dated 1672, we learn that he was buried at Cleeve Prior, and by reference to the register of that place we find that John Charlett, doctor of divinity, was buried there on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 1640. To this Dr. Charlett I shall again refer, but meanwhile I will give the following transcripts of Charlett entries from the Cleeve Prior register which were made by me in 1869.

#### BAPTISMS.

- 1598 –Richard son of Richard Charlett bapt. 5<sup>th</sup> Novr.
- 1598-9 –Robarte Charlet bap. 1 March.
- 1599 –Edward son of Edward Charlett, bapt. 2 August.
- 1600 –Elizabeth daughter of Richard Charlett, bap. 3 Octr.
- 1602 –An'e daughter of John Charlett bap. 12 September.
- 1604 –Allice Charlett bapt. 4 Aprill.
- 1605 –Thomas son of Richard Charlett bap. 7 Augt.
- 1607 –Ane Charlett bap. 5 Novr.
- 1609-10 –Margaret Charlett bap. 24 July.
- 1610-1 –John Charlett bap. 2 Feby.
- 1613 –William Charlett bap. 13 Augt.
- 1614-5 –Joane Charlett bap. 25 Feby.
- 1616 –Thomas the son of Thomas Charlett, bap. 22 Septr.
- 1616-7 –John Charlett bap. 6 Feby.
- 1618-9 –Sara Charlett bap. 24 April.
- 1622 –Mary daughter of Rich. Charlett bap. 2 June.
- 1625 –Jocosa filia Ric. Charlett bap. 3 May.

1627 –Anthony son of Ric. Charlett bap. 23 Novr.  
 1628 –Francis, son of Ric. Charlett bap. 10 Aug.  
 1628 –Alicea filia Ric. Charlet bapt. Fuit intra (?) pochiam de Upwood in com.  
     Hunt. 12 Oct.  
 1634 –Ann daughter of John Charlett bap. 7 Oct.  
 1637 –Anthony son of John Charlett bap. 29 Septr.  
 1639 –Anne daughter of John Charlett bap. 29 Septr.  
 1640 –Richard son of Richard and Jone Charlett bap. 27 Septm.  
 1640-1 –John son of John and Magdalen Charlett bap. 19 Jany.  
 1682-3 –Sarah daughter of John Charlett bap. Feb. 15.  
 1695-6 –Ann daughter of John Charlett bap. March 12.  
 1724 –John son of John and Mary Charlett bap. Novm. 20.  
 1746 –John son of John and Anne Charlett bap. 2 June.  
 1747 –John son of John and Anne Charlet bap. 17 Oct.

#### MARRIAGES

1601 –Erestian (?) Charlett buried 14 May.  
 1609-10 –William Charlett burd. 2 March.  
 1610 –Ursula Charlett burd. 31 March.  
 1610-1 –An'e Charlett burd. 9 April.  
 1612-3 –John Charlett burd. 5 (?) March.  
 1615 –Elizabeth Charlett Widdowe burd. 8  
     Ap  
 1615-6 –Allice Charlett burd. 17 Jany.  
 1617-8 –John Charlett burd. 3 March  
 1624 –Alice Charlett burd. 24 April.  
 1634 –Mary wife of Mr. John Charlett burd.  
     10 May.  
 1634-5 –Ann daughter of John Charlett burd.  
     3 Jany.  
 1640 –John Charlett burd. 29 March.  
 1640 –John Charlett doctor of divinity buried  
     20<sup>th</sup> June.  
 1675-6 –Mrs. Magdalen Charlett burd. 9 Feby.  
 1683-4 –Mary daughter of John Charlett burd.  
     27 Feby.  
 1684 –Joan Charlett burd. 8 Oct.  
 1685-6 –Mr. John Charlett burd. 4 Jany.  
 1688 –Mary Charlett burd. 16 May.  
 1691 –Catherine wife of Rich. Charlett burd.  
     5 April.  
 1691-2 –Richard son of Rich. Charlet burd. 10  
     Feby.  
 1693 –Sarah daughter of Rich. Charlett burd.

9 Oct.  
 1694 –Ann Charlett burd. 10 May.  
 1708 –Richard Charlett burd. 9 Novr.  
 1710 –John Charlett burd. 18 May.  
 1720 –Anne Charlett burd. 27 June.  
 1723 –John Charlett burd. 8 Novr.  
 1732-3 –Mrs. Margaret wife of Mr Joseph Char-  
           lett burd. 1 Feby.  
 1741 –Mr. Joseph Charlett burd. 22 April.  
 1747 – John son of John and Ann Charlett burd.  
           9 Augt.  
 1750 –Mary Charlett, widow burd. 17 July.  
 1759 –John Charlett burd. 10 Augt.  
 1807 –John (surgeon) Charlett of Evesham burd.  
           20 July.

According to Nash a Johannes Charlett was the Incumbent of Norton near Evesham in 1620.

In the register book of Newbold Pasey, Warwickshire, is the following Cntry:

1675 –July 29 mard. Mr. John charlotte of  
           Cleve and Mrs. Anne Smith, Newbold Pacie.

Nash under the head of Stoulton mentions the name of Charlett as follows:

“In the year 1625 the right Worshipful John Charlet Dr. of Divinity did procure of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester five pounds for the pious use of making the wooden bridge and causey in Hawbridge Green.”

The house of the Charletts, still standing, but in a dilapidated condition, in the upper end of the village of Cleeve Prior, though of no great size, and simple in design, has nevertheless very considerable architectural beauty. It is built of local stone, and the workmanship is of the very highest quality, and the mullioned windows of yellow freestone from the North Cotswolds, are very carefully wrought. The chimneys were of the same material as the windows, and were tall and finely proportioned, but are now missing. On the top of one of the windows at the east end is an inscribed date, namely, 1619, which from the character of the figures and from its uneven situation, towards the corner of one of the lights, has much the aspect of an after-thought.

Extracts from a M.S. book of disbursements of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester:-

Reparations via et ponutū.



Itm given August 20. 1608. To Wardes the repaying of the Woodden bridg over Avon in or Mannor of Prior's Cleeve.	}	40s
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Solutiones extraordinarie. Itm Sep. 23 to John Charlett for His halfe yeare's wages for the office Of forregne bayliwick due pesto Michaelmas, 1603.	}	2s
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Itm given to a messinger that came In a foule day from Harsington fro Mr. Ferriman by Mr. Dean's Appointment.	}	2s
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The following are copies of the Charlett inscriptions in Cleeve Church in 1869:-

Judith  
 Ginimi Taylor Amri Uxor  
 Johis Charlet SS. Thae Doctoris  
 &  
 Mariac Norfolciensis de Richmondorum Stirpe  
 Filia  
 . . . . .  
 A 1674      Novr 13.

The above is in the floor of the Chancel, and the following in the floor of the Nave:-

NEARE  
 This place was laid the body of  
 MR. JOHN CHARLETT. Who Departed  
 this life February the 17<sup>th</sup>. 1695. Aged 59yrs.  
 ALSO  
 Here Lyeth the body of MRS. ANN CHARLETT,  
 Wife of MR. JOHN CHARLETT, who was Buried  
 June the 27<sup>th</sup>. 1720. Aged 72 years.  
 LIKEWISE  
 Here Lyeth the body of MR. JOHN CHARLETT,  
 Son of MR. JOHN and MRS. ANN CHARLETT,  
 who was Buried Nov. ye 5, 1728, Aged 47.  
 ALSO  
 Here Lyeth the body of MR. JOHN CHARLETT,

Son of the aforesaid MR. JOHN CHARLETT,  
 who Departed this Life August the 5, 1759,  
 Aged 34 years.  
 To the memory of  
 Margaret Charlett  
 Wife of Joseph Charlett gent.  
 Who was here interred  
 Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 1723.  
 Here Lyeth the body of  
 Joseph Charlett gent.  
 He departed this Life April  
 The 18<sup>th</sup> .....

There is a very remarkable headstone in the South side of the graveyard at Cleeve having the following inscription:

Here lyeth the body of Sara  
 Charlett the daughter of Richard C.  
 Who departed this life the  
 6 day of October Anno Dom.  
 1693 Aged 309.

Of course the stone cutter intended the 309 for 30 and 9.

Monument in Fladbury Church.

Depositum Johannes Charlett, gen. Filii Arthuri Charlett, gen. Obiit 21 Januarii  
 A.D. 1710 ætatis 35. Sara uxor ejus obiit Sept. 8 A.D. 1727 ætatis 46.

M.S.

Elizabethæ Charlett nuper de Hill in hao pæœœ, Arthuri Charlet armigeri ex  
 Anna conjugæ filiæ natu minoris: virtutes quas mirum in modum excohit in  
 luceem proferre velat ejus verecundia, ictu paralyties correpta secundo, spe  
 immortalitatis et fide vero Christiana mortem oppeliit, Feb. 5 1746 œet. 62.  
 Arthurus Charlett armiger repos ejus hæres que hoc monumentum memoriæ  
 sacrum furi curavits.

FLADBURY REGISTER.

Baptisms.

1669 –Maria filia Gulielmi Charlete bap. 11  
 Feb.

1676 –John son of Arthur Charlet 30 Sepr.

1698 –Anne daughter of John and Ann Newport  
 bap. 28 May.

- 1706 –Sarah daughter of Mr. John Charlet of Hill bapt. 15 June.  
 1707 –Ann daughter of John and Alice Charlet of Hill bap. 7 Jany.  
 1710 –Arthur son of John and Alice Charlet bapt. 5 Septr.

#### Marriages.

- 1695 –By Lic Mr. John Newport of Henley and Mrs. Ann Charlet of Hill, 31 Decr.

#### Burials.

- 1672 –Elizabeth wife of John Charlet burd. 5 Feb.  
 1694 –John Charlet of Hill burd. 4 May.  
 1710 –Mr. John Charlett burd. 23 Jany.  
 1713 –Arthur Charlett gentleman burd. 18 June.

In a deed dated Sep. 20<sup>th</sup> of Ch. 1 (1630) John Charlett, leases to Richard Hyde of Moore in the parish of Fladbury a tenement and land in Moore. The witnesses to the lease are William Taylor John Mountford, and Thomas fferriman.

#### ALL SAINTS EVESHAM.

- 1698-9 –John Bennit and Sarah Charlet mard. 24 Jany.  
 1549-50 –Thomas Charlett buried 2 March.  
 1650 –Susanna daughter of Geo. Charlett bapt. 30 June.  
 1652-3 –Sarah daughter of Geo. Charlet bapt. 23 Jany.  
 1684 –Elizabeth daughter of Willm. Charlett bapt. 13 Decr.

#### BENGEWORTH.

- 1553 –Richard Charlett and Elinor Turle, mard. 24 Jany.

MARRIAGE LICENCES AT WORCESTER.

- 1663 –May 1 Thomas Bennett of Priors Cleeve,  
bachelor and Alice Ryland of the same  
place, about 20; her father dead, her  
mother Frances Ryland consenting.
- 1698 –Jany. 23 John Benet Cleeve Prior, 30  
bachelor and Sarah Charlett of same  
parish, 17, maiden.
- 1703 –Apr. 24 Willm. Silvester, Long Marston,  
Co. Glouc. 25 bachelor and Alice Ben-  
nett, Cleeve Prior, 23 maiden.

Transcripts from the Register booke of Shipton Sollers.

This Regester-Booke was bought, Thomas Roberts and James ricketts being church Wardens; wherein are recorded the Baptismas Buryalls and Marryages of such Persons as were Baptized, Buryed, and Marryed in the Parish of Shipton Sollers in the Diocess of Gloucester during the time of my beinge the incumbent thereof.

Arthur Charlett Rector.

Anno Dom. 1653 The Commonwealth.

Anno Dom. 1655.

Bap. –Arthur Charlett sonne of Arthur Charlett  
And Judith his wife was baptized June  
Ye 5<sup>th</sup>.

Anno Dom 1656.

Bap. –Judith Charlett. Daughter of Arthur  
Charlett and Judith his wife was bap-  
tized August ye 30<sup>th</sup>.

Anno 1658.

Bap. –Elizabeth Charlett daughter of Arthur  
Charlett and Judith his wife was bap-  
tized June ye 24<sup>th</sup>.

Transcripts from the register booke of Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire.

Joseph Batt son of Edmund Batt and Mary his wife was baptized on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 1662 by me Arthur Charlett, Rector being the first I baptised here.

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1678 Mr. John Bourne of Acton Hall in the parish of Ombersley in the county of Worcester and my daughter Elizabeth Charlett were married by me.

Arthur Charlett, Rector  
1700

Arthur Charlett Rector of this Parish died Good Friday and Buried Easter Day, March 31.

On the South wall of the Nave of Worcester Cathedral is the following:-

Within the adjoining Cloisters are interred the remains of Richard bourne Charlett, Esquire, of Elmley Castle, in this county. He was the youngest son of Richard Bourne, Esquire, of Acton Hall in the parish of Ombersley, and died on 9 July, 1821, in the xc. Year of his age.

The arms of the family of Charlett as given by Burke are, Or, a lion ramp. Vert within a bordure engrailed of the last.

The connection of the families of Charlett and Newport, as given by Burke (Commoners iv., 3561) is the marriage I have already quoted from the Fladbury register of the date of 1695, when Mr. John Newport, of Hanley, married Mrs. Ann Charlett, of Hill.

The Dr. John Charlett who was buried at Cleeve Prior on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 1640, married Mary Richmond, a Norfolk lady, and left two sons, John Charlett, who was living at Hill in the parish of Fladbury in 1672, and Arthur Charlett, Rector of Shipton Sollers, near Cheltenham, in 1653; and afterwards at Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire. This Arthur Charlett married Judith, the daughter of Mr. Cratfield, a London merchant, and had a daughter, Elizabeth, who was married to Mr. John Bourne, of Acton Hall, Ombersley, to whom reference will hereafter be made. Arthur Charlett had also a son, Arthur, born at Shipton Sollers in 1655, of whom I must now speak at considerable length.

In the first volume of the Reliquioe Hernianoe, edited by Bliss and published in Oxford in 1857, is the following relating to Dr. Arthur Charlett, which I transcribe in full, and afterwards give an abbreviation of the long note added by the editor:-

“1711, April 22. Memorandum, That there is a daily paper comes out called ‘The Spectator,’ written as is supposed by the same hand that writ the Tatler, viz., Captain steel. In one of the last of those papers is a letter written from Oxford at four o’clock in the morning, and subscribed Abraham Froth. It ridicules our hebdomadal meetings. The Abraham Froth is designed for Dr.

Arthur Charlett, an empty frothy man, and indeed the letter personates him incomparably well, being written, as he uses to do, upon a great variety of things and yet nothing of moment. It brings in his cronys, George Clarke, of All Souls, Dr. William Lancaster, provost of Queen's, and Dr. Gardiner, warden of All Souls. Du. Lancaster is called in it Sly-Boots, and Dr. Gardiner is called in it Dominick. Queen's people are angry at it, and the common room say there 'tis silly dull stuff,' and they are seconded by some that have been of the same College. But men that are indifferent commend it highly as it deserves."

The note given by Bliss though of considerable length, is really a brief outline of the life of Dr. Arthur Charlett, of which I now give an abstract:

Dr. Arthur Charlett was the son of Arthur Charlett of Shipton Sollers near Cheltenham, by Judith the daughter of Mr. Cratford a London merchant. He was borne at Shipton June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1655, and educated in th free school at Salisbury, and in Trinity College, Oxford. He matriculated a member of the University on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 1669, and took his degree of B.A. on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1673, and that of M. A. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1676. In 1680 he became a fellow of the college, and was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Oxford the same year, and priest in 1681-2. The year 1683 found him Junior proctor of the University his colleagues being Mr. Gandy of Oriel, well known in literary circles of that day. He became B.D. on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1684, and D.D. on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1692, having on the day previously been made Master of University College. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1696 he was appointed one of the Chaplains in ordinary to King William III, which post he obtained through the intrecession of Archbishop Tenison. He did not retain that post very long having been struck off in March 1716-17 in consequence of some offence given at Court. In 1707 he had been made Rector of Hambleden, Buckinghamshire, and he held that living until his death which took place at his lodgings in the University on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1722, and he was buried in the Chapel of University College on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The editor of the book from which the foregoing has been taken then goes on to say: "It is no easy task to give a just character of Dr. Charlett since with many good and estimable qualities, his vanity, indecision, and unconquerable desire of being a party in every transaction that took place in the University exposed him to much censure and a good deal of inconvenience. His nephew Mr. Rawlins of Pophills, has left a curious paper on the subject which I now give. It is drawn up with more candour than could well have been expected from so near a relative, and was intended for the use of Dr. Rawlinson."

Mr. Rawlins of Pophills (in the parish of Priors Salford, adjoining Priors Cleeve) was not, however, the nephew of Dr. Arthur Charlett, the only connecton being that Elizabeth, the sister of Mr. Rawlins, had married Francis



Taylor, of South Littleton, who was the nephew of Dr. Charlett. Although the account of Dr. Charlett furnished by Mr. Rawlins is long and verbose, it yet appears to be unbiassed and trustworthy. Among the persons who were well acquainted with Dr. Charlett, and whose words were quoted by Mr. Rawlins, are Dr. Gibson (Bishop of London), Captain Hutton, Mr. Thos. Howe, Dr. South, and Dr. White Kennet (Bishop of Peterborough). From them it appears that Dr. Charlett was a very great promoter of learning and learned men, and that he was especially hospitable to those who were sufferers for conscience sake, or, in other words, that he was a man of a liberal and generous disposition. On the other hand he has been accused of indecision and vanity. He has also been mentioned as having never forgiven Lord Oxford, who, he believed, prevented Queen Anne from appointing him to a Stall at Worcester on th death of Dr. Lawton; and Bishop Tanner in a letter to his brother, the then president of Corpus, assures him that Charlett had, however unsuccessfully, long aimed at a Mitre.

#### THE BENNETT FAMILY.

##### BAPTISMS.

- 1599 –Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Bennett,  
baptised Sep. 3d.
- 1602 –Alicce, Bennett, baptised Feb. 6th.
- 1605 –Mary, Bennett, baptised March 12th
- 1622 –Dorothy, daughter of Richard Bennett,  
Dec.10th.
- 1632 –Thomas, son of John Bennete, baptised  
Dec.20th.
- 1634 –Ann, Bennit, daughter of John Bennit,  
baptised March 15th.
- 1637 –Alice, Bennit, daughter of John Bennit,  
baptised March 11th.
- 1641-John, son of Dorothy Bennit, baptised  
Jany 24th.
- 1662 –Mary, daughter of Richard Bennit, bap  
tised Septr. 3d.
- 1663 –Dorothy, daugher of Thomas Bennit,  
Baptised March 3d.
- 1665 –Anne, daughter of Richard Bennit, bap  
tised Decr. 26th.
- 1665 –John, son of John Bennit, baptised Jany  
13th.
- 1668 –Richard, son of Richard Bennit, April 1st
- 1668 –Thomas, son of Thomas Bennit, Baptised  
Decr. 30th.
- 1671 –Mary, daughter of Thomas Bennit, bap-  
tised April 18th.



- 1673 –William, son of Thomas and Alice Bennit,  
baptised Aug. 15th.
- 1677 –Elizabeth, daughter of Church Bennet,  
baptised July 28th.
- 1683 –Mary, daughter of Francis Bennet, bap-  
tised Sept. 2d.
- 1692 –John, son of William Bennet, baptised  
July 3d.
- 1693 –Samuel, son of Frances Bennett, baptised  
Aug.27th.
- 1697 –Elizabeth, daughter of William Bennett  
baptised Aug. 1st.
- 1700 –Sarah, daughter of John and Sarah  
Bennett, baptised Oct.15th.
- 1701 –Alice, daughter of John and Sarah Ben-  
nett, baptised Feb.7th.
- 1702 –Alice, daughter of Charles and Joyce  
Bennet, baptised June 21.
- 1703 –Thomas, son of John and Sarah Bennett,  
baptised Oct. 28th.
- 1704 –William, son of Charles and Joyce Ben-  
nett. Oct. 15th.
- 1704 –Alice, daughter of William and Alice  
Bennett, baptised Feb.25th.
- 1705 –John, son of John and Sarah Bennett,  
Baptised Oct. 9th.
- 1707 –Eleanor, daughter of John and Eleanor  
Bennett, baptised Oct. 8th.
- 1708 –William, son of John and Sarsh Bennett,  
Baptised April 21.
- 1709 –John, son of John and Elinor Bennett,  
baptised Sep.4.
- 1709 –Ann, daughter of John and Sarah Ben-  
nett, baptised Feb. 16.
- 1711 –Thomas, son of John and Elinor Bennet,  
baptised Nov. 4th.
- 1712 –Richard, son of John and Sarah Bennett,  
baptised April 30th.
- 1714 –Mary, daughter of John and Sarah  
Bennet, baptised April 18th.
- 1714 –Sarah, daughter of John and Elinor Ben-  
net, baptised May2d.
- 1715 –Elizabeth, daughter of John and Sarah  
Bennett, Feb. 12.

- 1716 –Richard, son of John and Sarah Bennet,  
baptised March 17th.
- 1719 –Joseph, son of John and Sarah Bennet,  
baptised April 12th.
- 1723 –William, son of William and Mary Ben-  
net, Baptised Aug. 7th.
- 1724 –William, son of William and Mary Ben-  
net, baptised Aug. 1st.
- 1733-4 –Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Tem-  
perance Bennet, Baptised March 18th.
- 1736 –John, son of Thomas and Temperance  
Bennet, baptised May 5th.
- 1738 –Thomas, son of Thomas and Temperance  
Bennet, baptised May 27th.
- 1743 –Mary, daughter of Thomas and Temper-  
ance Bennet, Baptised April 4th.
- 1750 –Mary, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth  
Bennett, baptised Nov. 16th.
- 1753 –Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth  
Bennett, baptised Oct. 18th.
- 1756 –Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Eliza-  
beth Bennett, baptised Sep. 10th.
- 1759 –John, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ben-  
nett, baptised March 28th.
- 1762 –Nanny, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth  
Bennett, baptised Oct. 16th.
- 1766 –William, son of Joseph and Elizabeth  
Bennett, baptised June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### MARRIAGES.

- 1610 –Walter Birbidge and Dorithie Benett,  
married April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 1614 –John Godfrey and Margaret Benett, married  
May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 1614 –John Homlins and Joane Benett, married  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 1619 –William Marshall and Ursula Benett,  
married June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 1622 –John Bennett and Dorothy Hunt married  
Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 1720 –Michael Campden and Sarah Bennett  
married June 19.
- 1733 –Thomas Bennett and Temperance Harris  
both of this parish married May 8<sup>th</sup>.

- 1733 –William Smith and Eleanor Bennett, both of this parish married Oct. 3.
- 1737 –William Harris of Salford, and Mary Bennett of Cleeve married Jany. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 1758 –John Tomes of the parish of Longmarston, bachelor and Sarah Bennett of this parish, spinster, married by Licence in the presence of John Bennett and Mary Bennett, Augt. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 1766 –Thomas Savage of Upton and Elizabeth Bennett of this parish Oct. 14.
- 1777 –Thomas Pardoe of Pebworth, and Mary Bennett of this parish July 31.
- 1778 –Richard Iles and Sarah Bennett both of this parish married Augt. 10 by License.
- 1782 –Joseph Osborn and Ann Bennett both of this parish married Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### BURIALS

- 1615 –Richard Benett buried Augt. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 1616 –Richard Benett buried Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 1619 –Elizabeth Bennett buried May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 1626 –Willm. Bennet buried Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 1626 –Anne Bennet buried Jany. 14.
- 1626 –Isabella Bennet buried Jan. 18.
- 1636 –Jane Bennett buried Oct. 29.
- 1638 –Thomas Bennett buried Jan. 6.
- 1678 –Richard son of Thomas Bennett, buried June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 1679 –Woodchurch Bennet buried Dec. 17.
- 1686 –Alice Bennet buried Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 1689 –Cicelia Bennet buried April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1693 –William son of Francis Bennet, buried Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1698 –Thomas Bennet buried Decr. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 1702 –Elizabeth Bennet buried May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1705 –Alice daughter of William and Alice Bennett buried Sep. 25.
- 1706 –John son of William and Alice Bennet buried June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 1713 –Thomas son of John and Eleanor Bennet, buried Decr. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 1713 –Richard son of John and Sarah Bennet

- buried Jany. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 1716 –Richard son of John and Sarah Bennet  
buried March 24.
- 1719 –Alice Bennet buried June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 1720 –Thomas Bennet buried May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 1721 –John Bennet buried Sep. 15.
- 1722 –Francis Bennet buried Oct. 24.
- 1723 –William Bennet buried May 26.
- 1723 –William Bennet buried Augt. 9.
- 1724 –Mary wife of William Bennet buried Augt.  
1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1729 –Elenear Bennet, buried June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 1729 –John Bennet buried Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 1729 –William Bennett buried Oct. 30.
- 1729 –Sarah Bennett buried Nov. 18.
- 1732 –Joyce Bennett buried March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 1738 –Charles Bennett buried Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 1741 –Michael son of Thomas and Temperance  
Bennett buried Dec. 24.
- 1779 –Temperance wife of Thomas Bennett  
buried Jan. 3.
- 1793 –Elizabeth wife of Joseph Bennett buried  
July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 1798 –Joseph Bennett buried Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 1812 –Elizabeth wife of John Bennett gent.  
Buried April 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### MARRIAGES LICENCES AT WORCESTER

- 1663 –May 1, Thomas Bennett of Priors Cleeve,  
bachelor and Alice Ryland of the  
same place, about 20, her father dead,  
her mother Frances Ryland  
consenting.
- 1664 –April 16 William Ryland, Cleece Prior,  
and Anne Bennett, Halford, co.  
Warwick, 27, maisen; her perents dead.
- 1698 –Jany. 23 John Bennett, Cleeve Ptior, 30,  
bachelor, and Sarah Charlett of the  
same place, 17, maiden.
- 1703 –April 24 William Silvester. Long  
Marston, Co. Glous., 25, bachelor, and Alice  
Bennett, Cleeve Prior, 23 maiden.

SAINT MICHAELS REGISTER,  
WORCESTER.

1663 –May 1, Thomas Bennett and Alis Riland,  
both of Prior Cleeve, married.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EVESHAM

1698-9 –Jany. 24<sup>th</sup>, John Bennett and Sarah  
Charlett married.

LONG MARSTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

1769 –John Bennett of Cleeve Prior in the  
County of Worcester and Elizabeth  
Haynes of this parish were married  
In this church by licence, this tenth  
Day of November in the year of our  
Lord 1769 by me W. Loggins Rector.

The family of Bennett was resident in Cleeve  
From 1599, as the foregoing extracts from the  
Register of that parish will show. The first of  
the names who owned property in Cleeve, so  
far as I have been able to ascertain, was:

John Bennett, who purchased from Edward  
Pilkington, in 1622, a copyhold estate “lying  
dispersedly in the several fields” of Cleeve  
Prior, an abstract of the conveyance of which  
with a definition of the lands. As well as of the  
adjoining ones. I have already given. He  
married Dorothy Hunt at Cleeve in 1622, and was  
the father of:

Thomas Bennett, of Cleeve Prior, who  
married Alice Ryland in 1663. The licence giving  
her age as 20. He had three sons and two  
daughters. His son:

John Bennett married Sarah, the daughter of  
John Charlett, of Cleeve Prior, gent., the  
licence being granted in 1698. when he was said  
to be 30 years old and his wife 17. They were  
married at All saints’ Church. Evesham, on the  
24<sup>th</sup> of January. 1698-9. The marriage  
settlements of this lady was dated 1705, Francis  
Taylor, of South Littleton, and John Phillips being  
trustees. This John Bennett was mentioned in  
the Freeholders’ list of 1703-4, already  
mentioned. He left four sons and four daughters.  
His son

Thomas Bennett, of Cleeve Prior, was

Baptised there in 1703, and he married  
Temperance Harris at Cleeve in 1733 and died in 1785,  
Leaving two sons and a daughter. namely:

John Bennett, eldest son. Baptised at Cleeve  
Prior in 1735, married Elizabeth Hatnes, of  
Long marston. in 1769, and died in 1819  
Without issue. leaving his estate in Cleeve Prior to  
His grand nephew, Thomas Bennett Tomes.

Thomas Bennett, second son, baptized at  
Cleeve Prior in 1735, married Mary Tandy,  
grand-daughter of Francis Taylor, of South  
Littleton, by whom he became possessed of lands  
And messuages in South Littleton, lands in  
North Littleton. and the farm known as  
Littleton Pasture. He sold the latter to the trustees  
Of the Slatter family about 1811. He  
Purchased the farm in Souh Littleton known as  
Narval, and one of the two farms in Cleeve  
Prior having the name of Hoden. He died in  
1818.

Sarah Bennett, the sister of John and Thomas Bennett, married John Tomes,  
of Long Marston, and had issue one son and several daughters.

Another branch of the same family of Bennett owned one of the Hodens  
in Cleeve Prior, namely, the one lying to the north of the one already  
mentioned, also the estate in Pebworth called Ullington, and the farm known as  
Honeybourne Grove. Of the owners of these estates I have no connected  
pedigree. Their arms may be seen in Pebworth church.

A William Bennett was churchwarden of Cleeve Prior in 1717, a John  
Bennett in 1719, and a Thomas Bennett in 1725, 1746, and 1751.

## THE LUNN FAMILY

Of the Lunn family in connection with Cleeve Prior I cannot register a very  
antient record. The manor house and farm after ceasing to be in the occupation  
of the owners was tenanted, first by a family named Melin, afterwards by one  
having the name of Bateman. Robert Lunn, a native, as the writer thinks, of  
Norton near Evesham, married Miss Bateman and then resided in the Manor  
House. He appears to have been the first Lunn of Cleeve Prior, and was a man  
of superior culture and taste, being very much in advance of the time in which  
he lived, as well as possessed of great originality. His bent was ornamental  
lathe work in which he excelled. In the south wing of the old manor house he  
fitted up a work room in which was his lathe with all the appliances of the day,  
and from that room came many beautiful articles in cocus wood, ebony or ivory,  
to the delight of his friends. He left one son, Charles, still living, who marrying



the daughter of Henry Adkins became the owner through her, the owner of the antient house of the Charletts, and presumably of their lands also. Henry Adkins it should be added married Elizabeth the daughter of John Rock by his wife who was a Miss Lunn, of Norton, near Evesham. Mrs. Charles Lunn is the present owner of the property.

## THE ROCK FAMILY

John Rock, a native of Cleeve, was well known for his poetical effusions which were at one time in everyone's mouth in the village and neighbourhood. Their merit as literary productions was not very great, but they were of interest from their local application, and were indeed commemorative of events in Cleeve Prior. The following was written and fixed against a tree when a resident in the village took possession of a piece of waste land and enclosed it.

When Madam Venus set up school  
A bait for every rogue and fool,  
She was resolved mankind to tiddle,  
Go right or left or up the middle.  
But that which way your nose doth go,  
If right a friend, if left a foe.  
Exit pro bono publico.

Another rhyme from the same busy pen was written to be fixed over the door of a shoemaker's shop in Cleeve which had been let to the shoemaker by Rock.

Behold the shop where toils a cheerful snob  
Tho' thankful he to those who bring a job'  
Full grateful he to those bring the pence  
Because the man who serves the shop with leather  
If he don't soon receive will sell up altogether.

Moral:

The adage good what folks we're wont to say,  
A man that cant receive can never pay.

The writer of the above was the intimate friend of John Lunn, of Norton, near Evesham, and was with him in a boat endeavouring to cross the Avon in a flood near to Cleeve Mill, when the boat was taken down by the stream and upset, and one of the friends, John Lunn, was drowned, and Rock with great difficulty reached the bank to take the sad news to their friends. One version of the occurrence relates that they were experimenting with a boat specially constructed by them, and another that they were taking food to their live stock on the Salford side of the river. Whichever may be the correct version, it seems that they were boating in a flood and that one of the friends lost his life.

John Rock, the son of the above John Rock, was well known as a musician and a clever mechanic, his delight being organ building. He had a well furnished workshop with lathes and other appliances, and he certainly



succeeded in building some organs, not however of any great size, his attempt to build a larger one resulting in a great many unconnected parts behind him which were scattered after his death.

He had three sisters, Elizabeth, who married Henry Adkins, and whose daughter married Charles Lunn, of whom I have already spoken. The other two were Sophia and Cordelia, one of whom being the survivor published, though only for private distribution, a small volume of poems which were the joint production of the two. The following poem is advice to a friend, imaginary or real, who was about to become the wife of a widower with a family, which I give as a sample of the contents of the small volume, leaving it to my readers to decide upon its merits:-

Lady, they say though wilt be a wife  
Ere a few short weeks are ended,  
That thy portion of weal or woe in life  
Will be with another's blended;  
Oh, hast thou considered the matter well,  
In filling the place of another?  
Or the deep and responsible cares that dwell  
With the lot of a second mother?  
Thou may'st be gentle, and good, and kind,  
Thy duties with care fulfilling,  
But the weakness of many a prejudiced mind  
May be baneful things instilling  
In each youthful heart, where love should beam  
With a child-like grace and beauty;  
And such sad influence oft may seem  
To be marring thy well-meant duty.  
And how wilt thou feel when thou first art led  
To the place of thy future dwelling,  
Will not sad thoughts of the once-loved dead  
Be all things else expelling?  
Thy husband, perchance, with a husband's pride  
May murmur a husband's blessing,  
But his thoughts may be on his first fair bride,  
And such thoughts be his words suppressing.  
To make thee happy, and joyous, and blest,  
May be his fond endeavour,  
But doubt not his thoughts will frequently rest  
On her who is gone for ever;  
Then if sometimes down that manly cheek  
A tear of emotion is stealing,  
Sweet kindly words of sympathy speak,  
But chide not nor check the feeling.

Perchance in thy heart many slights may dwell,  
And thou must the feeling smother,  
If thou wouldst perform the duties well  
Of a second wife and mother;  
Yet, go – there is needed a wife's fond care  
And a mother's kind protection;  
Then go – and prefer to heaven a prayer  
For a blessing on thy connection.

## THE LAUGHTON FAMILY

The Laughton family was for a long time located in Cleeve; the entries in the register commencing in 1613, and have only ceased in the memory of persons now living; but I do not find any record of the family having owned property in Cleeve before 1775 when the commissioners made a valuation of the parish at the time of the inclosure of the common fields. Mr. Laughton's interest was then put at £18 4s. 0d. The name does not appear in the Freeholders (and Copyholders) list of 1703-4. The following are the entries in the register down to 1715. Of later entries I possess no transcripts.

### Baptisms

- 1613 - Katharine Laughton baptized Oct. 4th.
- 1617 - Sibble Laughton baptized April 12th.
- 1618 - Richard Laughton baptized Dec. 20th.
- 1621 - John Laughton baptized March 17th.
- 1673 - William, son of William and Elizabeth Laughton, baptized July 5th.
- 1677 - Joyce, daughter of William Laughton, Jan. 20th.
- 1681 - Thomas, son of William Laughton, baptized Feb. 23rd.
- 1687 - Richard, son of Willam Laughton, baptized May 1st.
- 1706 - Sarah, daughter of John and Sarah Laughton, July 14th.
- 1710 - Elizabeth, daughter of John and Sarah Laughton, baptized Aug 10th.
- 1711 - Ann, daughter of John and Sarah Laughton, baptized Jan. 23rd.
- 1713 - Mary, daughter of John and Sarah Laughton, baptized Nov. 3rd.
- 1715 - William, son of John and Sarah Laughton, baptized Oct. 9th.

### Marriages

- 1704 - John Nash and Joyce Lawton, married Sep. 10th.

### Burials

- 1615 - Katharine Laughton, buried Oct. 15th.
- 1688 - Thomas, son of William Laughton, buried April 9th.

1711 - Elizabeth, daughter of John and Sarah Laughton, buried Aug. 21st.


The last member of the family living in Cleeve Prior was Thomas Laughton, who owned and lived in the house west of the church, in the front of which are evergreens cut into quaint figures of heads, etc. He died without issue and his property, with lands, came to the issue of his sister who married George Smith, of Ailston, in the parish of Atherstone on Stour and it yet remains in the hands of the family. Some parts of the land were purchased from John Rock, of Cleeve, and was never owned by the Laughton family.

## THE MILL

The mill, which before steam had completely revolutionised the whole of the industries of the country, rural not less than others, was a valuable property, as indeed cannot fail to be evident when we consider what labour must have been expended on the substantial dams which have been thrown across the various streams, for the purpose of creating a water power, which with here and there a windmill, constituted all the mill power available. In Doomsday book we find Cleeve Mill valued at one sextuary of honey. The nearness and abundance of stone for the construction of a long and substantial dam may very probably have had its influence in determining the spot chosen for the erection of the mill. ✓

In modern days, but while yet the business of this and other country mills was a flourishing one, Cleeve Mill was at one time in the occupation of a family having the not very unusual Worcestershire name of Oldaker, or Oldacre. The name occurs in 1771 when William Oldacre, miller, aged 21, was trustee for John Bennett over a messuage and three quarters of a yard land in Cleeve; then in the occupation of Thomas Bennett. A little later, namely in 1775, the name appears in the valuation made at the date of the enclosures of the common field, when Oldaker (Christian name not given) had an interest in Cleeve valued at £22 12s. There is a tradition in the parish that a Mr. Oldaker, who was the miller, was a man of uncommon strength, capable of carrying a sack of flour from the mill up the flight of steps on to the top of the terrace, and thence into the village of Cleeve; and not only could do it, but really did it. The distance is about half a mile, and the weight of a sack of flour is two and a half hundred-weights, i.e., eight sacks to a ton. ✓

Under the head of the stone trade is a notice of a most artistically worked headstone in the Cleeve graveyard, which I presume records the death of the occupier of the mill. The following is the inscription upon it:

In Memory   
Of CHARLES OLDAKER  
He departed this Life  
March the 16<sup>th</sup> 1776

Aged 65 Years  
Also Elizabeth Wife  
Of CHARLES OLDAKER

She departed this Life  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1780, Aged 70 Years.

It appears from a receipt, which the present writer has examined, that a Charles Oldacre was an executor under the will of the Rev. John Boycott, Rector of Averscot, Oxfordshire. The receipt is dated Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1764.

### THE GREAT TYTHE BARN

Until the year 1834 there was an ancient and very remarkable barn of great size standing in Cleeve and forming a part of the premises of the Manor House, which was destroyed by fire on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October of that year. The walls were low and very thick, and the roof, which was high and steep, contained an immense quantity of oak timber. Great beams were interlaced in a very peculiar manner, and the rafters were nine inches wide and six inches thick. It had two large porches and in general outline bore great resemblance to the barn still standing at Middle Littleton (said to have been built by Abbot Ombersley, elected Abbot of Evesham in 1367, who died in 1379), but it was even larger, and the timbering of the roof more remarkable, forming indeed a single span, rivalling the roofs of metal thrown over railway stations by engineers of the present day.

### FOXES HOUSE

Quite at the bottom of the village, across the way from the vicarage is a picturesque old dwelling of stone, small, but having stone mullioned windows and other architectural features indicating not improbably the remains of a larger house; most likely the abode of some one of the former copyholders under the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. It is now little better than a ruin, but has long been known, and still is, by the name of Foxe's, and is said to have been occupied by the Fairfax family, the names being indifferently Fairfax, Fearefox, and Fox.

The earliest occurrence of the name in Cleeve which I have met with is in 1734, when William Fox was churchwarden. In 1741 Richard, the son of William Fairfax, was baptised, and in 1747 the same or another William Fairfax was churchwarden. A document dated 1764 mentions a messuage in Cleeve as occupied by "one Fairfax". The name continues in the register until quite recently, but there is nothing to show that anyone of the name had been a property owner in the parish.

from it being specially mentioned by Nash; and indeed long after that date a good business was done in rough stone for roads and lime, wall and building stone generally, as well as gutter and pitching stone, flagging and curbing stones. Shallow salting troughs were also made. There were other and less ordinary uses to which the Cleeve stone was applied, namely, chimney pieces, and grave stones. Nash spoke of the Cleeve stone as a marble of good quality, and there are still extant many polished pieces attesting to its excellence and beauty. The stone itself is that part of the Lower Lias known to geologists as the ostroea bed, from the prevalence in it of a small oyster. Sometimes it is crowded with that small bi-valve, but when that fossil is absent it is a hard sub-crystalline limestone which when polished has a mottled pattern somewhat resembling a marbled paper of a dark grey colour. It was a good deal used at one time around fire places, for frames within the ornamental chimney pieces of wood with Adam decorations. Of some of these I must now speak. Thomas Bennett of South Littleton, younger brother of John Bennett, of Cleeve Prior, had great advantage when building his house in the former place in being well acquainted with a London cabinet maker, whose name, if the memory of the present writer may be trusted, was Pittway. He was the owner of some property in South Littleton and was connected with the well-known London architects and designers, Robert and John Adam, the builders and decorators of the Adelphi and Portland Place, London. Under the guidance of his London friend, Thomas Bennett built the house in South Littleton where these contributions are being written, making use of plans supplied by the brothers Adams, and completing the work by adding stairs, chimney pieces, and cornices received directly from those well-known designers. It is obvious that the designs introduced at that time were made great use of by the workers in stone, as is plainly shown by the ornamental work on some of the headstones in the graveyards of Littleton and Cleeve. There are several good examples in the South Littleton graveyard dated 1794, 1803, 1804, 1818 and 1820. In the Cleeve graveyard there is a large and highly-worked headstone to the memory of Charles Oldaker, who died in 1776, which is really the work of a very skilled handycraftsman, and is worthy of a place in a museum. There is another one to the memory of Elizabeth the wife of John Bennett, who died in 1812, and a third to the memory of John Bennett himself, who died in 1819. All of them were wrought by masterly hands, but the one to the memory of Charles Oldaker exhibits by far the best design, as well as the best workmanship. I may add that the Adam decorations consist principally of mouldings, niches, circles, lunettes, wreaths and shell flutings. Some of them are to be seen on the beautiful vases and other articles made at Etruria by the celebrated potter Josiah Wedgwood; and were indeed the work of Flaxman, who, as is well known, designed for the brothers Adam and also for Wedgwood.

The presence of these highly-worked headstones in the Cleeve and Littleton graveyards must be attributed to the influence of Mr. Pittway with the Bennett family.



TITLE

In the library of the Society of Antiquaries are two copies of the MSS. relating to the proceedings of Mr. Sandys in making navigable the river Avon, which are partly in the handwriting of the Worcestershire historian, Thomas Habington. They relate only to what was in the first place done under the orders in Council before the act of Parliament was passed which practically superseded the orders in Council, and by which the navigation works were completed. We are informed by Habington that the work was commenced in March, 1635, and completed in three years. What relates more especially to Cleeve is the following. He, that is Mr. Sandys, had to work his way "through foule and low bottoms, and especially through the deep vale of Evesham, purchasing with excessive charge mills, meadows, and other grounds to cut in some places a course for this watery work, to have a way through the firm land besides the main channell." He then mentions the places where this was done, Harvington, Cleeve Prior, and Bidford being amongst the number. It will not be necessary to further mention the proceedings of Mr. Sandys, nor yet those who followed him and completed the navigation works under the Act of Parliament, as that has already been done by the Evesham historian, May. It will not, however, be undesirable that I should give an outline of the decline and fall, so to speak, of the navigation, and it will be all the more desirable that I should do so as there has been a great deal of misrepresentation on the subject.

Although for many years the navigation of the Avon was of great commercial value, the works were never of a very substantial nature, being only suited to the use of what have been designated monkey boats, and the result, as might be expected, was that the traffic gave way when brought into direct competition with railways. Accordingly, the Upper Avon, being that part between Stratford and Evesham, was thrown up by the parties owning it. That they could do as the Act of Parliament only required that the navigation works should be maintained out of the tolls. It followed as a consequence that if the tolls failed, the liability to maintain would cease, and the navigation could be abandoned. That was precisely what took place. There were, however, certain places by the side of the stream where small pieces of land, not being a part of the navigation, were rented from land owners and an annual rent paid by the owners of the navigation which had to be given up. Accordingly after due notice they were discontinued, and whatever had been erected on them was removed. This was done by the secretary, Mr. J.W. Kirshaw. There was a good deal of talk about the abandonment of the Avon navigation at the time, and the solicitor concerned endeavoured to sell it to some of the land owners and dwellers on the banks of the stream, the present writer being one. The price asked was £150 but although the offer was fully discussed in Stratford and the neighbourhood no purchaser was found willing to give that sum.

It was then that the Great Western Railway took the matter up, and several sums were mentioned as the purchase money; yet the company did not really give anything for the navigation, nor did they become possessed of it in a secret or underhand manner as has been most untruthfully stated, but as a feeder to the Stratford and Birmingham canal which had passed into their hands with the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Company. The arrangement was openly discussed and considered satisfactory by the few parties who were interested, but the greater part of the business men of the neighbourhood were quite indifferent about what became of the navigation. Thomas Nelson Foster, at that time owning and working the oil mill at Evesham voluntarily contributed towards the new lock gate at Evesham, thus shewing his acquiescence, and confidence in the proceedings of the railway company; and soon afterwards Ch. Lucy, the owner of Stratford Mill, contributed a similar sum for a similar purpose at the Stratford Lock. These contributions by mill owners at Evesham and Stratford were duly entered in the cash book kept by the agent of the Great Western Railway Company, and appear, as the present writer can testify, amongst the earliest entries.

The assertion that the Railway Company got possession of the Avon for the purpose of wrecking the Navigation is a mere recent fabrication; the very reverse was the case, for had it not been for the helping hand of the company, the Navigation would have been a wreck years before.

As time went on and competition became more severe the tolls fell still lower until at length they were no longer sufficient to pay the wages of lock-keepers, and the agent of the company talked openly and freely about abandoning the Navigation. It was commonly spoken of in Stratford and discussed at a meeting of the Local Board of Health there, the Clerk being instructed to prepare and have printed a circular for distribution "to mill-owners and other persons interested." The present writer received one of them dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 1875, in which it is stated that there is an intention of the Great Western Railway to discontinue the repair of the locks, etc., and concluding by saying that the opinions of all those interested should be obtained, and if necessary such steps taken jointly as should be deemed desirable. No steps were taken, indeed no one cared to go into the subject. But although nothing was done in Stratford, proceedings were instituted by Foster Brothers of Evesham in 1877 before the Railway Commissioners. The present writer was summoned by the Company as a witness, and was present during the whole hearing of the case, though he did not give evidence. After a hearing of four days Sir Frederick Peel gave the decision of the Commissioners in the following words, which I transcribe from the columns of the "Times" newspaper of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1877.

"Our opinion, on the whole, is that at the date of the Act of 1873 they were a



railway company having the management of the navigation, and were within reach of the 17<sup>th</sup> section, but that that section does not at the present time apply to them. They had, it seems to us, power to surrender the management, and so to relieve themselves of liability, and they did, we think, what had the effect of passing the resolution that the collection of tolls should be discontinued. But, considering they had been managing the canal since 1860, some public notice might well have been given that the railway company no longer claimed or possessed, and, if that was their view were unauthorised by law to possess any kind of interest in it, and as they are responsible for the uncertainty as to the ownership and liability to repair, which has occasioned these proceedings, it will be reasonable that they should pay at least part of the costs of the application. The applicants accordingly are granted half their costs.”

The payment of half the costs by the railway company became the subject of an appeal, and the decision was given in favour of the railway company. It was not a very logical conclusion, after deciding that the railway were not liable, to saddle the company with half the costs, on the ground that the intention to abandon had not been made public. It is true that no formal advertisements appeared either in a newspaper or by placard, but it was none the less well known in the neighbourhood. To sum the whole case up, there is not now an Avon Navigation Company, and no person, or private association privileged to erect navigation works.

On looking through what I have written I am fully conscious of the very scrappy and incomplete contribution which I have made towards anything like a history of Cleeve Prior, but indeed nothing more than a collection of scraps was ever contemplated. It not unfrequently happens, after the completion of any literary work, that additional material springs up, or in other words, that the work itself brings to light much that was not before noticed. I hope that my labours may have that effect, and at the same time of stirring up some one to a more complete history, and, if they do, my work will not have been thrown away.

## SUPPLEMENTARY

Since the foregoing was written I have again looked over the architecture of the tower of the church of Cleeve Prior, and have observed that four of its battlements have a vertical and angular rib passing up the middle from the string course below: the utility of which is not at first very apparent. The battlements which have that addition are those which are equidistant from the corners of the tower. Such an addition could not be for the purpose of strengthening the battlement itself, as it would be quite as strong as those on either side of it without the addition of the rib. The meaning of the thickening becomes obvious after a survey of the bell tower of Evesham Abbey, which though by no means resembling the Cleeve tower in style, has a precisely similar thick angular rib on

a corresponding battlement which carries a pinnacle, making, in addition to the corner ones, eight. There can be no reasonable doubt that there were originally eight pinnacles also on the tower at Cleeve, the alternate ones, springing from the middle battlements on each side, being smaller in size than the corner ones. The rib on the battlements was in reality only the foot of a pinnacle. The loss of one half of the pinnacles originally on the tower lessens materially its former beauty of architecture.

A few words more concerning the interesting old Manor House and its occupants seem desirable. Following the Lunn family came the Holtom family, quite down to the present time, when the province of the historian ceases. Living occupants of dwellings, as well as members of a family, need no historian; they are present to speak for themselves, and may very wisely be left to do so.

Of the Manor House itself and its surroundings it only remains to say that the yew tree avenue up to the principal entrances, cut into its present picturesque form in years gone by and carefully maintained, consists of sixteen trees, twelve of which represent the Apostles, and four the Evangelists. What is now the lawn on that side of the house was formerly an Apostles' garden.

In the house itself there is a carefully concealed hiding place of small size, suitable only for the concealment of one person. It consists outwardly of an angular structure partly filling up a corner of the building on the west side, and forming a closet in the corner of one of the bedrooms, a trap lid in the floor of which being lifted reveals the interior of the lower part of the structure, something like a square well without window or other opening admitting light. It must have been quite dark, and could only have been made use of as a very temporary place of concealment. So far as my memory serves me (but I am speaking only from memory) there is some woodwork on the outside, having on it a seventeenth century moulding, and very probably indicating the date of the Commonwealth, or thereabouts. It is not without some regret that I am obliged to confess to never having heard of the almost necessary ghost frequenting the old manor house and its time-honoured surroundings.

In conclusion, I give one more selection from the little volume of poems by the two sisters of the Rock family:

“IS IT WELL WITH THE CHILD?”

Was it well with the child in this world of woe,  
Where trials and sorrows abound?  
Was it well with the child where vanity reigns  
And vexation of spirit is found?

Was it well with the child in this wilderness,  
    With its torrents and tempests wild,  
Amidst the rough waves of this troublesome world,  
    Oh, say – Was it well with the child?

Was it well with the child? We deemed it so,  
    As she tarried a while upon earth,  
And we gazed with rapture upon her then,  
    And rejoiced in her innocent mirth;  
There was such a sweet expression of peace  
    Which beamed when she smiled,  
Such a joyous gleam in her mild blue eyes,  
    That we thought – it was well with the child.

Was it well with the child? No; it could not be here,  
    Or He, Who all good things hath given,  
Would not have seen fit to have taken away  
    And called her pure spirit to Heaven:  
It could not have been well had she linger'd on earth,  
    Though we thought her so gentle and mild,  
Yet she could not escape from life's evils; but now,  
    Oh, we know – It was well with the child!

Was it well with the child? She has gone from earth  
    To Heaven, where all things are well,  
Where sadness and sorrows are known no more,  
    And where pleasures eternal dwell;  
She is free from the trials and cares of life,  
    And from sin, which here defiled,  
And we in the midst of our grief will rejoice,  
    For we know – it is well with the child.  
It is well with the child – it is well with us,  
    As our tears of sorrow flow?

Yes if the affliction be sanctified,  
    It is well that it should be so:  
Yet, we will not mourn, as those without hope,  
    With a grief so deep and wild,  
But pray that it all may be well with ourselves,  
    As we know it is well with the child.

ROBERT F. TOMES  
February 11, 1903.