



CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF CLEEVE PRIOR WORCESTERSHIRE



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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

relatives in Cleeve I owe the opportunity of looking over the many copies of Court Rolls of which I have given extracts. They at one time constituted the title deeds of the lands of one family, viz., Bennett. To the copies of Court relating to other families and properties, I regret to say I have not had access.

The parish of Cleeve Prior or Prior's Cleeve lies in the east side of the county of Worcester and in the Hundred of Oswaldslow. It is bounded on the east by the counties of Gloucester and Warwick, on the north and west by the Avon, and on the north-west by Warwickshire. There is a portion of the parish lying on the west side of the Avon, consisting wholly of meadow land, which is surrounded on three sides by Warwickshire.

Geologically the parish is almost wholly Lower Lias, but there is a narrow exposure of the Rhoetic formation, and amore considerable expanse of the red and grey marls of the Keuper formation. Overlying the latter, by the side of the Avon, is a deposit of allurium, forming rich meadow land. The face of the steep escarpment rising abruptly from the Avon consists chiefly of the Keuper marls, but near the top there is a small exposure of Rhœtic beds, which, however, are much more distinctly observable near to Marl Cleeve.

The plateau lying above the escarpments consists of the basement beds of the Lias, and eastward the succeeding Liassic beds in an upward direction appear in regular order, namely, the zones, which have been distinguished by geologists as the plan orbis zone, from the occurrence in it of the *Ammonitis plan orbis*; the *Angulatus* zone, and the *Bucklandi* zone, from the presence in them of the Ammonites, namely *A. angulatis*, and *A. bucklandi*. The last-named occurs only in the east end of the parish, at a place well known as Hoden, of which I shall hereafter speak at more length.

ROMAN REMAINS

These contributions towards a history of Cleeve Prior would be most incomplete without some notice of the grand discovery of two large earthen vessels filled with gold and silver Roman coins, made by a quarryman named Sheppey in 1811. Very little more can be said than what appeared in the columns of the "Standard" a few years ago from the pen of the present writer, of which the following is a transcript: "After Sheppey had conveyed the treasure to his own house he began to make use of the money as current coin, and there was soon some of that ancient specie circulating in the village of North Littleton. At this juncture John Bennett, the principal resident landed proprietor in Cleeve Prior, prevailed on Sheppey to place the whole in his hands, fears being entertained that it might be seized by the powers as treasure trove, and Sheppey was at the same time strictly enjoined to observe the strictest silence on the subject, and in the events of an enquiry being made, to say that he had

none of the coins remaining. Accordingly Bennett sold the coins which Shelly had not messed away in small lots, and as secretly as possible. Among those who purchased some of the lots were Bennett's two kinsmen, John Tomes, the father of the present writer, and his brother, the late Thomas Bennett Tomes, of Cleeve Prior, both of whom were privy to the transaction." The sum paid over to Sheppey by John Bennett was something over seven hundred pounds. The gold coins were those of Valintinian, Gratian, Valentinian junr., and Theodosius. There were few bronze coins among them.

Lays Wall is the name of a small enclosure in Cleeve, which may certainly be regarded as Roman. Of the supposed Roman roads of the neighbourhood something must be said. The record of Richard of Cirencester mentioning the Roman station Ad Autonam, has of late been much discredited, and the so-called Ryenield Street believed to be wholly imaginary. Yet there is so much evidence of Roman occupation along the line indicated from Bidford, along the verge of the terrace through Cleeve Prior and Littleton to Evesham, that there cannot be any doubt that there was an important road there. On a former occasion I mentioned the occurrence of great quantities of the horn cores of cattle at Stratford-on-Avon, and in Bengworth, and made the statement that they are the remains of a breed introduced by the Romans, and I take the present opportunity of correcting that statement.

SAXON REMAINS

The Saxon name of an Avon meadow in North Littleton which is mentioned in one of the so-called Saxon Charters of Evesham Abbey, AD709, as Pickershomme, is now well known as Pickersham, and the adjoining meadow in Cleeve Prior has the same Saxon name; a name which doubtless it had before the division of the two parishes took place; and if so before 709. In a Court Roll of the date of May the 3rd, the 29th of Henry VIII (1537) held by Philip Hawford, Cellarer of the Abbey, Pixham hedge is mentioned as a boundary, and there can be no reasonable doubt but that it was where the hedge and wide ditch now dividing the two meadows called Pickersham, the one being in Littleton and the other in Cleeve Prior.

Brookfurlong is the present name of a field adjoining the parish of Littleton, and running quite up to the edge of the terrace. In several documents there is mention of a place having the name of Brookling, which was no doubt the field now known as Brookfurlong. There could not, however, have been a brook from which the name was taken. The field was nothing more than a continuation of the terrace which, running through Littleton and Cleeve, has in the former parish the name of Harrowhill, or Harbarrowhill, i.e. Barrowhill, which has by good authority been considered to be identical with the word

brook, when applied to land, and Brookling was assuredly the name of a furlong, and not of a watercourse.

Hoden or Howden is now the name of part of the parish of Cleeve, consisting of two farms, the name of which is very probably derived as follows. In the Charter of Kenred and Offa to the Abbey of Evesham, AD709, the northern boundary of North Littleton, adjoining the parish of Cleeve Prior – that is, from the Avon to Buggild Street – is rather carefully defined. Just where the line passes the place we know as Hoden, mention is made of Ealdendune.

Accepting Old as the translation of Ealden, we have Olldune for Olldown, and in a deed dated 1622, to which I have had access, Hoden is spelt Olden throughout. There is, however, another derivation of the name which may be suggested, namely, from Hoar, a boundary, and dune, dene, or down, as before. The derivation from the Saxon Ealdendune is, however, the more probable.

The Low, a Saxon name, indicating a place of burial, is frequently mentioned in papers and parchments relating to lands in Cleeve. It is doubtless the rising ground eastward of the village which has now the name of the Low Hill.

IN NORMAN TIMES.

The Conquerors' Survey was commenced about the year 1085, and completed the following year. It was really a survey made for the purpose of taxation and a triple valuation was ordered. The name of every place was to be given, in whose bands it was in the time of Edward the Confessor; how many hides there were in the manor, how many Carucates in demesne; the number of homagers, villeins, cotarii, and servi; how many freemen; how many tenants in saccage; what quantity of wood, and how much meadow and pasture; what mills and fishponds; how much was added or taken away; what the gross value was in King Edward's time, and what was its value at that time; and how much each freeman or sochman has.

All this had to be estimated, first in the time of the Confessor, then as it was bestowed by the Conqueror, and thirdly as it stood at the date of the survey.

For the better understanding of the translation which follows, the explanation of some of the words which it contains may be desirable. A hide of land was what one team could cultivate in a year, which would depend upon the nature of the soil, and the quantity must of necessity be a very variable one, and has been estimated at one to two hundred acres. By the word team an ox team must be understood. Carruca was a plough, and carrucata what one plough could cultivate, and was indeed, the same measure as the hide. The villeins were men who held land under the lord of the manor by a servile tenure, and were, indeed, the villagers.

The following is the transcript from the Domesday Book, as given by Nash:

“Together with Lench it contained ten hides and a half; in demesne were two carucates, and a mill which paid one sextary of honey. There were four men servants, and four maid servants, and twenty acres of meadow. It had been worth seven pounds, and was then worth six pounds. Of this land two hides wanting one virgate were waste.”

On looking through the above, the first noticeable thing is the very small extent of the taxable part of the parish, which probably accounts for its being bracketed with Lench, and that, small as it was, there were nearly two hides of waste which would pay no tax. It is not difficult to guess which land was then waste. The mill is specially mentioned, as it was without doubt valuable, water power being important in those days. Accordingly where there was a mill it was always mentioned. The record of a priest with one hide and two carucates is of great interest as indicating a very early Church at Cleeve Prior. The following also points to the same conclusion:

In the early part of the last century the surveyor of highways lowered the road leading to the mill and to the ford in the Avon. In the process of removal of the earth just at the brink of the terrace the square stone at present on an elevated mound by the roadside was taken up and placed there. It is the base of an ancient praying cross, and dates from the period of the earliest Church at Cleeve. Pilgrims coming through the ford up the hill to the church paused therefor prayer, when in sight of the church. A wooden staff with a rudely attached crosspiece was placed there to commemorate their visit. A more substantial cross, but still of wood, took the place of the earliest one, which in turn gave way to the stone cross of which the base only now remains to tell its tale.

THE CHURCH.

The church is mainly of that period of architecture known as the Perpendicular, but there is sufficient difference between the window tracery in the nave, chancel, and tower to lead to the idea that the church may have been built at three periods. The east window of the chancel has much the appearance of having been “restored”; but there are some smaller windows of a very simple design and without tracery, being indeed somewhat lancet-shaped, which are beautifully proportioned and probably older than the larger and more elaborate windows.

But the tower demands especial notice. It is tapering and finely proportioned, and has a good deal of ornament. The style is strictly Perpendicular, but the

window tracery is elaborate; and the arched drip-stones are solid and prominent, and ornamental. They are boldly and richly moulded, and have crockets which are distinct, large and highly ornamental. These prominent drip-stones with their crockets have almost the effect of a canopy over the receding windows, and give a character to the whole of the tower. About half way up the latter, on the east as well as on the west side, is a small and narrow window surmounted by a large and ornamental crocket. The one on the east side remains entire, but that on the west has lost the upper part of the crocket, which has either been broken off or has been cut off to make room for the face of the clock recently placed in the tower; which, if useful, is a most incongruous addition to the ancient edifice.

The gargoyles are what are termed Batswing; and the pinnacles completing the tower are, like the crockets already mentioned, rich in detail. Altogether the tower is a very handsome one, both as to outline and ornamentation. I am very much indebted to Mr J Amphlett, of Clent, for pointing out to me all these particulars, and at the same time informing me that the style of architecture so closely resembles that of several churches in the north of the county as to lead to the conclusion that they were all the work of one architect.

On the south side of the nave is, for want of a better name, what I must designate an excrescence. It is an addition to the church in the shape of a brick and red tiled building, the particular history and date of which is not preserved. What can have been the inducements to make any addition to the church is not apparent, for bearing in mind the small number of inhabitants of Cleeve, such an enlargement cannot have been needed. Again, supposing that it was really required, one would have thought that the abundance of stone near at hand as well as the presence of men whose business it was to work it, would naturally have given it the preference.

THE VICARS OF CLEEVE.

The Dean and Chapter of Worcester are the present patrons of the Church of Cleeve Prior, and the following is the list of incumbents as recorded in the pages of Nash's History:

- 1306 – Thomas de Alston.
- 1313 – Ricardus de Bremsgrave.
- 1334 – Thomas de Ecton.
- 1361 – Henricus Newbold.
- 1367 – Walterus Godfrey.
- 1399 – Will'us Buryman.
- 1400 – Will'us Jervid.
- 1401 – Johannes Alwerke.

1410 – Thomas Hettewey.
1412 – Thomas Oldbright.
1433 – Johannes Granger.
1434 – Johannes Byrmyeham.
1452 – Johannes Wode.
1487 – Ricardus Baker.
1488 – Johannes Fryston.
1528 – Ricardus Geffreys.
1580 – Gilbertus Backhouse.
1622 – Ricardus Wright.
1673 – Josephus Walker.
1717 – Thomas Scott.
1756 – John Windle.
1759 – Evan Jones.
1768 – Richard Baty.

Nash adds the following note to the above list:

Thomas de Alston was appointed coajutor to Richard vicar of Clive Prior, who was old and blind.

In the “Registrum Sede Vacante,” preserved at Worcester, are the following records relative to the appointment of two of the above-mentioned incumbents: “Institution of John Alwerk, Priest, presented by John the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to the perpetual vicarage of the parish Church of Clive Prior’s, vacant by the resignation of William Gerard, the last vicar, on 1 October.”

Nash gives the name of Gerard, or Jervid, and the date 1400, but the date before and after the above entry is 1401.

“Institution of John Byrmyeham presented by the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Worcester to the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Clyve Prior. 31 July, 1434.”

Nash records a mural monument in the Church as follows: “Joseph Walker, Vicar of this Church, died May 12, 1715.” According to the date of institution given in the foregoing list of vicars, he must have been Vicar for 42 years.

Richard Baty, who became Vicar in 1768, was still there in 1775, the date of the Inclosure Act.

The Rev Richard Gower officiated in Cleeve Church in 1758, as I was informed by the late Rev T P Wadley.

The Rev Thomas Thomas was Curate at Cleeve from 1796 to 1811, and the following appears in the register there:

1797, June 6. – Thomas Thomas, of this parish, bachelor, and Elizabeth Manton, of Stratford-on-Avon, married by license by D Lewis, minister.

1798, April 22. – (Born March 18) Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev Thomas Thomas, and Elizabeth his wife, baptised.

Mrs Elizabeth Bennett, wife of John Bennett, of Cleeve Prior, by her will dated the 21st of February, 1811, left £50 to Elizabeth Thomas, wife of the Rev Thomas Thomas, curate of Cleeve Prior.

It will be observed from the above that a D Lewis was “minister” of Cleeve in 1797, as follows:

1797 – D Lewis.

1812 – Robert Digby Stillingfleets. He died in 1856, having been 44 years vicar.

1857 – John Morton. He was vicar until 1872.

1872 – Benjamin Davis, vicar until 1893.

1894 – James Dolman Knipe, present vicar.

In 1868 the following was received from the Rev T P Wadley, for some time curate at Cleeve:

“The silver chalice was the gift of Mrs Elizabeth Bromwell, daughter of the Rev Wm. Willies, late Rector of this parish of Cleeve.”

I am unable to give any date to the incumbency of Wm. Willes.

A WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORIAN.

Before proceeding further, it will be desirable that I should give a brief notice of Thomas Habington, the Worcestershire Historian, from whose MSS Nash borrowed so largely.

Thomas Habington, the son of John Habington, cofferer to Queen Elizabeth, was born on the 23rd of August, 1560, and came into the possession of Hindlip after the execution of his brother Edward for conspiring to murder the Queen and place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. Thomas was then 26 years old, and became the head of the family. He was for some time confined in the Tower, and afterwards in Worcester, but he does not appear to have been tried for his share in the intended murder of Elizabeth. He married Mary Parker, daughter of Edward Lord Morley by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of William Stanley, Lord Mounteagle. But little is known of Thomas

Habington until 1605, when he was immediately concerned in the Gunpowder Plots, for which he was tried and sentenced to death. He was, however, reprieved, but all his property was forfeited. After that time, when he was 46 years old, he gave himself up to quiet pursuits, and died in 1647 at the ripe age of 87. He had gone about the county and written a complete History of Worcestershire, which was made great use of by Nash when writing his well-known County History.

Habington, writing about the middle of the 17th century, of Cleeve Prior, says: "Clive surnamed Prior seated in the fruytfull Vale of Euesham, and the large spreadinge medowes of the ryver Avon runnrth out as a foreland betweene the countyes of Gloucester and Warwicke boundinge Easte on Pebworthe in Co. Glo., West on Sawford, Northe on Bydford, both Com. War. And devyded from Clive by Avon remayninge only vnited to the body of our shyre Southe by Myddell Litelton, thoughe of a severall hundred, beinge Blakenhurst, from Clive, which is Oswaldslowe, but not mentioned in Kinge Edgar's Charter. The reason I thincke is because thys and the three former Lordshyppes wear in theyre privaledge (as you may reade before in Lindrige) except as Oswaldslawe from all temporal iurysdiction, Clive was gyven to the Church of Worcester by Ethelred Kinge of the most parts of England thyrd sonne of Kinge Ethelwlf, yet ealder brother to that famous Kinge Alfred, about the yeere of our Lord 872, the Mercian Kingdome even then expyrynge."

Habington, after mentioning the then Bishop of Worcester, proceeds: "Clive feelithe somewhat the discommodity of the vale beeinge want of woode, yet did not Auon shutt up her waye she is near woody Warwickshire. Shee hathe liberty a free warren 40 Hen. 3 (1255) which tellethe mee shee was neaver within the bandes of a forest. The fyrst which I find in Clive is that Henry de Clive, the son of Swenus de Lutulton, sould to the prior of Worcester halfe a yard land in Clive with a meadowe, etc. in the tenure of Robert de Lutulton, and the mesuage of William Lugemet for teune marks of sylvar; witnessed by William de Maluern thirst (sic) Shyreefe of Worcestershyre, Robertus de Franckeleyn and Alice his wyfe confyrme the gvyfte. Thus I digresse to showe howe men in that age altered theyr names with theyre habitations, for the father was surnamed Lutulton and the sonne Clive. And presently after Adam de Doderhull was called also Sir Adam de Wych, Shyreefe of our Shyrer (sic). But to return to Clive, Robert Francolen of Clive and Alice hys wyfe coveyghed lands in Clive to God our blissed Lady and the Priory of Worcester; witnessed by Sir Hughe de Clive and others. The Prior and Covent of Worcester gran amonge other thinges for his good servyse to W de Rupe in Clive a hyde of land in fee farme, which was after pleaded 13 Johannis Regis (1211) in the Kinge's Court at Hanley, before hys Justices Simon de Pateshall and Rape de Punthand. Robert de Bella Aqua, Bella or Aqua or Belle Bellewe, had anciently some interests in Clive, for Emm(a) hys wyfe had duringe her lyfe fyfty shyllinges

yeerely as dowre from hence. Henry Austen, of Saltford, had landes in Clive which by conveyghances 17 Ed. Filii Ed. R. (1323) came to Worcesters Priory. 18 Ri. 2(1394) was a tryall before John Hulle and Henry Browne, the Kinge's Justices between the Prior of Worcester, and Lucy Hiches, about the terme of a messuage with a yard land syx Akers, etc, in Clive, whearrupon Richard Ketelby, Baylyfe of the hundred of Oswaldeslawe, summoned a jury of Esquyres and Gentellmen of worthe, who found that shee healde her land in Clive of the Prior, by homage, fealty, servyse of rent, and sute of Courte. And these which maie seems to some scarce worthe the wrytynge, to a curious eye maye perhaps be markable.

The Priory of Worcester dyd by the Kinge's lycense in regard to the statute of Mortmayne purchase in Llive landes healde of themselves, which weare valedwed by the Kinge's Escaetors on thys syde of Trent, the tyrst Richard de Rodmy 14 Ed. Filii R. Ed. (1320?) the last Mr. John Walewayn Clearke 16 Ed. 2(1322?) for there were only tow Excaetors in Englans one on thys side, the other beyond Trent. Theyre ffeffe was Ri. dE Hanckeslowe often mentioned, theyre witnesses Sir Adam de Herwinton, Nicholas de Aston. Roger Golafer, Giles de Periton, Clement de Dunclent, etc. In another place John de Hampton, Herbert de Somery, Sir John his soune, John le Rous, Walter de Kellingwike, Agayne Thomas de Lench, John le Rous, Richard Bertram, whose namees I recyte as the owlde inhabitants of our Shyres and Ancestors of some of our Gentellmen.

Concearninge the Parsonage of Clive, it was appropriate to the Priory of Worcester beeing Patrons thearof by Walter Reynold, Byshop of Worcester, An. Do. 1308, and confyrmed by the samee Walter, after Archbyshop of Canterbury, A.D. 1318, with reservation of a Vicarage.

The Church is destitute of Arms and Monuments. In the Churchyard is a Tombstone with a Crost over : (I think) some Preyst."

The following abbreviated transcript of an Inquisition Post Mortem held in 1292 obviously refers to the above-named Robert de Bella Aqua or Robert Bellewe, and may very properly be given. It will be seen that the full sum of the dower arising out of Cleeve was 60 shillings instead of 50 shillings, as stated by Habington.

An inquisition post mortem held in the 21st year of the reigns of Edw. I. (1292) gives a little insight into the condition of society in Cleeve Prior at that early period. The Inquisitors say that is to the damage and prejudice of the King if the grant licence to Robert Belewe to give to the Prior and convents of Worcester a carucate of land in Clyve Prioris, because if the said Robert be outlawed or hanged the King would have the year waste and chattels, and it is to

the harm of the county because if he be resident on the same land he may be in assizes and summonses as the other free tenants; but he never resides on that land, because he has sufficient in the counties of Oxford and Devon. The same land is held of the Prior and convents of Worcester in chief at the rent of 4s 2d and suit of their courts at Worcester, and is worth in all issues 60s.

Under the head of Lindrege, Habington says "Ye maye wounder why I beegin with Lindrege, beeinge in Kinge Edgar's Charter of Oswaldeslawe's hundred made to the Byshopp and Mounkes of Worcester not mentioned, but because Kinge Henry the second graced Lindrege with a mercate on eaury Tuesday, and King John, who lyvinge and dyinge loved Worcestershire, in hys greate endowments to Lyndrege, Wulwardelage, or Walwardslawe, Stoke, and Clyve, both surnamed Pryor's in hys Kingly record nameth it fryst, I wyll conforme mee to that, and allso showe howe in thease fowre manors he gave them. Sokam, and Sakam, Thol and Thearne, and infangenteof, cum indice aquæ et ignis et furearum et ferri, et cum quitancia de uisü Thething arum et de murdris et miseliis et cum omnibus aliis libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus quas habuerunt in abiis maneris suis. Ed quod ipsi et omnes homines et omnia tenementa et feoda predictorum maneriorum et omnia ad eadem quatuor maneria pertinentia sint libera et quieta in perpetuum de sectis Sytarum et Hundredorum et auxiliis vicecomitatum et prepositorum et omnium balliuorum suorum de omnibus placitis et quærelis et exactionibus ad vicecomites et ad Balliuos pertinentibus cum prohibitione ne aliquis uel alius libertates istas impediare, nec alios prester Prioram et Monachos se intromittat. Testibus Willielmo Cosnite Sarisb Willielmo Comite Arundell. Datum per manum Hugonis de Well Archidiaconi Welleus, apud Madeberg, 27 Augusti, An. Hohannes Regis. You see Lindrige with her ample lybertyes extendinge to the judgments of lyfe and death, and mencioninge amouge others the tryals by water and fyre which is to determyne by the sinckinge or swimmynge of the accused, beeinge bound a crosse hands to feete in the water wheather hee were gvilty or not, as also to prove hys innocency in the cryme layde to hys charge by induringe a burninge iron for a tyme in hus bare palme, but these all lounge synce by religion and reason her handmayde abolished, lyke that decydinge of matters by combate, which, except in some very rare causes is with a most seveare consure excluded out of the Church.

It will be obvious from the above that Cleeve Prior, as well as the parish of Lindrige and the two others mentioned by Habington, had great privileges conferred upon it in the time of King John, which, however, even in Habington's time had "longe synce by religion and reason" been abolished .

LAY SUBSIDY ROLL OF ABOUT 1280.
CLYVA

De Prore Wygorni.....	xjs.
De Johanne de Offenham.....	vjs.
De Henrico Longo.....	iijs.
De Ivone de Stoke.....	iijs.
De Thoma de la Grene.....	iijs.
De Joanne Wymark.....	vjs.
De Joanne Osmund.....	xxjyd.
De Willielmo Kynnot.....	iijs.
De Agriete Vidua.....	vs. iijyd.
De Alicia Longemon.....	iijs.
De Roberto Person'.....	iijs.
De Alicia Thom'.....	iijs.
De Waltero Alisandre.....	viiijs.
De Johanne Thom'.....	iijs.
De Ricardo Rans.....	iijs.
De Henrico Morice.....	iijs.
De Willielmo Carpentario.....	xxd.
De Johanne Forestario.....	xvjyd.
De Johanne Charlot.....	iijs.
De Johanne Jugement.....	vjs.
De Roberto Belleive.....	vs.
Summa.....	cxvjs. ijd.

It appears from the above that there were at that date 21 taxable persons in Cleeve Prior, while according to the same roll there were 29 in the Littletons, and 43 in Offenham. These figures give some idea of the comparative population of the three villages.

LAY SUBSIDY ROLL, WORCESTERSHIRE

1. EDWARD I. (1327)

CLYVE PRIORIS.

De Ina Ingent.....	xviiyd.
De Agnete Offenham.....	xvjyd.
De Thoma-Henrico.....	xiiiyd.
De Willelmo Simond.....	ixd.
De Simone atte Grene.....	ijs. vjd.
De Reardo atte Zate.....	ijs. iiijyd.
De Johanne Le Smythe.....	xijyd.
De Willelmo Kyngot.....	xd.
De Ricardo Pagge.....	xd.
De Thoma Scarlet.....	viiyd.

De Alicia Longemon.....	viiij.
De Ricardo Thomas.....	xvjd.
De Waltero Le Heir.....	ixd.
De Ricardo Wauter.....	ijs.
De Johanne Watte.....	xxd.
De Ricardo Snyg.....	xd.
De Thoma Edmond.....	xiiiij.
De Emma James.....	xd.
De Roberto Hichel.....	xiiiij.
De Waltero Warr'.....	xiiiij.
De Emma Le Fissbor.....	viiij.
De Roberto Forster.....	xijd.
De Roberto Rogger.....	xvd.
De Roberto Drod.....	xd.
De Roberto Blakeberd.....	xiiiij.
De Roberto Thomas.....	xd.
De Roberto Irdel.....	xiiiij.
De Johanne Simond.....	ijs.
De Johanne Fremon.....	xvjd.
Summa xxxiiijs.	ixd. Probata.

There were, it would appear, at that time twenty-nine taxable persons in Cleeve Prior. Attention may be called to one name, and that is Simone atte Green, indicating the existence of a village green, about which a few words may not be out of place. The green was not, as has sometimes been supposed, an accidental piece of waste land, but was, on the contrary, a space set out for the use of the inhabitants of the village, and indeed any others, for a variety of purposes. The Merstow Green in Evesham is a good example of such a "green."

INQUISITIONES NONARUM (1340)
COMITATIS WYGORNIENSIS.
CLIVE PRIORIS.

Item comperinius per sycramentum Willelmi Fisser, Ricardi Thomas, Walteri Damennue, Johannes Symondis, quod ecclesia de clive prioris taxatur ad xiiiij Marcas. Unde nona garbarum vellorum et agnorum valet ljs. Ijd et non plus propter causas supeiuis relatus.

There is no mention of Cleeve Prior in the Subsidy Rolls of 1346 and 1358 and indeed there could not be from the simple fact that they related solely to payments of Knights' fees, and we may safely conclude that there were no lands in Cleeve held by the tenure of knight's service at those dates. The parish was indeed held at the time by the Priory of Worcester, and not by the Crown.

A Charter of Free Warren, as we learn from Nash, was granted to this Manor of Cleeve Prior in the reign of Henry V!!!!. 2A Court Leet and Court-Baron are held here, at which the tenants perform their suit and service. The fines are arbitrary. The custom is to grant three lives in possession; though of late years the Church only grants for three or four lives. The widow has her free-bench, and dead-year, and heriots are due upon death, forfeiture, or surrender.”

The Courts of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, which had always by ancient custom been held at Cleeve Prior, were continued at the Manor house until the Copyhold Infranchisement Act, after which the copyholds became freeholds and the Court was discontinued. There were some rather curious customs of the Manor which were observed until at any rate within the memory of people now living. They are now, however, lost sight of.

The following abstracts of copys of Court Rolls, although of comparatively recent date, may be property given here, as they illustrate the working of the copyhold law which was in operation in Cleeve from an early period:--

Sep. 20, 1739. –Robert Sylvester and John Walford, in trust for Thomas Bennett. Reversion of one acre of land at Lowe; one acre at Greencud: and half a yard land at Rectory (late of Thomas Kingett); four selyons at Foxhalls and six acres at Yellow Furlong; three acres at Hall Furlong, with appurts., in the tenure of the said thomas Bennett.

Sep. 20, 1739. –Richard Lilly otherwise Tustian surrendered one acre whereof one selyon is at Lowe; one at Green end, half a yard land at Rectory (late of Thomas Kingett) as above. Whereupon at this Court the homage present that Thomas Bennett ought to have the p.messes. aforesaid and for the term of his life by virtue of a grant, by copy to him and to one Joseph Bennett, dated 12 of Feb., 1729. Thomas Bennett was admitted tenant by the Court.

May 13, 1848. –Giles Phillips and John Kerry in trust. The court granted them the reversion of a mess. and curtilage adjoining extending from the said mess. to land late of Edward Bushell gent., and a close and a yard land of meadow and pasture, in trust for Rachell Phillips of Cleeve Prior, spinster.

May 13. 1748 (same court as above). –Rachell Phillips and John Walford in possession. Surrendered and granted to Rachel Phillips and John Walford.

Sep. 21, 1749. –William Brain and Anne Brain in possession in trust for Thomas Bennett surrendered, and the Lord granted to William Godfree the younger and Anne Brain as trustees for Thomas Bennett of Cleeve Prior.

Sep. 21, 1749. –Thomas Bennett and Elizabeth Hobbins in reversion. Thomas Bennett of Cleeve Prior, aged 49, and Elizeabeth Hobbins have granted to them by the court a mess. and three-quarters of a yard land in Cleeve Prior, Elizabeth Hobbins being a trustee. Signed

ED. STILLINGFLEET, Rec. Gen.

NICH. TAYLOR, Steward.

Nov. 7, 1757. –William Price and Charles Squire trustees for Thomas Bennett of Cleeve Prior, in lands called Ufnam and Smythes; 3 acres of land formerly of John Willis; 1 Toft called Long; 1 ovens; 6 selyons of Demearn land in Foxhalls; 2 selyons in Brookling; 4 selyons in the Breech.

Nov. 7, 1757 –Thomas Darby and Mary his wyfe (late Mary Walford) and John Boycott, Clerke, surrendered 2 mess. called Upmans and Smythes, as above. The Lord granted the same to Mary Darby (wife of Thomas Darby) and John Baycott, Clerk, aged 49, as trustees for Thomas Bennett of Cleeve Prior, in the above lands.

Sep. 5, 1763. –Thomas Bennett, jun., aged 23, and John Bennett, aged 25, in trust for their father Thomas Bennett. The Lord grants the reversion of 2 mess., 2 yard lands, called Ufman and Smythes; 3 acres formerly the land of John Willis; 1 Toft called Long; 1 oven; 6 selyons of Demean land in Brookling; and 4 selyons in the Breech.

Dec. 15, 1763 –Anne Brain and Thomas Bennett in possession; the former surrendered 1 mess. and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard land. Also Thomas Bennett and Elizabeth Hobbins surrendered the reversion of the above. The Lords grantd to Anne Brain and Thomas Bennett of Cleeve Prior, aged 54, in trust for Thomas Bennett.

1763, Dec. 15. –Elizabeth Hobbins and John Bennett in trust for Thomas Bennett. The Court granted to Elizabeth Hobbins and to John Bennett, son of Thomas Bennett, aged 25, the reversion, of the mess. and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard land as above in trust for Thomas Bennett.

1764, Sept. 5. –John Kerry and John Bennett in trust for Thomas Bennett, senr. The Lord grants to John Kerry, of Cleeve Prior, and John Bennett, son of Thomas Bennett the elder, of Cleeve Prior, the reversion of one mess. and curtilage adjoining and extending in length from the said mess. to land late of Edward Bushell, gent., and one close and one yard land of meadow and pasture thereto belonging.

1764, Sept. 5. –John Walford and Gyles Phillips in trust for Thomas Bennett, sen., surrendered a mess. and curtilage extending to the land late of Edward

bushell, gent., and one close and a yard land of meadow granted by copy to Rachael Phillips on the 13th of May, 1748, now dead. Also Gyles Phillips and James Kerry surrendered the above, granted same date by copy. The Court granted the above to John Walford, late of Evesham, cooper, and Gyles Phillips, of Marl Cleeve, aged 65, as trustees for Thomas Bennett.

1766, Oct. 17. –John Kerry and John Bennett in reversion, in trust for Thomas Bennett. (Endorsed “Home.”) Surrendered and granted by the court, namely, a mess. and curtilage adjoining and extending from the mess. to Edward Bushells late land, as before, now in the tenure of Thomas Bennett the younger. Thomas Bennett the younger was admitted tenant.

1766, Oct. 17. –The same court. Thomas Bennett, junr., and Giles Phillips in possession in trust for Thomas Bennett.

1766, Oct. 17. –The same court. Robert Silvester and John Bennett in trust for Thomas Bennett, surrendered one acre one Selyon at Lowe, and as before granted to him and John Walford by copy dated 20th Sept., 1739. Granted to Robert Silvester and John Bennett, son of Thomas Bennett, aged 30, in trust for John Bennett.

1770, Oct. 26. –John Gibbs and Ann his wife, late Ann Hodgkins, surrendered one cottage and garden called Kingett, granted to them by copy 24. Sept. 1755. Also John Hall and Charles Squire surrendered the reversion of the same. The court granted the same to Edward Price and Hannah his wife, etc.

1771, Oct. 25. –The Court granted to John Bennett, of Cleeve Prior, aged 33, and to William Oldacre, of Cleeve Prior, miller, aged 21, trustee for John Bennett, the reversion of one mess. And $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard land, now in the tenure of Thomas Bennett.

1771, Oct. 25. –Same court. Thomas Bennett and Elizabeth Hobbins in possession, in trust for John Bennett. Thomas Bennett surrendered 1 mess. And $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard land as above. Also Elizabeth Hobbins and John Bennett, son of Thomas Bennett, surrender the same. The Court granted to Thomas Bennett, aged 60, and Elizabeth Hobbins, trustees, for John Bennett.

1775, Oct. 20. –Thomas Bennett the younger and John Bennett in trust for said John Bennett. T. B. is aged 35, and J B. aged 37. They are trustees of Uffnam and Smythes, before mentioned.

1775, Oct. 20, - Same court. The Court grants to Robert Silvester and John Bennett, aged 37. Rob. Sylvester to be trust over 1 acre of land, and the selyon at Lowe, etc.

1775, Oct. 20, - Same court. Thomas Bennett and Joseph Bennett surrendered 1 acre, 1 selyon at Lowe and T. B. aged 65, and J. B. aged 63, trustees for John Bennett.

1777, Oct. 10. –William Price, and Thomas Bennett, junr., in trust for John Bennett. The Lord grants one Toft called Long, one oven, six selyons of Demesne land in Foxhalls, two selyons of land in Brookling and four selyons of land in the Breech, and one mess. and a curtilage adjoining extending in length from the said mess. to land late of Edward Bushell, gent.

1783, May 28. –John Bennett and Charles Sylvester in trust for John Bennett. (Endorsed, Thos. Bennett, aged 21, son of Thos. and Elizabeth Bennett, of Ullington, Parish of Pebworth, co. Glos., Yeoman).

John Bennett of Cleeve Prior surrenders the reversion of one acre of land whereof one Selyon lieth at Lowe, one at Green and, half a yard land at Rectory, late of Thomas Kingett, one mess. and half a yard land of demesne at Brookling, and one perch of Demesne at Righon, four selyons at Foxhall, six acres at yellow furlong, three acres at Hall furlong, one mess. and three quarters of a yard land and now in the tenure of Thomas Bennett, which were granted to him and Robert Sylvester by copy of court Roll Oct. 20, 1776 –Robert Sylvester being now dead, the Lord grants to John Bennett, aged 43, and Charles Sylvester, aged 21, and named in trust by the said John Bennett, the lands, etc., above specified according to the rights of the manor.

1785, Oct. 21. –Charles Sylvester and Thomas Bennett in trust for John Bennett (Endorsed Home Farm and Godfrees). The Lord grants to Charles Sylvester, aged 23 years, and Thomas Bennett, aged 21 years, son of Thomas Bennett of Ullington, by Elizabeth his wife (which said Charles Sylvester and Thomas Bennett the younger are named in trust for John Bennett of Cleeve Prior), lands to hold in trust according to custom.

1788, Oct. 21. –Joseph Bennett and John Bennett in possession. (Endorsed Home Farm and Godfrees.) Joseph Bennett surrenders Home Farm and Godfrees, and the Lords grant to said Joseph Bennett, aged 72, and to said John Bennett, aged 45, trustee for said John Bennett. Recites an act dated the 15th of the present King for the enclosure of Cleeve Prior. John Bennett is here a trustee in his own right.

1791, Oct. 19. –Joseph Bennett and Thomas Sale in possession. Joseph Bennett surrenders a cottage and garden and part of a cottage called Kingett and appurts, and also Thomas Sale, shoemaker, and John Gibbs of Offenham surrender the same, and the Lords grant to said Joseph Bennett, aged 74, and

Thomas Sale, aged 24, and Joseph Bennett and Thomas Sale, are trustees for Thomas Hobday, Miller.

1791, Oct. 19. –John Bennett, a customary tennant with a letter of attorney to him and others from William Kemeys of Newport, County Monmouth, gent., and William Phillips of Cleeve Prior, surrendered a cottage and garden extending from the street in Cleeve Prior to a piece of land of Robert Fittiplace, Esq., called dead furlong, late part of certain copyhold premises called Kemeys and formerly in the tenure of William Kemeys. The Court granted the same to said William Kemeys, trustee for John Bennett of Cleeve Prior, gentleman.

1794, Oct. 15th. –The Court granted to Richard Ryland, formerly of Cleeve Prior, but now of Shrewsbury, and to Clement Lucas, of Janbury, Co. Worcester, gent., the reversion of a piece of meadow called Hurst Bank, etc., in trust for John Bennett of Cleeve Prior, gentleman.

1794, Oct. 15. –Same Court. Thomas Sale and Joseph Bennett in possession in trust for John Bennett. Of Hurst Bank, etc.

1798, Dec. 16th. –Thomas Sale and Joseph Bennett in possession in trust for John Bennett. Thomas Sale surrendered one old orchard and old Foldyard, and a piece of pasture called Rye furlong, parts of a mess., and one yard land called cox, and 1 yard land native and 1 Farmdel, etc.

1798. Dec. 8th. –Thomas Sale and Richard Ryland in trust for John Bennett. Thomas Sale surrenders a piece of meadow called Hurst Bank of 2 roods and 12 perches, and a piece of meadow called Lower Meadow of 3 roods and 14 perches, late part of one yard land called cox, one mess., and one yard land native with one Farmdel and one croft of Demesne in Cleeve Prior held by copy to him and Joseph Bennett, now dead, dated 15th of October, 1794. Also Henry Silvester with letter of Attorney made by Richard Ryland of Shrewsbury, gent., and Clement Lucas of Hanbury, Co. Wor., gent., surrendered the reversion of the premises, and the court granted the same to Thomas Sale and Richard Ryland, trustees for John Bennett of Cleeve Prior, gentleman.

A few words respecting the names of places and things mentioned in the foregoing abstracts of Copy of Court Rolls seems desirable. The Lowe and Brookling are frequently mentioned, and are now known as Lowhill and Brookfurlong. A common Oven is more than once mentioned, which can hardly have been a baker's oven. Such a convenience would be likely to form part of the messuage which is included in the Copy. It may with greater probability have been something in the nature of a kiln. In that part of the adjoining county of Stafford which is devoted to the manufacture of pottery there are ovens in abundance and used in firing the ware. Could the oven have

been a lime kiln? A place called Righin is no doubt the furlong (now a field) called Rye furlong, but of Foxhalls we know nothing. Lands bearing the names of Ufnam and Smythes, and a Toft called Long are mentioned, as also is Hall furlong, which are not now known by those names, and the same may be said of a meadow called Hurst bank, and a yard land called Cox. There is also mention of a Farmdel, and the Breech: the latter being yet a part of the manor farm lying near Hoden.

On the fly leaf of the earliest register book of Cleeve Prior is the following memorandum:

Memorandu. That wheras Allice Charlett late of Cleeve Prior in the county of Wigorn widdow gave unto the repaire of the Churche in her laste will and testament iiis. –iiiiid. And likewise unto the poore of the parishe vis. Viii. the same was discharged by Thomas Charlett being her sone and executor the xxist of December 1617.

On the outside of the parchment cover of the book is the following:

To Richard (not decypherable)
Richard Charlett att.
Priors Cleeve give these.
Its cost is iis. Viiiid.

By an indenture dated the 16th of May, 20th of Jac. 1 (1622) Edward Pilkington, of Cleeve Prior, co. Wor., sold to John Bennett, of the same place, for 200 marks a ten't or dwelling-house in Cleeve Prior, and several pieces of arrable land, meadowe, and pastures, of half a yard land, lying dispersedly in the several fields, furlongs, and meadows of Cleeve Prior, i.e.:

Four lands selyons or ridges in Westfield.
One throughout land.
One land in Sutt furlong.
One acre in the same furlong.
One land shooting into earles way next 'unto the common in hayling stones.
One land in quarrio furlong.
Two leys in hayling stones.
One land in the Meere furlong shooting into Littleton haling stones.
One land in Churn hill.
Two lands in Olden.
Two lands, seylons, or ridges in North field, Yellow furlong, shooting into the Red hill.
One land being a foreshooter in the same fiield.
Two lands in heythorne.

One land shooting into frogland.
 One land in short stones.
 One land in the same field, next saving one to Marlcleeve fiield.
 One land shooting east down Low hill.
 One land, selyon, or ridge of errable land in eastfield shooting east and west on
 land of Thos. Bennett the elder.
 Two lands in the same field shooting into the brooke.
 One land shootinge into Mr. Bushell's dead furlong.
 One land in the same furlong shooting up Low hill towards the towne.
 One acre land in the same field lying in Olden.
 One land in the same field shooting north into Bickm'shedge.
 One land in the same field shooting into Ullington hedge.
 One acre in South field in Olden shooting south to Littleton field.
 One acre in the same field in Olden at the Sallys.
 One land in the same furlong.
 Two lands, selyons, or ridges in the hurst shooting on the Moor hedge.
 Two lands in the same field shooting into the brook poole.
 One land or ridge shooting into Horseus (or Lorseus?) ways.
 One land shooting into the Moorway.
 One acre of meadow in the Com. Meadow of Cleeve shooting into the ford
 next unto Mr. Bushell's hedge.
 One acre in the same meadow shooting on the way from Cleeve to Salforde.
 One ley shooting upon Thos. Bennett's Long Dale.
 Four leys of meadow.
 One piece of meadow called Shary shooting into the Arrowe upon Salford
 church, bounded by Richard Charlett's Shary, and Dr. Charlett's Shary.
 One ley of meadow in the hurst beyond Dr. Charlett's close towards
 Strongford.
 Also common of pasture of two beasts in the moore, one in the common
 meadow of Cleeve Prior, pasturage for one horse and a half, and for
 twenty sheep.

The definition of the boundaries of the above-mentioned lands or ridges in the
 open field of Cleeve Prior, purchased by John Bennett in 1622, furnishes the
 names of land owners in that parish at that date. The following names occur:

John Charlott, the elder.
 Thomas Charlett.
 Doctor Charlett.
 John Charlett
 Richard Charlett.
 William Bushell.
 Thomas Harbourne.
 Thomas Bennett, the elder.

William Bennett.
Edward Pilkington.
James Cadwell.
John Phillips.
Thomas Endrews.
Richard Hunt.
Widow Godfrey.
Widow Pilkington.
Vicarage land.

A few observations on the names of trustees which appear in the foregoing seems desirable.

First we have the mention of a throughout land, and such lands are sometimes mentioned as througharters, which becomes modified to theritors; and a field eastward of the village of Cleeve is still known by that name.

A land is said to shoot into carlos way next unto the common in hayling stones. Probably the way so named was an ancient one of which we have now no knowledge. Two leys in hayling stones are also mentioned indicating a part, probably a furlong in the open field. But the name occurs again when a land in the Meere is spoken of as shooting into Littleton hayling stones, which is direct evidence that the furlong known by that name in Cleeve adjoined Littleton. Immediately following was a land in Chunhill, and there is a field in North Littleton adjoining Cleeve now known as shirnal, which in the Littleton award is designated Churn furlong.

Olden, which is mentioned all through the deed, is now known as Hoden or Howden.

Further on a land in heythorne, and one in Frogland are spoken of, of the localities of which we have no record.

A land is given as shooting east down Low Hill –Low Hill is the surviving Saxon name of some rising ground east of Cleeve, and signifies a place of burial.

Mr. Bushell's dead furlong is a part of the manor farm east of the road from Cleeve Prior to Marlcleeve.

Of Horsens, or Lorsens Way nothing is known.

In the meadows Long Dale is spoken of, and meadow land called Shary; and a meadow in the hurst beyond Dr. Charlett's close towards Strongford.

A true Coppy of Mr. Deanes letter
to the inhabitants of Cleeve
for the settling the tythes there.

Whereas you the tenentes of Prior Cleeve and other inhabitants among you have heretofore (with the likinge of the Lessee William Elvins) accepted of our good purpose towards you and accordingly entered into the payment of certain pporcions pporcions amongst yourselves levied upon your severall Coppy houlds and practised and payd accordingly, that upon the sellinge of the same pporcions taxed upon your estates in law of lythe theire, you might use your tillage and other comodities to your most and best husbandly advantage of enclosure or otherwise as the law will permit: whereto the payment of your lyth in kinde served to be hitherto a barre now theise are to signify unto you that we looke for your continuance in the takinge up of the tythes accordinge to your former acceptance and practise if the Lessee William Elvins doe not hinder you. And whereas some or two amonge you have been backward to pay such axed rates as to their Coppy houlds belonged, we have intreated our brother Doctor Charlett (who hath estate amonge you) to procure some other party to undertake the parte or partes of such as draw backe whome wee resolve by a Chapter Acte to exclude from taginge or receivinge any state from us in time to come in respect of theire frowardness herein, and because the portions doe not reach the whole and ancient rent by ii or iii bushells as wee heare we have requested Doctor Charlet to lay thease bushells wheare the easiest rate and burthen already is, and if any will refuse to pay this addition, wee wish that another may take up all his parte and tythe by the Lessee's consent. And for that there shall be indifferency any way we wish that by a lot cast (beginning at which ende of the towne shall happen by the lot) the one ende of the towne pay the Vicar this yeare his parte and the rest of the towne to follow the next yeare and wheare the Vicar's part ceased theire to beginne, and so in burthen and carriage or savinge of carriage you shall be all pporcionably alike. To this effect we have requested Dr. Charlet to take paynes for the further stablishinge of this business and the Lessee may joyne with him if he will that so further benefit may redowne to the inhabitants to use their comodities to their best advantage when the tythes are settled and so with our good wishes to you we commend you to God.

Worcester. June 26. 1622.

Your loving friends and landlords.

Jos. Hall. Dean

Joh. Archbold, Sub.

John Charlett.

Eustace More.

May 5. 1623. –They drew lotts wheare and at which ende of the towne the Vicar’s payments should beginne accordinge to this and the lot fell to the lower ende to beginne the Vicar’s payment 1623.

At the harvest then ended or before the Xth day of November followinge and so to proceede from time to time according to this letter.

Sla. Cst John Charlett; John Archbold, Eust. Moore, Tho. Bushell, Rec. Wright.

At a Court holden at Cleeve Prior May 5, 6, 1623, Jacobi Regisæ 21 ET Scotie 56.

Memorand. –That the days and yeare above written were the inhabitants and tenants of Priors Cleeve whose names and markes are under written doe promise to pay to the Deane and Chapter of Worcester such porcions of wheate and barley as by the rate of a roll has bin usual and to deliver the same to the said Deane and Chapter or their assigns yearly at or before the tenth day of November in every severall yeare at our own proper cost and charges except we look to receive to be divided amonge us for the bringinge in of the corne and towards our charges when wee come to make composition for the said corne if wee buy the same the sum of twenty shillings usually heretofore allowed for the same as it appears by the lease of the sayd tyth of wheate and barley demised to roger Ffolliot and lately surrendered by Willm. Elvins to the Deane and Chapter, and wee the sayd tenants doe desire that the sayd tythe of wheat and barley bee set upon the backe side of our Coppies or otherwise inserted into them as the sayd Deane and Chapter shall thinke fit with their steward to annex them to their rolles.

John Charlet, Doctor in Divinity of : Barley xix bushells, wheat xi bushells.
John charles.

Thomas Charlet of (Barley xvii. bushells
(Wheate ix. Bushells
(and iii. Pecks.

Thomas Charlet.

Thomas Harborne of (Barley xxvi. Bushells
(and a pecke.
(Wheate xv. bushells
(and a pecke.

Thomas Harborne.

James Caldewell (Barley (xii. Bushells
(Wheate (xii. Bushells

and a halfe.

John Charlet (Barley xxi. bushells
His x marke (and a pecke
(Wheate xii. bushells
(and a halfe.

William Bennet (Barley iiii. bush : one peck
(Wheate ii. bush : one pecke
Signd W. M. Bennet.

Richard Hunte (Barley xvii. bushells
Signed R. O. Hunt (Wheate ix. Bush : iii pecks

John Godfrey (Barley xvii. bushells
(Wheate ix. bush : a pecke
John Godfrey.

Edward Pilkinton (Barley xvii. bushells
John Bennet (Wheate x. bushells iii. Pecks
Ed. Pilkinton
Sign. Jo. O. Bennet.

William Brakinton (Barley iiii. bush a pecke
(Wheate ii. bush a pecke
Sign Will: M. Brakinton.

John Phillips in the (Barley xvii. bushells
Occupacon of Mrs. Bushell (Wheate xx. bushells
(and ii. peckes

Richard Charlet (Barley xvii. bushells
(Wheat ix. and iii. peckes
Sign. Ric.) Charlet.

Mrs Willm Bushell in (Barley xvii. bushells
The vsage of Mr. Tho. Bush- (Wheate ix. bush
ell who undertakes for (Wheate ix. bush.
his time. (and iii. pecks.
Tho. Bushell.

John Bennet (Barley xvii. bushells
(Wheate ix. bush.
(and iii. pecks

Sig. Jo. O. Bennet.

This is the true copy of the originall wit. Their handes and markes.

RIC. WRIGHT, Vic.

Capllum generale celebral,
Xxvto. Die Novemb, 1624

Amongst other acts it was ordered that ye Quirt shall by Mr. Chameter and one of the scalemres and by Mr Tomkins and their successors set down a rate between Michelmas Day and before the xth of November in every yeare what the price of corne shall be to the tenentes of Cleeve for the tyme beinge or to two or three of them cominge to Worc: to that purpose accordinge as they vsually doe at Shipston, and to be payd accordinge to the some agreed vpon at or before the sayd xth of Novemb: yearly. The reason, because the corne cominge from many men's handes of ye Tenancye of Cleeve was vncertainly payd and the waies were often so foule and fludded from Cleeve before the xth of Novemb: that the sayd corne could not well be brought in specie thence to the Cathedral Church of Worcester, and thus acte assentiel vnto with the consente of the Quirt in the Chaptir house the sayd xxvth of November, 1624.

Concordat end originat
Ric. Wright vic.

Tho. Maylard,
Rius putem.

In the Salt library, Stafford, is preserved a rather curious document giving the number (not the names) of all the Conformists, Papists, and Nonconformists in the diocese of Worcester in the year 1676. Those of Cleeve Prior are as follows :

Conformists, 129; Papists, 0; Nonconformists, 0.

The document is really a census of the diocese, in so far as the adult men are concerned, but whether there is any mention of the women and their religious tendencies does not appear. It may be presumed, however, that all under age would be left out.

FREEHOLDERS' BOKE ANNO DNI,
1703 and 1704.

Wigorn. —A true and perfect List of the Christian names, surnames, addicons and places of abode of all persons within the County of Worcester who are betweene the age of one and twenty years and the age of seaventy yeares who

have in their owne names or in trust for them within this county of Worcester ten pounds p. anno of freehold or copyhold Lands or of Lands of ancient Demesne or in rents, in fee simple fee Tayle, or for their owne or some other person's Life as they are returned by the severall Cheife Constables and Petty Constables within this county at the generale quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County of Worcester the ffifth day of October Annoz Dhi, 1703 and adjourned to the 25th day of October following pursuant to an Act of Parliament intituled an Act for the Ease of Jurors as followeth (vizt).

Then follow the parishes placed in their respective hundreds, with the names of the persons liable to serve on juries. Cleeve Prior is as follows:

Cleeve Prior. Thomas Bushell, senr.
D. and Ch. Robert Bushell, senr.
Thomas Bushell, junr.
Joseph Charlett, gent.
Edward Ryeland.
Jon. Bennett.

The addition of gent. to the name of Joseph Charlett has been subsequently erased.

The following abstract of an indenture dated July 2, the 4th of Queen Anne (1705) between John Bennett, of Cleeve Prior, Co. Worcester, Francis Taylor, of South Littleton, and John Phillips of Cleeve Prior, shows the connection of the families of Charlett and Bennett. John Bennett in consideration of a marriage already had between him and Sarah his now wife, one of the daughters of John Charlett of Cleeve Prior, gent., deceased, in consideration of a competent sum of money paid unto him as a portion with the said Sarah, and also that a convenient jointure and means of maintenance may be had and provided for her etc., hath granted unto Francis Taylor and John Phillips certain lands in Cleeve Prior which his grandfather John Bennett purchased of Edward Pilkington. Recites that these lands were late the property of Thomas Bennett of Cleeve Prior, his father. Francis Taylor and John Phillips are bound to pay the fines, etc., of the court of the Lords of the manor.

Signed John Phillips.

Witnesses: John Charlett,
Jno. Cartwright,
Jonathan Fawconer.

Agreement dated 20th of June, 1749, between William Godfree of Broad Marston, Co. Gloucester of the one part and Thomas Bennett, of Cleeve Prior,

Co. Worcester of the other part. William Godfree agrees that he will “at the next general court of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Worcester to be holden at Cleeve Prior aforesaid in and for the manor of Cleeve Prior aforesaid surrender to the said Dean and Chapter (according to the custom of the said manor of Cleeve Prior) to the use of the said Thomas Bennett,” &c., all his “right, title, interest, term and number of yeares to come and unexpired of and in that measure or tenement and three quarters of one yard land and premises with the appurtenances situate and being in Cleeve Prior and now in the possession of William Baker and Benjamin Godfree,” and also the copyhold land of him the said Will Godfree in Cleeve Prior, to hold to Thomas Bennett as above stated, and the said Thomas Bennett agrees to pay for the same the sum of £290; the expenses to be equally shared by both.

(Signed) William Godfree,

Thomas Bennett.

(Witnesses) : Elizabeth Hodges,

Her X mark.

Cha. Higgs.

The yearly value of the several estates in the parish of Cleeve Prior, in the County of Worcester, taken from the Commissioners’ valuation made at the time of enclosing the common fields in the year 1775.

	£	s.	d.
Robert Fettiplace, Esq	516	10	0
Ditto, Oldaker	22	12	0
Mr. Bennett, copyhold.....	187	12	0
Ditto, freehold.....	16	6	0
Mess. Busby and Co., called Kemises.....	96	2	0
Ditto, called Bellamys.....	91	19	0
Ditto, called Best	67	4	0
Ditto, corn rent and Lord of the Mannor...	69	2	11
The Rev. Richd. Baty, Vicar.....	145	8	0
Exclusion of the Churchyard.			
Mr. Rock.....	87	9	0
Mr. Woodward.....	91	13	0
Mr. Charlett.....	81	7	0
Mr. Rouse, copy.....	32	6	0
Ditto, free.....	56	9	0
Mr. Phillip.....	16	16	0
Mr. Laughton.....	18	4	0

(Torn)..... 19 18 0

1616 19 11

Endorsed
Yearly value of land
Cleeve Prior
by the Commissioners at the
time it was inclosed 1775.

The name of Boycott appears in connection with Cleeve from 1743 to 1765, chiefly in association with the family of Bennett as follows:

In the years 1743-45 and 6 John Boycott signed his name "Curate" or "Minister" of Littleton, and in 1752 his name appears on a copy of Court Roll relating to land in Cleeve Prior held by Thomas Bennett. He surrendered lands mentioned in the Roll on the 7th of November of that year.

On the 4th of April, 1752 John Boycott, clerk, Rector of Alverscott, in the county of Oxford, A.M., executed a Bond to Thomas Bennett, of Cleeve Prior to secure the sum of fifty-five pounds. He signed his name John Boycott, and sealed with the arms of the family of Boycott, of County Salop, namely:

Gu. An a chief Ar. Three grenadoes p.p.r.

On the 5th of September, 1763, at a court then held in Cleeve Prior, William Price and Charles Squires became the trustees for Thomas Bennett, and it was related that Thomas Sale, a customary tenant, surrendered the lands aforementioned by virtue of a letter of attorney from John Boycott, of Alverscot, co. Oxford, clerk, which had been granted to him and Mary Darby in trust on the 7th of November 1757.

The following letter is in the handwriting of the Rev. John Boycott, and speaks for itself:

Sir, -I have been lately lay'd up with ye gout and my hand not at liberty otherwise should have wrote to you sooner. I thank God I am got much better: and underneath have sent you ye contents of yr part of Mrs. Phillip's will which relates to ye sale of ye estates at Cleeve.

First I give and devise unto ye. Revnd. John Boycott of Alvescott, clerk, and Robert Phillips of Marl Cleeve in ye county of Warwick, yeoman, their heirs executors and administrators all my messuages lands and tenements with ye appurtenances situato lying and being in Cleeve Prior in ye county of Worcester

now in ye tenure or occupation of William Fairfax and all my estate and interests therein in trust yt they ye said John Boycott and Robert Phillips their heirs executors and administrators do and shall as soon as conveniently may be after my decease sell and dispose of ye same messuages lands tenements estate and interest and out of ye money arising by ye sale thereof in trust in ye first place to pay and discharge all my just debts and funeral expenses; and then after ye payment of some of John Walford's debts ye will directs to ye disposal of ye residue of ye money.

Item I give and devise unto ye said John Boycott and Robert Phillips their heirs executors and administrators all my messuages lands and tenements situate lying and being in Cleeve Prior aforesaid, now in yhe tenure or occupation of Thomas Bennett and all my estate and interest therein in trust yt they ye said John Boycott and robert Phillips their heirs executors or administrators do and shall likewise as soon as conveniently may be after my decease sell and dispose of ye same and out of ye sale thereof in trust in ye firstplace to pay and discharge some debts therein mentioned to be contracted by Thomas Darby or his late wife and then ye will directs to ye disposal of ye residue of ye money as above.

And lastly I do hereby ordain and appoint ye said John Boycott and Robert Phillips executors of this my will hereby revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made. In witness whereof I have to this my will contained in two sheetsof paper to ye first of ye said sheets set my hand and to ye last of ye said sheets set my hand and seal this seventeenth seven hundred and sixty-two. Signed, Rachell day of May in ye year of our Lord one thousand Phillips, and duly attested by three witnesses.

You see yt Robert Phillips of Marl Cleeve was nominated executor in trust along with me. Upon his cousin's death I wrote to him to acquaint him with it. He sent me an answer back in writing, yt he desired to be excused, for he was not fit for ye office and therefore would leave it all to me, but would be willing to do me what good he could in Worcestershire. Upon this I had a commission issued out of ye Prerogative Court, was sworn and had administration granted accordingly.

You do not mention which of ye estates Thomas Bennett bids money for, I suppose for ye 2 yard land. I had rather he had it than anybody else provided he will give a fair price for it, and not beat it down too much. I cannot think 18 years purchase would hurt anybody. I dare say he gave as much or more for yt of Godfrey's and if I have been informed right, Mr. Field's cost more. However, be yt as it will we must do as well as we can. I would endeavour to sell them to ye best advantage I could and dare say yt you will do what in you lies in order thereto. I rely entirely upon you and am, Sir

Your obliged humble servant,
Joh. Boycott.

Alvescott, Dec. 8, 1763.
The above is directed
to
Mr. Welch, an Attorney
at Evesham,
Worcestershire.
A single sheet.

On the 31st of August, 1764. Charles Welch of Evesham wrote the following letter to Thomas Bennett of Cleeve, which I transcribe in full:-

Mr Bennett, -If you have a mind not to lose the £55 0s. 0d. principal £8 5s. 0d. interest due on Mr Boycott's Bond, the £28 due for interest on Walford's Bond, and the £4 10s. 0d. due for interest on the note, you will not rest 'till you have completed your purchase as not one shilling of this money which amounts to £95 15x. 0d., will be allowed you if Mr. Boycott should die. I therefore desire to know your Resolution immediately, and would have you come to me upon Receipt of this Letter. You must prepare money in readiness, about £84, to finish the purchase, as I have parted with mine, and will not advance a shilling more on Mr. Boycott's account. I am your Friend and humble servant.

Cha. Welch.

Evesham, August 31, 1764.
Addressed, To
Mr. Thomas Bennett
at Cleeve Prior.

Sepr. 4, 1764. -Memornadum - that it is agreed between Mr. Thomas Bennett and Mr. Charles Welch, Attorney for Mr. John Boycott, that all Rents to be computed to the date hereof payable for two copyhold Estates in Cleeve Prior lately belonging to Rachel Phillips deceased shall be paid to her Executor, the said Mr. Boycot, and that all rents to grow due from the date hereof shall be due and payable to the said Mr. Bennett, so that the year's Rent which will be due at Michaelmas next shall be apportioned between them in manner aforesaid.

Cha. Welch.
Thomas Bennett.

Witness, Jno. Bennett.

Endorsed agreement touching Rents between Mr. Bennett and Mr. Welch-Boycot.

The following statement of accounts between the above mentioned parties is on another sheet of paper:

Mr. Boycott's account with Mr. Bennett	
Relating to the Less Estate.	
Due on note from Thos. Darby to Mr.	
Bennett	£15 0 0
Six years' interest.....	4 10 0
Paid Land tax for 1762 and 1763	2 8 8
Chief rents due for the same year	0 17 4
	<hr/>
	22 16 0
Cr. Due for Two years rents, Lady day	
1764	29 0 0
	22 16 0
	<hr/>
Balance due	6 4 0

On the other side of the same paper is the following:

Money allowed by Mr Boycott in the purchase.

The mortgage for	200 0 0
The interest being 2 years and $\frac{3}{4}$	22 0 0
April 2 nd , 1753, the Bond for	50 0 0
Interest	28 3 4

The renewal and Exchange of Lives,	
Heritors, and oath, and rent in arrear.....	33 16 0
Special Court.....	2 2 0
Two copies	1 7 0
Three surrenders.....	0 6 0
Two admissions.....	0 5 0
Court fees	0 0 0
Travelling Charges	0 0 0
The two Legacies in the Will of £10 and £5	15 0 0
24 th October, 1752, Mr. Boycott's	
Bond on his own account	55 0 0
The Interest.....	8 5 0
	<hr/>
	£416 4 0

The purchase money to be given for

The Estate by Mr. Bennett	455	0	0
The money to be paid by Mr. Boycott			
To Mr. Bennett out of the purchase	416	4	4

Balance to be paid Mr. Boycott.....	38	15	8
And balance to be paid from the account			
on the other side	6	4	0

Sum total to be paid Mr. Boycott..... 44 19 8

In 1764 a rough draft for a document was prepared, the indorsement of which was “Instructions to Mr. Wakeman when he went to Alverscott with Mr. Bennett.” The following is a copy of what was then drawn up, which throws some light on further proceedings in which the name of Boycott appears:

By the will of Mrs. Phillips £50 only is directed to be paid to Mr. Bennett out of one estate and £15 out of the other, so that Mr. Boycott cannot allow interest for either of these sums, nor can he out of the purchase money allow the £15, which is a charge upon the estate, not purchased by Mr Bennett, who by the will has a good mortgage upon the estate, which no one will venture to buy without paying him the £15. If Mr. Boycott chuses to run the Risque and will give a Receipt for the whole purchase money allowing Mr. Bennett’s demand on Mr. Boycott’s Bond with the interest before mentioned and the Debt of £15 he may, but even in this case Bickerstaff’s £10 and Walford’s £5 ought to be paid out of the purchase money, or Mr. Bennett will not be safe in the application as to these sums.

If the parties agree to take a rect. In the following form: Recd. and of Mr. Thos. Bennett the sum of in full of the purchase money for a copyhold estate at Cleeve Prior rented by one Fairfax and devised to me to be sold by the late Mrs. Phillips.

On the same sheet of paper is the following rough commencement of a letter:-

Alverscot, August 29th, 1764.

Mr. Thos. Bennet,

Pay to Mr. Charles Welch or order the sum of value recd., and place the same to my account of the purchase money for the copyhold estate at Cleeve Prior, sold you by

(Then comes the following, which has been crossed out in the original m.s.)

Get Mr. Boycot to sign the following rectx. Recd. of Mr. Cha. Welch the sum of one hundred and five pounds in part of the purchase money for a copyhold estate in Cleeve Prior.

Mr. Boycott's Executors and Mrs. Phillips' Legatees case.

Mrs. Phillips being entitled to two Copyhold Estates in Cleeve Prior in Worcestershire held under the Dean and Chapter of Worcester by two several grants by the copy of Count Roll for four lives in trust for her Executors administration and assigns well devised the same and her interest therein by will in writing dated the seventh day of May 1762 to the Reverend Mr. Boycott and Robert Phillips their Execuutors administrators and assigns upon trust to sell the same and with the purchase money of one of these Estates to pay her just debts and charges made therein by her will and after payment thereof to place the residue of such money out at interest for the benefit of John Walford for his life and after his death to pay and divide the same amongst his children share and share alike at their respective ages of twenty one years. And with the purchase money of the other of the said Estates upon trust to pay certain sums in the said will mentioned and after payment thereof to place the residue of such money at interest for the benefit of the children of Thomas Darby 'till they attained their several ages of twenty one years and then to pay and divide the same amongst them share and share alike. She also bequeathed all the rest and Residue of her personal Estate to her said Trustees to be divided between the children of Walford and Darby according to the discretion of the said Trustees whom she appointed Executors of her said will and died soon after the making thereof. After her death Mr. Boycot only proved the will and acted in the execution thereof, Mr. Robert Phillips declining to join in the probate, though he did not renounce the executorship.

Mr Boycot applied to Mr. Welch, an attorney, to sell these estates and desired him to procure a good security for the money which would be coming to the children from the sale that might be placed out according to the will of the testatrix, and in August, 1764 he executed to him a power of attorney to sell under which Mr. Welch agreed to sell the largest of the estates to Mr. Bennett.

But discovering that Mr. Boycot was greatly in debt, and that the purchaser insisted upon having not only a Bond debt due from Boycot to him, but also other money which was no charge upon the estate allowed out of and taken as part of the purchase money Mr. Welch refused to make such allowance or to complete the purchase, both which, however, Boycot himself did, notwithstanding Mr Welch remonstrated against the injustice of making the allowance both by himself and clerk, which had no other effect than that of drawing assurances from Boycot that he would make up the money to the children out of inducing him to desire Mr. Welch to sell the least of the estates, the purchase money of which, as well as part of the purchase money of the other estate which he ordered Bennet to pay him, he desired Mr. Welch to keep in his hands till he could place it securely at interests for the benefit of Walford, his children, and Darby's Children according to the will of the testatrix.

Accordingly Mr. Welch sold this estate and received the purchase money, together with what money was coming out of the largest estate, making together upwards of one hundred and fifty pounds. And soon after these transactions Boycot died, indebted by bond and other specialties beyond the value of his real and personal estates. He made a will and appointed two honest men executors of it. When he died he had some plate and other things in his hands which belonged to Mrs. Phillips, his testatrix, and which his executors have possessed themselves of. Mr Robert Phillips is living, and may and will prove the testatrix's will if that step would serve Walford, his children, and the children of Darby, who are friendless and indigent indeed.

Q. A question arises who is entitled to the money in the hands of Mr. Welch Boycot's creditors or Mrs. Phillip's legatees?

Therefore the money has no car mark yet, as this in question arose from a trust fund and never come to the hands of Boycot, but was by him deposited with Mr. Welch to be placed at interest according to the direction of Mrs. Phillip's will,

will it not be considered as trust money and a distinction made between it and Boycot's own personal estate in favour of Walford, his children, and Darby's children according to the trusts in Mrs. Phillip's will, and will Mr Welch be safe in paying it to the surviving executor of Mrs Phillip's will after probate granted to him, or must he pay it to Boycot's for the benefit of his creditors.

N.B. Boycot's directions to Mrs. Welch to place the money at interest were only verbal, and can be proved by Mr Welch only. The case decided by Lord Parker between the assignees of a bankrupt who had purchased in the funds in his own name, and a foreigner seems to be somewhat in point. But in that case the bankrupts had mentioned in his books that the stock was bought for the foreigner, to whom it was decreed against the assignees.

I am of opinion that the legatees of Mrs. Phillips are clearly entitled to the money in Welch's hands. It is money arising by the sale of Mrs. Phillip's land's, which he received from the purchaser, and holds under a special trust for her legatees. Mr. W. may pay it to the surviving executor of Mrs. Ph. after probate in order to be secured. The creditors of Boycott have no pretence to claim it. I am also of opinion that Mr. Bennett, the purchaser . . . of the trust of Mrs. P.'s will could not retain a part of the purchase money to satisfy a debt due to himself from Boycot, the trustee. The legatees have a good equity to recover the money retained from him and to deep him upon the assets of Boycot for the bond debt, etc.

Q. 2. Does not the plate and other things of Mrs Phillips in the hands of Boycot when he died, and now possessed by his executors, belong to Walford's and Darby's children, and ought they not to be answerable to the children for them?

I am of opinion that the plate and specific effect of Mrs. Ph. in the hands of Boycott at his death belong and must be accounted for to her assets, for the benefit of the legatees.

C. Yorke,

July 30, 1765

The above case is endorsed Boycott's Exors, and Phillip's legatees for Mr. York,s opinion.

2gs

October the 25th, 1764.-Received of Mr. John Tandy and Mr. Charles Oldacre, Executors of the last will of the Revnd. Mr John Boycott deceased, who was the only acting trustee named in the last will of Mrs. Rachel Phillips deceased, the sum of five pounds being a legacy left mo by Mrs. Phillip's will I say received (by the Payments of Mr. Charles Welch) by me.

Richard Walford.

Witness, Henry Darby.

Agreement, dated 7th Nov., 1809, between William Ellis, the younger of Cleeve Prior, gent., of the second part. By this agreement William Ellis sells to John Bennett a small piece or parcel of meadow land of 1 acre 2 roods 28 perches in Cleeve Prior and now in the occupation of John Bennett, for £150.

(Signed) William Ellis.

Jno. Bennett.

Witness. W. Rawlins,
25th Nov., 1809.

Received sixteen shillings, being his
Majesty's duty,

W. B. Preedy

Indenture, dated 10th Jan., 1814, between John Sylvester of Cleeve Prior, Co. Worcs., Yeomen of the one part, and John Bennett, Of the same place, gentleman of the other part.

Recites that a lease of 12 years was made by William Ellis to John Silvester, and the latter by his deed surrenders the same to John Bennett. This lease was one of certain lands, which are defined.

(Signed) John Silvester.

Jno. Bennett.

Witnesses, Wm. A.W. Phelps,
Edward Savage.

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 28th of September

Ano prdicto

1606-An'e Bushell baptized 4th of October

Ano prdicto

1607-Margaret Bushell baptized 20th of October

Ano prdicto

1608-Mary Bushell baptized 10th of March

Ano prdicto

1609-William. Bushell baptized 24th of March

Ano prdicto

1611-Anthonye Bushell baptized 4th March

Ano prdicto

1616-Barbara Bushell baptized Dec'ber 8th

Ano prdicto

1632-Anne the daughter of Mr Edward Bushell
was baptized September 30th, 1632

1634-Thomas Bushell the sonne of Edward
Bushell was baptized the 19th day of

- August 1634.
- 1635-Edward Bushell the sonne of Edward Bushell was baptized the 8th day of September 1635.
- 1637- John Bushell the sonne of Edward Bushell was baptized the 30th 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 14th.
- 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 26th
- 1735-Frances daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, Oct 9th.
- 1738-Mary daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, July 30th.
- 1742-Arabella daughter of Thomas Bushell Esq and Francis his lady, Oct. 15th
- 1744-Charles son of Thomas Bushell Esq. and Francis his lady, August 31st.
- 1762-Arabella daughter of Richard George Esq and Frances his lady, July 6th.

MARRIAGES

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

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

BURIALS

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

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 16th 1656 aged 75

Joyce the wife of Thomas Bushell died Dec 6th 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 17th 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 Secretary to my Lord Verulam. It is an extraordinary solitude. There he lay like an Indian.”

Who and what Thomas 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 3rd 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 ingenuity, 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 8th, 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 20th 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. 5th 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
 20th 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
--	---	----

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 17th. 1695. Aged 59yrs.
 ALSO
 Here Lyeth the body of MRS. ANN CHARLETT,
 Wife of MR. JOHN CHARLETT, who was Buried
 June the 27th. 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. 1st 1723.
 Here Lyeth the body of
 Joseph Charlett gent.
 He departed this Life April
 The 18th

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 paeœœ, Arthuri Charlet armigeri ex
 Anna conjugæ filiœ 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. 20th 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 5th.

Anno Dom 1656.

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

Anno 1658.

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

Transcripts from the register booke of Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire.

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

March 4th, 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 20th 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 4th, 1655, and educated in th free school at Salisbury, and in Trinity College, Oxford. He matriculated a member of the University on the 13th of July 1669, and took his degree of B.A. on the 17th of April 1673, and that of M. A. on the 23rd 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 17th of December 1684, and D.D. on the 8th of July 1692, having on the day previously been made Master of University College. On the 17th 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 18th of November 1722, and he was buried in the Chapel of University College on the 21st.

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 –Allice, 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-
nett, 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 1st.

MARRIAGES.

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

- 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. 19th.
- 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. 12th.
- 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. 21st.

BURIALS

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

- buried Jany. 6th.
- 1716 –Richard son of John and Sarah Bennet
buried March 24.
- 1719 –Alice Bennet buried June 2nd.
- 1720 –Thomas Bennet buried May 12th.
- 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.
1st.
- 1729 –Elenear Bennet, buried June 9th.
- 1729 –John Bennet buried Oct. 28th.
- 1729 –William Bennett buried Oct. 30.
- 1729 –Sarah Bennett buried Nov. 18.
- 1732 –Joyce Bennett buried March 27th.
- 1738 –Charles Bennett buried Dec. 12th.
- 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 21st.
- 1798 –Joseph Bennett buried Nov. 9th.
- 1812 –Elizabeth wife of John Bennett gent.
Buried April 5th.

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. 24th, 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
24th 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 16th 1776

Aged 65 Years
Also Elizabeth Wife
Of CHARLES OLDAKER

She departed this Life
October 10th, 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. 25th, 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 22nd 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 28th 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 15th, 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 17th 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.