

The Chronicle

No 2



The Journal of the
Long Wittenham Local History Group

No.2
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Long Wittenham Local History Group

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Cover illustration: Seal of Edward the Confessor.
(See article "Queen Edith, Lady of the Manor")

EDITORIAL

The first issue of The Chronicle set a high standard both in content and presentation. We hope you will find this, the second issue, just as interesting and pleasing.

There are articles spanning nine centuries from Norman times to the present century. All are pieces of the rich and varied history of Long Wittenham. Church Farm and the Clifton Ferry have seen many of the events and characters referred to - Queen Edith, the Hayward family and, more recently, Harry Woodley. Also included this time are some medieval and renaissance recipes and a brief look at Long Wittenham christian names.

The credit for this issue must go mainly to the authors, to Edith Cox for the illustrations, to Linda Francis for the cover design and for seeing the journal through all stages of the production process, and to Ainslee Rutledge for typing the text. We thank them all.

Julie Bright

Isabel Henderson

Edith Cox

May Kershaw

Jennifer Garlick

Jane Jagger

Janet Haylett

All sometime members of The Chronicle editorial Committee.

IN SUTTON Hundred. Ipse. W. ten *WITENHAM*. Eddid regina tenuit.
 Tē se defd p. xx. hid. Modo p xiii. hid 7 una v. Tra. ē. xvi. caŕ.
 In dñio sunt. iiii. caŕ. 7 xxix. uilli. 7 xvi. bord. cū. ix. caŕ. Ibi. vi. serui.
 7 clxiii. ac pti. 7 In Warengesford. viii. hagæ. de. iiii. soŕ. p herbagio.
 v. solid. T. R. E. ualð. xx. lib. 7 post. xv. lib. Modo. xx. lib.

In SUTTON Hundred

Walter holds (Long) WITTENHAM himself. Queen Edith held it.
 Then it answered for 20 hides; now for 13 hides and 1 virgate.
 Land for 16 ploughs. In lordship 3 ploughs;
 29 villagers and 16 smallholders with 9 ploughs.
 6 slaves; meadow, 163 acres.
 In Wallingford 8 sites at 4s; for grazing, 5s.
 Value before 1066 £20; later £15; now £20.

Domesday extract for Long Wittenham, with translation, naming Queen
 Eduth as the former owner.

QUEEN EDITH, LADY OF THE MANOR

by

Kathleen Jewess

The last Anglo-Saxon lord of the manor of Long Wittenham was a lady: Edith, Queen of the English. The sister of King Harold, who died at the battle of Hastings, she was the wife of King Edward the Confessor, whose death in 1066 triggered off the Norman Conquest. But apart from her positions as daughter, sister and wife, she was a formidable woman in her own right, whose character and activities, as far as they can be recovered from a time which seems long ago and far away, are certainly worthy of remembrance.

The evidence on which any assessment must be based is scanty and widely scattered. One form of evidence is the charter, an early form of deed, which typically stated that A gave B a piece of land and that this was witnessed by C. In 1049, for example, King Edward issued a writ which declared that he gave certain lands to Westminster Abbey and ‘committed them to Abbot Edwin and the monks in the presence of the Lady Edith’.¹ In other words, this demonstrates that she was of sufficient status and well enough respected to stand as the legal witness for an important transaction; there are other examples. Other evidence comes from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which survives in several versions, and which sets out year by year the main events in the kingdom as the

anonymous writers saw them. But the main sources are several early biographies and histories written by Norman monks. The most important of these is the Vita AEdwardi Regis, translated from the Latin as The Life of King Edward the Confessor, written by an anonymous monk at the abbey of St Bertin at St Omer. Queen Edith apparently commissioned this life of her deceased husband, and, therefore, she and her family play a prominent part in the monk's tale. But even the Vita AEdwardi is tantalisingly patchy.

Her birth date, for example, is unknown, although it could not have been earlier than 1020, since her parents were married in 1019. She was the eldest daughter, and possible the eldest child, of Earl Godwin and Gytha of Denmark. Her mother was the sister-in-law of the late King Cnut of Denmark and England and Edith, therefore, came of the English royal line; indeed, she was her husband's first cousin once removed. Her father's family, one of the most prominent in England at her birth, was by 1066 by far the most important: her brother was king and two other brothers were earls (and the fourth was a dispossessed earl). Part of her importance, then, stemmed from her position as queen, but part came from her membership of her father's family. When an Anglo-Saxon woman married, she retained her 'kinright', so that she was protected by her relations. She could also hold lands in her own right, and Edith held extensive lands in Somerset, Devon, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, for example, amongst which was the manor of Wittenham. Her estate as queen, while rich, was not as extensive, consisting primarily of the rich cities of Winchester and Exeter (which

came to her on her marriage as ‘morning gifts’), and most of the shire of Rutland, which was traditionally the property of the Anglo-Saxon queen.

Edith had, by all accounts, been well-educated at Wilton Abbey in Wiltshire, which was a famous seminary for royal and noble ladies, and when in 1044 Edward had to choose a consort, this fact may well have helped to influence his choice. But her most important attribute was her nationality. Edward had spent most of his youth and early manhood in Normandy, and most of his advisers and favourites were Normans; apparently most of the higher English nobility decided, and convinced him, that he must look amongst the English for his wife. For many reasons Edith emerged as the most suitable choice. William of Malmsbury, a twelfth-century historian, wrote that Edith was ‘a woman in whose breast was a school of all the liberal arts but small inclination for worldly things. On seeing her, while you would have been amazed at her education, you would certainly also have been attracted by her intellectual modesty and the beauty of her body.’² Another twelfth-century writer, Osbert of Clare, wrote that she was ‘famous and distinguished for verse and prose, and in spinning and embroidery was another Minerva.’³ No more than twenty-five, then, and possibly younger (Edward was forty), she was apparently pretty, more than adequately educated for her station, and a mistress of the womanly skills of spinning and, in particular, of embroidery. (The finery of the embroidered robes which she prepared for the King throughout his life was

remarked upon repeatedly.) But of equal, if not more, importance in those hard-headed times was the fact that she came from a family of power and distinction.

Edward and Edith were married on Wednesday, 23 January 1045, and Edith was then anointed and crowned. After the ceremonies the two of them, according to custom, dined separately, the king presumably with the nobles and bishops, the queen with the abbots and abbesses. Then began their married life, and their relationship has piqued historians ever since. It was a childless marriage, and even before Edward's death rumours were circulating that it was a chaste marriage; indeed, this assumption was a major reason for the odour of sanctity which wafted around him and around his memory. Most of the early historians, who would have been celibate monks, treated the story with some appearance at least of belief; recent historians have tended to be more sceptical, with Edward's current biographer commenting astringently that the 'theory that Edward's childlessness was due to deliberate abstention from sexual relations lacks authority, plausibility and diagnostic value.'⁴ But whatever its cause, the childlessness had important repercussions, both for Edith and for England. For her, the lack of children must have diminished her influence with the King, since she had failed to provide an heir. For England, the lack of an heir meant that the succession was open: this encouraged restlessness and rebellion at home during Edward's life, and the Norman Conquest after his death.

In 1051 Edith's father, Earl Godwin, rebelled. The Vita AEdwardi argued that Edward's mind had been poisoned against Godwin by the new archbishops of Canterbury, the Norman Robert of Jumièges. Robert had been translated from the see of London to Canterbury against the claims of another candidate who was backed by Godwin, and once Robert was in place, quarrels broke out between the archbishop and the earl. Edward had also disappointed other nobles in a series of ecclesiastical appointments, largely by ignoring local claims. The result was a rebellion, and Godwin and his sons had to flee to Flanders, while the King confiscated all of their estates.

Edith was sent away from the Court to the nunnery at Wilton, where she had been educated. She did not wish to go, but Edward at this point presumably viewed her more as the daughter of a hated opponent than his wife. His detachment may well have been encouraged by her childlessness; perhaps her forcefulness made him peevish. (Edward's mother, Queen Emma, had been both commanding and forceful, and as soon as he was married Edward had sent her away from court to live in retirement.) But because she was Godwin's daughter, her star waxed with his. In September 1052 Godwin and his son Harold landed back in England. Edward was unable to make his supporters fight - the English flocked to Godwin and Edward's Norman advisers fled the country -and he was thus forced to offer terms to Godwin. The earl and his family received back their estates, and Edith returned to Edward's side at court.

Descriptions of Edith emphasised her modest demeanour at court: except at table and in church, she always sat at her husband's feet unless and until he invited her to sit by him. Her piety, where she strove to manifest it in competition with her husband, was also famous, although this could have its darker side: she had such a passion for collecting the relics of saints that her visits were feared by monasteries. But it is possible, by picking up hints from various works and by reading between the lines, to paint a rather more complex picture. Anglo-Saxon women in general, and Anglo-Saxon queens in particular, had rights and powers which they later lost under the Normans. They had rights over chattels as well as over land: if a marriage broke down, for example, a woman who left the family home with her children was entitled to take one-half of the goods with her. Equally, Anglo-Saxon queens could be openly powerful, rather than merely quietly influential. They witnessed charters, influenced ecclesiastical appointments (which in essence were political appointments as well) and bestowed lands. Edith did all of these. She also, by one account, had a man killed at court to help her brother Tostig, and certainly she was considered a major power at Edward's court.

But in the autumn and winter of 1065, this all came to a rapid end. In October Edward probably had a stroke, and Edith broke down. This was the final blow in what had been a bad year: her favourite brother, Tostig, had been driven out of his earldom in Northumbria, and Edward had been unable to convince the local men to receive him back. Now, with Edward's illness and decline, she was about to lose her husband

and, possibly worse for her, her position as queen. She was an ambitious woman, and she knew what to expect as the wife of a dead king; after all, her mother-in-law had been sent away to live in obscurity. No wonder that, as the *Vita Aedwardi* put it, she ‘wept inconsolably.’⁵ She may even have been weeping for her husband.



Detail of the Bayeux Tapestry showing the death of Edward. Queen Edith is depicted on the left.

King Edward the Confessor died in early January 1066, and Harold her brother was immediately crowned king. This put in train the events of the Conquest, which took place in October 1066. After the battle of Hastings she, as the lady of Winchester, received William the Conqueror's demand for the submission of the city and the payment of tribute; after taking counsel of her chief men, she obeyed. She appears to have retained her possessions after the Conquest. Certainly she held the manor of Wittenham until her death, at which point it was given to William Gifford, King William's cousin. Edith died at Winchester a week before Christmas 1075. William had her body brought to Westminster, and it was buried with great honours near the tomb of her husband,

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1. Margaret Gelling, The Early Charters of the Thames Valley (Leicester-University Press, 1979). p.90.
2. William of Malmesbury Gesta Begum, paragraph 197, incorporated in Frank Barlow, ed., Vita Aedwardi Regis (The Life of King Edward) (London: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, 1962), p.14.
3. Osbert of Clare, Vita AEdwardi, c.iv, incorporated in Barlow, ed., Vita Aedwardi, p.14.
4. Frank Barlow, Edward the Confessor (London: Eyre Methuen, 1970, paperback edition), p.82.
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RECIPES FOR A FEAST



These recipes were used for the food at the 'Renaissance Evening' held by the Group on 17 October 1987. All are recipes from the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries but have been adapted, where necessary, to modern ingredients.

LONGE WORTES DE PESOUN (Vegetable soup)

6 oz (1 cup) split green peas
2 pts (5 cups) water
1/3 lb string beans, chopped
3 onions, sliced
4 tbs olive oil
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ground pepper

Put the peas into a saucepan with the water. Bring to the boil and cook gently for 1½ hours, partially covered. Meanwhile boil the string beans until tender but still crisp. Fry the sliced onions in the oil until golden. Chop the drained string beans and add to the onions in the pan. Cook for a few minutes. Drain off oil and add onions and beans to the pea soup.

Taste and season with salt and pepper. Serves 4.

PIES OF PARYS (Beef pies)

Pastry for 9" pie pan (top and bottom) or 24 tart shells.

1½ lbs mixed ground meat, including 2 different kinds at least of pork, veal, beef etc.

1 cup each meat stock or broth, red wine.

3 egg yolks or 1 whole egg plus one yolk

1/2 tsp each ginger, salt and sugar

1/4 cup each minced dates, currants

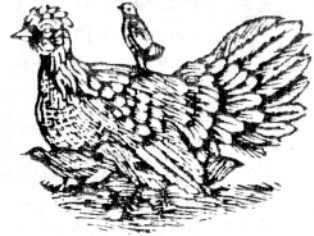
optional pinch of ground pepper, mace, ground cloves

Put the ground meat in a saucepan and cover with the wine and water; bring to the boil and simmer for 10 mins. Then drain all the cooking juices into a heatproof container, setting aside the meat. Let the cooking liquid cool, until you can remove all the fat from the top.

To assemble pie. line the pie dish with the pastry. Bring the de-fatted juices to the boil. Beat egg yolks (or egg and yolk) in a bowl, and beat in a little of the hot, but not boiling, stock. Beat in the rest, still off the heat. Then mix together the meat, dried fruits, spices and sauce, and stir over a low heat for a few minutes to thicken slightly. Put in the prepared shell and cover unless making individual tarts. Bake 350° for one hour (less for individual tarts). As the mixture may tend to be pretty sloppy at first, be sure to slit the top crust to allow steam to escape; and it may also be wise to put a baking sheet or piece of foil under the pie pan.

HENNE DORRE (Golden chicken)

12 small chicken portions (e.g. drumsticks)
1/4 cup walnuts, coarsely ground
1/4 cup filberts, coarsely ground
4 tbs butter for sautéing
3 tart apples, cored and peeled
2/3 cup sultanas
1/2 cup currants
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp fresh rosemary, crushed
pinch of thyme
7 cardamon berries or 3/4 tsp crushed cardamon
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 cup wine
1/2 cup chicken broth



Glaze: 6 egg yolks, 1/8 tsp saffron, 2tbs honey.

Preheat the oven to 350°. In a dutch oven or shallow baking dish, sauté the chicken and nuts in the butter until the meat is white. Leave in a dish and remove from the heat. Cut the apples into thin slivers. Mix the raisins and currants with the apples. Stir together all the spices and salt and mix with the fruits. Distribute the spiced fruit amongst the chicken and nuts. Pour on the mixed wine and chicken broth. Bake covered in a slow oven for 45-55 mins until the chicken is tender. Remove from the oven while preparing the golden glaze. Turn up the oven to 400°. Beat the egg yolks, saffron and honey thoroughly. Evenly pour over chicken to coat each piece or use a pastry brush and paint each portion gold. Return to the oven, uncovered, for 5 to 7 mins to let endorring "set". Serve warm. Serves 12.

LEMONWHYT (Lemon rice)

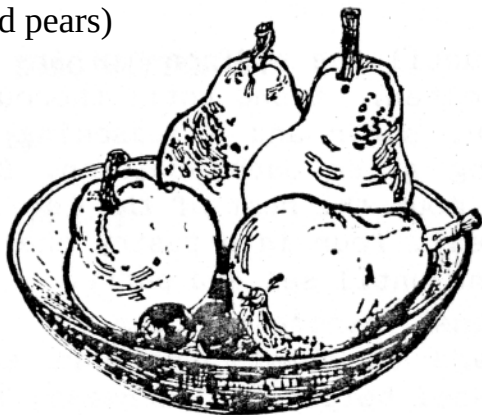
1 large unblemished lemon
1 cup uncooked rice
2 cups water
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1 tbs butter
2/3 cup coarsely ground almonds
2/3 cup currents
1 cup dry white wine
1 cup fresh peas

garnish 12 tsp honey

Finely grate the skin from the lemon. Then cut the lemon, thoroughly squeezing its juice and removing most of the pulp. Reserve the skin, juice and soft pulp, discarding the pips and membranes. In a large, enamelled pot bring to a brisk boil the water, rice, salt, cinnamon, butter and lemon, reducing heat to simmer until most fluid is absorbed (10 mins). Stir once or twice while simmering, otherwise keep pot tightly covered. Remove covered pot from heat. Slowly simmer the almonds and currants in white wine for 7 mins. Fluff rice gently with a fork. Add the wine-soaked almonds to the lemon rice. Stir in fresh peas. Very slowly, simmer for 5-7 mins. If the rice begins to stick to the pot add small amounts of boiling water. Garnish with 1 tsp honey for each portion. Serves 12.

CHARDWARDON (Spiced pears)

1 lemon
8 firm, ripe pears
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
3/4 tsp ginger
1 cup water
1/8 tsp Salt



Squeeze the juice from the lemon into a shallow bowl. Cut the pears into quarters, remove skin and cores. Place the pears in lemon juice to cover all surfaces and set aside. Boil the water with the salt. Drain the pears in a colander and discard the lemon juice.. Add the pears to the boiling water. Stir in the sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. Simmer over a low heat until the pears are soft (12-15 mins), stirring several times. Serve warm or cold. Serves 12.

TART DE BRY (Brie tart)

3/4 lb flaky or short pastry
1 pt (2½ cups) single cream
1 tsp saffron
1/4 lb (1 cup) Brie cheese, without rind
1/2 tsp ginger
1 tsp sugar
3 eggs plus 2 extra yolks

Line a 10" quiche dish with the pastry and bake at 400° for 10 mins. Put the cream, saffron and cheese in a covered bowl in the oven at 200° for about 30 mins until the saffron has dissolved and the cheese has melted. Blend until thoroughly mixed. Add the ginger, sugar and a seasoning of salt and pepper, tasting after each addition. Beat the eggs with a fork, pour the rest of the ingredients into them and mix well. Pour into pastry shell. Bake at 350° for 30 mins until set and puffy. Serves 6.

CIRCLETES (Almond cardamon biscuits)

1 cup butter
2/3 cup brown sugar
1 beaten egg
2½ cups flour (plain)
1/2 tsp grated lemon peel
3/4 tsp crushed cardamon
1/2 cup finely slivered almonds
1 cup currants or raisins

Cream the butter and sugar until frothy, beat in the egg. Stir lemon peel, almonds, cardamon and currants into the flour. Beat this into the creamed sugar and butter. Chill for at least 1 hour. Flour fingers and shape dough into balls 1" in diameter. Place 1" apart on greased baking sheets. Bake 350° for about 20 mins or until golden. Cool on trays.

CHURCH FARM, LONG WITTENHAM

by

Patricia Lay

Church Farm is a much sketched and photographed house on the lane that leads to the Church. From that side it presents the unified look of a long brick building with a Tudor section at the north end (Fig.1). Closer inspection inside reveals a house whose size and shape has developed over four hundred years. Fig.2 is a diagram of the ground floor as it is today: three reception rooms and kitchen with a hall and passages. In 1987, St John's College, the owners, decided to have the walls of two rooms (A & C) damp-proofed which meant stripping off all the plaster to expose the brickwork.

The oldest part of the house is in the middle (A). This part has cruck beams now largely hidden by subsequent buildings. The beams were radio-carbon tested by Dr John Fletcher in the 1960s and dated at 1440 plus or minus sixty years. This is an uncertain method of dating wood and Dr Fletcher comments that it is likely that the beams may be even older than this. The building was probably a single hall with a central fireplace as was the neighbouring Church Cottage. Unfortunately the house has been re-roofed several times and none of the original timbers remain. The cruck beams are in

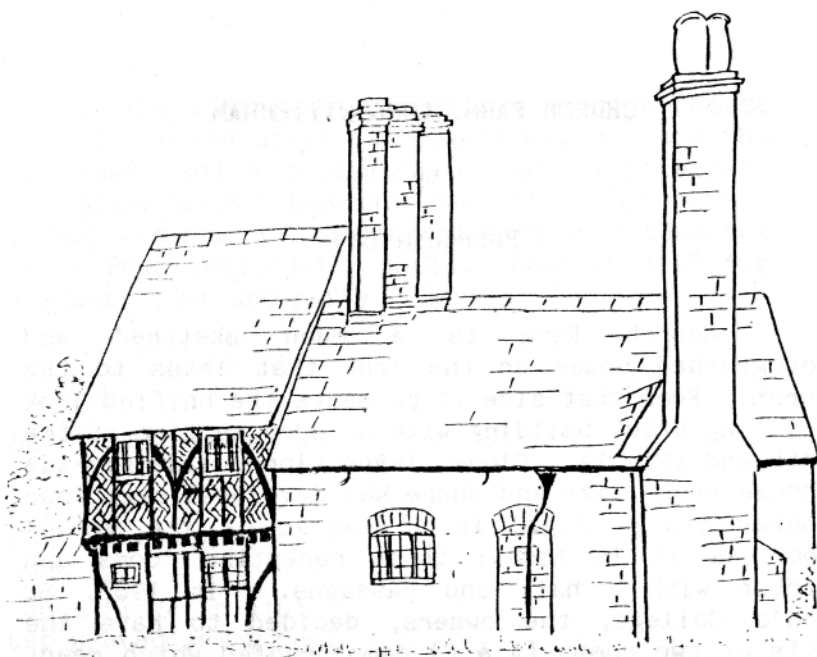


Fig.1

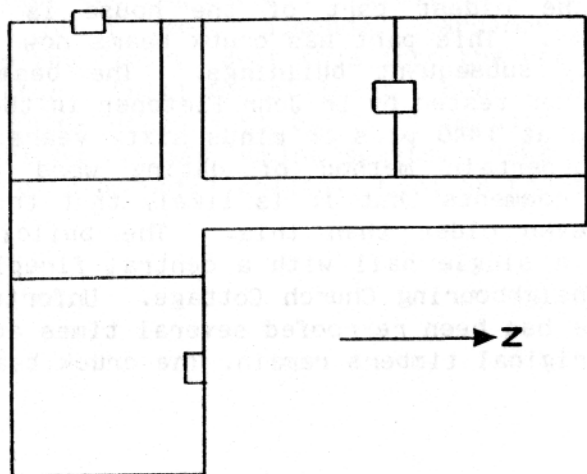
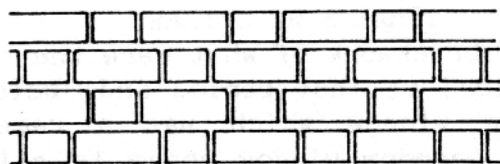


Fig.2

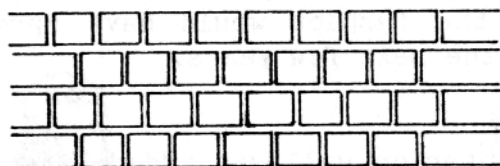
the north and south walls and both these have a section of wattle and daub - we could see that the daub (i.e. a mixture of dung, mud and straw) is several inches thick and could only assume there is wattle in the middle! The remainder of the south wall was brick between the timbers covered in a thin layer of daub and a thin layer of plaster. On top of this were pasted sheets of newspaper. The builders managed to remove whole sections in a readable condition. The papers were dated from May to September 1876 and were sheets from "The Sportsman" and the "Standard". Coincidentally the house changed hands around this time. The last of the Prowses, who had lived and farmed in the village for over two hundred years (William Prowse was vicar in 1610), left and James Latham from Clifton Hampden came to live here with his family. Perhaps the Prowses were doing some quick repairs? The papers are largely advertisements, notices and sports news. "The Standard" had verbatim reports of proceedings in Parliament. A few random extracts from the papers tell us that coal was 21s a ton; Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic was a cure-all for 4/6d; G. Trevelyan's "Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay" had just been published in two volumes priced 36s; a detached six-bedroomed house in Croydon could be bought for £1,100; Mr Henry Irving was playing in Macbeth at the Lyceum; and on 30 May the temperature was 75°. Newspaper did not appear on any other walls. The north wall has an inglenook fireplace but this is covered with a 1950-style tiled fire surround. The south wall timbers are now exposed.

The Tudor section (B) was added in about 1540 and, unusually, has an overhang at both the front and back. It has three stories and, apart from spraying against beetle this year, no work has been done on this section. We were amused when the attic floorboards were lifted to find hundreds of ancient walnut shells. Each had a little hole where the squirrel or mouse had removed the contents. There are no walnut trees near the house now.

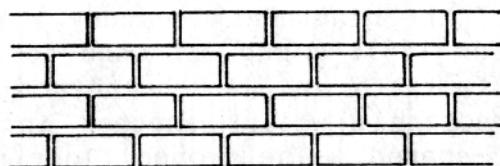
The other room (C) stripped by the builders again led to some interesting finds. Three walls were to be prepared for damp-proofing, but removal of one or two floorboards revealed that on one side the earth came within a few inches of the boards and that all the joists were rotting and must be renewed. We did not find many interesting artefacts - a bone or ivory teaspoon, clay pipe stems - but the builders noticed coal-dust (i.e. evidence of a fire-place) along the west wall, (the present-day fire-place is on the east wall). The dust was not, though, on the floor below the centre of the wall. This made us look more carefully at the interior walls and make some speculative assumptions! Three walls are constructed mainly of bricks in Flemish or Header Bond patterns interspersed on the interior with lengths of timber, whilst the fourth (north) wall is in the more modern Stretcher Bond (Fig.3). This wall is not tied in to the outer wall but merely meets it. This has led us to believe that it is a later addition and that the sitting-room was added directly on to the medieval room (Fig.4) probably in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The coal dust then indicates a fire-place on the centre of that east wall. Evidence of this dating is the brickwork of what were the outer walls



Flemish Bond



Header Bond



Stretcher Bond

Fig.3

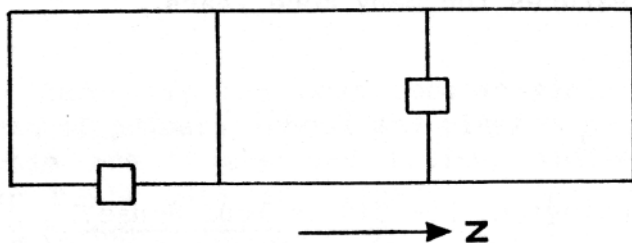


Fig.4

which is typical of that period and, before it was replaced, the window which was a recessed sash window - the bedroom window above is still a sash window and may be original. These recessed windows were required in London by the London Building Act of 1774 and the fashion would have spread to the country over the next few years.

The interior wall was added later to form a passage and the fire-place moved to the west wall probably when the east wing (D) was added in the second half of the nineteenth century. We know it was built after 1854: a map attached to a proposal to divert a footpath in the churchyard shows the house as a rectangle whilst another in the 1870s shows it as L-shaped. The ground floor room has a typical high ceiling but no other significant features.

Having your house resembling a builder's yard for months is a traumatic experience but it has proved valuable. It has given us a new insight into the age of parts of the house and preserved its more notable features for many more years.

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Pamela Cunningham, How Old is Your House?

J.M. Fletcher, Radiocarbon Dating of Cruck Cottages and barns.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by

Edith Cox



Currently the most popular girls' names of children of primary school and playgroup age in Long Wittenham are Claire and Louise, while the most popular boy's name is Richard. There is a wide variety of names in the village both traditional and modern, standard and not-so-standard. The Marys and Matthews sit alongside the Tinas and. Kevins, the

Sarahs and Andrews mix happily with the Darrys and Annalises. For seventy seven children in the school there are sixty two different names.

In Long Wittenham in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was a more restricted range of names and it was more common for children to have the same name as their parents. These family names may have given a sense of dynastic continuity but they give rise to great confusion when trying to reconstruct family relationships. Which Richard Sadler was christened on 1 March 1593/4? Which John Sadler was buried on 20 July 1623?

It is likely that there was a certain amount of contemporary confusion over the twin sons of Thomas Lovegrove christened on 11 August 1582. According to the parish register, both were christened John.

Some help is occasionally given by the identifying terms 'senior' and 'junior' assigned to the men referred to. This practice continues today in the United States of America, presumably taken by the early colonists, but has largely disappeared here. The designations 'the elder' or 'the younger' are also used in the registers. But there was still the occasional adventurous family with a desire for individuality. Mr and Mrs Bowler obviously liked the name Winsmore and christened their son this on 30 January 1774. When he unfortunately died in April 1774 they re-used the name, christening another son Winsmore on 1 October 1775.

Perhaps you can guess the most popular names for girls and boys in the late sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Long Wittenham. By far the favourite for girls was Elizabeth, with Mary second. For boys it was John, but William was a close second for most of the time. It was the number one choice between 1577-1600. Others favourites for boys were Thomas, Richard, Henry, James, Robert and Joseph. For girls, Alice, Joan, Margaret, Ann, Sarah, Martha and Hannah were in the top ten.

Sources

Autumn term 1987 Long Wittenham School and Playgroup registers

Long Wittenham Parish Registers of Baptisms 1577-1779

THE HAYWARDS

by

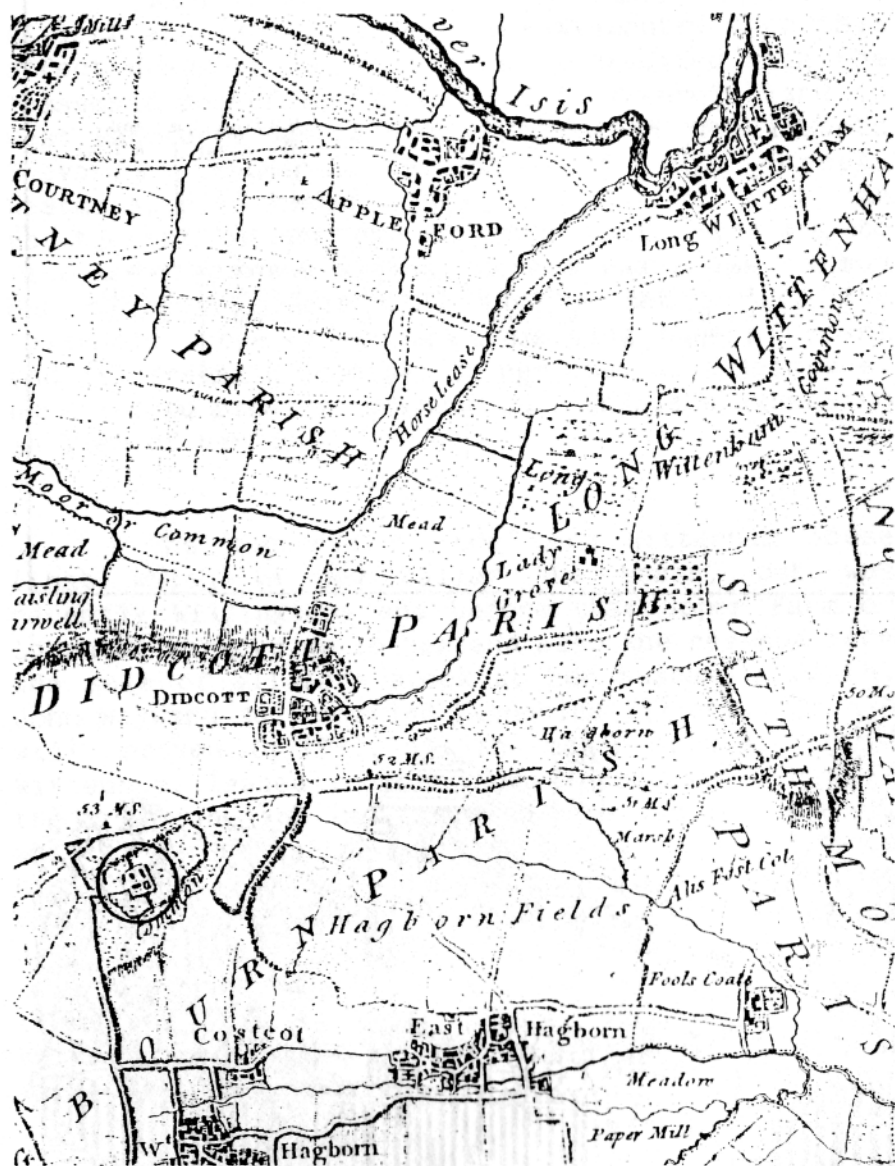
Jillian Hedges

(research also by Margaret and David Evans)

Some years ago I came across the deeds of Hagbourne Down Farm. As I went through the documents, I was surprised by the involvement of two important Long Wittenham families in particular, the Haywards.

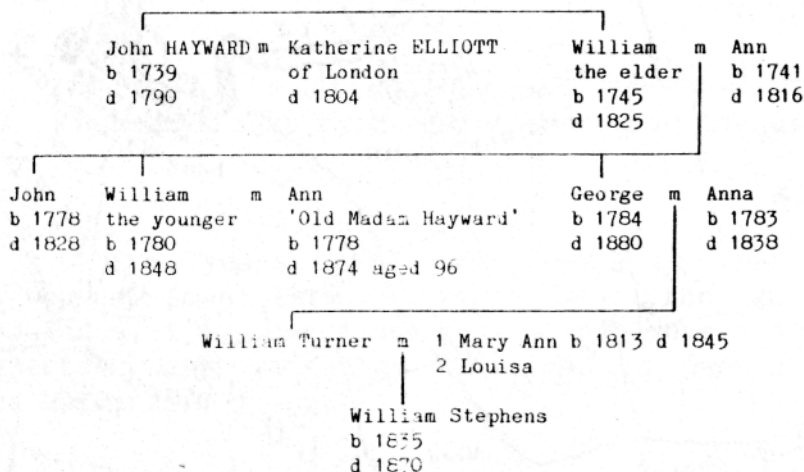
In the late seventeenth century Richard Jennens of Long Wittenham owned, amongst other farms, the woody ground, pasture etc. known as Hagbourne Down Farm.¹

A branch of the Jennens family came to Long Wittenham from Harwell in the early 1600s. They were a successful farming family owning or leasing land in many nearby parishes. Down Farm came via legacy and sale within the Jennens family to Elizabeth, granddaughter of Richard. She had married Tudor Trevor, son of Sir John Trevor, Master of the Rolls. When she died in 1784 she left most of her property to John Hayward, her nagman (groom) and he took over her farming activities.



Rocque's map of 1761 showing Hagbourne Down Farm (ringed)

HAYWARD FAMILY TREE (abbreviated)



Hagbourne Down Farm

John Hayward wanted to marry Katherine Elliott and in 1784 had a marriage contract to this effect drawn up.² In this he is credited with the leasehold possessions plus certain freehold land in West Hagbourne due to him on the death of Elizabeth Trevor. Katherine Elliott, of Duke Street, Westminster, London, his bride-to-be had an entitlement of her own of £500 which she was to dispose of as she wished. John Hayward was to buy her clothes, jewels etc. and to settle all the leasehold property for the remaining term of years and all freehold premises to her use, as a jointure, were she to survive her husband. This she agreed to in lieu of her dower.

The contents of the Long Wittenham house (that which is now called The Manor, but was recently Willingtons and before that Upper Farm or Louches) were to go to her and also the revenue from the sale of all farm stock at her husband's death. John Hayward duly married Katherine Elliott. In his will, proved in 1790, all the manor of West (Long) Wittenham, leased from St John's together with all the freehold land in West Hagbourne was left to his wife as agreed in the marriage contract, and then to his brother, William, as Katherine and John had no children (see Hayward family tree). If there were no male issue of William's marriage it was then to pass to Francis Hayward and his son for life and then to William Wernham and his heirs. When Katherine died in 1804, John's brother William came into the inheritance.

William (the elder) started his working life as a bootless ploughboy.³ He later ran away to sea and was involved in smuggling which in those days was a perfectly acceptable profession. He was successful to such an extent that he was able to buy a substantial quantity of lace in Paris and with the proceeds made from selling this, he later opened a shop in Oxford Street, London. Eventually he rose to become ‘Lacemaker to the Court’. When Katherine died, William returned to Long Wittenham to become Squire Hayward.

Henry J. Hewett noted⁴ that when St John's College held the Court as Lord of the Manor, whoever lived at the Manor House had to provide the dinner, so much beef and mutton and so many capons with white legs. One Court day the first Squire Hayward did not provide all that was required so he was fined. The next Court he took care to have all in the agreement, but he had it put on the table uncooked. He said “I have provided all, but the agreement does not say anything about cooking it”. So they lost their dinner. Ever afterwards the College sent their chef to cook the dinner.

William Hayward and his sons John, William the Younger and George, inheritors of John Hayward's property wished to dispose of the land but were prohibited from doing so by the entail of John's will. One way round this was by a legal procedure known as Common Recovery and this was set in motion in 1806. First, the property was “sold” to John Fallowfield Scott (probably the family lawyer) for a peppercorn rent, ‘if demanded’. Anthony Dann then brought an action

before Sir James Knight and the Justices of the Bench at Westminster to recover the property from John Fallowfield Scott (defendant and tenant in tail). Anthony Dann was probably another lawyer employed by the Haywards. With the connivance of both sides it was claimed that Anthony Dann had owned the property and had been illegally ejected by one Hugh Hunt (a non-existent person). John Fallowfield Scott went through the motions of defending this action, being warranted as owner by William Hayward and family who, in turn, were vouched for by a Charles Browning. After a recess for an imparl, Charles Browning, to nobody's surprise, failed to appear and John Fallowfield Scott, together with the Haywards, lost the action. The property then passed to Anthony Dann as had been planned. Dann then sold the land back to the Haywards, unencumbered. Thus the long entail in John Hayward's will had been negated.

Twelve years later, in 1818, by indenture of lease and release⁵, William Hayward the elder, gentleman, of Long Wittenham, together with his son, John, of Oxford Street, London, laceman, conveyed the lands at West Hagbourne to William Hayward the younger, of Oxford Street, laceman and brother of John. William the younger paid £1,000 to his father and 10s to John who agreed to the deal “in consideration of love and affection for (my) brother William”. William the elder died in 1825 aged 80 and his son John, in 1828, aged 50. The property had, however, already passed into the hands of William Hayward the younger, who now resided at Long Wittenham and was Justice of the Peace for Berkshire. His

wife, Ann, formerly forewoman in the lace shop in London, jointly owned the property.

On William Hayward's death in 1848 his wife, Ann, received all the revenues from his leasehold and freehold property. After her decease the rents of the lands at West Hagbourne were to be used for the maintenance and support of her great nephew, William Stephens Hayward, until he was 25 years old. If he died before then, the money went to his father, William Turner Hayward, upon trust. The latter had a problem - "gambling" - so all his inheritance had to be put into a trust and handled by trustees. Now Ann, the widow of William, who became known as 'Old Madam Hayward', held all the family property. She made a will in 1866 leaving her three best gowns to the three daughters of William Turner Hayward (two of whom died before she did), mourning rings to friends and relatives and to William Turner Hayward, "her dear late husband's" gold watch for life then to his youngest son, Frederick Henry Hayward! After certain other bequests, all was to be sold and, if William Turner Hayward was not "outlawed or bankrupt or anyway encumbered", he was to get a life interest unless he interfered, and then in equal shares to his children.

Ann eventually died in 1874 aged 96 and, as it has been said elsewhere⁶, it took a long time to unravel the problems left by her will.

Her nephew, William Turner Hayward, had gone bankrupt in the early 1870s and died two months after Ann in December 1874. William Stephens Hayward, who was thirty years old when his great aunt made her will in 1866, had already caused her some problems. In February 1857, she had received a letter from H. Beales (solicitor) informing her that, by indenture of 6 February 1857, between William Stephens Hayward of the Manor House⁷, Long Wittenham and Robert Cook of 18 Warwick Street, Golden Square, gentleman. that the former had mortgaged for £300 the lands at West Hagbourne to which he was entitled by her husband's will. Further mortgages and letters followed throughout 1857 - £137 in June, £106 in July (both to Robert Cook) and £100 to John Graham in August. On 24 September 1857 Robert Cook wrote to Ann Hayward to inform her that the principal amount now due from William Stephens Hayward "on the decease of yourself under the will of your late husband William Hayward, esquire, is the sum of £658 and interest. Please acknowledge the receipt hereof." In October a mortgage of £150 plus 5% interest was taken out including £2 paid in hand. Finally, in November 1857 there was a conveyance for the land from William Stephens Hayward to Jacob Appleford for the remainder of the sale price of £1,400, i.e. £343, that being all that had not already been mortgaged, to William Stephens Hayward and the rest to the creditors.

With that sale which could only be finalised when Ann died in 1874, the long-standing connection between first the Jennens and then the Hayward family and Down Farm, West Hagbourne was severed. William Stephens Hayward died in 1870, leaving his two brothers to wind up his great aunt's estate.

By the late 1880s there were no longer Haywards living in Long Wittenham. They had risen to be the most important land-holding family in the village and then lost it all.

References and notes

1. Berkshire Record Office (BRO) D/EB T44
2. BRO D/EX 17/6 T17
3. Henry J. Hewett, notes in a local history record of 22 July 1924 (Oxford Public Library)
4. ditto
5. An indenture was originally a document cut through the middle, the authenticity of one part proved when matched with the other. The text of the document was written twice - once above and once below a word such as 'indenture' or a phrase from the Vulgate, through which a jagged cut, was made. Indentures were used for contracts. title deeds etc.
6. 'The Parish of Long Wittenham' - a brief history by Kathleen Burk Jewess, p.23.
7. Actually the Manor Farm which became known as the Manor House, the original manor house being known as Willingtons.

WILLIAM STEPHENS HAYWARD

by

Jillian Hedges

William Stephens Hayward was born in 1835, son of William Turner Hayward and his first wife, Mary Ann, and spent his early life in Long Wittenham. He seems to have inherited the Hayward attitude towards money of ‘easy come, easy go’. He mortgaged land due to him under his aunt's will even before she had died, but even so was in debt.

He was an author of considerable output and thus it was in 1868 he applied to the Royal Literary Fund for support and related his life hitherto as thus. “The eldest son of a once wealthy family, I was not brought up to any profession. After nine years of travel and adventure in all parts of the world, I returned to England in 1860 from Italy and found that the affairs of my family were in such a state that I should have to rely entirely on my own exertions for a livelihood. Availing myself of a good education and some ability, I turned my attention to literature and for the last seven years have supported myself as a gentleman entirely by my pen. Last November my health failed and I found myself incapable of doing any literary work. That, and the failure of a publisher to pay me £50 promised in

December, reduced me to the state in which I now find myself. At the present moment I find myself in debt to the amount of about £25.

Besides which I have been obliged to sell or pawn - (it is an unpleasant word) books and anything of value I possessed. My medical man orders me rest, good living and sea air..."

A letter from William Clutton Byass, surgeon, of Dorchester said that "he had attended professionally Mr. William Stephens Hayward for 20 years and he is now suffering from ulceration of the legs which require rest etc." Another supportive letter dated 14 March from the Secretary of the Integrity Life Assurance and Sick Benefit Society said that he knew "William Stephens Hayward for several years and to my knowledge obtained his living in an honourable manner by his pen and I believe also with considerable distinction in the field of literature".

At this time William Stephens Hayward was 32 years of age, married with no family and living in lodgings at 28 Wakefield Street with no income except that derived from his own exertions. He listed twelve published works and mentioned that he had not kept a note of the articles for magazines that he had written. He seems to have published at least one book each years starting with Hunted to Death, 1861; Doctor's Notebook, 1862; Black Angel, and Star of the South in 1863 etc. All in some way related to his earlier life when he served in the South

TALES

OF

LIFE, LOVE, AND ADVENTURE.

I.

THE TWO BROTHERS;

OR, THE FATAL PASSION.

"Far from the busy hum of men," two little villages were dotted down, one in the county of Berkshire, the other, separated only by the river Thames, in Oxfordshire.

The Berkshire village is called Long Hampton, the other Little Hampton.

Between these two villages from time immemorial has existed a rivalry. The Long Hampton and Little Hampton cricket-matches have always been with the neighbourhood subjects of intense interest; but for several years Long Hampton has been triumphant, and that mainly owing to the skill and spirit of two brothers, Jack and George Hazel. They were the life and soul of all that was going on in Long Hampton. In summer the Long Hampton Cricket Club flourished, and victoriously the chosen eleven of the Berkshire village carried all before it. In winter none were readier than Jack and George Hazel, either in earth-stopping to provide sport for the hounds, or (especially at Christmas time), by

Opening chapter from "Tales of Life, Love and Adventure". The villages of Long and Little Hampton may be Long Wittenham and Clifton Hampden.

American War and in the Garibaldi war in Italy. The net result of this appeal was that he received a £30 grant in monthly payments of £5 from 12 March until 13 August. On 13 March he wrote to the Royal Literary Fund to thank them for the grant of £30 (his debts at this time were £25), which he hoped and believed would be the means of reinstating him in health; he noted the courtesy and consideration of the Secretary Mr Blewitt with "It is in the power of any man or body of men having the means at command to make a gift to a poor man; but it is only gentlemen who can give to a gentleman without inflicting humiliation". So lived the eldest son of William Turner Hayward. He was buried on 10 August 1870 aged 35.

It is in the power of
any man or body
of men having the
means at command
to make a gift to a
poor man; but it
is of gentlemen who
can give to a gentle-
man without inflicting
humiliation —
I have the honour to
be — my Sirs —
Gentlemen —
your obedient servant
W^m Stephens Hayward

Part of letter quoted above.

THE RIVER THAMES AND CLIFTON FERRY

by

Penny Moorley



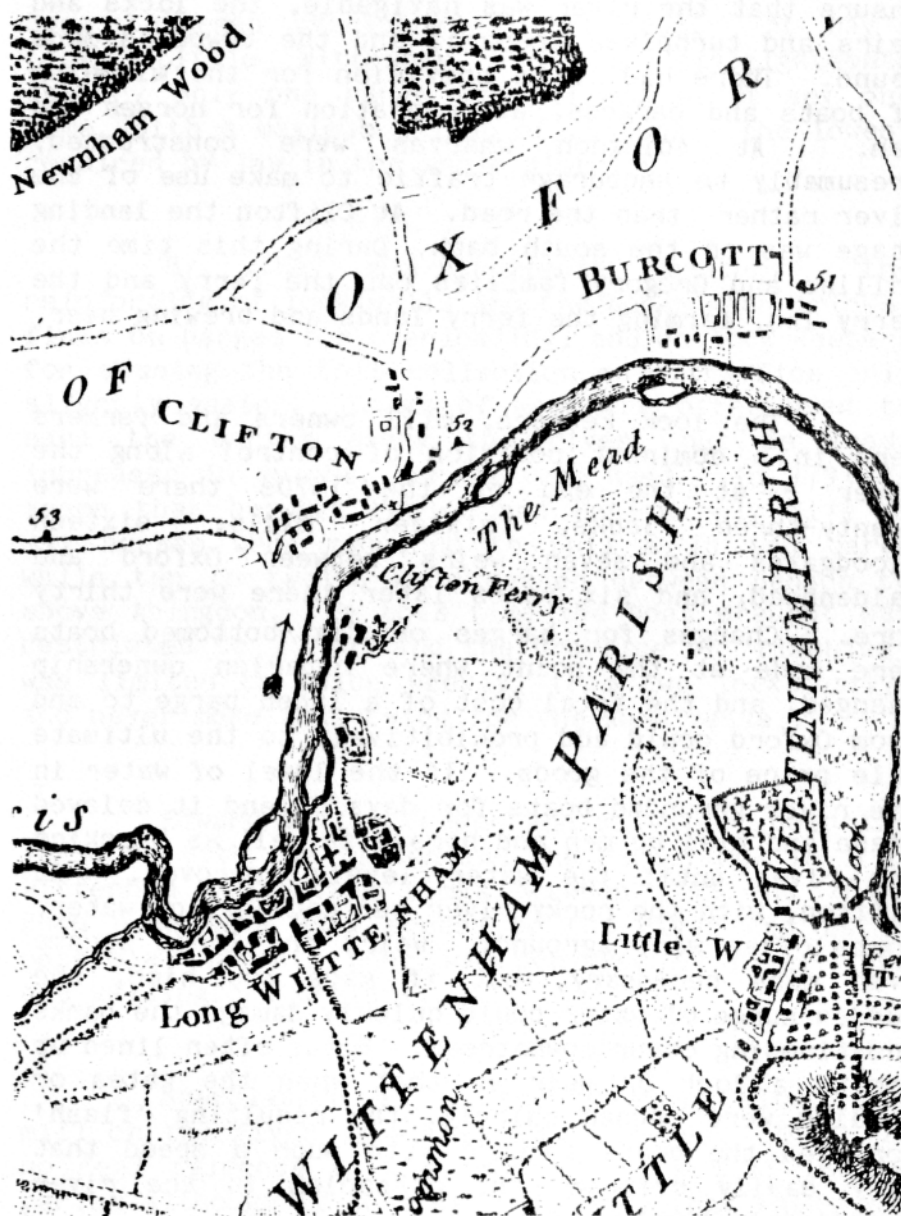
Clifton Ferry. From original print

The river Thames has long been regarded as a main highway for traffic, a natural defensive barrier and a source of food. When early settlers of Roman and Saxon origin came to the area they chose sites for their settlements as near to the river as flooding allowed. As time passed, with greater movement in the population, river crossing places became more important.

The earliest record of settlement at Clifton is in 1146. The east-west route from Dorchester to Abingdon and the north-south route from Reading to Oxford crossed near here, and with the shallow river and firm river bed providing an excellent ford the location would have been ‘ripe for development’. The first record we have of two barges or boats in use on the river at Clifton is in 1493. The ferryman lived in the ferry house and supplemented his income by providing sustenance to travellers. His house has survived the centuries, being now the Barley Mow.

The ferry lands on the south side of the river were owned by Exeter College. “Two quarters of malt” was part of the rent due from the ferry house by the late 14th century, and this, together with some wheat included in the rent by 1624, may have been carried to Oxford by river. During the 17th century, cargo traffic increased considerably. With London expanding so rapidly, trade and commerce demanded more supplies, and the river became more important as a conveyor of farm products from Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, especially as the roads were so bad.

However, complaints about the poor condition of the river and the difficulty in navigating the particular stretch between Oxford and Burcot were numerous. Cargo was frequently off-loaded at Burcot and carried by road to Oxford. Navigation of this small stretch of river was so bad that the Parliamentary commissions of the 1600s refer to a greater extent to this part of the Thames than any other. In 1623 eight commissioners



Rocque's map of 1761 showing Clifton Ferry.

were appointed to ensure that the river was navigable, the locks and weirs and turnpikes prepared and the towpaths made sound. There had to be provision for the winching of boats and cargoes, accommodation for horses and men. At Abingdon wharves were constructed, presumably to encourage traffic to make use of the river rather than the road. At Clifton the landing stage was on the south bank. During this time the Collins and Gregory families ran the ferry and the Ferry Inn, farming the ferry lands and brewing beer.

The lock keepers, mill owners and farmers were in a dominant position of control along the river - at the end of the 1570s there were twenty-three locks, sixteen mills, sixteen floodgates and seven weirs between Oxford and Maidenhead, and six years later there were thirty more. Charges for barges or flat-bottomed boats were made at the point where riparian ownership changed, and the total cost of a laden barge to and from Oxford could add prohibitively to the ultimate sale price of the goods. If the level of water in the river grounded boats for days on end it delayed trade and tied up men and horses as well as blocking the river until the water levels improved. At Clifton, with the rocky river bed and shallow water, boats often went aground. Weirs and locks became even more necessary. but if made too high, the sudden surge of water could quickly damage the banks and flooding occur downstream. Boats often lined up behind a lock or weir so that when the gates or paddles were opened quickly, the resulting 'flash' conveyed the boats forward with such a speed that they easily overcame the obstacles in the river immediately further on.

Some bargemen overloaded their boats. At Day's Lock, Little Wittenham, in the mid-eighteenth century only one barge was allowed in at any one time, with a maximum weight of 25 tons - the lowest required by law in the whole district.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the reinforcing of lock walls and the banks with bricks, fines on barges for overloading, and on lock keepers for abusing the toll collection made traffice only slightly easier. Gangs of men were often used to haul the barges along the river, but as loads increased in weight, horses were used. In 1793 it seems that between Marlow and Henley only five or six horses were required to pull a 70 ton barge while ten to twelve were needed between Benson to above Abingdon. By this time the boat draught was restricted to 3' 10" and the practice of 'flashing' was limited to twice weekly, from two locks only, and never more than twice for the same vessel.

Edward Wells, brewer and maltster, held the lease to both the Plough and the Barley Mow in Long Wittenham at certain times between 1795 and 1847. Both pubs have easy access to the river and it is possible that his beer was conveyed by river from his Wallingford brewery.

Speculation as to the possible site of a mill on the river at Wittenham continues. There is no real evidence in the records for a mill in the parish although it does seem unlikely that there was not even one. The census of 1851 makes no mention of there being a miller.

The present Clifton Lock was built in 1822, although a stop or pound lock had been proposed in 1743. James Newland was the first lock keeper - he was paid £2 a month. By this time it was compulsory for the lock keeper to live on site. The weir was built in 1853 and enlarged in 1876. The towpath across the ferry hook was altered in 1844 - the same year as a new ferry boat was provided by Exeter College. The cost of a previous boat provided in 1836 had been £95.

Still there were complaints about the management of the river. Ferries were considered a nuisance and a hindrance to barge traffic. As time went on expenses on the stretch from Oxford to Lechlade exceeded the revenue and lock keepers' wages were reduced. In 1853 the lock keeper, Robert Holmes, had his wages reduced from £34 16s per annum to £33. In 1867 he was accused of poaching on the canal and shortly after was asked to resign.

Income could be supplemented by charging pleasure craft, of which the first record is around 1810. With the setting up of the later Thames Conservancy in the 1850's the whole system became uniform. The first steam barges presented a problem as they could go farther than other craft. the wash eroding the banks, and they could carry more goods. They also replaced men and horse power. In 1866, a year before the Clifton ferry disappeared altogether, the Act of that year set charges for pleasure craft, the charge per ton through the locks and revised the code of conduct for lock keepers. The first prize for best kept garden was presented in the 1890s!

During the following years, commercial traffic declined with the advent of the railway and the stations at Culham and Appleford. The number of pleasure craft increased and the fishing rights, for centuries granted with the lease of the land at the ferry, retained their importance for leisure activity. Today where the ferry boat crossed the river, as portrayed in the engravings of the 1830s, there stands Henry Hucks Gibbs' fine bridge. Where the coal was unloaded for Wittenham villagers, cabin boats are moored and on the bank, caravans are parked. Fishermen cast from the reeds on the far bank and afternoon strollers walk the footpath where the bargemen pulled the boats, crossing over to the opposite bank by bridge once it replaced the ferry in 1867, to walk to Day's Lock. Youngsters bathe and canoe, providing as much of a hazard for the holiday hire boats as once did the ferry boat to the barges of a by-gone age.

HENRY "HARRY" WOODLEY

by

Jane Jagger

Harry Woodley was born the fifth child in a family of seven boys and one girl on 26 March 1888 at 11 St John's Row, Long Wittenham, opposite the Primitive Methodist Chapel. Almost a century later I came to live in this cottage with my family. Obviously I wondered about the previous occupants but I never expected to learn about any of them and I must thank the residents of Long Wittenham who provided me with much of the information about Harry Woodley.

He was a true Wittenhamite. His paternal grandparents had lived at 2 St John's Row when it was built. His great-grandparents had lived at one of the old cottages at the College which no longer exists but was at the extreme western end of the village, and he had a great love for his village which remained with him throughout his life.

In 1907 he was a member of the village team which won the North Berks football cup the first year that it was awarded. In 1908 he was one of the bellringers who rang a peal to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs Clutterbuck, wife of the late

Rev. Clutterbuck who had been vicar of Long Wittenham for fifty-five years, and mother of Admiral Clutterbuck, one of the largest landowners in Long Wittenham. After that Harry recalled “we all went to the manor to supper and the Admiral gave us all a golden half-sovereign”. A feature of those days was that all the boys and young men were given nicknames and his friends called Harry “Nipton”.

After leaving school he found employment as a gardener for Sir Frederick Hallet who lived in one of the big houses in the village (Wittenham Court, formerly Point Close), and he rose to become head gardener. Whilst he was working there the First world war broke out and Harry enlisted along with some of his brothers. It was a custom to put cards with the names of those in the family away in the war in the window and at times there were five or six of these cards in the sitting-room window of the cottage in St John's Row. After the war Harry returned to gardening and remained there until his employer died, after which he worked as a storeman at Didcot Depot.

He married a girl from Nuneham Courtney and they lived at 11 St John's Row. They did not have any children. It seems strange that of a family of eight Woodley children Harry was the only one to remain in the village and with his death the name Woodley disappears from Long Wittenham village.



Part of the 1906-7 Long Wittenham football team, winners of the North Berks. Cup. Harry Woodley is in the plain shirt, top right.

Harry was a keen sportsman, not only a footballer but a strong swimmer too, and he skated on Appleford Meadows in severe winter weather and in the winter of 1937-8 he skated on the frozen River Thames. He recalled another less organised sporting occasion when he and other lads went snowballing at ‘the bottom part of the village’.

“One of the party threw a snowball through Mr Richard Eason’s window, he came out and said what’s the game, so we collected round and gave him three shillings and sixpence he said you can break them all at that price they were very small panes”

He often reminisced about ‘the old days’ and recalled that after the deep snow of April 1980 there had been a flood and on May Day “after the children finished garlanding several of them went paddling in the floods in Colebourne Meadow Hill”.

In later life Harry served his village in two important ways. He was on the committee of the village Friendly Society, an organisation to which members paid monthly contributions and received sick pay and old age pensions when the need arose. He was a parish councillor for many years. It was whilst he was serving on the Council that the skyline over Long Wittenham was changed by the construction of Didcot Power Station in the 1960s. He changed the landscape of the village in one way for he planted the Silver Birch trees by the Cross, and it caused him great sadness that the lime trees he had planted were vandalised. He must have hated litter spoiling the village and wrote a poem about it:

Litter

That oh, it is a perfect sin
To leave behind the empty tin
And may he have three kinds of gout
Who scatters paper bags about
Who throws his rubbish neath the trees
Shall suffer water on the knees
And he who sets the gorse on fire
Shall tear his trousers on barbed wire.

He left the parish council in 1967 and there is a record of his “long and loyal service as a Parish Councillor” in the Minute Book.

Not only was he a great man of the village but he was a countryman too. He was a great walker, even into old age and would inform the parish council of anything that needed attention which he had noticed on his walks. He possessed old maps showing footpaths and rights of way in the parish which were useful when disputes arose as to the direction or even existence of these paths. He was adept at the ancient art of water-divining. Harry Woodley's skills as a gardener led him to judge at produce shows in local villages such as Dorchester. Although little remains in our garden from his day except an old apple tree there is evidence from the paths and borders that it was once a well-tended and well-loved garden. An interesting story was told to me about the apple tree. Harry Woodley gave a sapling from it to a resident of the village, two weeks after Harry's death the apple tree died, but the stump remains covered in honeysuckle.

Harry Woodley died on 24 January 1974 and was buried in the churchyard of St Mary's Long Wittenham. Many testimonials were given about him. All agreed that he was a fine man, a man who loved his village and worked for the benefit of its villagers. One said "he was a tall, thin man, straightforward in his bearing and straightforward in his manner".