

The Survey

of Bath and District

The Journal of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

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Front Cover Illustration: 'Holan weg', above Macaulay Buildings. Photograph: Anthony Brannan.

Back Cover Illustration: View of St.Mark's Church, Widcombe, in 1974 by Mike Chapman

CITY NEWS

News from Bath Record Office 2008

Few records of Bath Corporation's town clerks were believed to exist earlier than 1800. It was therefore a great surprise when an outstanding collection of over 400 letters was offered for sale at a London auction house early in 2008. Being determined to return them to their rightful home, Record Office staff lost no time in applying for grant-aid and were successful in obtaining over 90% of the final purchase price. The correspondents of John Jefferys (town clerk 1760-1800) include notable local figures such as William Pulteney, John Wood junior and John Palmer, and the full significance of each letter is being revealed as it is transcribed onto database by volunteers.

Other important additions to the Record Office collections this year include a printed city map dated 1800 by Charles Harcourt Masters, in poor condition but immensely detailed. Sixteen bound volumes of 19th century manuscript and printed music-scores from the Pump Room Orchestra were donated, and several unusual photographs were acquired, one showing circus elephants walking along Darlington Street c.1900, another showing a costumed Roman and a 'Beau Nash' at the Roman Baths c.1929.

Last winter's public lectures by archaeologists working at Bath's Southgate site coincided with the discovery by the Archivist of Council minutes and invoices relating to the building of a new horse bath in 1793. Further research determined that the bath existed for less than 15 years, and that its exact location was under Marks & Spencer's store. This will be the subject of an article in the forthcoming *Bath History* volume.

New services introduced for our customers this year are paid-for image scanning, whereby documents can be scanned and emailed, or copied to disc, also the installation of a digital microfiche printer enabling us to print or email parish-register entries. These are just a few of the highlights from your Archive Service this year.

Colin Johnston

The Museum of Bath at Work

Saturday 25 October to Sunday 2 November is Heritage Open Week at Bath. The Museum will be hosting a programme of morning events. Details can be obtained from the Museum, 01225 318348.

The Museum's 'fine acoustics' have inspired some events related to sound. May this year represented Museums and Galleries Month and a soundscape entitled 'Battery' was played from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on 17 May, with over seventy visitors present. It is described as 'at times relaxing and at times sinister'. The Museum suggests that 'we may have carved a niche in the performance of less conventional sound'. The source material of the taped sound was machinery in the Museum, bounced from speaker to speaker within the Museum.

An exhibition celebrating 70 years of the firm known as Cross Manufacturing, of Midford Road, Combe Down, was held from August to end October. The *Chronicle* featured an account of this on p.9, Thursday 14 August, providing one of its valuable sheets of source material. A factory was also opened in Devises in 1962. Cross manufacturing exports about two-thirds of its products. On 7 June the Museum also assisted in a Horstmann Rally, in the Royal Victoria Park, it seems.

Widcombe Manor

The house known as Widcombe Manor was featured on TV the other day in a programme on Princess Margaret, Lord Snowdon and Jeremy Fry. True to form, the feature concentrated on everyone's sex life. It did not mention that Jeremy Fry was a successful Bath entrepreneur, who founded the engineering firm Rotork, in which James Dyson passed part of his early career.

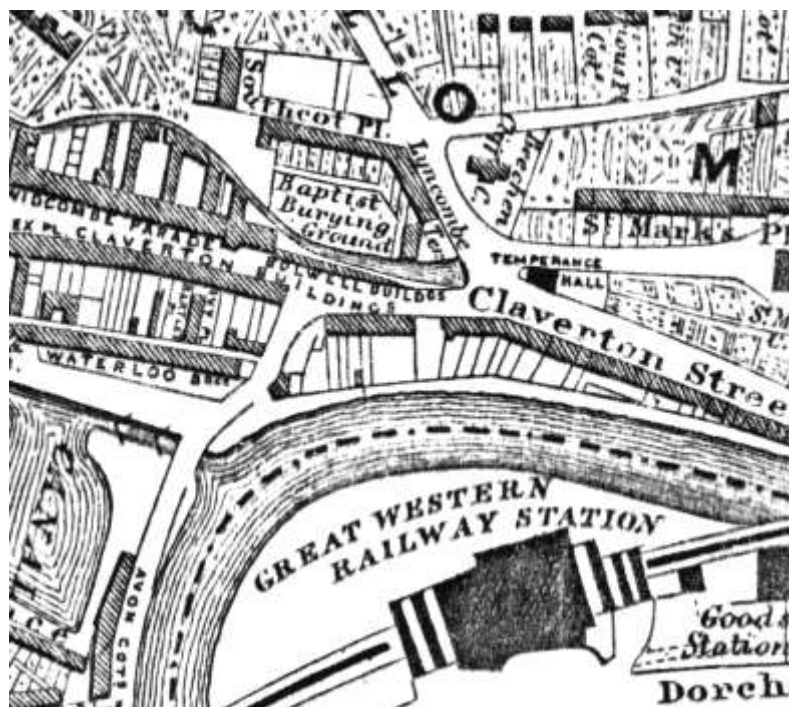
They did not use the actual staircase of Widcombe Manor when showing the houseparty staggering

upstairs for one of their supposed orgies. The actual staircase turns to the right, not the left. Again, at the top, a left turn would bring one to one of the lesser bedrooms: to reach the master bedrooms one would need to turn right.

Widcombe Loo

As part of the campaign to rid the world of post offices and public toilets, the toilet block near the Ha'penny Bridge, Widcombe, has been sold by auction, realising £34,500. It is said that it is to become a 'design icon', which for those who favour the existence of post offices and public toilets, is not very meaningful.

To continue the watery theme, the toilet block stands on the site of the ancient millpond, where the Lyn Brook ended, providing a head of water for the mill on the left-hand side of the toll bridge site. The course of the brook and the site of the mill are shown in Mike Chapman's *The Lost Streams of Bath*. Behind the block lies the old Baptist Cemetery. The early Poor House discussed by Alistair Durie in our pages was by the cemetery entrance on Lyncombe Hill.



The millpond and stream at the bottom of Lyncombe Hill can be seen on this 1852 map, between the Baptist Burying Ground and a row of houses called Bolwell Buildings.

The mill itself stood on the opposite side of Claverton Street - the last building in the row overlooking the river. The empty plot next to it later became the site of the Ha'penny Bridge.

Non-Archaeology

We understand that the TV series *Bonekickers*, set in Bath, is absolutely terrible, a kind of Time Team gone mad. It supposedly deals with a team of archaeologists, and passes the limits of probability.

At least it does not use the term 'Bath Archaeological Trust' - see Elizabeth's article in this issue, in which she takes exception to the use of the name 'Special Operations Executive' in an episode of the TV series *Foyle's War*.

We have already discussed in our pages the difference between old-fashioned archaeology, the bounty-hunters, and modern scientific archaeology. *Bonekickers* is for those who like the bounty-hunters. We understand that in one episode they discover the bones of Boadicea (i.e. Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni), while employed on a dig at the Roman Baths. What had happened? Did she drive her chariot into the water, like the people Trevor Fawcett mentions who were swept away by the Avon while washing down coaches?

ARCHAEOLOGY

National Archaeology week was celebrated in July. The Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society held an open day, inviting the public to the site at Upper Row Farm, described as being ‘between Faulkland and Norton St.Philip, about one mile south of Tuckers Grave Inn’, which they have been excavating year by year for seven years. The group describe the site of their dig as a Romano-British farmstead, with evidence of pre-Roman habitation. As well as guided tours of the excavation site, practical activities were offered, such as the chance for children to try digging, as the archaeologists of the future.

At Keynsham, an ‘Archaeology in the Park’ event was held in Keynsham Memorial Park, where visitors could handle some of the Keynsham finds. The *Chronicle* interviewed Dr.Barbara Lowe, well-known for her rôle in excavating the site of Keynsham Abbey and preserving discoveries there. This event was organised on a wide basis, involving members of Bath’s Roman Baths, Keynsham Heritage Trust, the Bristol History and Archaeology Society, Keynsham Town Council and B&NES Planning Services Department.

The Southgate Dig

MoLAS (Museum of London Archaeology Service) have continued with their excavations on the Southgate redevelopment site. MoLAS have made a careful study of preceding publications, such as the reports of Bath Archaeological Trust on their excavations there, and Mike Chapman’s Southgate booklet published for the Survey of Old Bath. It is gratifying to see the present excavations confirming documentary sources, while



adding new material which shows the importance of the present dig. The pipe over Beechen Cliff from the Magdalen springs is featured in the Waterworks material in Bath Record Office. Connie Smith, formerly archivist of the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group, used to refer to it in her talks. A plan of its course exists in the Record Office and Mike Chapman published this on p.17 of another booklet, *The Lost Streams of Bath*. The course of the pipe from Holloway is also shown on p.12 as part of the springs plan there.

The stone ducting and cover for this pipe has now been found, referred to as ‘carefully carved’ with recesses to accommodate joints in the lead pipe it once carried, running the whole length of Southgate Street. This is indeed a discovery. This stone channel is mentioned in Bath Chamberlain’s Accounts. (Some drains in Bath indeed only consisted of slabs of stone, forming a box. One such was found near the Cross Bath in 1986). A section of this ducting has been lodged in the Stone Store at the Roman Baths, an operation Mike was able to watch.

It was already known to BAT that no made-up Roman road existed from the city to the river. Although the present dig proceeded to the middle of the former Southgate Street, they found no signs of Roman use of the area. The conclusion is that there was no Roman South gate to the city. With no South gate, and no track to the river, one would have to doubt whether there was a Roman crossing at the site of the Old Bridge. Alan Keevil has long suggested that the Fosseway, with its crossing, ran west of the site usually given to it. This is mentioned again in his article on Saxon boundaries in this issue of our journal.

Dr.Kellaway suggested at one time that the Roman river ran nearer the city than it does now. The presence of fragments of Roman pottery might query this view, but of course pottery can be thrown out at a later stage. There is also mention, in MoLAS’s publicity material, of pre-Roman geological terrace

gravels, which suggests a river or river-bank. On the other hand, there is talk of the discovery of Mesolithic flints. It appears that the ancient course of the river will need to be re-assessed in the light of present excavations. Mike Chapman's Southgate booklet was the first general study of the area to be published of which we know. As evidence accumulates, it will become possible for someone to bring out a more detailed survey. The Survey has taken an interest lately in Weymouth House and its neighbourhood, with the creation of New Orchard Street, and so on. (It would not mind the assistance of others in this project!) With the recent discovery of the site of the nearby Georgian Horse Bath, everything will gradually fit together in what was once only a neglected area of the city.

Elizabeth Holland
Survey of Old Bath

Cotswold Archaeology. Excavations at the Gainsborough Building

The Gainsborough Building in Beau Street was built in 1824-6 as the United Hospital, the original building on the corner of Beau Street and Bilbury Lane being a distinguished three-storey-plus-basement Greek Revival building by John Pinch the Elder. It incorporated the dispensary which had been established in the early 18th century Bave's House on Lower Borough Walls. A link building or corridor extended over the garden between the two. The Hospital grew in fits and starts over the next 80 years to occupy the entire space between Beau Street, Lower Borough Walls, Hot Bath Street and Bilbury Lane.

Expansion occurred in two main phases. In 1864-6 the Albert Wing, along Hot Bath Street was added, and a Medical Officer's Residence on Lower Borough Walls. The Bave's House was replaced by a 'dead house', or mortuary. An extra floor was added to the Pinch block. In 1890 the Albert Wing was raised to match and the mortuary replaced by a range linking the Medical Officer's Residence to the south end of the Albert Wing. A purpose-built chapel was finally erected in 1898, after 30 years of planning, facing Bilbury Lane.

In 1928 the Royal United Hospital (given the honorific in 1865) sold to the Bath Technical College and moved to Combe Park. The Technical College opened in 1932 and the building remained in educational use by the college's successors until it was sold in 2005. It had undergone many relatively superficial changes in that time, and documenting these and the entire building history was one of the aims of the recent archaeological work that was necessary to mitigate the effects of the proposed conversion to a spa hotel.

There was very little internal architectural detail in what had always been a functional building, but drawings and photographs were made of the timber and plaster mouldings, and the arcades that were removed when the two-storey annexe of the Albert Wing was demolished. This, the range along Lower Borough Walls and the central single storey studios were removed to allow the construction of a new wing on Lower Borough Walls, and a new spa pool in the basement. A detailed record was made of the changes to the 1860s work that were made in the 1890s and could still be seen in the fabric and later alterations, before demolition. A clear picture emerged of the various phases of building works and refitting, including colour schemes of deep red and black in the 1860s and green and black in the 1890s.

It is well known that when the 1860s building works were underway, James Irvine, in Bath to supervise the restoration work on the abbey church, made detailed records of the Roman remains that were uncovered during demolition and rebuilding works. He recognised that there was a Roman Baths, with heated rooms and a plunge pool, a Roman street and a substantial building that predated the baths. He also recorded a range of buildings along Bilbury Lane with a fine mosaic at the Lower Borough Walls end. Not content with merely recording the remains, he arranged for considerable portions to be preserved under the new building, with strong Roman walls incorporated into its footings, and more fragile features arched over to allow construction above them to continue.

It was these records and preservation that led the B&NES archaeologist to require investigation under PPG16, the government guidance that puts archaeology firmly into the planning process. Here the modern commercial system gave rise to a variety of organizations being involved. The original paper research was carried out by Bath Archaeological Trust, evaluation or test excavations were executed by Oxford

Archaeology, and the final large scale excavations and building recording by Cotswold Archaeology. The thread of continuity was provided by your present correspondent who ran the earlier phases and building recording and was a consultant on the main dig.

Excavations of one kind or another were carried out on all parts of the site, but concentrated on the original Pinch building, which needed major works to its foundations as well as cellar floors lowering for baths and services, and the central area, down to Lower Borough Walls, which was visible from that street for much of the time works were underway. The main campaign took place from June 2007 until February 2008.

Irvine's records were found to be exact and accurate, although some of his reconstructed plans were shown to be based on limited evidence. What he had preserved was seen again and recorded in more detail, but the lack of archaeological interest after his time was painfully evident. In 1928-32, the timber floor (complete with trap door to allow viewing) that he had arranged to span the plunge bath that had been discovered under the south end of the Albert Wing was replaced by a concrete floor. The void, and the bath, were filled with brick, broken lavatory fittings and rubble and no care was taken of the still-surviving plaster on the walls. The rubbish was carefully removed this time and, although the bath could not be left open, it was carefully protected before reburial and after further record of those parts not visible to Irvine.

The recent excavation showed that there was a complex of probably three phases of masonry building from the later first to the fourth century AD. The first building had very thick walls and was of a rectangular plan. Stone drains and gutters were found to the north and west, but until full analysis of the excavations has been carried out (and there has been some delay which has now been overcome), it cannot be said just what this building, or its successors, were for. They lie alongside the baths and may be adjuncts and extensions to them, although this early building probably predates them and may be part of the earlier building recognised by Irvine. This building was demolished and replaced by a larger but less massively built structure, and this again was replaced in turn. This last building was in use in the mid third century when a coin hoard was placed in a pit cut through its floor. Such a position and such a date is extremely unusual, and as yet, no explanation has been found for this occurrence. The coins deposited were demonetised in the 270s so this at least may be the reason for the failure to recover them. More stone buildings were recognised eastwards towards Bilbury lane, separated from these by a gravelled path or alley.

Analysis of the finds and records has been on hold this last six months but it is hoped this will begin soon. Unfortunately this means that much is still unclear. However, the site was rich in pottery, animal bones and other finds and was well-stratified and reasonably well-preserved, which allows a considerable degree of optimism that a clear and informative story will emerge. The upper Roman levels were truncated to some extent by medieval rubbish pits, themselves of considerable interest, containing material from the 12th to the 14th century. A dark layer was carefully investigated using soil science methods to understand its formation and origin, as it was thought these might be of early post-Roman date, but the soils seemed to be predominantly the garden soils of the houses successively occupied by the Drs. Baves, father and son, in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. This garden is shown on the 1694 Gilmore map but no detail of its layout had survived the later developments.

Excavations stopped at the levels required for the development, so pre-Roman deposits were not found, but the excavation has been extremely useful in confirming the work of Irvine, and the continued preservation of the remains he saw, and will add considerably to our picture of the Roman development of the central area of Aquae Sulis and its character.

Peter Davenport
Cotswold Archaeology

DISTRICT NEWS

Re-opening of the Canal Visitor Centre at Dundas Aqueduct

On 27 June the Canal Visitor Centre at Brassknocker Basin was re-opened after a period of closure due to work by the Highways Agency on the nearby A36 road viaduct. Although this had resulted in severe disruption of businesses in the area, Tim Wheeldon, owner of the Canal Centre, took the opportunity to refurbish the premises and renew the exhibition there of the Somersetshire Coal Canal. With the re-opening of the road, local business people and those associated with the venture were invited to celebrate at a 'Back to Business Barbecue'. The new exhibition display was designed by Daniel Brown, member of the Friends as well as the Somerset Coal Canal Society, with assistance by Mike and other local historians. It now contains a new layout of panels which include photographs of the canal which Daniel has only recently discovered; and it will do a great deal to raise the awareness of the SCCS on the only section of the canal which is currently in water.



Councillor David Bellotti, chairman of B&NES Council, performed the opening ceremony with enthusiasm despite the pouring rain, and at an appropriate point in his speech a narrow-boat entered the basin bearing the "Brassknocker Pig" on its prow. This was one of the model 'Bladud's Pigs' which have been sponsored by businesses all over Bath - in this instance also decorated by Daniel.

The Canal Exhibition by Daniel Brown

The Fuller's Earth Mill at Wellow

It was recently announced in the *Chronicle* that the old Fuller's Earth building in the centre of the village, formerly used for drying the earth, is up for development. Although it did not remain in production for long, it had an interesting history. Probably built in 1884, it ran until around the turn of the century when it was converted to a blacksmith, wheelwright and waggon-works until the introduction of modern lorries. The 60ft high chimney was taken down around 1964.



The earth was brought to the village by tramways and dried on steel plates with flues under the floor. The four doors of the kilns are still to be seen on the west side of the building. The mill was conveniently sited alongside the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway, possibly with its own siding. The first floor level hatch on the south side of the building could have been for loading directly into railway wagons, or (perhaps) to receive buckets from the suggested aerial ropeway from Hassage Hill.

It may have been abandoned because the workable seams of fuller's earth at Wellow were too thin, but there also appears to have been no grinding facilities there - necessary for the expanding American oil refining market. It was the most prestigious building built in this area for the fuller's earth industry, and there is now planning permission to turn it into an attractive open-plan home, making use of some of the original features. The 40ft living hall, for instance, will have the exposed Victorian steel trusses, while the ruins of the chimney base will be used as a staircase. This room and the kitchen will have windows on three sides, taking full value of the fine southerly views.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

The Survey of Old Bath

The Survey of Old Bath is a research venture which first adopted its title in 1979. Its aims are to study the topography of old Bath, and the lives of its actual citizens. The Chapman family has been chosen as its sample group, although it welcomes information on other Bath families. The Survey has published a number of historically reconstructed maps, brought out with funding from B&NES, and also other booklets and articles. It works on commission as well as on a voluntary basis.

The Survey has been involved in a number of projects this year. In January Mike and Elizabeth appeared on TV in connection with the study of Ralph Allen's Town House. There then came the interview with Dr. John Wroughton for *Bath History* XI. They also joined with Colin Johnston to write an article for the same magazine on the Georgian Horse Bath. As well they worked on the forthcoming exhibition on Holloway at the Museum of Bath at Work, to be launched on 2 April 2009. In June they contributed to the display put on by the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group at Widcombe Rising - see the letter from Ralph Oswick.

Elizabeth has now written an article as a supplement to the *Bath History* interview, published in this issue of the *Survey*. To write on military affairs is a change for the Survey, but most of its basic work on the topography of the old city has been done, and while working towards publication, Mike and Elizabeth look forward to enlarging their scope, and taking an interest in the lives of present-day citizens of Bath, and their activities before coming to Bath.

Elizabeth has kept aside a description of Farnborough aerodrome before the steel fence was built around it. Mike was stationed next to the aerodrome at one time, and one of the Friends at both Aldershot and Farnborough. A neighbour was recently telling Elizabeth how he passed a luxurious National Service in a well-heated Panzer barracks in Germany. Perhaps all this social history can appear in the next issue of the *Survey*. Has anyone else any particular memories of Aldershot, Farnborough, or National Service in general?

Records of Bath History Vol.1 is now published, and is discussed under 'Publications'. For Vol.2 the Survey hopes to extend the medieval map in *The Spa Quarter of Bath*, and assemble as many medieval deeds as possible under different locations.

Friends of the Survey of Old Bath

On 25 October 2007 at the Lunchtime Lecture Malcolm Hitchcock spoke on 'Fifty years of Council Housing in Bath' at St. Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick, with many illustrations. An outline of the talk by Chairman Stephen Marks was included in the Survey's February newsletter. Malcolm repeated the talk later at the Bathwick Local History Society and several of the Friends went to hear it again. An article on his researches will be included in *Bath History* XI.

The 15th AGM of the Friends of the Survey took place at St. Mary's on 18 April, with Stephen Marks in the Chair and refreshments as always served by Mrs. Hazel Symons and her helpers. Allan Keevil spoke on the Saxon boundaries of Lyncombe and Widcombe, with the aid of a number of slides presenting map sections. Various listeners afterwards thanked him personally for his scholarly presentation. An article summing up his work is published in this issue of the *Survey*, and some colour illustrations of the Saxon sites named have also been gathered together, with thanks to Anthony Brannan especially for our cover picture.

Mrs. Gillian Cope resigned from the committee, and was thanked for all she had done for the Friends of the Survey since its inception. There is now a vacancy on the committee, and the post of Secretary is still vacant.

The bookstall was run by Leslie Holt for the last time. Thanks are due to him for all the work he has put

in. Mike has agreed to run the bookstall at the November Lunchtime Lecture, when Peter Carey will speak. Volunteers for this task will be welcome for future events.

The Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group

The group held its first meeting in 2008 on 10 April, at St.Mark's Community Centre. Mrs.Margaret Burrows spoke on Frederick Stevens, born at Holloway, Bath. He won a scholarship to King Edward's School, then in Broad Street. The school was at a low ebb, described in Dr.John Wroughton's history of the establishment. However additions had been made to the curriculum and Stevens was able to learn Drawing as one of his subjects. He was then apprenticed to Edward Davis, architect, about whom Michael Forsyth has written in *Bath History*. Later he became a noted architect of Victorian buildings in India.

The talk was illustrated with slides, some taken by Margaret Burrows herself in India. The power failed for part of the talk, but this only added to the gaiety of the evening, as the speaker continued unperturbed.

On 8 May Mrs.Mackay spoke on her experiences farming in the district. She and her husband at one time rented the farm buildings off Ralph Allen's Drive, part of the site of the present Priory Close. The suggestion has been made that these were once Ralph Allen's stables, but according to John Wood, and others, the stables and farm buildings of Prior Park Mansion were situated in the west wing. The buildings do not appear on the sale plan of 1828, reproduced in Peter Cornwall's book. Efforts kindly made by the diocesan archivist could not find any immediate sale of the land by Bishop Barnes, and there is a possibility that these buildings were erected to replace the newly converted west wing. Mrs.Mackay also farmed in Lyncombe Vale, and at Smallcombe Farm.

On Sunday 8 June a small group had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs.Robson at their house at 7 Widcombe Terrace and hearing the history of the house and viewing the garden. It was an extremely hot day, rare this year, or the attendance would have been greater.

Widcombe Rising, a local street revel organised by the Natural Theatre Company, was held on 15 June. The group ran a stall, manned by Mrs.Doreen Collyer and other members. Widcombe Rising had a village theme this year and the table displayed pictures and text on local fairs, with items such coconuts and gingerbread. A number of copies of pictures of local interest were sold, as well as copies of the *Survey* containing articles by Doreen Collyer and Alistair Durie. The table was very well attended, as mentioned in Ralph Oswick's letter in 'Correspondence'.

In July a walk around Holloway was led by Doreen Collyer and Margaret Burrows, with contributions from other members. In September Doreen Collyer will speak on 'Famous Residents' of the area, as in her exhibition at St.Mark's last year. In October there will be a group discussion on Holloway.

On 13 November Mike Chapman will speak on 'Old-time Fairs and Village Revels', drawing on his studies already published in the *Survey*. It is hoped to reuse some of the Widcombe Rising display - at St.Mark's Church, 7.30 p.m.

December 11th will see the usual mince-pie evening at the home of Margaret Burrows.

The Batheaston Society

In October, 2007, members heard Professor June Hannam of the University of the West of England talk about the Blathwayt family of Eagle House, Batheaston, who, in the early years of the 20th century, welcomed many prominent suffragettes to their home to recuperate. Mary Blathwayt and her mother, Emily, kept diaries whilst Col.Blathwayt took numerous photographs. The diaries, now at Dyrham Park, and the photographs, still in Batheaston, constitute important primary material on the suffragette movement in south west England.

A few copies of Mrs Dobbie's book, *A Nest of Suffragettes in Somerset*, published by the Society in 1979,

have come to light and are available for sale, price £5, including postage, from the Society's Archivist, Ron Russell (01225 859357).



Left to right, suffragettes Annie Kenney, Mary Blathwayt and Emmeline Pankhurst planting a commemorative tree at Eagle House, Batheaston, 16 April, 1910

(courtesy The Batheaston Society Archives)

Other talks so far this year were given by Andrew Swift (Bath in the Great War), Alan Dodge (village life and government in the 18th Century), John Wroughton (Tudor Bath), Shirley Hodgson (family history) and Paul De'Ath (Batheaston in old photographs). Forthcoming talks will be given by Rob Mimmack (the Batheaston robbery of 1842) and Alan Wakefield (Christmas in the trenches).

The Society usually plans for two annual visits, one, an all day visit, already held this year to Winchester, the other an evening visit, which is due in September to Bradford on Avon under the expert guidance of Pam and Ivor Slocombe.

The programme of publications is continuing with three books on Bailbrook, the Batheaston robbery of 1842 and the roads of Batheaston respectively, in the pipeline.

Ron Russell, July 2008.

The Bathwick Local History Society

Lots of exciting things have happened to us this year! As previously announced, on Friday 6 June we launched our second publication on Bathwick history, *Bathwick: Echoes of the Past*. The event took place at Bath Central Library and was attended by over 100 members and friends. The speakers were Dr. Michael Forsyth, Director of Post-Graduate Studies, Department of Architecture, University of Bath and Ann Buchanan, Local History Studies Officer at the library. A display of images from the book was set up in the library by our members. Library staff staged a special exhibition of various 18th century documents relating to the (proposed) construction of Pulteney Bridge and letters written by William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, to his great friend Mrs. Elizabeth Montague.

On 14 July we journeyed to Westminster Abbey to see the memorials of members of the Pulteney family who are buried there. The day marked the 200th anniversary of the death of Henrietta Laura Pulteney, Countess of Bath, who died at her residence, Bath House, Piccadilly, London, on 14 July 1808. Henrietta Laura, her father, William Johnstone Pulteney, and mother, Frances, are all buried in the South cloister, although strangely there are no monuments or inscriptions to mark their graves. Nearby though, is a very large and grand memorial to Daniel Pulteney, father of Frances and grandfather of Henrietta. William Pulteney (1684-1764), Earl of Bath, is buried in the Islip Chapel in the North aisle. It was he who

purchased Bathwick from the Earl of Essex in 1726.

We also saw the elegant memorial to Major John André who was executed as a British spy during the American War of Independence. Some 50 years after his death his remains were repatriated and received into the Abbey for burial in the South aisle. Major André's mother and two sisters eventually retired to Bath from London and lived at No.22 The Circus. They are buried in Bathampton Churchyard. Our tour was kindly arranged and led by Dr. Michael Rowe. Later, after attending Evensong, we were met in the Jerusalem Chamber by Canon Robert Reiss, Canon in Residence at the Abbey, who gave us a short history of this special place.

At the time of writing there is much development going on in Bathwick and a close eye is being kept on the area by the city archaeologists. It is hoped that in due course we shall have news of any historic finds. One discovery of some note found during shrub clearance at Sham Castle in April this year, is a large stone or marker post bearing lettering. The shrub clearance project was initially organised by Bathwick Cllr. Nicholas Coombes, and soon after the stone was uncovered by National Trust workmen it was seen by Gill Huggins of Bathampton Local History Research Group who quickly recognised it as of local historical importance. Because of its location on the Bathwick side of the boundary with Bathampton she told us about it and also informed Robert Sermon, B&NES Archaeologist, Robert Whitaker and Mike Chapman.

When found the stone was lying on its side, presumably where it had fallen sometime previously. It has since been re-erected in a position calculated to correspond with a stone indicated on the 1886 OS map. However there is much more to discover about this relic, especially as it is possible that there is another similar one waiting to be uncovered nearby.

Enquiries: 01225 463902 or 460389

**Sheila Edwards
July 2008**



The stone re-erected at Sham Castle in May 2008.
On the side are the letters:

**B
C W
N 14**

Editor's Note.

This was one of the spring boundary markers set up in the 18th century by the Bath Corporation Waterworks. Unusually, on another face there is some scroll lettering, (yet to be identified), which may suggest that at some time the stone served an additional purpose.

The Combe Down Heritage Society

The Society continues to thrive and diversify and we now have some 180 members. The stabilisation of the stone mines, now entering its final year, involves work towards the conservation of stone mining

heritage and has taken up much of our time and energy. The Planning Application for the mine infilling included provision for archives and an interpretative site and we are delighted to have confirmation now that there will be a Visitor Centre here in Combe Down which will have a small part of the mine available for future access. a 'legacy group' has been formed to co-ordinate the visitor centre, a public art project and a commemorative book.



A stone quarry crane

Though somewhat preoccupied with stone quarrying, our researches continue on a broad base. Two projects have made good progress in the last year. Recording the history of our shops (as many as 50 have been identified) began with a well-attended workshop at which many members contributed information which is being put into a database to be published locally. The work of our Oral history group of course comprised the major part of the shops research but they also achieved a major scoop by having a long interview with the well known, 110 year old, Harry Patch who once lived in Combe Down.



Ing's the grocers

William Smith, The Father of English Geology, having completed his work on the Somersetshire Coal Canal, opened a Stone Quarry here. The site of this quarry has been the subject of debate and we plan a small excavation in front of the main contender to look for signs of his tramway which took stone down to Tucking Mill, by the canal near Monkton Combe.



**Wm.Smith's quarry
entrance**

Our researches also continue into the drungs, historic public realm features, buildings, and Roman remains, and surface features of mines. These activities are run by the Committee, which meets monthly, and with the involvement of a number of members. Progress reports and details of all our activities are available at the Stone Mines Information Centre.

Community involvement is at the core of our activities. We hold monthly talks, open to all, mostly from outside speakers, on topics which are usually related to local history; we also have several popular excursions. We recently went 30 metres underground in a Corsham quarry which had been prepared to accommodate the British government in the event of nuclear war in the 1950s. There were amazing facilities for several thousand personnel including a hospital, two large dining halls and a telephone exchange, this alone covering half an acre! Of our frequent Guided Walks which are mostly arranged for visiting specialist groups, one of these is now an annual event, being part of the 'Bath Open Week' programme. We continue to publish a quarterly Newsletter to members.

In collaboration with the Jewish community, with whom we formed the 'Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground', our researches continue. Our 'Open Day' on the cemetery, also part of 'Bath Open Week', was again well attended and had an enhanced historical display included a 'Tombstone Trail' guiding visitors around the 50 or so graves, many having what was known of their occupants displayed. Ownership of the site has now been established and our plans for restoration are going ahead. This was Bath's only Jewish cemetery and this will be a major project.

We acknowledge support from the Bath and North East Somerset Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Stone Mines Community Association.

Malcolm Aylett

The History of Bath Research Group

The History of Bath Research Group has recently completed another successful programme of talks and walks for the 2007-2008 season. Subjects covered included Bath fountains, Bath prisons and Bath wartime airfields. Much was described about lost ways of life in the city.

The Lost Pubs of Bath work by Kirsten Elliott and Andrew Swift was used as the basis of a presentation on research resources and method. A presentation on 'Sundials around Bath' revealed some ancient items unknown to most present and showed just how easily such things are lost. For example, there used to be thirteen on the south side of Bath Abbey alone. Now there seem to be none in that location.

The walks in Lyncombe Vale and over Hampton Down were not only enjoyable but opened up all manner of questions and requests for written pieces. This was particularly with respect to the Iron age and Roman

remains of buildings on the down, along with the scars of quarrying for the building of the city throughout all ages.

Over the last twelve months much progress has been made in extending the HBRG website, www.historyofbath.org.uk. This is now slowly beginning to fulfil its purpose of providing a conduit, for people with an interest in Bath history, to the best sources of information and research material. The more it is visited the more likely it will feature on Google.

The group is now beginning to explore the major task of digitising its extensive collection of Bath Post Office directories so that they become accessible electronically for research purposes. This is an expensive and complex task and will be time-consuming but well worth while.

For further information on this and other matters please contact HBRG through the website.

Michael Rowe

The Larkhall History Society

In July the *Chronicle* reported a presentation held by the Society at St.Saviour's Church. Ted Lewis, aged 93, recounted the history of the church which was built by Government grant and consecrated in 1832. The *Chronicle* devoted a page to this presentation, Thursday 24 July, p.76, which provides a valuable source for the history of St.Saviour's.

Ted Lewis himself was at Dunkirk in 1940, linking up with Appendix I of Elizabeth's article in this issue of the Survey. He also served in Egypt, North Africa and Sicily. A member of the Royal Artillery, he took part in further campaigns after the war.

For the next event, an archaeological talk was scheduled. The Larkhall History Society meets at 6.30 p.m. at St.Mark's School, Larkhall, on the second Monday of each month.

The South Stoke Local History Group

During the year the Group hosted three well-attended lectures:

9 February 2007 Dr.Alan Dodge, 'Life & Government in a Georgian Village'
2 November 2007 Dr.John Wroughton, 'Tudor Bath'
15 February 2008 Dr.Graham Davis, 'Competing Images of Victorian Bath'

For most of 2007 and the early part of 2008 three of our members completed the transcription of the first volume of churchwardens' accounts (1662-1776) of the parish church of St.James the Great. Our transcription of volume 2, (1777-1893) was published in 2006. In all probability there was at least one other volume of accounts but evidence suggests that the earlier volume(s) was lost during the 'great storm' of 1703. Research on several aspects of the accounts books has now commenced. The accounts offer a view of life in the small parish of South Stoke over 230 years sometimes revealing the personalities and even the stature of incumbents, the treatment of the poor, fauna in the parish much of which was treated as vermin, as well as the collection and distribution of the church rate and the poor rate. Copies, in CD-ROM format, of the transcriptions of both volumes will be lodged with the B&NES and Somerset Record Offices for public access.

Also during 2008 a member of our history group and churchwarden Commander Christopher Parsons has published in limited edition *The Parish Church of St.James the Great, South Stoke, in the Diocese of Bath & Wells* - A guide and history from Saxon Times to the Twentieth Century (AD 961-1974). Copies of the book have been donated to the B&NES Record Office and the Bath Central Library.

Robert T.Parfitt
South Stoke, 13 August 2008

NOTES AND QUERIES

Semprini

Bill Chislett's article on Semprini is particularly interesting to us as Elizabeth heard Semprini play in Bath. The date was probably the late 1960s. Bill has checked the sources but cannot find a reference to this concert: perhaps it was a special charity concert at Bath College, given in its hall.

Elizabeth used to lecture there and passing by one day, she heard Semprini practising upstairs, so she sat down to listen. Mrs.Semprini came down the stairs and, gratified, said, 'Ah! So you've started to listen already!'

Marshal Wade et al

In order to include the article referring to the interview in *Bath History*, it was necessary to omit the proposed comments on Marshal Wade's house. However the point has been made. No researcher can find any connection between Marshal Wade and that site. The known leaseholders, some of whom definitely lived there, are listed in Mrs.Inskip's index in the Record Office. It seems possible that the use of his name is due to a confusion with Nicholas Wade, who held a pub called the Crown at the west side of Stalls Churchyard.

It would be interesting to trace the vagaries of staircases in the 'Marshal Wade' building. Perhaps someone interested in modern house construction would care to do so. They would be welcome to use our files.

As for Sally Lunn's, also omitted, the point has also been made there. It was built by lease of 1622, with five years to build. We do not accept that its present basement was formerly its ground floor. The way to the Abbey Orchard ran down on the south side of a house which already stood at the east end of what came to be called Lilliput Alley, and which according to a document of 1739 must have stood at about the same level as the street today, i.e. it must have been built on top of the rampart inside the wall which Marek Lewcun has described in his studies of the city walls. The Old Post House was at the same level as today. The land between it and the rampart wall must have been levelled up as necessary, *before* building further.

The way through to the Bowling Green *may* have run at basement level: the owner of the house in question, on the east side of Sally Lunn's, may well not have wished the public to pass through his main premises.

Nor do we believe Sally Lunn's was built facing north, as there was no reason for this when it was built. The Bowling Green did not appear until later, when the back of Sally Lunn's might well have been refaced.

In our view Sally Lunn's should be accepted as having always been much as it is today. At the moment we do not feel it is likely we shall write about it again!

Frog Data

We mentioned that frogs seemed to be in short supply, and blamed the local heron. However it is reported that both frogs and toads have been suffering from some kind of bug, which has been carrying them off in the way in which infection reduced the population of native bees a few years ago.

Frogs are still to be seen around, and we hope these survivors are going to flourish.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters Page Editor: Leslie Holt

April 2008

Dear Leslie,

I should like to thank Allan Keevil for his excellent illustrated talk on the Saxon boundaries of Lyncombe & Widcombe on Friday 18 April. I'm sure I speak for all those present in saying what a fascinating presentation he gave us. He had researched his subject in a scholarly and detailed manner which was enhanced by his use of various phrases taken from the 970 AD Grant of Edgar being spoken in Anglo-Saxon! I hope this talk will be published in due course.

As Gill Cope has now resigned from the Committee, I should also like to thank her for all the hard work and commitment she has put in over the years.

Finally, many thanks are due to Hazel Symons who, with Gill, has organised welcome refreshments at this meeting and on many occasions in the past.

My thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Priscilla Olver

July 2008

Dear Ms.Holland,

We are glad that the History Study Group enjoyed Widcombe Rising. There seemed to be a lot of interest in your display! We were pleased to receive today a donation towards our funds. Thank you for that. Please accept this as the official receipt.

The next Widcombe Rising will be in 2010, when we hope to link in to the 200th anniversary of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Best wishes,

Ralph Oswick
Co-organiser

August 2008

Dear Ms Holland,

Many thanks for your notes on and references to members of the Parfitt family in Bath. Hopefully in the autumn I should be able to follow them up. The Parfitt family (as the name suggests) appears to have entered Britain and settled in Somerset not long after the Conquest. The name is still located predominantly in Somerset. My branch of the family that came from Easton in Gordano were mainly pilots and mariners. Recently I have been exploring the Merchant Venturers' archive in Bristol on aspects of pilotage on the Severn. I am also investigating Mns.Charles Parfitt (no near relation) who spent time at Prior Park & Midford Castle.

Yours sincerely,

Robert T Parfitt, Professor

June 2008

Dear Elizabeth,

The references I promised you are not to horse baths as such but to horse watering places - i.e. places in the river where horses were taken to have a good drink of water and be washed. Sometimes carriages were washed there as well. For example *Bath Journal* 25 Nov.1745 mentions a servant driving a chaise into the watering place at the bottom of Avon Street to wash it, but says that driver, horse and chaise had

been swept away by the current.

BJ 24 Dec.1750 tells of another fatality at the same spot when horse and servant got out of their depth. The report says there used to be railings round the spot to prevent horses going in too far, and thinks that railings should be re-erected. Nothing was done and a post-chaise driver drowned there when 'watering' his horses after a journey - *BJ* 27 Jan.1755. So did a boy when he rode his horse in too deep - *BJ* 20 Aug.1767.

People and horses were still drowning at the Avon Street slip in the 1790s - e.g. *BJ* 9 Jan.1792, 31 Jul.1797 (a boy from an inn washing a horse in the slip). In 1796 the Corporation set up a committee on the subject, but a subscription for railing the watering place at the bottom of Avon Street was stopped because it wasn't in the Corporation's jurisdiction (I don't understand that) - *BJ* 15 and 22 Feb.1796.

There was another dangerous watering place near the old bridge - *BJ* 11 Jun.1753, 23 Nov.1789, 24 Jan.1791, 6 Feb.1792, 8 Feb.1796 (another boy riding his horse into the river to wash it) - but the 1796 subscription probably failed to produce the £30 cost of railing it. *BJ* 31 Jul.1797 says a meeting was being called at the White Hart to get the Corporation to rail all the dangerous spots immediately, yet in 1797 another man drowned watering his horse near the Old Bridge - *BJ* 21 Feb.1799.

The Walcot Street watering place lay at the back of the Packhorse Inn, but I can't lay my hands on the references at the moment.

Best wishes,

Trevor Fawcett

September 2008

Dear Elizabeth

The Bath in Time project is progressing very well, with close to 10,000 historic images of the city and surrounding villages now digitised and available online. As you may know, I am working through the collection of the Bath Preservation Trust as well as Bath Central Library, and have completed the Lesley Green-Armytage slide collection (1,584 images), about 80% of the Peter Coard Collection (1,055 so far) as well as numerous other fascinating images.

You may have also heard, that following the relocation of the *Bath Chronicle* from Windsor Bridge, Bath Central Library have taken on their archive. This is a massive logistical exercise, and involves securing new premises for their safe storage. In the immediate future, access will be limited, although the entire collection of negatives, most choice historic images, and the microfilms are now in Bath Central Library. In the longer term, the collection will be integrated, however this is unlikely to happen for a while. I have cherry picked what images I could find during the move, and have already made 414 available online. This includes probably the most comprehensive collection of images available from the Bath Blitz (279 so far).

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Brown

PUBLICATIONS

Records of Bath History Vol.1 has now been published. A limited number of copies has been printed, to place at libraries and in Bath Record Office. Copies of the book are also available from Mike (address p.1), or of the printed map, and of the CD containing the text and map together.

The map consists of the Ralph Allen Estate Map, inverted so that north is at the top, and presented in colour by Mike Chapman. The schedule numbers have been written in, including those previously omitted, but relocated through the research of John Hawkes.

The text includes the schedule to the Widcombe and Bathampton areas of the map. The Claverton terrier is missing. It also includes the Widcombe Vestry Survey of 1737, bound in with the other two in Bath Record Office.

There is a selection of illustrative documents, including Long v. Fisher 1656. All this material has been published by permission of Bath Record Office, whereas the text of 'The Life of Richard Jones' comes by courtesy of Bath Central Library.

The Introduction puts the point that volumes of 'Records' usually deal with the whole of one document, or with the whole of a collection. However the Survey is a mapping venture, and looks for documents which illustrate a given map: they have therefore chosen a selection. The Survey argues that its papers are its own 'records', and it is better to publish its transcripts, or its arrangements of given deeds, than to give them *en masse* to Bath Record Office unpublished.

We have discussed, often, what steps could be taken to publish Mrs.Inskip's notes on the deeds of the old city, especially Furman's *Repertory*. However we are always daunted by the necessity of taking each deed out again and checking it, and so, of course, was Mrs.Inskip. We are therefore continuing simply to draw on the Survey's own files.

Bath History XI is expected in December 2008, edited by Professor Graham Davis. The format will be slightly larger than in the first series, recently edited by Dr.Brenda Buchanan, and there will be some colour illustrations. According to present plans, the articles will begin with the interview involving Dr.John Wroughton and Elizabeth, already featured in our pages. Next should come the study of the two Horse Baths in which Mike and Elizabeth have joined with Colin Johnston, who discovered new material on the Georgian Horse Bath earlier this year.

Other articles will include Malcolm Hitchcock's study of Council Housing in Bath, Jan Chivers on the Casualty Hospital, and Graham Davis on 'Crime and Criminal Portraits'. Stuart Burroughs will write on Gustav Horstmann, and Tim Bullamore on Yehudi Menuhin. There will also be pieces by Katharine Wall on 'The Crescent As It Might Have Been', and Eleanor Murphy and others on the rôle of Bath Preservation Trust. Shorter contributions, referred to as 'Highlights' will feature as authors, Michael Rowe, Ann Buchanan of Bath Central Library, and Dr.Lucy Rutherford of the Abbey Archives.

With John Wroughton, Colin Johnston, Malcolm Hitchcock, Mike and Elizabeth, the Survey and the Friends are well represented, and we hope all the Friends will be ordering this volume for Christmas, so as to help ensure the continuance of this valuable title.

Georgian Imprints: Printing and Publishing at Bath 1729-1815, by Trevor Fawcett (Ruton 2008, ISBN 0-9526326-4-0), A4 format, 120 pp., over 100 b/w illustrations, £9.00

An often overlooked, yet vital trade quietly flourished amid the architectural splendours, visitor amenities and spa rituals of Georgian Bath. By the later 18th century local printing skills matched any in the country and a surprising mix of publications tumbled off the presses from sermons, poetry and guidebooks to medical treatises, magazines and romantic fiction. *Georgian Imprints* covers all this in some detail, aided by copious illustrations. It follows the careers of notable local printers, and describes the typical printing office in this age of hand-set type and the laborious wooden printing press. It touches on relations with authors and the London end of the book trade, as well as paying special attention to key publications.

Examples here include John Wood's *Description of Bath*, the lively verse satires of Christopher Anstey, the beautifully printed Bishop Wilson *Bible*, Collinson's county history of Somerset, several works on natural history, the first bowdlerised *Family Shakespeare*, and Hannah More's famous series of *Cheap Repository Tracts*. The production of ephemeral items such as handbills, stationery, leaflets and posters, the staple business of some printers, is also given its due, as is the important history of Bath newspapers from the *Bath Journal* established in 1744 to the four competing weeklies that existed by 1815.



Available from:

Mr.B's Emporium of Reading Delights, 14-15 John Street, Bath, or from Topping's Bookshop, 4 Bladud Buildings, Bath, or from the publisher, 25 Northampton Street, Bath.

Trevor has also published a number of articles in *The Bath Magazine*, including one on Thomas Goulding, a keen admirer of George II, also 'The Old Riding School', Julian Road, and lately a study of the rôle of horses in the Georgian world. Trevor's articles are based on his own original research.

Bathwick: Echoes of the Past (Bathwick Local History Society and Millstream Books 2008, ISBN 978-0-948975-84-4), 104 pp., 142 b/w plates, £9.50p

In their excellent book *Bathwick, a Forgotten Village*, which was published in 2004, the compilers hinted in the very last sentence that there could be a future volume and here it is - just four years later.

After a short chapter about old Bathwick's status as manor and then parish, the new volume rightly takes up the story in 1767 when William Johnstone Pulteney's wife Frances inherited the estate. William saw the advantages of making something more of the property but access from the city was the problem. Even after the construction of one of Europe's most interesting bridges, many hold-ups - financial, political and practical - meant that development was very slow and it wasn't until 1788 that the cornerstone was laid in

Laura Place to mark the beginning of Bath's 'New Town'. As we know today, the New Town was never completed to Thomas Baldwin's plans but over time subsequent development brought much change to this small parish.

The new book follows Bathwick's fortunes across 200 years from the building of Pulteney Bridge to the flood of 1968 through family connection; church building and re-building; the advent of universal education; leisure and pleasure; trade and industry; good times and bad. From the 1820s changes came about through sociological demands - a growing population meant more housing requirements like the later Forester Road estate; more burial space was needed, hence Smallcombe Cemetery. Historical events also played their part, as in the financial collapse during the 1790s, or the threat of invasion from France in 1803 which called for a local militia whose Volunteers drilled on Villa Fields. The parish was fined £60 for being three men short in what seems like a rehearsal for *Dad's Army* 140 years later.

Like the first Bathwick book, this volume is packed with many illustrations. These include maps and plans, excellent photos of places and people, documents, portraits, aerial views and newspaper cuttings, all positioned near the relevant texts. Many of the places are recognisable today - but alas, the picturesque 'hanging loos' of the older properties are no more. Changing styles and fashions are well illustrated too in the photos, from the bearded and moustachioed men of 1910 to the rugby players of 1923 and on to the smiling schoolchildren of 1968.

All these details throw a fascinating light on Bathwick's past and the two books taken together offer a very comprehensive look at the parish. Congratulations then to the editors who drew up the Index which covers both volumes and to all the researchers and contributors who produced this very readable and well-presented account of the story of Bathwick.

Doreen Collyer, July 2008

Meanwhile, a few Notes and Queries are prompted by *Bathwick, a Forgotten Village* and *Bathwick: Echoes of the Past*.

- There are a lot of familiar names running through Bathwick's history. Not counting all the extended Pulteney family and the local and national architects - including Thomas Fuller, a Bath man, who designed the C.of E. Chapel in Smalcombe Cemetery just before he went off to Canada where he became Chief Architect to the Public Works for the Government and designer of the Parliament building in Ottawa. Amongst the other names we find Moses Pickwick's coaching and stable business in Grove Street and Dr.Anthony Brabazon, Bath's Medical Officer of Health in the late 19th century. Any connection to the aeroplane of the same name?
- Vellore House was home to the Reverend Charles Kemble the Rector of Bath and he was the maternal grandfather of Cyril Connolly, author and critic, whose 1938 book *Enemies of Promise* was widely acclaimed.
- Does anyone know why the letter 's' was often printed like the letter 'f'? And sometimes even in the same word. Old books and documents are the worst culprits.
- The reference to 'Dad's Army' above is not too far-fetched - Bathwick had its own Captain (Rowland) Mainwaring in 1817 (p.33).
- And finally - Robert Adam's Pulteney Bridge, and his other (rejected) ideas for Bath's 'New Town' preceded his Charlotte Square in Edinburgh's New Town by about 20 years.

D.C.

Editor's Note.

The long 's', which looks like the letter 'f', developed in formal documents in Carolingian times. Being in cursive style, it originally had an upstroke on the left side, resembling a tail rather than the cross-bar of the letter 'f'. It was a standard convention, both in written and printed form, where a word began with an 's' or contained a double 's', (appearing as 'fs'). It seems to have fallen out of use at the beginning of the 19th century, but was retained (without the tail) by mathematicians to represent the word 'sum' (∫) in integral calculus.

Bath Abbey Cemetery

Widcombe Association's Cemetery Working Party has produced a volume of over 2,000 pages documenting the memorial inscriptions at Bath Abbey Cemetery, Widcombe. Copies on CD will be available to be consulted at Bath Abbey and at the Record Office, the Guildhall.

WARSHIPS ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF BATH DURING WORLD WAR II

Notes by W.H.A.Chislett

In World War II the City of Bath adopted two warships, *HMS Bath* and *HMS Jervis*.

HMS Bath was adopted by the City of Bath in 1941 and the citizens of Bath presented her with a solid silver cigarette box engraved on the lid with the City Coat of Arms and a silver Plaque, in March of that year. Both the cigarette box and plaque were displayed in E.P.Mallory & Son, Bridge Street, for all to view. The ship was lost later that year. For the duration of the war both items were held in safe keeping by the Commodore, RN Barracks, Chatham.

During Warship Week in November of 1941, *HMS Jervis* was adopted by the City who presented the ship with a book signed by the citizens of Bath that also listed all the subscribers. A replica of the ship's badge was presented to the City by the Admiralty in 1942. In exchange the Bath Corporation agreed that the Bath City Coat of Arms be prepared, and commissioned Frank Keevil & Sons of 18 St.Peter's Terrace, Lower Bristol Road to produce a carved and painted plaque that was presented to the ship in September 1942. After the ship was decommissioned in 1946 the adoption ceased and the plaque returned to the City in 1948.

Unlike *HMS Jervis* whose carved plaque was returned to the City after the war it is not clear as to whether the gifts presented to *HMS Bath* were ever returned. Enquiries at the City's Record Office, the Mayor's Office and the Victoria Art Gallery proved fruitless and the RN Trophy Room at Portsmouth advised that there are no records of the items being transferred from Chatham and deposited with them.

HMS Bath (Town class destroyer) Pennant number I17

HMS Bath was one of many United States ships exchanged under a Destroyers for military bases deal with the US Government signed in September of 1940. *Bath* (ex *USS Hopewell*) was one of the US Navy's Wickes class destroyers that were re-classified as Town Class destroyers by the Admiralty, and allotted the names of towns in Great Britain when they were transferred to the Royal Navy.

Brief Ship History

USS Hopewell Pennant number DD 181 was built by Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Newport News Virginia USA. Laid down 19 January 1918, launched 8 June 1918, commissioned 17 July 1919, decommissioned 17 June 1922 and laid up until 1940. As part of the Ships for Bases deal the ship was re-commissioned by the USN on 17 June 1940, decommissioned on the 23 September 1940 at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and recommissioned the same day by the Royal Navy as *HMS Bath*.

Bath sailed for Devonport via Newfoundland and Northern Ireland arriving on 10 October 1940. After a short refit she joined the First Minelaying Squadron at *HMS Trelawney* (a shore establishment) at the Kyle of Lochalsh. She carried out escort duties for minelaying sorties and major troop convoys, after which she sailed to Chatham for a refit 25 January 1941 - 12 April 1941. On completion of the refit *Bath* was lent to the Royal Norwegian Navy (*HNoMS Bath I17*).

Whilst part of the 5th Escort Group escorting convoy OG-71 bound for Gibraltar, the ship was unfortunately sunk on 19 August 1941, 400 miles off the coast of Ireland, by a German submarine *U204*. The Commanding Officer, Lt. Cdr. Fredik Melson and 88 members of the crew were lost.

Often referred to as four stackers (four funnels) or rust buckets, this class of ship was not popular with their crews. They had a reputation for their poor sea-keeping qualities, working badly in seaways, which made them uncomfortable and wet. Being narrow in the beam they rolled badly.

HMS Jervis

The City of Bath adopts a Warship Warship Week 21 - 28 November 1941

During Warship Week the City aimed to raise £750,000 for the provision of a fully equipped destroyer and exceeded the sum required by £41,000. As a result *HMS Jervis* was adopted by the City. (This was the second ship adopted by the City, *HMS Bath* being sunk in August 1941). During the week a special collection was also made by the Bath White Ensign Old Comrades Association towards the fund for the adoption of the ship.

Brief Ship History

HMS Jervis was a J Class Destroyer pennant number F 00 (Destroyer Leader) built by Hawthorne Leslie & Co. at Hebburn on Tyne. Ordered and laid down in 1937, launched in 1938, commissioned in 1939, paid off in 1946 and broken up in January 1949 by Arnott Young Co. Ltd., Port Bannatyne, Scotland.

At the outbreak of war and under the command of Captain Philip Mack *Jervis* was leader of the 7th Destroyer Flotilla based in the Humber. In March of 1940 the ship was in collision with the Swedish freighter *SS Tor* resulting in *Jervis* being in dock for three months.

In May of 1940 *Jervis* sailed for Mediterranean Sea and for the next two years was involved in a number of fleet actions including the battle of Matapan, the destruction of an Axis convoy off Sfax, the battle of Crete and the running of supplies to the beleaguered port of Tobruk. Damage by an Italian human torpedo whilst on passage back to Alexandria resulted in *Jervis* spending six weeks in dock.

In March of 1942 Captain Mack left the *Jervis* due to ill health and was replaced by Captain A.L.Pollard who took command, leading the 14th Destroyer Flotilla. 1943 saw the ship in action during the allied landings in Sicily, Calabria, Salerno and Anzio, including the Adriatic supporting the Eighth Army and the Yugoslav partisans.

On return to Britain in 1944 and after a re-fit *Jervis* saw action at the Normandy landings under the command of Lt.Commander Roger Hill. *HMS Jervis* gained the reputation of a lucky ship. Despite a long and active five and a half years of war service and thirteen major actions, not one of her crew was lost. Supporting the landings at Anzio in 1944 her bow was blown off. Amazingly not one of her crew was harmed in the incident.

Battle Honours

Mediterranean 1940-42; Libya 1940-42; Malta Convoys 1941-42; Matapan 1941; Sfax 1941; Crete 1941; Sirte 1942; Sicily 1943; Salerno 1943; Adriatic 1943; Aegean 1943; Anzio 1943, and Normandy 1944.

Note: HMS Jervis is not to be confused with *HMS Jervis Bay (F40)* a British liner converted to an armed Merchant Cruiser launched in 1922 and sunk 5 November 1940 by the German pocket battle ship *Admiral Scheer* whilst on convoy escort duties.

Acknowledgement/References

HMS Bath

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HMS Jervis

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Bath & Wilts Chronicle & Herald, 22-29 Nov. & 1 Dec. 1941
Ships of the Royal Navy by J.J.Colledge, revised 2003
Wikipedia web site

THE SAXON BOUNDARY OF CLIFTON
(virtually co-terminous with the civil parish of Lyncombe & Widcombe)

Allan Keevil

In 970 AD, King Edgar (who was to be crowned in the Saxon Abbey at Bath in 973 AD) granted to the church of St. Peter at Bath (the Abbey), Abbot Aescwig, and the monks there, 10 hides at *Cliftune* (in modern English, 'Clifton'), in exchange for 100 gold coins and 10 hides at *Cumtona* (probably Compton Dando). The grant, in Latin, followed by a survey in Anglo-Saxon of the bounds, is available only in a 12th-century copy, in a cartulary of the Monastery of Bath, preserved at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.¹

It is remarkable that after a thousand years salient parts of the bounds on the north, south, east and west sides are so similar to (in several parts identical with) those of the 19th-century civil parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe (for the sake of brevity, generally called 'Lyncombe'), i.e. the northern boundary along the River Avon; the eastern boundary beginning on Smallcombe Brook (which discharges into the Avon at the foot of Ferry Lane, Widcombe); the southern boundary along Horsecombe Brook and the Wansdyke; the whole of the western boundary along the Fosseway (the present Old Fosse Road at Odd Down being an 800-yard remaining fragment of the Roman road, but the rest of its original course to the river can still largely be identified).

Clifton is likely to have been so named, because its central feature, viewed from the city, is the great, dominant height of Beechen Cliff, rising precipitously steeply almost immediately south of the river, and also because, almost certainly, in 970 AD, its manorial centre or *caput* would have been situated in Holloway, immediately beside the towering cliff.

By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, the name of the manor had changed from *Cliftune* to *Lincuma* (Lyncombe), presumably because the manorial centre had been moved from beside the cliff in Holloway to Lyncombe Vale.

Much later in the medieval period, the estate became known as the Manor of Lyncombe and Widcombe and there is a MS survey of the 'Manor of Lyncombe and Widcombe' dated 1590,² to which reference will also be made, because, although it describes the bounds differently from the Saxon survey, its wording can occasionally be helpful in clarifying the interpretation of Saxon landmarks.

The earliest map of the Manor of Lyncombe & Widcombe showing the boundaries is that of 1799, by W.Charlton, when it belonged to the Feoffees of Bruton Hospital,³ a charitable foundation set up under the will of Hugh Sexey (an auditor under Queen Elizabeth I), who had purchased the manor. Subsequent maps follow its boundaries (differing, in some spots, from both the 970 and 1590 surveys, which also differ somewhat from each other).

Bounds

The Anglo-Saxon landmarks of the survey, prefixed '970', are numbered and set out below, with a translation, and occasional explanation, by Dr.G.B. Grundy,⁴ prefixed 'G', with the present writer's interpretation, where different from Grundy's, also given, and prefixed 'K'.

The relevant landmarks in the 1590 survey are likewise set out below, prefixed '1590'. The present writer's explanation of the 1590 survey, where required, is also prefixed 'K'.

1. (970) *Aerest afene stream healt thone north ende*

(G) 'First the River Avon bounds the grant on the north'

2. (970) *Of afene upp on smalancumbes broc*

(G) 'From the Avon up to the Brook of the Narrow Combe'

(K) 'From the Avon up on Smallcombe Brook' - which formerly ran down Ferry Lane to the river. The modern boundary still runs along Ferry Lane and Pulteney Gardens, as far as the canal near Abbey Lock, where it leaves the course of the brook.

3. (970) *Thonne on Aethelburge Weg*

(G) 'Then to Aethelburg's (*sic*) Way'

(K) There seems no doubt that Aethelburgh's Way was the present Widcombe Hill, at least up as far as the turning into Macaulay Buildings. The most likely Saxon lady of importance to have had this route named after her is Queen Aethelburgh, wife of the west Saxon king, Ine, who ruled 689-726 AD.⁵

Leaving the line of the brook at Abbey Lock, the modern boundary runs along Abbey View, past the eastern end of Tynning End, and continues, along various old hedge-lines, to join Widcombe Hill at a boundary stone on the south-eastern corner of the property called *Winfarthing*. The Saxon boundary may have followed the course of the brook further up Smallcombe Vale, perhaps to a point between the present Smallcombe Farm and Bathwick Cemetery, and thence to Widcombe Hill, beside *Winfarthing*.

(1590) 1. 'First from the uttermost bounds of Dolemead betwixt Bathweek's lordship and ours until wee come to Clartons Down'

(K) The modern boundary on Ferry Lane (line of Smallcombe Brook) marks the northern extremity of the present Dolemeads. The 1590 survey then continues straight to Claverton Down.

4. (970) *Thonne upp on Holan Weg*

(G) 'Then up to the Hollow Way'

(K) 'Then up on the Hollow Way' (sunken track to Claverton Down), which continues the line of Widcombe Hill, from beside Macaulay Buildings, and the modern boundary still follows it.

5. (970) *Thonne of Holan Weg suth on Ecge on Hygelaces Get*

(G) 'Then from the Hollow Way south to the Top of the Slope to Hygelac's Gate'

(K) 'Then, from the "Hollow Way", south to "the Edge" [of Claverton Down, where the curving strip of plantation called Rainbow Wood begins and follows the edge of the down], to "Hygelac's Gate"'.⁶

Grundy mistook the location of the 'Hollow Way', and consequently thought the Saxon surveyors were in error over the direction 'suth', but accepted that such directional errors were rare. It was, in fact, Grundy who was in error here.

The modern boundary turns almost due south from the 'Hollow Way' (thus satisfying the Saxon survey requirement), to the edge of the down, above Rainbow Wood House, but then immediately makes a right-angled turn eastwards, followed by a sharp-angled turn south-westward (of which directional changes the Saxon survey significantly makes no mention), to follow the path running in that direction to the North Road entrance (probable site of 'Hygelac's Gate'), where the civil parish boundaries of Lyncombe, Claverton and Monkton Combe meet.

However, the route of the modern boundary from 'the Edge' to 'Hygelac's Gate' cannot have been that of 970 AD. The Saxon boundary is more likely to have followed 'the Edge' for about 200 yards (to the extremity of its eastward curve), before turning slightly south-westward to the probable site of 'Hygelac's Gate' at the present North Road entrance, where the three parish boundaries meet.

(1590) 2. 'And from thence after a ditch called Wansditch [Wansdyke] lieng [lying] in the Parke Lawnde' (Lawn or grassy open space, often among woods; in this case the open down).

(K) In 1939, the 'Wansdyke' (of the 1590 survey) was still apparent on the down (now completely ploughed out and unmapped), running south-westward from near 'the Edge' (close to the eastern extremity of its curve), as far as an old quarry, although a further 300 ft. of it, beyond the quarry, continued to the North Road wall, to meet the modern boundary, practically opposite No.144, and about 300 yards west of the present North Road entrance. This short stretch was sketched by E.J. Burrow, viewed from the quarry.⁷

It is just possible that this Wansdyke route (from 'the Edge'), was the Saxon boundary to 'Hygelac's Gate' (300 yards further west along North Road than the present entrance). However, if so, it is curious that the Saxon surveyors did not mention it. They certainly followed the Wansdyke elsewhere along the boundary (as will be shown). The 12th-century copyist of the Saxon survey may possibly have inadvertently missed out this landmark. Alternatively, this earthwork on Claverton Down may not have been part of the Wansdyke (although thought to be so in 1590), but a much later medieval boundary, perhaps connected with the laying out of the Prior's and Bishop's Parks.

It has to be pointed out also, that in 1960, A.& C. Fox,⁸ in their detailed reappraisal of this earthwork, were convinced that the Somerset Wansdyke or 'West Wansdyke', as they called it, stretched, with certain interruptions, only between Maes Knoll and the Head of Horsecombe. If so, the bank (now ploughed out and no longer observable) on Claverton Down, known since at least 1590 as the Wansdyke, cannot have been that ancient earthwork. That would explain the absence of any reference to it in the 970 survey.

(1590) 3. 'untill wee come to the Crosse that parteth Coombes [Monkton Combe's] lordship and ours'

(K). This completes the landmark beginning 'And thence after a ditch called Wansditch ...', thus showing that it was a Cross on the boundary between the two parishes, manors, or lordships. The modern boundary runs westward along North Road to the road junction, at the top of Ralph Allen's Drive, where an ancient Cross formerly stood (as will be shown).

6. (970) *thonne on tunnes treow*

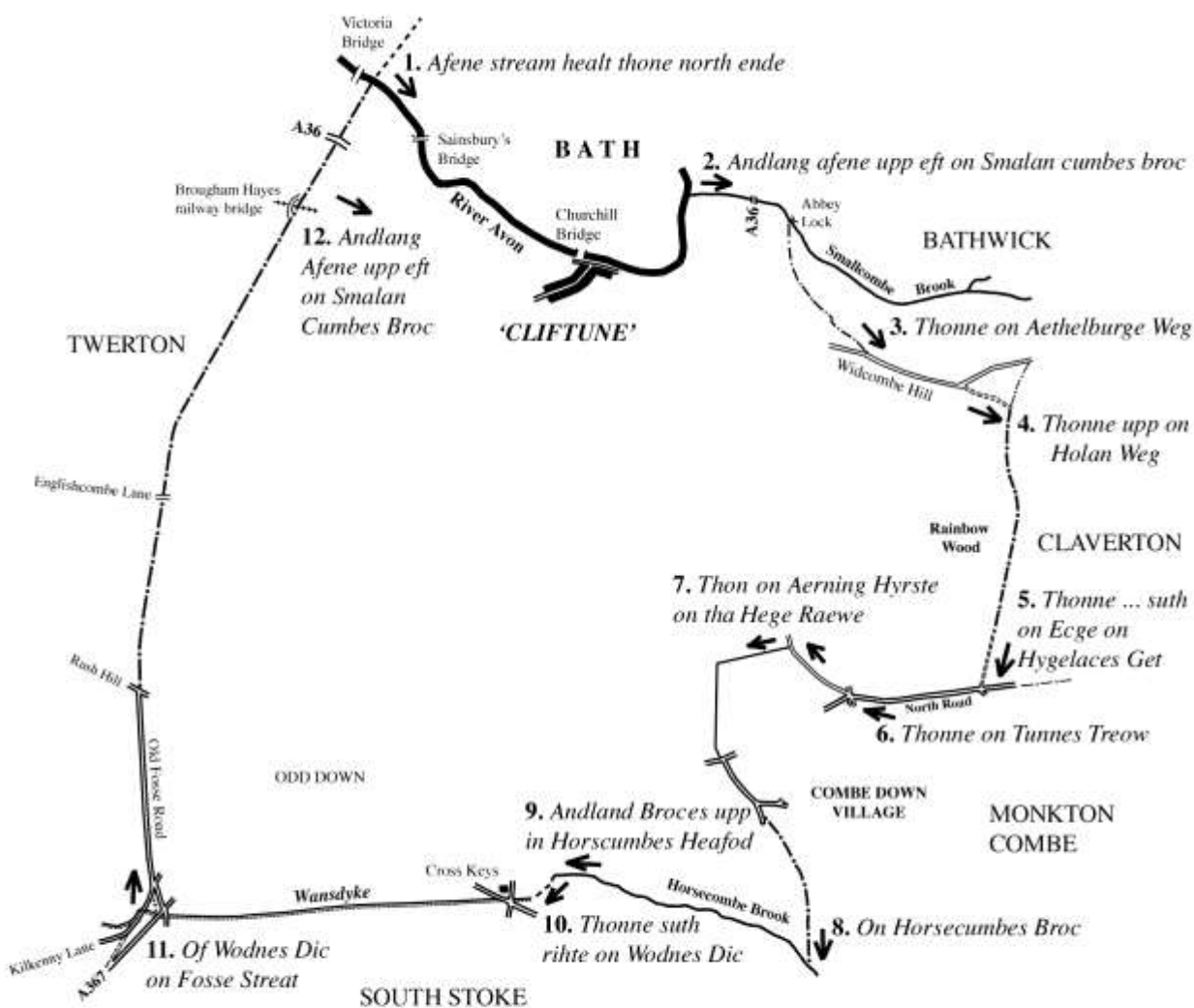
(G) 'Then to Tun's tree'

(K) The modern boundary runs from the present entrance to Rainbow Wood along North Road to the cross-roads at the top of Ralph Allen's Drive. The 1590 survey suggests that the so-called 'Wansdyke' (from its end at the present North Road wall) also followed the line of the modern boundary along the present North Road, to the top of the present Ralph Allen's Drive, where the Cross appears to have been situated.

The present writer believes that Grundy was mistaken in assuming 'tunnes' to be a personal name. Instead, *tunnes treow* should be interpreted as 'the manor's (or township's) Cross'⁹ (the one mentioned in the 1590 survey and probably the former 'St. Gregory's Cross'¹⁰ on Combe Down) - the manor or township being the Saxon '*Cliftune*' (the Domesday *Lincuma*).¹¹

John Wood, in his *Essay*, stated that 'St. Gregory's Cross' on Combe Down, was situated 'on the middle of the summit of that mountain, where it is still maintained by the name of 'Gregory's Cross',¹² believing that it was one of those erected by St. Augustine and his followers, as ordered to do so by Pope (Saint) Gregory, during their mission to convert the English. Wood probably meant that the name was 'still maintained' for the former site of the Cross.¹³ On the 1st edition of the 1-inch OS map, the name 'St. Gregory's Cross' appears beside 'Blind Lane', and in close proximity to the cross-roads, on the boundary, where North Road, Bradford Road, Ralph Allen's Drive, and The Avenue now all meet. On Thomas Thorpe's *Plan of the Estate belonging to Ralph Allen Esq. in the Parishes of Widcomb*

and Combe in the County of Somerset, surveyed in 1741, the former ground on the south-east side of the road junction above Prior Park, its north-west apex, meeting the junction, is ground No.164 in the schedule, described as 'Combe Field by ye Cross', being 'one of Widow Bushell's Freehold lands'.¹⁴ This is perhaps the clearest confirmation of where the Cross had stood in the landscape - on the Lyncombe boundary, and at the road junction there.



LANDMARKS FOLLOWED BY THE SAXON BOUNDARY SURVEY OF 'CLIFTON', LATER THE PARISH OF LYNCOMBE & WIDCOMBE

Charles Pooley refers to this Cross as the 'Lyncombe Cross' and says 'In the parish of Lyncombe was formerly an ancient Cross dedicated to St. Gregory, the patron of vineyards'.¹⁵ It is interesting to note that the Priory of Bath (the Abbey) possessed vineyards in only two of its Bath manors: Walcot and Lyncombe. 'St. Gregory's Cross' would seem to have marked one of the most distant parts of the boundary (against Monkton Combe), and at one of its highest points, 523.4 feet.

7. (970) *thon on aerning-hyrste on tha hege raewe*

(G) 'Then to the Riding (?) Copse to the Hedgerow (Row of Trees)'. In a note, however, Grundy adds that he strongly suspected 'Aerning' is the family name of some people who lived in or near an 'aern' or storehouse.

Andlang afene...

below: View downstream from Sainsbury's bridge of the site of Albion Wharf and the Roman crossing where the boundary joined the river; **right:** Beechen Cliff from Churchill Bridge. *Cliftune* (later Holloway) occupied the area visible through the arches of the viaduct; **bottom (left):** The end of Ferry Lane from North Parade. The outfall drain of Smallcombe Brook is just visible under the branches to the right; **(right)** The brook just upstream from Abbey Lock, where the boundary diverged towards Widcombe Hill.



(K) Grundy's 'Riding (?) Copse' seems nearer the mark than does his note. Anglo-Saxon Dictionaries certainly give *aerning* as a feminine noun meaning 'riding', 'cursus', 'equitatus' etc.; *hyrst* can mean 'wood', and is most frequently found in compounds. The 'Riding (?) Copse' route to the Hedgerow (whatever the exact interpretation of the Saxon wording) seems almost certainly to have been the present, banked 'Blind Lane' (from the former Cross), along which the modern boundary runs (formerly also bounding part of the medieval Prior Park estate on its eastern side, and thus possibly part of a 'ride' round the edge of a copse later absorbed by the Prior's Park), before making an almost right-angled, western turn, into an absolutely straight, former field boundary (perhaps the line of the Saxon *hege raewe*) for about 300 yards, before making a further turn (southwards). The whole of this part of the boundary, lying north of Bradford Road and to the south and east of the Fox Hill M.O.D. hutments, can be identified with the curious, almost wedge-shaped 'bite' into Lyncombe, of an area of Monkton Combe, and the boundary pattern seems to satisfy the requirements of the 970 survey.



Athelburge Weg ... upp on Holan Weg

left: Widcombe Hill, showing Macaulay Buildings (right) and the entrance to the 'Hollow Way' (centre). Just visible against the wall to the left is a white post marking the boundary with the parish of Bathwick.

.. thonne suth on Ecge ...

below left: View looking north along the footpath beyond Rainbow Wood which marks boundary with Claverton parish to the right



.. on Hygelaces Get

above: The entrance to Rainbow Wood from North Road, the possible site of 'Hygelac's Gate', now and the junction of the three civil parishes of Claverton, Monkton Combe and Lyncombe & Widcombe.

left: an enlargement of the above, showing two of the boundary stones marking the junction of the parishes.



.. on tunnes treow

left: The entrance to Ralph Allen's Drive from North Road, site of the Saxon 'Tun's Tree' (the manor or township's cross) and the junction of several ways at the summit of Combe Down. At this point the boundary turned northward along Blind Lane (visible behind the left pillar), which follows the edge of the Saxon 'Riding Wood'. The wall just visible in the right foreground still marks the corner of the field once known as 'Combe Field by ye Cross'.



.. thon on aerning-hyrste ...

left: Another part of Blind Lane which follows the ride along the edge of the Saxon 'Riding Wood'. This line was later adopted by the Norman bishops for the boundary wall of their deer park. The lower courses of the original wall are still visible below later reconstructions.



.. on tha hege raewe

left: View looking west from Blind Lane along the old Saxon 'Hedge Row' (later walled) forming the parish boundary between Monkton Combe (left) and the Foxhill MOD hutments in Lyncombe & Widcombe (right).



.. on Wodnes Dic

left: View across Midford Road at the Cross Keys, to where the boundary joined the Wansdyke behind the houses. The line of the Wansdyke is indicated between the boundary stone in the foreground and the white marker post partly hidden beyond the Inn sign.

below: View from the same spot looking west along the Wansdyke. Note the boundary stone in the verge between the bus shelter and the interpretation board on the roadside bank.



.. on Fosse Streat

above: The point at Odd Down, by Rose Cottages (left), where the Saxon 'Fosse Street' descended from the A367 to Kilkenney Lane. The still existing pathway is now blocked off by the bushes in the centre.

above right: View of the descending line of the Saxon 'Fosse Street' (left) to where it joined Kilkenney Lane (centre). The Wansdyke crossed the Lane just this side of the houses. The 'Fosse Street' boundary then continued along the present Old Fosse Road, visible in the distance, left.

right: View from the Brougham Hayes railway bridge, on the line of the western boundary along the 'Fosse Street', towards the eastern boundary on the horizon. Smallcombe Vale is partly hidden by the trees on the left, but Widcombe Hill and the 'Holan Weg' are indicated in the centre by the line of Macaulay buildings below the summit of Claverton Down. To the right is Beechen Cliff.



8. (970) *on horsecumbes broc*

(G) 'To the Brook of Horsecombe'

(K) 'To Horsecombe Brook'. The modern boundary follows a southerly course, across Bradford Road, down Combe Road, and on down the hillside, until it meets the brook.

9. (970) *Andlang broces upp in horsecumbes heafod*

(G) 'Along the Brook up to the Head of Horsecombe'

(K) The 'Head of Horsecombe' probably refers to the high ground around the northern edge of the precipitous valley, at about the 500 ft. contour, and above the sources of the brook (where water 'issues', including a 'spring').

(1590) 4. 'And from thence after a Brooke till wee come to a stone that parteth Southstoke's lordship and ours standing upon the end of Wansditch by the high road neare a little house there'

(K) It is to be noticed that the 1590 survey curiously takes the bounds directly from the Cross to the brook, ignoring the course of the boundary around the Monkton Combe 'bite' into Lyncombe, on the northern side of Bradford Road. The eastern end of the long, straight, unbroken, ³/₄-mile stretch of the Wansdyke (between the former *Burnt House* and the *Cross Keys*), abuts on Midford Road, opposite the *Cross Keys*, and is marked by a boundary stone (the civil parish, and former manor or lordship of Southstoke, lies south of the modern Lyncombe boundary there). The 'little house' of the 1590 survey may refer to a precursor of the *Cross Keys*, which could be described as 'near the end of Wansdyke', whichever side of the road is intended (suggesting that the 1590 surveyors believed that the Wansdyke came to an 'end' nearby). 'The high road' almost certainly refers to the present Southstoke Road which joins Midford Road, and was, at that time, part of the Frome Road from Bath, via Entry Hill.

However, the Wansdyke clearly continues (if only briefly) on the eastern side of the present Southstoke Road, although not labelled as the Wansdyke on OS maps. A still recognisable piece of bank exists there (its end also marked by a boundary stone), continuing in direct alignment with, and obviously a continuation of, the long, and well-known stretch of Wansdyke (between the *Cross Keys* and the former *Burnt House Inn*). Today, the piece of bank on the eastern side of Southstoke Road, surmounted by a wall, forms the northern boundary of the garden of *Avalon* (as well as being part of the southern boundary of Lyncombe & Widcombe parish and formerly also that of the City of Bath). The bank continues no further than behind the house called *Symfield* in Midford Road. The mapped boundary line ('defaced') then turns briefly south-east, along the rear of *Combe Lodge*, and the edge of the hillside. There the OS boundary turns north-east to the brook.

A. & C. Fox¹⁶ were convinced that 'the earthwork ended, as on the west of the plateau, a little above the springhead, and the 500 ft. contour, but that the actual terminal has not survived the modern building developments', pointing out that the precipitous Horsecombe valley would have provided a formidable obstacle to an enemy in Saxon times. In fact, the 1887 OS indicates that the terminal (if it had existed) had already disappeared before building developments occurred there. A double line of mounding begins at the edge of the hillside, at the rear of the house called *Carron* in Midford Road, and runs south-eastward, along the top edge of the Horsecombe valley, to the south-east corner of the grounds of *The Sundial*, beyond which fragments of mounding continue, until they merge with Midford Road, opposite the house called *Quennells* (on the southern side of Midford Road). If the Fox theory is correct, then this strong mounding was probably caused by slumping of clay along the edge of the hillside, and this could have destroyed the 'terminal' at the end of Wansdyke. It seems unlikely that the mounding had been man-made or was part of the Wansdyke.

The Saxon bounds of Southstoke, given in a grant by King Edgar to St. Peter's (the Abbey) at Bath, in 961 AD, and presumably mirroring those of *Cliftune* in this part, state *Aerest west an northan hyt maereth Wodnes Dic; thonne on Horscum Wyllan*. 'First the Wansdyke bounds it on the north-west; then to the springs at Horsecombe'(G).

10. (970) *thonne suth rihte on wodnes dic*

(G) 'Then due south to Woden's Dyke [the Wansdyke]'. Grundy stated that the direction was again in error, and that the surveyors were actually going westward, but admitted that such errors were unusual.¹⁷

(K) The modern boundary (OS maps from 1887 onward) may also give this impression, as it is shown turning south-westward from the brook to the piece of bank on the eastern side of Southstoke Road, but it seems almost certain that the little piece of Wansdyke still observable beside *Avalon* and at the rear of *Symfield*, before petering out, was not its original end. It may have continued a little further eastward (perhaps as far as the rear of *The Sundial*), where 'slumping' of clay along the edge appears likely to have destroyed its 'terminal' (which the Foxes expected once existed). This spot would certainly be 'due south' of 'the springs of Horsecombe' or of 'the head of Horsecombe', so that the Saxon surveyors would then have been perfectly correct in their direction. The little piece of Wansdyke on the eastern side of the present Southstoke Road was also observed by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, at the beginning of the 19th century.¹⁸

The Saxon boundary runs westward along the Wansdyke from opposite the *Cross Keys* to Combe Hay Lane, and its bank can also still be detected in the little piece of undeveloped ground, between the Lane and the A367, as it can also beside the house No.301 Old Fosse Road (so-called, but falsely named, because this piece of road is really part of Combe Hay Lane) on the western side of the A367, indicating that it crossed from Combe Hay Lane to, and continued on the other side of Wellsway (A367). Its quarried-out end can be seen from Kilkenny Lane (part of the 'old Wells Road' to the city), behind, and above the level of, the little group of four houses called Bristol View.

(1590) 5. 'And thence after a ditch called Wansditch till wee come to Odwood which parteth Coombehaies [Combe Hay's] lordship, Ingcoombes [Englishcombe's] and ours.'¹⁹

Charles Harcourt Masters' 1786/7 plan shows what may be the former Odwood, at Odd Down, crossed by Combe Hay Lane, and by both the 'old', and proposed 'new', Wells Road routes, as well as showing the 'old' Burnt House Turnpike Gate and Toll House, where the present Bristol View now stands in Kilkenny Lane (the Fosseway and 'old' Wells Road route), and just within Englishcombe parish. The Englishcombe Survey plan, 1792, not only shows the 'old' Burnt House Toll House and Gate (as in 1786/7 position), but also the Wansdyke (as today, stopping at the edge of the old quarry ground), above and just to the south-east of the toll house and its rear garden.²⁰

The southern boundary of Lyncombe still follows the Wansdyke (as in 970 and 1590), but an old quarry probably destroyed a brief section, between its present apparently quarried-out end, beside the rear of 301 Old Fosse Road (as officially known, but strictly speaking, here part of Combe Hay Lane), and the former Fosseway route in the present Kilkenny Lane, against which it may originally have abutted (see boundary on 1799 map), on the south-west side of the present No.1 Bristol View.

11. (970) *Of Wodnes Dic on Fosse Streat*

(G) 'From Woden's Dyke to the Foss Street'

(K) 'From the Wansdyke to the Fosseway'. The above landmark is where the Wansdyke probably originally abutted on the present Kilkenny Lane, where it is the route of the Fosseway, after descending from the present A367, commencing at the small parking bay beside Rose Cottages, approximately along the line of the existing pathway (recently blocked off). That route was also part of the 'old' (pre-1810) turnpike road between Wells and Bath, which left the line of the Fosseway beside South View Cottages, to continue via the present Bloomfield Road to the city of Bath. The 'new' Wells Road was that part of the present Wellsway (completed by 1810), between Devonshire Buildings and the present Rose Cottages at Odd Down (cutting through the former Barrack Farm in doing so).

Harcourt Masters' undated plan (watermarked 1807, and possibly drawn c.1810)²¹ shows the new (post-1810) and old roads to Wells at Odd Down, depicting in the latter 'the old Burnt House toll house' (in present Kilkenny Lane) and the 'old' site of the *Red Lion* (in Bloomfield Road). From the present Kilkenny Lane, the Fosseway continued northwards, through the slightly higher ground of the present South View Cottages, along the 800-yard stretch of the present Old Fosse Road. The modern boundary follows that line. From all the evidence, including the name Old Fosse Road, it is clear that here, too, the boundary still follows the Saxon *Fosse Streat* - the Roman road. Other Roman evidence has been found in close proximity.²² The Wansdyke appears to have continued on the other side of the present Kilkenny Lane, skirting the edge of Vernham Wood.

The present Old Fosse Road at Odd Down runs along a banked route, standing two or three feet above the level of the ground on its western side, which slopes away to the valley below. The western boundary of Lyncombe formerly ran along the whole of the western edge of the Old Fosse Road (until twentieth century boundary extension took in additional land along part of the western side). The whole of the Saxon western boundary of 'Clifton' (the Domesday 'Lyncombe' and the modern civil parish of 'Lyncombe & Widcombe') to the river was along the Fosseway.

When, by 1810, the new road to Wells (the present Wellsway, between Devonshire Buildings and Rose Cottages at Odd Down), with new gate and toll house (beside which the former *Burnt House Inn* was developed, latterly renamed *The Lamplighter*, and recently removed, to be replaced by apartments), came into being, the old Burnt House Toll House and Gate (in the present Kilkenny Lane) became redundant, and was later sold.²³

From the northern end of the Old Fosse Road, there are anomalies in the modern boundary (from 1799). Former quarrying along the edge of the hill, below Corston View, distorted part of the expected line. Then, from a little west of Stirtingale Farm, the modern boundary diverges west of the expected Fosseway route, to follow a stream, which 'issues' nearby, and runs as far as Englishcombe Lane, to 'sink' beside the present No.159a. Beyond that, two dog-legs gradually reduce the divergence from the expected line, to regain the Fosseway alignment. The first occurs at the present Cedar Grove; the second as the line crosses the present Linear Way (former Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway route). This pattern of the modern boundary is first shown on the earliest *Map of the Manor of Lincombe & Widcombe*, 1799, by J.Charlton.

(1590) 6. 'And from thence to Twertons lordship after a way called the fosse [Fosse] being a high banke'²⁴

(K) In 1590, the boundary, still along the Fosseway, was here on a 'high bank' (or *agger*), as far as Englishcombe Lane. Beyond, Lyncombe and Twerton share a common boundary to the river.²⁵ The anomalies in the modern boundary, from the northern end of the Old Fosse Road, seem to have occurred in the 200-year gap, between the time of the 1590 survey and that of the 1799 map. It is difficult to know why, and at what point in that period, the surveyors had become misled into following the line of the brook from its point of 'issue' west of Stirtingale Farm, when there is clear evidence that, even as late as the early 20th century, part of the former, banked route of the Fosseway was still apparent in the landscape, continuing from that point.

It was mapped by Albany Major,²⁶ continuing the Fosseway alignment for about half a mile, to the northern extremity of his map (at the northern end of the present Moorfields Allotments). It seems likely that it would have continued to the river, had Major extended his map thus far. Unfortunately there is no accompanying text, because Major & Burrow's book deals with the Wansdyke, not the Fosseway. The mapped line and the Old Fosse Road are curiously labelled 'British' - an absurdity, as the name Fosseway or *Fosse Streat* applied only to the metalled Roman road, which this was. The key to the map shows that the broken line indicates that 'evidence of the former course can be, or has been, visible along this line'. The route is shown making a gradual, clockwise turn, of about 30 degrees (the Roman road probably did so in a series of short, angled turns), approximately where it crosses Englishcombe Lane.

From Odd Down, the Fosseway ran on a gradually descending ridge, to meet the river just to the east of the present Victoria Bridge, opposite the former early 19th century Albany Wharf, on the northern bank, where 'sloping masonry' is shown at the water's edge on current OS maps.²⁷

Major's 'British Foss Road', on the south side of Englishcombe Lane, is about 90 yards east of the modern boundary, reducing to about 60 yards east of the modern boundary at the northern limit of his map (towards the northern end of the present Moorfields Allotments). Just north of the end of Major's mapped line of the Fosseway, the post-1799 boundary makes its final dog-leg, in crossing the present Linear Way, bringing it back into alignment with the expected line of the Roman road (and with the expected continuation of Major's line, had his map extended thus far). Major's mapped route quite clearly marks the continuation of the Roman Fosseway, from the point where the post-1799 boundary deviated from it to follow a brook.

In places, despite the fact that most of Major's line now crosses the Stirlingale and Englishcombe Park housing estates, it is still possible to detect the line of its former *agger*, by slight undulations in garden ground - for example, where the line descends through No.55 Stirlingale Road, and again, after crossing to the north side of Englishcombe Lane, the slightly raised ground in the gardens of Nos. 168-170 seems to follow Major's line.

The final dog-leg in the modern boundary (crossing the present Linear Way, to bring it back eastwards into the Fosseway alignment) occurs at the top of the present St. Kilda's Road. The modern boundary, as shown on 1:2500 OS maps from 1904 onwards, runs down the western back lane of St.Kilda's Road, possibly marking the line of the western ditch of the Fosseway. Present-day ground levels, suggest that the Fosseway itself would have descended the hill on the slightly raised ground beside it, carrying the present houses and their short western back gardens. The evidence seems to point to the likelihood that, after completing its gradual clockwise turn of about 30 degrees, north of Englishcombe Lane, the Fosseway would have continued directly to the river.

(1590) 7. 'And from thence to the waterside to the lower end of Sidnam meade. And so the water parteth the Bounds untill wee come to that upper ende of Dolemead again'

(K) Sydenham Mead was the large riverside meadow at the western extremity of Lyncombe (beside Twerton). J. Spornberg's 'View of Bath from the Lower Bristol Road', of 1800, includes Sydenham Mead.²⁸ A tree-lined bank, running to the river along the western end of Sydenham Mead is also visible. Whether the bank was the *agger* of the Roman road is uncertain. Certainly, the post-1799 boundary meets the river, and the presumed crossing-point of the Fosseway, about 200 ft. east of the present Victoria Bridge.

Dr.G.A. Kellaway's study of 'the Geomorphology of the Bath Region in the 1st century A.D.'²⁹ shows a different course of the river in that earlier time. Measurements taken on his map suggest that the present and 1st century A.D. courses of the river would have crossed each other, approximately at the former Green Park Station rail bridge (now carrying road-traffic into Sainsbury's super-market car-park). Although the western edge of Kellaway's map stops a little short of the present Victoria Bridge, it can nevertheless be calculated that the Roman river crossing, on his suggested 1st century river-course, would have been about 190 yards south of the present river-side end of the Lyncombe boundary, thus apparently meeting his 1st century river approximately at the northern, banked end of the present Sainsbury's filling station area, a little east of where (before the 1960s) the former rail bridge crossed Victoria Bridge Road. Dr.Kellaway did not regard his mapped line as finally substantiated, so that it must, at present, be treated with caution.

12. (970) *andlang arene* [sic - clearly a scribe's error for *avene*, i.e. the River Avon] *upp eft on smalancumbes broc*

(G) 'along the Avon up again to the Brook of the Narrow Combe'

(K) 'along the Avon (and) up again on Smallcombe Brook'. This obviously concludes the tracing of the Saxon boundary.

Epilogue

An interesting point is that from the top (southern end) of St. Kilda's Road, a siting can be made of a direct alignment to a point in the eastern segment of the Royal Crescent. When, in 2002, *Time Team* and the former Bath Archaeological Trust discovered the continuation of the Roman road on the northern side of the river, both in the Royal Crescent Lawn and behind the Crescent, the 'dig' revealed the western side of the camber of a Roman road, running from south-west to north-east, beneath No.12 Crescent Lane - detailed information most helpfully provided by Marek Lewcun, who did the excavation and invited the writer to view what he had uncovered there. No.12 Crescent Lane is immediately behind No.12 Royal Crescent, and in 1888, skeletons and black potsherds had been found buried in the garden behind No.11 Royal Crescent, suggesting burial beside the Roman road, a customary position for burials in Roman times.

From the former Albion Wharf (on the north side of the river, and on the east side of Victoria Bridge), along higher ground above the river, there is an almost direct route into the centre of the Roman city, and it seems to lie in close proximity to certain Roman remains. The route is along the present Nelson Villas, Nelson Place West, Great Stanhope Street, New King Street, and the former Kingsmead Street (now largely destroyed), to the former West Gate, and thence via Westgate Street to the sites of the Roman Temple and the Baths. This route passes the northern end of Norfolk Crescent. On 15 October 1818, the *Bath Chronicle* reported that 'a mosaic pavement had been found behind the Crescent [Norfolk Crescent] in Kingsmead', but no further details were given. Only the nine houses north of the centre of Norfolk Crescent had been erected by 1810; completion of the Crescent took a few years longer.³⁰ A distance of between only forty and barely fifty-five yards, across garden ground, separates the backs of Norfolk Crescent from Norfolk Buildings (depending on the distance between individual houses of the latter to the arc of the Crescent). Norfolk Buildings seem to have been built between 1818 and 1822, judging by old maps of Bath between those dates.³¹ It seems likely that the mosaic (presumably indicating the site of a Roman villa or town house) had been discovered when digging the foundations of Norfolk Buildings (seemingly within little more than about 100 yards of both the present, and Kellaway's suggested probable 1st century course, of the river - both courses apparently crossing one another approximately where the former iron railway bridge across the river to Green Park station still stands.).

About 100 yards north-east of the site of the mosaic, in the cellar of No.38 New King Street, it was reported that during building work a hypocaust and a possible lead coffin had been temporarily exposed.³² Again it is evidence of Roman occupation, but whether this site and the mosaic pavement were part of a huge complex, or whether both spots were separate Roman establishments cannot at present be determined. Certainly both discoveries in close proximity to the suggested line of road from the Fosseway river crossing into the very centre of *Aquae Sulis*, seem to confirm the route.

Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to the following, for their patience and courteous help in dealing with numerous enquiries, besides digging out and providing access to material in their departments: *Bath Central Library* staff, especially Anne Buchanan; *Bath Record Office*, especially Colin Johnston; *Somerset Record Office*, especially Philip Hocking; and Sarah McLean for details in the *Bath Sites & Monuments Register*. He is also grateful to Mike Chapman, for his care with graphics and helpful comments; and last but not least, Elizabeth Holland, for her editorial suggestions and help.

The views expressed are entirely those of the present writer. The *Fosseway* part of the boundary had also been considered on two previous occasions (to which reference is made in the text). Further research and consideration of that part of the boundary have produced one or two new points of interest there.

References

1. Rev.Wm.Hunt, 'Two Chartularies of the Priory of St. Peter at Bath', *Somerset Record Society (SRS)* Vol.VII, 1893, i (12th century MS held at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge) No.25
2. Somerset Record Office (SRO) DD/SE 22
3. SRO DD/SAS C/212
4. G.B.Grundy, *Saxon Charters & Field Names of Somerset* (Grundy 1935), pp.211-213
5. Aethelburgh. To have had this route named after her, Aethelburgh must have been a Saxon lady of some importance who would have used Widcombe Hill to enter the city. The most likely person is possibly Queen Aethelburgh, wife of Ine, the West Saxon king from 689 to 726, who, in 705, appointed St.Aldhelm (held in high esteem in both Wessex and Mercia) as his bishop 'west of the wood' ('Selwood' of the Saxons; *Coit Mawr* of the Britons). When, in 722, the South Saxon atheling Eadbriht seized Ine's front-line fortress of Taunton, with its settlement of South Saxons, Queen Aethelburgh stormed the place, drove Eadbriht out, and razed Taunton, presumably to prevent it from falling into hostile hands (see *Dictionary of National Biography*). She would almost certainly have visited the 'famous' monastery at Bath (then a 'double' monastery of monks and nuns, and in Mercia), probably more than once, and may well have been accompanied by St.Aldhelm. Her route is likely to have been via Frome and down Widcombe Hill to the city.
6. Hygelac. There was a Higelac (Hygelac), Beowulf's uncle (see *Oxford Companion to English Literature*), who made his famous raid on the Netherlands (circa 520 AD), from the same lands whence the Angles had sailed. The Hygelac of 'Hygelac's Gate' however, was presumably the Anglo-Saxon possessor of an estate on the other side of the boundary.
7. Albany Major & E.J. Burrow, *The Mystery of Wansdyke*, (Major & Burrow 1926), p.67, Fig. 44
8. Sir Cyril & Lady Aileen Fox, *Wansdyke Reconsidered*, June 1960, reprinted from the *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. CXV (Fox 1960), p.25
'It has been argued that west *Wansdyke*, in Somerset, was constructed by the West Saxon King Cynegils, after 628 AD (but while he was still a pagan, before 635 ...), on a line imposed on him by King Penda of Mercia, with whom he had come to terms. He had then dedicated it to Woden, as his great-uncle Ceawlin, the Bretwalda, had done, when he had constructed the more imposing east *Wansdyke*, in Wiltshire ...' (Fox 1960, p.45)
9. J.R. Clark Hall, ed., *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, 4th edition, originally published 1960, C.U.P., reprinted 2004, shows that *tun* can mean 'manor', 'village', or 'town'; while among the meanings of *treow* (apart from 'tree', the living plant), are 'Tree of the Cross', 'cross', or 'rood'.
10. St.Gregory's Cross appears to have stood approximately at the road junction at the top of the present Ralph Allen's Drive, the site still so named on the 1st edition of the 1-inch OS map, c.1810-1817 (but it appears to be pre-1814 - Mike Chapman's personal comment)
11. Dr.Joy Jenkyns of the School of Humanities, King's College, London, an expert in Anglo-Saxon boundaries, was kind enough to comment on the present writer's suggestion. She stated that in the Saxon boundaries as a whole, *treow* tends to mean 'tree or cross marking the boundary' and is often associated with a personal name, but by no means always. She considered that as the estate being granted is *Cliftune*, the writer's interpretation of *tunnes* as referring to the 'manor' or 'township', rather than to a person (as Grundy does), is better, although there could be no certainty in this. She accepted that the double 'n' in *tunnes* is almost certainly an anomaly introduced by the 12th century copyist, just as he repeatedly supplied 'upp' for 'up' in the same text.
12. John Wood, *Essay towards a description of Bath*, 2nd edition (Wood 1749), I, p.103
13. Charles Pooley, *The Ancient Crosses of Gloucestershire* (London 1868), p. ix, states that there are many places where the [Cross] name is perpetuated, but the Cross has disappeared.
14. Bath Record Office (BRO), Acc 350 & 28/854 with map, 'The Reference to the Plan of the Estate belonging to Ralph Allen Esq. in the Parishes of Widcomb and Combe in the County of Somerset Survey'd by Thomas Thorp in the Year 1741'
15. Rev.John Collinson, *The History and Antiquities of Somerset* (Collinson 1791) Vol.1, p.174, states 'There was formerly in this parish [Lyncombe & Widcombe] an old Cross dedicated to St.Gregory'; Charles Pooley, *The Old Stone Crosses of Somerset*, 1877, p.88
16. Fox, 1960, p.36
17. Grundy, 1935, p.207; p.212
18. Sir Richard Colt Hoare, *Ancient Wiltshire*, ii, 1819, p.25 (& map 2, between pp.16 & 17) wrote: 'It will be perceived that a small fragment of our dyke is visible on the south-east side of the Great Road [the present Entry Hill/Southstoke Road/Midford Road line of road from Bath to Frome and Warminster, as his map reveals], as if bearing along the eastern side of the valley towards the river [the context shows that he probably meant the Wellow/Midford Brook, which runs to the River Avon, a little farther eastward]. He naturally assumed that the 'small fragment of our dyke' would once have continued. Even in 1819, he apparently observed no indication of a 'terminal'.
19. See 1:2500 OS Plan ST 7361, 1970, for division between these three civil parishes.
20. C. Harcourt Masters' 1786 plan of 'old' and proposed 'new' Wells Road routes at Odd Down (SRO D/T/ba 24).

21. C. Harcourt Masters' plan showing 'new' (post-1810) and 'old' roads to Wells at Odd Down, as well as 'the old Burnt House toll-house' (in the present Kilkenny Lane), and the 'old' site of the *Red Lion* in the present Bloomfield Road (then part of the 'old Wells Road') - map undated, but watermarked 1807, and possibly dating to c.1810 (SRO D/T/ba 35)
22. Rev.W. Phelps, *History & Antiquities of Somerset*, Vol.1, 1836, Chap. III, p.146, referred to a supposed fort, where the Wansdyke crossed the Fosseway, 'on the heights' at Odd Down, 'at what is called Burnt House turnpike gate, where Roman coins and pottery have been found in Farnham [error for Vernham] Wood'. The latter lies close to the west side of the present Kilkenny Lane (the Fosseway route), and near the position of the 'old' turnpike gate. Rev.H.M. Scarth, *Aquae Solis*, 1864, p.99, stated that in 1822, 'two stone coffins were found near the Burnt House Turnpike Gate (in the line of the Foss Road)'. Elsewhere (p.108), he describes the Fosseway route (incorrectly assuming it came from the city), following the 'old' Wells Road 'past Bloomfield Place and Cottage Crescent, over Odd Down, crossing Wansdyke at the next Turnpike Gate'. Because of the date of his book and the route he describes, he evidently refers to the 'new' Burnt House Turnpike Gate, at the top of the short stretch of road between Bloomfield Road and Wellsway (see 1856 map, G179 - SRO DD/CTN 3x7), so the coffins were probably found truly 'in the line of the Foss Road', at the foot of that short stretch of road (actually part of Combe Hay Lane, but today incorrectly regarded as part of Old Fosse Road), and beside the Kilkenny Lane/Old Fosse Road route, at the top of Bloomfield Road.
23. See minutes of Bath Turnpike Trust Commissioners, 9 June 1810, (SRO D/T/ba 9); and advertisement 'To be sold by Tender: The Old Burnt House Toll-House ... situate to the westward of the present Toll-House and Gate ...' in *Bath Chronicle*, 21 July 1821, p.1
24. Ivan Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain*, 3rd edition (Margary 1973), p.20 refers to the common characteristic of Roman roads crossing high and open land, such as downland (as here, on Odd Down), as being especially high.
25. J. Cotterell, *Plan of Bath & its suburbs*, 1852, showing Twerton/Lyncombe boundary; and map of Twerton showing Sladebrook Farm and the Twerton/Lyncombe boundary, 1829 (SRO DD/xl, W1, I)
26. Major & Burrow, 1926, p.62
27. For the route, see A.J. Keevil, 'The Fosseway at Bath', *Proc. Som. Archaeol. & Nat. Hist. Soc.*, Vol.133, 1989, p.86, and 'Tracing the Fosseway at Bath', *The Bath Survey*, No.2, November 1994, p.21; for the name of the wharf, see 1st edition of 1-inch OS, c.1810-17; for the 'sloping masonry' against the bank, see 1:1250 OS map ST 7464 NW, 1999
28. J. Spornberg's illustration of 'View of Bath from the Lower Bristol Road' (actually looking across Sydenham Mead), 1800 - in Rev.R. Warner, *History of Bath*, 1801, p. 218
29. G.A. Kellaway, article and plan of 'The Geomorphology of the Bath region in the 1st century AD' (showing the course of the Avon there in Roman times), in B. Cunliffe & P. Davenport, *The Temple of Sulis Minerva at Bath*, 1985, I, (i), p.6
30. Walter Ison, *The Georgian Buildings of Bath*, 1948, p.175
31. Bath Central Library, collection of plans of Bath, in dated sequence
32. Planning Dept., Bath and North East Somerset Council, 'Sites & Monuments Register for the Bath area'

Maps (other than historical plans specifically detailed in the text)

General maps for whole area

1:10,000, OS 'City of Bath' map, 1982 (and earlier 1:10,000 OS, from 1887)

1:25,000 OS Sheet ST 66/76 (showing contours)

For boundary of Lyncombe & Widcombe

W. Charlton, 'A Map of the Manor of Lincombe & Widcombe', 1799 (SRO, DD/SAS C/212)

J.H. Cotterell, 'Plan of the City & Borough of Bath and its suburbs', 1852 (Bath Record Office)

See also; 1:2500 OS for civil parish boundaries from 1887/8; and 1:1250 OS for greater detail (including numbered houses)

WILLIAM STREET: AN APOTHECARY'S PROGRESS

Trevor Fawcett

No fewer than thirty-six apothecaries sat on the Bath City Council during the eighteenth century, easily the largest occupational group. Nearly half of these attained the rank of Mayor (seven of them more than once) and accordingly became aldermen and served as justices too. But though Corporation office gave these members particular status, power and opportunities, most of Bath's other eighteenth-century apothecaries were also doing well. They had all benefited from a crucial legal ruling in 1704 giving apothecaries the right to advise patients on treatments as well as to prescribe remedies. Unlike physicians, they were not allowed to charge a patient for offering a diagnosis, but large profits were to be had from the actual dispensing of medicines if their advice were followed. Being treated by an apothecary rather than a physician still worked out cheaper for the patient as a rule, because a physician's prescriptions had to be made up anyway by his regular apothecary. The question was rather whose diagnosis should you most trust, the university-qualified physician's or the practically trained apothecary's? Either way, drugs of some sort were usually prescribed. Even the rituals of drinking the hot waters and therapeutic bathing were almost always preceded and accompanied by a regime of purges, emetics, sedatives, tonics, cordials; and similar potions supplied by the spa apothecaries at a nice profit.

William Street, the subject of this article, took full advantage of this demand for medicines - not only for what he, other apothecaries, and local physicians and surgeons personally prescribed, but also for the many non-prescribed proprietary medicines that were nationally advertised and sold over the counter in large quantities. Indeed his wholesale and retail business at the sign of the Phoenix in Northgate Street might have been the largest of its kind at Bath, dealing not only in the *materia medica* of the traditional apothecary (and of the new chemist-and-druggist shops that first appeared at Bath in the 1750s), but also in a wide range of pre-packed and pre-bottled branded medicines. His advertisements at this period mention chemicals, drugs and herbal remedies that he prepared himself 'as cheap as in London', plus a good selection of proprietary nostrums for which he was agent, a dozen or so different mineral waters, and an odd assortment of other items:

Quicksilver Garters and Girdle..., an infallible Ointment for the Itch..., the Duke of Portland's Medicine for the Gout, a Spirit that takes Spots or Stains out of Linnen, without doing it any Injury, French Chalk, Writing Ink, an incomparable Liquor... [for making sour beer good again], Drenches for the Yellows, &c., a Liquor for the Foot-rot, fine Lucca Oil, Florence Ditto, Barbers Ditto, Gallipoly Ditto, Lamp Ditto, Linseed Ditto, Palm Ditto, Turpentine Ditto, true Flanders Oil Bays, Hartshorn Shavings, Sagoe, Vermicelli, true Gold and Silver, Dutch Metal, Almond Powder, Anchovies, Canary, Hemp, and Rape Seed, Candied Eryngo Root, Blue French Galls,... Gold-Beater's Skin, Spirit of Wine, Hungary Water, Ivory Black, Logwood..., Yellow Oaker, Vermillion..., a most excellent Tooth-Powder, and Lip-Salve, Salop, Black and Castile Soap, Pitch, Black and Yellow Rosin, Spruce Beer, Bees Wax and Honey, Leeches and Vipers, and Dr Hartley's Lithontriptic Mass for the Gravel and Stone.¹

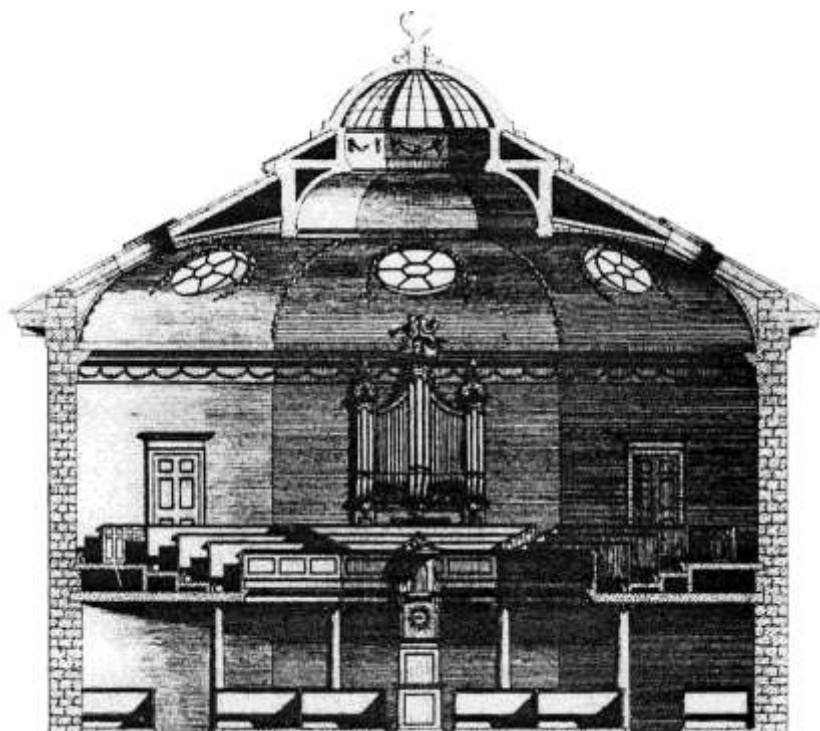
We have no descriptions of the actual shop, but one can imagine an interior lined with shelves of gallipots and rows of labelled drawers, with an 'elaboratory' behind containing furnaces and other equipment for compounding drugs - as it certainly contained much later.² Lying next to the *Three Cups* on the east side of Northgate Street (just below the present Podium), the ground behind stretched towards the river and might easily have grown medicinal plants.

William Street had a good local pedigree. His grandfather William, vicar of Upper Swainswick (where he leased a property from Oriel College, Oxford), had been assistant master and then, from 1707 to 1713, headmaster of Bath Grammar School, living at a house he acquired on the west side of Broad Street.³ More than two years after his death, his son James, who delivered the School's Latin oration in 1712, was apprenticed in 1716 for seven years to the apothecary Henry Gibbes, and subsequently established the Northgate Street shop. The latter was only rented,⁴ whereas the family house and garden in Broad Street - a crucially important property later on - was their own leasehold.⁵ James Street and his wife Ann had several children including William, the subject of this article, born c.1727 and apprenticed to his father in

1743. By January 1750 James must have died since William was now in charge, but advertising from Broad Street and with the Northgate Street shop apparently on the market.⁶ If this was a crisis, it was soon resolved. The apothecary's shop resumed business (sooner or later symbolically named the Phoenix) and resources were found to set up William's elder brother Richard briefly as a woollen draper on North Parade.

Through the 1750s and 1760s William Street consolidated his position, regularly advertising his shop and perhaps profiting more than his apothecary competitors from a strong regional wholesale trade. To what extent he had a medical practice or worked with particular Bath physicians is unclear, but he was fostering his career in other ways. From 1750, and for the next two decades, he became an active freemason in the Bear Lodge. He began taking apprentices at quite high premiums. He married Elizabeth Wood, daughter of the recently deceased architect John Wood, who had left her a substantial £1000 dowry,⁷ and five of their children appear in the St. Michael's baptismal records 1761-74. Now solid and prosperous, he was elected onto the City Council in December 1763 and started on the usual ladder of office as Constable (1764) and Bailiff (1766). This made him privy to Corporation property transactions and building contracts, and placed him on influential sub-committees such as those for the intended new Guildhall (1766 and 1774), the Paragon (1767), water rents (1769), and the Town Common (1769).⁸ He also became a Commissioner under the Bath Improvement Act of 1766.⁹

All this suited his growing personal interest in developing property, and especially in exploiting the location of his house and large garden in Broad Street which backed westwards onto Milsom's Garden just below the Poor House. He must already have agreed terms before he became a Councilman for building four houses on his land in the new Milsom Street development, but erecting the Octagon Chapel on his garden ground as well seems to have been an afterthought and required a covered entrance corridor off Milsom Street running between two of his new houses.¹⁰ Put up in 1765-7, the Octagon was undertaken in partnership with the chapel's first incumbent, the Rev.Dr.John Dechair, and employed William Herschel as its organist. The chapel became fashionable at once, and the partnership lasted until 1776 when William Street bought out Dechair and installed his own preferred preacher, the Rev.John Chapman, current Rector of Weston.¹¹



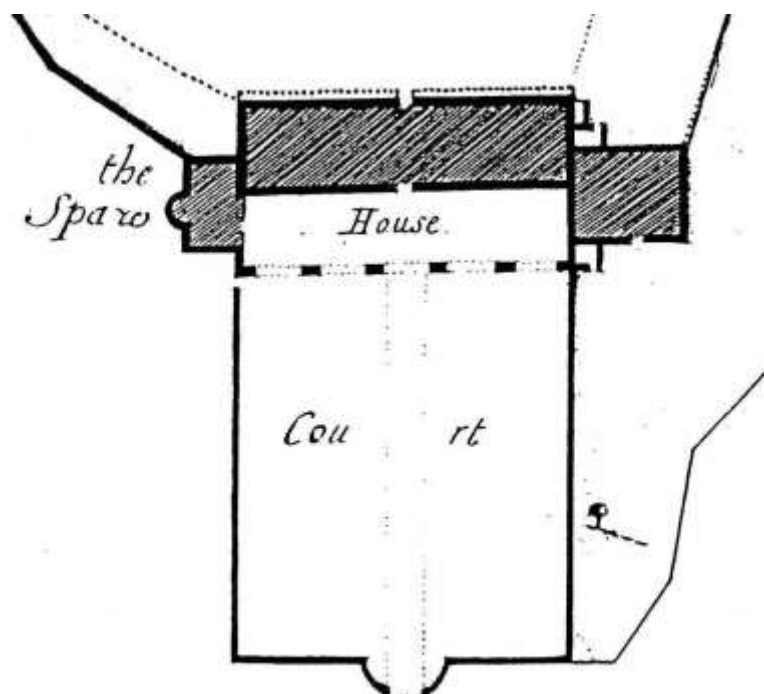
The Octagon Chapel

Other speculations followed. He seems to have had a stake in the development of Belmont,¹² and used the

opportunity of the Pulteney Bridge and Guildhall projects in the 1770s to acquire several houses in Bridge Street as well as eight smaller buildings round the corner in Northgate and the leasehold of the *White Lion* (the former *Unicorn*) inn fronting the Marketplace.¹³ He also had a second house in Broad Street included from 1776 under the same lease as the first.¹⁴ His growing wealth appears in the loan of £1,250 he made to the Corporation (repaid in 1781)¹⁵ and still more so in his joining the consortium of partners (Horlock, Mortimer, Atwood, Anderdon, Goldney & Street) that established the Bath & Somersetshire Bank in March 1775. It was surely not a coincidence that the bank was located in the new buildings covering the former Poor House site, immediately next to Street's Milsom Street and Octagon properties. He must have had a direct interest in this decision. Moreover, a fellow partner in the banking scheme, William Anderdon, was not only himself an apothecary and member of the Corporation elite but a named executor in William Street's will.

Eight years earlier Street had been involved in a quite different venture. Having brought a partner, Dr. David Kinneir, into the apothecary firm at the old Phoenix, he became persuaded of the virtues of smallpox inoculation. Though inoculation was now a safer procedure than hitherto (still thirty years before the alternative of vaccination), keeping the newly inoculated away from general public contact was considered prudent all the same. When therefore his Corporation colleague, Alderman John Hicke, died in 1767, Street purchased the latter's estate at Lyncombe Spa comprising a substantial stone reception house, the attached chalybeate spa building, and the surrounding grounds. He then opened it as a small isolation hospital for inoculated patients, who would spend two weeks there in reasonably pleasant quarantine, visited and checked up on by Street or Kinneir only during the day unless there were complications. Meanwhile the spa water continued to be available to anyone prepared to brave possible smallpox infection. Patients were being accepted from July 1767 and again from April to December 1768, but how long the inoculation treatment continued after that is unknown, though it very likely ceased there well before May 1773 when Street's partner, Kinneir, died.¹⁶

Instead of reviving the health spa, Street then turned Lyncombe Spa into his country residence. No doubt he also lived much of the week in town, though, since his municipal duties had increased. He did second stints as Constable (1775) and Bailiff (1777), served a year as Chamberlain (i.e. city treasurer) in 1782-83, and was made an alderman in March 1784 preparatory to his induction as Mayor in September 1784 at the age of 57 or so. Unfortunately he never completed his mayoral year, but died in office on 26 May 1785.



Plan of Lyncombe Spa

Given the circumstances there was a full civic procession through Bath for 'our late excellent Chief

Magistrate', as William Street's body was carried from Lyncombe to be buried in the family vault at Swainswick: the Corporation in their robes, masonic brethren, band with kettledrums, the Bluecoat school children singing a dirge, mourning carriages, and the funeral hearse drawn by six horses.¹⁷ The deceased's financial affairs probably needed some careful disentangling, but at least his executors had no apothecary's shop to dispose of since the Phoenix and its 'elaboratory' had passed in 1782 to Joseph Dibbens, a grocer.¹⁸ The Lyncombe Spa estate eventually had to be sold. Enlarged in Street's time by acquisitions of adjoining land, it amounted at his death to twenty-five acres of garden and pasture, the large house itself (equipped with a cold bath), a five-stall stable, green- and hot-houses, and of course the mineral spring.¹⁹ Some of the Bath properties, however, were retained. The executors renewed the lease of the Broad Street house, perhaps occupied by William Street's widowed sister Ann.²⁰ His wife, Elizabeth, was still living in one of the Bridge Street houses when she died in April 1793,²¹ an event conceivably hastened by the recent sudden failure of her husband's old bank, the Bath & Somersetshire, in which she doubtless had funds. One of their sons, Thomas (born 1765), was by then a clergyman. He served as curate of Lyncombe and Widcombe from 1795 until his death in 1830.

Notes

1. *Bath Journal* 25 November 1754.
2. *Bath Chronicle* 11 April 1782.
3. K.E.Symons, *The Grammar School of King Edward VI, Bath...* (Bath, 1934), 211-13; Bath Council Minutes 20 February 1706/7 and 27 March 1710.
4. Isaac Axford renewed the lease in 1748 for 40 guineas - Bath Council Minutes 26 December 1748.
5. Renewed by James Street in 1739 and 1747, and by his widow Ann in 1751 - Bath Council Minutes 31 December 1739, 5 October 1747 and 30 September 1751.
6. *Bath Journal* 22 January 1749/50.
7. Tim Mowl and Brian Earnshaw, *John Wood, Architect of Obsession* (Bath, 1988) 209.
8. Bath Council Minutes 6 October 1766, 14 February 1767, 3 April and 12 August 1769, 3 October 1774.
9. *Ibid.* 30 May 1766.
10. Bath Record Office, BC153/2595/1, counterpart lease 10 September 1765, refers to the Milsom Street houses but not yet to the Octagon.
11. *Bath Chronicle* 26 September 1776.
12. One new Belmont house in Street's possession was advertised in *Bath Journal* 9 October 1769. The same notice also mentions his Upper Swainswick property.
13. Bath Council Minutes 27 March 1780. In 1781 he obtained an extra strip of land behind the *White Lion* (requiring the re-siting of the weighing machine) and applied to lease New Market Row and its slaughterhouses - Bath Council Minutes 5 January 1781; Bath Record Office, Hall Notice Books 28 September 1780.
14. Bath Council Minutes 1 May 1776, when £40 was deducted from the fine in consideration of the 'great improvement made on the estate' - i.e. presumably the Octagon chapel and the Milsom Street houses.
15. Hall Notice Books 18 August 1781.
16. *Bath Chronicle* 30 July 1767, 11 April, 17 November and 22 December 1768, 13 May 1773.
17. *Ibid.* 2 June 1785.
18. *Ibid.* 11 April 1782 and 2 January 1783.
19. *Ibid.* 18 August 1785 and 1 June 1786.
20. Bath Council Minutes 3 October 1775.
21. *Bath Chronicle* 23 April 1793. The identity of another Mrs Street, certainly a close relation, who died in 1789, is uncertain - *Bath Journal* 13 July 1789.

ALBERTO FERNANDO RICCARDO SEMPRINI OBE

“Old ones, New ones, Loved ones, Neglected ones”

1908-1990

Notes by W.H.A.Chislett.

Over the years much has been written about prominent people who resided in Bath during the 18th and 19th centuries. This has been to the neglect of those who lived here during the earlier part of the 20th century who also played an important part in putting Bath on the map, typically Alberto Semprini was one of them. Perhaps it is appropriate to include an article on him in this issue of the *Survey*, 2008 being the centenary of his birth.

Background

The accomplished composer, conductor, pianist and popular entertainer Alberto Semprini was born in Bath at 1, Lymore Avenue, Oldfield Park on the 27 March 1908. He was the second of three sons born to Arthuro Riccardo Fernando and Elizabeth (née Tilley) Semprini who were married at Southwark, London in 1904. His eldest brother, Tommano was born in the Droitwich district of Worcestershire in 1905, and his younger brother Gugliolmo Carlo Celestino, born in Bath in 1909. Their mother Elizabeth Tilley was born in Dudley Worcestershire in 1873, a daughter of Thomas Tilley. In 1881 Elizabeth was living with her father Thomas, a widower at 24 Bumble Hole, Dudley with four other siblings, Elizabeth being the youngest. By 1901 Elizabeth was living in Rowley Regis, Staffordshire with her brother William Tilley a greengrocer. Elizabeth's occupation at that time was that of vocalist.

Bath

The family probably arrived in Bath between 1906 and 1908 where Arthuro was employed as a horn player in the then famous Bath Pump Room Orchestra. The musical director at that time was Frank Tapp, an accomplished pianist and composer. The family lived at various addresses in Bath including 1 Lymore Avenue, 1908-1911; 20a Powlett Road, Bathwick 1912; 21 Moorland Road, Twerton 1913-15 Stanley Road, Twerton 1915-1917 and 18 Norfolk Crescent 1917-1918. In 1918 Mrs.Semprini was described as the householder whose occupation was given as a teacher of music. Alberto studied the piano and cello and attended Bath Forum School, with, no doubt, his brothers. At the age of 8 he played for the wounded soldiers of the Great War who were billeted in the Bath hospitals and also played at concerts given in the YMCA.

It is unclear as to when Arthuro, who came from Rimini, left England for Italy, possibly around 1914 to join the Italian Army. It is recorded that he took up an appointment as the Librarian at La Scala Opera House, Milan in 1919. Nevertheless all the family were in Italy by 1919. In Italy, Alberto, Arthuro's son, later to be known as 'Semprini', won a state scholarship to the celebrated Conservatorio Verdi in Milan to study piano composition and conducting, from which he graduated in 1929 with a doctorate of Music in high composition having already achieved his degree for piano in open competition at the age of eighteen. During his vacations he played piano on transatlantic liners and it was in New York that he became an enthusiast of both jazz and the concert orchestra of Andre Kostelanetz and realised he could play these musical styles.

Having dual nationality and the intention of eventually returning to Britain, Alberto applied to the British Consul in Milan for a British passport which was granted. However, whilst he was trying to leave Italy to return to Britain the Italian Police confiscated his passport at the boarder town of Chiasso. They claimed he was one of their own because his father had never in all of his years living in England renounced his Italian citizenship. Whilst the British Consulate agreed that under British law he was a British subject, they were unable to influence the Italian authorities at that time of growing tension between the two countries.

On leaving the Conservatorio in 1929 he sometimes conducted at La Scala and elsewhere. Turning his attention to light music he achieved a considerable name when he teamed up with another Italian pianist

Bormioli touring Europe as a popular piano duo. Later he formed his own Symphonic Rhythm Orchestra and became a success on the Continent in radio, on records and concert appearances with his sixty-piece orchestra. It was in 1931 he married Brunilde Regarbagnati with whom he had three sons. Unfortunately this marriage did not survive the rigours of a musician's life and they were divorced.

World War II

When Italy entered the Second World War Alberto fell foul of the Italian authorities due to his insistence on playing Anglo-American music and in consequence retired to San Remo where he spent his time composing. After the Allies landed in Italy and started their advance up through the country he returned to Rome to await their arrival but once again had problems with the Italian Government. They ordered him to accompany the retreating German Army to direct a radio station from Northern Italy and promote propaganda. This he refused to do and went into hiding. When the Allies reached Rome Alberto immediately reported to them as a British subject, offered his services and joined the Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA). There followed two years of six or seven shows seven days a week entertaining the Allies in hospitals and forward positions. He soon became a firm favourite with the troops with his personality and his playing, whether jazz or classical music. Among his troop audience was the actor Michael Brennan who offered to be his manager if he ever came to Britain. At the end of the war he moved to Spain to work and study. It was here he met a young Spanish dancer, Maria de la Concepcion Consuelo Garcia Cardoso, and brought her to England in 1949 where they married in 1952.

Britain

At the cessation of hostilities Alberto made efforts to retrieve his British passport. However consular records had been destroyed and it was not until 1948 when he was on tour in Spain that his British passport was reissued and it was not until 1949 that he was back in Britain. After his arrival in England Michael Brennan secured for him a BBC audition and he was immediately given a series of fifteen minute programmes on the BBC Light programme in the style of the recently deceased Charlie Kunz. The style of Alberto became very popular and so pleased listeners that it led to a short programme with an orchestra for which he selected, arranged and orchestrated all the music. The programme became known as *Semprini Serenade*, an hour of classical music with selections from the theatre and films. The series, whose signature tune was his own successful composition *Mediterranean Concerto*, lasted twenty-five years! In addition he had a steady growing sale for his 'Dancing to Piano' gramophone records on the HMV label, gave many classical concerts in Britain (including Bath), toured abroad, appeared on 'Vera Lynn Sings' television programme in 1957 and found time to entertain patients in hospitals and sanatoriums. 1979 saw him as the celebrity subject on the popular television programme "This is your Life" presented by Eamonn Andrews.

Return to Bath

Semprini first returned to Bath with his agent Michael Brennan in early 1951 and visited the house of his birth, expressing a wish to play a concert in his home town. His ambition was achieved in September of 1953 (14th-19th) when he returned to Bath heading a star cast of entertainers at the Palace Theatre, giving a special matinee recital on the Saturday that included works by Chopin, Albeniz, Bach, and Liszt and Frank Tapp's *Intermezzo* composed in 1908, the year of Semprini's birth. In 1962 he again visited Bath to see their son Xavier settle into his new school at Downside College, Downside, Somerset. Their younger son Christopher also attended the College. In 1972 Alberto Semprini was made an officer of the Order of St. John, and in 1983 appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of his considerable charity work.

Alberto Semprini was a tall, dark, dignified man, always immaculately attired and had a good sense of humour. He was a master of his genre and millions of concert-goers and radio listeners loved his music. He died in Brixham, Devon on the 19th January 1990.

Semprini's music may be found on the following Compact discs:

Semprini Serenades - Living Era CD AJA 5511 which includes his own composition *Mediterranean*

Concerto

Semprini Golden Classics - EMI Studio 2 CDP7 90744 2

A Note about Frank Tapp and the Bath Pump Room Orchestra

Frank Harold Tapp was born in Bath in 1883, the son of Edward Harold and Annie (née Bush) Tapp. Whilst still a child he gained an extraordinary mastery of the piano and soon started composing for the instrument. In 1901 he was successful in winning a scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he studied for seven years including composition under Sir Charles Stanford. In 1909 he was appointed the Director of Music for the Bath Pump Room Orchestra where he remained until 1915, relinquishing his position to move to London and to concentrate on light orchestral music. In his day he was a prominent popular light music composer. He died in 1953.

After much controversy the eighteen-piece Bath Pump Room Orchestra was disbanded in 1939 for financial reasons. It was losing money due to lack of support from the public and as a consequence the Trio that played in the Assembly Rooms was transferred to the Pump Room.



Below: Semprini
Courtesy of The Bath Chronicle

Left: No.1 Lymore Avenue

Thanks

Christopher Semprini
Downside College, Downside
Bath Records Office
Mr.Hansford - *Bath Chronicle*

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THE INTERVIEW IN BATH HISTORY XI: SOME NOTES

Elizabeth Holland

Dr. John Wroughton was very thorough over the interview for the forthcoming issue of *Bath History*, already mentioned in our newsletter. For one thing he maintained that a person's past is part of their present, and he must have some background material to fill in.

He expressed a wish to hear something of my father's career. I replied that that would be difficult, as although a Royal Engineer he spent quite a lot of his time on secret work. I did write John some notes, but in the end they could not all be fitted into *Bath History*.

John said I ought to preserve the military material, and indeed to write a consecutive account of my father's career. This was a positive thought, but I am not qualified to write military history, whereas there are others who are.

Father belonged to an age of pioneers. People then stood at the beginnings, the beginnings of tanks, of planes, of modern weapons, of modern methods of warfare. Historians nowadays are fascinated by their lives and as more and more secret documents are revealed, they eagerly write up the material. When they mention one person of this age, they often refer to others.

An American connection of our family, who fought in the Normandy landing and lost his brother there, told me that he had started studying the history of that period, and whatever he studied, he remarked, he seemed to end up with my father. This is foreseeable: when you study a given topic, you will sooner or later get back to the pioneers.

As said, it is not my vocation to write serious military history. However I do react when I see nonsense in the media, and a particular TV programme, discussed below, has prompted the emergence of this actual article in response to John's suggestions. One is peacefully reading, or watching TV, and suddenly there is a reference to Father and his circle. This is acceptable when it is correct, not when it is not.

This has resulted in a rather different article from usual, but people have expressed an interest in reading it. I hope others will also bring forward their memories of all kinds, whether of war or peace, and pictures from their family collections. This would make a kind of 'survey' of people living in Bath at the beginning of the 21st century and studying Bath, what their lives and their interests have been.

J.C.F. Holland

Father's name was John Charles Francis Holland, John for his Holland grandfather, Charles for his Chapman grandfather, Francis for his mother, who was christened Frances Maud Chapman. In the army he was known as Jo or Joe, in the family as Jack.

I understand one source states that he was born at Calcutta, but this was not so. Though his father's central office was at Calcutta, Father was born at Cawnpore, because of the Chapmans. My mother was born at Simla and as I have often remarked, when my parents died they were both legally Indian.

Father joined up at 17, being 18 in November 1916. It is untrue to say that he then fought with T.E. Lawrence. Later his department did issue a memo mentioning Lawrence, but as a metaphor. Father gave me his own view of Lawrence personally. Both the Indian Army and the Australians fought in that theatre - a connection of ours, John Shea was in Palestine with the Indian Army when Jerusalem was surrendered. It was the Australians who actually took Damascus. It has been argued that Lawrence and his troops were media figures, icons for the public, and not actual combat troops, and Father would have agreed with this view.



J.C.F.Holland in 1914, aged 16



J.C.F.Holland in November 1916, aged 18

Father once told me that he had had the French Foreign Legion in the trenches next to him at one stage and one would have supposed that was in France, but his military CV, of which I possess a copy, is unclear on this point. Later in 1916 he was posted to the MEF in Salonica, travelling by way of Alexandria. Later he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, later the RAF. He acted as an observer and I possess one of his maps of enemy positions. All the same he took part in 'at least one' bombing raid on Sofia. Fighter planes of the time did not have the fuel capacity to travel so far and the bombers proceeded without a fighter escort. For this Father received the DFC.

Salonica

Left: J.C.F.Holland, aged about 20

Below and opposite: Planes of the time



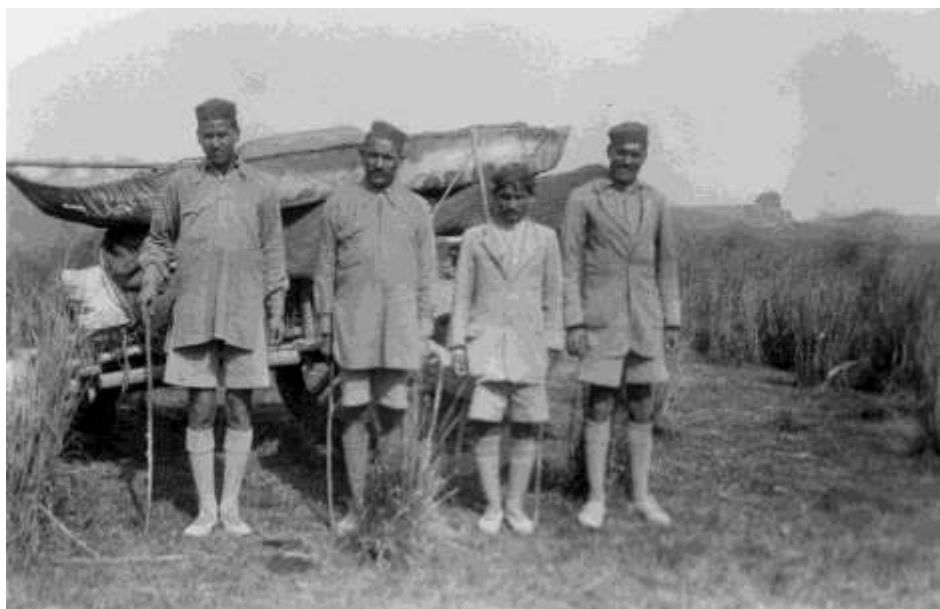


After the Armistice in 1918 his RAF unit was immediately posted to Ireland. After about four months, in 1919, he transferred back to the Royal Engineers, in which he had begun. The statement which has been published, that he was a 'secret agent' in Ireland does not seem to be the correct term. He took a 'special signals' course and acted as a military Intelligence officer on a special mission. Mike, who was also a Royal Engineer, has pointed out that the engineers, or sappers, and the signals personnel were all originally part of the same technical arm.

Father left Ireland to attend yet another signals course, at Chatham. Hearing that a friend of his had been killed in Ireland, he returned and engaged in a retaliatory shoot-out with Sinn Fein, for some reason taking place in a pub, staggered into the road severely wounded, and was picked up by a passing armoured car and taken to hospital. His CV states that he was wounded in Salonica but it passes over this Irish episode in silence. Broomhall, one of father's great friends in the army, recounted the story in Father's RE obituary.

I think Father must have sailed. Troops were forbidden to enter Ireland except on duty: on the ferry and train he might have met a senior office who knew he should not be there. He was a keen yachtsman and sailed in army races. I think he borrowed an RE yacht at Chatham, tucked his gun neatly into his belt, and sailed off up the Channel.

After Father had married, and Charles and I were born, we lived at Roorkee, in Bengal, now Bangladesh, where Father had transferred to the Bengal Sappers and Miners. We then went to Quetta, now in Pakistan, not far from the borders of Afghanistan, and Father attended the Staff College, where Martel was an instructor.



Roorkee

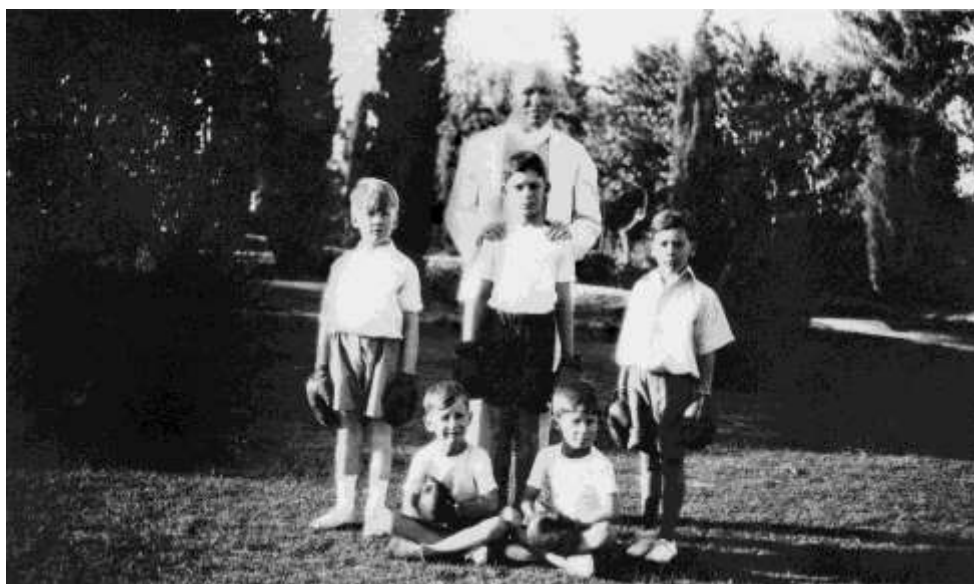
**Men of the Bengal
Sappers and Miners**



Roorkee

**Bengal Sappers and Miners
engaged in an amphibious
river crossing exercise**





Quetta

Top left: Charles and Elizabeth using their own transport

Top right: Elizabeth with the Ayah in her best white

Left: Charles (on the left) with the boxing coach and the class of British and Indian boys.

We then returned to Larkhill on Salisbury Plain, where Father did still another signals course. Then to York and then back to Farnborough, where I had been born. I have memories of Farnborough aerodrome before it was surrounded by a steel fence which seem worth recording in some other article, some day.

It was while we were still living at Farnborough that Father started working for an enterprise called 'Section D' of the SIS or Secret Intelligence Service. Many people thought war was inevitable and also that we would be overrun by Hitler. Father was asked to contemplate subjects like guerrilla warfare, paying especial attention to the ideas of the Chinese, which of course means Chairman Mao, and the Boers.

It was during this period that Father suggested ideas which were developed into SOE, the Special Operations Executive, and the Commandos, both of which are attributed to him by military histories, at least by the well-informed ones. These were not his only suggestions during his career but ones which it seems apposite to discuss here.

Colin Gubbins and the SOE

The other day I was peacefully watching a repeat from the series *Foyle's War*, which can be interesting in a mild kind of way (if only to wonder where Foyle obtained all his petrol). Suddenly it turned out that the episode, called *The French Drop*, was about the SOE. This, according to *Foyle's War*, was a bumbling

enterprise run by some incompetent and devious people in a country house, employing persons like ex-brothel keepers.

The ideas behind SOE were suggested by Father and the operative arm was run by (Sir) Colin Gubbins, a friend whom he had invited to join him in Section D, along with, initially, Millis Jefferis. This illustrates the perils of the Internet, which is not enough. The definitive study is *Gubbins and SOE* by Peter Wilkinson and Joan Bright Avery.

The book is dedicated to Father and includes a picture of him taken at High Littleton by his sister Peggy Shea. Early in the volume it describes Father's work and how he invited Gubbins and Jefferis to join. Later on it states that when discouraged, since SOE had its failures as well as successes, Colin Gubbins carried on out of loyalty to Father.

Colin Gubbins joined what was called 'The Shop', the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, in 1913. In the war he fought on the French front, for instance in the second battle of Ypres. For his part in the battle of the Somme in 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross: 'When one of his guns and its detachment were blown up by a heavy shell, he organized a rescue party and personally helped to dig out the wounded while shells were falling all round'.

In 1917 he was at the battle of Arras. He was gassed, mustard gas, and by 1918 was invalided home. He joined a mission to Russia, and from 1919-1922 was in Ireland. He also served in India, being at the Staff College in Quetta 1928-1930. 1930-1933 he was in the Soviet section of War Office Intelligence. It is recorded of Gubbins that he possessed a 'wild, devil-may-care streak'. A report quoted on p.102 of *Gubbins* stated 'I have seldom met a man more vigorous and a more inspiring soldier'. It is said that he could inspire a loyalty amounting to devotion.

SOE was actually founded after Dunkirk, in July 1940. Father and his circle argued that it should be military, but in the end it was placed under Hugh Dalton. SO1 dealt with propaganda, SO2 was the combat arm, directed by Colin Gubbins. It was opposed, naturally, by the Foreign Office and (Sir) Anthony Eden, who found Dalton boisterous and disliked his socialist ideas. Dalton regarded Anthony Eden as a stuffed shirt.

Even before the USA entered the war, connections were established. One Colonel Donovan visited Britain and studied Gubbins's work. He was taken to see the paramilitary training school in Scotland, 'which greatly impressed him'. I believe, without being absolutely certain, that it was from these particular units, developed in accordance with Father's suggestions, that the Commandos emerged.

The USA's parallel force to SOE was known as OSS. Gubbins began to fear that Donovan was really preparing a network of contacts which the USA could use in the postwar world to defend its interests. Presumably all these openings were taken over by the CIA: however it seems hard to blame Father and Gubbins for the activities of the CIA.

Gubbins ran SO2 throughout the war and retired from active service in February 1946. Normally soldiers were only allowed to accept four foreign honours but it was decided that he might have at least twenty honours for both wars, British and foreign, after which presumably he would have to ask permission for each addition. After the war he kept up the contacts he had made through SO2, promoting a fellowship of the people involved. His memorial service in 1976 was attended by representatives from far and wide, and Sir Peter Wilkinson paid tribute to the way in which he had kept hope alive throughout the war, saying that 'his name is honoured in many lands'.

We are used to and we excuse poetic licence, as when Inspector Morse discovers corruption in some imaginary Oxford college. However this programme specifically used the words 'SOE - the Special Operations Executive'. It is using a real organisation and the careers of real people, principally Sir Colin Gubbins.

Some Comments on the World of Film

Presumably there is also a *Foyle's War* episode suggesting that the Commandos were all cowards at heart. According to *Foyle's War*, land girls engaged in the Black Market, RAF pilots were on the verge of nervous collapse, RAF ground crew were blackmailers, local war heroes were frauds, and bomb disposal squads were thieves. This last idea occurred in yet another repeat episode. I switched it off, and decided never to watch the series again.

Someone wrote of Leavis, the literary critic, that he taught a whole generation to sneer. The author of the *Foyle's War* series appears to have been a pupil of his. Such persons have very low self-esteem.

A wartime book by Nigel Balchin, *The Small Back Room*, described Father under his own name, watching the testing of new weapons at some stage in the war. The war had somewhat frayed his temper, and the book portrayed this accurately. The picture of him as a typical Colonel Blimp in the film of the volume was imbecile.

Imbecile also are most of the presentations of the British in India, from *Wee Willie Winkie* onwards (one can just imagine what the Pathans would really have done to Shirley Temple). Especially bad were the film and play of *A Passage to India*. The people depicted could not have run a parish outing, let alone an Empire. The book itself was boring, and a leading Indian writer spoke very scathingly of it.

The best films on the British in India known to me are *Carry on up the Khyber*, where the shelling of the Residency is a classic, and the Indian film, *Tamas: the Darkness*, a great film.

Period films in general do constantly make mistakes through not understanding the people they are dealing with. Again and again one recognises that people simply did not behave as shown. For the actual book of *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, I never heard anyone shout at a servant in India as depicted in this volume. In the TV film, the child Mary's nurse in India appears to be a high caste Hindu lady, who would never have gone out as a servant, any more than her counterpart in Britain. No Ayah that I ever saw wore silk; Ayahs wore cotton, white, dark blue and so on. However the rest of the presentation of *The Secret Garden*, dealing with life in Britain not India, was excellent.

It is possible to make marvellous films, where the filmmakers' own special intuition and imagination combine with a knowledge of the subject and a respect for other people. *Tamas* as said was a great film. In a different field, though not perhaps as deep a work as *Tamas*, is *The Last of the Mohicans* with its depiction of rugged North American scenery, and the integration with Nature of the Native Americans. It presented both sides of the society it was dealing with, as did *Tamas*.

Reading

Peter Wilkinson and Joan Bright Astley, *Gubbins and SOE*, Leo Cooper 1993.

Joan Bright joined J.C.F.Holland, Colin Gubbins and Millis Jefferis in Section D of the SIS in April 1939. In 1949 she married Philip Astley. Peter Wilkinson joined the SOE in 1940.

Nigel Balchin, *The Small Back Room*, 1st published by Collins 1943, Penguin edition 1958.

Father appears on the very first page, 'in one of his bad moods'. When he asked Nigel Balchin why his real name had been used, Balchin said that it seemed a good disguise. The book deals with bomb disposal and how exacting it really was. There is nothing about stealing anyone's stashes of banknotes.

Kenneth Macksey, *Armoured Crusader: Major-General Sir Percy Hobart*, Hutchinson, 1967.

This is an account of another of the pioneers, this time in the field of tanks, someone well-known to Father. Of the four people from Britain particularly mentioned in this article of mine, Gubbins, Hobart, Martel and Father, three were in the Engineers at one time or another. Obviously these were the people likely to experiment.

Hobart joined the 1st Bengal Sappers and Miners at Roorkee in 1906. When the First War broke out an

Indian Expeditionary force was sent to France. Hobart arrived with other Sappers and Miners early in 1915. He gained the Military Cross at Neuve Chapelle, where he was attached to a regiment of Ghurkas and where he did his utmost to resist the directive that sappers, being trained specialists, should be protected and not regarded as expendable.

In 1916 he moved with the India Corps to the Mesopotamian theatre. There was a great lack of planning and organisation here as in France, and again warfare tended to become static. Tanks appeared in France in September 1916 and again in 1917. They were not sent to Mesopotamia but Hobart was able to inspect some tracked vehicles. Baghdad fell in March 1917 and Hobart observed that the cavalry did not pursue the retreating Turkish army as it should have done. Later he described the cavalry as 'timid', but of course horses have an aversion to being killed. (Rustam, the prototype of the legendary Persian hero, is said to have lost out to the invading Arabs because his elephants stampeded.)

Gradually Hobart evolved his views on armoured warfare, and there began the struggle for tanks after the war, both for the actual vehicles and for new methods of warfare using them. At this time Hobart left the Sappers and joined the new Tank Corps. The difficulty of the struggle is shown by the fact that although he was by then Britain's leading tank expert, in March 1940 he was retired aged c.55 because senior officers found him 'self-opinionated'. It took another struggle to get him re-instated. Meanwhile the Germans, it proved, were far ahead of the British in tank warfare.

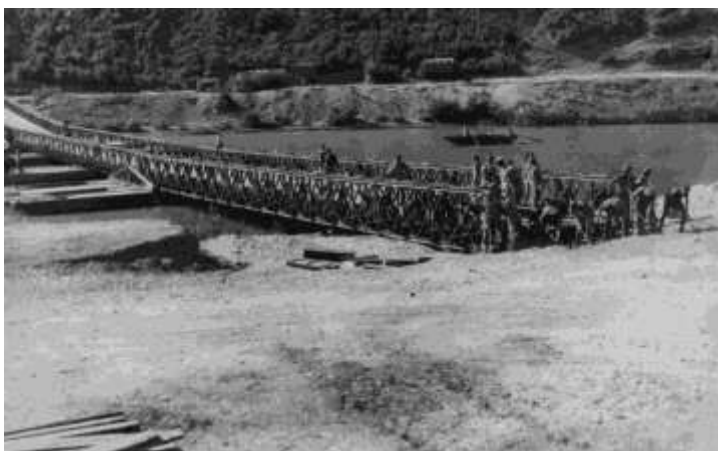
The book does not seem to mention Father, though Broomhall mentions Hobart in Father's obituary, saying that when Father was working on the Assault Engineers at the War Office from 1943, he was influenced by his association with Hobart. Father did speak as if the concept of the Assault Engineers was his own. An adaptation of them, the Armoured Vehicle R.E. Units, is mentioned, because they travelled actually in tanks (an idea suggested by a Canadian).

My brother Charles, also a Royal Engineer, reported that Montgomery had said that two men had made the invasion of Normandy possible, Hobart and Holland. He was asked to put it in writing, but diplomatically refused. He will have been referring to Father's work on the principles of assault and on the Assault Engineers, and on Hobart's work in adapting tanks for assault in amphibious landings.



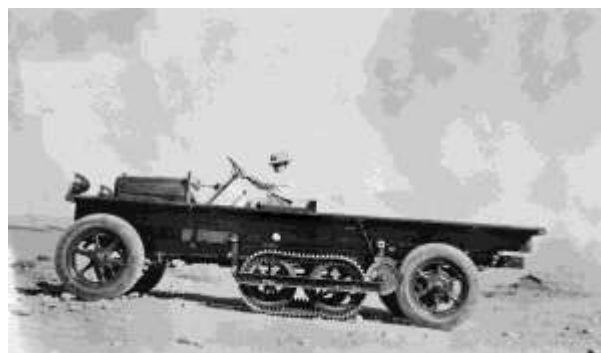
Left: Charles Holland in 1947, aged 22

Below: Charles builds a pontoon Bailey bridge, 1946



American personnel from the Mediterranean theatre in 1944 also told our family that Father had made the invasion of Italy possible. Unfortunately, as often happened, his health failed, and he was not able to continue in that theatre. *Armoured Crusader* does mention Martel, i.e. Giffard le Quesne Martel. Mechanisation in general was his speciality, which he was working on even when we were at Quetta. In 1936 Martel became Assistant Director of Mechanisation at the War Office. Father used to say that he valued the time he spent working on the mechanisation of the cavalry. Presumably he joined Martel, since the CV states that he was at the War Office in 1936, after our stay in York. It would be at Martel's own request, since he was an instructor at the Staff College at Quetta when Father was there. (Charles and I got into trouble once for hanging onto the back of one of his vehicles as it drove out of our compound in Quetta in a cloud of yellow dust.)

Like Gubbins and Hobart, Martel held the Military Cross. In any engagement, the people who really matter are those who actually take part in it, who as likely or not may be killed, as was Father's cousin-by-marriage Norman Young, at Dieppe. People often complain that those who plan military actions frequently do not take part in them themselves, which seems to have been too true of the campaign in France in the First War. All the four people mentioned here fought in the First War. Gubbins took part in missions in the Second and Hobart and Martel became tank commanders. Father expected to take part in the invasion of Italy but as said fell ill. I was told by someone else, not himself, that at the end he had himself lifted onto a horse because he could not walk, to oversee his share in the preparations.



Quetta

Above: J.C.F.H (left) and Charles Holland (right) with one of Martel's inventions

Left: Another of Giffard le Quesne Martel's half-track inventions

T.E.Lawrence. I cannot find the volume on Lawrence but believe it was *T.E.Lawrence* by Richard Adlington, or some such name. The author develops the theme already discussed in this essay, that the decisive battles in the Middle Eastern theatre were fought by known bodies of troops - the Australians, for instance, actually took Damascus. He doubts Lawrence's efficacy as a guerilla fighter. Lawrence loved to pose in Arab dress on a camel; he was picturesque and his role was to raise morale by distracting public attention from losses elsewhere. The author received dozens of letters of support, especially from Australians.

See Appendix II: Note on Mounts.

Appendix I: Dunkirk

It is not exact to say that Britain stood alone against Hitler after Dunkirk. She stood alone among the nations of Europe, but was always supported by the Empire and Commonwealth.

Of our relations in Winnipeg, three joined up and came to Britain. Norman Young had married one of Father's first cousins, Grace Moody. He had four children, and was headmaster of a school for boys he and his wife had founded in Winnipeg, Ravenscourt. He arrived in Britain in 1940, and in December travelled down to Devon to see Father, who was now commanding troops there. These troops had been evacuated from Dunkirk, before Father joined them. Norman Young describes them in this extract from one of his letters to his wife. Uncle Norman Young died at Dieppe, August 1942. He was a person of extremely fine character, still revered, of course, by his relations, and by the school.

'Jack is very proud, and justly so, of his new command. The Division of which it is a part did magnificent work at Dunkirk. The Es.[Engineers] themselves, after fighting a rearguard action for 48 hours, arrived on the beach with the Div. to find no boats available to take them off. There were however a number of boats bobbing about in the bay out near some ships which had just been filled to capacity and were putting out to sea. So the Es. swam out for these boats, which were 1/4 to 1/2 a mile out, rowed them back, and then for the next twelve hours rowed them back and forth evacuating their own Div. on to newly arrived ships.

We had dinner and breakfast at the Mess, and two of his young officers who had been in the Dunkirk show, were there, and splendid lads they are.'

Appendix II: a Note on Mounts.

As tanks were developed, the debate arose as to which form of warfare they should represent – the heavy presence, once represented by elephants in the East or the Great Horse of the Elizabethan age, or the light and flexible, as with the Arab horse, which helped Salah-uddin or Saladin to achieve victory over the Crusaders. Or both, which was what the dedicated tank enthusiasts wanted to see.

No one to my knowledge ever suggested that it would be useful if tanks resembled camels. The camel, or Ship of the Desert as it used to be called, has evolved through centuries to carry loads across the desert, eating and drinking as little as possible on the way. To this it is supremely adapted. Camels are always described as bad-tempered and recalcitrant. Even racing camels only really understand one direction, which is, straight ahead. It is reported that if a camel leaves the path to eat some choice shrub by the way, it will then carry straight on ahead, marching off into the desert until its owner comes and drives it back to the way. It cannot be criticised for this: it would not be so useful if it was not willing simply to plod on and on.

One would not expect guerilla fighters to choose camels as their mounts. Hobart wrote a little book about his pony Sheila. A couple of stories from this are retold in *Armoured Crusader*, showing the same kind of flexibility as the Arab horses, or Sons of the Desert as horsemen used to call them (as for instance in what used to be the classic handbook, particularly popular in India, *The Points of the Horse* by Captain Hayes).

On one occasion Hobart was riding forward in the Mesopotamian area with three Indian troopers, scouting for the enemy, with a small group of cavalry following as an escort behind. Suddenly the Turks opened fire from concealed trenches. Two of the troopers were killed immediately. The third horse swung to escape, the story says, but dropped and threw its rider. Hobart reached him and swung him up behind himself on Sheila. Sheila 'galloped out of action twisting and bending to disconcert the Turkish fire that followed them for a thousand yards'. Unfortunately on arrival it was found that the trooper had also been shot, through the heart. Later on Hobart returned on foot to see if after all anything could be done for the others.

On another occasion Hobart on Sheila was looking for crossing places on a river, and as he came away a long-range sniper hit Sheila on one hoof and the impact caused her to fall, landing on top of Hobart. The horse scrambled to its feet and Hobart, although badly concussed, out of sheer habit remounted, rode back

to base and sat down to write out orders. He commented later on that he did not think his orders were much more muddled than usual.



1931: Staff College Heavy Weight – the Winner, Col.Martel, leading



J.C.F.H in trouble at the *nullah*

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