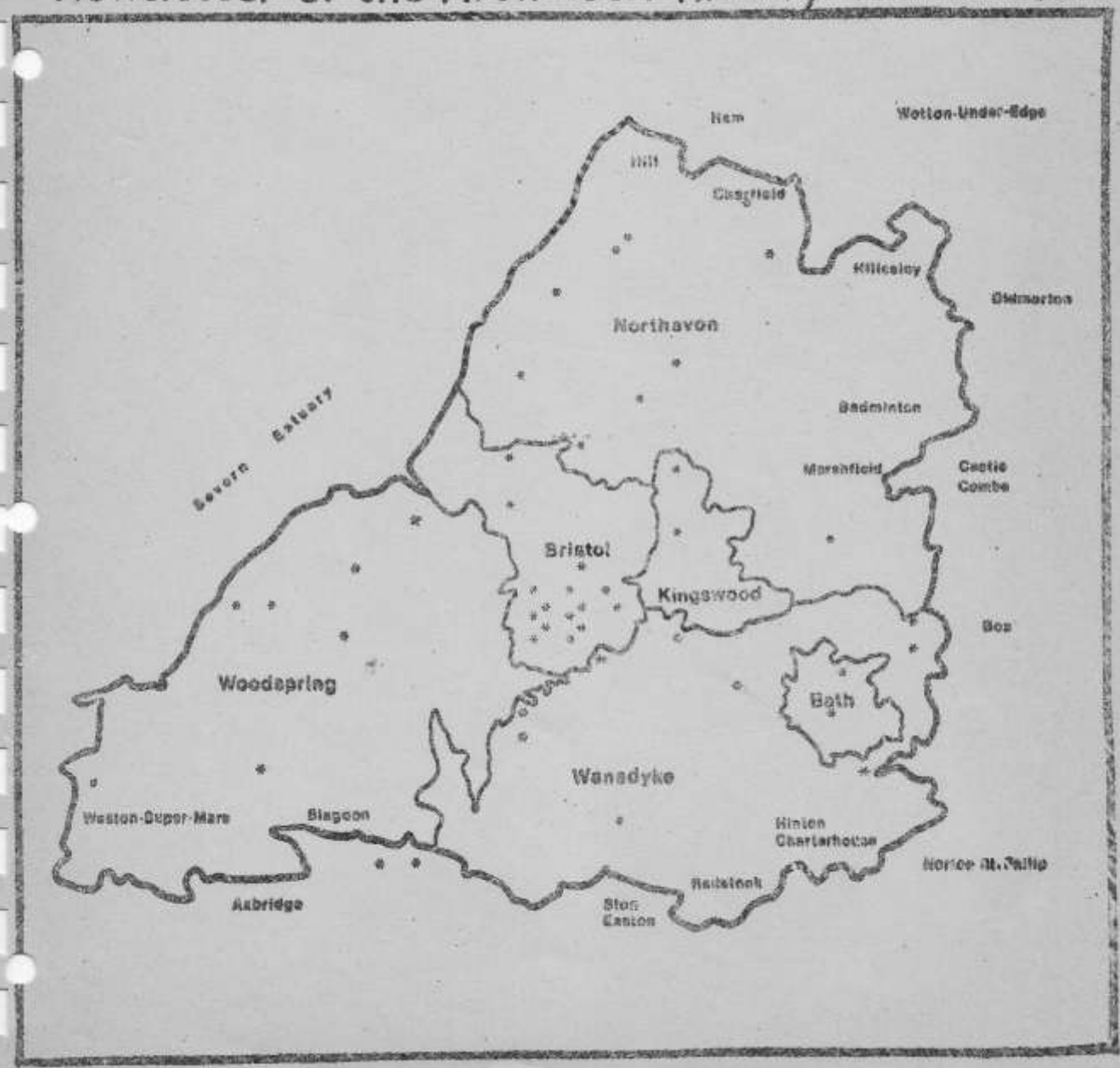


ALPHA QUEST

Issue No. ^a

Newsletter of the Avon Local History Association





**WHY NOT VISIT US AT
THE MANOR HOUSE
BISHOPSWORTH, BRISTOL.**

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ALPHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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QUEST is the official newsletter of the Avon Local History Association.
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--- CONTENTS ---

Editorial	2
Avon Place & Field Names Survey	3
The Use of the Small Scale Map in Local History Research	5
Nailsea Glass	8
Heraldry from the Avon Area No. 6 - Bath	9
News from Societies	11
Essay Competition for over sixties	14
Open University Courses	15
The First Bristol Theatre	15
Compton Dando - an historical account	17
Travelling Fellowships - Churchill Memorial Trust	24a
Organisations in correspondence with ALHA	25
Subscription forms	26

I am sure you would like to join me in congratulating Mrs Sue Barrance, our editor, on the birth of a son last July. Unfortunately she has not been able to take over the reins of office as yet, so once again I have prepared the edition.

Although in total the number of letters received in reply to RSVP Quest was disappointing, the editors were encouraged by the tone of the letters.

Mrs D. Layzell dealt with each point in turn:

- 1) Do we dispense with Quest? Mrs Layzell is firm in reply - "It appears to be the most positive idea in attaining aims within the known financial difficulties."
- 2) Do we reduce the scope of Quest? "It is a retrogressive step. In spite of the present criticism, who would be satisfied with a newsletter - food for puppies."
- 3) Do we retain Quest in its present form? "If we retain Quest we have taken a step forward in the declared aims of a more sophisticated presentation."

Mrs Layzell is equally firm in rejecting the other alternatives.

Mrs C.R. Spencer writes:

"If Quest in its present form does not pay, then it is hardly likely that a high grade publication would be a viable proposition. If members of the various societies, myself included, wish to read Quest then we should foot the bill."

Mrs Spencer pointed out that in Quest 8 her interest was in three articles only and the rest could be omitted and suggests that either the editors are ruthless and that Quest is limited to 12 pages or it is dispensed with altogether and suggestion 5 is implemented, i.e. information sheets and pamphlets are circulated.

Mr. M. Gray wrote:

"Finally ought I say how much I enjoy reading Quest. I have only recently joined the ALHA as an individual member, and have found the editions of the newsletters I have received so far most interesting and encouraging - interesting in the depth of local history research in the new county and encouraging to see that many societies are willing to exchange views and research material."

An article by Mr. Gray is published in this edition.

The truth is that I was gradually moving, like Mrs Spencer, to a curtailment of Quest, but No. 7 and No. 8 were so successful - the circulation topped 300 with reprints - that I am satisfied we have content but that presentation is all-important. The purchase of an electric typewriter is a must and the Executive is considering means of obtaining one so that the 1979 editions will emerge in designed covers and clearer print.

Our good friends MALAGO also contributed suggestions and I am grateful for their most acceptable and constructive letters.

INTRODUCTION

Avon Local History Association (in conjunction with Avon County Council, the Avon Archaeological Council and the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of Bristol University) is undertaking a complete survey of place names and field names in the county. The purpose of this survey is to provide a complete geographical coverage of the county, in which every place and field name will be listed and keyed to large-scale maps. The end product will be of the greatest value to both archaeologists and local historians of the county, since these names are a major source particularly for the earlier periods, before the 14th century. Although the place and field names of Bristol and south Gloucestershire have been dealt with in A.H. Smith (ed.), 'The Place Names of Gloucestershire', vol.3, his coverage of field names is patchy, and in addition many sources have come to light since the early 1960s. For north Somerset, as for the rest of that county, the collection of raw material for the English Place Names Society is just beginning under the direction of Michael Costen and Jenny Scheerr, and our project will be co-ordinated with their work. Co-ordination with archaeologists will be ensured since one copy of the key-maps and lists for each parish will be deposited with the Conservation Section of the Avon County Council Planning Department, where it can be compared with the County Sites and Monuments Record: the other copy will eventually be deposited with the Avon Local History Association. Both will be available for consultation by the public during office hours.

METHOD

Initially, it is proposed to concentrate on coverage of the Tithe Maps and Awards which exist for nearly all parishes in Avon and were made in the late 1830s and 1840s. Copies are available in the respective diocesan record offices (Bristol, Gloucester and Taunton): a third copy is in the Public Record Office at Kew. The Tithe Maps are large-scale manuscript maps on which each field is numbered: the numbers correspond to numbers on the Tithe Award which also gives the name, area, land-use, owner and occupier of each field. For most rural parishes in Avon, it should therefore be possible to mark on copies of the modern Ordnance Survey map the boundaries (where these have changed since the date of the Tithe Map and Award) and the number of each field on the Tithe Map, and to provide numerical and alphabetical indexes for each parish. This will enable other users to find out

- (a) What a specific field in any location was called in the early Victorian period; and
- (b) Where fields with specific names are to be found.

Certain problems are bound to arise which will be considered at a later date. These include:

- (i) Those parishes with no Tithe Map or Award, or one which only covers part of the old parish.
- (ii) Parishes which have been completely built over since the 1840s, obliterating the majority of old boundaries.
- (iii) Possibly, a handful of rural parishes affected by late enclosure or other radical changes in the layout of fields.

RECORDING

1. Recorders will be supplied with two photostat copies of the modern 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps for the parish(es) they have undertaken to cover.
2. For each parish, an agreed colour-coding will apply for all numbers and boundaries to be entered on the photostats.

3. The recorder should begin by outlining the outer boundary of his or her parish as shown on the Tithe Map with a solid outline. Note and enter carefully any detached parts of other parishes within the main part of the parish and any detached parts of the parish within other parishes. Recorders should not automatically assume that the Tithe Map boundaries will be identical with modern parish boundaries: detached portions were usually transferred in the last quarter of the 19th century, and other boundary changes have occurred since then.
4. Recorders should then systematically enter from the Tithe Map on to the photostat the number of each field and, as precisely as possible, its boundaries if not the same as at present.
5. From the Tithe Award, recorders should enter on the Numerical Index the field name for each numbered field. If no name is given, which is very commonly the case for house sites, they should state 'no name' where this applies. At the end they should check that all numbers have a name or 'no name' entered. It is desirable to recheck the Award again, ticking off the numbers as checked. Tithe Award numbers are rarely in complete numerical sequence. Occasionally, the Award or Map misses out a number, in which case 'no entry' should be stated. The exact spelling and punctuation as given on the Tithe Award should be copied, even if it appears to be a mistake, in which case the preferred form should be entered in brackets.
6. An alphabetical index should then be prepared by working through the numerical index transferring each named field on to a slip. These can then be resorted alphabetically, letter by letter, and a full alphabetical index prepared. If several fields share the same name, these can be grouped together (e.g. Northwoods: 1-4,7-9,12) and cross-referenced to allied forms (e.g. Northwoods Gate 10-11) and any clearly mistaken forms (e.g. Northwoods 5-6).
7. If names, especially of districts, hamlets or farms are written on the Tithe Map, these should be included in the Alphabetical Index with reference to the nearest field numbers on the Tithe Map.
8. It is recommended that all numbers should initially be entered on one copy of the map in pencil, as some mistakes are inevitable. The second copy can then be marked-up in the appropriate colour of ink, and copied on to the first copy when any mistakes have been erased.
9. The maps should then be returned to me for sorting and checking. Guidance is available at any time during the work.

We hope to extend this coverage later to include earlier estate maps and surveys, enclosure awards etc. and documents of all kinds.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS SURVEY for your parish or elsewhere, please contact me at the address below. I shall also be very happy to hear from you if you know of any old maps or documents relating to your area still in private hands, and if you could indicate whether manorial boundaries could be determined for your parish.

67 Woodland Road,
Bristol BS8 1UL.

John Moore
Lecturer in Economic History
President of ALHA

AVON LOCAL HISTORY HANDBOOK

Due to printer's delays the Handbook will not now be available until mid-November. Those who have ordered pre-publication copies will be notified when they are available for collection.

** The excellent article on 'LOCAL HISTORY EVIDENCE FROM O.S. MAPS' by Miss Cluny Brown, which appeared in 'Quest' No. 8, outlining the use of the larger scale O.S. map in local history, may be regarded as one of the latest expressions of a common mistrust of the small scale county maps (prepared before the printing of the first O.S. maps) by local historians. Yet the author is not alone in thinking that it is only the large-scale map that can be of use in historical investigation - for example, E.M. Rodger (1) tells us that "...large-scale maps of the British Isles provide, therefore, an unrivalled source of material for the years 1700-1850 ..." and does not mention the humble county map, produced by the private mapseller (such as Basset and Chiswell) or the engraver (such as Cary).

It is, of course, true that the great majority of maps before 1675(2) were indeed inaccurate, if small in scale. Yet the years c.1700-1850 were marked by a change in the style and indeed content of small-scale county maps, and it is this change, that produced important changes on the map-market, that I wish to explore here with particular reference to maps of the 'Avon area' (i.e. maps of Somerset/Gloucester).

A fine essay has already appeared, by Dr. Skelton (3) on "The London map trade before 1700", which well illustrates the trends in the map 'industry' up to that date. However, the years after 1700 did not see an immediate change in engraving style or content in the maps of English and Welsh counties. The inclusion of roads on small-scale productions had already taken place, and by 1719 (4) private map makers were producing reduced versions of the maps of Ogilby. (5) These maps form an important body of evidence for the local historian - for example, the Senex road map (based on Ogilby) (6) of the 'Road from London to Bristol' shows us the features of road transport the early 18th century traveller would have encountered on the long journey westward; many features to be lost by the end of the century. Although Ogilby's maps give the local historian greater information about conditions on either side of the road, these maps by Senex, Gardiner and Bowen (7) give us a great deal of material themselves, for they were the 'tourist handbooks' of their day.

Yet the English engraving style was still crude, and the maps of Bowen in particular show little advance from the 1635 production of Van Langeren (8) in quality. Indeed the great majority of popular small-scale atlases published in England between 1700 and 1740 continued to be of this type - for example, Moll's (9) otherwise splendid, concise maps of the counties of England Wales were marred by bad engraving. However, these maps are literally covered in information of use to the local historians, the source of evidence for further investigation - indeed, these 'notes' were emphasised in the larger maps of Bowen, particularly those of the 'Large English Atlas. (10)

This style of engraving, essentially baroque in inspiration, was superseded by the 'classical' engraving techniques introduced by Kitchen, Bowen (after the crude attempt of 1721) Jeffreys and Ellis. The maps of the 1750s and 1760s, for example, are characterised by elaborate cartouches depicting the produce and labour of the county; if nothing else, these touching romantic impressions of rural life give one the feeling of 'distance' in social and professional terms between the Gloucestershire labourer and a London-based engraver of the 18th century.

It is the detail of these maps that is of particular appeal to the local historian - they give him a significant insight into the rural scene during the period, and illustrate the local conditions both in words and in pictures, and cannot, therefore, be neglected. It is unfortunate that the larger maps of such engravers as Ellis, Kitchen and Bowen cannot be classified as being of LARGE SCALE and, when designated as being of SMALL SCALE, they are disregarded as unimportant works.

At this point, I should stress that this increasing 'professionalism' in the London (as distinct from the provincial) map trade was not universally adopted. Many 'minor' cartographers, such as Henry Beighton (11), produced many small-scale maps of great value, for example of the Warwickshire Hundreds. A little nearer home, the maps by Basire in Richard Colt Hoare's "Ancient History of Wiltshire..." (12) provide us with a good deal of information about the area. Yet, we must be cautious in our use of these maps; let us take a local example. Although produced in 1779 for Samuel Rudder's "New History of Gloucestershire...", the map of the county by I. Bayly (13) exhibits a style and form that both anticipated Cary and reflected upon the achievements of the 'Bowen' group. If we examine the differences between Cary's map of the county, and the map by Bayly, some features immediately strike us:

J. Cary (1787) (14)	I. Bayly (1779)
Date: September 1st 1787	see title
Title: "Gloucestershire"	"Gloucestershire accurately laid down in the year 1779.."
Plate size: see 'Chubb' p. 213	40cm x 36.5cm
Scale: 10 miles (= 4cm)	19 miles (= 14cm)

Though Bayly uses a larger scale than Cary, he is unable to present as much information as the resourceful Cary - for example, one merely has to compare the delineation of the road system around Bristol on both maps.

This example of the dangers associated with the belief that "The bigger the scale the better the map" should be remembered. Though Cary's maps seem the most representative of their time, they were regarded as the forerunners of a new style of mapping that one usually associates with the O.S. in its early days. Yet Cary's maps were produced many years before the first O.S. map. Cary, then, is one example of a major private cartographer, who produced maps of immense value to the local historian, though small in scale, as they represent a growing interest in communications, coupled with a new, scientific, cartographic style. One merely has to examine a Cary map to see that this is the case.

Thus, the message to the local historian involved in research using maps of the period discussed is threefold:

- (i) Establish the reliability of the cartographer by referring to specialist works (e.g. those mentioned in the notes below, which themselves provide excellent bibliographies)
- (ii) Strike a balance between the use of large and small scale maps, the latter will help to place the locality concerned in a national and county setting.
- (iii) Be prepared to use both the primary evidence and the secondary, less obvious information (e.g. in the cartouche) that these maps provide.

The period of mapping from 1700-1850 saw the production of some splendid, accurate maps which arrived on the bookseller's stall before the first O.S. maps. They can enrich one's study of local history, and should not be neglected.

.../REFERENCES

** Miss Cluny M. Brown, after leaving Portsmouth Polytechnic with a BSc in Geography, worked for four years in the Planning Department of Avon County Council before joining the library staff of the University of Bristol.

- (1) "The large Scale County Maps of the British Isles 1596-1850: A Union List". E.M. Rodger. pub. Bodleian Library, Oxford 1960 (2nd ed. 1972) p.v.
- (2) i.e. before the 1675 work by Ogilby "Britannia...an illustration of the Kingdom of England and Dominion of Wales", see "The Printed Maps in the Atlases of Great Britain and Ireland: A Bibliography 1579-1870", Thomas Chubb. 1st edition 1927. Reprinted by Dawsons Ltd. 1966 p.84. (This work is hereafter referred to as 'Chubb'.)
- (3) "County Atlases of the British Isles 1579-1703", Dr. R.A. Skelton. Carta Press 1970 p. 231. (This work is hereafter referred to as 'Skelton')
- (4) i.e. by the 1719 work of Thomas Gardiner - "A Pocket Guide to the English Traveller...", and John Senex - "An Actual Survey of all the Principal Roads of England and Wales.." see 'Chubb' p.110-111.
- (5) see note 2 above.
- (6) see note 4 above; the first sheet of this map is reproduced in "Investing in Maps", Roger Baynton-Williams. pub. Corgi Books 1971 p.61
- (7) For a biography of Bowen, see 'Chubb' p.423
- (8) i.e. "A Direction for the English Traveller..." see 'Skelton' p.63; 'Chubb' p.53
- (9) Examples of Mall's work are common, and are of particular interest in that they often carry detail of local antiquities e.g. coins, tablets, ruins, monuments. However, these only occur in the editions of the atlas "A New Description of England and Wales..." of 1724 and 1739. See 'Chubb' p.125-128.
- (10) i.e. the "Large English Atlas" of (1749) 1755, 1763, 1767, 1785 and 1787. See 'Chubb' p.157-171.
- (11) Sir W. Dugdale's "History and Antiquities of Warwickshire". 1729
- (12) 2 vols. 1812 and 1821. Some fine work by Cary appears here also.
- (13) R.V. Tooley's "Dictionary of Mapmakers: Part I (A-Callan)". pub. Map Collectors Circle, Carta Press, p.31. Bayly is not credited with this map.
- (14) i.e. "Cary's New and Correct English Atlas" of 1787. Other editions were 1793, 1809, 1812, 1818, 1823, 1827 and 1831. See 'Chubb' p.213-217; also see H.G. Fordham's classic work "John Cary: Engraver, Map, Chart and Print seller and Globemaker". Cambridge 1925. This work has recently been reprinted.

M. Gray

PLEASE SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO 'QUEST' TO THE EDITOR:

Mrs Sue Barrance,
120 Manor Lane,
Charfield,
Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.

COPY DATE: 4 DECEMBER 1978

The Nailsea glasshouse, as it was then called, was set up on the Heath, a mile away from the old village around Kings Hill in the year 1788. It was possible to get a piece of land here from the Lord of the Manor, and in close proximity were to be found plenty of stone for the buildings, clay for the crucibles and coal for the firing, whilst in the parish or nearby was sand and lime, two essential ingredients. John Robert Lucas who was the author of the adventure, was a young man of 34 who had gained experience and profit from two other glasshouses in which he held partnerships, and what influenced him to come to Nailsea was undoubtedly the availability of the materials above-mentioned and the fact that to convey them to Bristol would cost much more than would the carriage of the finished articles. These were of two kinds, one being bottles and the other Crown window glass, and both had to be blown by skilled craftsmen. For these men, attracted from such work in Bristol by the lure of high wages, housing accommodation had to be found, so nineteen cottages of one room down and one up were built adjoining the glasshouse. This was the customary housing of the time and it is on record that in 1791 no less than 200 people, men, women and children, lived in them! It must have been the first instance in north Somerset of houses being built by private enterprise for workmen, an example followed later elsewhere by colliery companies with their 'model' villages, railway companies near engine sheds and marshalling yards, and then such attractive layouts as Bournville and Port Sunlight, followed at long last by Local Authorities and New Towns.

At the time when the glasshouse was founded there were no railways and few roads worthy of the name, those we had being kept up to some extent by the proceeds of the toll houses such as the one at Ashton Gate (in Bristol there was also Lawford's Gate, Temple Gate and others). So small ships did most of the carrying and the Severn and the Wye were the highways of the West, bringing the produce, merchandise and manufactures of many counties into Bristol, the second port in the country. In returning, they carried sugar and spice, ironware and earthenware, glass window panes, bottles and ornaments, which were in great demand. Bottles were wanted too for the Hotwell water, quantities of which were sent to the little ports around the coasts, for medicine was still in its infancy and healing waters were craved for everywhere. (e.g. Look at the numbers of Holy Wells we had.)

The merchants and well-to-do townsmen would sometimes call in at the Bristol glasshouses to get a few (or perhaps many) bottles made with their initials on, in order to impress friends or customers. At some glasshouses ornamental glass was a speciality and a skilful blower could build up quite a reputation for the beautiful work he would do, if the incentive was not lacking. There is no doubt that at Nailsea the glass blowers were encouraged by the local gentry to use their talents in making articles other than the two referred to, for working conditions were very different in those days, and so we find walking sticks, rolling pins, flasks, ear trumpets, cider jars, door-stops, cream bowls, condiment sets, dolls house furniture and a variety of ornaments attributed to Nailsea, but where this type of glass is concerned, proof is almost impossible. Nevertheless, although Nailsea glasshouse was worked very profitably for the prosaic purposes of producing window glass and bottles, the poetic feelings of a love-sick apprentice, the proud contentment of a happy father, or the gleam of a golden sovereign to the master of his craft, were the means of producing some of the pieces now so sought after by collectors of what is called Nailsea glass.

Heraldry from the Avon area No. 6 - Bath

The arms of Bath first appear on a map by William Smith in Particular Description of England, probably of 1568. It is now in the BM, Sloane manuscript 1596. They have had a chequered history, however, for the Heralds' Visitation of 1623 (to Somerset) recorded a different version, probably helped by one Lord Mayor, William Chapman. This, however, was never accepted as a true version. In 1888, the Guildhall was renovated and the City Architect, Charles Davis, substituted the 1623 version for the 1568 one. The Council in the same year asked the College of Arms to clear up the problem, which was simply resolved as the first grant of arms is the only valid one, and can never be revoked save by personal command of the Sovereign (rather than the Crown). So the older arms remained - duly recognised by the Council, and restored to the Guildhall.

As no record has ever been found of the grant of arms to Bath, despite the heraldic practice of mediaeval times that if arms were proven to have been descended through three generations they were recognised as property, it has been claimed that anybody can use them in any way. This was true until 1971 when the addition of crest, supporters, motto and badge were sought. In my opinion it was a pity, for nowadays all arms are granted with motto and crest. By remaining without anything but the shield, Bath would have been unique, and at the same time proclaimed its antiquity and that of its arms.

However, it cannot be said that the additions are in appropriate - indeed they are very good examples of modern heraldry. Mr. Ellis Tomlinson is to be congratulated. The Saxon crown raised by the hands of Dunstan from the Edgar Window in the abbey. Edgar, King of the English, was of course crowned in Bath Abbey in 973, celebrated in the Bath Millenium five years ago.

The supporters, a lion and a bear, were effigies on the Old Bridge in Elizabethan times, mentioned in the Royal Charter of 1590 and nobody knows anything else about them. I have heard it suggested that they were emblems of respectively a Roman legion and King Arthur, the Latin for the latter name being Arturus - a pun.

On the shoulders of the bear and lion are the emblems of St. Peter (keys) and St. Paul (sword), both patrons of the Abbey. The handles or wards of the keys meet in the letter 'B' which is a pleasing touch.

Unique in English heraldry, the compartment (between motto and shield) is oak leaves and acorns. These refer to legend of King Bladud (all good Bathonians skip the next bit; you should know it!) who it is said discovered the medicinal springs whilst as a wineherd he was feeding acorns to his pigs. The acorn is also a prominent feature in the architecture of Georgian Bath and "as a Roman wreath of honour appears on the remains of the temple of Sul-Minerva" - I think that, as a part of the Druids' sacred oak that would have been unlikely - the only boob in the otherwise excellent leaflet published by the City and from which much of the information is taken.

Blazon: shield:

Per fess embattled azure and gules masoned asble in chief two bars wavy argent and in base two crosses pommey sable over all a sword erect argent hilt and pommel or.

Crest: On a wreath argent and azure two hands and wrists the hands supporting the crown of King Edgar proper the wrists vested purpure cuffed argent garnished or.

Supporters:

10

On the dexter side a lion and on the sinister side a bear each standing on a branch of oak leaved and fructed proper and each charged on the shoulder with two keys in bend sinister, the upper argent and the lower or, the wards upwards and outward each in the form of a letter 'B', the shafts enfiled by a sword in bend argent hilt and pommel or.

Aquae Sulis, 'the waters of Sulis' a Celtic water(?) - deity of pre-Roman times, was Bath's name in Roman times, and as was the Roman practice, Sulis's name became linked to the equivalent Roman deity, a most civilized practice. The Romans believed in winning the toleration of the locals in this kind of thing, and in fact positively encouraged them to believe in their local deity, provided that the shrine was shared with a member of the Roman pantheon! Another factor was that the local priests were often of aristocratic family with local 'pull', who could be relied upon to keep the people in order, body and soul. Canny devils, those Romans. I often wonder if it was with more than superficiality that the motto was chosen, and certainly it is odd to see the keys of Peter, the sword of Paul and the name of a heathen deity sharing the achievement of a city which in the last resort derives the authority for bearing arms from the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. But I like it.

Fred Rapsey



NEWS FROM SOCIETIES

BRISTOL AND AVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (Secretary: Mr. R. Brown. Tel. 502660)

The venue for the 1978-79 session has moved to The Folk House, 40 Park Street, Bristol. The meetings are at 7.30 for 7.45 and visitors are very welcome.

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|---|----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1978 - | 16 October | - | John Scoltock | - | Projects |
| | 20 November | - | Dr. J.H. Betty | - | 17th C. documentary sources |
| | 18 December | - | | - | Open evening |
| 1979 - | 15 January | - | Don Steel | - | Christian Names |
| | 19 February | - | Russell Howes | - | Parish Officers in 18th century |
| | 19 March | - | Robin Chaplin | - | Oral & Local History |
| | 23 April | - | Reece Winstone | - | Bristol before 1880 |

DOWNEND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (Secretary: Mr. R. Angerson. Tel. 651235)

The society meets at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend and welcomes new members.

Six meetings will be held between 3 October and 5 December. Talks will be given by visiting speakers on 'The Architecture and History of Bristol Cathedral' and 'The History of Lyrham Park', and members of the Society will give talks based on their local history research. The Society's AGM will be held on 5 December.

Members of neighbouring societies may care to note that on 17 October, Miss Judith Close, Assistant Archivist at the Bristol Record Office, will give a talk on 'Nineteenth Century Conveyancing Documents'.

A course of five meetings to be held at the Bristol Record Office, College Green, on Tuesdays at 7-9 p.m. has been arranged by the University's Extra-Mural Department and Miss Mary Williams. This is for the benefit of members of our Society and anyone else interested in working on the historical records relating to the parishes of Mangotsfield and Downend. Miss Judith Close will be the tutor, and the dates of the meetings are 18 & 24 October, 14 & 28 November and 12 December. Those wishing to enrol for the course should apply to the Staff Tutor in Local History at The University of Bristol, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol 8. Course fee £1.75 (OAPs half fee), payable by cheque or postal order to 'The University of Bristol'.

CHEW VALLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (Secretary: Mrs M. Durham Tel: Chew Magna 2712)

A Medieval Festival was held at Chew Magna in September with music, plays, mummers and slides, and a report will appear in the next issue of 'Quest'.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Club Room, behind the Bear & Swan in Chew Magna, and the autumn programme is given below:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 5 October | "Woollyn Industry of North Somerset" - Mr. K.G. Ponting |
| 2 November | "William Beckford" - Mr. J.M. Millington |
| 7 December | "History of Livestock from Pre-historic times" -
Mr. B. Noddle, M.A. |
| 4 January | "Enclosures" - Mr. M. Costan |
| 1 February | "Polk Lore" - Mr. M. Brown M.A. |

A booklet has been produced by the Society as a result of much original research by one of its members, which is well worth reading:- 'COAL MINING IN BISHOPS SUTTON, NORTH SOMERSET, circa 1799-1929' by Mr. W.J. Williams. The cost is £1.35 including p & p, or £1.20 if collected from the author at 4 Durn Hill, Compton Martin, Avon.

FILTON HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP (Secretary: Mr. W.L. Harris Tel. 692025)

During the summer the group visited Stoke Gifford and enjoyed being shown the excavations of a Roman farmstead by Dr. Parker of Bristol University. The dig has continued under Dr. Parker's leadership and one of our members has joined the group of volunteers working there.

The first talk of the autumn programme was in September when Mr. J. Oughton spoke on the history of the development of aircraft at the BAC under the title "Concorde Pedigree".

Meetings are held at Filton Folk Centre, Elm Park, Filton, at 7.30 p.m., and visitors are very welcome to the following:

- 25 October - "West Country Churches": Dr. J.H. Bettey
- 29 November - "Mid From Valley": slide show by Mr. G.R. Morris

FRESHFORD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (Secretary: Miss D. Withers
Tel: Limpley Stoke 3515)

In April a well-attended meeting in Freshford elected the first full committee and in May Mr. Anderson of Bradford-on-Avon, a well-known lecturer in local history, gave practical information on "How to discover local history" which was most helpful. In June, a lecturer in archaeology led a walk from Midford searching for long barrows and evidence of Roman cultivated fields, and a further search is planned for the area in old maps of 'The Giant's Grave'.

A local history exhibition at Hinton Charterhouse fête proved very popular, with an attendance of over 200 to see old poaching instruments and a mantrap used in the local woods as well as Victorian wheelwright's tools and farm implements. Kitchen equipment stirred many memories among the female visitors.

In July, forty people met at the church at Hinton Charterhouse for a walkabout of the village and a tour of the Carthusian Priory which was much enjoyed by all.

KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (Secretary: Mr. B. Milner
Tel: Keynsham 3802)

- 20 October "Railway Journey, Bath towards Bristol" - Russell Leitch
(a history of the line continued from where the speaker left off last year)
- 17 November "First publishers of truth" - Elizabeth White
(Quakers in Keynsham 1654-1680)
- 15 December Members Meeting
- 19 January "Looking at Local Parish Churches" - Dr. J.H. Bettey
- 16 February "The Order of St. Victor" - Barbara Lowe
(The religious order of the Canons of Keynsham Abbey)

All meetings are held at Ellsbridge House, Bath Road, Keynsham on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. Non-members are welcome (15p per meeting)

A new book, which contains interesting details of Abbey history and the notable people associated with it, although obviously a specialist publication, has been written by Barbara Lowe. Price £2.25

"MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILES OF KEYNSHAM ABBEY"

Details from the Secretary

KINGSTON SEYMOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (Secretary: Mr. J.R. Tarrant
Tel: Yatton 832959)

Kingston Seymour are mounting an exhibiton of church records, together with documents and articles loaned by local residents on Saturday, 7 October 1978 in the Kingston Seymour Community Hall.

After the event it is anticipated that part of the exhibition will go for a three week period to the Woodspring Museum at Weston-super-Mare.

MALAGO ARCHIVES COMMITTEE (Secretary: Mrs C. Lillington, 42 St. Peter's Rise, Bishopsworth, Bristol 3)

During July we became involved in taking local history to younger children at St. Pius X R.C. Primary School at Withywood, Bristol. The top class at the school visited Bishopsworth Manor and did a small project on the area around their school. We loaned them charts, photographs and maps and gave them a talk about Bishopsworth as it used to be. Then, during the final week of the term, we presented our local history show 'Malagomania' to the whole school.

Our acting abilities seem to be spreading far and wide, as we have been asked to do a similar show in October and November this year at two more local churches. We are also exhibiting photographs of Long Ashton in an exhibition at Woodspring Museum, Weston-super-Mare this autumn, and hope to start making a town trail aimed at primary schools.

The main item of news is the formation of our adult 'branch', named 'The Malago Society' which will be run separately but in close co-operation with the school-based Archives Committee.

MALAGO SOCIETY (Secretary: Mr. R. Tanner, 12 Petercole Drive, Bishopsworth, Bristol 3. Tel: 643270)

The Society will meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in The Old Dining Hall, behind Bishopsworth Church. Membership is £1 per year, but visitors will be very welcome to any of the following meetings:

24 October	"Nailsea Glassworkings": Harry Dommett
28 November	"The Langtons at Newton Park": Graham Davis
19 Decenber	"A Victorian Christmas Evening"
23 January	A.G.M. and Victorian Slide programme
27 February	"The Bedminster & Bristol Horse": Keith Chivers

A newsletter will be issued to members - please contact the Secretary.

NAILSEA LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (Secretary: Mr. H. Dommett Tel: Nailsea 7555)

The Society has been successful in producing a series of publications about the village, all written by members, which are available at 10p each:

Nailsea Heritage No.1	Nailsea's Industrial Past/Walk around glassworks
No.2	The Surveyor of Highways Account Book
No.3	Some of the Old Houses in Nailsea and their owners
No.4	History of Nailsea Rectory
No.5	Air Raids in North Somerset
No.6	John Whiting (1656-1722) Quaker

Public response is good, and the series is considered on-going, with unlimited material on which to draw.

SODEBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Secretary: Mr. G. Davey. Tel C.S. 314053)

Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Painters Head School except for the October meeting which is in the Town Hall.

- 13 October "A social history study of housing" - Mr. J. Moore
 10 November Cheese and Wine Evening at 7.45 p.m.
 8 December "Local buildings of interest" - Mr. G. Morris

On Saturday 31 March the Society will be host to a Walk Around Sodbury from 3 p.m. onwards, to which all are welcome. Further details will be given in the next issue of 'Quest', but it is planned to have an exhibition in the Town Hall and to serve refreshments. Please keep this date free and inform the members of your organisation.

FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE A LITTLE OLDER...PRIZES!!

A pleasant feature of the essay competition earlier this year was the entries from our older membership, for it is not always appreciated how valuable their contributions can be. This is particularly so when the contributors draw on their own memories.

Approaching the age of retirement myself, I remember that one of my great delights as a child was to listen to my grandmother talking of her childhood, and I have some vivid pictures of her early family life. It is only recently that I realised that she was talking of the mid-19th century.

Local history after all is about people, how they lived, how they worked, how they worshipped, how they thought and how they played. This of course makes the older generation an important source of local history. We would love to hear from you and print your opinions and stories of the life that has gone forever.

A prize of an outing to a place of historical interest is offered for the most interesting and original personal reminiscence of life before World War II that is published in 'Quest' during the coming year. Please write to me, Harry Donnett, 5 The Willows, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 1JH.

NEW OPEN UNIVERSITY COURSES

Two local history courses are beginning in February 1979. The fee for each is £8, and applications should be made before 15 December to The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK7 6AA.

Doing History (8 weeks) To show members of local history societies and groups and teachers of history in schools and colleges how to go about historical research and writing. It will be highly practical - a project will be a major part of the work, students being encouraged to start an historical study of some aspect of their own locality.

Industrial Archaeology (10 weeks)

The Editor has enrolled for both these courses and urges others who do so to let her have their comments on the content and approach of the courses so that ALHA can, in due course, send its comments on them to the Open University.

THE FIRST BRISTOL THEATRE

The first Bristol Theatre, which was to serve the folk who frequented the Hotwell Spa, as well as the Bristol public, was sited in Jacobs Wells Road, in premises which are now a carpet factory. It was opened in 1729 by John Hippisley, the comedian actor-manager, the final season being in 1765.

Hippisley joined the Thomas Lewis Company in 1728, acting at St. Augustines Back Theatre. This acting company joined a pantomime group of acrobats, including Madame Violante, who discovered Peg Woffington when she was a Dublin slum child. Their rivals were the Bath Theatre Company who used the Long Room Hotwells. In September 1728 both playhouses were presented as Public Nuisances and Nurseries of Idleness and Vice. The Bath Company strategically left the city, and the Mayor issued a warrant on November 6th 1728 to apprehend Lewis. There was a scuffle with the Chief Constable who was himself assaulted by an indignant member of the audience.

Hippisley shrewdly realised that the theatre he proposed to open should be outside the city boundaries, and he was well aware of the clientele at the Hotwell Spa. The London Weekly Journal of 28 June 1729 reports: "Bristol June 21. We are now building a very spacious Theatre at Lime Kilns, lying convenient for Coaches as well as for the Rope walk leading to the Hotwell". Actually it turned out to be a building of limited proportions.

The opening night was a grand affair; the play, Love for Love by Congrève.

Hippisley, by his very appearance alone, created roars of laughter. He referred to his face which had a burn scar down one cheek, as an 'ugly face which is a farce'. When he told the famous Quin that he thought of bringing up his son to the stage, Quin replied "If that is the case, it is high time to burn him".

Hippisley, was at first, only a candle snuffer but succeeded in acting parts, mostly comedy, after the death of a comedian. He had two daughters, one of whom Jane, later a Mrs. Green, became a pupil of Garrick and attained a distinguished place among the actresses of the 18th century.

In Felix Farleys Bristol Journal 13th August 1763 a critic wrote of her "In comedy, Natures Sweetest child she flung me in a posture of holding both my sides". She died 21 August 1791, at the age of 72.

Hippisley's son became the governor of a Fort in Africa - so much for his acting career!

Hippisley brought down to the Jacobs Wells Theatre companies from the London Houses. William Whitehead, the Poet Laureate of the period, visited the theatre in 1749 and was, as he says 'mightily pleased'. This brevity was in sharp contrast with his work on the Hotwells water, an extremely extravagantly laudatory and excessively lengthy "Hymn to the Nymph of the Bristol Spring".

It is reported that George III and his consort so delighted in the acting of Miss Hallam who made her debut at the Jacobs Wells Theatre, later become the darling of Covent Garden, that they settled on her an annuity of £200 when she retired.

Behind the theatre was a field, which was separated from the courtyard by a hedge and a low wall. Curious people stood for hours in the evening to catch a glimpse of the actors, who, because of the narrowness of the theatre, had to walk round the back when they left one side of the stage, to re-enter at the other. At one stage, the actors were so incensed one of the company took a shotgun and aimed at the on-lookers, dispersing them like fleeing clucking geese.

Richard Jenkins, in his memoirs of the Bristol Stage 1829, relates a delightful story of a pregnant woman, who, in spite of the advanced stage of her pregnancy, couldn't resist a visit to the theatre to see her favourite play, Romeo and Juliet. Realising the birth was imminent she left hurriedly, and on her way home across Brandon Hill, her accouchement took place, and a fine boy, which she named Romeo made his debut on that wider stage, the world.

Brandon Hill was also the viewpoint for many other folk to watch the gentry enter the theatre. According to the same Richard Jenkins, in the rush to enter the narrow building and get the best seats hats, bonnets, and cloaks and sometimes shoes were often thrown down in the scramble.

To accommodate the patrons, the back of the stage was used as an amphitheatre with benches raised one above the other to a considerable height. As a consequence there was no scenery.

The prices were 3/- for boxes, 2/- the pits 1/6 the balcony and pigeon holes (these were above the stage door and had an unsavoury reputation) and 1/- the gallery. There was free admission for servants in the upper gallery. This was a concession. Richard Jenkins in the Memoirs of the Bristol Stage 1829, records that the servants frequently abused their privilege by hissing and booing, particularly on the night of "High Life Below Stairs" which was thought to be aimed at them.

On the third August 1764, the Theatre was the scene of riots. This was the benefit night for a distressed tradesman who had stood surety for a friend who had defaulted, leaving him to pay the debts. The Theatre Company decided to arrange a benefit night. But the relatives of the defaulter were not to be outdone. They also thought they should benefit, and so there were opposing factions in the tiny theatre.

The performance began but soon ran into trouble when the dissenting party rioted. Mr. William Powell, a famous actor of the time, and the subject of much conversation in the coffee houses and taverns of Bristol because of his, so called histrionic talents, rallied his company, and with no holds barred set upon the friends of the defaulters, and succeeded in ejecting them from the theatre. Outside, the same Richard Jenkins records that they continued to throw stones but this time at the Garrison on Brandon Hill.

Because of difficulties getting home from the Theatre, the playgoers naturally wished for moonlight nights. One one occasion, the company in a playful mood, advertised the fact that a certain 'Madame Cynthia will appear in her utmost splendour'. The playgoers were unfamiliar with the name, and naturally anticipated some new talent, but when at the end of the play they could no longer hold back their whispers for Madame to put in an appearance, the hoaxer was called to give an account of himself, which he did ... 'Ladies and gentlemen, although Madame Cynthia does not think fit to appear on these boards, she will cheerfully lend you her assistance to get you safely home; And I once more beg leave to congratulate you on its being a moonlight night'.

Hippisley died in 1748. He appears to have been wonderful company. A correspondent writing to Felix Farleys Bristol Journal August 12th 1768 says "I remember him as a young man, and can tell many a pleasing anecdote respecting him; let it suffice however, at present, that he was a most cheerful companion; that he was wont to set the table in a roar".

Another tribute to him was recorded by Emanuel Collins 1762.

When the stage heard that Death had nailed poor John
Gay Comedy her sables first put on.
Laughter looked glum; quite pouted when he died
And mirth herself (t'is odd) sat down and cried.
Wit hung her blob, even Humour seemed to mourn
And sullenly sat, moggng o'er his urn.

He must have made people laugh!

Doreen Layzell.

References

1. Stanley Hutton: Bristol and its Famous Associations
2. Felix Farleys Bristol Journal Aug 12th 1768.
3. Felix Farleys Bristol Journal Aug 13th 1763.
4. Richard Jenkins: Memoirs of the Bristol Stage 1829.
5. The London Weekly Journal 28 June 1729.
6. Kathleen Barker: Bristol at Play: Five Centuries of Live Entertainment.

COMPTON DANDO

An historical study by Mary Bettey (11 years) and Rebecca Strahan (12 years)

INTRODUCTION

Compton Dando is a small village between Bristol and Bath, and is three miles south of Keynsham. During the nineteenth cent the population decreased gradually, as the table shows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Population</u>
1801	330
1811	346
1821	344
1831	382
1841	359
1851	384
1861	347
1871	340
1881	328
1891	324
1901	284

The population in 1971 was 500

There are many interesting historic places in Compton Dando, for example the parish church with a Roman altar stone, Court Hill House, the former Crown Inn, etc., but they all have one drawback - most of their records (if any) are in the County Record Office at Taunton. The school still has some of its own records, which are kept in the Headmaster's room, and this is the main reason why we decided that our essay should concentrate on the school.

EARLY REMAINS FROM BEFORE 1500

The village of Compton Dando is situated around the medieval bridge across the river Chew. The source of the river Chew is at Chewton Mendip. The dimensions of the bridge, which has three arches, are - length eighty feet, breadth thirteen feet. It is one of the few bridges that survived the floods of 1968. The bridge was probably built some time in the 15th century, perhaps on the site of an earlier bridge, although because the river is shallow at this point there may have been an early ford there. Compton Dando is also at the point where the Wansdyke crosses the river Chew. The Wansdyke is the most important archaeological survival in the parish. It is about 1,400 years old and was built as a defence against enemies coming from the north since the ditch is on that side. The Wansdyke is clearly seen in some of the fields around Compton Dando. An even earlier survival is the Roman altar stone which is built into the north-east buttess of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin. The stone is about 48 inches high and about 16 inches square. Two figures can still be seen, although the stone is badly weathered. The figures are said to represent Apollo and Hercules, and are shown on a print of the church made in 1717. How the altar stone came to be where it is now presents a great mystery.

THE NAME OF COMPTON DANDO

The early name of the village which is shown in the Domesday Book of 1086 was Centitone. The village then belonged to Count Eustace. The present name of the village comes from the lord of the manor in Henry II's time, Alexander d'Alno. Compton means a settlement in a valley, and d'Alno became corruption to Dando. So Compton Dando means a settlement in a valley owned by Dando (d'Alno). The print of the parish church made in 1717 shows the name of the village as Compton St. David, although the church is dedicated to St. Mary. Perhaps Compton Dando was considered vulgar.

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KEYNSHAM

Queen Charlots

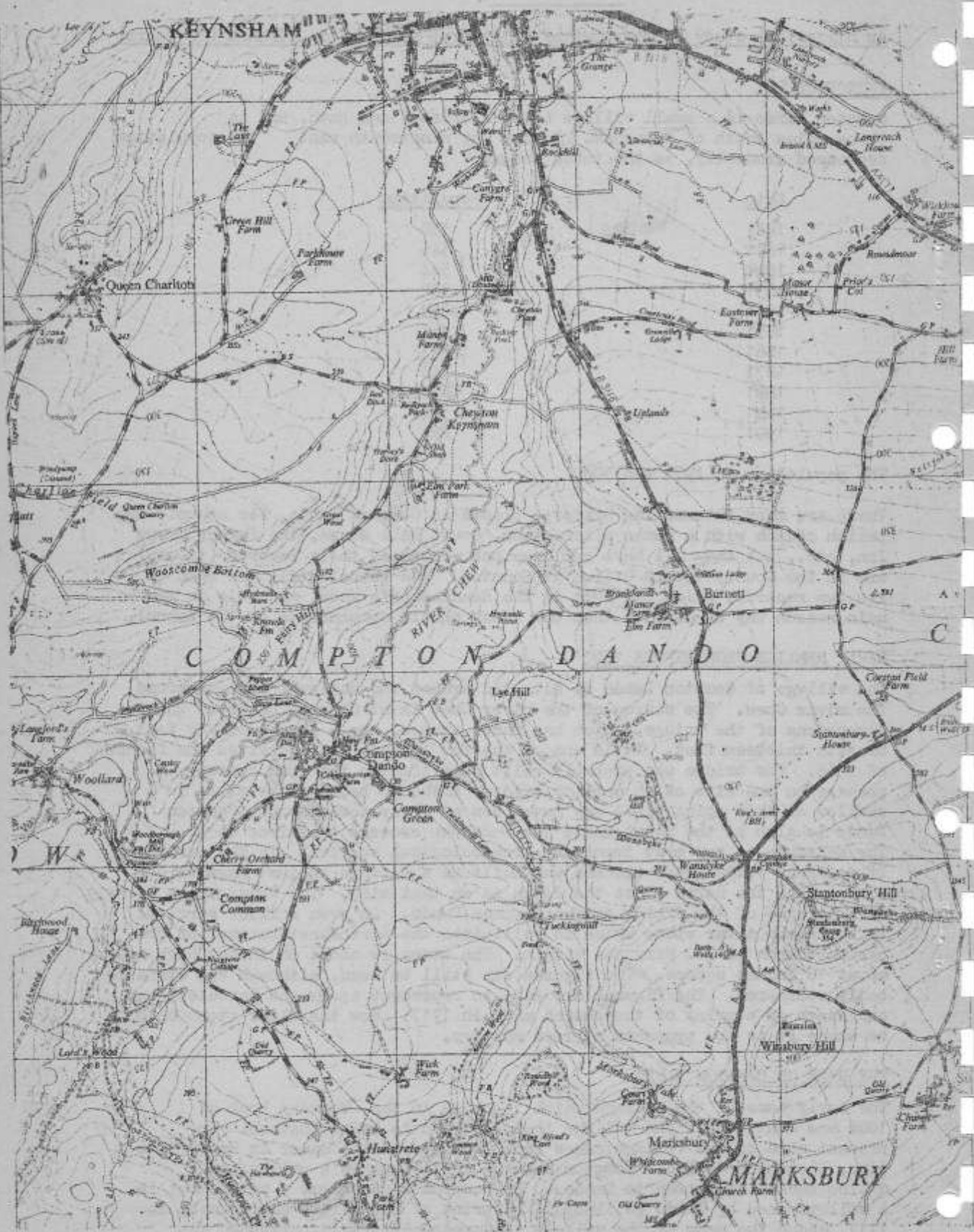
Cherton Keynham

COMPTON DANDO

Compton Dando

MARKSBURY

RIVER CHEN



COMPTON DANDO PARISH CHURCH

The church of St Mary the Virgin consists of a nave, a north aisle, a western tower, a chancel and a south porch. The tower is medieval and contains six bells. There are a large number of date stones showing when the church was renovated, all relate to the 18th century. In the County Record Office at Taunton is a book showing how money was spent during the 18th century in rebuilding different parts of the church. Inside the church there is a tomb stone of a monk, Roger Norman, of the Cistercian Order. This dates from the 13th century and is the oldest thing in the church apart from the Roman altar stone which has already been mentioned. There is also a highly decorated memorial tablet to Benjamin and Parry Branch, who came from Bruton, at who rented lands in Compton Dando from the Popham family. In the vestry is an oak chest dating from the 17th century with its original iron strap-work and hinges. Also in the vestry is a board listing 'The Benefactors to the Poor of the Parish of Compton Dando', including Mr. Jerome Harvey, gent., of Houndstreet in the parish of Marksbury, who in 1633 gave a hundred pounds to the poor. The income from his gift was to be distributed on his tomb four times a year. He died in 1637, and is buried in the chancel at a spot marked by a brass tablet.

INDUSTRY IN COMPTON DANDO

There were three mills in the parish of Compton Dando - Tucking Mill, Mill Farm and Woodborough Mill. Tucking Mill was a fulling mill where cloth was processed. No trace of the mill now remains, but there is a fine farm house and a cottage. The ruins of a chapel can also be seen there with several grave stones. Mill Farm was a corn mill, and it was sometimes used to grind oak bark for tanning leather. There was also a cider press there. The mill is now in ruins, but the sluice gate dated 1860, water courses and mill pond are left. Woodborough Mill was used in the copper and brass industry during the 18th and 19th centuries. Later it became a grist mill and continued working until 1939. Now all the machinery is gone, but a large dam is left together with the water course across the fields leading to the mill.

THE MANOR

The manorial courts were held at Court Hill House, once called Crabbes Court. In the front bedroom of the house there is a beautiful piece of Georgian plasterwork on one wall. This room is thought to have been the meeting place of the court. In the records of the meetings of the manorial court during the 18th century, which are now at Taunton, there was a certain man who at nearly every court was being tried for unlawful deeds such as moving his neighbours' fence so as to give himself more land. In another record of a court meeting it says 'At six of ye clock we retired to ye Crown Inn'. The Crown Inn, which is near Court Hill House, is now two cottages called Grove Cottages. On the wall under the present day stucco a Crown is engraved which can still be seen. Another entry of May 1728 ordered Richard Barnes whose house was at the roadside to 'repair the way before his door or take away his steps they being a great nuisance to the publick road'. From the sixteenth century until the twentieth century the lords of the manor were the Popham family who lived nearby at Houndstreet, now called Hundstrete. One manorial court record of 1725 says that 'ye Pound of this parish is out of repaire and to be put in repaire by ye Lord of ye said Manor in a months time'. On the Tithe map of 1842 the pound is shown to be where the school playground is today. After the building of the school a new pound was constructed on the other side of the road and is still visible today. In 1977 it was cleaned out and a tree planted in it to celebrate the Jubilee.

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THE CHURCH ESTATE

Most of the Church estate was sold in 1946, but some fields are still owned by the church. The income from the church estates was used to keep the parish church in repair. The church lands remained in narrow strips long after other lands had been enclosed, and these strips can still be seen on the Tithe Map of 1842 in various parts of the parish. To mark the ends of the strips the church used bound stones marked 'C.C.' for Compton Church. Many of these stones can still be seen in fields and hedges in several places in the parish. At Tucking Mill, where the lands were owned by several different people, there is a bound stone marked 'C.C.' and another marked 'E W L P 1841'. This was to show the land of Edward William Leyborne Popham of Houndstreet.

THE METHODIST CHAPELS

There were two Methodist Chapels in the parish, one in the village itself and the other at Tucking Mill. The larger chapel which was in the village had a life of little more than a century. It was not established until the 1860s and three years ago it was sold and converted into a dwelling house and so drastically changed that it is now difficult to realise that it ever was a chapel. The chapel at Tucking Mill, which is in an isolated position on the border between the parishes of Compton Dando and Marksburly, was built in 1812. The people mainly responsible for building and running the chapel were the Bince and Pointing families who owned some of the land in that part of the parish. The chapel was founded by James Bince who died in August 1825, aged 81 years, and was buried near the chapel. His sons, James Angel Bince and Charles Bince, were also buried there. In 1841 Angel Pointing Bince, the wife of another James Bince, left more land for 'the burial ground attached to the Methodist Chapel at the Tucking Mills in Compton Dando'. On the Tithe Map of 1842 the 'Meeting House' is clearly marked, and together with the surrounding lands is shown as being in the possession of Thomas Bince, who was the son of Angel Pointing Bince and who lived in a fine house by the chapel. Much of the other land nearby was owned by Betty Binting. The chapel is now in ruins and large trees have grown up inside it, but several gravestones survive, including those of James Bince, John Bince, Tryphena Bince and Angel Pointing Bince. Some of the gravestones are broken but can still be read. The earliest readable one is 1825 and the latest is dated 1871.

COMPTON DANDO SCHOOL

Compton Dando school was opened on 18 August 1857. Until 1935 it took children up to 14 years old, after this it became a primary school. In 1963 the school house was converted into another part of the school. Today the school consists of a library, a big classroom, a small classroom, an activity room, a cloakroom, indoor toilets (put in during 1969), a small kitchen and an entrance hall, on the ground floor. Upstairs is the headmaster's room, a store room, a television room and a long passage. New floors were put in downstairs during 1964. The converted school house is the only part of the building with two stories. Today there are two full-time teachers and a part-time one. On 7 September 1977 there were 28 pupils.

School Records: The school has most of its own records in the headmaster's keeping. The log books were written every Friday unless something really important happened mid-week. In these cases the log book would be written on that day. The managers' minute book was a record written at the managers' meetings, recording everything that was resolved. The admission register was kept when a pupil entered or re-entered the school. Other records are letters and plans from managers to teachers or from builders etc. The punishment book was started in 1904 and every punishment given was recorded in it.

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Earlier Schools in the Village: In 1819 it is recorded that there was no free school but a small day school which pupils had to pay to attend. A Parliamentary Report of 1835 records that there were 'Two daily schools in which 16 males and 10 females are instructed at the expense of their parents. One Sunday school commenced 1824 is supported by the vicar and curate and attended by 35 males and 20 females.'

The present school was opened as 'Compton Dando National School' in 1857.

The School in the 19th century: School would open at 9 a.m. Once a week the children would go to church, first thing in the day. There were two teachers, the headteacher and an infant teacher. There was also a mistress who would be told what to teach the children by the headteacher. She would then teach 2 or 3 standards while the headteacher taught the rest.

We went to see an elderly resident of the village who went to the school as a boy. He told us a lot about the school and remembered that the headteacher's name was Caroline Jane Carless. During the morning 'Blackboard Lessons' or 'Object Lessons' were taught. Blackboard lessons were arithmetic, writing etc. from the blackboard. Object lessons were lessons to do with a certain object. Children would find out about its uses, its history, its appearance etc. Teachers had a book to help them with object lessons, telling them what to say, experiments to try and so on. One of these books is still at the school. Morning school ended at 12 noon. The children would go home for dinner and return at 2 p.m. for afternoon school. The only crafts taught were needlework and drawing. The girls' needlework was sold. Here is an extract from the 'sales book':-

1 cot cover 2/-	1 working apron 7d
1 pillow slip 5½d	3 pairs of small socks 7d

Sometimes the boys would have a drawing examination and a man would come from Kensington. The girls would then have the afternoon off.

The toilets were earth closets. Cleaners had to 'Clean out the closets on the first Saturday every month, find ashes when required, fill the boxes once a week, and cast away the contents of the closets'. (Extract from the Minute Book). The boys and girls had separate yards with two earth closets in each. The headmistress had a separate yard containing one earth closet. Apart from the separate yards there was a mixed playground. There was no supervision in the playground until 1909. The managers on 30 August 1909 suggested it '...to prevent damage to the school property'. The headmistress lived in the school house. There was a door leading from the school to the school house. The school consisted of a classroom (for the infants) and a schoolroom (for the upper school). In the school room there were three groups, Lower School, Middle School and Upper School. The school took children up to 14, but boys left when strong enough to help on farms.

The Managers: The managers met every four months in the school room. The first meeting recorded in the minute book was in July 1903. The managers consisted of the Chairman, the Rev. R.J. Jeffreys who was the vicar of Compton Dando, the Church representatives, Edward Brooks, Edward Hill, William Light, the parish council representative, Thomas Harvey, the county council representative, Harold Henry Francis. The managers checked the school buildings, the attendance books and the log books. They interviewed new teachers, and they made financial decisions. For example the school received a piano in 1905. The piano was to cost 'not less than £16', the managers would contribute £5. One of the managers also came to the school each week to check the register and sign the log book.

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Punishments: These punishments were found in the Punishment Book of Compton Dando School between 1904 and 1907, the first three years that the book covers.

The first boy in the book, Albert Bees, was given two strokes on 26 July 1904 for stone throwing.

The seventh boy, Richard Fry, on 2 December 1904 was given four strokes for disobedience.

The ninth boy was Charles Harvey. He was given six strokes for fighting on 28 February 1905.

The seventeenth boy, William Allward, repeatedly shuffled his feet after being warned. He was given four strokes on 9 November 1905.

John Cook, the eighteenth boy, had four strokes on 30 March 1906 for talking when a visitor was present.

Charles Strangeways was the twenty-second boy, and on 12 September 1906 he was given four strokes for persistent bad behaviour.

The twenty-third boy, Walter Bates, was given six strokes for swearing on 17 September 1907.

Five boys, Richard Fry, Harry Harding, George Ford, Henry Bees and Harry Ford were all given six strokes on 18 September 1907 for stealing apples in playtime after being previously warned.

Girls were punished in the same way as boys. Here are the only two girls in the Punishment Book:

Fanny Bees was given three strokes and detained during the dinner hour on 25 August 1905 for stealing wool, chalk, knitting needles etc. at different times from the school.

On 28 March 1906 Florence Hinge was given two strokes and detained for continually coming late. Her aunt sent a message that she was always sent early to school but that she loitered on the way.

One Girl's School Life - Agnes Mary Bagg - Information from School Attendance Register and Log Book:

Agnes Mary Bagg was born on 13 November 1891. She started school when she was three years and five months old on 29 April 1895. She left during the winter that year, and was re-admitted on 11 March 1896. She is not mentioned in the school log book until 21 October 1904 when her name was submitted to the Somerset Education Committee for the post of monitress at the school. On 4 November 1904 news was received that it was accepted. She was then 13. Her name was now more frequent in the log book. Her salary was £2-12-0 a year. Events concerning her mentioned in the log book after she became a monitress include:

1905

Week ending 31 March: Agnes took charge of the infants, as their teacher Miss K. Jeffreys, was ill on Monday and Friday.

Week ending 22 September: Agnes took seven children on a choir outing on Thursday

Week ending 3 November: Agnes took charge of the infants during Miss Jeffreys' absence because of a poisoned finger.

1906

Week ending 21 June: Agnes took charge of the infants as their teacher was replacing the headmistress who had gone to a funeral.

Week ending 24 August: Agnes took charge of the infants as their teacher was absent.

Week ending 23 November: Agnes in charge of infants as their teacher, Miss Hallett, was absent because of an influenza cold.

Week ending 30 November: Teacher still absent, Agnes in charge of infants all week.

Week ending 7 December: Teacher still absent, Agnes still in charge of infants.

1907

Week ending 18 January: Agnes absent Wednesday-Friday because of an influenza cold.

Week ending 25 January: Agnes returned to her duties

Week ending 8 March: Agnes absent on Monday due to swollen face.

Week ending 26 April: Agnes absent on Monday

Week ending 26 July: Agnes absent Wednesday-Friday due to toothache and a swollen face.

Week ending 12 July: Agnes absent on Monday, returned on Tuesday

Week ending 6 December: Agnes absent due to an injured thumb.

Week ending 13 December: Agnes returned to school on Tuesday.

At the end of 1907 the name of the school was changed to Compton Dando Church of England School.

1908

Week ending 8 May: Agnes absent in the afternoon taking an examination in Bristol.

Week ending 29 May: News was received that Agnes had failed the examination.

Week ending 31 July: School ended for the year. Agnes 'terminated her engagement'.

Agnes Bagg's Family: Information from school register and Minute Book: Agnes Bagg had two sisters, Mabel and Eleanor. Eleanor was three years older than Agnes, and Mabel was six years older. Mabel was born on 14 April 1885. She started school on 21 March 1892 when she was seven. Eleanor was born on 23 May 1888. She started school on 9 May 1892 when she was four. Eleanor left for the winter of 1892. She was readmitted on 20 March 1893.

Agnes' father was called Edward Bagg. He was probably a farm woker, and they lived at one time at Compton Green. On 26 May 1904, Edward Bagg put in a tender for £1-10-0 per annum 'for the cleaning of the earth closets and filling the boxes with ashes' at the school. But a Mr. Frank Weeks put in a tender for £1-3-6, and his tender was accepted.

His Majesty's Inspector - Information from the School Log Book: Her Majesty's Inspector,

(H.M.I.) visited schools once a year. Schools started every year on 1 February and he would visit soon after that. He wrote a Report on the school each year, a copy of which was put into the log book. He generally reported that the infants were quite good, but often he did not speak so highly of the Mixed School or senior pupils. Here are two extracts from typical reports:-

1900 Mixed School "...A vigorous effort should be made to train them to speak distinctly..."

Infants "...The Infants are making satisfactory progress."

1905 Mixed School: "...A fuller and more detailed year's scheme of instruction should be prepared..."

Infants: "...Their work is above average in some respects."

Religious Instruction: The whole school regularly attended church, and the vicar frequently came to give religious instruction. They also had regular tests by a visiting clergyman. A report was then made which was copied into the Log Book. Here is an example of a typical report:

"13 November 1906. Report of Religious Instruction by Rev. R. Edwards

The School as a whole did fairly well - some children answered up very well, and showed intelligence, but others seemed afraid to answer. The paper work was very good. The infants did very well.

Number present - Infants 18

Upper Division 37

Knowledge of	Infants	Upper Divisions
Old Testament	V.G.	G.
New Testament	V.G.	G.
Catechism	-	F.
Prayer Book	-	V.F.
Repetition of		
Scripture	V.G.	G.
Hymns, collects	V.G.	G.
Catechism	V.G.	G.
Writing from memory	-	V.G. "

Compton Dando Church of England School 1907-1977 : In 1907 the name of the school was changed from 'Compton Dando National School' to 'Compton Dando Church of England School'. In the summer of 1907 the Infant room or classroom had the gallery taken down. The gallery was a set of platforms getting higher and higher so that the teacher could see her pupils more easily. A man named Mr. Watts took it down. He put in a tender for £5-12-6, but when he had taken it down he asked for 3/- more. During the period 1907-1977 the number of children in the school has decreased gradually. In the early years there were 45-55 children. They cannot have had much space to play as the head teacher had her own yard in which she kept fowls. In July 1908 the managers complained to the headmistress about "...the keeping of so many fowls..." They said that "...it is unadvisable and amounts to a nuisance and so must ask her to abate it by largely decreasing the number." On 16 October 1908 Winnie Buckingham was appointed mistress in place of Agnes Bagg. Her salary was one shilling a week. Coal to heat the school was purchased from Midsomer Norton colliery. Six tons of coal were burnt in the school each winter.

The children were often absent. The three main reasons for being absent were illness, weather or helping on farms. The most common illnesses were measles, ringworm, chickenpox, mumps, influenza, whooping cough and scarlet fever. In the Log Book there are many reference to 'inclement weather', 'absent due to snow', 'extremely wet' etc. Boys were allowed days off school to help farmers, especially during the 1914-18 War when the farm workers had joined the army. In the summer of 1925 the school was closed for a fortnight due to a whooping cough epidemic. A nurse often visited the school to check the children's heads for lice. On important saint's days, royal weddings, empire days etc., the children were given either a half holiday or a day's holiday. On 11 November 1918 they had a day's holiday to celebrate the end of the War.

.../.

During the 1920s the County Inspector of Drill visited occasionally and often complained about the small size of the school playground. In 1927 the Inspector was a man, described as 'the County Inspector for Physical Jerks'.

Also in 1927 a 'house' system was developed. The houses were 'Prince of Wales' and 'Duke of York'. The colours chosen were Red and Green. Badges were given to the Captains who were Fred Bailey and Jimmie Pocock.

The Log Book mentions several girls going to Pensford for Cookery lessons. Here are some extracts:

7 September 1925: Four girls have gone to Pensford this morning to commence their work in the cookery centre there. They are going to go every Monday and are being conveyed there and back in a conveyance.

14 December 1925: The four girls who since October have all been attending the cookery centre at Pensford concluded their first term today.

10 September 1928: Five girls start going to the cookery centre at Pensford. They are taken there and back in Mr. Pocock's cart.

During the 1939-45 War the school was also used as a First Aid Post. This was because it was the only building in the village with running water, and it was near the telephone. Wire netting covers were put over the windows to stop the children being injured if there was bombing. Electric lighting was installed in 1943 at a cost of £8. In 1945 the school kitchen was added to provide school meals.

The School Today: The school is now a small one of 28 pupils. The head teacher's house is now converted from a dwelling house to classrooms - the Junior's classroom, an activity room, a cloakroom with toilets added, an entrance hall, an office, a store room and a television room. In the playground is a set of sheds which used to be the 'earth closets'. They are now used for equipment sheds. More crafts are taught than in the 19th century - needlework, pottery, puppet-making, painting and cooking. These are taught every Thursday and swimming is taught every Monday. The present head teacher is the only head master we can find a record of, except for some temporary head teachers who were men.

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The following sources have been used:

- School Records - Log Book, Minute Book, Attendance Register, Punishment Book, Object Lesson Book, Stocks and Stores Book, Sales Book
- Compton Dando Tithe Map 1842
- Census Returns 1801-1971
- A. Buchanan & N. Cossons - Industrial Archaeology of the Bristol Region
- J. Day - Bristol Brass
- Somerset Record Office - List of Popham Papers
- Personal Reminiscences

Mary and Rebecca were awarded first prize in the under-fifteen section of the ALHA Essay Competition in 1977 for this account.

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