

## THE BEAR INN AT PERROTTS BROOK, BAGENDON

One of the pleasures of researching family history is the entrancing by-ways that open up leading one into unknown areas and little frequented paths of knowledge. One such journey led me to research the Inn at Bagendon and its owners during the eighteenth century, although I realised early on that it was unlikely to spread much light on my own family who lived there.

There is no real distinction between local and family history and what started as curiosity about the local Inn has revealed, through the study of the related land and manor court records and wills, a complex inter-relationship of the various Bagendon families. These records have illuminated the at times defective parish registers and shown that all the innholders were related by blood or marriage, as well as shedding light on old scandals.



THE BEAR INN 2000

The great drove road from Wales to London, called the Welch Way, dissects the Parish of Bagendon in Gloucestershire. On the eastern edge of the Parish is a crossroads where Cutham Lane joins it on the north and the road to Cirencester on the south. Just to the west of the crossroads, the Welch Way is also now crossed by the A435 from Cheltenham to Cirencester, a turn pike road opened in 1835. In the triangular site, formed by the Welch Way on the north, the Cirencester Road on the west, and the A435 on the east, is the building which was the Bear Inn. Some three hundred yards further east, along Welch Way, is Barrows Bridge over the Churn which divides the Parishes of Bagendon and North Cerney. The area is now known as Perrotts Brook.<sup>1</sup>



Modern view of Perrotts Brook

The first reference found to the Bear Inn is to a duel, in, apparently, 1675.<sup>2</sup> It was between Sir John Guise of Rendcomb and Sir Robert Atkyns, senior, of Sapperton, the noted lawyer. They had a dispute at cards when in the Inn but friends at first succeeded in pacifying them and they resumed play. Later, walking together in the bowling alley nearby, Sir John demanded satisfaction; Sir Robert tried to apologise but Sir John would only accept the apology if Sir Robert made it before the people in the Inn. Sir Robert refused and Sir John supposedly said: ‘Then draw or you shall die like a dog’. They both drew their swords. Sir Robert pricked Sir John in the arm, and then tried to end the dispute, but Sir John insisted he would kill or be killed. Sir Robert then ‘ran him through, in at the belly, and out at the back’; on which he fell. Sir John acknowledged it was not Sir Robert’s fault if he died, but he in fact recovered.<sup>3</sup>

Then, the Parish Register records the baptism, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1680/1, of John Griffin, the son of Mary Griffin,<sup>4</sup> being a poor passenger who was brought to bed at the Inne at Bear-roads-bridge.

The Inn was again a maternity ward on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1724 with the Parish Register recording the baptism of Betty, daughter of John and Mary Vicars, at 'Bear-Roads Bridge Inn, her mother falling in labour there in her journey from London to Gloucester'.

The earliest estate record of the Bear is of Thomas Ravenhill holding by copy of Court Roll, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1669, a Close of Arable Land or Pasture called the Upper Moor (3½ acres) on which a 'domus mancialus', or mansion house, was recently built together with 2 acres of arable land in the North Field and pasture for 5 sheep, for three lives.<sup>5</sup> The mansion house became the Bear Inn.<sup>6</sup>

There was then a lease dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 1676 when Thomas Thynne<sup>7</sup> granted John Pitman of Cirencester, Innholder, 6 acres of Arable land and a dwelling house then lately erected near Barefoots Bridge<sup>8</sup> on the lives of John, Daniel and Judith Ravenell (spelt Rafenell), sons and daughter of Thomas Ravenhill of Bagendon, Innholder.<sup>9</sup>

On the following 26<sup>th</sup> July 1676, Thomas Thynne granted a lease to Richard Eycott which makes clear that the property in the lease to Pitman had been taken out of the Lease to Eycott and was property 'then lately granted by the said Thomas Thynne with the consent of the said Richard Eycott to one John Pitman of Cirencester'. This property was 'alwayes excepted and foreprised' from the Eycott lease. The lease to Richard was on the lives of Jane Eycott, widow of Thomas Eycott deceased, and Thomas Eycott and Ann Eycott their son and daughter.

Thomas Ravenhill was buried on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1690 and was the son of Sarah Ravenhill, who died, a widow, in 1667.<sup>10</sup> A Survey of the Manor of Bagendon, probably dated 1746,<sup>11</sup> (*the Survey*) records the grant on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1691 of a lease by Lord Weymouth<sup>12</sup> to Margaret Ravenhill, widow, of 'a Messuage or Tenement called or known by the name of the Bear near Barretts Bridge'<sup>13</sup> for 99 years, if Margaret, and her son Thomas and daughter Elizabeth, so long live. This is the 1669 property.

*The Survey* further records the grant to Margaret, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1699, of 'a Messuage or Tenement called the New Inn near Barretts Bridge', built on the 6 acres of arable land,<sup>14</sup> for 99 years (after the death of Daniel Ravenhill, Margaret's son) if Giles Lawrence of Yanworth yeoman and Mary Ravenhill, Spinster, Margaret's daughter, so long live. This is the 1676 property. While the date of the death of Daniel Ravenhill is not known, he was, according to Rees in his *History of Bagendon*, one of the last persons to be touched by James II for scrofula, receiving a 'certificate concerning ye disease commonly called ye King's Evill' on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1688. It appears from his mother's Will that he then went abroad.

Thus Margaret, the sister of John Pitman and the widow of Thomas Ravenhill, acquired a new lease of the Bear in 1691 following Thomas's death, the previous year. Then in 1699 she acquired a new lease of the property granted in 1676 to her brother which now had a 'New Inn' built on it.

While *the Survey* makes no specific mention of the lease to Richard Eycott of 1676, it is clear from the descriptions of the properties in *the Survey* that it passed to Ann Huntingdon the widow of the former Rector of Bagendon, William Huntingdon.<sup>15</sup>

Margaret made a Will on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1700/1. She had a surviving son Thomas, and four daughters: Sara Harris, Elizabeth Lawrence, Anne Ravenhill and Mary Ravenhill.<sup>16</sup> It is unclear whether her eldest son Daniel was alive.<sup>17</sup> Margaret leaves her clock to her daughter Elizabeth 'in case my said son Daniel Ravenhill shall not come safely unto England. But in case he shall come safely unto England then I give the said clock to my said son Daniel.'

In her Will, Margaret leaves a 'messuage, tenement and Inn at Berrards bridge heretofore called the New Inn but now called the Beare' then in the occupation of Thomas Harding,<sup>18</sup> to

her son-in-law, Giles Lawrence, and her daughter, Mary, after the death of Daniel, for the residue of the 99 years, if Giles and Elizabeth so long live. So Giles and Mary have the New Inn on Daniel's death while her son Thomas presumably inherited the old inn.

So far it is clear that the New Inn was newly built in 1676 and renamed the Beare, probably at the time of the grant of the 1699 lease; the original Bear Inn (the recently built manor house of 1669) was presumably closed (although the building remained and became known as the old inn house). Margaret was living in the old inn house as she gave her daughter Ann the furniture in "the Collonells' Chamber belonging to the house where I now dwell". Clearly this was the room where Sir John Guise, who held a Colonel's Commission, recovered.

Margaret Ravenhill, widow, was buried at Bagendon on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1712, but her Will was not proved until over 20 years later, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1732/3, when probate was granted to her daughter Mary, then Mary Symons, possibly to transfer title to the properties.

How long after Margaret's death in 1712, Giles Lawrence and Mary kept the New Inn and Thomas the old inn house is unclear. But both properties came into the possession of Margaret's daughter, Ann. For it seems the next innholder was her husband, Thomas Eycott, the elder, who describes himself in his Will, dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 1728, as of Bagendon, Innholder.<sup>19</sup> Thomas married Ann Ravenhill at St. Mary le Crypt, Gloucester on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1703. He was a bachelor, aged 27, and so born in 1675 or 6, while Ann was aged 23.<sup>20</sup>

It will be recalled that this Thomas Eycott and his sister Ann Eycott were the children of Thomas and Jane Eycott. With their widowed mother Jane, they were lives in the lease granted to Richard Eycott in 1676; the property was later leased to Ann Huntingdon. The widow Jane lived until 1716 but no baptism for either Thomas or Ann has been found.<sup>21</sup> Thomas was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1730. His wife Ann was alive and he left three daughters and a son Thomas who was executor and residuary legatee of his Will.

This son Thomas was baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1703, son of Thomas and Ann. As a bachelor of Bagendon, he married Frances Milton of Cheltenham at Northleach on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1727. She was baptised at Cheltenham on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1705, a daughter of yet another innholder, John Milton of Cheltenham, and his wife Margaret *née* Arkell. While Frances is a central figure in this story, Thomas Eycott died young, just after his father, and was buried on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1732/3. The Letters of Administration with inventory describe him as late of Barrows Bridge, innholder.<sup>22</sup> So, with the death of the younger Thomas Eycott, his widow Frances inherited. She did not take long to find her second husband, John Ashmead.

John Ashmead is believed to be the John Ashmead of Brimpsfield who married Elizabeth Kent at Bagendon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1723 at the age of 18. Elizabeth then aged nearly 30 was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Parsloe, and widow of John Kent.<sup>23</sup> John Ashmead is found as tenant of the North Cerney mill before the 1733 Parsloe tenancy, suggesting a relationship and that he may have moved then to the Bear, after Mary Symons proved her mother's Will.<sup>24</sup> As John Ashmead of North Cerney, he married the widowed Frances Eycott of Bagendon at Cirencester on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1733/4.

The Bear was obviously a meeting place, as appears from Court Records: In 1734, a meeting of the Bagendon Court Baron was adjourned to the Bear at Barrott's Brook to hear a complaint probably about diversion of water to Trinity Mill. Then on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1735 the Court was adjourned to the following 2<sup>nd</sup> December next, to John Ashmead's house at Barefoots Bridge to allot the Common Fields called the North and South fields.<sup>25</sup>

John Ashmead was buried in Daglingworth on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1741 aged 36 as "of Baret's Brook".<sup>26</sup> He and Frances had had 5 children of whom two survived.<sup>27</sup> Frances must have carried on as Innholder. In 1746 she wrote to Lord Bath seeking to renew the lease of her house at 'Berreds

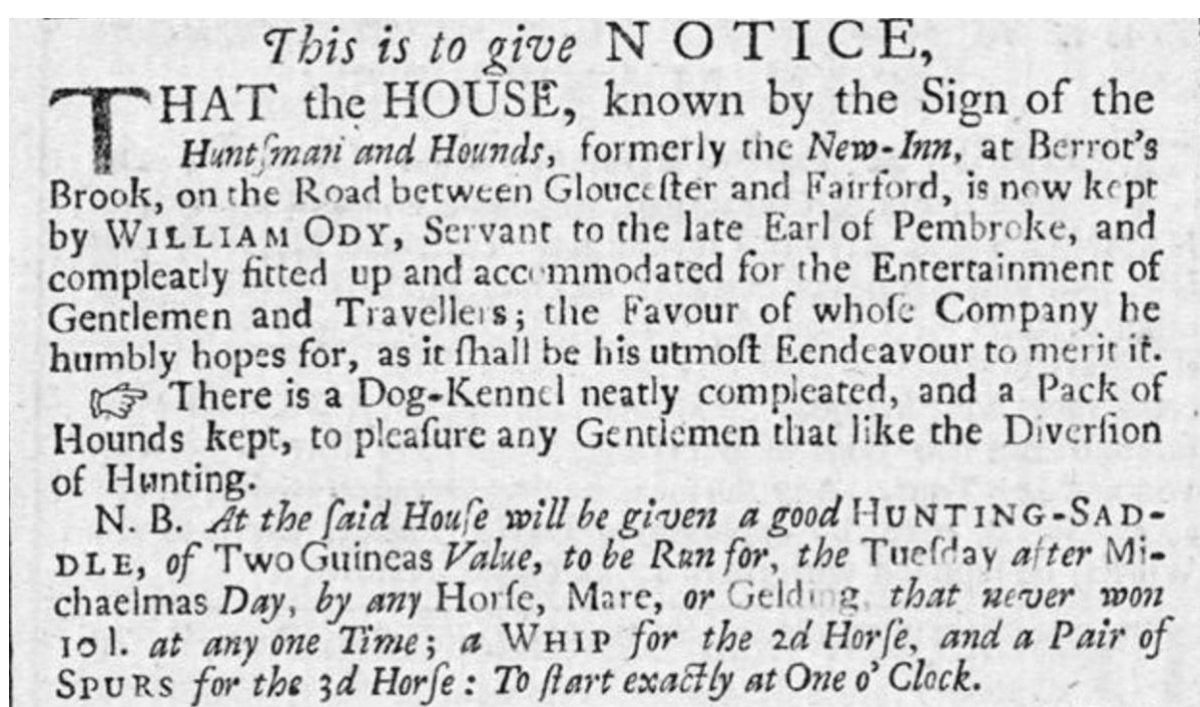
Brook' for £100. She says she is a widow with a large family and that a friend has lent her the money. A note on the bottom of the letter reads: 'My Lord desires Mr Cox to answer this'. The bailiff's accounts for August 1746 record Frances paying £10 towards a fine of £140. In 1748 Frances obtained a new lease of two inns, the Bear and the New Inn, with the associated land.<sup>28</sup> But at some point, and by 1766 at latest when a new lease was granted to Thomas Bell, Frances went to live at Moor House, then the home of Richard Eycott, a grandson of Berkley, the presumed uncle of her first husband.<sup>29</sup>

On 29<sup>th</sup> October 1767, Richard Ashmead, son of Mrs Frances Ashmead with no father named, was baptised at Bagendon, and noted as a bastard. By this time Frances was 62 years old and so Richard was presumably some years old. As Margaret was living at Moor House with Richard Eycot, it is not too difficult to guess who the father was. Frances died in 1776 and was buried in Bagendon on 18<sup>th</sup> July in that year. A new lease was granted to Thomas Bell in 1766 with a presumably later note that Frances is dead.<sup>30</sup>

Rees in his *History of Bagendon* wrote:

In the N. E. corner [of the churchyard] is a massive flat slab stone that once rested over Frances Ashmead's body on the North side of the churchyard, the only internment there. She married John Ashmead junior and seems to have lived at the Bear. Becoming a widow, she went to live at The Moor where children were born to her and Mr. Eycott....Tradition calls her Madam Ashmead.'

Burial on the north side of the church was usually for sinners and criminals and 'Madam' had a dual meaning. Burial on the north side of the church was an indication that Frances was living with a man to whom she was not married. She was thus living in sin and buried as a sinner.<sup>31</sup>



*This is to give NOTICE,*  
**THAT** the HOUSE, known by the Sign of the  
*Huntsman and Hounds, formerly the New-Inn, at Berrot's*  
Brook, on the Road between Gloucester and Fairford, is now kept  
by WILLIAM ODY, Servant to the late Earl of Pembroke, and  
compleatly fitted up and accommodated for the Entertainment of  
Gentlemen and Travellers; the Favour of whose Company he  
humbly hopes for, as it shall be his utmost Eendeavour to merit it.  
☞ There is a Dog-Kennel neatly compleated, and a Pack of  
Hounds kept, to pleasure any Gentlemen that like the Diversion  
of Hunting.  
N. B. *At the said House will be given a good HUNTING-SAD-*  
*DLE, of Two Guineas Value, to be Run for, the Tuesday after Mi-*  
*chaelmas Day, by any Horse, Mare, or Gelding, that never won*  
*10 l. at any one Time; a WHIP for the 2d Horse, and a Pair of*  
*SPURS for the 3d Horse: To start exactly at One o' Clock.*

As we have seen, the New Inn became the Bear but there was another New Inn at Perrotts Brook which caused the writer great confusion. The advertisement illustrated above appeared in the Gloucester Journal on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1750:

This New Inn was however on the East side of the bridge over the Churn in North Cerney. According to the Victoria County History of Gloucester (*VCH*), it was built in 1706. It faced on the Welch Way. It was called the New Inn in 1732 when it was sold to Lord Bathurst and later became Perrotts Brook House. Confusingly the *VCH* continues:

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the inn appears to have been known as the Bear, the sign that was taken later by the near-by inn in Bagendon parish at the junction of the Welch Way and the new Cheltenham-Cirencester turnpike.<sup>32</sup>

Perrotts Brook House was used as a farm house from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century according to an 1818 tithe record and may have ceased to be an inn because of the opening of The Bathurst Arms at the bottom of North Cerney village in 1821, even though this was two years after the date of the tithe record. It is believed that the original inn faced the Welch way and there have been many additions. Today the property is divided between Perrotts Brook House and the part that was the inn which is called Beechwood.<sup>33</sup>

Returning to the Bear in Bagendon, while Thomas Bell was granted a new lease in 1766, this was not the end of the Ashmead connection. For Thomas Bell of Broadway had married Margaret Ashmead at Bagendon on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1760 with the consent of parents. Margaret was baptised at Bagendon on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1739, the daughter of Frances and John Ashmead. So it appears that, when Frances retired to live at Moor House, her daughter and son-in-law took over the Bear.

There are many entries for the Bell family in the Bagendon Parish Registers and Thomas and Margaret had numerous children.<sup>34</sup> Thomas was buried at Bagendon on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1778 leaving sons, Thomas and John, and a daughter Fanny.

Thomas Bell's widow, Margaret, continued to run the Bear and is shown as both Proprietor and Occupier paying 19/- in the Land Tax returns from 1780-1783.<sup>35</sup> But on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1782 she married William Jones at Bagendon and from 1784 until 1786, he is shown as Proprietor and Occupier.

Margaret Jones died in 1787 and was buried in Bagendon on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1787. Later that year her son, John, died and was buried at Bagendon on 8<sup>th</sup> August. In his Will, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August, and proved on 15<sup>th</sup> December in that year he appointed 'my Dear Sister', Fanny, as executor. She inherited everything including 'all my share of the household goods left to me by my Father and likewise my share in the Estate' i.e. the Bear and the old inn. The other son, Thomas, who in 1787 proved his father's Will, is not mentioned. So in turn Fanny became Proprietor and Occupier. She was granted a new lease on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1789 on her life and that of Thomas Parsloe who must be the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Parsloe born the previous year.<sup>36</sup>

In 1790, arbitrators were appointed to divide 'the Commonable and Intermixed lands of Bagendon' and, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1792, their Inclosure Award was made. Fanny Bell of Barretts Brook Inn within the Parish of Bagendon, Spinster, as Lessee under the Marquess of Bath, is a party. The Schedule of her existing property consists of "The Bear Inn Barretts Brook outhouses garden and orchard' together with 'Old Inn House and Garden'. There is also Home Close, a Close adjoining, and Cottages Barn Stable and Yard, and Upper Moor.<sup>37</sup> She gave up a Close of Meadow Ground called Bonny Meadow of 3 roods and 36 perches. She is awarded three allotments, one in Barretts Mead, another in the waste called Bear Bank, and a third in the South Field. In total the property then has 14 acres, 1 rood and 28 perches. Clearly the Bear Inn was still in business while the original Bear Inn was the Old Inn House.' At some point this building must have been demolished. Hares Antiques claimed it stood on the car park of the Bear Inn and that its stables were in the cottage which had steps to the hayloft near the road on the Bear's gable end.<sup>38</sup>



Schedule No.	Acres	Roods	Perches	Schedule No.	Acres	Roods	Perches
FB 404) The Bear Inn outhouses garden 405) and orchard		2	18	396, 397, 398 Old Inn House and Garden		1	33
406 Home Close	1	2	39	399 Upper Moor	3	2	20
413 Close adjoining	2	1	7	FB 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Allotment in Barretts Mead	1	1	30
402) Cottages Barn Stable & Yard 403)			38	FB 2 2 <sup>nd</sup> Allotment in Waste (the Bear Banks)	1	1	14
				FB 3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Allotment in the South Field	3	2	2
					14	1	28

Gloucestershire Archives D475/box 94725 Accession 1194: Bagendon inclosure award

Bagendon Inclosure Award 1792: Detail of Perrotts Brook

The baptism of Fanny, obviously named after her grandmother, Frances Ashmead, has not been found but she is named by John as his dear sister. She married Charles Day at Bagendon by licence on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1692 and he became the innholder of the Bear.<sup>39</sup>

In 1794 a new lease was granted by the Marquess including: ‘the Bear Inn near Barrett Bridge and the messuage ‘formerly known as ‘New Inn’ and ‘now’ [i.e. in 1794] used as four dwelling houses.<sup>40</sup> It seems the ‘New Inn’ had been converted to houses and the ‘Old Inn House’ of the Enclosure Award, revived, following Fanny’s marriage, as the Bear Inn. Charles was added to Fanny as a life and purchased the freehold of the property from Joseph Pitt after 1800 for £280.<sup>41</sup> From 1798 Charles is also shown as occupying Hill’s tenement which he purchased from Joseph Pitt in 1806 or 1807, and is found paying an additional 2/9 for its Land Tax

Fanny and Charles had six children, three of whom died young. Fanny was buried at Bagendon on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1805.<sup>42</sup> Charles continued at the Bear until 1711 when he married Mary Heath, a widow, at Northleach by licence on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Charles Day then gave up the Bear Inn and moved to Northleach. In 1815, his daughter, Charlotte, married an innkeeper, James Harris, there, and both were of the parish, while Charles is named as an innkeeper of Northleach on the marriage licence allegation.

Charles died on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1836 of Northleach gent., leaving farming equipment and a racing stud; he had two sons, Isaac, an innkeeper, and George (who had a daughter Mary Ann) and his daughter Charlotte, now Charlotte Heath.<sup>43</sup>

The Land Tax records show Mr Thomas Gibbins as the Proprietor of the Bear Inn from 1813-1819 and Mr Nicholls from 1820-1822. But the Occupier throughout this period is Harry Howell (apart from a Mrs A. Doore in 1823). Howell is Proprietor and Occupier who from 1823 – 1832 apart from 1826-1830, when Mrs Sarah Doore is Occupier, and 1831-1832, when Mr. Bushnell is.

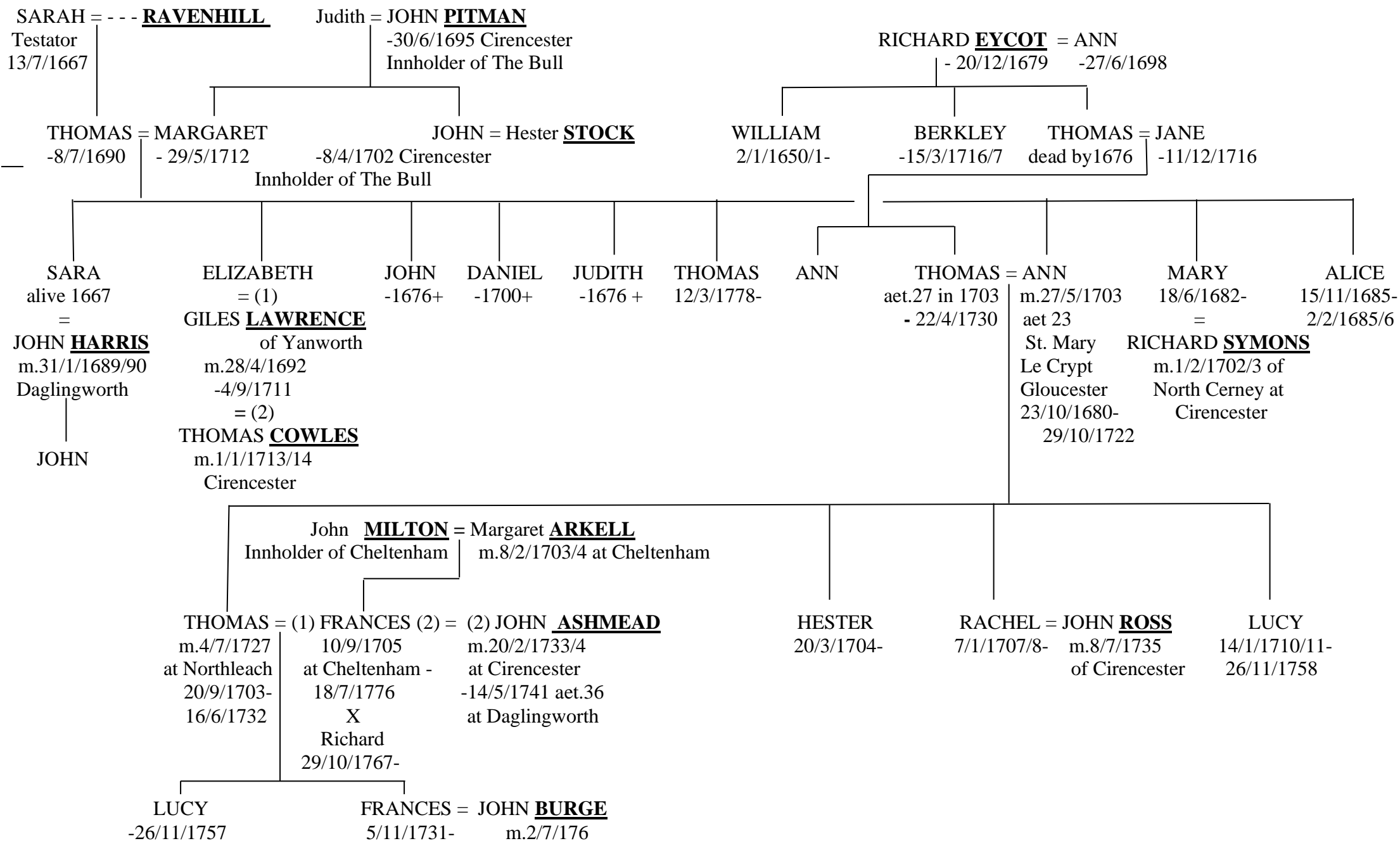
. There was a Bear Inn Friendly Society, Bagendon which transmitted its rules to the Registrar in 1817.<sup>44</sup> Then in 1825 the new Toll Road from Cheltenham to Cirencester opened and the Bear apparently became “a full time hostelry to serve the increase in business from the smarter ‘carriage trade’.<sup>45</sup> It is mentioned by Rees, in his *History of Bagendon*, a number of times and survived as a pub into the current century. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1988, it was listed Grade II for its special architectural or historic interest. In 2004, the inn closed and was taken over by Hares Antiques who called it the Old Bear Inn and offered bed and breakfast facilities until they sold it in 2018.

John Parsloe, Epsom 1/5/2020  
Amended 20/8/2021

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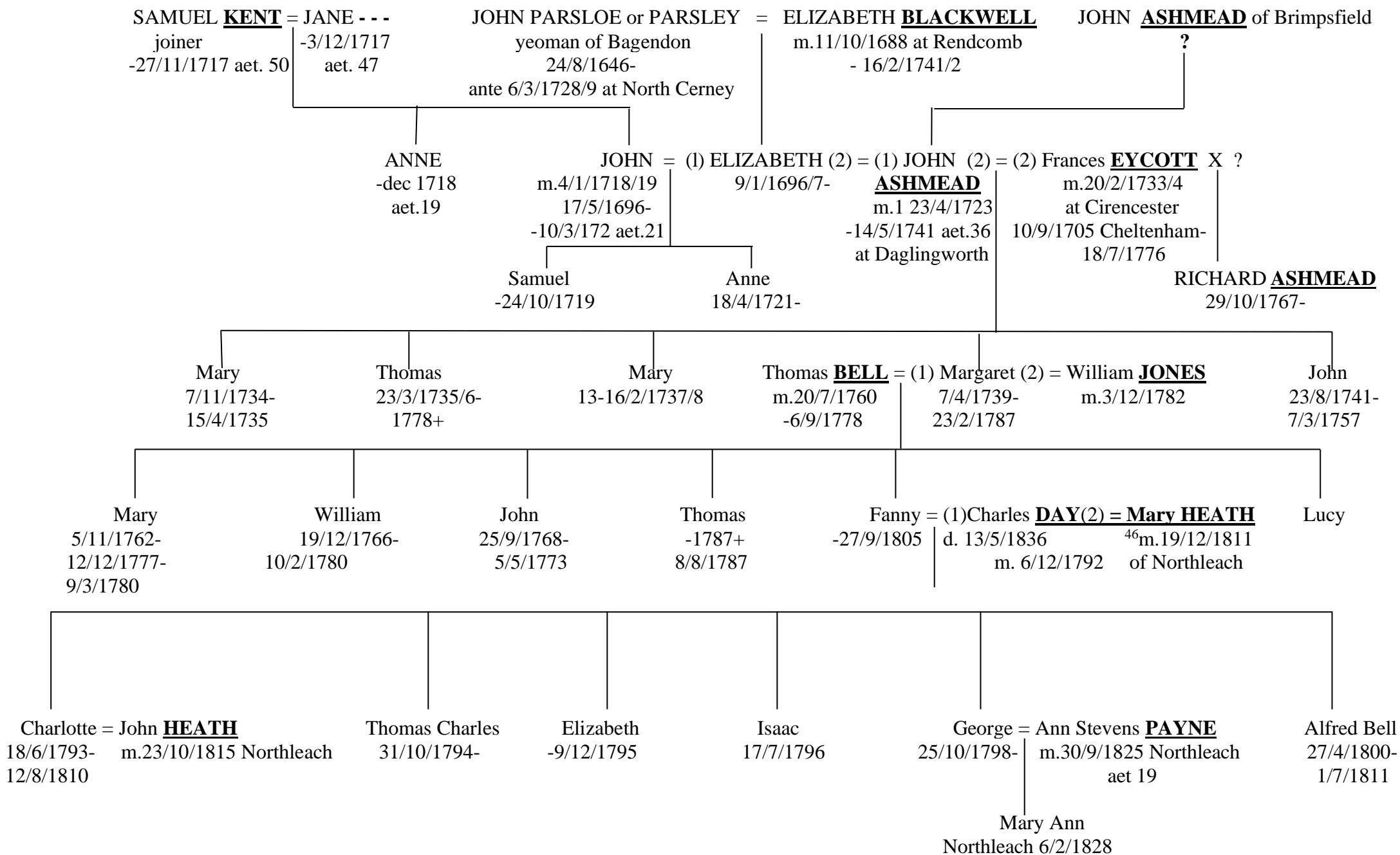


**THE RAVENHILL FAMILY and THE EYCOT CONNECTION**  
 Showing Marriages, Baptisms and Burials at Bagendon unless otherwise stated.



**JOHN ASHMEAD and FAMILY**

Showing Marriages, Baptisms and Burials at Bagendon unless otherwise, stated except Kent family at Gloucester.



## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Perrotts Brook was also formerly called Barrows Brook (or variations such as Barretts, Baret's or Barred's Brook) and the Bridge has been Bear-roads Bridge, Bearotts Bridge, Barrows Bridge, Barefoot's Bridge and Cutham Bridge (Smith, A.H. *The Place Names of Gloucestershire* Cambridge University Press 1964: Longleat: Bagendon Court Proceedings 1684, North Muniment Room ('NMR') 2119, and Receipts for Rents, NMR 1948: Ralph Bigland, *Historical Monumental and Genealogical Collections relative to the County of Gloucester* ('Bigland'), Vol. I Daglingworth.

Sir Robert Atkyns in *The Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire* 1712 ('Atkyns') calls it Bearridge Bridge and explains:

'It was so called either from tradition of a Bear-Heard's killing of a Woman in that place: The Gibbet on which he was hanged was lately standing there; or from being the *Bearers Way* from *Bisley* for the inhabitants to bury at *Bibery*; or, which is most probable, from the *Barrow* or burying Mounds near the large *Roman Camp*, which lies in *London Road*, on the West side of the River *Churn*.'

Hares Antiques in *History of the Bear Inn* ('Hares') suggest that the present building could have been an overnight stopping point for bearers taking corpses from Bisley to Bibury during the 13<sup>th</sup> century papal interdiction of Bisley. But as the Bear was 'newly built' in 1669, this is not possible.

See also: <https://britainexpress.com/counties/glouces/churches/Bibury.htm>

<sup>2</sup> The date is not certain but the *Autobiography of Thomas Raymond and Memoirs of the Family of Guise of Elmore, Gloucestershire* (1917) states it was 10 years before 1685, and references *Harley Papers* i, 352.

<sup>3</sup> A detailed account, with the alleged sayings of the participants, is given by Daniel Roberts in *The life of John Roberts*. John was a Quaker from Siddington and Daniel Roberts was his son. The point of the story is to record how Sir John, who was a Justice of the Peace, repented after the duel for his mistreatment of Quakers. Sir Robert is shown as trying to avoid the fight and doing all he could to help and save Sir John after it. Daniel Roberts states that after Sir John fell:

"Sir Robert stepped up to him, unbuttoned his clothes, tore his shirt down, and gently drew out his sword; and then after he had well sucked the wound, taking his handkerchief, he rolled up the corners of it hard, and thrust it into the orifice: then buttoning his clothes he lifted him up and desired him, while he was able, that he would acquaint the people of the house that his death was of his own seeking. And when they were come about him, he was so generous as to say, 'If I die, Sir Robert is clear; for if he had not killed me, I would have killed him' "

But Sir Robert 'procured him surgeons' and he recovered.

Joseph Stratford in *Good and Great Men of Gloucestershire* (c.1867) p.197 and *Gloucestershire Biographical Notes* (1887) p.48 makes clear that Sir Robert is the lawyer not his son, the historian, as G.E. Rees in *The History of Bagendon* (1932) p.76 ('Rees'), wrongly states in his muddled account. Both *Rees* and *Hares* say the duel took place in Colonel's Field. In 1688, Sir John had a Colonel's Commission to raise a regiment of foot for William of Orange. *Hares* says Colonel's Field is a meadow across the lane (towards the garage). This would be Upper Moor referred to in the Enclosure Award described below.

<sup>4</sup> Ann Griffin in the Bishops transcript.

<sup>5</sup> Manorial leases were normally for 99 years if three named lives so long lived with a low annual rent. A heriot of the best beast or a cash payment in lieu was levied when each life died and a fine paid for a replacement life.

<sup>6</sup> Longleat, Bagendon Court Proceedings 1684, NMR 2119.

<sup>7</sup> Thomas Thynne ('Tom O' Ten Thousand') who was assassinated in 1682 and from whom his cousin, Thomas Thynne, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Weymouth, inherited.

<sup>8</sup> 'and a pock of Meadowe called Bonham Meade and a fforeshare of half an acre of Meadowe' lying in Barrodds Meadowe. The rent was £1-2-8 per annum and heriots £2-13-4: (Longleat: Bagendon Court Proceedings 1684, NMR 2119).

<sup>9</sup> John Pitman was the innholder of the Bull in Cirencester. His wife was Judith and they had a son John and a daughter Margaret. His Will, dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 1693/4, was proved on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1695 with an inventory. His son John inherited the Bull and his Will, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1701/2, was proved on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1702 also with an inventory. Margaret married Thomas Ravenhill.

<sup>10</sup> Sarah left a Will, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June and proved 13<sup>th</sup> July 1667, making Thomas executor and residuary legatee. She gave £5 to his under-age daughter Sara and gifts to her sisters Grace Eldridge and Frances Hanley. John Pritman (*sic*) and Edward Stovell were overseers. Thomas left no Will but Margaret took our Letters of Administration dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 1690, to which there is an inventory, for a total value of £178-19-0.

<sup>11</sup> At one time at Wiltshire County Records Office but now returned to the Marquess of Bath at Longleat.

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Thynne, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Weymouth, Lord of the Manor of Bagendon. He died in 1710 and was succeeded by Thomas Thynne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount, who died in 1751, and then by Thomas Thynne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount, created Marquess of Bath in 1789, who died in 1796.

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<sup>13</sup> ‘with all Outhouses Backsides Orchards & Gardens, A close of Meadow or Pasture called the upper Moor 3 Acres, 2 Acres of Arable in the North Field & 2 Acres in the South field and Comon’ [i.e. the right to graze sheep on the Common lands] ‘for 5 sheep’. The fine was for the surrender of Margaret’s free bench as a widow and £30. The rent was 3s. 4d. and the heriot the same, on Margaret’s death.

<sup>14</sup> ‘& the Garden Orchard etc. together with 6 acres of Arable land to the same belonging & on part of which the Messuage Inn or Tenement & Outhouses are built, a parrock of Meadow called Bonham Mead near Barretts Bridge also Cutham Bridge about 3 roods & the fforeshare of ½ an Acre of Meadow in Barretts Meadow with the appurtenances’. The fine was £80 for two lives, the rent £1-2-8 per annum and the heriot the best beast or good or £2-13-4.

<sup>15</sup> Although the description in *the Survey* is brief, the new lease dated 21/8/1739 is the only one in *the Survey* with the same rent and heriot as in the 1676 lease to Richard Eycott – namely £1-2-8 for the rent and £2-13-4 for the heriot; the fine for three new lives is £255. ‘William Huntingdon Rector of Bagendon’ was buried on 2/1/1737/8.

<sup>16</sup> Thomas was baptised on 12/3/1778 and Ann on 23/10/1680. Sara married John Harris of Daglingworth at Daglingworth on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1689/90; Elizabeth married Gyles Lawrence of Yanworth by licence at Bagendon on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1692. He was buried at Yanworth on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1711 and Elizabeth then married Thomas Cowles at Cirencester on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1713/14; Anne married Thomas Eycot, both of Bagendon, at St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1703; Mary married Richard Symons (or Symins) of North Cerney at Cirencester on 1st February 1702/3.

<sup>17</sup> He is marked as dead on *the Survey* which dates from c.1746.

<sup>18</sup> Thomas Harding was a member of the homage attending the Bagendon Court Baron in 1719, 1729, 1732, 1735 and 1736. In 1735, he, Robert Jordan and Edith Parsloe, were each amerced [fined] 5s. affeered [reduced] to 2s. 6d., for not grinding at the Lord’s Mill. This was doubtless because Edith’s son John had acquired a lease of the Mill in North Cerney: (Longleat, Bagendon Court Proceedings 1623-1734, *NMR* 1949).

<sup>19</sup> Gloucestershire Archives (‘GA’): Will dated 12/10//1728; probate 30/5/1730 with inventory.

<sup>20</sup> Despite knowing Thomas and possibly Ann’s year of birth, no baptism has been found in the Bagendon registers which are defective in this period. It appears that Thomas’s father Thomas was a son of Richard, the 1676 leaseholder, who was buried as Richard Eycott yeoman on 18th May 1679. It is assumed this Richard is the same as the husband of Anne Eycott, widow. Richard held Moor Farm by copy of Court Roll dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1644 /5 and his widow, Anne, had free bench after his death. Richard had two other sons, presumably by Anne. William Eycot, baptised on 2/1/1650/1 and his brother Berkley (whose baptism has also not been found). These two brothers were apprenticed as goldsmiths in London. William set up business in Gloucester, while Berkley did so in Cirencester and became wealthy, acquiring extensive property leases in Bagendon. Thomas the father of Thomas and Ann will have been a younger brother (Longleat: Bagendon Court Proceedings 1684, *NMR* 2119). Eacott, John *The Eacott Name History* (2019) (‘*Eycott*’) contains extensive Eycott records and traces Berkley’s descendants. I am grateful to John Eacott and his wife Donna for proof reading this article.

<sup>21</sup> Jane Eycott, widow, was buried on 11/12/1716. Ann Eycot of Bagendon married John Harmer of Bisley on 1/10/1689, aged 31, and another Ann Eycott of Bagendon married Thomas Howes of North Cerney on 20/4/1694. Either Ann could be Thomas’s sister and in any event she must have been older than he was. There is no record of burial. Lastly Ann Eycott, widow, was buried on 27/6/1698. She was named as Berkley’s widowed mother in his lease of Moor House dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 1680 and as having free bench of Moore House as widow of Richard Eycot (Longleat: Bagendon Court Proceedings 1684, *NMR* 2119)..

<sup>22</sup> GA: 10/3/1722/3.

<sup>23</sup> *Rees*, p.59 refers to John Ashmead as John Ashmead junior He may have been the son of John Ashmead, senior, named as plaintiff in Brimpsfield in Michalemas Term 1726 in a Feet of Fine (Phillipps, Sir Thomas *Pedes finium, ab anno 1649 ad anno 1714 pro Com. Gloc*).

<sup>24</sup> The lease of North Cerney Mill dated 11/2/1733 to Thomas Webb on trust for the Parsloes recites that it was formerly in the tenure of John Ashmead as tenant of Lord Bathurst (GA: Bathurst Papers, D2525, Box 32, North Cerney). John Ashmead appears in the homage at the Bagendon Court Baron in 1735 and 1736 which supports a date near this time for his taking over the Bear (Longleat, Bagendon Court Proceedings 1623-1734, *NMR* 1949).

<sup>25</sup> Court Baron, Bagendon, 1735 (inspected at Wilts CRO: now at Longleat).

<sup>26</sup> *Bigland*, *ibid*.

<sup>27</sup> Mary baptised 7/11/1734 and buried 15/4/1735, Thomas baptised 23/3/1735, Mary baptised 13 and buried 16/2/1737/8, Margaret baptised 7/4/1739, and John baptised 23/8/1741.

<sup>28</sup> The 1691 lease to Margaret Ravenhill was found loose in a Bagendon Survey Book 1696-1733 marked ‘Now Jn<sup>o</sup> Ashmead’; and the writer made a note that, on 19/7/1737, John Ashmead had the lease of the Inn at Cutham Bridge which refers back to the 1676 lease (Longleat: *NMR* 10651). *The Survey* noted the offer on 12/5/1740 of two lives for £40 for the 1691 lease (Margaret and Thomas being dead and Elizabeth the surviving life) and £120 for the 1699 lease (Daniel and Giles being dead and Mary the surviving life). In each case this was 8 years purchase. So Frances obtained a reduction (also Longleat, Receipts for Rent, 1599-1756, *NMR* 1948: Yearly Accounts of John Eycot, Bailiff, 1741-1749, *NMR* 1971).

<sup>29</sup> Berkley's descendants to whom the property descended are fully described in *Eycott* (Appendix R pp.278f). Mr Eycott of Moorwood, with whom Frances lived, must be Richard Eycott of Cirencester, gentleman, the testator of 16/11/1771 (probate 17/9/1772). He inherited his leasehold estate in Bagendon from his sister Elizabeth and left it to his brother Jones Eycott of Cirencester, gentleman, who died intestate in 1779. They were children of John, a son off Berkley Eycot.

<sup>30</sup> In a later Survey of Bagendon c.1760 onwards (Longleat, *NMR* 1950).

<sup>31</sup> *Rees*, p. 59: although Rees says Frances had children by Eycott, the only bastard child named in the Parish Register is Richard. However, John Ashmead, buried 7/3/1757, is described as son of Mrs Frances Ashmead so if the John Ashmead baptised on 23/8/1741 had died, this John could be another bastard. See also *Eycott*, p.77.

It is tempting to think that Frances did not marry Richard Eycott because, if the reconstruction given of the Eycott family is correct, he was related to her former husband i.e he was the grandson of her husband's grandfather's brother Berkeley. While a second cousin is not within the Prayer Book table of affinity, a first cousin is and such a relationship could well have been unacceptable to a conservative cleric.

<sup>32</sup> *VCH* Vol. VII, p.152 and references. The confusion is understandable. *GA: Q/Rsf/2*, has a List of Friendly Societies whose rules were transferred to the Registrar. There are 124 inns including: '1775 Friendly Society, Parrots Brook, North Cerney' and '1817 Bear Inn Friendly Society, Bagendon'.

<sup>33</sup> *VCH* *ibid: Hares*.

<sup>34</sup> Thus Thomas and Margaret baptised Mary on 5/11/1762 (buried 10/2/1780), William on 19/12/1766, (buried 5/5/1773), John on 25/9/1768, and Lucy on 12/12/1777 (buried 9/3/1780). There is no record of baptisms of Thomas or Fanny. Thomas senior made a Will on 24/6/1772 (witnessed by mark by Thomas Ashmead) leaving everything to his wife Margaret. He died on 6/9/1778, but Margaret remarried William Jones on 31/12/1782 by licence. Thomas's Will was only proved on 10/11/1787 by his son Thomas, his only surviving son.

<sup>35</sup> For Land Tax Returns 1780-1832 see *GA: Q-REI-1 1780-1832*

<sup>36</sup> *GA: D182/III/12*.

<sup>37</sup> Bagendon Inclosure Award, (*GA: D475*): Schedule as follows:

Schedule No.		Acres	Roods	Perches
FB 404)	The Bear Inn outhouses garden		2	18
405)	and orchard			
406	Home Close	1	2	39
413	Close adjoining	2	1	7
402)	Cottages Barn Stable & Yard			38
403)				
396, 397, 398	Old Inn House and Garden		1	33
399	Upper Moor	3	2	20
FB 1	First Allotment in Barretts Mead	1	1	30
FB 2	Second Allotment in the Waste (called the Bear Banks)		1	14
FB 3	Third Allotment in the South Field	3	2	29
		14	1	28

<sup>38</sup> *Hares*.

<sup>39</sup> For a fine of £40, the lease from the Marquess of Bath dated 16 October 1794 to Charles Day of Barretts Brook, Bagendon, victualler, added Day, aged about 30, as a life, in addition to the existing lives of his wife, Fanny, and Thomas Parsloe, yeoman. The rent is £1-6-0 and the herriot £2-16-8.

<sup>40</sup> *GA: D182/III/12*.

<sup>41</sup> *GA: D1388-box9384-6*

<sup>42</sup> At Bagendon, Charlotte was baptised on 18/6/1793, Thomas Charles was baptised on 31/10/1794, Elizabeth was buried on 9/12/1795, Isaac was baptised on 17/7/1796, George (who was born on 16/7/1798) was baptised on 25/10/1798 and Alfred Bell was baptised on 27/4/1800 and buried on 1/7/1811.

The Parish Register records under Baptisms 1798: 'George the Son of Charles Day [by Fanny his wife interpolated] Born March 16<sup>th</sup> and Baptised October the 25<sup>th</sup>: but on the next page in a different hand under Baptisms 1800: 'Alfred Bell Fil Charles and Fanny Day'. Bell was evidently a second Christian name: the child died and was buried on 1/7/1811 as Alfred Day.

<sup>43</sup> (*GA: Will* dated 16<sup>th</sup> April and proved 7<sup>th</sup> October 1836).

<sup>44</sup> *GA: Q/Rsf/2*.

<sup>45</sup> *Hares*.