

Other Days: Other Ways.

PART II.

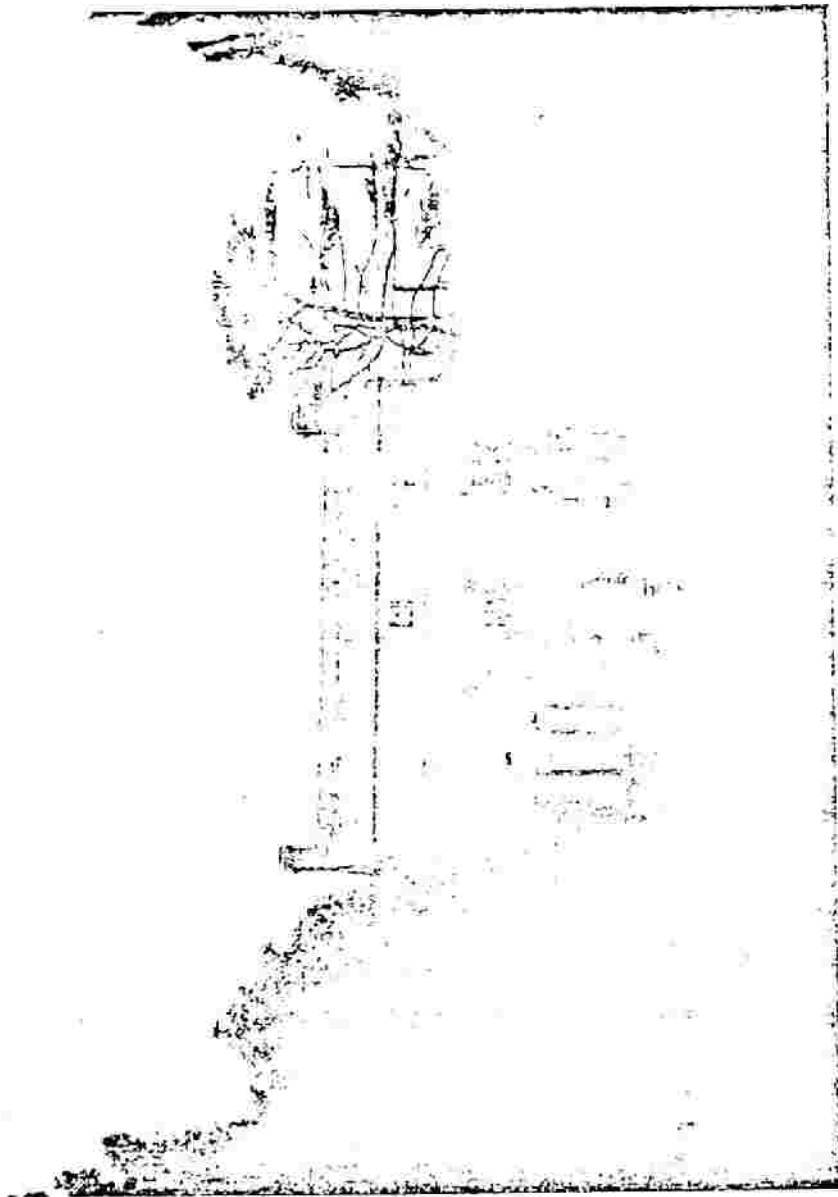
Being some reminiscences of the
late G. F. BOMFORD (1837-1933)
of Atch Lench

(Compiled by Frances E. Bomford, and
edited, with appendix, by E. A. B. Barnard).

FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

PRICE . . . ONE SHILLING.

EVESHAM:
THE JOURNAL PRESS
1934.



SHERIFF'S LENCH: Home of Joseph Bomford, junr., and afterwards of his family, 1833—1876. From a photograph taken in 1876.

NOTE.

These reminiscences and notes appeared in the antiquarian column of the "Evesham Journal" (March—September, 1934.)

FOREWORD.

I wish to express my thanks to E. J. Davies, Esq., Secretary to the Ecclesiastical Commission, for certain information concerning the Manor of Atch Lench; and also to E. A. B. Barnard, Esq., for all the trouble he has taken in connection with the publication of this pamphlet.

FRANCES E. BOMFORD.

Other Days: Other Ways

PART II.

INTRODUCTION.

When some reminiscences of my father, the late G. F. Bomford, appeared in this column four years ago, and afterwards were published as a pamphlet, he received many messages expressing the interest and appreciation of readers, which afforded him much pleasure. From that time forward he gave me further notes of various customs and happenings of long ago which he remembered.

Frances E. Bomford.

THE FARM AT SHERIFF'S LENCH.

In 1833 when my father, Joseph Bomford junior, entered on the farm, it was owned by the Rev. William Chafy, D.D., then Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, who had bought it in a haphazard sort of way without having seen it. He chanced to go into a London sale room just as the property was being offered, and in a few moments the five hundred acres at Sheriff's Lench were knocked down to him at £10,000. The farm was let at that time at £500 per annum. This was in 1824, or thereabouts (1).

After some years the rent was raised, and when we gave up the farm in 1876 it was £300 per annum.

SOME FORMER TENANTS.

The first tenant of whom I ever heard anything was named Stokes, who was there towards the end of the 18th and the early part of the 19th century. He was, to say the least, a peculiar man, and some of his actions were long remembered.

Postin was the next tenant, and I believe he had the farm for fourteen years and then was followed by William Sargeant, who came from Suffolk and brought a number of work-people from his native county with him. Among these were the old Gardeners, the parents of John and William Gardner; and John Sparrow and family. Henry Sparrow was one of the youngest of this party, and it was said that he rode on a donkey and cried all the way.

While Sargeant was at Sheriff's Lench there was a good deal of friction between him and his landlord, Dr. Chafy (2). Of what Sargeant complained I never heard, but I know that at one time trouble was caused by Sargeant's beginning to fell timber on the farm. There was much litigation and one lawsuit was won by Sargeant.

For some reason or other many people at Church Lench sympathised with the winner and celebrated the occasion by having a bonfire, William Britton being elected to shoot an effigy of Dr. Chafy during the proceedings. As Dr. Chafy did not own any

other property in the Leuchas, he therefore was not known personally by anyone at Church Lench.

During one whole year, although Sargeant was still in occupation of the farm, no act of husbandry was performed. One of the old men used to tell me about this, and he ended by saying "for a year the farm lay dormant."

At Michaelmas, 1833, when my father entered on the farm, William Sargeant left Sheriff's Lench and went to the Old Court Farm, at Lenchwick.

THE FARM IN 1833.

The following is a copy of the arrangement, written by Dr. Chafy, regarding the valuation of the hay and acts of husbandry: "Messrs. Joseph Bomford the Elder and Joseph Bomford the Younger.

"In consideration of your paying me two hundred and fifty six pounds, the amount of the Valuation of the Hay and Acts of Husbandry on my farm at Sheriff's Lench instead of paying the same to the Executors of the late John Sargeant, the Out-going Tenants, I have agreed to indemnify and save harmless you and each of you of and from all Claims and Demands from the above-named Executors in respect of the said sum of two hundred and fifty six pounds and Hay and Acts of Husbandry respectively and of and from all Costs and expenses which you or either of you may be put unto by reason of any such Claim. You may send the money to me by a Banker's Bill at a Short Date.

Dated the 30th day of December, 1833.

W. Chafy."

When Dr Chafy died he left the farm at Sheriff's Lench, and other property, to his grandson, the Rev.—afterwards Dr.—W. K. W. Chafy, who eventually became Rector of Rous Lench in 1881.

LATER TENANTS.

The farm at Sheriff's Lench was occupied by our family until Michaelmas, 1876, then it was vacant for a year. Harry Pace looking after it according to instructions received from the landlord's agent, Thomas Shailer.

(1).—Cf. The Tithes of Sheriff's Lench in 1815 ("Old Days," "Evesham Journal," 6 June, 1930).

(2).—Dr. William Chafy, who died in 1843, aged 64, was Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, from 1813 until the time of his death. There is a memorial to him in the College ante-chapel, and Henry Gunning, in his Reminiscences, has a good deal to say concerning him, particularly during the time of his unpopular Vice-Chancellorship of the University.

In 1877 it was taken—at a reduced rent—by Benjamin Bomford, of Pitchill, who kept it about two years. In the dreadfully wet season of 1879 this was the only farm, of the many he then occupied, where the sheep did not go rotten.

Later on Benjamin Smithin, who had returned to the Manor Farm, occupied it for many years.

After Benjamin Smithin's death the farm was occupied successively by John Averill, J. E. Clarke and C. H. Rowberry. The present owner and occupier is W. D. Plant.

THE MANOR FARM, SHERIFF'S LENCH.

After John Edwin's death, the Winnalls lived at the Manor House for a year or two and occupied the farm, Mr. Winnall having married one of the daughters of the late owner, and Miss Edwin lived with them.

Mr. Winnall came from Herefordshire; his family at one time owned the farm at Harvington, which at a much later period was occupied by Frederick Pick.

Benjamin Smithin took the farm from the Winnalls in 1848, and after many years left Sheriff's Lench, for a time living at Dumbleton. He returned to his original farm in the early 'eighties, and spent his last days there. His sons gave up the farm in 1906, since when my son, J. C. Bomford, has farmed it.

DOG-KENNEL BRAKE.

In my boyhood there used to be a number of small pieces of Woodland at Sheriff's Lench that by degrees were stocked up. There was one which I did not mention when writing Part I of these reminiscences. This was Dog-Kennel Brake.

This Brake was situated near the Little Orchard, and the ground it used to occupy is now included in the Lawn. How it gained its name I never heard, but one incident always connected with it in my mind concerned a dog.

For a number of years during the early part of my father's occupation of the farm he had a big dog named "Ponto" (I remember him). One of the first tales I heard about "Ponto" was that he had once bitten my brother Joe when a small child, the nursemaid having foolishly put him on the dog's back. Later on the dog was suspected of worrying sheep, on whose farm I do not know. The charge was never proved, but he continued under suspicion and was eventually killed by my father's orders, William Cresswell hanging him in Dog-Kennel Brake.

THE RAT-CATCHER.

Jack Matthus, or Matthews, was well-known from Evesham to Pershore. When I was a child he was in his prime and used to come periodically to kill rats, armed with a stick weighted with lead. He would never go through the brakes and plantations when the sun was shining, without the stick in hand, ready to kill the snakes and "ethers" (adders) which were so numerous in those days. He used to bring a ferret or two and put in the ricks to drive out the rats.

Matthews was paid according to the number of rats killed, and when counting the bodies he would always point out the unusual size of the ferret and estimate by that means how many it had probably eaten. He was a very sporting character and thought by some to be a poacher, for someone, prob-

ably a keeper on the Holland estate, when calling at his cottage, had once found him at a meal consisting of fowl and rabbit.

THE HUNTS OF HILL COMMON.

Benjamin Hunt at one time kept the ferry-boat at Fladbury, where his wife met with her death accidentally in a tragic manner, leaving two children, Anne, afterwards Mrs. Lyes, of Ab Lench, and George. Hunt married again later and there was a second family, Benjamin and Henry being two of the sons.

After leaving the ferry, Benjamin Hunt had a farm of a hundred acres at Hill Common—now generally called Hill Furze. He was a tall, big, bony man and when elderly became much bowed. He was a very good neighbour to my father and each accommodated the other; always most kind and hospitable, if ever he met any member of our family near his house, he would say "Come in and have a bit of bread." If the invitation was accepted we found the supply, according to the demands of such a small company, excessive. I have often seen a spread like this; A loaf of home-made bread probably weighing five pounds, a large skim-milk cheese, a large ham and a joint of pig meat, with home-brewed beer for those who could take it.

On the occasion of our family visit to the Metropolis in 1851, for the Great Exhibition, we met Benjamin Hunt's brother, who was a butler in a London mansion, and made the acquaintance of the latter's son, Tom. Tom Hunt was a smart young man who claimed to know every street in London, and volunteered to be our guide during our visit. "Put away your maps," he said, and touching his forehead he proudly added, "Here is the map of London!"

POSTAL DELIVERIES.

In my early days letters were not delivered by a postman at Sheriff's Lench, but they were sent to Norton on certain days to Shoemaker Stanton's house, which stood not far from the church; there was a yew-tree in the garden. Stanton had the post office, and was responsible for seeing that letters got to their proper destinations. For many years Teddy New walked from Evesham and carried the letters to Stanton's.

On a Tuesday someone was sent from Sheriff's Lench to fetch the letters from Norton, because that was the day when "Bell's Weekly Messenger" arrived. It often fell to my lot to do this just at one period. My father always read the paper first, and then Mr. Smithin saw it. Later a daily post was delivered.

"CLUB."

I always took a keen interest in the horses on the farm at Sheriff's Lench, and remembered particulars of all the colts bred there during the years it was occupied by our family. A long line of cart-horses was bred from a mare "Club," that my father bought from William Sargeant in 1833.

I remember "Club" well; it was through one of the latest of her colts named "Brown"—a kicker—that I have traced the descent of many horses at Sheriff's Lench and at Atch Lench, including all the horses but one now owned and worked by my two sons, G. F. Bomford, Harvington, who occu-

pies the Atch Lench farm, and J. C. Bomford, at the Manor Farm, Sheriff's Lench.

THE PONY.

In 1848 my uncle, John Hughes, of Alcester Park farm, having bought a nag named "Prince," wished to dispose of the pony he had been using for a time. The pony named "Pollie" was six years old, and in colour was practically black with a brown muzzle. She was taken to Pershore Fair, and as no purchaser was forthcoming my father bought her shortly afterwards for about £12.

My brother Joe and I knew something of the pony as we paid frequent visits to Alcester Park, and with our cousin Ben had taken turns in riding her. She was twelve hands in height, very fast and most difficult to catch. She took only ten minutes to get to Atch Lench from Sheriff's Lench. As we had had no mount previously we had no saddle to use, so it was arranged for the pony to be taken to Evesham to be measured for a saddle.

It fell to my lot as the younger of the two—I was then in my eleventh year—to undertake this errand. With only a bridle on her, I started off, riding "Pollie" bare-back, and had many adventures before the double journey was finished. In Ash-tree Piece I slipped off but managed to get on again at a gate. In Lenchwick she was much excited by Billy Sargeant's barley-carriers, who made a great noise, so "Pollie" got on to the rather high path opposite the Pound and threw me, to the great amusement of the men—but I did not loose her. When going down Greenhill, I was jeered at and threatened by two road men because I was riding on the path, which made me fear that I should be thrown into prison!

At last I arrived with the pony at Taylor's (near Averill's shop) in High Street, and measurements for the new saddle were duly taken, after which I started on my homeward journey. Benjamin Ashmore and Robert Lunn, of Norton, happened to be driving home together just in front of me, and they teased me by making a noise to excite the pony, and she dashed madly after them as far as Lenchwick Bottom, where I was thankful that our ways parted.

THE HORSE THRESHING-MACHINE.

In the 'forties the horse threshing-machine was used. This employed six horses, four being used together, while two rested: the horses had to keep on going round and round. On one occasion I had an unpleasant experience for, meeting the horses, I was caught by the spindle, was knocked down and fell at the feet of "Drummer," a young horse. He dragged back and would not go on, thus saving my life.

I remember another incident connected with this kind of threshing-machine. My father happened to call at the Handgate Farm to speak to Mr. Chance, and he saw what happened and afterwards told me the tale. Benjamin Harwood, one of the men employed, got too near the machine, his coat was caught and he was in great danger of being killed. Fortunately his clothes gave way and he was liberated. All his clothing was torn to shreds by the machine, and he was thankful to go home wrapped in Miss Chance's Sunday cloak.

He lived near the Hill Barn in a cottage long since pulled down.

Harwood had four sons, Joseph, William, Thomas and George, all of whom have left descendants. Three of the sons remained in the Lenches, but George went to Aldington, and was very useful to the late Arthur H. Savory, who described him in his most interesting account of Aldington, in "Grain and Chaff from an English Manor".

I knew all these men well, but perhaps Joseph the best, as I came in contact with him most in my early days. He lived in the house at my grandfather's at Atch Lench.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

Once in the early 'forties, when the price of wheat was very high, I remember being present when William Holder and William Cresswell were putting arsenic on the seed corn—as was then usually done. One of them said to the other: "If ever the price of this," putting his hand on the wheat, "rises to £2 a bag there will be wars in England and the streets will run with blood."

GIPSIES.

I think that during the first half of my life there were more gipsies to be seen in this neighbourhood than in more recent times.

Looking back it seems to me that an encampment of gipsies near Brick-Kiln Meadow, or by Huxley's garden in the Hand-road, was of very frequent occurrence, and occasionally they encamped much nearer Atch Lench; once I remember their being by the first ash-tree in the House-ground hedge. When staying here with my grandfather, and also later, as long as we had the farm at Sheriff's Lench, I was frequently going from Atch Lench to Sheriff's Lench or vice versa, and I noticed that whatever hour it happened to be of the day or even late into the night, I never passed a gipsies' camp without being asked the time by some of them.

In wet seasons when we lost large numbers of sheep from the fluke, gipsies often used to come and try to beg the bodies which were being skinned. On one occasion when someone replied by saying they were being kept for the sheep-dogs, etc., the gipsy quickly retorted: "There are some two-legged dogs, master, that would be glad of them."

GIGS, DOG-CARTS, AND SOCIABLES.

In the early years of the 19th century the ordinary roads in rural districts were as a rule very bad, because they were soft and easily cut up by any sort of traffic, consequently a farmer seldom kept a vehicle in which to travel to market or elsewhere, but rode on horse-back, and when accompanied by his wife or a daughter would use the pillion—but that was before my day. As the years went by more effort was made to attend to the roads, and in consequence they began to improve somewhat, and wheeled traffic increased. I do not know when gigs first came into use, but I think they were general throughout the 'thirties, although the use of the saddle nag was still continued largely. In the middle of the century dog-carts appeared. My father had the first in this parish, having bought it about 1852 at Charles Jackson's (Cold Comfort) sale. William Heath owned and drove the first dog-

cart seen in this neighbourhood. He lived at Abbot's Salford and occupied the farm on the Salford-Hall estate, held for many years by the William Smith family.

Another conveyance belonging to the past was the sociable; this was a commodious covered vehicle, in which, during the 'fifties, 'sixties, and early 'seventies, many family-parties drove on Sundays to Church, and on other occasions to the simple social gatherings that used to give much real pleasure to old and young in those days.

FARM SALES.

In my time I went to many farm sales. The first I ever attended took place in the early 'forties, perhaps 1841 or 1842, at Church Lench, at the Manor Farm, in a field just behind the house—Perks was the outgoing tenant. I went with my father, who was accompanied by Benjamin Bomford, junr., of Atch Lench, later of Pitchill, who was not quite grown-up—he was born in 1823. The last sale I attended was at the Church Farm, Church Lench, when E. J. Aston was giving up the farm in 1922.

HEDGES AND HEDGERS.

In the 'forties and 'fifties the hedges in this parish were in good order; a certain number on each farm would come in for cutting each year, either being "laid" as they are to-day, or "hogged";—i.e., cut off without pieaching or "ethering." Cropping was not practised until a later date when hand-threshing, etc., had ceased to occupy so much time. The hedgers, as a rule, carried home a little kid (faggot) when returning to dinner. The thorn kids were conveyed to the farmstead and used for heating the bread-oven. My grandfather used to burn one on the hearth in the back kitchen every morning when he came in from looking at his colts in Hipton Hill, or elsewhere, before anyone else was downstairs.

Among the many good hedgers in the Lenches, William Cresswell excelled, and a good many of his descendants have been—and some still are—noted for their skill. In those old days it was customary for every shepherd to possess hedging gloves, etc., and always to be ready to stop gaps in hedges, and so prevent sheep from going astray.

EARTH-BURNING.

This was practised more or less at Sheriff's Lench from 1833 to 1876 for the sake of obtaining "ballast" to fill up hollows in the yards, and where possible to get a fall for moisture, also to mend or make field roads.

James Sparrow, of Church Lench, was an expert at this work, also his brother, Henry Sparrow, and both were good drainers. Later Henry Sparrow became a well-sinker, indeed one of the best known in this district.

The last earth-burning done at Atch Lench was in 1850 when Charles Sparrow, son of James, roadman for some years in his old age, burnt some in Pitchill Hill.

GOING TO CHURCH.

When at Miss Corbitt's school at Church Lench as weekly boarders from 1841 to the end of 1844, my brother Joe and I, with other pupils, were sometimes taken to church. It must have been a service on a week-day that we attended, as we always

returned home on the Saturday and went back to school on the Monday.

On these occasions we sat with Miss Corbitt in the pew that was regarded as belonging to our family, as it was connected in some way with the farm at Sheriff's Lench. The pews were then high-backed and had doors. They were replaced by modern ones when the church was restored in 1852. My chief interest in the service was seeing Charlie Meadows in the choir, for his home was at Sheriff's Lench and I knew him. This must have been before he began to work for my father; he was working for us when he was twelve and I was six, and I remember thinking that he was double my age.

LIMEKILNS.

At Sheriff's Lench there were limekilns used on our farm up to 1850 in the Limekiln Ground and the Barn Ground, the stones burnt being found in those fields. Robert Stanford was the man who looked after the kilns.

Lime was put on the land; some was sold to other farmers and probably some was sold for building in the neighbourhood. At Church Lench there was a limekiln in T. Y. Tovey's King Hill, where the stone was found. John Newman was employed at the kiln, which was used up to the 'eighties. At an earlier period, John Tovey, the maltster who also had a farm, used to sell lime, but I do not know where his kiln was situated.

There was no limekiln at Atch Lench within my remembrance, but plenty of the blue stone suitable for making lime was found, besides other places, in the Top Common, Knight's Leasow, and Brown's Ground, beyond the ditch. The foundations of most of the oldest of the cottages in Atch Lench, and also the greater part of their immense chimneys, were probably made of this local stone, also some of the walls in the parish.

[There was evidently a limekiln at Atch Lench at an earlier date which was worked by the brothers Joseph, Thomas and Benjamin Bomford, for in Joseph's accounts in 1812 a third of the limekiln expenses (£1 19s. 4d.) is included in the amount which Thomas owes him. F.E.B.]

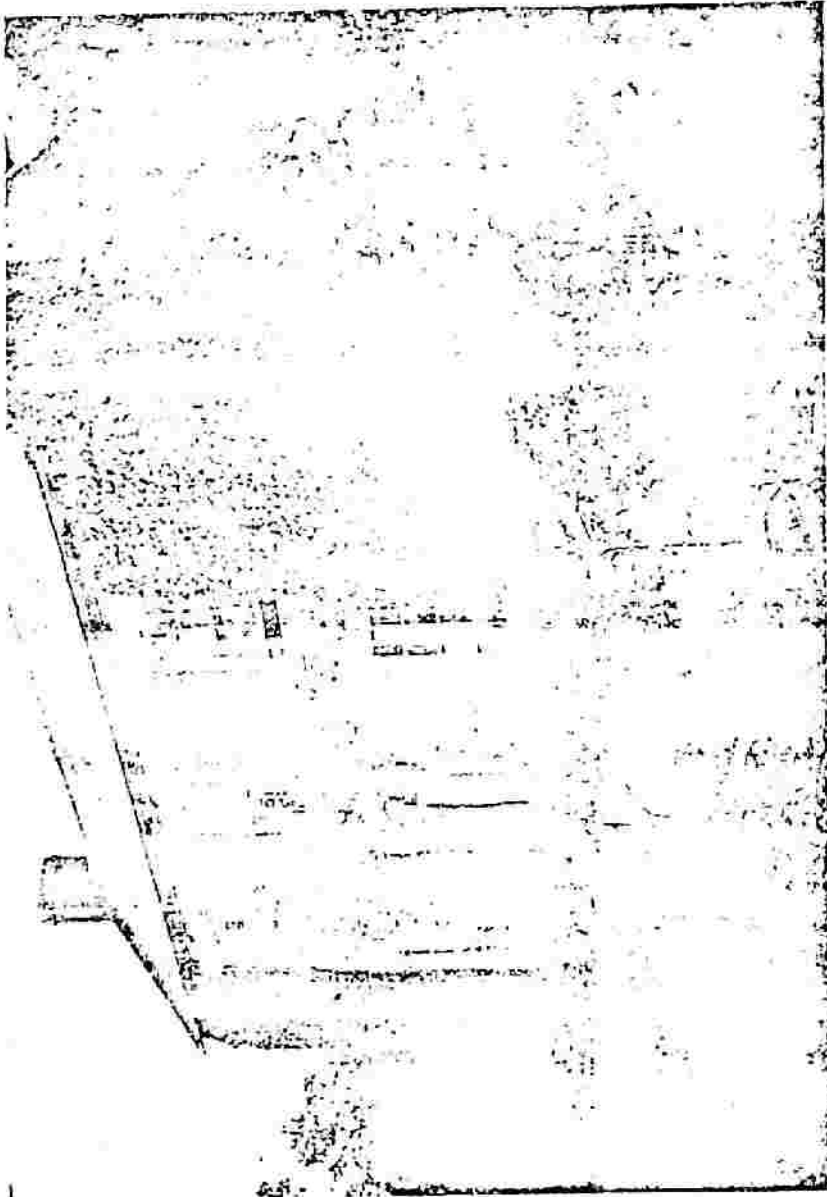
BRICKYARDS.

In the first half of the 19th century anyone in this neighbourhood wanting bricks obtained them from a local brickyard.

There was a brickyard belonging to Atch Lench before my day, which furnished the bricks for this house (Atch Lench Manor House) built in 1807-9 for my grandfather, also for the chapel in 1829, and no doubt for other buildings in the locality. Tiles were also made there. The field where these bricks, etc. were made is still known as Brick-kiln Meadow. The loads of bricks were brought along an ancient lane through fields, now forming part of those fields: it is mentioned in old records.

I never heard of any brickyard at Church Lench. At Sheriff's Lench there was a brickyard on our farm where bricks and tiles were made, the kiln being worked until about 1861. Robert Stanford was the brick-maker for many years.

At Hill Furze there was a brickyard, worked up to the 'fifties by Benjamin Hunt.



ATCH LENCH: Home of Joseph Bomford, senior, and later of G. F. Bomford. From a photograph taken in 1921 by the late Leonard A. Bomford.

[Quite recently John Allen, senr., of Church Lench, has given me information about the brickyard at Ab Lench Bottom on the farm occupied by John Tovey. This was worked long ago by the Collinses, who afterwards left and went to Radford.

At Ab Lench Bottom a young girl was one of those employed, her work being to carry the clay to the brickmaker. F.E.B.]

SOME CHURCH LENCH FAMILIES.

Having had my home in the same parish during the whole of my long life, I have had unusual opportunities of knowing particulars about the other inhabitants. I have known four generations in a considerable number of the families, five in some others, and in one or two as many as six generations.

The families in the parish I have known best, perhaps, are the Sparrows, Cresswells, Harwoods, Ballards and Ellisons.

The Ellisons, some of whom have generally been smallholders, have owned and occupied a group of half-timbered cottages at The Low, Church Lench, for about one hundred and sixty years, perhaps longer. The first member of the family known to me was John Ellison. He was followed by his son, William (often called "Farmer" to distinguish him from another William Ellison in Church Lench, who was not related). William Ellison married Maria Clarke, whose parents lived in part of the old farm house in the centre of the village.

Their son William, now lives at The Low, and is well over 80 years of age. He began work as a plough-boy for my grandfather.

I was chosen as executor and trustee by William Ellison, senr., and as his will was rather unusual I had a good deal to do with the family for a number of years.

William and Maria Ellison died on the same day, at the end of January, 1831, and as I was executor I attended the double funeral, following the two coffins from the Low to the church; it was bitterly cold and a deep snow lay on the ground.

Richard Ellison, the eldest son, went to live at Inkberrow: he, like some others in the family, was an excellent woodsman. So fond was he of the woods that when he was dying, not many years ago, he asked that a kid (saggot) should be placed on his coffin. Hearing of this request, Alfred Ballard, of Church Lench, one of his old friends, who had often worked in the woods with him, cut a miniature kid and placed it on the coffin.

USEFUL MEN IN CHURCH LENCH A CENTURY AGO.

A century ago there were in this parish several men whose work made them very useful to the locality; their position was rather different from that of the ordinary labourers, and they were often addressed as "Master." Master Thomas Farr lived at Poplar Cot, and occupied four or five acres of ground, part of which he cultivated. He kept some stock—a cow or two, and pigs—and occasionally he would buy a pen of ewes and breed a few lambs. Sometimes he bought a peck of wood at the wood sales. He was a carpenter, capable of repairing and sometimes of constructing farm buildings, etc.

THE BLACKSMITH.

John Bullock was the blacksmith at Church Lench. He was big and strong and, though not extraordinary for his craftsmanship or skill, was a trustworthy man. He owned the house where he lived and the smithy hard by. These were situated on the left-hand side of the rather steep road leading to the centre of the village, and near them were two or three other cottages long since vanished: the pump which used to serve the occupants is still to be seen.

When I first knew Church Lench, the piece of land behind these dwellings and their gardens was a small-holding belonging to two old brothers named Green, who lived in the two cottages near the footpath in the Croft.

John Bullock shod all the farm horses in the parish, generally by contract, making all the shoes required. The prices varied in contracts, because on some farms the shoes lasted much longer than on others; if the horses did not go on hard roads when proceeding to and from work, there were fewer shoes to be made. Therefore there were cheaper rates for Joseph Bomford, junr., Sheriff's Lench, than at Atch Lench for Joseph Bomford, senr.

No patent cast-iron shares, etc., were then introduced, consequently the blacksmith made shares and coulter and repaired them when required. A plough-boy was frequently employed in taking them to the blacksmith and fetching them back.

Besides these operations, John Bullock did all ordinary repairs to tools and implements. Perhaps his greatest work was making large iron scuffles to work rough fallows, requiring four horses to draw, and equal to facing the roughest ground.

My grandfather, Joseph Bomford, my great-uncles, Thomas and Benjamin, and my father each had one of these; no clay farmer in the neighbourhood was considered properly equipped without a scuffle, before steam cultivation was introduced.

A COMPARATIVE CENSUS OF HORSES.

If a census of horses had been taken from time to time it would be found that the numbers kept in a parish like this have sunk very much since the days of which I am writing. Then there were more than twice as many as there are now, not allowing for those at Ab Lench, as it was not included in the parish then.

In the 'forties the numbers, as I remember them, were as follows:—

Sheriff's Lench: Benj. Smithin	...	...	20
Joseph Bomford junr.	...	...	29
Atch Lench: Joseph Bomford senr.	...	...	10
Thomas Bomford	...	...	9
Benj. Bomford	...	...	7
John Young	...	...	1
Church Lench: T. Y. Tovey	...	...	5
(Church Farm)	...	...	5
William Tovey	...	...	5
(Hill Barn)	...	...	5
F. Chance	...	...	4
(Handgate Farm)	...	...	4
John Tovey	...	...	4
(maltster & farmer)	...	...	4
The Rector	...	...	3
— Franklin	...	...	2
Total	...	...	90

The above is probably an under-estimate of the number of horses then used in the parish. It is easy, therefore, to see that a blacksmith never lacked work in those days.

[Horses in the parish of Church Lench, now including Ab Lench, at the end of 1932:

Sheriff's Lench:	J. C. Bomford	...	...	7
	W. D. Plant	...	...	5
	R. H. Rowland	...	...	3
	(The Leasow)	...	...	3
Atch Lench:	H. K. Bomford and	...	...	7
	P. Hughes	...	...	7
	G. F. Bomford junr.	...	...	5
Church Lench:	J. E. Clarke	...	...	3
	(Handgate Farm)	...	...	3
	A. Powell (Church Farm)	...	...	2
	A. J. Curnock (Hill Barn)	...	...	2
	H. Parnell	...	...	2
	V. Stock (Manor Farm)	...	...	2
	H. E. Aston	...	...	1
	C. Ballard and H.	...	...	1
	Shervington	...	...	1
	J. Cresswell	...	...	1
	H. Laight	...	...	1
	R. Young	...	...	1
Ab Lench:	R. H. Hathaway (Spitten)	...	...	5
	A. H. Gill	...	...	4
	W. G. Phillips (Manor Farm)	...	...	4
	G. Stanley (Ab Lench	...	...	3
	Bottom)	...	...	3
	Total	...	...	60

F.E.B.]

THE WHEELWRIGHT.

George Brookes lived at the half-timbered house between the Church and the Rectory and worked up a business as a wheelwright, doing repairs chiefly. His sons, Joe and George, assisted him at one time.

He was often spoken of as "Justy" Brookes because he was fond of using the word "just" frequently—in this way: "I will use just a butt stick." In harvest time he put aside his wheelwright work and went reaping on our farm at Sheriff's Lench, as long as the sickle was used.

Any new wagon or cart required in the parish was made by Joseph Gilbert, of Castle-street, Bengeworth, whose descendant still carries on the business now removed to Elm-road in the same parish.

WRESTLERS AND SHOEMAKERS.

Master Archer kept the "Royal Oak," a beer house at Church Lench on the Evesham Road, and also did some tailoring, making chiefly corduroy trousers for the working men. He had a son Ned, who was good at wrestling. I remember when I was at school at Miss Corbitt's (1841-4), a little higher up the road, watching all the village people going to King Hill to see Ned Archer wrestle with Henry Cresswell, a very strong young man, one of William Cresswell's sons. I never heard how the contest ended.

Master William Corbitt, the cordwainer, was the village constable and also the parish clerk. He lived at the Butts by the Town Pool, and was for many years the chief shoemaker in the Lenches. He always bought his leather at Evesham. After his death his daughters kept on the shoemaking business for a time, hiring a journeyman to do the work.

At a later period Master Henry Greening, who came from the Beckford district, settled

at Church Lench, and worked for many years as a shoemaker. In 1877 he was leader of a little group of men who started the Church Lench Co-operative Society.

FARMER FAMILIES IN THE LENCHES.

The Toveys were connected with the Lenches for, I believe, about two centuries, but at the present time there is no one of the name living in this neighbourhood. I have known a number of the family, and in my younger days they were represented in Church Lench, Ab Lench and Rous Lench, while it is known that a very long time ago some of the name lived at Atch Lench, where there is a field still called Tovey's Close.

When I was a small boy Thomas Yardington Tovey already occupied Church Farm, Church Lench, and he retained possession of it until almost the end of his days, in 1892. T. Y. Tovey had two brothers, Joseph and William; the latter being tenant of the Manor Farm, Church Lench, and at another time farming at Rous Lench, where he lived at the house occupied later by Thomas Shailer. A sister was married to — Gibbs, of the Handgate Farm. John Tovey, a distant relative of T. Y. Tovey, was a farmer and maltster at Church Lench, having a considerable business at one time. He used the malt house in the lane which still goes by that name. He was the father of Nathan—who in his prime was thrown from his horse and killed—John, who farmed at Ab Lench, and Thomas—often called "Young" Thomas Tovey to distinguish him from T. Y. Tovey—who carried on the malting for a time, and farming, until ill-health compelled him to retire. Thomas Tovey lived for some years in the old part of Bank House, the other part being occupied by the three Miss Toveys, who belonged to yet another branch of the family.

John Tovey also had a daughter, Eleanor, who married Charles Tandy, of Ab Lench. For many years she and her husband lived with her brother John Tovey, at the Manor Farm, Ab Lench.

At Ab Lench during many years of my life one farm was occupied by the Tandy family, and Spitten by the Partingtons, both long connected with the Lenches. Richard Tandy and his brother, Charles, in their young days were passionately fond of hunting, but as their father kept only one saddle nag, it was impossible for both to follow the hounds at the same time on horse-back. Neither was specially fond of early-rising, but on a hunting-day both would be up betimes in order to get possession of the horse. On one occasion one of the young men rose at what seemed to him a very early hour, and proceeded to the stable, only to find that his brother was already on the horse's back!

William Partington had Spitten Farm at Ab Lench for many years, and after his death his family—two sons and three daughters—kept it on for some time. They left Ab Lench in the early 'eighties, Richard Tandy giving up his farm the same year. John Partington, William's brother, occupied the Grange Farm, Rous Lench. He was a very fine man possessing a splendid physique and a handsome face. His only son was named Joseph, who also became a farmer.

JOHN HEMING: AN EARLIER FARMER.

[Little can be written of John Heming, but it is known that he lived at Atch Lench in the 17th century and occupied land here. His name first appears in the Manorial Rolls in 1692, in connection with the following copyhold: "One messuage and three yard lands and half a yard land in Atch Lench. Quit rent 20s. and 1s. 7d. for one day's haymaking in Honiam (sometimes Honian) Meadow and three hens yearly at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle." (A later record says "three fat hens.")

It is difficult to say exactly where this land was situated, but it is certain that the day's haymaking, which in earlier times had to be done by the tenant of this copyhold, was required to be performed in what is now known as Onion Pike Meadow, situated in Abbots Salford, on the estate of the Eyston family. This meadow was, for some obscure reason, in those days connected with the Manor of Atch Lench, and a map of the Atch Lench Woods made in 1777, now in the writer's possession, has an inset of the said meadow.

It is recorded that at the Court Baron of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster held in and for the Manor of Atch Lench, on May 11, 1713, William Tovey, senr. and William Tovey, junr. surrendered a certain piece of land which they had occupied. "And afterwards at this same Court the Lords aforesaid by their Deputy aforesaid granted to John Heming and Elizabeth Heming daughter of the aforesaid John Heming aged about twelve years or thereabouts Half a Yard Land with the Appurtenances parcel of the premises aforesaid and depasturing for 15 sheep and 1 cow in the common called Low and also a private way for the aforesaid John and Elizabeth Heming and their servants from time to time with carts and carriages and all manner of cattle in and through a close called the Over Close of the aforesaid William Tovey senr., and William Tovey junr. . . . having the Lane on the one side and a little close of William Gold . . . on the other part to and from the Close called the Lower Close and also the hedgerow round the Lower Close (except the fruit growing on the trees during the life of the said William Tovey senr.) to have and to hold the aforesaid half yard land, etc. . . . unto John and Elizabeth Heming for the term of their natural lives . . ." The land here described is part of the field, Tovey's Close.

John Heming died in December, 1713, and was buried at Church Lench. The tombstone which marked his grave was unfortunately removed at the time of the restoration of the church in the middle of the 19th century, and disappeared.

In 1716 Elizabeth Heming was granted the tenancy of the copyhold above described in connection with John Heming 1692, for her widowhood. She died in 1758, having given up the copyhold in 1736, in which year her daughter, Elizabeth Bomford (late Heming) was also recognised as tenant.

Another copyhold, in 1720, was granted to Elizabeth Heming the younger, described as follows:—"The messuage and 4 acres of land in Stocking, Wheatfield (probably identical with Whitecroft), Golden Butts,

and Northcroft, with a common and a parcel in the Purzes (now the Pasture and the Long Pasture) in Atch Lench. In 1725 this Elizabeth Heming married Thomas Bomford, of Wyre.

The Hemings appear to have attended the services of the Baptist Church at Pershore, as the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Hemming is to be found in a list of the regular contributors there. Thomas Bomford and his relatives also worshipped at Pershore, being generous supporters of the same cause.*

THE BOMFORDS OF WYRE AND CROMWELLIAN TRADITIONS.†

The Bomfords, who had been living at Wyre for several generations, were thorough Puritans, probably sympathising with the Parliament in the great struggle "for faith and freedom" in the 17th century.

There is a tradition which has been handed down to the present generation of the family, which is also believed to be true by the inhabitants of Wyre to-day, that Oliver Cromwell called at the farm home of the Bomfords and received entertainment of some sort, on his way to Worcester late in August, 1651. A yew tree stands in the garden near the house, and it is said in Wyre that he sat under this tree—or tethered his horse there. It also used to be said that some of his soldiers went into a field near by and rested under a big elm tree. There are no elm trees left in the nearest field, but in another just beyond and also near the road are several veteran elms showing all the marks of hoary age.

There is also a tradition that Cromwell wrote a letter at the old farm house, and that this letter is extant, but so far it has not been possible to prove if this is correct.

The old house—now used as two dwellings—in which the Bomfords lived during the 17th and 18th centuries, and about three quarters of the 19th century, has no land attached to it at the present time. Although the bricks have mellowed with age, the outside of the house does not look ancient, but the interior suggests days that are long since past, the construction of the back premises, cellar, etc., presenting a great contrast to modern buildings. It is only twelve years or so since a grate was fitted in the largest of the downstairs rooms, before which there was an open chimney with a fire on the hearth.

HEMING BOMFORD (1730-1828).

Thomas and Elizabeth Bomford had six children, three of whom were sons. Thomas remained at Wyre and farmed the land his father had occupied; Ebenczer lived in the neighbourhood of Pershore; and Heming was chosen at an early age to come to Atch Lench. In 1752 Heming Bomford was formally recognised as tenant of the copyholds at Atch Lench, already described. He was then thirteen years of age.

In 1770 Heming Bomford married Elizabeth Chellingworth and came to live at Atch

*G. F. Bomford was a deacon of the church at Atch Lench for 68 years.

†See also "Old Days In and Around Evesham," "Evesham Journal," 25 August, 1934.

Lench, in the tall house which in modern times has been called "The Fir." It was he who planted the fir trees—two varieties originally—round his home, having bought them from Ragley. Now only two or three of them remain.

Mrs. Heming Bomford belonged to a family long connected with Sambourne in the parish of Coughton, on the Throckmorton estate; the Chellingworths were yeomen at Sambourne in 1653. After a time an uncle of hers, John Chellingworth, came and lived at Atch Lench with her and her husband.

Heming Bomford was industrious and capable, and as the years went by he gradually increased his business and his undertakings. When he died in 1828 he occupied the whole manor of Atch Lench, except the copyhold held by Thomas Brown, and several portions of the woods.

Before that date he had set up his five sons as farmers, and had given a marriage portion to his only daughter, Elizabeth, who married James Pearce, of Evesham.

John was established at Westmancote; Heming junior at the Sambourne farm connected with the Chellingworths; Thomas, the fourth son, was next set up at the Court Farm, Atch Lench, in 1804. Joseph came to this house, which had been newly built, in 1810, and had the land on this side; and Benjamin, who married in 1813, was given possession of his parents' home and the land near it, while they retired to a small house there to spend their remaining days.

Though he had handed over the land to be used and managed by the three sons, old Heming Bomford remained the holder of the copies until his death, aged 89. His wife had died the previous year, aged 84. In his will he left the small house for the use of a minister, and the adjoining land for a site for a chapel. He had remained true to the faith of his fathers, worshipping for many years at Pershore, and later in life going to Evesham.

His three sons at Atch Lench, in accordance with their father's wishes, built the chapel, continuing throughout their lives staunch supporters of the little cause, and doing all in their power to serve their day and generation. They were liked and respected by all who knew them. F.E.B.]

JOSEPH BOMFORD (1777-1858.)

Joseph Bomford, my grandfather, was a level-headed man, and was somewhat more enterprising than some others of his time. Two of his undertakings showed that he was rather bold:—(1) The purchase of the Atch Lench woods, with the exception of 20 acres, belonging to the owners of the Salford Hall Estate; (2) The taking of the Sheriff's Lench farm of 500 acres for his son Joseph, who was just grown up.

His brothers marvelled at these two actions: they thought the woods would be unprofitable and the large farm far too great a responsibility. Joseph was from the first most attached to his woods, and took the greatest care of the "springs" as the young shoots were called, that grew up after the plucks had been cut.

In the days when the bark, etc. sold well, the woods, I think, lost no money, whilst the farm at Sheriff's Lench, in the earlier years that it was occupied by his son, was a sound business proposition.

It was very natural that his brother Thomas should be cautious, for his eldest son, Thomas junior, several years older than his cousin Joseph, had been very unfortunate at a farm at Salford through floods.

My grandfather was always kind in his bearing towards his grandchildren, whilst between him and my father there was always a perfect understanding.

Though I passed so much time with him I do not remember that my grandfather ever said much relating to his early days. Just a few things stand out in my memory:—

I. He remembered the time when land near the road from Fladbury to Wyra was practically worthless, not good for growing any crop, until roots had been planted there.

II. The first time he ever did a day's work he went to drive the team at plough in Littlelow, and as he was a very little boy he got exceedingly tired, so much so that the man in charge of the horses put him on the back of the foremost for the last few bouts. This must have been before he went to the Rev. Lawrence Butterworth's school at Evesham, which he was attending in 1791. As his exercise books still testify, there he learnt, among other things, to write well, plainly and ornamentally, and to do quite advanced work in arithmetic.

III. When he was a school-boy there was a Frenchman living at Evesham, a refugee who taught French.

IV. In his young days he had ridden from Atch Lench to Bromsgrove under trees all the way.

V. That all the corn grown by his brother Thomas, the first year he was farming, was put in one rick, mainly wheat topped up with beans. When this was sold it realised £400, and when he brought the money home he put it into his young wife's lap as she sat by the fireside. This must have been about 1805.

LETITIA BOMFORD

Letitia Butler, daughter of Joseph Butler, of Alcester, and afterwards of Astwood, came to live at Atch Lench in 1810 on her marriage with my grandfather. She was small in stature, but very energetic and industrious, getting through an immense amount of work, until ill-health laid her low. I never remember seeing her actively engaged, as she was a confirmed invalid for about eight years and died in 1848. Before her illness she was an exemplary housewife, among other things making much butter and cheese. She also used to spin flax thread which was afterwards woven into some sort of fabric.

In her work she was assisted by two maids in the house. Two men used to "live in" as well, one of whom worked on the farm, the other spending part of his time in duties connected with the house.

My grandparents belonged to a Book Society at Alcester in the early days of their married life, and later they subscribed to the Institute at Evesham. My grandmother's was the first pianoforte brought into this parish, in 1810.

CUSTOMS CONNECTED WITH THE PERIODICAL CUTTING OF WOODS.

It may be of interest to record the methods employed in connection with the



ATCH LENCH: Oak-tree in the House-ground, the circumference of the trunk at its "waist" measuring 20 ft. and the distance between the tips of the lowest branches being 125 ft. The tree lost one of its huge limbs in 1931. From a photograph taken in 1921 by the late Leonard A. Bomford.

* periodical cutting of woods in the Lenches and district.

I remember distinctly what used to be done in the lifetime of my grandfather, Joseph Bomford, the owner of Atch Lench Wood for a great part of the first half of the 19th century. There are also in my possession various old notebooks containing information on the subject.

It was customary for a wood sale to be held annually and the date of it was in December, generally on or before the 21st.

A foreman was employed in the woods, one of his duties being to mark out the plecks to be sold, a pleck being a rectangle measuring forty yards by thirty yards. The boundary of the pleck was shown by cutting a line of wood a foot or perhaps 18 inches from the ground. This was called "hagging out." Sight sticks were put in the hag, which could be seen all along the pleck, and these remained until the bark-peeling time, when they became the perquisite of the men engaged in that work.

Any irregular pieces of woodland of which it was impossible to make rectangles, were sold as halves or threequarters of plecks, and were called "pikes." After the plecks were hagged out the woodsman had to mark in each pleck what were to be reserved, i.e., 60 wittons, which had grown since the last cutting, and four poles or black barks, which belonged to a former series. The next thing to be done was for the owner or someone appointed by him to make out a valuation of the wood to be cut, for the guidance of the auctioneer.

When the sale had been advertised and catalogues issued, anyone interested might go to the wood to examine the plecks to be offered, but as a rule it was not until the sale day that would-be purchasers repaired to the wood. The time of the sale was perhaps 4 p.m., and for many years it was held at New Inn (then really an inn), the auctioneer being George Fredwell, of Evesham. After the death of my grandmother in 1848 the sale took place at this house, my grandfather's home. It was customary for all the purchasers to be entertained by my grandfather afterwards, the fare being substantial though not presenting much variety, as it generally consisted of a round of beef, vegetables and cider, followed by pipes and tobacco.

After the sale any purchaser was allowed to begin cutting, but a certain order had to be observed:

I. The first class of wood required was something to make into bands, which were always in good demand to tie up kids, cut in the wood or elsewhere. These were withy, sally (sallow), oak, or hazel.

II. Next to be cut was the brushwood which was made into kids or sometimes, if it was blackthorn, might be cut long and reserved for fencing or to put round fruit trees, called "long-tailed" blackthorn. Sometimes instead of bills, axes were used when found more serviceable.

III.—At this point kids were made and pot-sticks, rods and props selected from the wood which had been placed in a "bury" (heap). Hop-poles, mainly ash, might be set aside, but if found too crooked for that use they would be useful for hurdle-making.

IV. After this there remained the wittons and the black barks which had not been marked for reservation, but the purchasers were not allowed to begin felling until the time for the peeling of the bark, which was always reserved by the owners of the woods.

Bark-peeling was a seasonal occupation, having always to be undertaken when the sap was running, probably in late May or early June. The last bark-peeling done in this parish was done about 1919 in Old Yewell; it must be between thirty and forty years ago since any was undertaken in Atch Lench Wood.

In a book giving results of sales from December 15th, 1826 to December 14th, 1832, are to be seen the figures representing the valuation, and on the opposite page those of the prices made of the plecks. If the totals are compared it is seen that they are often near each other, but almost always the price realised is greater than the valuation.

Many names well-known in the parish are to be seen herein, as well as some from a greater distance, as purchasers of plecks. Among these are Thomas Allen, the father of John Allen, senior, I think, whose name comes in at a later date). Thomas Farr, Thomas Brown, John Collett (first of that name at Atch Lench), William Corbitt, John Ballock, Benjamin Harwood, John Young, William Ellison, of the Low, also John Ellison, his father, William Holder, William Huxley, John Teale, F. Chance (the Handgate Farm), Garfield, Samuel Day, (father of George Day), George Brookes, William Aston, William Tandy, Henry Cresswell, Joseph Newman, Jas. Pestridge, Moses Jones, of Harvington (a jobbing-gardener), who used to work for my grandfather. At a later date other names appear, such as John Gardner, Thomas Ballard (later well-known as a graiter), Henry Greening, William Pestridge, etc.

The following names are mentioned in connection with the different parts of Atch Lench Wood:—

The Hundred Pound Wood; Balloe Hill Wood; The Waste; The Pasture; Woodcock Thorn; Grassy Wood.

BALL FIELD.

Ball is a very rough pasture field at the south-east corner of this farm, and has long been attached to another much larger field called Hipton Hill, part of which is occupied by a brake of oaks. The field consists mainly of a very steep slope down to a little brook which comes from the Leasow Farm. When I used to stay with my grandfather, some carrion crows sometimes built their nest in one of the older trees, and I have known the time when the crows pecked out the eyes of very young lambs there.

On one side of Ball is a field in Harvington parish, and on the southern side of that is a field in Norton parish. I knew someone who once stood in Church Lench parish, shot a partridge in Harvington parish, and the bird, which was on the wing, dropped in Norton parish.

Charles Ballard, senior, of Church Lench, when an old man, told me that when he was a little boy he saw wheat being harves-

ted in Ball and carried to the rickyard here; in the road he picked up a sheaf that had fallen from one of the loads. In those days every sheaf was valuable, so he brought it to this house and gave it to my grandfather. This would probably be not later than 1820, as Charles Ballard was born in 1810. The highly ridged lands are still to be seen in some parts of Ball.

HARRIERS AT PARK HALL.

There was no pack of fox-hounds in this neighbourhood in the early part of my life, but a gentleman living at Park Hall, Salford, had a pack of harriers and occasionally hunted them by arrangement at Sheriff's Lench, and possibly at other places, too. I recollect seeing them on our farm. In 1846, when on the way to Weston-super-Mare with my father and uncle (Heming Bomford of Dunnington), I distinctly remember that they spoke of the Master of this pack of harriers, as they expected to see from the train the house where he lived after leaving Park Hall.

CIDER AND CIDER MILLS.

When I was a boy, and in fact until past the middle of the 19th century, there were a number of stone cider mills, turned by horses, in this neighbourhood where much cider was made.

Every farm in the parish was well supplied with cider apple-trees and perry pear-trees, planted in hedgerows as well as in orchards. Many of the old trees by the roads have already disappeared, and as no young ones are planted in their stead they will soon vanish entirely.

I believe that in all the older orchards the stocks of both apple- and pear-trees were obtained from the woods in the parish where they grew naturally.

There was an excellent cider mill at Atch Lench, at my great-uncle Benjamin's farmstead, at which for many years all the fruit was ground for this parish, as there was no mill at Sheriff's Lench or Church Lench.

There was a cider mill on Richard Tandy's farm at Ab Lench, and there was also one at Rous Lench.

[About two pots of fruit were put into the mill at a time and after being crushed were taken out and put in a press which squeezed the juice out. It was possible to make about four hogsheads a day (100 gallons=1 hogshead), 3s. 6d. being charged per hogshead for making.

William Ellison, of Church Lench, in November, 1933, supplied the particulars within these brackets.]

It was quite a long business to see to the drawing of the cider on a big farm in the days when every worker had his allowance.

The bottles generally used were of wood made like barrels on a small scale, with an iron handle attached. The drinking-vessel used was always a horn.

The cider-maker, John Collett, came from Badsey, and, settling in the village, married a young woman named Hitch, belonging to a family long resident in Atch Lench. The grandson of this couple, also a John Collett, occupies the house where they lived.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND ATCH LENCH.

The manor of Atch Lench belonged to Westminster Abbey for three centuries.

In the early autumn of the year 1847, my grandfather received the following letter from the Abbey Chapter Clerk:—

“Sanctuary, Westminster,
September 15, 1847.

SIR,

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey being under the necessity of making a fall of Timber in consequence of the extensive reparations required in the Abbey, are desirous of consulting your wishes, as far as possible, with regard to the timber growing on the estates held by you of the College.

I am ordered, therefore, to request you to point out to their agent, Mr. Castree, any particular trees of an ornamental nature, which you wish not to be felled.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your very obedt. servant,

G. G. Vincent,

Chapter Clerk.

Joseph Bomford, Esq.”

I remember the occasion when the timber, here referred to, was felled and other particulars about it. Oak trees were cut down in the Meadow and were afterwards drawn by my grandfather's team to Bengeworth, where they were sawn up at a saw-yard, before being sent on to Westminster. I knew the saw-yard well, as my brother Joe and I used to pass near it when walking by a field path to The Elm, where we went to see a relative. I think this must have been the last time that timber was felled here in this way.

[It will always make Atch Lench people proud, “to the last syllable of recorded time”, to remember that timber which grew here was used to repair Westminster Abbey, that historic building which for almost a thousand years has been so closely connected with the national life of England. — F.E.B.]

“OLD BROWN” AND THE HAGGITS.

As long ago as I can remember Thomas Brown lived at Atch Lench, in an old half-timbered house, and occupied 3½ acres of land, mainly pasture, with a few apple- and pear-trees growing here and there. This place he had evidently inherited, and it may have been copyhold. It eventually became freehold, and was sold after his daughter's death in the early 'eighties to Edwin Grove, an Evesham market gardener.

Old Brown was over ninety when I first remember him and he lived, I believe, to his 96th year. His daughter Rebecca, and her husband, Emmanuel Haggitt, lived with him. In disposition, he was marvelously quarrelsome and selfish, and if ever he felt himself a loser through anyone's action he was most vindictive. The hedges separating his land from that of his neighbours were constantly a cause of strife. No one could crop them to his liking, while the fruit trees in the hedgerows were always claimed by him.

Old Brown had been a very strong man. He told me that once, when in his prime, he met some of the strong men of the parish, and there was a contest in carrying weights in Squire Edwin's barn at Sheriff's Lench. When their number was reduced to two, Brown won by carrying on his back one

peck (=16½ lbs. net weight) in addition to the three bags of beans* = 585 lbs. plus 12 lbs. for the bags which his rival had succeeded in bearing, therefore the weight he carried was 613½ lbs. The runner-up was John Edwin's brother, William Edwin, of Church Lench. Once at Evesham, when a young man of his acquaintance met and greeted Old Brown, tapping him on the shoulder in a friendly way, he was most pugilistic and declared he would fight him if only he could have his back against a wall. Then he went on to relate that when he was 18 years old he fought the champion at Evesham, and that "he was a basket-maker."

Several members of Brown's family had employment in great houses in London, including that of H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, who became King of Hanover in 1837 on the death of William IV. Brown's daughter, Rebecca, was still-room maid at one time, and his son, John, was also in the Duke's service. Brown used to go to London sometimes, and on one occasion he walked back to Atch Lench in two nights and a day. He sold cider in 4½ gallon lots (i.e., the smallest quantity on wholesale terms) to anyone who required it, but his customers were generally men working in gangs, such as those employed in stocking the woods round about. Later, after his death, when the Haggitts sold cider in this way the men used to say they were "going Haggitting" when they purchased cider, and the quantity was called a "Haggitt." Emmanuel Haggitt came, I believe, from Hill, or Moor. He was highly respected and liked by all his neighbours, and must have had an unusual amount of self-restraint to be able to live peaceably with his quarrelsome father-in-law. He had had some education, and was capable of being very useful in parish affairs; he collected the rates at Hill and Moor for some years. After his marriage he used for some time to go daily to Hill and cultivate a piece of ground at the corner of the road from Hill Furze to Bishampton, which was often called "Haggitt's Corner." He died suddenly in the 'seventies, and for many years afterwards his wife always put a place for him at table.

ATCH LENCH IN MY BOYHOOD.

When approaching Atch Lench from Sheriff's Lench, the first dwelling seen was the cottage of William Huxley, who for many years was the right-hand man of my grandfather. The sons as boys worked for him, too, but later went into other neighbourhoods. Just opposite William Huxley's was the lane going past my great-uncle Benjamin's house. This was an awarded road until past the middle of the 19th century, and up to the 'thirties was regarded as the proper road to Rous Lench; after the part which is now known as Maggit's† Nest Lane, the way went through the second Pitchill Hill and up Jacky-Stone Lane, then past the Common, into the Shire Lane (or Franklin's Lane) and out on to the present Rous Lench Road beyond the Arch Bridge.

*Horse beans, of which 1 bushel=65 lbs. net weight.

†Magpie, a south-east Worcestershire word still in use.

My Uncle Benjamin, who was tall and thin, was not so strong or so active as his brothers and died at the comparatively youthful age of 70, but I remember him well. If ever my father was anywhere near his house he would press him to come in and "have a nunchoon." He used to ride on horseback a good deal, and as he did not keep a gig, was often glad to accompany my grandfather in his when going to market. It was usual in such a case for the obliged person to pay the pikes and also, I believe, the hostler.

Opposite my grandfather's house and by the chapel lived the Rev. David Crompton, who was revered by his neighbours and all those to whom he ministered. Mollie Day and her son, George, lived in the first cottage below the farm buildings, and in the next lived Sammy Wallis, my grandfather's carter, who came from Bengeworth. Next came the more substantial dwelling of John Young, who was a small-holder, and attached to the back of it a small cottage occupied by the Astens and later by Billy Marshall. Just opposite were the three cottages inhabited by Ephraim Teale, Thomas Young, and John Collett in the order mentioned.

Ephraim Teale was a capable carpenter, not only doing work on a farm, but also able to repair furniture and make coffins. He was very different from other men who worked for our family at Atch Lench or Sheriff's Lench, as he thought it a bad policy to do work that would be lasting. For instance, he used to criticise Master Parr and others for repairing buildings so well, saying that they would "last a lifetime." Mrs. Teale was a quiet sort of person with whom I never came in contact, but I have heard in recent times indirectly from someone who as a child lived in a neighbouring cottage, that she came from Shropshire, had been well educated, and that she had silk dresses in a box upstairs.

[A receipted bill of E. Teale's, still to be seen, was evidently written by her, the writing being that of an educated woman of those days, a great contrast to the crude signature of her husband.—F.E.B.]

Jim Teale, the son, worked as a boy for my grandfather. I remember seeing him bird-tending in Broad Furlong one Sunday when my brother Joe and I were walking to Atch Lench to attend the afternoon service, no one else of the family being able to come. We lingered talking to him for a time and, when we arrived, finding that we were late, crept shame-facedly into the gallery instead of going to the family pew.

Ephraim Teale and his son at a later date, found employment at Pershore, and the family left the village. My Great-Uncle Thomas lived in the farm-house down the road, Court House. He was a kind-hearted man, industrious and careful in the conduct of his business. If drilling was going on when the days were short and the light bad, he used to go with a lantern and see if all the seed was being covered by the harrows. When the weather was particularly cold he would carry something hot for the men to drink, even if working near the Common. My Aunt Thomas, whose maiden name was Pearce, came from Evesham; she was kind and hospitable, and

many relatives and friends from Evesham often came to see her.

The two cottages opposite were occupied by William Pestridge, my grandfather's shepherd, and John Smith respectively. Below these Master Brown lived,—then on the right farther down the village was the cottage of Joseph Newman, one of Uncle Thomas's men, but during the last years of his life he worked for me. He was one of the worthiest of men, and always showed himself most anxious to further my interests.

The cottage down below was occupied by a family named Roberts, and after they left it was for very many years the home of Joseph and Jane Valender, both people of sterling character.

The Robertses worked for Uncle Benjamin, and after a time one son, Thomas Roberts, married Caroline Collett and went to live as bailiff or foreman at Salford Lodge, for Benjamin Bomford, of Pitchill, Mrs. T. Roberts managing a large dairy there.

The two cottages at the top of the hill were occupied by the Gregg and Salisbury families. All these cottages were half-timbered and white-washed, the roofs with one exception being thatched. At the Common the small brick cottage built by my Uncle Thomas was the home of his carter, Britton. The son, George, after growing up became incurably blind. He continued to live in the village and bore his affliction with wonderful patience to the end of his life. For many years every Saturday morning he fetched the "Evesham Journals" from Church Lench and went round Atch Lench delivering them.

A little further on were some farm-buildings belonging to my grandfather's farm, as he had part of the Common land. These gradually fell into disuse owing to the shrinkage of the area of arable land, and becoming much dilapidated they were ultimately demolished.

FEATS OF STRENGTH.

At the age of sixteen years I was able to carry a sack of wheat (248 lbs.), and after I had completed my seventy-sixth year I carried my last in my son's barn at Sheriff's Lench.

When at my strongest I was able to carry very heavy weights, and on one occasion when a number of us were testing our strength at Sheriff's Lench, I carried two sacks of wheat-flour tied together with halters, weighing five hundredweight, as a sack of flour then weighed 2½ cwt.

This was not so great a weight as Thomas Brown, of Atch Lench once carried, of which I have already written.

Boxing Day, 1853.

My Uncle and Aunt John Hughes, and their son Ben, spent Christmas Day, 1853, at Sheriff's Lench, staying the night, as was their custom. All day long snow fell, accompanied by a harsh wind, which drove the snow into drifts. On the afternoon of Dec. 26th they set out on their homeward journey, but they found travelling very difficult and slow with their low-wheeled vehicle, as drifts had accumulated in most of the hollows. The further they proceeded, conditions became worse, as the snow con-

tinued and night was approaching. Consequently, on arriving at Weethley, they sought shelter at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Field, who put them up for the night.

My brother Joe and I had been invited to a Christmas party at the house of Mrs. Stephen Smith, who lived at Throckmorton, her son William, having been at school with us a few years previously at Oxford House, Evesham. In spite of the inclement character of the weather, and the unlikelihood of any improvement, we decided to set out on foot, any other method of travel being out of the question.

Snow fell all the time during our walk, and the keenness of the wind I have never known surpassed. When we got to Throckmorton we found that of the guests expected only one besides ourselves had arrived, and that was Fred Buckle, a young farmer from the adjoining farm, and as the evening was as snowy as the afternoon, no one else turned up.

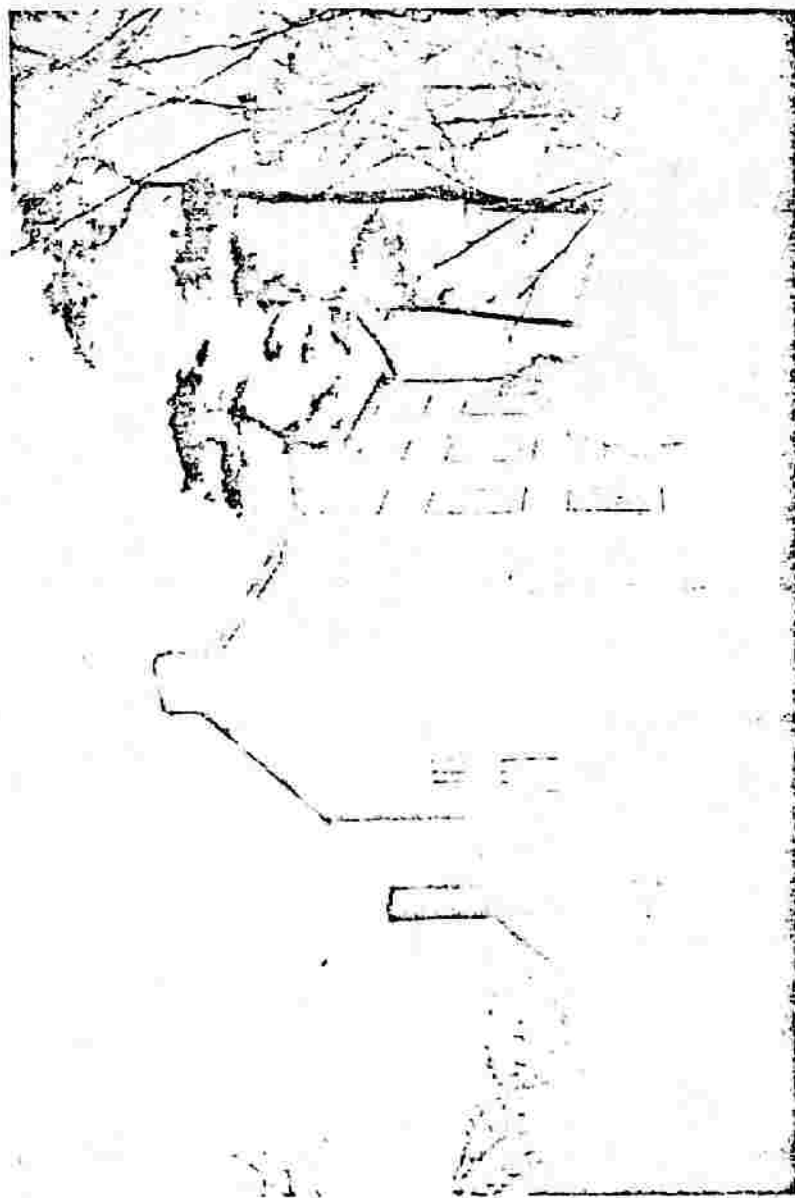
After a substantial tea we settled down to games. I remember most of my evening was filled up with playing chess with Fred Buckle. From what I recollect of the contest, both of us were rather ignorant of high-class play. Supper time arrived and the small number looked absurd when sitting round the table heavily laden with Christmas fare; a couple of ducks and a couple of fowls, very large and very well-cooked, were among the dishes, besides sweets.

Soon after 10 o'clock Joe and I started home with care-free minds, and as we bade our hosts good night we had no idea of the difficulties and dangers that lay before us. For the last five hours the snow had been steadily deepening on every track and roadway, freezing as it fell, and by this time many of the drifts were most dangerous, some being over our heads, the wind was still strong and bitterly cold. A good many people would have been appalled at the thought of walking about five miles in such conditions, but we never thought of turning back. Our progress was exceedingly slow and excessively tiring, but we managed to keep going, and it was not until we got into Lucases that we had the unpleasant experience of walking into a drift up to our necks. When we reached home it was after midnight, and being ravenously hungry, in spite of the ducks and the fowls, we repaired to the pantry before going to bed.

SHEEP WASHING IN 1854.

My grandfather used to send his sheep to be washed at Norton, at Mr. Robert Lunn's wash-pool, under the supervision of his head-shepherd, Thomas Bausley. Mr. Lunn made no charge, but there was an understanding that the shepherd should receive 8d. per score of sheep.

The first summer that I was helping my grandfather at Atch Lench, it was arranged for his flock to be washed on June 1st. The previous night it was suggested that we should start with the sheep at 5 a.m., but long before that time my grandfather roused me and encouraged me to set off as soon as possible, so that Mr. Lunn's shepherd would be able to finish the washing in time to get in a full day's shearing for his master.



ATCH LENCH: Home of Heming Eomford, and afterwards of his son Benjamin, 170-1854. From a photograph taken in 1924 by the Rev. W. J. Evans.

was still only the twilight of dawn I collected the sheep in the orchard, and after counting them, set out. When I had gone a little way along the road a church clock—Norton, I think—struck the hour of 3!

The first division of the flock had been taken on before by William Petridge and a younger man, Jim, who lived in the house, and when I arrived with mine they had not even seen the shepherd. Then I went up the village of Norton and after having knocked at several cottages, for no one had begun the day's work, I found out where Beasley lived and ultimately roused him, and the washing began.

THE OX TEAM.

In the 19th century in some places oxen made a cheap adjunct to the ploughing strength, and when trained could be used for other operations. They were not much used in this parish, in fact I think my father was the only farmer who ever employed them, and he did not keep them more than four or five years.

My father bought four Hereford oxen for working from a dealer named Hornblow. The names of the oxen were "Briton," "Sturdy," "Mark" and "Starling"; later there was another named "Bald." We had a Shorthorn bull, aged 2½ years, which worked a good deal too, at one time.

My uncle, Heming Bomford, employed oxen at Dunnington and, when my father set up a team, he lent him two of his oxen, one of them being Joseph Reeves. At first the oxen were not much liked by our men, but when it was found that the ox-man

greater skill was required than with horses, the work with them became more acceptable.

Mr. Smith, of Lenchwick, used to have an ox team, and he employed one animal almost entirely for working the chaff-cutter or the threshing machine. Sometimes an ox would be put in a team with horses.

I have a vivid recollection of an incident connected with one of the oxen I have mentioned. "Briton" was once in a team of horses that had gone to Evesham with a load of something. He got tired and, becoming sulky, lay down on the G.W. railway-bridge and no one could get him up. After every conceivable device had been used, by the carter and interested onlookers, to no purpose, a young man named Joe Hodgetts happened to come on the scene and at once said he could make the ox move. He went close to the animal and shouted as loudly and as suddenly as possible in his ear; up jumped "Briton" and went on with the team back to Sheriff's Lench. It is needless to say that "Briton" was not put in the team again. It was found that oxen were not very satisfactory workers and the team was given up in about 1852.

The father of this Joe Hodgetts was the coal dealer at Evesham, who supplied all the coal to the men on the Sheriff's Lench farm, and my father paid for it in one account, so that they could get it at a lower price.

[The story of the ox team as given here is told almost throughout in the identical words used by my father when he related it to me at the end of November, 1932. Seven weeks later he died in his 96th year.—F.E.B.]

The Bomfords of County Meath.

As this pamphlet contains some account of the Bomford family of Worcestershire, the compiler thinks that it is not out of place to add a note on the Bomford family of County Meath.

The Bomfords of County Meath are descended from Laurence Bomford (born 1617), whose elder brother Thomas is said to have fought in the battle of Worcester (1651). Laurence Bomford, once a Colonel under Oliver Cromwell, was afterwards secretary to the Court of Claims in Ireland, and in 1692 was living at Clonmahon, County Meath.

The Rev. Trevor Bomford, of the Church Missionary Society, who was born in 1849 and died in India about three years ago, belonged to the County Meath family.

In 1874 he learnt in an accidental manner that there were Bomfords in Worcestershire, but it was not until about twenty years later that he set an agent in England to find out particulars of the family. In a letter on this subject written by him to a friend in 1920 the following passage occurs: "This brought me into correspondence with Edgar Bomford" (youngest brother of George Frederick Bomford), "who sent me their family tree He told me that it was a tradition that one of the family followed Oliver Cromwell to Ireland, but that they did not know his name. He also told me that the Worcester Bomfords had been there since Elizabeth's time—had always been Baptists," The Rev. Trevor Bomford who, in appearance, strongly resembled Edgar Bomford, visited this neighbourhood on various occasions, making a point of getting acquainted with as many Bomfords as possible and forming a very warm affection for Raymond Bomford, whose hospitality at Bevington Hall he often enjoyed. He was convinced that both branches of the Bomford family sprang from a common stock in the early part of the 17th century.

ATCH LENCH AND SOME LOCAL TRADESMEN'S ACCOUNTS, 1807-49.

Joseph Bomford married in 1810, and after that date resided during the rest of his life at the house at Atch Lench, which had been built for him in 1807-10. A number of papers belonging to him, as well as printed books, are still carefully kept there by his great-grandchildren, and it is in this collection that Miss Frances E. Bomford has found many local tradesmen's accounts more or less associated with the building of the house, and with the affairs of its inmates during the earlier years after its completion. The first of these accounts—which naturally throw some light on the economic conditions of the times in which they were made—is dated 1807, in which year, as already noted, the building of the house was begun, and one Paul Wilkes—apparently of the Alcester district—was paid £8 3s. 6d. for 392½ft. of paving at 5d. a foot, for the floor of the kitchen, etc. The next year there is an item of 15s. 2d. for a slab for the parlour; and in 1810, the pump-house was paved with 122½ft. of stone, also at 5d. a foot, and a stone horse-block—22½ft. at 6d. a foot—was set up. In all probability these paving-stones came from Temple Grafton, where indeed Wilkes may have lived.

AN EVESHAM DRAPER.

That same year there was much to do in the completed house, to which Joseph Bomford now brought his bride—formerly Letitia Butler, daughter of Joseph Butler, of Alcester. Consequently, amongst other local tradesmen, we find the name of Daniel Edge, a well-known Evesham draper of that time, who also was responsible for the old Stamp Office, upon the same premises in Bridge-street, where later he was succeeded by his son, W. B. Edge, who in his turn was succeeded by Mr. Lowe and his sons.

Daniel Edge, who had created a large country business, supplied Mr. and Mrs. Bomford with many necessary things. Amongst these were 178 yards of patent cord (£1 4s. 4½d.); 13½ yards of bed tick (£2 8s. 1½d.); and also for the beds, 30 lbs. of "best goose feathers dressed, at 4s. 6d. a lb.", which he had purchased at the same price from Thomas Freame, a Worcester cabinet-maker and upholsterer.

Another item paid to Mr. Edge was one of £6 13s. 4d. for 57 yards of furniture chintz, at 2s. 4d. a yard; and he may also have been to some extent responsible for Joseph Bomford's wedding garments, for under June 14 there are the following items:—1½ yards of kerseymere—twilled fine woollen cloth—at 14s. a yard; one waistcoat, 6s.; 4 yards of white fustian, at 18d. a yard; "1½ yards Pockets," at 18d. a yard; 2 yards of lining, at 1½d. a yard; 14 "Plated Coat Buttons," at 2s. a dozen; whilst the "twist, silk, canvas, buckram, etc.," came to 5s. 6d.

SUFFIELD THE SADDLER.

In that same eventful year of 1810, and in the year following, Mr. Bomford had considerable dealings with Joseph Suffield, an Evesham saddler. The following are some of the items of particular interest:—New gears for three horses, with headstalls and chains complete, £11 16s.; a new best pillow, £1 11s. 6d.; "making a pillow-cloth quilted seat bound with lisse" [list], £1 11s. 6d.; a new pair of best saddle girths, 4s. 6d. In 1812 a new set of gears for one horse cost £3 13s. 6d.; and a cart rope of 15½ lbs. at 18d. a lb., £1 3s. 7½d.

The newly-wed Mrs. Bomford was also soon dealing with Evesham tradesmen, one of whom — Emma New — supplied her, after her arrival at Atch Lench, with 18 yards of watered ribbon at 9d. a yard; 15 pairs of French kid gloves at 3s. a pair; frames for 2 hats, 2s.; 30 yards of chenille at 1½d. a yard; and 1 dozen "gentleman's beaver gloves" at 2s. 6d. a pair.

Later on in these accounts are: 1 yard 13 nails of crimson pelisse cloth at 18s. a yard; 14 nails of Persian pelisse cloth at 3s. a yard; and 1 yard 2 nails of swansdown edging at 8s. a yard, all of which—for we are now in the year 1812—may seem to indicate that a little stranger had lately received the freedom of Atch Lench.

MATTHIAS STRATTON AND OTHERS.

Matthias Stratton, vintner, had his premises in the Evesham Pigmarket — now more happily known as Vine-street—and he supplied to Mr. Bomford, in 1810, a bottle of port, 4s. 3d.; a bottle of sherry, 5s.; a bottle of rum, 5s.; and a gallon of French brandy cost £1 10s. There must be decanters and glasses, too, so one pair of cut wine decanters was purchased for 13s.; a dozen best wineglasses at 10s.; and a dozen best goblets, at 1s. 2d. each.

William Taylor, an Evesham butcher, who occupied the premises in Bridge-street eventually used by the late Isaac Morris, supplied the meat to Atch Lench, and amongst various deliveries there during 1810 and 1811 were, in the winter of the first year, 9½ lbs. of mutton (6s. 2d.), 9½ lbs. of beef (5s. 11d.); 5½ lbs. of veal (4s. 11d.); and he purchased a calf from Joseph Bomford for £2 10s. In 1814 a contra account showed the purchase of 3 calves at £2 7s. 6d. each, in July, 1818, they were down to £1 14s. Some twelve years later, Mrs. Taylor, who had taken over the business on her husband's death, paid £4 10s. for 2 pigs; £3 10s. for 2 calves; and £2 8s. for 2 sheep. These were, of course, very difficult days, but thirty years later, and in a more peaceful generation, beef came down from 7½d. to 3½d. a lb. at Evesham, at which price it had also been sold here, in 1761.

In 1811, Mr. Weston, of Evesham, supplied 93ft. of guttering at 10d. a foot; 66ft. of round piping at 9d. a foot; and 8 elbow-joints at 1d. each. He also sold a brass milk

kettle to Joseph Bomford for £1 7s. 6d.; whilst amongst other items the "horning and mending" of a lanthorn or lantern, cost 2s., in 1814. On February 15, 1813, for "one day's work for 2 men at Lench," a sum of 8s. was paid the men—who may have had to make a difficult journey to the new farmhouse that winter day—being engaged upon the familiar process of "piping and soldering."

In 1808, one William Walter, of Bridge-street, Evesham—a Bengeworth-born man, apparently in several lines of business—supplied Joseph Bomford with bricks; fire-bricks at 8s. 4d. per 100; "white squares," at 1s. each; pitch at 4d. per lb.; coal at £1 6s. 8d. per ton*; and a scythe and a ragstone, used for a whetstone and obtained from Staffordshire quarries, for 5s. 2d.

That same year, Anthony Roper, who was a well-known Bengeworth tanner, was concerned in an involved statement of account with respect to bark sold on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, to whose long associations with the Manor of Atch Lench reference has already been made. (p. 10). Joseph Bomford was the assessor and collector on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, and the bark was valued at 12 guineas per ton. The net weight sold amounted to 1 ton 8 cwts 1 qr., and the "drawing from Atch Lench Wood to Evesham, turnpike and valuing," cost one guinea.

In 1813 there was a similar deal in bark, the buyers on this occasion being J. and J. Collett, who had the tannery then at Mill Hill. This time the gross weight of the bark was 2 tons, 12 cwts., and it was sold at £12 10s. per ton.

AN EVESHAM DOCTOR'S FEES IN 1816.

The year 1816 was still new when, on January 20, someone in the Bomford family fell seriously ill, and between that date and the following August 5, there are no less than 234 items in an account of his fees for medical attendance, medicines, etc. sent in by John P. Klipsch, an Evesham surgeon, who lived in High-street. He was the son of George Klipsch, "a Native of Frankfort on the Main in Germany," a German military officer who lived at Hampton for many years, and whose memorial tablet is to be seen on the north wall of the church there.

Dr. Klipsch put down every journey separately in his account, the whole total being £25 0s. 6d., and he acknowledges having received oats to the value of £1 19s. A "journey from Evesham" was 4s.,—one wonders what it is in these days—but from Church Lench, where presumably he had been visiting another patient, only 1s. 6d. On one occasion a second opinion was evidently needed, and Dr. Klipsch going "to Salford to meet Dr. Johnson and attending him to Lench," charged 7s. He again had to send in a similar account 17 years later, which is receipted by his wife, Emma Klipsch.

*In 1835 coal was supplied to Atch Lench by J. Dance, of Bidford, at 18s. per ton.

In 1814 a new Evesham doctor appeared upon the scene in the person of Anthony Martin, whose family was so long and honourably associated with the borough. Dr. Martin's one journey was charged at 4s. 6d., and amongst other items the leeches cost 3s.

FARMING ACCOUNTS.

Turning to matters of farming, the earlier accounts include one with John Gibbs—perhaps of Evesham, but no place is given—which reveals the purchase, in 1812, of a new cart for £9, with an additional £1 for painting it. A little later in the year a "new wheelbarrow and painting" cost 17s.; and, with the advent of the wheat harvest, "a new wagon, £18 18s." In the previous year a cheese press was purchased for 15s.; and nine pairs of staddle stones, for the ricks, at 3s. 3d. a pair.

Also in 1812 Joshua Allen, of Atch Lench, made and hung two gates for 14s. 8d.; and supplied 3 dozen hurdles at 5s. per dozen, with 3s. 9d. for the nails used. Later on, in 1814, he made two window frames for 7s., and a door for 5s.

Richard Burlingham and Co., in "the fifth month, May 8, 1812"—thus still using, redundantly, the form which is also evident in the accounts of other Evesham tradesmen who belonged to the Society of Friends, and with whom Joseph Bomford did business—sold to him "27 lbs. best link traces," at 9d. per lb.; and a "cart tyre and nails," cost £35s. 9d. The tyre was sent "to Nether-ton," for which a sum of one shilling was charged. The following year another cart tyre cost £3 4s. 6d., the carriage "to Norton" being 1s. 3d. At the same time 60 lbs. of "Sorted nails" cost £1 2s. 1d.

SUGAR AND WEAVING.

Mr. Bomford dealt on occasions with James Pearce, an Evesham grocer, who was in business in Bridge-street for many years. In 1815, Pearce was supplying him with dry sugar at 1s. per lb., and lump sugar at 1s. 7d. per lb. In 1826, prices had come down to 8d. and 11d. respectively; and the year following dry and moist sugar were both 6d. per lb.

An account for weaving, paid in 1815, by Mrs. Bomford to presumably another John Gibbs, consists of "weaving 43 yds. of Huckaback $\frac{1}{2}$ wide at 8d. per yard," £1 8s. 8d.; to "winding 24 lbs. at 1d. per lb," 2s.; to "5 yds. of Cheese Cloth," 3s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Later on, in 1818, Gibbs was also paid for "weaving 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ ells of fine flaxen cloth $\frac{1}{2}$ wide at 11d. per ell," £1 11s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In 1816, Mr. and Mrs. Bomford were dealing with Caleb New, a well-known Evesham draper whose premises stood on the present site of Manchester House, High-street, still similarly used.

In September, 1826, George Lunn, the Fladbury miller, ground 3 bushels of wheat for 1s. 3d.; and later on 4 bushels of beans for 1s. 4d. In 1832 he supplied 1 bushel of fine flour for 11s.; and in 1832, 5 cwts. of beans at 4s. 9d. per cwt.

PRICES OF SEEDS.

William Haywood, a Salford Priors farmer, who lived at the farm now known as The Orchards, sold Swedish turnip seed at 1s. per lb. in June, 1829; and in April, 1831,

there were purchases from William Smith, of Rushford, of 40 lbs. of white clover seed, which cost £1 9s. 3d.; 19 lbs. of trefoil, £1 3s. 3d.; and 4 bushels of vetches, £1 12s.

There had been earlier dealings with Samuel Amos and Son, of Evesham, hop and seed merchants, who in April, 1826, supplied 4 bushels of fine rye grass seed at 5s. 3d. per bushel; 56 lbs. of red clover for £1 14s.; 58 lbs. of White Dutch for £1 18s.; and 56 lbs. of trefoil for 17s. 6d. In March, 1839, they were selling rye grass seed at 6s. 6d. per bushel; and in April, 1841, Italian rye grass seed at 10s. per bushel.

A SCHOOL BILL IN 1830.

At the close of 1830 there was a school bill to be paid to one—presumably Miss—M. E. Rose, of Poplar Cottage, Alcester, which amounted to £13 7s., made up as follows: Board and instruction, £10 10s.; cyphering book, 2s. 6d., copy book, 2s.; hairdressers, etc., 1s. 6d.; music bill, £2 11s. A reminder is added that the school will re-open on January 17.

For, at least, a period extending from 1831 to 1841, William Corbitt, of Church Lench, did much shoemaking for the Bomford family. The cost of Mr. Bomford's shoes ranged from 10s. to 13s. 6d. per pair; those for his daughters from 4s. 9d. to 5s. 6d.

In April, 1833, William Fletcher, a tailor in High-street, Evesham, made Mr. Bomford a shooting jacket for 7s. 6d.; a pair of trousers cost 5s. 6d.; mud boots, 4s.; straps and buckles, 1s. The following year he made a double-breasted waistcoat for 4s.; and in 1837, making a suit cost 17s.

At Michaelmas, 1833, Joseph Bomford, junior, began farming at Sheriff's Lench, at which time his father purchased for him, of William Marshall, of Inkberrow, 5 suits of harness at 35s. per suit; 1 broad-wheeled cart for £5; and 1 pair of seed harrows for £1.

A HENLEY-IN-ARDEN CHEMIST.

There were various transactions with William F. Hopkins, a Henley-in-Arden chemist and druggist who, for instance, in July, 1833, supplied 4 ozs. of finest ginger at 2s. 6d. per lb.; 20 ozs. of white pepper, at 4s. per lb.; ½ oz. of Cayenne pepper, at 8s. per lb.; 1 oz. of cloves, at 8s. per lb.; 4 ozs. of black pepper, at 2s. 4d. per lb.; ¼ oz. of Turkey rhubarb for 1s. 6d.; and 1 oz. of salined magnesia for 9d. There were additional unspecified items of tea and nutmegs. Later on some mustard was bought at 1s. 8d. per lb.

BRICK MAKING AT ATCH LENCH.*

As recently stated herein, Dr. William Chafy first became associated with the Lenches in 1833, and in the following year he evidently had extensive transactions with Joseph Bomford, junior, who was responsible for supplying him during 1834, with 128,000 drainage tiles at 23s. 6d. per 1,000; 44,000 bricks at 23s. 6d. per 1,000; 9,000 covering tiles at 20s. per 1,000, and 13,000 bottom tiles at 12s. per 1,000.

The following year there was another and similar transaction, on a smaller scale, during which period Dr. Chafy's account with Mr. Bomford shows that 93,000 tiles, 26,000 bricks, 5,000 covering tiles, and 10,000 bottom tiles were supplied.

*cf. p. 4.

Amongst other contemporary tradesmen in the district, there appear the names of several who were well-known and prominent at Alcester. Joseph Johnson, who must have had an important business there at that time, supplied malt at 7s. 6d. per bushel in 1835. In 1839 it rose to 9s., and before the end of that year was 10s. In 1841 it had come down to 8s. per bushel. John Tovey, of Church Lench, also supplied malt at this time.

Coming to the accounts for 1836, there is an acknowledgment of the receipt of £10 from Joseph Bomford, senior, "for the use of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster being for a year's rent at Michaelmas past for the site of the Manor of Atch Lench."

In January of that year, Wall and Lucas, who were druggists, tea dealers, and grocers, at Stratford-upon-Avon, supplied 29 lbs. of mottled soap, for 15s., and bought 25 cwt. of cheese, made at Atch Lench, at 51s. per cwt.

BENGWORTH TRANSACTIONS.

George Baylis, of The Elm, Bengeworth, had been in business there and thereabouts for some years when, in 1846, Mr. Bomford bought a quantity of small tiles of him, and also 12 bags of beans at 13s. per bag.

Another coal merchant and general wharfinger at Bengeworth Wharf, was William Wilkes, who in June, 1838, sold a stone trough for 5s., and, a little later on, a quarter of a ton of best coals for 4s. 9d., and 100 Broseley tiles for 4s. 6d.

In 1839 and 1840 there were various purchases of James Tayler, an Evesham cooper and basket-maker, whose name is to be read upon the gable-end of a Bridge-street house depicted in the drawing in May's History (ed. 1845, p. 165), which house then stood at the south-west corner of the bridge. According to the printed bill-head, Tayler sold brooms, brushes, mops, barn and malt shovels, hassocks, fruit baskets, yokes and sieves, French baskets, etc.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

William Sisam's Executors, trading in 1840 at Arrow, supplied coal to Atch Lench at 19s. per ton; and in 1841 they ground barley and beans for 4d. per bushel, and wheat for 6d. per bushel.

In 1842, William Harris, of Abbots Morton, was selling flour at £2 12s. 6d. per sack, which rose to £2 15s. in June, but was back again at the earlier price in August. In November, 1847, John Robinson, of Tewkesbury, supplied 100 bushels of Smyrna wheat at 60 lbs. to the bushel, for £25 12s. 6d. The wheat was sent in 25 new sacks at 1s. 9d. sack, Mr. Robinson adding a note that he did not think that Mr. Bomford would wish it to be sent in old sacks at 1s. 7d. each. It was to be brought "by Browett's Team," and to be sent to the Northwick Arms Hotel, Evesham. In 1849, H. C. Welford, also of Tewkesbury, supplied 8 bushels of vetches for £2 3s.

Amongst those with whom the Bomfords dealt locally between the years 1829 and 1837, were the following: J. Fairhead, High-street, Evesham (brooms and mops); Richard Arkless, Evesham butcher; R. Lunn, Norton (tiles); Joshua Raybold, Alcester, draper; New and Loxley (New and Hughes in 1841), High-street, Evesham, drapers; R. Jephcott, Alcester, grocer.

SOME LOCAL PICTORIAL BILL-HEADS.
- 1822-1841.

Over a considerable period of time I have only been able to collect six pictorial Evesham bill-heads, all of which are described—only briefly in some instances—in the following note. The remainder also so described are those, marked by an asterisk, which have been lent to me by Miss Frances E. Bomford. In some cases, as will appear, these steel-engravings are signed:—

*1810. Francis, Wilkes and Smith (Late Dearmans, Francis and Wilkes), Eagle Foundry, Birmingham.

Bill-head only. No engraving. Receipt, with which, incidentally, there is another Birmingham item, being a small written receipt, dated 9 April, 1811, for "20 Cheers" brought thence to Atch Lench by one Thomas Niblett, presumably a carrier, for 12s. These six mahogany chairs which were in use in "the Parlour" there in those days, and in one of which many notes in this series have lately been written by Miss Bomford, was doubtless among them.

1822. John Thomas, Chemist and Druggist; Dealer in Patent Medicines; Physicians' Prescriptions faithfully prepared; Preparer of Horse and Cow Medicines; Brandy, Rum and Wine Vaults, Bridge-street, Evesham.

Engraving: On the left a man holding a horse elaborately protected with cloths. On the right an infant grape-crowned Bacchus, seated on a barrel, between two barrels.

1823. George Agg, Auction Mart and Cheap Furniture Warehouse, Bridge-street, Evesham. Auctioneer, Upholder and Appraiser; Furniture of every description bought, sold, or exchanged.

Engraving: An auctioneer in his rostrum, his hammer uplifted, with empty two-branched candlesticks on both sides. On his right is a grandfather's clock, and around are chairs, a mirror, and a chest of drawers, all on a fringed carpet. By J. Mason, Bromsgrove-street, Birmingham.

*1826. Samuel Amos and Son, Hop and Seed Merchants [Pig Market], Evesham.

Engraving: By Jones & Tibbitts, Birmingham. A long wooden plough with, in this instance, a wheel; a harrow; two pockets of hops. In the undulating distance, which is fringed with trees, a man sowing seeds.

Concerning the subject of this engraving, Miss Bomford notes that the old wooden long plough was extensively used in the Lenches neighbourhood, where much of the land is heavy. It was used, indeed, at Atch Lench early in the present century, and one is still preserved there.

1827. Augustin Applin, Crown Hotel, Commercial Inn and Posting-House, Bridge-street, Evesham. Importer of and Dealer in Foreign Wines and Spirits; Coaches to all parts of England.

This account is for a "Chaise and pair to Pershore and back," which cost

15s. 9d. and is receipted by Mr. Applin himself.

Engraving: A State Crown.
1827. W. Smith, White Hart Commercial Inn, Bridge-street, Evesham.

This account is for "Wine and Negus, 3s. 4d."; "Ale and Tobacco, 3s."; "Porter and Cyder, 2s.," and John Agg, the Bridge-street printer who paid it, notes that thereon he also gave the waiter a shilling.

Engraving: A White Hart, by John Suffield, of the Evesham family of that name. He was well-known as an engraver, and amongst many other of his works may be noted the portrait (1808) of Humphrey Howarth, who was elected a Member of Parliament for Evesham in 1812, and also the portrait of Sir Charles Cockerell, another Member, who died in 1837, and whose portrait was engraved for presentation in 1818. Suffield also engraved the famous medal which Sir Charles presented to the burgesses of Evesham in commemoration of his own exertions "in support of their Petition before the Honourable the House of Commons on the 23rd of February, 1819."

*1830. J. Fairhead, Grocer, Tea and Coffee Dealer, High Street, Evesham. Dealer in Hops, Butter, Cheese, Bacon and Prime Hams, Cocoa Paste, Chocolate, Wax, Sperm, Mould and Dip Candles, Sperm and Salad Oils, Real Havannah Cigars, Fancy Snuffs and Tobacco.

Engraving, unsigned: A Chinese tea-merchant seated before a large canister which is offered to him by, presumably, a grower. In the background are Chinamen with a tea-chest; in the distance a grove, a pagoda, a house, and a junk on the sea.

*1832. Richard Japhcott, High-street, Alcester, Grocer and Tea-dealer; Bacon, Butter and Cheese Factor; Scotch and Fancy Snuffs; Havannah and other Segars, Tobacco, &c.; Superior London Moulds, Dips, Oils, &c.; Mocha and other Coffee, Chocolate, Cocoa, Spices, Fruit, &c.; Teas genuine as imported.

Engraving: A reclining Chinese tea-merchant tasting tea with friends, and surrounded with tea-chests and canisters; a bay and mountains; tea-trees and shrubs.

*1833. J. Dance, Stone Yard and Coal Wharf, Bidford.

Engraving: A stonecutter at work on a large block; a stone mason incising a slab; a coal-merchant weighing coal.

* William F. Hopkins, nearly opposite the Swan Hotel, Henley-in-Arden. Chemist and Druggist; Spices, Anchovies, Capers, Fish Sauces, Vinegar, Mustard, &c.; Soda Water, Soda and Seidlitz Powders; Physicians' Prescriptions and Family Recipes accurately prepared; Genuine Horse and Cattle Medicines; Teas and Coffees genuine as imported.

Engraving: Very interesting. A chemist and druggist is standing in a coal-like room, pounding drugs in a mortar on a block. On his left is a cart-boy behind which is a counter with an

carboy and, apparently, some bottles. At the back of the room a retort standing on a furnace, with tube for the distillate to be cooled in the big tub or vat behind. Nearby appear to be other tubs. Above is a phoenix. By Hoare and Reeves, London.

- *1834. Hill and Turley, Wholesale and Retail Linen Drapers, Silk Mercers, Haberdashers, Hosiery, Glovers, Lacemen, &c. Funerals furnished, and every article in Family Mourning, for Ready Money. 27, Cross, Worcester.

Engraving: This represents the house still standing there. The windows are full of various goods, at which interested ladies are looking. A coach and four, with postilions, etc., stands before one of the entrances. By Smith and Greaves.

This account also has a steel stamped "Accept our best thanks. Hill and Turley."

- * A. H. Wright, Wholesale and Retail Grocer, Tea Dealer and Chandler, Evesham.

Engraving, unsigned. This is a particularly interesting instance. It depicts a room, with a window in front of which a man is holding at both ends a frame worked by a weighted cord running through two rings affixed to a beam above him. The frame contains candles of two sizes, and is being held above a cistern of hot tallow into which they are about again to be dipped. The cistern, which has cross-bars at either end, stands upon a small platform, upon dwarf legs, and before it lies what is presumably a small pile of yarn.

I am inclined to think that, a long time since, I saw another Evesham bill-head of this type, and I recall that the late Mr. W. R. Coulter (Market Place), who was a mine of information in such matters, told me that he well remembered seeing candle-dipping done in several places in the town.

Having in mind that the above description is not a very satisfactory one, and that several points in the engraving technically need further elucidation, it is curious how difficult it has been to acquire any really definite information concerning the process as shown in this bill-head, although just recently I have interviewed several people who might have been expected to be able to supply it. They also remember seeing candle-dipping—usually, it would seem, through a shop window—but are unable fully to describe the details of the process. Reference to likely sources of published information has also proved unsatisfactory.

- *1835. Jane Stephens, Bookseller, Stationer, and Music-Seller; Engraver, Letter-Press and Copper-Plate Printer, Book-binder, Tea Dealer and Perfumer, Patent Medicine and Newspaper Vendor, Alcester.

Engraving: A Printing Press.

- * William Wilks, Bengeworth Wharf, Coal Merchant and Corn Warehouse.

Engraving: A wharf, with men; two sailing barges and a boat on the water; houses in the background.

ham. Grocer, Tea and Coffee Dealer. Fine Home-cured Bacon, Cheese, Butter, Superfine Tobacco, Scotch and Fancy Snuffs, Spices and Pickling Vinegar. Mould and Dip Candles.

Engraving: By Baldwin, Birmingham. A seated Chinese tea-merchant, with chests and a large canister of tea. Chinese scene in the background.

1839. W. S. Kinsey, late Thomas and Kinsey, Bridge-street.

Chemist and Druggist; Prescriptions prepared with accuracy and dispatch; Importer of Foreign Wines; Dealer in Foreign and British Spirits.

Engraving: By Smith and Greaves, Birmingham. On the left the draped figure of a female upholding a wreath above which is a bust, possibly of Galen or Esculapius. On either side of her are retorts, &c. On the right is a ship in port, with houses and church in distance. In the foreground are men busily engaged in packing bottles of wine in large baskets and boxes. A man is emerging from a cellar carrying bottles of wine, also in baskets.

- *1841. New and Hughes, Evesham.

Linen and Woollen Drapers, Silk Mercers, &c. Funerals furnished. Hearse and Mourning Coaches.

Engraving: By Reeves and Hoare. A funeral hatchment and flags.

- *1842. Charles Burlingham, Evesham.

Cabinet Maker, Upholsterer, Paper Hanger, &c. Carpets, Druggets, Moreens and Printed Furniture, Oil cloths, Printed Baize, &c.

Engraving: By Jones and Co., Birmingham. No picture.

- * Richard H. Hughes, Bridge Street, Evesham. Wholesale Tea, Grocer and Provision Dealer. Home Cured Bacon, Cheese, Butter, etc., Teas Genuine as Imported. Spices and Foreign Fruits, with every Article of Groceries, in the most reasonable terms. Fine Worcester and Kent Hops.

Engraving: By Reeves and Hoare. A female figure, presumably Britannia, leaning her right arm on a large cask, and her left hand supporting an anchor. In the centre another large cask, near which is, conceivably, a loaf of sugar. On either side are two tea-chests.

This Richard Hughes was a son of Benjamin and Mary (born Hemming) Hughes, to whom there is reference in "The Hemmings of Alcester and Oxford."

- *1846. J. Bomford, Evesham.

Chemist and Druggist. Patent Medicines, Genuine Horse and Cattle Medicine, Physicians' Prescriptions and Family Recipes accurately prepared. Spices, Anchovies, Capers, Fish Sauces, Pickles, Vinegar, Mustard, &c. Oils, Colours, Paints and Varnishes. Soda Water, Soda and Seidlitz Powders. Wine and Spirit Merchant.

Engraving: By Baldwin, Birmingham. Somewhat similar to that of William F. Hopkins, of Healey-in-Arden, described as above, except that in this case the chemist and druggist is pounding his drugs in the open, with a background of bushes. He is in his shirt sleeves, and wears knee breeches and apron.

associated with the same business. He also had the Oxstalls Farm, and was Mayor of Evesham in 1844.

In my very small collection of these and relevant matters there is also the elegant plain bill-head of John Warner, of Evesham, watch and clock maker and jeweller, &c., dated in 1828; and an Evesham butcher's bill of 1818—John Humphris, of Bridgstreet—made out upon the lower half of a small bill printed by John Agg. from which it appears that about that time—the actual date is not evident—a sale of "Derbyshire Spar Goods" was taking place in the town. These goods included—so the bill runs—"Superb Vases, complete Sets for Mantle Pieces, Essence Jars, a very great collection

imitation of Fruit, and a large diverse Assortment both attractive and ornamental, which, on inspection, will be found highly superior to anything of the kind ever offered for Sale."

The bill concludes by "submitting this Collection to the Inspection of the Connoisseurs" of Evesham, for its "Genius and Elegance in Workmanship must excite universal Admiration," and is of the "highest interest to every Lover of the Fine Arts."

Private bargains were to be had from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the public auction at 5 p.m., on the two days upon which the collection was exhibited here.