

VCH Gloucestershire Academy News

Issue 5 July 2016



1895 election card (Courtesy of Sir Henry Elwes) See Francis's account of his visit to Colesbourne Park on page 5. But would you vote for a man who flies the Union Flag the wrong way up?

Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to our July 2016 newsletter which communicates to all our subscribers, supporters and the county local history community more generally that we have reached the first landmark in the Trust's existence – the publication in September of Volume XIII of VCH Gloucestershire. The details will be found below, together with updates on all the Trust's activities and fruits of research.

My thanks go to all the contributors to this newsletter, including the photographers, and as usual to John Chandler, our County Editor, for the production, and to Jonathan Comber, the Trust's treasurer, who has collated the various contributions for me. We hope you enjoy reading what follows. If you have any comments or further ideas please let me know: dhaldred@btinternet.com.

David Aldred Editor

An occasional newsletter for everyone involved in, or interested in, the progress of the Victoria County History towards its completion in Gloucestershire. The VCH Gloucestershire Academy is the name given to the editors and volunteers who work together researching and writing under the aegis of the Gloucestershire County History Trust. The Trust and the Academy are based at Gloucestershire Archives, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester GLI 3DW

News from the Trust

The Trust's really exciting news is the launch of Volume XIII on 14 September at Nature in Art, Wallsworth Hall, Sandhurst, as part of the Gloucester History Festival. The completion of Volume XIII was the primary reason for the establishing of the Trust six years ago. It has been a long time coming, yet I'm confident that anyone opening the book will think the wait has been worth it. It is certainly a big achievement, built on the efforts of a great many people, both before the Trust was set up, and since. I happened to spot a post-war volume of VCH Warwickshire in a Gloucester antiques market in April, and as fate decreed that it was the one covering the village where I was born, it had to be bought - but goodness, how the VCH has evolved since 1946! The breadth of coverage is now much greater, the number of illustrations has increased dramatically (to my mind, the ones chosen for Volume XIII do a great job of conveying that 'sense of place'), and I can't imagine how Warwickshire ever got away with printing a reference book without an index. I suppose paper supplies may have been restricted, but even so...

Turning to the ongoing work of the Trust, we've seen significant changes in South Gloucestershire, having reluctantly agreed to let Rose Wallis concentrate on her academic career at the University of the West of England. The sugar on the pill for us is that she remains keen to support work on Volume XIV, so ably started with her Yate research and now continuing with the Sodburys. One aspect of her support will be the continuing involvement of University of the West of England students as VCH 'interns'. We were very fortunate that Philip Baker, whom we had interviewed last autumn, was available and willing to take up the post-medieval section of the Sodbury task, working initially halftime but hoping to increase this in due course. Philip lives in Bicester and is an associate lecturer and research assistant at Oxford Brookes University and also teaches for the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education. He has worked previously at the History of Parliament, the Centre for Metropolitan History at the University of London, and the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. An early modern historian by



Philip Baker

training, Philip has published widely on aspects of the English civil war and the political and social history of London. He is now looking forward to working on – and learning about – an area of the country that is new to him. Rose has handed over her research material to him, familiarisation visits have been arranged, and all seems set fair for the next stages of the Sodbury work.

I'll conclude with a familiar but nevertheless genuine plea: if any reader is, or knows of someone else who might be, interested in assisting in the running of the Trust, do please get in touch. It would be particularly useful to have some individuals who are prepared to be active 'godparents' to each of the main projects, in South Gloucestershire, Cirencester and Cheltenham. Thank you!

James Hodsdon Chairman, GCHT

Latest from the County Editor

A sanyone who has written a book will tell you, the work does not end when you type 'THE END'. Selecting the pictures, drafting the maps, writing the



captions, clearing the copyrights, checking the footnotes – not to mention compiling the INDEX. The prospect of indexing Volume XIII is not for the faint-hearted, and I wasn't exactly looking forward to it, even though I have indexed many books in my time (and never enjoyed the experience). That and proofing the volume occupied me off and on for more than six weeks through the spring (and now I've just returned the fifth proof after a final check), and then, eventually, the LAUNCH.

This will be at 7.30pm on 14 September and will include a lecture, sponsored by the Marc Fitch Fund, and given by Professor Christopher Dyer, 'On first looking into volume 13 of the Gloucestershire Victoria County History'. Until recently head of the Centre for English Local History at Leicester University, Prof. Dyer has worked on many dimensions of local history, and has written about the history of Gloucestershire, including some of the villages which are included in volume 13. (Given his title, I am hoping that he won't point out how often Homer has nodded!)

The evening event, as James has noted above, will be at Nature in Art, but during the afternoon I will be giving a linked talk entitled 'Tales of the Severn' at 4pm at Blackfriars. Tickets for both events should be available from 25 July. For booking details of all Festival events see www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk.

With the completion of Volume XIII my rôle is changing. My main task, apart from liaising with the other editors and keeping the academy days running, will be to receive and work on the text supplied for inclusion in the next three Big Red Books, Volumes XIV - XVI, that are in preparation. I intend also to do some research and writing for the Wiltshire VCH, and possibly (faint hope) take a bit more time off, since I am about to attain the rank of senior citizen.

At the top of my editing pile are Beth Hartland's and Alex Craven's accounts of Cheltenham before the spa, which I am working on now, and which we intend to publish quite soon (but no promises when) as a VCH 'short' paperback in advance of their adaptation and inclusion in Volume XV, the Cheltenham Big Red Book. My in-tray is overflowing with other submissions, too, especially since Alex finished an enormous chunk of Cheltenham's history, supplemented

by some really valuable contributions on specific subjects from members of our Academy team. Work on Circnester and the Sodburys is beginning to flow in too, so clearly any thoughts on my part of drifting into retirement will have to be deferred.

In January, to my surprise, I realised that our monthly series of academy days had been running for two years, and so we held a very useful review and prospect meeting. Since then we have had workshops on population studies (thank you, Anthea [Anthea Jones is working on Nonconformity for the Cheltenham volume, see below (Ed.)]), markets and fairs, slums and slum clearance (a welcome guest appearance by our Somerset colleague, Mary Siraut), and palaeography. We have enjoyed presentations by Beth on the conserved early Cheltenham court roll, and by Rose on the history of the Sodburys; and as a field trip we have explored three of the nearby parishes that will be included in Volume XIII - Hartpury, Ashleworth and Maisemore (see below).

Our pattern of work and academy days has now changed, in preparation for the 'For the Record' rebuilding which commences in September (see below also). Monday is now VCH day, and from September the temporary search room in the Frith Centre will be open on Mondays exclusively for VCH researchers. The academy day will be held on the third Monday of each month, thus 19 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 19 Dec. Before then workshops are planned for July and a field visit (to Chipping Sodbury) on 15 August.

John Chandler Postscript

John refers above to the changes affecting Gloucestershire Archives. We are grateful to the Archives for providing us with the following details. Ed.

'Business as usual'

... at Gloucestershire Archives despite major building work

Pollowing a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding, the partners in the 'For the Record' project have finalised their plans for the new



Gloucestershire Heritage Hub on the Archives' site in Alvin Street. Now, as we move into the 'building phase' and look forward to watching the Heritage Hub take shape, there will be some significant changes at the Archives.

We will continue to provide access to original documents while the building work is in progress and make every effort to minimise disruption to researchers. There are already changes to the research room opening hours and document production system:

The research room will be open to the public between 9:00am and 4:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All original documents must be ordered in advance – please give us as much notice as possible Please remember, you will still need to bring a valid CARN card or ID to confirm your signature and address before you can use original documents.

Although these changes have begun, the research room will not move from its present accommodation until the beginning of September. The car park will not be affected so parking will be available as usual and there will be access to all the existing facilities in the public area including books, PCs, microfilms and fiches as well as a coffee room with a hot drinks machine.

On Tuesday 6 September the research room will move to temporary accommodation in the Frith Centre so that the builders can create the planned new strongroom block and Heritage Hub. Although the opening hours and document production system will remain the same, the facilities in the research room will be reduced because there is much less space in the Frith Centre Training Rooms. So you'll need to order more of the books as well as microfilms/fiches and although there will be a WC, lockers and space to eat a packed lunch, hot drinks will not be available. The parking will be restricted so only blue-badge holders will be able to park onsite. There are two public car parks within a 10-minute walk (Great Western Road and Hare Lane) and both the bus and railway stations are nearby.

Gloucestershire Family History Society's family history centre will be open as usual throughout this period. So the Archives' staff and the Centre volunteers will work very closely together to provide a research room service. Some large pieces of equipment like a microfilm reader and two of our public access PCs will be available in the Centre rather than

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the Archives' research rooms. The Archives' WiFi network will cover both the research room and the family history centre.

These arrangements will remain in place until the new accommodation for both the Archives' research room and the Gloucestershire Family History Society's family history centre is ready early next year. We're planning an official opening for the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub in November 2017.

As well as maintaining a research room service to the public while the building work is in progress, we want to continue to support all the valuable work undertaken in the Archives by our volunteers, whether they are part of a group or working on an individual project. So Monday and Friday each week have been reserved for volunteers and we're looking forward to welcoming the VCH volunteers on a Monday. Of course, volunteers are welcome to use the research room on other days – just let us know so we can reserve a space and make sure your documents are ready.

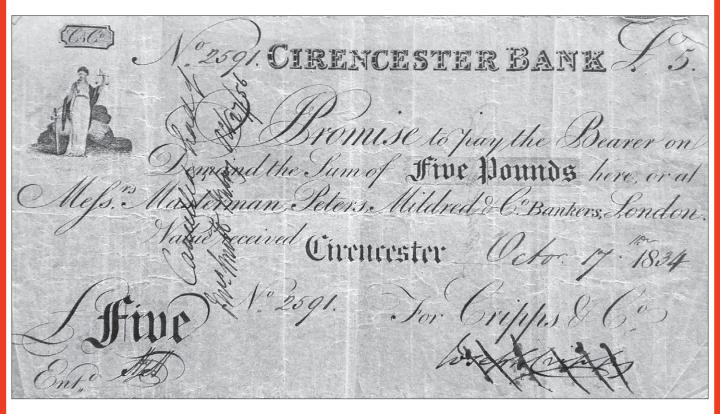
You can find up-to-date information about the project as well as details of any last minute changes on our website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/news. You can also check our online catalogue www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/catalogue and then use our online ordering service www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/preorder to request documents before your visit.

We're all very grateful for the support the Heritage Lottery Fund is giving the project and are working hard to raise funds ourselves. The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives (FOGA) is leading the fundraising campaign and one of the most imaginative ideas is a 'Donors' Tree', a specially commissioned art work which will be installed in the main entrance of the new Heritage Hub. Each 'leaf'

on the tree will record the name of a donor, whether an individual or an organisation, and so provide a permanent record of the generosity and support the



Gloucestershire Heritage Hub has received and is receiving. You can find out more about the Donors' Tree as well as the other activities and events the Friends are organising on their website www.foga.org.uk.



Cirencester £5 banknote (Courtesy of Sir Henry Elwes)

Cirencester (Vol. XVI)

I have been working on the parliamentary representation of Cirencester, from 1540 to 1945. A draft on the period up to 1825 is now available on the VCH website and the later period should be coming soon. The search for sources has been fascinating. Alongside the usual newspapers and parliamentary papers I have seen some pieces that really help to evoke the experience of past elections, and I have found them in some interesting new places.

Firstly, the papers of the solicitors Sewell, Mullings and Logie are held at the Gloucestershire Archives, and have only been catalogued very recently thanks to the efforts of Hannah Dale and her team of volunteers. They contain some useful details on voting patterns, campaign expenses and my personal favourite, a set of slips handed out by the undoubtedly indefatigable Thomas Smith, a grocer in Castle Street, to local voters who were suspected of being ineligible. He gave a copy to the overseers and saved another, which ended up with the local solicitors.

Thanks to the generosity of Sir Henry Elwes, I also spent a day at his home of Colesbourne Park, searching through a large collection of papers relating to the Cripps family. In slightly grander surroundings than my office in the archives, I found a wealth of campaign posters and pamphlets, particularly relating to the contentious elections of 1892 and 1893 that were contested by Colonel Thomas William Chester Master and Henry Lawson. There were several poll books from the nineteenth century and a copy of the electoral register that had been used to canvass the voters and had their intended candidate marked in pencil. The collection included numerous deeds, wills and a programme from the Cirencester meeting of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society in 1877. There were also several £5 notes issued by the Cripps-owned

Cirencester Bank in 1834.

Francis Calvert Boorman



Gloucestershire



Ashleworth church and barn (Sally Self)

The Volume XIII Taster Tour

n 19 May, the VCH Academy broke out of the classroom, and headed for the hills, or more accurately the fields and riverbanks of northwest Gloucestershire. Some fifteen of us were given a conducted (and instructive) tour of three of 'John's parishes', researched and written by him for the forthcoming Volume XIII. A short distance from the river Leadon, we gathered at Hartpury church for some landscape orientation, admiring the massive medieval produce barn erected for the erstwhile owner, the Abbot of Gloucester, before inspecting the unique bee-shelter in the churchyard, and then listening to a suitably solemn Dr Chandler in the pulpit. His text was one he'd prepared earlier: the VCH draft account of Hartpury church, what else? A short car ride took us to the current centre of Hartpury, a much later development originating from squatter settlements, with a totally different feel to the medieval manorial nucleus we'd seen earlier.

We descended from there to Hartpury's neighbour Ashleworth, down by the Severn, where different geography and ownership (this time the Abbey of Bristol) have combined to create a different form of settlement. The church, barn and court form a delightful cluster. The church's puzzling location – very close to the river, and prone to flooding was perhaps because it was on or near a site of older significance, possibly Roman. The location of the Boat Inn was less enigmatic: a ferry once crossed the Severn here, linking the west bank with Sandhurst, also a Volume XIII parish, researched by Dr Simon Draper. It being lunchtime, we took advantage of the Boat. The wise among us had brought sandwiches, and ate early; the rest ate quite a bit later - and very well, it has to be said. (A small plaque does not yet mark the table where John and I first had a drink together, at the very start of his Editorship.)

Next stop Maisemore, just down river, where we had an al fresco (and after a sunny start it was definitely getting fresco by now) exposition of how a medieval flood had re-

routed and split the Severn at this point, leaving the Alney part of the parish stranded on the Gloucester bank of the main channel, and rewriting the logic of



where the bridge should be. With the eye of an expert to help us, we could see the clues that Maisemore had once been, in a small way, a planned village with regular plots. We walked as far as the church, where nearby we met the very friendly Mr Chamberlayne - known to John from his earlier fieldwork - who talked us through the sympathetic transformation of his Victorian model farm into a 21st century small business centre.

Thanks to our guide, even those who'd explored one or other of these parishes before came away with a much stronger sense of how they interlinked, and a much richer sense of place. Of course, it just wasn't the same without footnotes, but that will be easily remedied once Volume XIII is published in September.

James Hodsdon



The beeshelter at Hartpury (Sally Self)

From the Archives

Pillar of the Community or Bête-Noir? The Clarke Clan

The Clarke family are recorded as being in Cheltenham from the 1590s until 1708. They could well have been here long before and the name, admittedly very common, is still in the phone book today. The family was large with branches in Cheltenham, Charlton Kings and Alstone and the majority were involved in the leather trade, either as tanners or workers in leather, mostly shoemakers. John and Thomas are named among thirteen shoemakers

in Men and Armour, and a year later 'swore allegiance to our Lord the King'. Also in 1608, John with Thomas Faux, as inspectors of hides for that year, reported 'all well'. They held freehold and copyhold property and extensive dispersed lands, which they regularly traded, throughout the hundred. They were prominent in local government and in the manor courts, holding such posts as 'foreman to the court', 'ale taster' and 'tithingman'. Robert was a freeholder, with a messuage and land in Alstone, - some records say Westall - called, unsurprisingly 'Clarkes Close,' and in his will he left his 'stock of leather and bark and tools' to his son Thomas. What could be more blameless?

However, these same individuals had another side to their character. The first Clarke, Thomas, was ordered in April 1595 to 'fill up a pit at Bayshill that the said Thomas did dig on the land of John Higges in the highway ... upon pain of 10s,' which he failed to do and was again ordered to do in October. Also in the same year, Thomas, with three others, was fined 6s 8d for 'carrying forth leather out of the hundred unsearched and unsealed'. And in 1619, William and Robert, the sons of Thomas, were presented that 'on several occasions, [they] did wash limed hides in the river and the common water course ... to the nuisance of the inhabitants ... each are in mercy 6s 8d'.

Previously in 1611, Thomas with several others 'have been roaming around at night time, to the great terror and disturbance of the king's people, therefore ...': in other words, they were as the court said, 'nightwalkers'. The surnames of those others reads as a litany of Cheltenham families – Milton, Church, Forty, Clevely and Lippiatt.

There's always two sides to a coin – or possibly in the case of the Clarkes – two side to every hide!

Sally Self

(The Trustees are enormously grateful to Sally for having raised £2000 through her 'talks and teas' parties. Ed.)



Gloucestershire

Was John Wesley not holy enough?

The temptation to wander down byways Lopened up by a detail encountered in research is nearly irresistible, as our VCH editor showed when he talked to one of Sally's fundraising parties recently. This short item is a byway opened up by puzzling over where exactly the early Presbyterian, and later Methodist, chapel in Cheltenham was sited, and in the search encountering the name of Samuel Wells. Jill Waller pointed the way into this byway, and supplied help for which those of us involved in the writing of the Cheltenham volume are thankful.

The story begins in 1748, when a Cheltenham manor court book (2184) 1 recorded the transfer of a holding by Ezra Wells, hatter, to Samuel Wells, his son. Ezra Wells will be another byway for future exploration. On 11 December 1753, Samuel Wells and his brother Joseph put two handsome displayed advertisements in the Gloucester Journal:

SAMUEL WELLS,

Writing-Master, in Cheltenham, Is removed to a large House, on the Back-side of the Town, formerly in the occupation of Mr Trevanion,

very commodious, for taking BOARDERS; where he will closely attend the Education of YOUTH, and expeditiously fit 'em for Trade and Business; BOARDERS at Ten guineas a Year, OTHER SCHOLARS at

Six Shillings a quarter.

N.B. Great Diligence will be used in instructing his Scholars in the

ENGLISH LANGUAGE, both in Speaking and Writing; and the utmost

Pains will be taken to inculcate and preserve Morality.

> Immediately below is: JOSEPH WELLS HAT-MAKER, in Cheltenham,

Is removed to the House where his Brother SAMUEL lately lived; by whom Gentlemen and others may be supplied with all Sorts of HATS AT THE LOWEST PRICES.

N.B. The Farmers may be served with very good FELTS for keeping out the Wet.

These gentlemen look to have been both literate

SAMUEL WELLS,

WRITING-MASTER, in Cheltenham, s removed to a large House, on the Back-fide of the Town, formerly in the Occupation of Mr. Trevanion, very commodious for taking BOARDERS; where he will closely attend the Education of YOUTH, and expeditionally fit 'em for Trade and Business; BOARDERS at Ten Guineas a Year, OTHER SCHOLARS at

N. B. Great Deligence will be used in instructing bis Scholars in the

Pains will be taken to inculcate and preferve MORALITY.

OSEPH WELL

HAT-MAKER, in Cheltenham, removed to the House where his Brother SAMUEL lately lived; by whom Gentlemen and others may be supplied with all Sorts of HATS at the lowest Prices.

N. B. The Farmers may be served with very good FELTS for keep-

ing out the Wet.

and reasonably well-to-do. A court held on 24 December 1753 confirms this transfer of a house to Joseph (2282), adding that Samuel was also a hatter, that he had a wife Margaret, and that there was a garden, backside, outhouse, workshop, etc. going with the house to be occupied by Joseph.

Samuel Wells appears to be an established 'writing-master' before this date. There is a hint in the remark about inculcating and preserving morality that he was a serious-minded man. He proved a 'very respectable' schoolmaster, but his success annoved the master of Pate's Grammar School, John Chester, who arrived in Cheltenham in 1763 charged with reviving the emaciated condition of the school. Chester complained to the President of Corpus Christi, saying that Wells was looking out for a proper person to teach Latin 'in opposition to me'. 'This fellow has the impudence to put his design into execution'. It appears that Wells was aiming for a good class of pupil. 'Unless therefore you will be so good as to apply to the Bishop for his favourable interposition, my best endeavour to retrieve the credit of the school so long sunk and lost will in a great measure be vain and fruitless. His Lordship told me on the day of his visitation here that he would desire his Chancellor to curb the insolence of this Wells, but as nothing has of yet been done, I presume the Bishop has forgot it.'2

The Bishop was in a position to close the school because schoolmasters were legally

required to be licensed, and as a nonconformist Wells would not have sworn to the articles of the Church of England in order to obtain a licence. The President presented



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Chester's case to the bishop, saying that Wells was 'a dissenter and a violent Methodist', and not understanding Greek or Latin had to employ someone else to teach these subjects. He noted that it was difficult to rid the church and community 'of these pests'. The Chancellor of the diocese was reluctant to proceed against Wells, because of his poverty; there would be public sympathy for the schoolmaster. However, Chester wrote in October 1764 warmly thanking the bishop, which suggests that Wells had been forced to close his school. An entry in a court book in 1765 (2619) shows Samuel Wells as the occupier of a house belonging to the late Thomas Benfield, presumably the 'commodious' house, but significantly the schoolhouse built on an orchard, a barn and buildings going with the house were not occupied by Wells, which could confirm the closure of his school. Ten years later, in 1776 (2822), Anthony Dawkes was the schoolmaster occupying the house and schoolhouse.

For some years from 1764, Wells is said to have rented the former Presbyterian chapel for Methodist preaching, his school probably no longer being available. He was himself an occasional preacher.3 So far so good. Samuel Wells died in 1783, as his will and the probate demonstrate (GA 1783/47). The date recorded in the Salem church book is 1785,4 and might seem trustworthy evidence. It occurs in a paragraph giving some details of Samuel Wells' life, inserted in a manuscript history of the Baptist church in Cheltenham which was written in 1809 by a member of the Baptist congregation. At that time the minister was Revd Hugh Hughes Williams and the same source records that he had married Samuel Wells' surviving daughter Mary in 1801.

The writer of this church history also noted that Wells had two sons, 'very pious characters, one of whom was also a keen Methodist and a preacher in Mr Wesley's Connection but died when about 34 years old.' Neither son was named. The youngest of the two was surely the 'Sammy Wells' whose death on 27 November 1779 was referred to in one of John Wesley's letters.5 The Minutes of the Methodist Conference of 1780 recorded the death of Samuel Wells, 'a sensible, honest, upright man, who put forth all his strength in every part of this work. He was particularly zealous in observing discipline and in exhorting believers to go on to perfection'. He was indeed, as a part of the long letter to John Wesley below shows.

This Samuel Wells jnr was active in the 1770s. A short 'Memorial' of his life was published in 1801. It described him as a local preacher and class leader, who 'came out as an itinerant preacher at the Methodist conference in 1770'. He was 'a young man of extraordinary piety, strong sense and considerable ministerial abilities. He was converted to God at an early period of life'.

Two letters written by Samuel Wells in 1777 and 1778 to Jonathan Cousins, a young man influenced by him while staying in Cheltenham, were published by Bancroft Judge. They show the young Wells' fervour for a life of Christian perfection. Another letter to John Wesley himself on 10 October 1772, published in The Methodist Memorial, exhorts Wesley at some length to lay more emphasis on discipline. To the founder of the Holy Club this is a surprising insight into more extreme Methodism. What might Wesley have thought?

'Our word is too often a mere insipid repetition of doctrinal truths, our conversation sometimes mere impertinence. Nay I sometimes have thought that you, Sir, might do more than you do in promoting the cause of Christian holiness. I do not remember that in conversation or by letter you ever pressed me to expect a deliverance from all the carnal mind except once in a letter and once when you met the class at Cheltenham, though you have exhorted me to press others to it. And yet I think you have given me one way or other far more encouragement than any other Preacher in your Connection, though some of them have not been altogether neglectful of their duty neither. But dear Sir would it not animate us exceedingly if you encouraged us yet more?'

- 1. The Court Books of the manor of Cheltenham 1692-1803 ed. James Hodsdon (BGAS 2010).
- 2. A Bell, Tudor Foundation A sketch of the history of Richard Pate's foundation in Cheltenham (Richard Pate foundation, 1974) 86-7.
- 3. Salem church book In the keeping of Salem Baptist church.
- 4. Possibly a copying error by the scribe who wrote out the history in the Church Book.
- 5. G H Bancroft Judge, 'The early history of Methodism in Cheltenham, 1739-

1812', Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society (1920).

6. C. Atmore, *The Methodist Memorial*, 449.



More book bargains

Boydell & Brewer are offering a 25% discount on A History of the County of Gloucester, Volume XIII, The Vale of Gloucester and Leadon Valley making the price £71.25 (instead of £95.00 RRP) plus postage & packing.

Orders can be placed by phone on 01243 843 291, by fax on 01243 843 303, by email at customer@wiley.com or online at www. boydellandbrewer.com. Please quote the offer code BB041 to ensure that the discount is given. The offer ends 1st January 2017.

Alternatively our Treasurer (Jonathan Comber) is willing to collate orders which should reduce the postage & packing element. He will arrange for the books to be delivered to either the Gloucestershire archives or his home in Malvern and the buyer will need to arrange with Jonathan how to pick-up their copy. Jonathan can be contacted at Jonathan. Comber@easynet.co.uk or by phone (01684 577134).

Finally, as a reminder, Jonathan can also obtain any VCH red volume that is in print and is older than 3 years old at a price of £28 including P&P and he also has copies of the Yate short.

[We're holding over an article by Linda Viner for the next issue]

Gloucestershire County History Trust

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