

Brislingeton

Bussulton

Burtleston

Brustelyngton

Burtleton

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Burstleton

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Brisingtone

Bristelington

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Brislington Bulletins

No.2

1601 - 1699

D.P.Lindegaard BA

Bristel

Busleton

Brustelton

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Bursleton

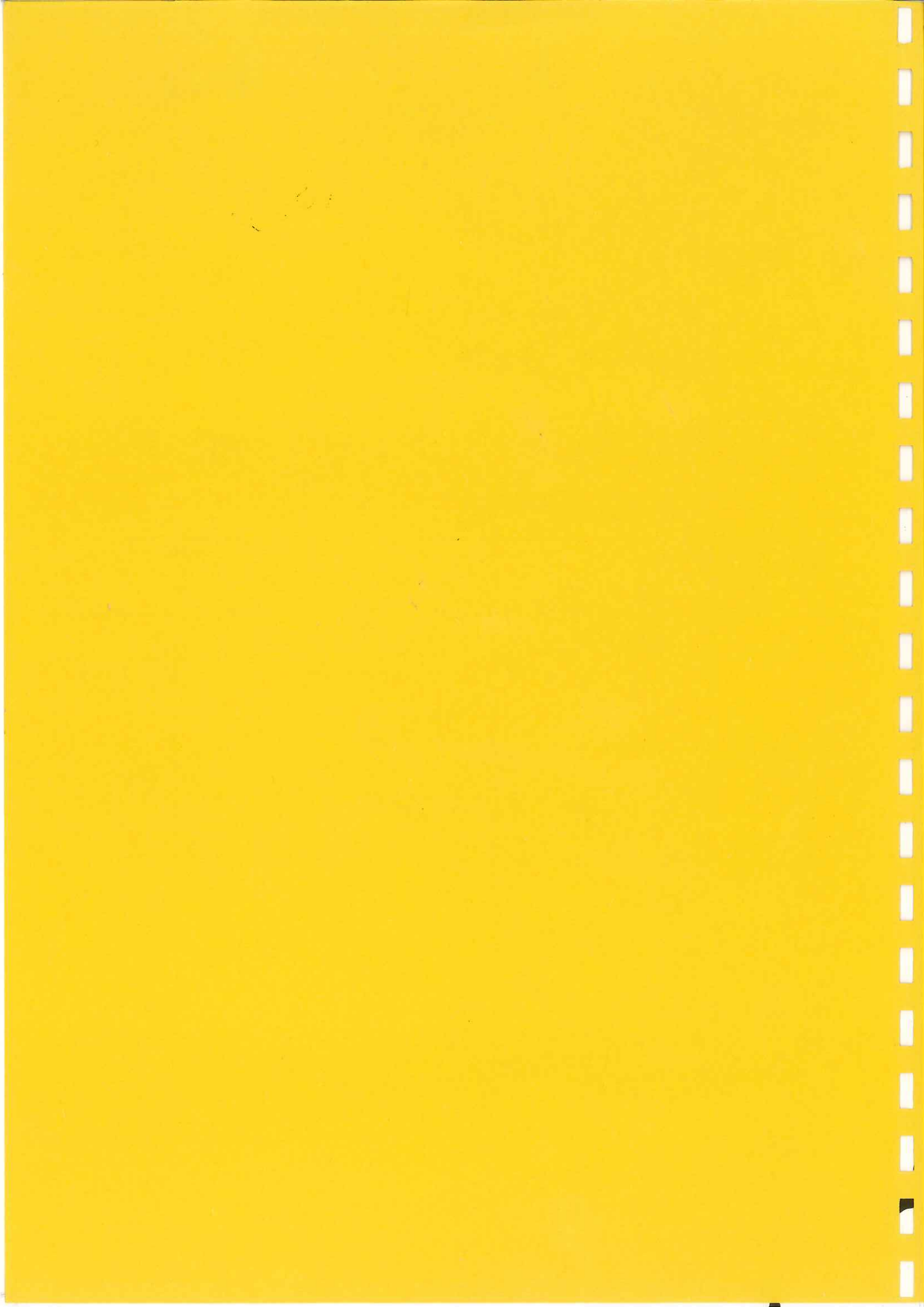
Bristilton

Bridlington

Brisselton

Bruslington

DISUCTION



D.P.Lindegaard BA

Revised '94

Brislington Bulletins

No.2.

Lacy to Langton

1601 - 1699

100

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BRISLINGTON BULLETINS II

The second volume of "Bulletins" records Brislington 1600-1699, from the latter days of Elizabeth I, to James I, Charles I, Cromwell, Charles II, James II and William & Mary. Turbulent years from Gunpowder Plot to "Glorious Revolution", by way of Civil War, Regicide, Republic and Restoration. Through it all, Brislington plodded on, and in the latter years at least, pragmatically rang the church bells at each change of political direction. Had poor Monmouth become James III, he, I have no doubt, would have had a special peal too!

Locally, the Lacy family, our Lords of the Manor, who were largely absentees, sold Brislington to the Langtons, new rich merchants from Bristol. The Langtons who were far more in evidence, supplied us with Langton Court, and their name still survives both as a road and a pub sign.

As before, I have listed as much information as I have come across, though with the exception of my opening pages, I have generally omitted the baptisms, marriages and burials which took place at St Luke's. There is then no detailed exploration of the intricate network of family relationships within the parish, and I intend to leave this jigsaw until my dotage when I am no longer able to get out of my armchair!

As already lamented elsewhere, almost all of our Somerset proved wills were destroyed by enemy action during the Second World War. The few which escaped have been mentioned in the text, and either reproduced fully or remarked in passing. Copies of PCC wills may be obtained from the Public Record Office and those proved in Somerset from the Somerset Record Office. I would be grateful if anyone has occasion to send for one or more of these Brislington wills, they would allow me to make a copy.

I have included in this volume, addenda to Brislington Bulletins I. A newly discovered list of male inhabitants dating from about 1586 seemed too good to waste. Also, my attention was drawn to an error which I have now corrected.

As little things please little minds, I have unearthed a few more eccentric spellings of our village. These will be found at the end of the volume under the heading "Ow due spel Briz?"

Finally, did you spot the deliberate mistake on the cover of Brislington Bulletins I?

D.P. Lindegaard BA.
Brislington. November, 1993.

Abbreviations, Sources and Acknowledgments

Manuscript Sources:

BAR Bristol Apprentice Rolls [mainly Abstract of Bristol Apprentices, 1600-1630, Fitzroy Jones]

BB Burgess Books [BRO]

CWs Churchwardens Accounts of Brislington [transcribed Anthony A Austin]

KPR Keynsham Parish Register, PRQC Queen Charlton Parish Register

PRStLB Parish Register St Luke's Brislington [transcriptions by
A A Austin & Rev Shickle]

[Brislington Parish records are filed at BRO as P/StLB/]

Printed Sources

Alumni Oxon The Registers of Oxford University

ASW Abstracts of Somerset Wills, Rev Fredk Brown 1887

BMLB Bristol Marriage Licence Bonds I

[transcribed by Denzil Hollis, Elizabeth Ralph, ed.]

Pountney. Old Bristol Potteries, W.J. Pountney, 1920

Q1 Minute Book of Men's Meeting 1667-86 [BRS 26, Russell Mortimer, ed]

Q2 Minute Book of Men's Meeting 1686-1704 [BRS 30, Russell Mortimer, ed]

QS Quarter Sessions Books of the Somerset Record Society

RCC Records of a Church in Christ [Edward Terrill, old version & BRS 27,
Roger Hayden, ed]

Som & Dors N & Q. Somerset & Dorset Notes & Queries

SQM Somerset Quarterly Meeting, 1668-99, [SRS, 75, Stephen Morland, ed]

YBP Year Books of Probates

Other Invaluable Books

Allen, Ashford, St Lukes Church, Brislington.

Humphreys, Arthur L, "Somerset Parishes. A Handbook of Historical
References to all Places in the County", 1905

Jackson, Reg & Philomena & Roger Price BSc "Bristol Potters &
Potteries, 1600-1800"

Latimer, John, Annals of Bristol in the 17th Century [LA17]

Little, Bryan, The Monmouth Episode. [1956]

Other Abbreviations

BRO Bristol Record Office

BRS Bristol Record Society

GRO Gloucestershire Record Office

PCC Prerogative Court of Canterbury

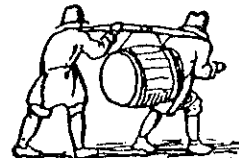
PR Parish Register

PRO Public Record Office

QS Quarter Sessions

SRO Somerset Record Office

SRS Somerset Record Society



I am grateful to the authors of the works listed above for the many hours of enjoyment they have given me. To John Williams and his staff at Bristol Record Office, the Librarians of the Avon County Library Service. The staff at SRO and GRO. And especially, to Margaret Davey, when all could have been lost.

From the Parish Register

"All men are Liars". The dreadful warning of the Book of Psalms came too late for Agnes Panter, who brought her daughter to be baptised at St Luke's on December 15, 1605, for little Alis was "a base child". Worse still, Agnes had been cast out of doors when her "disgrace" became known, for according to the parish register she was "a late servant of Thomas White". The baby's reputed father was Harry Green, barely eighteen, who not long before had gone to Bristol as a carpenter's apprentice. A decade later, the brave Joan Puxley, aged 22, stood up to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, cope, mitre, crozier and all, when her case was heard at the ecclesiastical court. "Richard Deane, who liveth at Bristol is the father thereof," she declared, adding helpfully, "but sometimes he liveth at Clapton". The case against Richard was dismissed, but Joan named him again when her infant Ursula was christened on April 7, 1616.² True, we have only her word for it, and Richard might have been innocent of all blame, nevertheless it is comforting to read that in 1619, Joan married a man called John Brighton, and hopefully lived happily ever after.

Joan was, as far as I can tell, the only one of Brislington's single mothers to marry. Most disappeared, like Agnes Orchard, mother of an unnamed baby carried to the font on October 11, 1600, "a base child, the father's name unknown", and Alis Vowles, whose daughter Anne was baptised February 2, 1605, and buried the following February 24, "base, John Pope the younger the reputed father".

Neither Agnes Wastfylde nor Agnes Harford named the fathers of their children in 1621. Both family names would become prominent amongst the Quakers, the Harfords in Bristol and the Wastfields locally, notably Robert Wastfield, a Parliamentarian, of whom more later. Alice Phelps named John Maynard father of her daughter Joan in 1624, James Watts was held to be responsible for Alice Pope's son Aaron in 1635, and William Brewer for Frances, the daughter of Alice Stevens in 1636.

The burden of bringing up an illegitimate child was placed solely on the mother, but a woman had great difficulty in finding paid employment, except as a servant, and loss of her "good name" possibly closed even this avenue. The expense therefore of an unwanted child could well fall upon the ratepayers, unless additional liability could be proved. Whilst most affairs must have been well known, there were bound to be those which were secret, where the man was already married, or even where a baby had been conceived as a result of rape. Pregnant single women were questioned about the paternity of their offspring, and if they failed to answer prior to the birth, midwives were in a unique position to discover a name, especially under the shadow of death during labour itself. For example, Elizabeth Simonds' baby Bartholomew, christened August 24, 1618, of whom the parish register states: "It is reported by the midwife, Agnes Newman, and others that Thomas Rysse is the father." Apart from the vexed question of expense, guilty parties could not be seen to get away with wanton behaviour. Mother and putative father would then be bound over to appear at the Quarter Sessions before two Justices of the Peace. The woman - as a "daughter

of Eve" - was considered the prime mover. The men, poor souls, had like Adam, succumbed to temptation and couldn't really help it. Thus, generally speaking the father of the child was sentenced to a fine, and the mother to a flogging!

Is this what happened to our Brislington women? Very probably, though we have no records which say so specifically, [we know the village had both stocks and whipping post], but all over Somerset, similar women were undergoing great hardship and brutal humiliation for the "crime" of bearing a bastard. In only one case of many, Francis Baber esquire and Sir Thomas Bridges, of Keynsham, magistrates, ordered John Bush of Temple Cloud to pay ten pence weekly to the Overseers of the Poor at Cameley until his child was able to earn a living, but the mother Margery Webb "shall keep the child herself without receiving anything for the same and.....for her further punishment shall be by the officers of Cameley stript naked from the middle upwards and whipt until her back be bloody two several times, the first at Pensford next market day, the second at Cameley, the Monday following.³ Further proof that the perceived greater blame lay with the mother is contained in the sympathetic memo addressed in 1612 to a fellow magistrate by the same Sir Thomas Bridges requesting that the bearer, John Woolley of Keynsham be discharged.... "the child being since dead and the woman runne away....in regard he is a very poor fellow." I have found only one instance where both parents suffered together, and that was clearly a special case, deeply offensive to the Puritan ethos:

"there shall be during their whipping two fiddles playing before them to make known their lewdness in begetting the said base child upon the Sabbath Day, coming from dancing." 4.

Oh dear.

If a child was conceived where there had been a previous promise to marry, the woman was still deemed responsible, but she generally escaped public scourging, hence at Keynsham in 1619 where the magistrates ordered Robert Ford, a tanner, to pay one shilling a week, and Elizabeth Taunton, the mother, to "keep the child without receiving any allowance, or in default pay 6d weekly....and whereas there were divers motions of marriage between the parties and they have received punishment by ecclesiastical laws, corporal punishment of the said Elizabeth is foreborn."

Does this mean that immorality was rampant among our people in this period? Rather the opposite, in fact, for illegitimacy was really rather rare. Personal decorum, formalised by Church laws, upheld by magistrates and clerics, and spied on by busybodies saw to that. So why should I bring it up at all? The answer is simple. Much of history is male history. With the exception of a few powerful females, of whom Queen Elizabeth I is the paramount example, especially where the parish register is concerned, a woman hovered about in the background of life, scarcely mentioned, except as the adjunct of her nearest male relative: so and so's daughter, his wife, or his widow; in her old age, his mother; if she was unmarried, his sister. When a couple brought a child

for christening, at St Luke's as elsewhere at this time, the mother might as well not have been there at all. A typical entry reads

"Joan daughter of Farnum Cox, baptised September 15, 1616."

Which is a bit thick, considering "the pains of Hell" of childbirth, as described in the Book of Common Prayer, not to say the very real danger of death. The name of poor Mrs Cox, among many other wives and mothers is lost to us forever.

As we have seen, this is different in the case of unmarried mothers. We know their names, and in some cases the identity of their former lovers. We know they were likely to disappear from Brislington. Probably they went to a desperate life "on the road" like a little family in February 1601, when a baby called William, the son of an unknown woman was baptised at the request of a Mr Thomas Erall, "the woman having but one leg". A sad example, and hardly, I would think, one of the notorious "sturdy beggars" who brought on similar apoplexy to the first Elizabethans as travellers do to some second Elizabethans today. We can guess that mother and child were quickly harried out of the parish, as were another one parent family, "Sydrach" and his mother, "a stranger at John Whippie's", perhaps accompanied by Meshach and Abednego, in 1616.

Others were on the move too. The child of Thomas Williams, a roving glass carrier, from Bradford on Avon was baptised at Brislington in 1607; so was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Mills, "Minister of the Word", likewise travelling the roads in 1620, and Martha, daughter of another traveller, Richard Sampson, "late of High Wells". All these babies must have had their mothers with them, though none is mentioned. A more settled individual, Mr William Higgins had a house at Wick, our own modern Wick Road, where John the son of John Holten was born in 1603. John Hedges' and John Greens' houses were the venues when Mrs Nicolas Lewis, and Mrs Anthony Hedges, that way round, gave birth in 1604. Can we perhaps read between the lines that all these unnamed new mothers had gone home to their own mothers to have their babies? And is there a hint of possible scandalised doubt expressed in 1623, at the christening of Thomas, son of a certain Mr Webb, "as his wife sayeth"?

In the case of marriage, we are fortunate that the names of both bride and groom are told to us. [It is not unknown to read in some parish registers that "Joseph Green married his wife"!] A Brislington bride might marry a man from another place, and go away to live; a local man might wed outside his own parish. In the latter event, the first inkling we generally have of the marriage, is when a child is christened!

As to burials, visitors provoke added comment. Joan Tucker, a servant of a Mr Gingill, visiting from Huchwode in Wiltshire was struck down in 1608. In the same year, "Flower, a mayde", was carried to her last rest by "two men from Bristol".

Richard Phillipott, the parish priest autographed the register on a number of occasions, as did his successor, Oliver Chivers, an Oxford graduate who took over for a brief ministry, sometime during the autumn

of 1631. In 1634, out of the blue, Oliver suddenly modernised, and began naming both parents of baptised children, so that when the next vicar, a family man, christened his own "William, son of William Bourne, minister, and Alice", the practice was well established. Sadly, Reverend William died in September 1638. His second son, Benjamin was baptised posthumously the following April, probably by the Rev. Robert Bacon, who stayed at Brislington only a year. Alice Bourne and her two little boys left the parish. In 1639, the parish was ministered in duality with Keynsham by Thomas Codrington, scion of the gentry Codringtons of Doddington, who remained vicar until 1674, surviving Civil War, Republic and Restoration. He died at Malmesbury in 1676.

William Hobbes was churchwarden in 1609, and Richard Peasley appears to have been parish clerk - starting a tradition in the Peasley family - from 1619 to 1636, according to a little sum he drew in the parish register, perhaps to settle an argument as to how long he had held the office.

This was Brislington during the time of the first parish register, which endured, sometimes haphazardly, and which tailed off drastically in the panic leading up to the Civil War. Occasional entries appear in the second register concerning people born in the Commonwealth period, but I suspect some of these were added years after the event. During the Interregnum, the recording of births, [not baptisms], marriages and deaths [not burials] was the duty of a civil "Register", a forerunner of the modern Registrar. We know nothing of this official in Brislington - and sadly, none of his records have survived. After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1661, the parish register resumed in earnest once again.



Dancing Round the Maypole [Bagford Ballads]

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1. For a possible explanation of their disappearance, see my "Simple Annals of the Poor", [1992].
 2. D/D/Ca 196 SRO & PRB 7.4.1616
 3. This, and other details of punishments can be found in SRS no 23, Quarter Sessions, Vol I, 1607-1625, p69
 4. *ibid*, Nicholas Ruddock/Katherine Canker, Glastonbury, July 1617

1601 - 1603, Elizabeth I to James I

The Great Poor Law was passed, a direct consequence of the closure of the monasteries which had previously provided charity and care to the needy. It was based on the principles that every parish was responsible for its own poor; that those who could, should work; the absolutely helpless should be assisted, and incorrigible rogues and vagabonds should be punished. A rate was collected from the parishioners according to their means, and the Overseers of the Poor, of each parish, [unpaid, and selected like other parish officials from the ranks of the middling yeomanry], saw to its administration. Where Charity officially began at Home, we have already seen how much energy was expended in keeping the likes of unmarried mothers off "the rates" and also in the swift and ruthless removal of impoverished visitors, the very people who had once been able to claim a traditional "Wayfarer's Dole" from benevolent monks and nuns.

Most people worked six days a week, except on Sundays and Saints Days. ["Holy" or Holidays]. A skilled tradesman like a carpenter, or blacksmith would be a part-time husbandman with his own plot of land to till, with perhaps a cow, sheep, pigs and poultry. The yeoman or husbandman proper would be very much aware that his one plot would not provide subsistence for all his sons, particularly once they were married, [and everybody was expected to marry]. - therefore they must be sent away to learn a trade. Records of these transactions may be found in the Bristol Apprentice Rolls. The names of the apprentice, his father, the place of their domicile and the father's occupation, plus the name of the master appear in the rolls, and as most masters were married men, in direct contrast to the parish register entries, the names of their wives appear as well. There were a few girl apprentices, but predictably, they were taught "housewifery"! Widows sometimes continued to take on apprentices in their late husband's trade. If an apprentice successfully completed his term of seven years, he became a master craftsman himself, could take on his own apprentices and could apply for the Freedom of the City, in which case his name will also appear in the City Burgess Books. He could then vote in elections, and even stand for civic office himself. Women, however well qualified could not become burgesses, and they could not vote.

1604,

October 22

Andrew son of Ralph Fry of Brislington, apprenticed to Jonas Seldon, wiredrawer, and his wife Margaret. [BAR]

1605

January 17

William son of William Roche, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Christopher Clement, smith and his wife Mary. [ibid]

March 13

Giles son of Richard Ithell, yeoman of Brislington, apprenticed to John Everett, weaver, and his wife Mary. [ibid]

Brislington - Lacy to Langton

[This John Everett, though perhaps working in Bristol was a Brislington man, when he wrote his will in 1628. Lucky Giles married Alice Everett, his master's daughter!]

April 22

Henry son of John Green, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Henry Goodman, carpenter, and his wife Bridget. [ibid]

August 26

Aaron son of John Stevens, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Francis Bayley, clothworker, and his wife Elizabeth. [ibid]

December 23

Richard son of John Eyton, deceased, late Brislington, apprenticed to Richard Nelson, clothworker, and his wife Janet. [ibid]

1606

February 7

William son of Thomas Whibbye, [Whippy], husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Richard Burrus, pewterer. [ibid]

March 6

Thomas son of [John?] Stevens, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to William Underburye, clothworker, and his wife Alice. [ibid]

June 3

Robert son of Thomas Roche, deceased, late of Brislington, apprenticed to John Wateley, shearman, and his wife Elizabeth. [ibid]

July 25

John son of Thomas Hedge, husbandman, of Busleton, apprenticed to Thomas Crabb, weaver, and his wife Joan. [ibid]

July 28

Richard son of William Daniel of Brislington, apprenticed to Samuel Willitt, tailor, and his wife Ciciley. [ibid]

December 1

A change of master for Richard Eyton; now apprenticed to John Williams, clothworker, and his wife Elizabeth. [ibid]

December 31

Richard son of William Hobin of Brislington, apprenticed to John Taylor, shearman, and his wife Elizabeth. [ibid]

1607, November 18

William son of William Walker, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Thomas Murdocke, wiredrawer, and his wife Joan. [ibid]

1608

January 8

A midwinter night's nightmare..... or the sad tale of Love's Labours Lost:

A certain William Hall began calling on Jane Walter of Brislington, but Jane's brother Alexander, having made enquiries regarding her suitor, put a stop to the courtship. William, he said, had a wife already. This was a wicked lie bellowed William, who, "disappointed in his purpose by the travail of her brother, blamed him.....with malice in the eighth degree", and demanded that Alexander be taken to court for slander.

But William was a newcomer, and Alexander was well known and respected in the neighbourhood. He was able to produce a petition signed by a string of Brislington worthies who vouchsafed: "by the names which are subscribed hereunder, the said Walter hath dwelt here for many years and worketh hard for his living, and to the best of our knowledge is a true man and we will neither pursue him accordingly."

Before us: James Langton
Thomas Daniell
Richard Daniell, his mark
Thomas Jay
William Daniell, his mark
John Hedges
John Pope
Willi Hill
Willi Pain
Andrew Wyet.



This petition "in favour of Alexander Scalter of Brislington" was issued at the Ilchester Sessions in April. Jane's reaction to her brother's interference and her lover's retaliation have not been recorded. Neither William Hall, nor Jane and Alexander, whether called Walter or Scalter make any appearance in the Brislington parish registers, christened married or buried. At present it is impossible to state whether Jane eventually married William or indeed anybody at all. It might be that they moved away to avoid further talk. I suspect brother Alexander was reluctant to lose an unpaid housekeeper.

It is intriguing that the name Langton appears in the petition, which suggests the tantalising notion that "our Langtons" had Brislington connections well before Ezekiel Langton purchased the manor from Rowland Lacy.

At about the same time, there was another Brislington scandal. A certain labourer called on a workmate one morning and suggested they went threshing at a nearby farm. They had gone some way, when the first man made some excuse [forgotten his flail?] and leaving the other to carry on by himself, doubled back to his friend's cottage, where he knew the wife was alone, and attempted to sexually assault her. I have not been able to find the original source of this story, which is quoted as contemporary with Jane Walter's in C.R. Quaipe's "Wanton Wenches and Wayward Wives", and I must protest that despite the book's title, both these Brislington women were blameless parties, sinned against, rather than sinning, and neither wayward nor wanton.

[SRO, Q/SR2 8.1.1607/8; SRS 23, QS Jas II]

1611

March 4

William, son of Ralph Fry of Brislington, apprenticed to William Pardis, shearman, and his wife Elizabeth. [BAR]

but he didn't get on with shearing, which I take to be the manufacture of scissors, rather than the denudation of sheep, and on

November 4

the apprentice was turned over to George Priest, butcher and his wife Margaret. [ibid]

but back to

May 28

Henry son of Bartholomew Bayley, yeoman of Brislington, apprenticed to George Gibbes, brewer and his wife Mary. [ibid]

1612

The will of John Bryant of Lipiat in Bitton was proved at Gloucester. He left Joseph and Mary Daniell of "Brislon", five shillings. Thomas Daniell of "Brislent", a cloak and Joan Daniell, also of "Brislent", a "hellminge" chair, whatever that may be. A goodly sum of £6 was left to their children. The executor, Robert Jones, husbandman of Bitton, and Thomas Bishope, yeoman of Bitton and Thomas Daniell, salter of "Brislent", the overseers, were to receive two shillings each. [GRO]

The truncated "Brislon" and "Brislent" are further amusing additions to the numerous ways of spelling the name of our village. And, just for fun, try repeating them over and over again, and I promise, you will get a fair idea of good old John Bryant's accent, as interpreted by the scribe who wrote down his last will.

June 27

Laurence son of Laurence Webb, of Brislington, smith, apprenticed to John Vaughan, smith and Susan his wife. [BAR]

August 7

Richard son of John Stevens, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Giles Gregory, weaver, and his wife Joan. [ibid]

1613

December 4

One of the most intriguing of Brislington characters is Richard Phillpott, the long time vicar. Indeed in Brislington Bulletins I, I have speculated that he may even have been two men, perhaps father and son, of the same name. Historical research is detection, and now and again additional clues emerge which make nonsense of previous theories. Such a clue was the discovery, tucked away in the churchwardens' book, of a later century, copies of the details of Richard's tithe portions and glebe terrier, [dated April 1817, "the originals being in the possession of Edward Rolle Clayfield, esquire"]. In his own words he tells us that he has been curate "these three score years" and that, not surprisingly, his "remembrance extendeth further than anyone now alive".

If he had indeed been incumbent since 1553, [or from 1556, which is another date given*] then he is even more remarkable, Brislington's very own "Vicar of Bray" in fact, walking the tightrope of his fickle times, adapting both to Catholic Mary, and Protestant Elizabeth.

.....but here now are Richard's depositions, and who can doubt they were drawn up with a lawyer at his elbow?

"Whereas I Richard Phillipott, clerk have by God's permission continued curate in this parish of Brislington these three score years, and during all that time, I have received and taken prive tythes dues and duties due and payable to the vicar as they have grown due from time to time, now at the earnest request of divers of the inhabitants of this parish in regard mine own knowledge and remembrance extendeth further than any one now here alive do declare under my hand the Truth and certainty of all said tithes and dues to the curate or vicar of Brislington as by the custom of this place and payable to him from before the memory of man to this present day.

"Imprimis. At Easter or quarterly, at the choice of the curate every householder in the parish to pay for his offering two pence, and two pence for his wife and for every son and daughter that are communicants, two pence, and one penny for his garden and three eggs for his cock and two eggs for every hen.

"Item. At Lammas every inhabitant to pay for every cows milk or white that he keepeth in this parish, one penny.

"Item. He is to pay the tenth calf or if he breed any he is to pay for them but one half penny apiece for the fall and the like for every colt, one penny, and if the owner kill any calves then he is to pay the vicar or curate the right shoulder out of every calf and the tenth shilling out of the price of every suckling calf he selleth, and if the owner hath but seven calves yet he is to pay one calf and to receive back by the minister one penny and one farthing.

"Item. Of sucking pigs the owner is to choose two and the vicar to choose the third and to fetch him away when he is eatable between a fortnight and three weeks old and to pay one out of ten and so of seven and to receive back a half penny and a farthing.

"Item. Out of the withy beds, the owner or renter is to pay tithes of a kind if he do not agree for it and the like to be paid out of the coppices whereof the wood is sold out of the parish.

"Item. The tenth of the wool of the lambs that were bred and fallen in the parish, to be taken at St Mark's tide, the wool at the Sheer time of every ten lambs, the owner to choose two and the curate the third, and also for every seven to pay and receive one penny farthing, and if above ten and not seventeen, he the owner to pay for every one above ten, six

* see List of clergy from "St Luke's Parish Church".

Later revelations will include a wife Joan and a son Nathaniel, neither of whom are mentioned in the parish register!

farthings apiece. He is also to have the tenth goose, and for seven topay a tithe goose and to receive three farthings, and for above ten and not seventeen to pay so many farthings to be taken in like manner at Lammass.

"Item. The curate to have out of every dry sheep that is wintered only in his parish, or wool according to the time the wool grew here only a tithe in money, and every ewe and lamb winter'd here according to the falling here, the tenth and the seventh paying back a penny farthing, and if the lamb fall not here, then he pay only for the growth of the wool of the ewe as for dry sheep.

"Item. Concerning, the fruits of the orchard, the vicar or curate is to have the tenth in kind and if it be not compounded by measures to be about the time of gathering thereof.

"Item. He is to have of any greater fowl as Turkey or Peacocks, his tenth in kind when they are eatable.

"Item. Of honey, wax, he is likewise to have his tenth about the time of the taking of them."

[Right.....Got all that?.....Good.]

and then a list of charges for church offices:

"Item. For church going of women: five pence.

"Item. For every wedding: twelve pence.

"Item. For asking of a banner: six pence

"Item. For every burial in the chancel: six and eight pence."

"By us, this 4 Decr 1613. Richard Phillipott minister.

Churchwardens: Henry Rems. Tobias Pope.

Witnesses: John Green, Black Street

Israel Glesny

John Green, senr.

[BRO P/StLB/V/2]

"Church going" was more commonly known as "churching" - the ceremony of thanksgiving after childbirth. Baptism was presumably free. Marriage, then as now was costly. Sixpence for putting up the banns and a shilling for the wedding. And as for burial in the church, six and eightpence was beyond the means of all bar the very rich. There is no mention of a charge for common burial in the churchyard, but I cannot believe it was completely free.

On the same day, Richard also recorded the situation with regard to the glebe lands, where confusingly he states he has been here a mere "forty years and more".

"A terrier indented of all Glebe Lands, Houses, Orchards, Gardens, Grounds, Backsides and others with the Tythes, Oblations, that doth belong to the parish church of Brislington within the diocese of Bath and Wells and now in the hands and use of Richard Phillipott, minister and hath been for forty years and more, and likewise was to divers

ministers before him, and our time how long we know not, being termed a Donative as we have heard by us whose names are here subscribed dated this 4th Day of December 1613.

"First. To the same churchwardens and minister belongeth a House, one Ground called a garden or backside with all contayned, the 4th part of an aker by estimation and all such tithes as the said minister received. Videlicet of Personal and Mind Tythes or by what tittle men call them by which is or ought to be mantayned and Repayred by the churchwardens from tyme to tyme. The bounds of the Yard to be maintayned by the Minister so far as the grounds of the said house " etc.

Is: Glesny	R Phillpott	
John Green the elder	John Phelps	
Henry Rems)	John Green of Black Street	
Tobias Pope)churchwardens"		[ibid]

1614

June 27

Anthony son of William Roache, collier of Brislington, apprenticed to Christopher Powell, weaver and his wife Joan.

[Anthony was another who changed his mind, and on September 14 was turned over to Richard Barnes, notary public and his wife Mary.] [ibid]

July 1

William son of Israel Gleson, *generosus* [ie gentleman], of Brislington, apprenticed to Thomas Webb, mercer and his wife Margery. [ibid]

July 21

Thomas son of John Pope, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Edward Harding, shearman, and his wife Alice. [ibid]

September 13

Thomas son of John Clarke, husbandman, deceased, late of Brislington, apprenticed to John Corey, clothier, and his wife Mary. [ibid]

October 1

Richard son of Richard Woodman, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Mary, the widow of Robert Goldsmith, as a clothworker. [ibid]

Will, William Shepherd of Brislington.

[SRO, D/D/Ct]

1615

January 19

The Bishop's Visitation met a delegation of villagers concerned about "irregular preaching and catechizing.....at Brislington", which reflects the rise of Puritanism. Sir Francis Popham owned the living, but he had "failed to provide for preachers", a mysterious state of affairs, as Richard Phillpott was still incumbent, though age and perhaps infirmity may have rendered him less effective.

[SRO, D/D/Ca 191 & 194, Comperta 1615, passim, quoted D.Underdown, "Revel, Riot & Rebellion", p79

Brislington, Lacy to Langton.

A common of 200 acres, called Bristleton Heath was deemed to be part of the Chase of Kingswood, with the coalmines there. [LA17c]

November 2

Thomas son of John King, husbandman deceased, late of Brislington, apprenticed to Lewis Jones, clothworker and his wife Jane. [BAR]

Will, William Coxe of Brislington [SRO D/D/Ct]

Will, Ralph Orchard of Brislington [ibid]

1616

March 4

William son of Thomas Day, yeoman of Brislington, apprenticed to Charles Hearnnes, barber surgeon, and Mary his wife. "The father bound in the sum of £5." [ibid]

April 7

Mrs Jane Seward, described as a gentlewoman, complained to the Bishop that she had been "attacked with great violence" in church, just as she was about to take her seat for divine service. The person she accused was none other than the vicar's wife, Joan Phillipott, who had "pushed her with her elbow in a strict and violent manner" and she was "so much bruised and waxed sorely ill" that she had to take to her bed. She produced witnesses, Henry Dike, and another member of the Brislington establishment, Ursula Wickham.

The Bishop found the case proved, and Joan was "admonished". The offender was obliged to confess and ask pardon of the injured person in the vestry immediately after morning prayer before the minister, churchwardens and other witnesses. On the same day, and it can only have been deliberate to cause the maximum embarrassment, the Seward family brought their latest addition, baby Bartholomew, son of Bartholomew, to church to be christened by the Rev Richard Phillipott!

[SRO D/D/Ca 196.PRStLB]

It is fairly obvious that fiery Joan was much younger than the venerable Richard. I suspect, that starting his clerical life as a celibate priest, he waited to see the lie of the land, and the end of dangerous ecclesiastical upheavals before risking a wife. Even Queen Elizabeth, though Protestant, was said to abhor married clergy.

April 15

William son of John Clarke, husbandman, of Brislington, apprenticed to John Brook, cooper, and Matilda his wife. [BAR]

April 23

The wife of Morgan Jones, alleged that Arthur Brooke had slandered her. Slanders, generally of a sexual nature could only be redressed by complaint to the Bishop's Court. A good name might assume even greater significance if it was a person's only possession. William Cooke delivered the Bishop's response three months later. Arthur was admonished and told to pay Mrs Jones's expenses. [SRO D/D/Ca 196]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton.

June 8

William son of William Bolter, of Brislington, husbandman, apprenticed to John Gibbons, baker, and Margaret his wife. [BAR]

June 18

More embarrassment when Thomas Ifield [or Ithells] was reported to the Bishop, accused of impropriety with Maria Greene, the wife of John Greene. They were spotted by Thomas's wife Sarah in doubtful circumstances under a hayrick, and other witnesses confirmed "they have been seen in the evenings very late together in the sheep folds, and in the mornings very early, when they converse suspiciously." Complete rubbish, said Thomas, protesting with "great vehemence". It was all totally innocent. They were discussing "the penning of sheep." The Bishop, who probably had to sternly silence laughter in court, whilst suppressing a small chuckle of his own, found the case proved. Thomas was admonished "not to further molest Maria Greene[SR0 D/D/Ca 196]

July 16

Thomas Daniel brought a late complaint, accusing William Skidmore of "chiding and brawling seven or eight weeks ago in the churchyard, and calling him knave." William was admonished. [ibid]

August 23

Martha, the daughter of William Taye, dyer of Winterbourne, apprenticed to Israel Gleson, notary public and his wife Alice. [BAR]

[The Glesons were currently our most noteworthy resident gentry. Martha was to learn "the art and mystery of housewifery".]

October 22

John son of Richard Blanch, yeoman of Brislington, apprenticed to Thomas Stanford, carpenter, and his wife Anne. [ibid]

Will, Agnes Whippey of Brislington.

[SR0 D/D/Ct]

1617

February 14

More evidence that our vicar had married late in life - Nathaniel the son of Richard Phillipott, yeoman of Brislington, was apprenticed to Richard Daniel, tailor and his wife Elizabeth. [ibid]

Nathaniel was presumably between 14 and 17 years old, and perhaps therefore born in 1600. The description "yeoman" is misleading, and probably refers to class rather than occupation. Later on Richard is described - properly - "clerk".

February 21

John son of William White, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to William Yeamans, notary public and his wife Ann. [ibid]

1618

July 11

William Gleson of Brislington, *generosus* took out a licence to marry Elinor Wickham of Keynsham, spinster. The bondsmen were Henry Woodson,

Brislington, Lacy to Langton.

of Wells, notary public, and Thomas Wickham of Keynsham, gentleman, the bride's father. The marriage entry itself has not survived, either at Brislington, or at Keynsham where the parish registers are missing before 1629. The Wickhams were probably related to Jane Seward's friend, Ursula Wickham. [SRO, Wells licences]

October 8

The will of John Greene proved. This John is probably the man of that name who appeared at John Lacy's Leet gathering in 1586 [see Brislington Bulletins 11], and perhaps the father of the John Greene whose wife Maria was involved with Thomas Ithell. The testator was survived by his widow Joan, and the overseers were members of the ubiquitous Daniel family, Andrew and Thomas, yeomen.

[SRO Wells 22 Book Probates; D/D/Ct 3/21]

November 24

John the son of John Gray, carrier, late Brislington, apprenticed to William Harding, smith, and his wife Alice. [BAR]

1620

April 5

Edward son of Richard Blanch, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to Charles Taylor, cooper and his wife Elizabeth. [ibid]

April 19

Elizabeth the child of Henry Mills, "minister of the worde" was christened at St Luke's. Was Henry another one of those "irregulars" who had caused the worry in 1615? [PRStLB]

October 30

Nathaniel son of Richard Phillipott, clerk of Brislington, apprenticed to Thomas Hurtnoll, haberdasher, and his wife Elizabeth. The father bound in the sum of £10. [BAR]

The sum of £10 was a fine imposed by an irritated committee for young Nathaniel's change of mind!

1621

William Bourne, later incumbent at Brislington, was clerk at Queen Charlton. [PRQC]

1622, July 17

The will of Giles Ithell of the parish of Temple in Bristol weaver; he left:

"ten shillings to be bestowed in penny loaves of bread to be given to the poor on the day of my funeral"

"ten shillings to the poor people of the parish of Brislington"

"ten shillings to the Company of Weavers in the City of Bristol, and personal bequests:

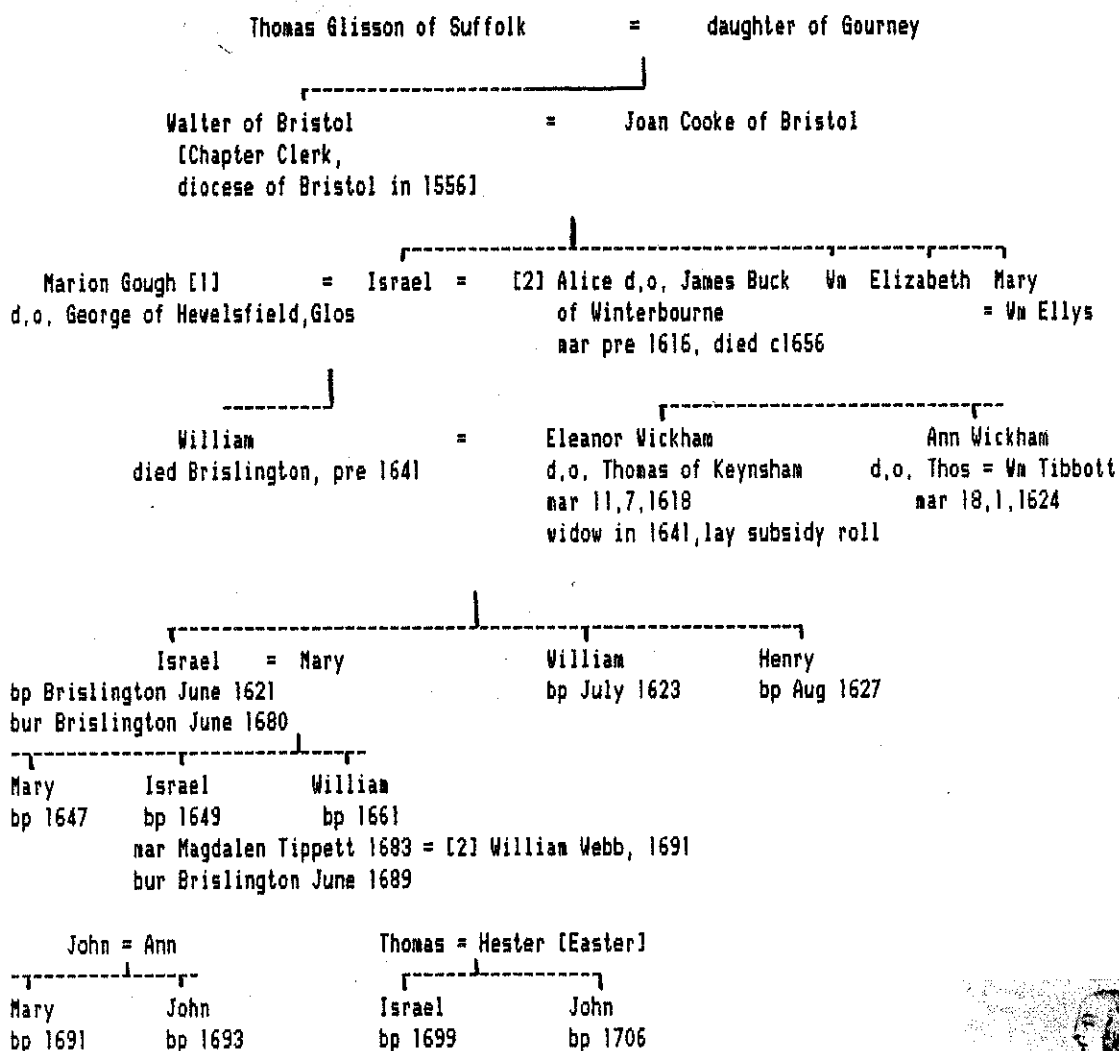
Brother Richard Ithell, 20 shillings

Brother Robert Ithell, 20 shillings

Brother Thomas Ithell "my best cloaks"

Sister Alice Kaines, the wife of Henry Kaynes of Brislington, ten shillings

Glisson/Gleson family of Brislington.
 [Sable or Bend argent, three mullets pierced Gules]



In the name of God Amen This becometh the day of July 1622. I Charles of the parish of Campden
 within the county of Gloucestershire being sick and weak in body but in good mind and perfect memory
 witnesseth that he doth hereby becometh the day of July Anno domini 1622. make my last will and testament
 in manner following first I bequeath my soul into the hands of God my father only Father trusting in his
 grace and loving mercies through the merits of Jesus Christ his only my father to have his full permission of all my
 spirit and overleaving woe in heaven and my body I commit to God to be buried in Campden church in the
 north east corner under my window wood & I desire to followe first I give and bequeath to my daughter in
 law for a portion to be payed at my funeralle Item I give and bequeath to my daughter in law to be
 bestowed in money twelve shillings of bread to be given to the poor on the day of my buriall Item I give
 bequeath to the poor people of the parish of Christ Church in the county of Gloucestershire in money ten
 shillings Item I give and bequeath unto the company of the workers of the city of Bristol in money ten
 shillings Item I give and bequeath unto my brother Richard of the county of Gloucestershire Item I give
 and bequeath unto my brother Robert of the county of Gloucestershire Item I give and bequeath unto
 my brother Thomas of the county of Gloucestershire my best robe Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Alice the
 wife of Henry Plym of Christ Church in money ten shillings Item I give and bequeath unto
 my son John of the county of Gloucestershire in money ten pounds to be given him when he is of full age of one and twenty
 years Item I give unto John of the county of Gloucestershire in money ten pounds when he is of full age of one and
 twenty years Item I give and bequeath unto my son James of the county of Gloucestershire in money twenty pounds to be
 given him when he is of full age of one and twenty years Item I give and bequeath unto my son
 William of the county of Gloucestershire in money twenty pounds to be given him when he is of full age of one and twenty
 years and for my wife is that if it please God that my said son James doth be before my
 wife to the age of one and twenty years, then my wife is that she doth have and enjoy the
 possession full equalit and contentment and be to the longest life of her or of him of them and I give
 and bequeath unto my daughter Marie of the county of Gloucestershire in money twenty pounds to be given her when she is of
 the age of sixteen years or at the day of her marriage whiche whiche first Item I give and bequeath
 unto my daughter Jane of the county of Gloucestershire in money twenty pounds to be given her when she is of the age of sixteen
 years or at the day of her marriage whiche whiche first More I give unto my daughter Marie twenty
 pounds to be given her full a year after my decease and if it please God that either of my said two
 daughters doth be before she be married or sixteen years of age then my wife is that she doth have
 the possession full equalit and contentment and be to the longest life of her Item all the rest of my goods and
 chattels moveable and immovable not given nor bequeathed I give and bequeath unto my wife Alice
 of the county of Gloucestershire to make my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament paying my
 debts performing my legacies and discharging my funeral expenses, and if she should for any cause
 my father in law John Everett and my brother Thomas of the county of Gloucestershire and I give to each one of them in money ten
 shillings to be paid to me my last will and testament made and made executed and performed with
 my hand and seal fourteen days first about written this I give unto John of the county of Gloucestershire
 of the county of Gloucestershire by his grace James of the county of Gloucestershire and I give unto my
 said James for his life of the county of Gloucestershire in the presence of the witnesses of John
 I E. Lord I me John Everett of the county of Gloucestershire

Actum in Civitate London die 16 Julii 1622. Coram meo notario publico Thoma de Campden
 Curie prerogative Cantuarie Curie testatum probatum fuit testat. Notarius publicus Thoma de Campden
 meo notario publico Thoma de Campden testatum probatum fuit testat. Notarius publicus Thoma de Campden
 meo notario publico Thoma de Campden testatum probatum fuit testat. Notarius publicus Thoma de Campden

Et in testimonium huiusmodi facti et acti in Civitate London die 16 Julii 1622. Coram meo notario publico Thoma de Campden
 Curie prerogative Cantuarie Curie testatum probatum fuit testat. Notarius publicus Thoma de Campden
 meo notario publico Thoma de Campden testatum probatum fuit testat. Notarius publicus Thoma de Campden
 meo notario publico Thoma de Campden testatum probatum fuit testat. Notarius publicus Thoma de Campden

Brislington, Lacy to Langton.

Son John Ithell, £10 when 21
Son Cyles Ithell, £10 when 21
Son James Ithell, £10 when 21
Son William Ithell, £10 when 21
Daughters Jane and Marie Ithell, £20 each, when 16, or on the day of
their marriages, whichever sooner
All the rest of my goods and chattels, moveable and immoveable to my
wife Alice Ithell, and to be sole executrix.
Overseers, Father in law John Everett, and brother Thomas Ithell, and to
have ten shillings each for their trouble.
Also to son John, "my house by Michells Lane where Lewes Jones,
ropeworker now dwelleth during my sister Alice Kaynes life."
witnesses: the marke of John Everet, John Boulton and the mark of Thomas
Jenkins.

Will proved at Bristol, 3 September 1622.

[BRO]

[It is intriguing that the legacies to the two girls were to be paid
when they were sixteen or married, whichever was first. A girl could be
married at twelve, but generally speaking youthful marriages were rare.
On average women married at around 26 years.

Giles Ithell was baptised at Brislington in 1585, and therefore died
aged 37. We last met him as a young apprentice, and noted that he
married Alice, his master's daughter. Readers of my book "The Simple
Annals of the Poor" will see that being unaware of Giles' death in 1622,
I made the mistake of believing that he was the man of the same name who
was taxed in Brislington in 1641. However, the will confirms that this
Giles, and Thomas, of the sheep pens, whose relationship is shown by a
dotted line on the Family Tree in "Simple Annals" were brothers.

1623

The Gleson family, originally from Suffolk, were this year granted the
right to bear Arms by the Herald's Visitation of Somerset.

Will of John Haines, sailor of Burstleton.

[PCC Folio 102, Swann]

1624, Winter and Spring.

"The settling of John Merryweather". John from Bedminster rented a house
in Brislington. He ignored an order to leave within 20 days, and
managed to stay put two years, at which point, citing "squatters'
rights", Justice Hutton declared he could not be turned out. Brislington
ratepayers appealed at Ilchester in 1624, after which he was at last
sent back to Bedminster.

[SRS QS.21.1.1623/4,6.4.1624]

[Despite this inauspicious beginning, a Merryweather family - though if
descended from John, I cannot say, later became established in
Brislington. Several became churchwardens!]

Will, Timothy Sellwood of Brislington.

[SRO D/D/Ct]



Brislington, Lacy to Langton.

1625

January 18

A marriage licence between William Tibbott of Keynsham, husbandman and Ann Wickham of Brislington, spinster, the wedding to be at Keynsham. The two bondsmen were William Whiting, glover of Wells, and William Gleson of Brislington, gentleman, the bride's brother in law.

[SRO Wells licence, 18.1.1624/5]

Will, Margery Collens, widow, of Brislington.

[SRO D/D/Ct]

1626

May 13

Walter son of John Sampson, yeoman of Brislington, apprenticed to John White, shoemaker and his wife Ann.

[BAR]

Will, John Sampson, husbandman of Brislington.

[SRO D/D/Ct]

1627

April 10

John son of Barthomolomew Seward, *generosus* of Brislington, apprenticed to John Collins, glover and Sarah his wife.

[ibid]

April 27

A marriage licence between William Edmunds, of Kingsweston, Gloucestershire, husbandman, and Joan Pope of Brislington, spinster. "The man hath taken oath that he is 24 years of age and hath lived from his father since he was 21, and hath maintained himself without help from his father." Bondsmen John Hedges of Bristol, weaver and Robert of same. They were married at Brislington on April 29.

[SRO Wells licences, 27.4.1629, PRStLB.]

November 12

William son of William Hill, husbandman of Brislington, apprenticed to James Wathen, pinmaker and his wife Mary.

[BAR]

1627-8, Wells Sessions

Order made for "the settlement of John Maynard, an impotent person of Brislington, that he have lived in the parish for the space of one year, now last past and upwards. Thomas Danyell, one of the overseers refused to provide for him." There were several Maynards living in Brislington, and hopefully one of them managed to put him up.

[SRS QS]

1628

February 2

A marriage licence between Edward Harsell of the City of Bristol, goodsmith [*sic*] & Elizabeth Griffen, widow of Brislington. Bondsmen were Hugh Mead, of Wells, pewterer and Henry Elliott of Bristol, merchant. The marriage was to be at Brislington, but no entry has survived.

[SRO Wells Licences, 5.2.1627/8]

February 12

The Will of John Everett, weaver of Brislington, proved in London.

John Everett sick in body etc left

Ten shillings for a funeral sermon

Thirteen shillings to the Company of Weavers, "at my burial"

Five shillings to the church at Brislington

Brislington, Lacy to Langton.

To my apprentices, Richard Ithell and Anthony Corte, ten shillings apiece

To my servant, Mary Caynes, forty shillings

To Marie Ithell, daughter of Giles Ithell, £10, to be paid at the age of 15 years, and the house where Robert Ithell dwelleth in Temple Street, City of Bristol, three years after my decease. Then three pounds a year to her daughter.

To Jane Ithell, daughter of Giles, £10 at the age of £15, and the house if Marie should die without issue; if Jane should die without issue, then to Katherine her sister.

To Giles Ithell, son of Giles, £5 at age 21

To James Ithell, son of Giles, £5 at age 21, and the house where Anthony Cooke dwelleth in Temple Street, paying 20 shillings apiece to the Company of Weavers.

To William Ithell, son of Giles, £5 at age 21

To Richard Ithell, son of Giles, £5 at age 21

To Robert Ithell, son of Giles, £5 at age 21

To Katherine Ithell, daughter of Robert, £5 at age 18

To Elizabeth Ithell, daughter of Robert, £5 at age 18

I make Marie my wife, and Alice my daughter whole executrices of my goods, and Thomas Ithell of Brislington and Robert Ithell, my son in law, as overseers, and them to have ten shillings apiece for their trouble. More it is my will that the Mayor of Bristol, and father of the orphans shall have nothing to doe with this last will, or any legacies herefrom conveyed.

Signed John Everett. Witnesses Robert Ithell, Richard Hobin.

[BRO Great Orphan Books, Feb 12 1627/8]

It is pleasing that John thought so much of his granddaughters, particularly the eldest to whom he left a house in trust for her own, so far hypothetical, daughter. Alice, his only child, was herself the mother of nine little Ithells, for we see from the will that after Giles' death, she married his brother Robert. Thomas Ithell, her brother in law, crops up again as overseer and even Mary Caynes, the servant may have been a relative, for Alice Caynes, nee Ithell [married to Henry Caynes at Brislington in 1614] was the sister of Giles, Robert and Thomas. Richard Hobin, the witness, may have been Richard Holbin of Brislington, apprenticed to a shearman in 1606.

It must be asked if the Mayor had personally caused offence - or did the City Fathers, willy nilly, impound goods and chattels for the upkeep of the orphans, if not sewed up tightly in a valid testament?

1629

March 19

James son of Jeremy Gray, yeoman of Brislington, apprenticed to Thomas Prestwood, weaver, and his wife Elizabeth. [BAR

In this year, the period of "Personal Rule" began, in which Charles I, believer in the Divine Right of Kings, dispensed with the nuisance of Parliament. At least one Brislington person was outraged enough to speak out:

April 14 - 16

Court in session at Ilchester. "Whereas John Williams is now remaying in his Magesties Gaole at Ivelchester for speaking high and haynous words against the Kings Magestie as this court is enformed and that he hath at the time of his commitment certain moneys and diverse bills and bonds sufficient to relieve him in the time of his durance in prison taken from him by one Andrew Daniel of Busselton, being bayliffe of the soil there, it was thought fitt that Francis Baber, esquire, one of His Mats. justices of the Peace within the county will be pleased to take the same into his consideration and provided they be not embezzled and that John Williams may have reasonable maintenance out of the same during his imprisonment as Mr Baber shall think fitt." [SRS QS]

Unfortunately, there is no note of the exact "high and heinous words" of this malcontent, or what eventually became of him.

1630

May 10

Giles son of John Green, husbandman, late of Brislington, apprenticed to William Johns, tailor, and his wife Jane. [BAR]

June 8

Marriage Licence between Thomas Daniell of Brislington, yeoman, and Susan Deane of the same place, spinster. Bondsmen Roger Dean, husbandman and Henry Westcott, yeoman, both of Brislington. The marriage took place at St Luke's the same day. [SRO Wells Licences 8.6.1630, PRSLB]

August 19

The will of Thomas Daniel proved, with administration granted to his son Thomas. [YBP]

1631

Richard Phillpott the vicar, by now about 97 years old, was replaced by Oliver Chivers, aged 33, "a poor scholar" from Wiltshire, BA, MA [Oxon]. There is no further allusion to Richard's wife or son; nothing about his years of service nor his personal longevity. His death is not recorded at Brislington and I wouldn't be surprised, if he is not still living quietly in some country parsonage.

September 17

A marriage licence issued by the Bishop of Bath and Wells instructs Alice Bradlie "not to marry with any man other than William Daniell, son of Andrew, till the said Daniell be called." They were married the following January 6 ["William Daniell, junior and Alice Bradley, widow"] at St Luke's. The peculiar wording of the licence makes me wonder if perhaps Alice had more than one suitor. There may have been minor outrage too at the lack of a "decent interval". Her late husband's will still awaited probate. [see below] [SRO Wells Licl]

December 8

Edward Smith of Swainswick, near Bath married Susanna Seward, daughter of Bartholomew. [PRStLB]

1632

Religious controversy continued to grow. The extreme Protestants ["Puritans"] demanded a return to a pure form of religion, with an end to ritual and ceremony. Bishops were "the limbs of anti-Christ". Plainness was seen as more godly than show; fasts were to be preferred to feasts. In some parish churches the congregation was promised hellfire and damnation on Sunday afternoons by visiting lecturers. Other communities clung to the old ways, the celebration of local wakes and Church Ales, which commemorated the foundation of the church, in which case, after evensong there was revelry, morris dancing and riotous games. Beer flowed freely.

The prevailing mood was towards the former state. In March, the Somerset Quarter Sessions banned Church Ales.

November 27

Probate of the will of Bartholomew Bradley of Brislington was granted to his widow, Alice, who was now Mrs William Daniel. [YBP]

1633

The King openly defied Puritanism by going some way to reinstate Sunday merriment, albeit of the "decent and sober" kind, by issuing a "Declaration of Sports" which were allowed after service on Sunday evenings.

September 17 - 19

Coal which had been mined in Brislington at least since the previous century, was carried into Bristol in the saddlebags of strings of packhorses, which churned up the simple unmetalled tracks.

Quarter Sessions at Bridgwater:

"Whereas the highways within the parish of Brislington are of late years become very foundrous and in decaye by means of the great resorte of colliers with their horses to certaine cole pitts there...and whereas the grate charge for repaying the said waies is wholly imposed upon the occupiers of certain howses being but a third part of the parish who have been lately presented at the Quarter Sessions for the decaye of the said waies, a charge which may equally arrise upon the whole parish."

Sir Francis Popham Kt, John Harrington and Francis Baber, or any two of them were to investigate and present their results at the next sessions.

[SRS QS]

Sir Francis Popham, Member of Parliament - a presently redundant position - with an estate worth £10,000 a year was one of the wealthiest men in the county. He still owned the living at Brislington.

1634

April 15 - 17

Somerset Sessions at Ilchester. The three justices said they had been too busy to deal with the Brislington order to oversee road repairs. They were requested to present their findings at the next sessions.

[ibid]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

June 15

Thomas Clements, the son of John and Agnes was christened, an event in its way as noteworthy as the christening of John Macy in 1566, for this was the first time that the mother's name, excepting illegitimacy, was recorded along with the father's. [PRStLB]

This may be a clue to the vicar, Oliver Chivers' position in the current debate. Puritans believed that a woman existed in her own right, and not simply as an adjunct to the nearest man, hence the power, slightly later, of Quaker and Baptist women, who sometimes preached.

July 14

Oliver Chivers who was also curate at Queen Charlton, took an inventory of the church fabric there. Perhaps St Luke's was similar:

"In the chancell, community table and rayles. A Broad Borney tablecloth and a linnen tablecloth, both faire and fringed. A faire broad clothe for the communion table. A Communion Cupp and cover, silver, partely gilded. A pewter flagon and plate for the bread and wine. A faire surplis for the minister.

"In the bodie of the Church, two seates, one for the minister, th'other for the Clarke, a faire wainscott pulpit with a silck cushion and two chests, a beear, a table for degree, a stone with a faire covering.

and the Books:

"A faire Bible of the last edition.

Two common prayer books.

Bishop Jewells works, the Book of Homelies

A Book of Cannons and Injunctions.

A Book of Statutes made 3rd Jacobe 1606

Prayers for the 5 November and the 5 August

Three more books for the Plauge tyme, and for fasting, and for thanksgiving uppon delivery from the Pestilence.

"An old bottle for wine, and a case to keep the Communion Cup in."

Note that the congregation stood, apart from the minister and his clerk. The very aged or infirm were perhaps allowed to lean against the stone with a covering.

Oliver may have been preparing to move to Queen Charlton, for William Bourne became our vicar in 1635.

September 30 - October 2

Somerset Sessions at Bridgwater. The court was fed up with Popham & Harrington, and appointed a revised committee to look into the matter of the Brislington highways, Thomas Smyth, Francis Baber, William Cappell and Anthony Stocker. They were also to report to the court with regard to the yearly payment by Brislington parish to the poor of Pensford.

[SRS QS]

[Why there should be a connection between Brislington and Pensford is a mystery to me.]

October

The King, still ruling without Parliament, was financially strapped. To raise funds he introduced "Ship Money". The Somerset seaports, with Bristol and Gloucestershire, collected enough to provide a vessel of 800 tons. Charles was flushed with success.

1635

November 7

Administration of the effects of Mary Raydon, spinster of Brislington granted to her mother, Ann Feere, alias Raydon. [PCCAdmons,1631-48,p139]

The King extended the collection of Ship Money to inland districts. This was a most unpopular move. In the wider theatre, John Hampden refused to pay. "Village Hampdens" like Andrew Kaines and Samuel Mogges of Brislington followed suit.

1636

But first, Samuel Mogges was in the news when Elizabeth Stevens brought a suit for defamation of character against him. In June, James Feare claimed he had been defamed by Joan Hill, and in her turn, Joan accused the vicar, William Bourne. I have been unable to discover the nature of these complaints! [SRO 34L Consist Text of Abstracts,[47]]

30 July

Andrew Kaines was reported by Samuel Tillie, the parish clerk, for not paying his tithes. [ibid]

October

Charles I issued another writ for Ship Money. The people of Somerset were amongst the worst payers in the country.

1637

Court at Wells. Brislington was to be relieved and discharged from its payment of "fower shillings", the accents echoing across the centuries, per year for the relief of the poor of Pensford, previously imposed during "the time of sickness" which may have been plague. [SRS QS]

Samuel Mogges refused his part in the upkeep of the highways, and was taken to court by Nicholas Cowling, the overseer. Samuel was ordered to do the work himself, or pay someone else to do it. Cowling said Mogges, who was constable of the Hundred of Keynsham, had annoyed him and "divers others of the inhabitants of Brislington", with regard to the payment of Ship Money.

Mention of the detested tax aroused the attention of the judiciary. Samuel called a public meeting, and the whole thing got out of hand, with tragic consequences.

April 18 - 21

Ilchester Sessions. "Whereas there was an indictment preferred at these sessions against Samuel Mogge, William Daniell, Laurence Keynes, Will Sellwood, Raynold Matthews and John Archer, all of Brislington, for an unlawful assembly at Brislington aforesaid, which indictment was not found. And for that the court was told that there was a boy there killed

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in the said assembly, whereupon the partyes were continued to the next sessions. And for that it was alledged that the boy was not killed by any of their company or by means of that assembly. John Harrington esquire to examine the truth of the Business and to certify the same at the next sessions." [SRS QSI]

"The truth of the business" has not been located, at least not by me. I have found nothing else about the boy who died, for no burial register survives for this period.

At the same sessions, Roger Merryweather, perhaps the son of John the squatter, who had been bound parish apprentice to Thomas Daniell was to be freed and discharged from his apprenticeship. No reason is recorded. [ibid]

A parish apprenticeship should not be confused with the apprenticeships of the civic rolls. A master was paid a small reward for taking a poor orphan off the rates and into his employment. The work was generally of the most menial kind. The most famous (fictional) parish apprentice was Oliver Twist, several centuries later.

1638

April 16

The will of Elizabeth White, widow of Brislington, was proved by her son George. [YBP]

September 26

Rev William Bourne was buried at Brislington. He was succeeded by Robert Bacon.

November 30

Arthur Brooke of Brislington, yeoman leased land in Redcliffe Mead, in the parishes of Bedminster and Redcliffe to John Weekes, also of Brislington, husbandman. [BRO 6609(4)b]

December 10

Robert Bacon, incumbent for less than a year, made good use of his short time at Brislington by looking into the situation of the glebe lands as Richard Phillipott had done before him:

"A true note or Terrier of all the Glebe Lands, meadows, pasture, grounds, gardens, orchards, houses, yards and other commoditys which are held and taken to belong to Improprate Parsonage and enjoyed time out of mind by the curate or Minister there.

"The Parsonage is said to be held by Sir Francis Popham, Knight and hath a fayre house, a large barn and outhousing, yards, garden and orchard and lands, meadows and pasture grounds thereunto belonging, being of good value esteemed to be a yard land and a half and the tythe corn of the whole parish.

"The curate or Minister have heard of our Predicissors all Privy Teythes within the Parish of Easterbrook according to the customs of the parish and hath also a small dwelling house containing two rooms below and two above with a little garden and a yard before the house and the Herbage

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of the church yard. The House hath been long under propped whereby it seems the wall is faulty.

"Item. We neither know of have heard that any portions of tythes out of this parish are either due to the impropriate parsonage or curate or hath been received or claimed by either of them.

"Robert Bacon, Minister
Tho *Jl* Ithell churchwarden

his marke [now numbered among the great and good - youthful indiscretions apparently forgotten]

Nicholas Cowling churchwarden."

[P/StLB/V/21]

[Whither Easterbrook?]

1639

From this year Brislington had no vicar of its own, but was held jointly with Keynsham by Thomas Codrington, BA, MA, [Oxon], aged 26, son of Richard Codrington of Doddington. In common with most other towns and villages in the land, parish register entries dwindled, reflecting the dangerous nature of the times. The church itself was under attack and we owe the survival of the first register to the foresight and courage of an unknown churchman or woman who rescued and hid it until more certain times should come again.

January 28

The will of Bartholomew Seward, gentleman of Brislington was proved by Susanna his widow ["relict"]. He left £10 each to his daughters Joan and Elizabeth, and mentioned his son John who had been apprenticed to a Bristol glover in 1627. There was no note of his daughter Susanna who was married to Edward Smith in 1631, and who therefore may have died in the interim, or of Bartholomew's other children baptised at Brislington.

[ASW YBP]

April 5

Benjamin son of William Bourne, clerke, and Aalice, baptised. [PRStLB]

Alice and her two boys, the second born seven months after his father's death must have left the parish. They are heard of no more.

May 6

Bargain and Sale, concerning land in Redcliffe Mead, Redcliffe Pit and Bedminster, Arthur Brooke and John Weekes of Brislington to Thomas Smyth of Long Ashton.

[BRO 6609(4)c]



Brislington, Lacy to Langton

Local constables continued in their thankless task of attempting to raise taxes.

1641

Lay Subsidy Roll. A list of Brislington taxpayers.

Nicholas Cowling	L 1	Eleanor Gliston, wid,	L 1
Giles Ithell &		George White &	L 1
Henry Westfield	L 1	John White	
Henry Vaughan, gent	L 2	Samuel Mogge	L 1
& Henry Leonard		William Atwood	L 1
William Cottrell	L 1	Henry Dike &	L 1
William Tibbotts	L 1	Thomas Selwood	
John Collins	L 1	Richard Hall &	L 1
Arthur Sanders	L 2	Robert Blanch	
Susan Seward, wid	L 2	Thomas Ithell	L 1
John Brock &		Toby Pope	L 1
John Cocke	L 1	Thomas Daniell	L 1
John Feere	L 1		

Total collected was £8.16.0d. L = Taxed on lands. Nobody in Brislington, it seems, was wealthy enough to be taxed on their goods. Tax payable was eight shillings in the pound, which seems pretty steep.

1641

December 24

Giles Ithell and Alice West married at Keynsham.

[KPR]

1642

To the incredulity of the majority, and "by one accident after another", the country slid into civil war between those who felt that the king could be trusted to rule, and those who believed restraints should be placed upon him. Religious conservatives, who opposed radical reform of the Church of England sided with the king's party against the Puritans who wanted it abolished altogether.

On 23 October 1642, the armies of King and Parliament faced each other at Edgehill.

Of Brislington during the years of the conflict, we know almost nothing. We can conjecture that in addition to the normal perpetual struggle of finding enough to eat was added the compulsory burden of providing for the troops of whichever side was locally in the ascendant. Fields and livestock were very likely plundered by marauding bands. Sons and husbands left home, seduced into taking up a "life of adventure" as soldiers. [From the fact that they were pensioned after the Restoration, we know that several local men joined up on the King's side.] In the opposing camp sat Robert Westfield, a Puritan zealot, who later on, in the Commonwealth period was Brislington's sequestration officer.

Bristol, where the majority of the citizens were indifferent, [the exceptions being a number of Royalist plotters, of whom two were executed, and the fanatical Puritan women who were willing to "dead the

bullets" of the King's Army with their bodies and those of their children], was twice taken by force. The city was occupied successively by both sides. To add to the woe, plague visited several times during the period.

1643

September 18

Francis Maunsell, son of Richard of Busselton, buried at Keynsham. [KPR]

December 11

The inventory of Robert Ithell, of Temple, weaver, deceased, gives an interesting insight into the wardrobe of the well dressed artisan:

Two paires of Breeches		
Two doublets	Three Shirts	
Two cloakes	Six Bands	
Two hatts	Two must caps	
Three Paire of Jerkins	One paire of Bootes	[BRO]

1644

14 October, "in the 20th year of Charles", agreement between Henry Vaughan of Caldicott in Monmouth, and Henry Leonard of Brislington, yeoman, for the lives of Henry Leonard, and his children, Henry and Hannah. (Sealed in the presence of William Attwood, Henry Westfield, Israel Philpott, Henry Green.) [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/11]

Meanwhile, the King's cause was going badly.

1645

Royalist Army crushed at Naseby.

1646

Charles I surrendered to the Scots.

1647

Charles I handed over to Parliament.

1648

New Model Army defeated Scots and Royalists.

Despite Robert Westfield [see below], Thomas Codrington, the vicar Brislington shared with Keynsham, managed to ride out the religious storm, for unlike many priests, he was apparently not dispossessed. [For instance, during the second Roundhead occupation of Bristol, the Bishop, Dr Howell, refused to quit. His house was attacked and the lead stripped from the roof, leaving the occupants exposed to the elements. Mrs Howell died in childbirth, and her husband followed after a few months, leaving ten orphaned children.] Thomas Codrington's children were baptised at Keynsham between 1648-57. I regret to say that before 1656, he ignores the part of his wife in the proceedings, and describes the children as son or daughter of Mr Thomas Codrington. In March 1656, to our surprise, their latest baby, Mary, is "daughter of Mr Thomas and Mrs Hannah Codrington". The next child, Penelope, 1657, is "daughter of Mr Thomas and Mrs Codrington."

1649

Charles I executed. Cromwell in Ireland.

Administration of the estate of John Gunninge of Brislington, granted to his widow Margaret. [ASW]

1650

George Parphrey of Brislington alias Busseton widower and Dennis Wall, of Wells, widow, married at St Cuthbert's Wells. [PR]

December 5

Deed, between John Lacy, esquire, of Shipton under Wychwood and Richard Pope of Brislington, basketmaker, in respect of a cottage and tenement near the bridge held by William Sellwood, blacksmith, for the lives of Richard Pope, Ann Pope his wife and Thomas Pope his brother. Signed in the presence of Aaron Ithell, Robert Bennett, Charles Bransby.

[SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/3]

1651

Battle of Worcester. Cromwell master of all England.

1652

January 13

Assignment of a lease to land in Brislington from Thomas Jones to John Bissicke. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/7 1651/2]

The Baptist Church in Bristol, which had broken from the Church of England in 1640, with a small meeting at Mr Hazard's, [his wife Dorothy had been one of the women prepared to throw herself on the Royalist guns], had already split into several factions. From the Annals of the Broadmead group in this year, news of a Brislington man:

"One of the members, Thomas Munday desired to goe and joyne himself to the other church in Bristoll that were all baptized, having one Henry Hynam for their teacher." "Divers reasonings" could not change his mind and he was given liberty to depart. Brother Munday was received into the Pithay Baptists in 1653. [RCC]

Pot sherds bearing the date 1652 have been excavated at St Annes, indicating that that a pottery was in operation on the site from at least this time. [Pountney]

1653

Cromwell Lord Protector of England.

Lease, Rowland Lacy, esquire, Lord of the Manor of Brislington, of Shipton under Wychwood to Thomas Hort, alias Blacker of Brislington, yeoman. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/4]

December 1

Lease from Rowland Lacy to Thomas Jones of Brislington, husbandman, regarding land late in the tenure of Lawrence Webb, blacksmith in the lives of Thomas Blanch, Joane his wife and Richard Byfield, the son of Joane. Mentioned also: Thomas Hall, Alice Hall widow, Dorothy Maynard.

[ibid]

1654

The Society of Friends came to Bristol. They were known derisively as "Quakers" because their leader George Fox preached of trembling before the sight of God. Their belief is that every individual has direct communication with God who will guide him into the ways of Truth. Robert Westfield, a St Anne's potter was "one of the first that received the Truth" and passionately so. He was soon followed by other Brislington people.

Lease of a cottage "new and latelie built in 1616" on the waste ground divided in two by Rowland Lacy, and granted to Thomas Sellwood of Brislington, labourer. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67B/5]

Will of John Collins, yeoman.

[PCC Fol 248]

January 20

Sarah the daughter of Thomas and Ann Munday was born at Brislington.

[PRStLB]

1655

September 9

Robert Westfield went into the church at Keynsham today, "the Lord's Day and turning himself to the congregation said 'I charge you in the name of God to leave off your false worship.' Then addressing Mr Fossett, the preacher, and Mr Codrington, the minister, he further charged them in the name of the Lord to leave off seducing the people, adding many more words to the same effect." [XLI SRS Vol 28, QS in the Commonwealth]

September 20

Strict rules were applied regarding ale houses. On this day, a licence was issued to Joan Daniel. Keeping a public house was one of the few careers open to women, yet clearly licences were much more usually granted to males, for on the common form all the way through she is described "he".

"Wee whose names are subscribed, Justices of the Peace for this County doe hereby Lycence and allow Joan Daniel of Brislington in the same County, widow, to keepe a Common Alehowse and victualling in the howse where he now dwelleth for one whole year next ensuing the date hereof and noe longer for that he suffer noe unlawfull games or other ill unto or order to be used or kept in or neere his howse but shall well and truly observe all and any of the Articles hereunder written under our hands and seales this xxth Day of September 1655.

ffirst he shall not suffer any person [not being a traveller or of his family] to be and remaine in his howse upon the Lord's Day or dayes of publique humiliation or thanksgiving.

2. he shall not suffer any of his neighbours children or Apprentices or servants to be at any tyme in his howse.
3. he shall not suffer any person whatsoever to be drunk in his howse or to continue typling at any time contrary to the Law nor after nine of the Clock at night.

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4. he shall not entertaine or harbour any vagrant, idle or suspicious persons nor receive any goods offered by such to be sold but shall forthwith acquaint the officer with the same.
5. he shall offer and sell a full Ale quart of the best Ale or beere for a penny and two Quarts of the small for a penny and soe after the same rate and that by lawfull measure.
6. he shall not refuse to sell his Drink out of Doores to his neighbours of the poorer sort at the prices aforesaid.
7. Lastly he shall from time to time informe the next Justice of the Peace as of all such as [to his knowledg] shall sell Ale or Beere without Lycence.

Ric: Jones
Rob: Long.
[SRO]

Michaelmas

"Whereas there was lately a child found under a roof in Bufsleton in the County of Somerset, and is supposed borne at the Blackmore's Head, in Turkey Street, in this City....it is ordered that it shall be maintained by the parish of Bufsleton and half charge to St Thomas parish."
[BRO 04447(1) Sessions Book, 1653-71]

Neither child nor mother is identified. For certain she was not Katherine Seymore, for she killed her baby, and was sentenced to death by hanging at the same sessions. Katherine's former lover, the child's supposed father was sentenced to three months and to provide sureties for his future good conduct.

1656

Cottage or tenement, late Webbs, conveyed from Rowland Lacy to Thomas Munday of Brislington. quarryman.
[SRO DD/GL,111]

Lease, Rowland Lacy to John Lansdowne of Brislington, rough mason.

[SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/6]

May 26

"Israel Glesson executor of Alice Glesson, deceased, complaineth against Richard Cause in a plea of debt upon the demand of threescore pounds. The defendant bayled the 29th May. Compainant withdrew: witness his hand, Is: Gleson. Israel also claimed against Christopher Hollister in respect of "threescore pounds" and then withdrew this claim too.

[BRO,04412 - Pie Poudre Court Books]

November 8

Assignment between two St Anne's potters, John Bissicke to Robert Bennett of land at Brislington he had from Thomas Jones in 1651. Presumably with the proceeds, John Bissicke and his wife Ann bought a small tenement from Rowland Lacy.

[SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/7]

1657

Will of Tobias Pope, yeoman.

[PCC Fol 177]

May 3

"Messuage or Tenement commonly known as St Annes Chappell with a garden and bankside thereunto adjoining being within the parish of Brislington

Whose whose names are subscribed Justices of the Peace
 for this County do hereby License and allow George
 Darnell - of Brighthelm in the same County to
 keep a common alehouse and victualling in the town of
 Northwold now divided for and which you do not dissenting
 the said license and not longer for that he suffer or not
 unlawful games or other ill words or order to be kept or
 kept in or near his house, but shall still and duly
 observe all and every the Articles hereunder written down
 under our hands and Seals this 27th day of September
 1550

- 1 First he shall not suffer any person (not being a Christian
 nor of his family) to be and remain in his house upon the
 Lords day or dayes of publiquē humilitacion or thanksgiving.
- 2 He shall not suffer any of his Neighboures Children apprentices
 or servants to be at any tyme in his house -
- 3 He shall not suffer any person what so ever to be drunk in his
 house or to continue sleeping at any tyme contrary to the law
 nor after midnight of the clock at night -
- 4 He shall not entertaine or harbour any vagrant, idle or
 suspicious persons nor receive any goods offered by such
 to be sold but shall forthwith acquaint the officer with the same.
- 5 He shall sell and sell a full old quart of the best ale or
 Beere for a penny and two quarts of the same for a penny
 and sell after the same rate, and that by lawfull mensu-
 re.
- 6 He shall not refuse to sell his drink out of house to his
 Neighboures of the poorer sort at the prices aforesaid -
- 7 Lastly he shall from tyme to tyme informe the next Justice
 of the Peace of all such as (to his knowledge) shall sell
 ale or Beere without License.

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Li. Jones
R. L. M.



Inside a Country Alehouse [Bagford Ballads]



with lands, meadows, pastures, orchards, gardens, etc", sold by Sir Rowland Lacy of Shipton under Wychwood to George White, a Bristol draper and John Willoughby, a merchant. The chapel was previously occupied by Robert Blanch, and now by his widow. The sale included "the pill, with a meadow to the passageway there adjoining" [St Anne's Ferry perhaps?] "called Elme Hayes, with a water mill and all streams of water connected to it". [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/8]

May 8

Sale of land at Brislington, including Game's tenement, by Rowland Lacy to Robert Bennett. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/7]

May 11

Sale by Aaron Ithell to John Bissicke of meadow land called "The Moore". [ibid]

September 7

We eavesdrop on a small group of Brislington people who have left us a fascinating account of trouble in their lives as told in an "examination of James Provis, Ann Pope, Joan Bungy, Elizabeth Peasley and Thomas Peasley, tithingman, all of Brislington, by Robert Long concerning the theft of sheaves of corn from Ann Pope in July":

"James Provis said he was a servant to his grandmother Ann Pope. Finding there were several of her sheaves of corn missing he went to the tythingman to complain, and they found in the house of William Bungie, labourer, two dozen and seven of wheat sheaves lying over the bedstead. He believed it was the wheat stolen from his grandmother's and demanded of Joane, the wife of William Bungie how they came to be there. She say'd her children brought them home and he asked her then where her husband was, and she answered that he was gone into Wiltshire to find work.

"Ann Pope, also examined said that on July 7th last she went with the tythingman to look for wheat stolen from her close and they, coming to the house of Robert Peasley, labourer, to search for the sheaves, Elizabeth wife of Robert Peasley say'd that she did fetch these wheat sheaves out of the close and had carried three sheaves unto William Stevens house, unto the other corn, meaning the two dozen and seven sheaves taken out of the house of Joane Bungie and carried by the tythingman and James Provis, and put in the house of William Stevens. And that she Elizabeth Peasley, did say that Joane Bungie did tempt and intice her to go along with her and after much persuasion she was drawn to go along with her, the say'd Joane Bungie, and a boy of Joane's to steal the corn. And Elizabeth begged of this examinant to be good unto her, for if her Husband should know, he would even kill her for it.

"Thomas Peasley, tythingman of Brislington taken upon oath said that going with Ann Pope, widow, to the house of Robert Peasley to search for some sheaves of corn stolen from Ann Pope, he heard Elizabeth Peasley say 'Pray Gammer Pope forgive me and I will never do so more, for if my husband should know of it, he would even kill me', and the say'd Ann Pope replys, 'I forgive you with all my heart.'

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

"Examination of Elizabeth, wife of Robert Peasley, taken September 8th who denies she confessed any such words to Ann Pope, save that she had no hand in stealing the corn.

"Examination of Joan Bungy, who saith that her young children going to lease corne in the fields they brought home certain sheaves of wheat with them and they told her the sheaves were give to them and she took them and laid them over the bedstead.
[[Signed] Robert Long."

[SRO Q/SR 95 III]

And there it ends. It does not tell us the outcome, but it does tell us a great deal about our people. We do not know if James Provis was illiterate, but he was certainly not innumerate, able to count in dozens, to tell immediately the exact number of sheaves which were missing from his grandmother's harvest. The wheat seems to have been taken to one barn, William Stevens'. Was this the tithe barn where everybody's harvest was taken? We may also note that three of the main characters were husbandless women.

First, the widowed "Gammer" or Grandmother Pope, a farmer in her own right, whose daughter Mary had married Thomas Provis in 1623. James, who worked for his grandmother was an offspring of this marriage, baptised in 1636, making him 19 at the time of the incident.*

Joan's family, variously Bungie, Bungy, Bungay, make no appearance in the parish register until the baptism of Mary daughter of William and Mary in 1678. Whether this is Joan's husband with a new wife, or a later generation, it is not possible to say. It is clear however that Joan must have been having a very difficult time, coping with two or three children as a single parent, whilst her husband was away in Wiltshire. From her testimony, we know it was current for children, and probably women too, to glean in the fields. Poor Joan may have been as Ruth amid the alien corn, but less lucky.

And what of Elizabeth, who changed her tune? She too was alone, and awaited in fear and trembling for her spouse's return. [It was quite lawful for a man to beat his wife, provided the stick was no more in circumference than his thumb, and it did not annoy the neighbours.] From the parish register we know that Robert was aged 26, and that he and Elizabeth had a two year old daughter Sarah who had been baptised at St Luke's. Later I shall suggest a reason for his absence. He, significantly in view of this later information, commenced to baptise further children from 1662, but as his wife is not named, it is not possible to discover whether these are also Elizabeth's. Thomas, the tithingman, aged 24, [baptised 1633], was Elizabeth's brother in law, which to say the least must have caused both considerable embarrassment.

Robert Long was the same Justice who issued Joan Daniel's Alehouse licence in 1655.

1658

January 7

"Evidence of John Browning of Queen Charlton that on January 3, he saw John Milkins of Bristilton carry a hand gun under his cloak and

*James PROVOST [sic] married Jane Wickes 23 April 1663 at St Luke's,

presently he shot it off and ran to take up a bird. The said Milkins being examined declined to say ought thereunto. Before Robert Long."

[SRS QS Jan 1657/8]

September 3

Oliver Cromwell, devastated by the death of his favourite daughter, and utterly worn out, died. He had nominated his son Richard to succeed, but Richard, nicknamed Tumbledown Dick preferred the life of a country gentleman, and who can blame him? The canting piety of the Puritans who had the ear of the ruling party had already begun to provoke discontent. Theatres were closed, sports forbidden. [The suppression of wicked blood sports, such as bear baiting and cock fighting, itself an excellent thing, was not due to any sympathy with the abused animals, but on the grounds that enjoyment was sinfull. For a time even Christmas itself was abolished. This was probably the last straw. The country began to look once again towards a monarch, provided he did not rule without Parliament, and there was no persecution of Puritans.

November 29

James Cogin of Brislington became an indentured servant to Francis Parsons in Barbados for three years.

[Bristol Servants to Foreign Plantations, 1654-1686]

This is the first mention of the name of a later well known Brislington family, the Coggins.

In this year, Robert Collins, a potter, husband of Mary Provis, the sister of James, who now lived at Queen Charlton, purchased a two acre field called Little Moor, bounded on one side by the Avon river and on the other by Ram's Cliff, which later became the site of Bees's Tea Gardens. Pountney says this land was for withy beds which would supply packaging for his fragile products, all of which had to be transported by pack horse.

Deed of exchange issued between Rowland Lacy and Israel Gleson in respect of land in the West Field. [SRO DD/GL/21]

December 20

Last will and testament of Robert Bennett of Brislington, gallypot maker mentions:

Wife Alice.

Sons Robert and John, under 21

Daughter Mary, under 18

Brother John

Sister Elizabeth Morgan; her son William Morgan and her three daughters Robert mentions ownership of four tenements, one let to Henry Keynes, one to John Game, a third in reversion to Em Farthing and the last "the tenement I now dwell in, lately in occupation of William Browne."

Robert Westfield and William Baugh were appointed overseers; Thomas Byam and John Biswicke were witnesses.

The will was proved by Alice Bennett, the relict and sole executrix, December 9, 1659. Alice later married Solomon Huntingdon, a Bristol mariner, but appears to have carried on the Brislington pottery.

1659

Robert Wastfield issued "A True Testimonial of faithful Witnesses Recorded.....wherein the wicked designs and cruel practices of several of the rulers, priests and people in the County of Summerset are plainly discovered by those who are numbered amongst those persecuted, imprisoned and reproachfully called Quakers. Also a few words to magistrates, priests and people that they may take warning....by a follower of the Lamb in the war against the beast, and the false prophet....." and so on and on. [Som Bibliography Bath Ref Lib]

[The Quakers rejected Calvinist teachings which basically said that God had already made up his mind who was bound for heaven and who wasn't. Their anti-authoritarian views - they refused to take off their hats to anyone, and called other people 'thee' and 'thou' regardless of class - upset Parliament.]

Deed between Roland Lacy, Samuel Clement of Bristol, salter and Thomas Birkoff of the same, grocer on the one hand, and a roll call of Brislington [male] tenantry on the other:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Nicholas Cowling | Israel Gleson | William Baugh |
| Beyam Hartwell | Richard Gray | William Tibbett |
| Robert Bennett | John Biswick | Charles Jones |
| George White | William Crabb | Richard Pope, ropemaker |
| Thomas Daniell | Thomas Ithell | Richard Pope, basketmaker |
| George Feare | Aaron Ithell | Henry Kaines |
| Thomas Heathcott | Thomas Mundy | Anthony Cork |
| Thomas Phelps | Richard Green | Richard Crabb |
| Lawrence Bricker | William Paine | John Kinge |
| | Thomas Peaslie | |

In respect of sundry messuages.

[SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/11]

August 9

Lease of a withy bed by John Bissicke to George Huntington.

[SRO DD/BR/W67/7]

October 22

John Bissicke, potter of Brislington, originally came from London. His last will and testament:

Ann, his wife, to be sole executrix.

loving friends, Nicholas Cowling and William Baugh.

Two acres of The Moore bought from Henry Kaines to Richard Bissicke, his kinsman, a potter in Southwark, Surrey. In event of Richard's death to another London kinsman, William Shelton, a tailor.

The messuage in occupation of Richard Milkins to Elizabeth Shelton, William's daughter

The meadow, 1½ acres of The Moore, bought from Aaron Ithells, where John Rollins dwells, to wife Ann

Alice Bennett to have the tenement held by Em Farthing, but to give wife Ann Bissicke £5.

Apart from small bequests to William Morgan and Thomas Byam, the remainder to various kin of the Bissicke and Shelton families.

Witnesses Israel Gleson, Richard Tony, Roger Roydon, Thomas Hartwell.

The will was proved April 4, 1660.

1660

February 7

The copyhold purchased by Robert Collins, potter, from Rowland Lacy. "heretofore in the tenure of Alice Pope, widow", supplies interesting field names:

The Orchard Garden and Backside [1 acre]
Batchy Lease [1½ acres]
Paddock [1 acre]
Quabby Lease [2 acres]
Longfurlong [1½ acres]
Wetlands in the Westfield [½ acre]
Lowerhaverland [2 acres]
Middlehaverland in the Westfield [½ acre]

March 20

Mordecai Boadone married Susan, the daughter of Anthony and Alice Sanders. This was the first wedding at St Luke's since April 13, 1640. It is a sign of the changes that were now almost complete that it was not necessary to wait for the next event:

May 29

Charles II landed at Dover on his thirtieth birthday. The monarchy was restored, along with the Anglican church. All those who would not join were called "non conformists" or "dissenters", and among these were the old Puritans, like Calvinists, Presbyterians and Baptists, and the newer Quakers. Anglicanism became the state religion and socially associated with the upper classes, the lady and gentleman of the manor seated in their special pew, with the body of the congregation made up of their dependents, farmers and labourers. Dissenters took pride in their independence, appointed their own ministers, and their meeting houses belonged to themselves. They were not necessarily poor artisans, and some became very wealthy indeed. Whilst non-conformity was mostly confined to towns, many villages, like our own had pockets of Baptists and Quakers.

1661

December 12

Thomas Ithell, Brislington, yeoman, bondsman at the wedding of John Harding and Sara Tovey. [BMLB]

December 19

Richard Milkins of Brislington married Priscilla Allen [died 1675] of same. Quaker Marriage, Somerset North Division. [Q1]

1662

January 24

Marriage licence, William Daniell of Brislington, farmer and Elizabeth Bowles of Nayle, Wiltshire; marriage to be at St Marks, alias le Gaunts, Bristol. [BMLB 1661/2]

June 26

...and between John Baldwin of St Nicholas, pewterer and Ann Heathcott of Brislington. [Bondsman Thomas A'deane, Bristol, clothworker.] [BMLB]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

1664

April 11

....and William Sarten aged 27, husbandman and Elizabeth Taylor, 34, both of Brislington. The wedding to be at Brislington or St Cuthbert's Wells. Bondsman Richard Peasley of Brislington, coalminer and Thomas Coram of Wells, innholder. [SRO Wells licences 1636-76]

May 26

....and William Whitton of Bristleton, tailor and Martha Cottle of Dundry. Bondsman John Whitton of Bristleton. The marriage took place at St Augustine's, Bristol, the same day, the groom "of Busleton". [BMLB]

October 10

....and finally Roger Earle, basketmaker and Ann Pope, both of Bristleton; to be at St Augustine's. [ibid]

1666

January 9

Order to Thomas Daniel and Arthur Brook, Brislington, churchwardens, to distrain certain persons who have refused to pay their contributions to the hospitals and maimed soldiers. [SRS QS Vol IV]

December 27

Ann Bissicke, widow, had moved from St Anne's to Bristol, and left a rather sad will. I can't help thinking she would have been happier if she and John had been blessed with children.

She left bequests to her kin, members of the Shelton family, of property in Brislington, including The Moore where Alice Bennett lived, and a house where Thomas Watts dwelt. To Edward Crofts, a Redcliffe potter went her great Household Bible and a chest of drawers. To his wife Mary a little book called "The Sanctuary of the Troubled soule" with a "gold deathes head ring" to his daughter.

1667

February 17

Roger Amrie and Joyce Rice of Brislington married at Keynsham. [KPR]

May 10

Marriage licence, Robert Bennett, the son of Robert and Alicel, of Bristleton, gallipotmaker and Sarah Cole of Temple; at St Thomas, Bristol. On June 9, Robert became a free burgess of Bristol by reason of his marriage to Sarah, who was the daughter of James Cole, a free burgess. [BMLB. BB]

June 5

Robert Collins bought half an acre of meadow ground called Seaven Swarths, formerly occupied by Alice Phelps, from Rowland Lacy. It will not have gone unnoticed that Rowland had been selling off bits of Brislington for years. Now in this year, he sold the manor itself to Ezekiel Langton, a Bristol merchant.

1668

July 31

Quaker meeting: Attendance of Friends from Brislington and Keynsham at a meeting held at Ilchester.

James Pearce	Giles Broad	Thomas Goodhinde
Richard Milkins	John Cowling	Tobias Daniell
Mathias Nutt	John Doggett	John Wythers
William Milkins	Samuel Lydeate	John Pinkard
Roger Water	John Nutt	Robert Westfield.

[SQM]

September 26

Alice Huntington, the widow of the late Solomon Huntington, a mariner, and previously the widow of Robert Bennett, potter of Brislington, made her will, leaving her son John Bennett, a new house in the Marsh in King Street, Bristol, and "a little meadow", one acre in Brislington called Yohens Mead for life. Forty pounds was to be put by until he should complete his apprenticeship. Additionally he was to receive the best featherbed from the Brislington house, a pair of sheets and other bedding, a "brasir" pot, and "the soyle that lieth by the barn to be bestowed on the same ground where it lieth." Mary Biss, her daughter received a house in Temple Street, formerly belonging to Solomon Huntington and a pair of dowlais sheets.

She left three pounds to Robert Westfield and Richard Milkins and the same amount to William Fourd, of Bristol, sergeweaver, to be "bestowed amongst Poor Friends - that is Quakers - and twenty shillings to the poor of Brislington.

The workfolk at the Pottery were not forgotten. Thomas Pope received £3, Edward Mearn and John Mearn, 20 shillings each, and Nathaniel Hix, ten shillings. Apprentice Philip Hix, twenty shillings.

All the rest of the "houses, leases, lands and tenements" to Robert Bennett, her son, himself a potter.

"Wellbeloved Friends" Robert Westfield, John Woodards and Richard Milkins, to be overseers. The mark of Alice Huntington was witnessed by Anthony Woodard and John Allen. [PRO Prob 11/328]

1669

William and John Purdue of Bristol cast five bells for the Bell Tower at St Luke's. [The treble was added in 1874.]

March 21

Tobias Provisse of Queen Charlton [baptised Brislington 1627, and the brother of James Provis and Mary Collins], sold to his brother in law Robert Collins, a parcel of land, one acre, called Little Moore, formerly in the copyhold of Andrew Daniel and occupied by Tobias Pope; a tenement called Eastwood and a ground called Ramscliff....[BRO 3583 (2)]

April 21

Robert Peasley was admitted to a pension of 40/- yearly in place of Sidracke Gillet, certified by Sir Thomas Bridges and Thomas Piggott, esquire. [SRS 34 QS Vol IV]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

[This must be Robert, the husband of Elizabeth who was involved with the wheat in 1657. Robert had been absent then with his wife obviously fending for herself. Had he been away because it was not safe for Royalist soldiers to return home during the Commonwealth period? Could he perhaps have been with Charles Stuart in France? Sidracke Gillett of Whitchurch "who was wounded in the service of Charles I" had been admitted to pension at the previous sessions, and had presumably since died.]

September 29

Marriage licence, Edward Burgess of Bristleton, farmer and Ann Tuttle of same, at St Marks, alias Gaunts, Bristol. [BMLB]

1670

....and of Samuel Whiting, carpenter of Temple and Ann Feere of Brislington. Bondsman George Feere of Brislington, yeoman. The marriage took place at Bristol Cathedral the same day, the bride's name given as Feere. [ibid]

July 21

The parishioners of Brislington entered into an agreement with Thomas Munday the Baptist, in respect of a cottage and one acre of ground, late in the tenure of William Webb, the documents of which, known as "Munday's Charity" survive as:

Grant and Counterpart of an annuity between

1. Thomas Munday of Brislington, quarrier

&

2. Thomas Jones	Israel Gleson	John Haskins
Robert Westfield	George Hall	George Feare
Thomas David	Robert Collins	Richard Milkins
Thomas Ithell	Robert Bennett	Thomas Daniel
	Stephen Cowling	

.....all of Brislington, concerning an annuity of 24 shillings, chargeable on a cottage, in one acre of pasture in Brislington to be distributed annually by the overseers and churchwardens among the poor of the parish, not receiving weekly alms. [BRO P/St LB/Ch3]

1671

June 2

Robert Bennett II, gallypotmaker was of "The Royal Oake" in Brislington when he bought The Moor and a withy bed from the Shelton family, who had inherited the same from the Bissickes. [BPP]

This interesting house name must surely refer to the escape [celebrated as Oak Apple Day] by the young Prince of Wales, now Charles II, when he hid from the Roundhead soldiers in an oak tree. Robert Bennett, being a man of property naturally thought about making his will and on

June 14

bequeathed the new purchase to his daughter Sarah, to inherit when she became 15 years old, with all the rest to his wife Sarah, who he made his executrix. Evidently Robert believed his wife capable and

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

trustworthy, for unusually, no male overseers were appointed. The witnesses were Mary Coles and Robert Westfield. Less than a month later, Robert Bennett was dead and the will proved. The following year, his widow married Robert Westfield. [PCC Fol 23. Q1]

1672

February 5

The will of Henry Westfield, yeoman of Brislington mentions:
wife Anne

children: Henry, Robert, Anne and Jane, the wife of Edward Edmonds and their children.

The will was proved April 6, 1672.

[PCC Fol 54]

[Anne was Henry's second wife, for he married Jane Baylie at St Luke's April 16, 1618.]

May 9

Robert Westfield married Sarah Bennett, in a Quaker ceremony. She was probably about 20 years his junior, for Robert, mentioned above in his father's will was baptised at Brislington in 1625. It was a second marriage for both. [Q1]

1673

June 27

The birth of Elizabeth, daughter of Robert and Sarah Westfield of Brislington registered. There was no baptism amongst the Quakers.

[BRO Quaker registers]

October 7

"Order that Robert Westfield be discharged from his office of constable for the in-hundred of Keynsham, he having been previously elected tithingman of Brislington and request to the nearest justice to swear John Saunders of Chewton Keynsham as constable of the Hundred and bind him over to the next general Sessions, if he refuses. [SRS 34 QS Vol IV]

[...from which we can gather it was not a popular task and that coercion was not ruled out. The office rotated around the yeomanry and husbandry of the village, the chosen constable taking on the unpaid office for a year, with duties piled on him by higher authorities. It was the constable who protected the property of the well to do by watching out for poachers and trespassers, who would usually come from amongst his own people; he arrested petty thieves and drunks; settled disputes and impounded stray animals; despatched poor wayfarers as quickly as possible into the next parish, and where called upon, as we have seen, bloodied the backs of unmarried mothers. In a lighter vein, such rustic constables - as Shakespeare's Dogberry - were often figures of fun. There would be no professional police for another century and a half.]

October 22

Robert Collins sold his land at Little Moore [which he had from Tobias Provis who purchased it from Nicholas Cowling, now in the tenure of Roger Earle, basketmaker], to John Hoskins of Brislington, mariner, from which ground there issued "the yearely fee farm rent of one shilling."

[BRO 3583 (3)]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

November 10

William Ithell [Ithfield] of St Thomas married Rebecca Cowling of Brislington. Quaker marriage. Both suffered imprisonment for their beliefs. They had one son and one daughter. William died 1697, Rebecca in 1711. [QII]

November 21

Eleanor Mearne, the daughter of Edward Mearne, potter, late of Brislington deceased, was bound apprentice for seven years as a serving maid to John Scott, a Bristol mariner, and his wife Mary. Mary Mearne, Eleanor's mother gave her consent, and like Eleanor herself, made her mark. The Scotts promised to supply "meate, drink, apparel, lodging and all things necessary and convenient", and on completion of her contract, two suits of clothing, "one for Holy Days, another for working days."

[BAR quoted Pountney p30]

1674

Thomas Codrington retired as vicar of Keynsham and Brislington. He died two years later in Malmesbury. [Alumni Oxon]

[No priest is recorded as looking after Brislington until 1683.]

January 13

"Order for payment by the treasurer of the maimed soldiers to Henry Daniell of Brislington and William Best of Keynsham of 20 shillings each." [SRS 34 QS Vol IV]

October 6

"Order that George Bonfield of Brislington be discharged from being a pensioner and that John Boucher of Keynsham be admitted in his place at 40 shillings a year as the court is informed that Bonfield can maintain himself and that Boucher is a very poor man who faithfully served the King in the late wars. [ibid]

December 21

Birth of Samuel son of Robert and Sarah Westfield of Brislington registered. [BRO Quaker Registers]

1675

January 15

William son of William Passerwell, potter of Brislington, apprenticed to Richard Swayne and Jocosa his wife, as a cooper. [BAR]

February 6

A comet appeared in the night sky over St James's in Bristol, "a fiery Apparition...like a Boyes kite, the head of it Ovall and like fire, with a Taile streaming white and growing longer and the head leasser until it seemed about 10 yards long." [RCC Feb 1674/5]

February 19

Edward son of Thomas Bye of Kingsweston, Gloucestershire apprenticed to Robert and Sarah Westfield, as a gallypotmaker. [BAR]

July 5

Henry Thomas, cooper of Thomas Street, Bristol married Mary Tibbott of Brislington. The wedding very nearly did not take place, at least not in the Quaker meeting, for in May, Henry was "guilty of publique takeing of oaths, which he hath not condemned", in direct contravention of Quaker beliefs. [In 1654 when George Fox was asked to swear on the Bible, Fox opened it instead at the passage where Jesus forbids swearing, wondering aloud why the Bible itself was not put on trial: three years.] In the present case, time was needed for "the clearing of the trueth from that scandall" and the marriage was eventually allowed. Henry and Mary had two sons and a daughter 1676-86. Henry suffered imprisonment for his beliefs in 1683. [Q1]

July 19

The "Beloved Friends of the Men's Meeting at Keinsam and Bristleington" were obliged to enquire into the matter of Judith Daniel the younger. She desired to marry Matthew Warren of Bristol, but it appeared she might have had a previous contract with Daniel Neale, a widower, and the Friends' gravedigger. It appears Judith and Matthew were allowed to marry, for Judith Warren is listed as a "sufferer" in 1682. [Q1]

August 31

Robert Wastfield was suspected by the Friends of certain [undivulged] misdemeanours. [Q1]

September 27

"Two, three or fower Friends" [again the accent is preserved] belonging to the Brislington Meeting were to enquire into the matter of Robert Wastfield, and if guilty, "to deale with him according as truth shall require." It was a sad fall from grace. It was written of him "he was serviceable in the beginning but declined pretty much for lack of faithfulness in his latter days." [Q1, SQM]

1676

8 June

John Cowling of Brislington married Mary, daughter of Theophilus Newton. Quaker marriage. They lived at Castle Green, 1678-1719, and had two sons and two daughters. John "suffered" - imprisoned, 1682-3. [Q1]

December 15

Marriage licence, Arthur Circle, Bristleton, sailor and Elizabeth Nicolls of Redcliffe, at St Mary Redcliffe or Gaunts. [BMLB]

1677

Will, John Milkins the elder, yeoman of Brislington, alias Busleton. [PCC Fol 71]

July 10

The will of Robert Wastfield, gallypotmaker of Brislington. I feel that my impression that he was a difficult man, is confirmed by the strangeness of his legacy to his daughter Jane, the wife of Edward Knee of Bristol, skinner. She was to have £70, but it was not to be paid until THIRTEEN years after Robert's decease, "if she or any child of her body be then living, otherwise this legacy is void." The Knees were not to dispute this edict in any way, nor make any other claim against the

estate, otherwise the legacy was to be "utterly void as if no mention had ever been made thereof" and in which case, Jane would receive five shillings. Without any evidence at all, it is my belief that Jane married Edward Knee without her father's consent, and outside the Quaker faith. I do not believe there were any children, and poor Jane did not survive to collect. She was certainly dead before 1687 when Edward Knee remarried. Her half sister Elizabeth, then a little girl of four, was later on good terms with her brother in law, and mentions him in her will in 1693.

Elizabeth, born June 27 1673, Robert's daughter, was to have pasture called Broadlands [six acres] and two parcels of arable [1½ acres] at Flowers Hill, both in Brislington and recently purchased from Aaron Ithell of Chew Magna, when aged 15. At 21 she was to have £100, a great silver tankard and six dozen silver spoons. Robert Westfield junior, was to inherit land at Portbury, when 21, over which three overseers, Dennis Hollister, Richard Aldworth and Richard Milkins were appointed. Until his inheritance he was to have £10 per annum.

The residue of household stuffs was divided into three, for his children Robert and Elizabeth, [little Samuel had evidently died], and Sarah his wife, though Sarah senior was to have full use during her lifetime, as long as she remained a widow. If however she did remarry, she was to forfeit her third and to pay £100 to her daughter Elizabeth. Sarah was to be sole executrix.

Witnesses Edward Bye, Edward Ward, Abraham Griefeth, Andrew Innys.
[PRO 11/355]

Robert was buried amongst the Quakers, and the will was proved December 19.

October 12

Marriage licence, Thomas Ifield of Brislington, farmer and a Miss Start; at St Mary Redcliffe. [BMLB]

A parcel of land adjoining Thomas Munday's cottage or tenement [see 1656] conveyed from William Tibbott of Brislington, yeoman to William Munday, of same, quarryman. [SRO DD/GL 19]

1678

June

"An intention of marriage was published between Matthew Perin of Taunton and Sarah Westfield, of Brislington, widow, the said Sarah having signified under her hand her consent thereunto."

According to Quaker records, Sarah "died before this marriage could take place". I believe Matthew could have had second thoughts, as soon as he learned that marriage to the widow would bring about her disinheritance. Significantly, I believe, Sarah makes no mention of him in her will, which she surely would have done had he been a faithful and attentive suitor. Indeed all the worry may have brought on her early death. She was buried 19 July, 1678. [SQM]

October 3

Robert Blanch of Whitchurch married Mary Ithel of Brislington, Quaker marriage. [Q2]

November 8

Richard Coleman was "buried in woollen". This curious entry indicates a law passed this year obliging all corpses to go to their eternal rest shrouded in sheep's wool, to encourage the flagging wool trade. The gentry, who continued to prefer linen or silk for the purpose, paid a fine in lieu into the "poor men's box" at the church. [PRStLB]

1679

May 9

The will of Sarah Wastfield [née Cole, formerly Bennett], of Brislington, widow, proved; she leaves to
Son Robert, "a silver boll"

Daughter Sarah Bennett, "my biggest silver cawdle cupp", two great chests, one spruce, one oak, and all the tools, frames, boards, mills, used in gallypotmaking

Daughter Elizabeth, the profits from a tenement in Temple occupied by William Cole for two years, and afterwards the remainder of the lease to Sarah Bennett, all leases occupied by John Cowling and John Withers in Brislington, which "my late husband purchased of one Vaughan"

Servant Mary Pope, one grey serge petticoat and one mixed stuff petticoat

Elizabeth Cole, servant of William Cole, "one old stuff gown of mixt green colour"

Hester Cooke, wife of John Cooke of Keinsham, "one white mantle

To apprentices and men servants, ten shillings each - "except Edward Ward"

...and I wonder if he had offended her in some way, and she obtained a subtle revenge by leaving him out? Yet like her husband before, she used him as a witness. Perhaps he had been rewarded separately? We can never know the answer.

Whatever her relationship with her servant, there was no bad blood between Sarah and her step-daughter, who Robert Wastfield had treated so shabbily. Sarah left Jane Knee "one bedd marked R.W., with rugs and blankets belonging; also a grey stuff gown, and a grey hair stuff petticoat", which I must say makes me itch, just to think of it.

Daughter Elizabeth, not quite six years old was to be executrix, with James Cole, Sarah's father, Thomas Callowhill and Richard Snead, all of Bristol, as trustees during her minority. The witnesses were John Gregory as well as the apparently hard done by Edward Ward, who afterwards became a successful potter, a freeman of Bristol on September 15, 1682, "at the request of Mr Mayor" and paid rates for St Anne's Mill, 1694-1700. [PRO 11/359]

November 29

Giles Ithell of Brislington married Elizabeth Davis of Kelston, Quaker marriage, North Somerset Men's Meeting. [Q2]

1680

April 12

Thomas King married Mary Pope, both of Brislington, Quaker marriage,
Somerset North Division. [Q1]

June 2

Marriage licence, Sir William Cann of Brislington, Knight and Elizabeth
Langton, St Nicholas; bondsman John Cann of Bristol, merchant. [BMLB]

[See Langton family tree. The Canns would later come to live in
Brislington.]

June 4

"child from Bristol being a poterares child living at Frome Cott.
buried." [PRStLB]

1681

The poor flightless Dodo of Mauritius, was by this year completely
exterminated by human predators. Brislington did its best to compete by
the ruthless persecution of the local fauna: foxes, crows, polecats,
were gleefully slain by local youths who brought their dead pelts to the
churchwardens for reward, even the harmless and useful hedgehog, for
which they were paid twopence a cadaver. [Ospreys and kingfishers were
also classed as vermin, but I have found no record of either killed for
money at Brislington.] [CWs]

A lease granted by Thomas Langton, esquire to Thomas Lansdowne of
Bristol, quarrier. [SRO DD/BR/t/W6 7/6]

Richard Philips was paid 6d "for hanging the Great Bell" in St Luke's.
Perhaps one of the five cast by the Purdues in 1669? [CWs]

Persecution of non-conformists:

Brislington Common was a favoured venue of the Baptist congregations who
by now were harrassed when they met in town.

February 5

"Our Friends met in four parts, one near Bustleton, the others in Town.
[RCC]

March 5

"Our congregation and Brother Gifford's met together near Bustleton.
[ibid]

March 26

"They [the congregation] were near Busselton on the Somersetshire
side....there were thought to be 1,500 people there, and their
adversaries look't on, but being on the other side, could not come at
them." [ibid]

June 18

"Brother Fownes preached to us in Kings Wood, in peace, tho' on
Busselton side there was a company of Train-Bands out to find meetings."
[ibid]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

October 26

"A rate was made by the Churchwardens and others of the parish towards the relief of maimed soldiers and hospitals, according to statute."

[CWs]

[Thomas Hart and George Fear were listed as currently serving, although the above was endorsed by Thomas Daniell and Israel Gleson]

1682

June 1

Administration of the will of Hester Langton granted to Lady Elizabeth Cann or Langton, wife of Sir William Cann. [BRO 08021(5)]

September 14

Marriage licence, William Dutton, Bristol, sailor and Sarah Miner, Brisleton, aged 26, at St Augustine's or Bishop's Chapel. [BMLB]

1683

Mr Young was vicar of Brislington.

[St Luke's PC]

...and the first recorded successor to Thomas Codrington, though there must have been curates and temporary incumbents in between, for the register was kept up and the offices of baptism, marriage and burial continued. To some people Mr Young would prove a major disappointment.

"Heraldic Essay in the Surname of Miner of Chew"

This remarkable descent, which is traced back to 1359, at least, has the following Brislington connections:

"Clement son of William Miner married and had issue, Clement, Thomas, Elizabeth and Mary. He departed this life 31 March 1640, and lies interred in Chew Magna, in Somersett. Clement the eldest brother married Sarah Pope, daughter of John Pope of Norton Small Reward in the countie of Somersett and had issue William and Israel. This Clement was buried at Burslingtown in the countie of Somersett. Thomas his brother is now alive at Stoningtown in Carneticute Colloney in New England, Anno Domini, 1683. William the eldest son married Sarah, the daughter of John Batting of Clifton, in Gloucestershire, and lives, 1683, at Christmas Street, in the City of Bristol and has issue William and Sarah Miners. Iseraell, the second son married Elizabeth Jones, the daughter of Thomas Jones of Burslingtown and has issue Clement, Thomas, Sarah, Jean and Elizabeth Miners, Anno, 1683." [Som & Dors N & Q xvii]

Brislington's parish register has the following entries for the name Miner (Minor, Miners, etc):

William son of Clement baptised November 5, 1629

Israel son of Clement baptised November 11 1632

Elnor daughter of Clement and Sarah baptised April 12 1635

Israel born December 14 1655

Sarah born July 17 1659) described children of

Thomas born July 11 1666) Israel & Elizabeth

Jane baptised June 22 1662)

Clement baptised June 22 1662) described children of Israel

William baptised July 20 1664)

The children of Israel and Mary, of the next generation, were baptised: Israel, June 27 1695, William, September 10 1700, John, October 2 1702, Mary, August 3 1704, Rachel, June 10 1709. Israel the son of William and Martha was baptised January 13 1705, and Thomas the son of Clement, March 2 1707.

Although John Pope is said to have been from "Norton Small Reward" there were so many Popes in Brislington, it seems very likely Sarah's ancestry was here too, hence Clement and Sarah's settling in the parish after their marriage. There were no burials recorded at Brislington 1612-1637, but I suspect Clement died sometime in, or prior to, 1637, for in that year Thomas Wicks married Sarah Myner, who I believe to have been Clement's widow. Curiously, despite all the births and baptisms there is only one Miner burial 1566-1713, that of Elizabeth, wife of Israel, on April 1 1694.

April 11 - 12

The Baptists met again at Brislington Common. The Somerset side of the river was favoured out of necessity, for if the brethren set foot in Gloucestershire, on the opposite bank, they faced immediate arrest. Twenty of them had already been served with warrants. Even so, they were far from safe. As the meeting got under way, they were charged by a posse of mounted bailiffs and constables led by under-Sheriff Hellier who threatened them with a brace of pistols. The preachers Whinnell and Terrill escaped in the melée, but others were rounded up, some taken to a nearby cottage, and others to an alehouse on the Common. Seven of them, led by Brother Ellis, and including four women, were brought before Justice Langton the next morning. In the afternoon, the Baptists stubbornly met again on the Common, and once again were hunted down. People and cattle ran about in such a frenzy of terror, that those living near, hearing the sad cry of the horn, with hullabaloo and cries of "knock them down" thought it was a deer hunt. Two of the brothers, Mr Knight and Mr Ford were driven into the river. Mr Ford was carried away by the current and drowned. Mr Knight was saved by the heroic action of a Kingswood collier, who watching from the Gloucester side put down the child he was carrying, and jumped into the river. Tragically, Mr Knight, "never well since he was in the water" also later died. [RCC, pp248,253]

April 23

The inexcusable conduct of the establishment had a profound effect on Mr Young, the vicar. He left the Church of England and joined the Baptists. He soon got into severe trouble. The Baptists

"...kept a day of Fasting and Prayer, partly on Account of Mr Young, who had lately turned from being Parson of Bussleton to preach among the Dissenters, principally Mr Weekes' people. Last week he went to Gloucester to see Mr Fownes in Prison there. And Ralph Olive....spy'd Mr Young riding into the City; so he dog'd him. And having seen where he put his horse, and getting a Warrant, comes after him into the Prison and took him before a Justice, and swore he had heard him within two years past preach at a Conventicle in the fields; therefore a Justice committed him for six months by the Five Mile Act." [RCC, p251]

June 30

Marriage licence, Hugh Maskall, Abbotsleigh, and Sarah Saunders, of Brislington, at Abbotsleigh, St Augustine or St James. [BMLB]

In place of the imprisoned and probably defrocked Mr Young, John Price became vicar. It is possible he was also vicar of Radstock, where a man of the same name was also incumbent. Many livings were held in plurality.

August 1

Marriage licence, Israell Gleson [Glysson] of Brislington, gent, Magdalene Tippet of Dundry. Bondsman Francis Hort, Felton, alias Whitchurch, gent. The licence specified "at Dundry" though the marriage was actually at Whitchurch. [BMLB]

1684

The churchwardens received a paper concerning "The King's Evil" otherwise scrofula, a tubercular condition of the lymph glands, which could supposedly be cured by the touch of the monarch. Charles I, surprisingly, despite "Divine Right" had been but a mild believer. His son, Charles II was either a fanatic, or was deliberately courting popularity - the clue lies with the angels - for between 1660 and 1682, 92,107 persons, many of them children, had been touched. The ceremony consisted of the King

"crossing the sore with an Angel Noble. The sick person to have the same angel hanged about his neck, and to wear it until he be full whole."

The prospect of obtaining a gold piece led to temptation, and in January 1684, Charles issued a proclamation that each applicant produce a certificate signed by his vicar and the churchwardens that he was a genuine case. This must have been the paper which is noted in the churchwardens' accounts. A couple of passes were issued by the Brislington churchwardens at the same time, presumably so that two of our number, certified genuinely scrofular, could seek out the king.

Will: Israel Gleson, gentleman of Brislington, alias Busselton.

[PCC Fol 113]

March

Roger Merryweather became churchwarden in the place of George Fear.

June 23

The churchwardens' account book states: "Received of Mr Thomas Hart, churchwarden of Briselton, for five briefs, for Wapping, Enshall, ...hall, Winson, and Prestelgne in Wales, the sum of four shillings...."

[I believe these briefs were most probably settlement applications or removal orders under the poor law, but sadly the originals which would name the people concerned have not survived.]

July 7

Marriage licence, Anthony Swymmer, Bristol, merchant and Mary Langton of St Nicholas. [BMLB]

September 25

A "disorderly" Quaker marriage. A Brislington meeting disowned John Pinkard, a Keynsham victualler, for "going with a woman who never before that time had professed the Truth and there taking her in marriage, and since that time they have lived together as man and wife...contrary to the advice of Friends, rather following the lust of his own heart than regarding the honour of God or his own future peace, happiness and welfare...prayed that he might come to the sense of his folly and wickedness...truly repent thereof...he hath wholly rejected advice...done out of licentiousness, fleshly liberty....a bad example to others, and caused the way of the Truth to be evil spoken of....saying he knows no evil he hath done and would do it, if it were to do again...." [SQM]

Good for him! Five years on however, it seems his "disorderly" wife had died, for he was back in the fold, when he and others obtained a licence to use a house in Keynsham for Quaker worship, and in 1691 he remarried a widow, Elizabeth Faint. [Q2]

November 3

Among the Baptists: "Sister Munday of Bussleton departed this life, and was buried there." Brislington parish register records her too, "Joane, wife of Thomas Munday, buried 6 November 1684." [RCC.StLB]

She was his second wife, for as we know from a christening in 1654, his first was called Ann. He wasted little time in finding a new partner.

The churchwardens record that since May 23, "money given at several times to travelling people", 3s 3d, [CWs]

1685

John Moore was also paid 3s 3d for fitting a lock on the church door. [A man of the same name was later vicar.] Richard Peasley was paid 6d "for keeping the register". [CWs]

February 7

Marriage licence, Thomas Munday of Brislington, yeoman, and Mary Jones, Christchurch; at St Werberghs or St Augustine. [BMLB 1684/5]

February 18

Charles II died and his brother was proclaimed King James II. The coronation was April 23, St George's Day, and the church bells were rung at Brislington in a double celebration. James was a Roman Catholic. It is just as well that nobody knows what the future holds.

May 7

"Received of Mr Thomas Hart and Roger Merryweather, churchwardens of Brislington, the sum of £102.10s in full of all demand for work done on the church. Signed Sam Whiting." [CWs]

It must have been a very big job indeed.

May 11

Spent when the Bishop came to Keynsham, 4s 6d.

[CWs]

June 11

The Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of Charles II and Lucy Walter, claimant to the throne, and opportunist protector of the Protestant succession, landed at Lyme Regis.

Although as far as I have been able to trace, no Brislington people were tempted to "go a-Duking" - nobody from our parish appears in the rolls of those "out in the rebellion" - the Western Rising and its bloody aftermath touched our parish directly and indirectly. First on June 18, when the insurgents liberated the prisoners from the gaol at Ilchester, except for the Quakers, among them some [unnamed] from Brislington, who stubbornly refused to be freed, and sensibly as it turned out, for they could not later be indicted for treason! Second, a cryptic note in the Churchwardens' Accounts records someone's expenses, perhaps John Gleson's, who had replaced Roger Merryweather as churchwarden, undated, but obviously after Sedgemoor

"For going to Hartrey [Harptree?] to answer a warrant concerning the rebels, 5s 4d."

Did our unknown traveller have important information? Perhaps he had watched the rebels training in Sydenham Meadow on the Gloucester side of the river at Keynsham, when a march on Bristol seemed imminent? It never took place, despite the encouragement of Andrew Gifford, a Baptist leader, with whom the Duke had a legendary conference at Knowle.

Monmouth turned back after Keynsham, towards Sedgemoor, defeat and execution. Then came the terror. Those of the irregulars who had not perished on the battlefield or in the vicious "mopping up" were hunted and rounded up with savage ferocity, many executed, and more transported. Groups of the "pitchfork" rebels, found guilty of high treason, were hanged, drawn and quartered in those towns and villages prominent in the rising; at Dorchester, Taunton, Yeovil and Chard, Pensford and Norton St Philip, four at Redcliffe Hill, as a cynical warning to the capital of the West, for Bristol had scarcely figured in the proceedings. Two or three at Bath, eleven at Keynsham.....

It is said that Ketch the hangman brought with him a professional butcher to dismember the bodies. The heads and quarters were boiled in salt and then tarred to be distributed around neighbouring villages, obviously including Brislington, to terrify and cow the people. "Thus die all traitors", was the message. The drawings were burnt, the stench of charred human offal hanging disgustingly in the air long after the executioners' fires had died down.

By September, George Fownes, the Baptist pastor, and Mr Young, Brislington's former vicar had languished in Gloucester gaol a year and a half. They were asked for bail of £100 each, which they managed to provide. Then it was falsely alleged that they were bound to Bristol Assizes, not Gloucester, and they were obliged to apply to a judge for a transfer. Before they could make the proper application, the judge left town. It was whispered that "they were dangerous persons and it was not safe to let them go", especially in the wake of the rising, ".....and so were continued in prison" where George Fownes died in November 1685.

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

Nothing further is known of Young, and it seems he too died a prisoner, like his mentor, "unjustly and maliciously for the Testimony of Jesus and preaching the Gospel." [RCC]

October 7

Marriage licence, William Tranter, Busselton, yeoman, and Joan Gray, Castle Precincts. At St Augustine. [BMLB]

December 24

Marriage licence, John Green of Busselton, ropemaker and Ann Rodbourne, Christchurch, at St Nicholas. [BMLB]

1686

April 1

Thomas Dickson, linendraper, later a merchant in Trinity parish, married Sarah Bennett, daughter of Robert Bennett, the potter. This was a Quaker marriage of which there was one daughter, born 1690. Sarah died the same year. Thomas remarried Sarah Reynolds in 1696, who poor soul, was more or less permanently pregnant, producing ten sons and one daughter. [Q1]

May 23

Thomas Munday, Baptist, yeoman of Brislington, "sick in body, but of good and perfect mind and memory, praised be God" made his will.

"First, principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker in hope and full assurance to obtain remission of all my sinnes and life everlasting by the alone merritts and mercy of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, and my body I remitt to the Earth to be devoutly buried at the discretion of my executrix hereinafter named, and touching such worldly goods and estate as Almighty God of his mercy hath been pleased to trust me withall. I give and devise and dispose thereof in manner and forme following [that is to say] Imprimis, I give and bequeath twenty shillings a year every yeare forever to be paid to the churchwardens of Brislington to be laid out in bread for the use of the poore of the said parish and be distributed every St Thomas's Day to be paid out of my land whereof I am now seized and by me purchased in fee forme. Item, I give and bequeath five pounds of English money to be distributed to five poor housekeepers of the City of Bristol at the discretion of my executrix and overseers. Item, I give and bequeath the sum of eighty pounds of lawful English money to Thomas Munday, son of Richard Munday of the Parish of Nibley in the county of Gloucester to be paid within two years of my decease. Item, I give and bequeath tenn pounds to the youngest sonn of the aforesaid Richard to be paid two years as aforesaid. Item, I give and bequeath tenn pounds to John Munday the Gariner [?] to be paid in two years after my decease. I give and bequeath unto my kinsman George Hort of Yeate in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, the summ of four shillings. Item, to the end, my desire is that my debts be fully paid and discharged. I give devise and bequeath unto Mary Munday, my wife, all that message or tenement situate in Brislington with the appurtenances to the House for ever. I doe constitute and appoint Mary Munday my said wife as the sole and whole executrix of this my last will and testament to whom I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods and chattles and personal estate and whom I doe order and appoint to discharge all my debts which properly I

In the name of God Amen

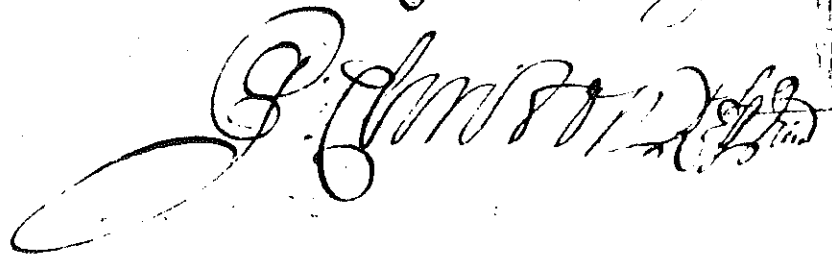
J. Thomas Munday of Brislington in the County of Somers-
setton being sick of Body but of good and perfect mind and
memory. prais'd be God ther'fore do mak' and ordain this my
last Will and Testament as followeth First and principally I comend
my Soule into the hande of Almighty God my maker in hope and
full assurancie to obtaine remission of all my Sinnes and life everlasting
by the alone merittes and mercy of Jesus Christ my Saviour and my
Body I comitt to the Earthe to be decently buried at the discretion
of my Executors hereinafter named and as touching such worldly
goods and estate as Almighty God of his mercy hath been pleas'd
to bestow upon me withall I give devise and dispose thereof in manner
and forme following (that is to say) I give and bequeath twovvly
shillings a year and every year for ever to be paid to the church-
wardens of y^e Parish of Brislington to be laid out in Bread for
the use of y^e Poor of y^e said Parish and distributed every S^t. Thomas
day to be paid out of my land wherof I am now seized and by me
purchased in ff^r farme. Item I give and bequeath five poundes of
lawfull English money to be distributed to five poor housekeepers
of y^e City of Bristol at the discretion of my Executors & Overseers
Item I give and bequeath the Sum of eighty poundes of lawfull
English money to Thomas Munday Sonne of Richard Munday of the
Parish of Nibley in the County of Glouc^r to be paid in two yeares
after my decease. Item I give ten poundes to the youngest Sonne of
the aforesaid Richard Munday to be paid in two yeares as aforesaid
Item I give and bequeath ten poundes of lawfull p^resent money
to John Munday the Carriour to be paid in two yeares after my
decease. Item I give and bequeath to my Nephew George Munday
of Yate in the County of Glouc^r twovvly shillings
Item to the end as my desire is that all y^e debts by me properly
owing may be fully paid and discharged I give devise and bequeath
unto Mary Munday my wife all that my Messuages or Connuell
situate in Brislington aforesaid with the appurtenances to the p^r

Be it remembered for ever that I do constitute and appoint Mary
 Munday my said wife sole and whole Executrix of this my last
 Will and Testament to whom I give and bequeath all the rest and
 residue of my goods chattels and personall estate and whom I do
 order and appoint to satisfy and discharge all my debts which properly
 I do owe as well as to receive such debts which are owing to me whom
 I do constitute and appoint in William Wingo and in Thomas Bayly
 Overseers of this my last Will and Testament and do entreat and
 desire them to bind their oaths assistants to my said Executrix in the
 Execution and performanc of this my last Will and Testament according
 to my true intent and meaning And I do give to each of them my
 said Overseers four Shillings to buy them gloves And I do hereby
 revoke disannul and make void all former Wills and Testaments
 by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said Thomas
 Munday to this my last Will and Testament have hereunto set my
 hand and Seale this third of twelfth day of May in the second
 year of our Sovereign Lord James the second by the Grace
 of God King of England Scotland France of Ireland Anno Domini
 1686.

Thomas Munday

Signed sealed and published in the
 presence of Richard Bayly
 John Salthorn & marks of Thomas
 White John Hall

Verba propria Examina



Brislington, Lacy to Langton

doe owe as well as to receive sure debts which are owing to me. I doe desire and constitute Mr William Windo and Mr Thomas Bayley overseers and doe entreat and desire them to be of the best assistance to my said executrix...and I doe give each of them five shillings to buy them gloves. And I doe hereby revoke and disannull and make void all former wills...In witness thereof, I Thomas Munday....have hereto sett my hand and seale this three and twentieth day in May in the second yeare of our Sovereigne Lord James the Second, by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Anno Domini 1686.

[[signed] Thomas Munday

Signed sealed and published in the presence of
Richard Bayley, John Laskrom,
The marke of Thomas White, John Hall.

Thomas Munday was buried at St Luke's on May 29. His widow Mary was little more than a month pregnant, which Thomas probably didn't know. Sarah his elder daughter was presumably dead, as she is not mentioned in the will. Mary his next daughter (her birth was registered at St Luke's in 1660) had died aged 19 in 1679 and William his son in 1684. Nor did the widow's baby live. "A male child born of the body of Mary Munday" was buried the 6 January, 1687. [StLB]

A copy of Thomas's will found its way into the parish chest, because of the bequest to the poor of the parish, which became known as "Munday's Charity." It was one of very few locally proved wills to survive.

May 28

Thomas Langton esquire came into his inheritance. Ezekiel Langton was dead, and administration of his estate was granted this day to his brother Joseph. Brislington had been promised by Ezekiel to another brother, Thomas, a former Lord Mayor of Bristol, died 1673, who in his turn had willed it to his son, also called Thomas.

August 25

James II visited Bristol, and Brislington's bells were rung.

1687

April 21

Marriage licence, George Kelson of Brislington, yeoman and Sarah Daniel of Mangotsfield. Joseph Daniel of Brislington was bondsman; at Mangotsfield or the Cathedral. [BMLB]

Summer

James II and his queen, Mary of Modena came to Keynsham, and Brislington's bells were rung. The ringers received two shillings and sixpence. In the course of James' progress during this year 5,000 people were "touched".

1688

Marriage licence, Joseph Daniel of Bussleton and Mary Saunders of Stapleton; at the Cathedral. [BMLB]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

Lease. Thomas Langton to Samuel Lansdowne, quarrier, the same piece of ground granted by Rowland Lacy to John Lansdowne in 1656.

[SRO DD/BR/t/W67/6]

June 20

James II's son who was eventually to become variously "Roving Jamie" or "The Old Pretender" was born. The Brislington bells rang out. Celebrations were short lived. The young Catholic prince would now head the two Protestant daughters of James's first marriage in the order of succession to the throne. To the establishment, this would not do. The King and Queen fled abroad with their heir, and William of Orange, with his wife, the Princess Mary, James' elder daughter, was invited to fill the gap. Brislington shrugged again, ever ready to support the status quo, and rang the bells. With all this joy, a new rope was required, costing 4 shillings, and was installed.

August 8

Marriage licence, Robert Baily of Bristol, apothecary and Sarah Baldwin of Busteton; Thomas Baldwin of Brislington as bondsman; at St Mary Redcliffe or St Philip & St Jacob.

[BMLB]

A paper "touching on clandestine marriages" was purchased from Robert Fry by the Brislington churchwardens. Marriages of doubtful legality, performed without banns, licences, [some clergy sold their own licences!], by "lawless ministers", were becoming a worry, especially where women of property, large or small, married without the permission of father or brothers.

October

John Hall and Aaron Ithell became churchwardens, replacing John Gleson, and the long serving Thomas Hart.

[CWs]

October 16

Marriage licence, John Knight, Bristol, gent, and Joanna Langton of St Nicholas.

[BMLB]

1689

January 5

Marriage licence, Henry Cattell, Castle Precincts, tailor and Frances Jones of Brislington.

[BMLB 1688/9]

February 18

William & Mary were proclaimed King and Queen at Bristol. William declined to do any "touching". He let it be known it was superstitious and distasteful to him, but expense probably had more to do with it. Brislington's ever ready bells rang out, the ringers receiving their customary half a crown, and again on April 11 for the Coronation.

Will, Israel Gleson, gent, Brislington alias Bussleton. [PCC.Fol 123]

1690

A poor sergeweaver, with a wife and child, Clement Salter was bound over to leave Brislington within six weeks. The family came from Branedge, Devon.

[BRO P/StL/OP/8a/1, 122/1]

Somfott J The Informant of Sarah Sage, Singlewoman taken
 upon oath the 15th Day of July 1691 Before Mr Thomas
 Jefferys Jute one of His Majesty's Justices of ye Peace for
 the County of Somerset. ^{her} ~~the~~ ^{after she went from service in the gift of Brighthelm}
 who saith, about six weeks before Christmas last past. This
 Infant, now named Edward in Andrew Bagge of ye
 gift of St Nicholas in the City of Bristol, it shall
 to serve him a year as a servant for fifty
 shillings; & took the servant money from the said Andrew
 Bagge wife, & came & entered upon their service &
 served wth her six weeks ~~before~~, & at the end of
 the six weeks the said Andrew Bagge & his wife
 turned away this Infant from their service, & paid her
 six weeks wages; & this Informant further saith
 that during the time she lived in service wth the
 said Andrew Bagge, one John Smith his apprentice
 had divers times & all knowledge of her & her
 in how matters here, & hath taught her wth this
 & this Informant, sweareth that she is now wth the
 the said John Smith is the only & absolute father
 & mother of
 Sarah M Sage

Just Doan re

W. Bridges

11/11/11

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

June 11

The Battle of the Boyne, the consequences of which are unhappily still with us. The churchwardens noted a reduced rate, "gave the ringers when the King gained victory in Ireland, 2s.0d." [CWs]

October 23

Marriage licence, Edward Ward of Bristol, gallipotmaker, Rachel Daniel of Brislington, at Temple or the Cathedral. [BMLB]

[This Edward was the son of Edward Ward, Sarah Westfield's servant. They were married at the Cathedral, the same day, but the bride's name is given Katherine Daniel.]

1691

Richard Phillips was paid to mend the village stocks, which were needed to accommodate John Fry and Edward Phillips. We are not told the nature of the offence, nor if the two Phillips were related. [CWs]

[At other times Richard Phillips supplied timber, mended the bells and pews and made a whipping post, which last we can only hope was not used for Sarah Sage, below.]

Will, Alice Burkett, widow of Robert Burkett, of Bristol, baker, now of Brislington alias Bussleton. [PCC Fol 156]

Lease, Joseph Langton of Bristol, merchant to Christian Blacker, alias Hart, widow of Brislington. [Christian was presumably Thomas Hart's widow, as this same piece of land was leased to Thomas in 1653.

[SRO DD/BR/tb/4/W671]

William Cole, shoemaker, a Quaker, inhabitant of Brislington. [died 1713] [Q1]

June 30

Marriage licence, Robert Smith of Temple, otherwise Holy Cross, clothier and Ann Haskins of Brislington. Bondsman Daniel Pill of Bristol, grocer. [BMLB]

July

John Fear and John Green churchwardens. [CWs]

July 15

Sarah Sage left service in Brislington to work for Andrew Bagge, a St Nicholas victualler and his wife. She covenanted for a year at fifty shillings [£2.50p] but had only been there six weeks when they turned her away with her six weeks wages....and on this day she made solemn oath before Sir Thomas Bridges JP that "during the time she lived with the say'd Andrew Bagge, one John Smith, his Apprentice had divers times carnall knowledge of her Body in her master's house, and hath begot her with child....and John Smith is the only and absolute father thereof."

[BRO P/StLB/OP/14/(g) 1a]

July 20

Assignment in trust between

1. John Hoskins
Richard Milkins
Stephen Cowling
the surviving trustees of Munday's Charity
- &
2. John Horton of Bristol, gent
Edward Horton of Bristol, his son

The premises, an annuity of 24 shillings, known as Munday's Charity.
[BRO/P/StLB/Ch5]

July 21

A renewal of the trust concerning the above with a new set of trustees sworn in, a further roll call of the village's current worthies:


1. John & Edward Horton
 2. John Hoskins
William Dowting
John Feare
Richard Hoskins
John Cowling
John King
 - Richard Milkins
Samuel Hollister
John Hall
Richard Milkins, jun
Joseph Grey
Thomas Merryweather
 - Stephen Cowling
John Glisson
Giles Ithell
John Phelps
John Keene
Thomas Baugh
- all of Brislington
- [ibid]

September 9

Marriage licence, Magdalen Glisson [widow of Israel of Brislington] of St John's Bristol and William Webb, yeoman of Dundry. Bondsman Walter Webb of Chew Stoke, clothier and John Stedman of St John, vintner. [BMLB]

November 20

"Oath of Charles Watts, of Brislington, collier, one of the bearers, that carried the corpse of one Daniel into the church on Tuesday the 20th October for Mr Samuel Paine, curate, to bury. When Mr Paine was ready to commence the funeral service, one Hannah Ffeare, wife of John ffeare, churchwarden, came into the church and said the mother would have the corpse brought out of the church. The informant, with Ferdinando Robins, Joseph Daniel and Thomas Hunt, being bearers, did so.

The mark  of Charles Watts.
Signed Edward Baber

John Horton of Bristol, gent, said he was present when the dead body of Josias Daniel was brought to church. Samuel Young, the defendant did afterwards preach in the said church at Brislington, and did bury the corpse, although forbidden to do so. [SRO QS 1691 187/9, 11, 14]

This clash between the dissenters and the clergy, reveals the name of an otherwise unknown curate, and a dissenting Minister, Samuel Young, perhaps a connection with Mr Young, the former vicar.

During this year, no fewer than eleven maimed soldiers were paid small sums to help them on their way.

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

There was always work to do about the church. The churchwardens "spent in bargaining with Daniel White to whitelime the church and mending tiles, 19s 6d." Daniel had been paid 16s 0d for a thousand tiles in the previous year, and also 1s 3d for "half a thousand lath nails and 100 stone nails". John Moore at various times did "work about the bells" and supplied "hooks to set up the dial", [sundial or clock?] and made a key. John Harris was paid for board, and for work done to the gutter of the church, 1s 6d, a rail for the stile, and putting it in, 1s 0d.

Meanwhile, carnage among the animals continued: George Harding paid 1s 4d for "five hedgehogs and a polecat. [CWs]

1692

It cannot have gone unnoticed that there was a sizeable minority of dissenters in the village. A warrant was obtained, costing 3s 4d, for "persons that refused to go to service". [CWs]

Among the refusers were presumably the master potters of St Annes and their families for their names are rarely found in the parish register. The Wastfields and Bennetts were Quakers. Edward Ward was buried with the Baptists, although his first wife Rachel, nee Daniel was interred at St Luke's. The Bissickes and Collins were also dissenters, but the whereabouts of their graves remain a mystery. Their employees and apprentices seem to have belonged to the Church of England: Edward Bye and his wife Grace had three boys christened between 1681 and 1687. Edward Mearn, baptised 1636, who worked for Alice Huntington christened his son and namesake in 1661, and a daughter Anne in 1664. William Passewell christened his son Henry in 1665.

Will of William Dowting, weaver, Brislington. [PCC Fol 221]

Will of Abraham Saunders, esquire, Bristol, now Bussleton [PCC Fol 231]

Marriage licence, Thomas Hort of Brislington and Ann Norman of Filton, Gloucestershire, at the Cathedral. [BMLB]

John Cook supplied a ladder and lime to the churchwardens and Samuel Gray was provided with a coffin out of parish funds. [CWs]

It seems there were floods in this year, for twice the churchwardens paid a shilling to "one that had a great loss by water." [ibid]

Also, fascinatingly in this year, 3d was paid "to a woman soldier with a pass". Women who followed the army occasionally joined up themselves, perhaps after husband or lover had been killed. Was this woman returning from Ireland, or from the Dutch Wars with France that England had inherited when William III became King? It had cost Brislington ratepayers 1s 6d "for a proclamation of war with France".] [ibid]

1693

Lease for land and cottage at the Rock by Thomas Langton, esquire to Israel Harding of Brislington, labourer. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/111]

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

A tract was published by Alexander Pyott, Quaker, who lived in Brislington with his wife Mary at least until 1695: "A brief apology on behalf of the people in derision called Quakers"

[E. Green, Bibliotheca Somersetensis, 8vo Bristol 1693;Q1]

May 18

Elizabeth Westfield the daughter of the late Robert Westfield, who had left Brislington for St Philips, died aged only 20. She was buried in the Quaker ground in Bristol. [QR]

June

John Merryweather and John Phelps churchwardens. [CWs]

July 26

William Safulnders, son of the late Martin Safulnders of Bussleton married Joan Cooke of Winterbourne, daughter of William Cooke of Bow Brickhill in Buckinghamshire. Quaker marriage, Frenchay Men's Meeting. They had two sons and two daughters. [Q2]

October 16

John Barnes of Bursleton and Joan Dapwell, widow signified their intention to marry. Both were "forward in years and have not any parents living". John had lived in Pennsylvania before he came to Brislington, and was notably fervent, proving a little too much for his fellow Quakers, for he sometimes "burthend Friends with his imposing on the meeting, preaching not to their satisfaction." [Q1.Q2]

Richard Milkins repaired the stocks. [CWs]

1694

A message - perhaps a pub? - called the Royal Oak near "Britchwood" changed hands, with documents including a post marriage settlement of Robert Bennett and Deenes Ward. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/7]

Could the licensee have been James Lawrence, innholder, who this year took a parish apprentice called Mary Williams? She was 14, the daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Williams, baptised March 6, 1680.

[BRO P/StLB/OP/15/h/1;PRStLB]

Lease of a cottage on waste ground now divided in two, by Thomas Langton to Isaac Sellwood of Brislington, husbandman. [SRO DD/BR/tb/5]

In this year William Sellwood supplied stone, paving, tile and lime to the churchwardens, for work on the church, and again in 1696. [CWs]

April 13

William, son of Sir William Cann, knight and Baronet, and Dame Elizabeth, [nee Langton] was born at Brislington. [PRStLB]

June 21

will of Joseph Langton of Bristol, merchant [dated May 18 1694], leaving a legacy to "my sister Elizabeth, wife of Sir William Cann" proved by Thomas Langton, his brother. [ASW]

August 18

Marriage licence, Samuel Tyler, Bristol pewterer and Alice Smith, Busselton. [BMLB]

November 2

Documents drawn up concerning a lease on Brislington Farm [Langton Court] for two years to commence March 25 1699, between

1. Thomas Langton, esquire, Lord of the Manor of Bussleton alias Brislington

&

2. William Hart of Bussleton, alias Brislington, yeoman of a capital messuage called Bussleton Farm with land in the manor of Bussleton, certain new buildings and a limekiln. Hunting rights excepted. Annual rent £145. [BRO 26992/1]

1695

A further reminder of the alarm caused by any woman who was about to give birth and whose offspring might fall on to the parish. "Paid James Laurence one shilling for watching a woman that is likely to have her child at William Cann's." As we have seen, the Poor Law saw to it that strangers were sent packing. Consequently, there were always vagrants on the roads, many of them lone women and children. Often they had to make their way back on foot to the last place where husband and father was legally "settled". James Laurence was probably one of the overseers of the poor. The churchwardens in this year helped on their way:

a poor woman and three children.....9d
a poor woman and six children.....1. 0d
5 poor women and three children.....1. 6d
6 poor women and three children.....2. 6d

They also gave one shilling to "Six maimed seamen" who passed through.

A warrant costing a shilling was obtained to prosecute "boys playing on the Sabbath Day". They were convicted, expenses claimed 2s 6d, perhaps to make the birch with which to beat them?

There still seems to have been difficulty finding a regular parson. A Mr Keats was paid for preaching. [CWS]

Will of Osmond Crabb, gentleman, Brislington or Busselton.

[PCC 73 Fol 46]

Cottage at the edge of the Common conveyed by Thomas Langton to William Hort of Brislington, yeoman. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/12]

July

William Hort and Ralph Harris, churchwardens.

October 25

The North Somerset Friends Meeting protested that members from Brislington and Whitchurch were going to the Bristol meeting rather than their own gatherings. [Q2]

1696

John Moore was vicar, and denounced the dissenters, wherever they attended. He published: "The Banner of Corah, Dathan and Abiram display'd and their sin discovered in several sermons preached at Bristol", by John Moore, curate of Brislington and Queen Charlton.

[E Green, Biblioteca Somersetensis, 8vo Bristol, 1696]

Edward Hayman glazed the windows of the church and charged 7s 2d. [CWs]

Lease for seven years on a messuage called Stone House by Thomas Langton to Tobias Pope, husbandman, Brislington. [SRO DD/BR/tb/W67/13]

Samuel Hollister, grocer and his wife Mary, nee West, Quakers, inhabitants of Brislington. [Sam died 1696] [Q1]

February 9

Marriage licence, William Sellwood, Bussleton, coalminer, and Mary Merryweather, Castle Precincts, at St Philip and St Jacob or the Cathedral. [BMLB 1695/6]

June 30

Thomas Wilcox of Brislington buried, a Quaker. [Q1]

August 14

The unmarried childless Thomas Langton made his will, though happily remained with us until after the end of this volume.

1697

Will of Richard Ingelo, gentleman of Busleton. [PCC [155] 1697 Fol163]

Celebrations for the Peace of Ryswyck between William III and Louis XIV. The Brislington bells, as per usual were rung and there was merrymaking around a bonfire. [CWs]

May

Israel Minor and Thomas Merryweather, churchwardens. [CWs]

Thomas Burnell supplied tiles to the churchwardens. [ibid]

Thomas Frank, a Londoner, [apprentice of Edward Ward], and his wife, née Hester Martine succeeded Ward and continued working the pottery at Brislington for about six years. Their daughter Hester was born in 1699, but sadly her mother died in 1700. Thomas remarried in 1701 Elizabeth Collins, who came from Bath, but was a possible relative of the Brislington Collins's. Frank paid rates for St Anne's Mill in 1704.

[Pountney]

November 4

Further goings on, which must have infuriated Rev John Moore. Stephen Cowling died and was "interred without the knowledge of the Minister. Service held at the Church of England." [PRStLBI]

The late Stephen was a Quaker. He had paid rates on "Chocks" and "Twelve Acres", probably manor land, which eventually reverted to Thomas Langton. [CWs]

1698

January 17

Rachel Merryweather, the daughter of John was "buried within the Church of England". Had her previous leanings towards dissent been overturned at the last? Nevertheless.....

February 28

....Mary Daniel, widow, was buried "without the burial form of the Church of England." Was Mary the mother of Josias Daniel, whose corpse had been carried out of the church at her request in 1691? [PRStLB]

May 14

John son of Edward Bye of Brissleton, gallypotmaker, apprenticed to Marie Orchard, widow of John Orchard and co-partners, as a gallypotmaker. [BARI]

July 4

Sir William Cann buried at St Walberis [St Werbergh's] in the City of Bristol. [PRStLB]

October 16

The will of Sir William Cann of Bussleton, Knight and Baronet, dated 24 July, 1697, was proved by the executors, Joseph Langton of Newton Park, Thomas Langton of Brislington and Arthur Hart of Bristol. He desired to be buried at night at St Werbergh's. His son William Cann, then under 18 (he was actually three in 1687: see his baptism recorded above) was to have the leases of the Manor of Brean, and houses in Brislington and Corn Street, for 99 years. His daughter Elizabeth, under 18, is also mentioned. A codicil dated 13 June, 1698 touched on a controversy in law concerning different wills of his father, Sir Robert Cann, and refers to his four children, William, only son and heir, Elizabeth, Cecilia and Margaret, who were to have £400 each and to his aunt Sarah, to have £5.

[ASW; PCC [188] 1698 Fol 226]

October 18

"Robert Lanne of the City of Bristol and Madam Swimer" [sic] were married at St Luke's. The bride was née Mary Langton, the sister of Thomas Langton and Elizabeth Cann, and the widow of Anthony Swymmer who died in October 1690. Robert Lane was a merchant.

October 26

Martha Hollister, born 1673, daughter of Samuel and Mary Hollister of Brislington, Quakers, was reported married "by the priest", perhaps outside the Society of Friends? Mary, her mother, by then widowed was still an inhabitant of Brislington when she married George White in 1703. [Q2]


November 16

A vivid vignette involving two Welshman, who came only from nearby Monmouthshire, yet one was unable to speak English, which illustrates the true "Welshness" of Wales at that time, when language and country were synonymous. Sadly, the non-English speaker seems to have been the victim of sharp practice, in an example of human nature regrettably still unchanged today.

Brislington, Lacy to Langton

"James Evans of Eatton in Monmouth and Morgan Davy of the same did travel together to look for harvest worke in the year 1696. They happened to meet one George Brice in a place called Ickington in Gloucester and Brice bargained with them, Morgan Davy not being able to speak English, to work for him at Harvest Worke at five shillings a week apiece, wet or dry for two weeks, and brought them to Brislington in the county of Somerset and set them to work accordingly. James Evans said Brice had paid him according to contract but had not yet paid his partner Morgan Davy anything for his two weeks work of ten shillings."

[Signed] Thomas Langton

The Mark  of James Evans.
[SRO 1698 210/8]

Sadly, Thomas Langton's judgement has not survived, so we shall never know whether Morgan got his money.

1699

John Deane vicar of Brislington.

February 13

"The widow Cook buried at the Quakers' Burying Place." [PR StLB]

It may be that with the arrival of a new vicar, the wounds of religious differences were being healed. The new Quaker Burial place was in the vicinity of Flower's Hill. Nothing now remains of it.

March 25

Further Lease for two years of Brislington Farm between

1. Thomas Langton, esquire, Lord of the Manor of Bussleton, alias Brislington
- &
2. William Hort of Busselton, yeoman.

Capital Messuage in Manor of Brislington. Certain new buildings, a lime kiln and liberty to hunt excepted. Annual rent £145. By 9 June 1699, the rent had risen to £150 per annum, plus six dozen young pigeons.

[BRO 26992/1 & 2]

May

Robert Little and Francis Green, churchwardens.

[CWs]

September 19

Marriage licence. Robert Baugh of Brislington, yeoman, and Joan Gregory of St Michael's Bristol; at St Michael or St Augustine.

[BMLB]

December 4

William Jenkins and Hannah Bennett applied to marry, bringing a certificate from Richard Cabell, her father, giving consent. Richard also carried the consent of the "Brislington Friends Meeting". William was a schoolmaster, and Hannah the widow of another schoolmaster. [Q2]

And here alas, for now, we must leave them.....To be continued

Thomas Langton, of London.

John Langton, of Bristol.

Alderman John Langton, of Bristol, 1628, born at Horfield, co. Glouc., died 1636. Will (31 Goare).
 Thomas = Eleanor Gerard Langton, of Trent.

Anselm Langton, in Ireland, 1636.

John Langton.
 Michael Meredith. = Elizabeth Langton.

Rev. William Langton, of Doynton and Dyrham, buried at Dyrham, Aug. 17, 1668.

Mary Meredith, baptized June 5, 1640, married Sep. 18, 1656, to Thomas Gore, of Alderton.

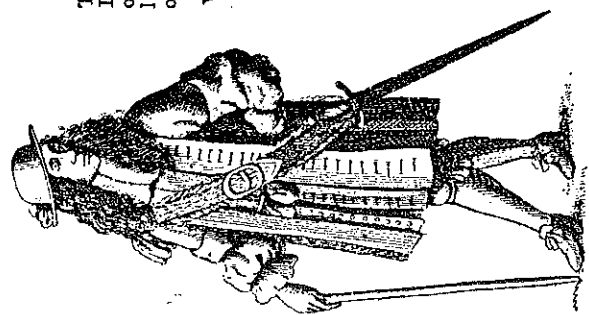
1. Hester daughter of William Cann.
 Sir Thomas = 2. Elizabeth Goning, of Cold Ashton, co. Glouc., died 1704. Will (166 Ash).
 John = Elizabeth Langton, daughter of Edward Bridges, July 3, 1652, died 1661, s.p. Will (208 May).
 John Langton, aged 14, 1672, died 1682. Admon. to Lady Elisab. Cann.

Elizabeth Langton.
 Ezekiel Langton, of Bristol, ad. mon. 28 May, 1686, to his brother, Joseph Langton.
 Francis = Mary Vaughan, Langton, of St. Pierre (Monmouth).
 Thomas = John Lewis Langton.

William Langton, Merchant, of Bristol, ob. s.p. Will 1656. Will (141 Berkeley).
 Joseph = Frances Langton, daughter of Sir John Borlace, Bart. Will (113 Shaller.)

Henry Langton, ob. s.p. 1701, aged 24. Admon. Oct. 2, 1701, to his father, Joseph Langton, esq.
 Frances, married to Robert Fry.
 Dorothy and Mary, died young.

1. Her cousin, Robert Langton, heiress, died 1749, aged 70.
 2. Sir George Cobb, Bart.



Thomas Langton, of Bristol, ob. s.p. Will (129 Box).
 Joseph Langton, ob. s.p. Will (129 Box).
 Robert Langton, of Brislington, died 1708. Will (50 Barrett).
 Hester Langton, died 1682. Admon. June 1, 1682, to Lady Elisabeth Cann, alias Langton, wife of Sir Win. Cann, Knt.

Sir William = Elisabeth Cann, Knt., Langton. Will (226 Lort).
 Edward = Frances Bath, of Bristol.

1. William = Mary Swymmers, died Oct. 1690.

1. Charlotte, daughter of Peter Bathurst, died July 24, 1757.
 2. Bridget Glanville, daughter of Evelyn Glanville, of Sinclair, Kent. She died Jan. 9, 1774.

Col. William Gore, of Barrow Gurney, who took the additional name of Langton. M.P. for Somerset. Died Mar. 14, 1847.

Joseph Langton.

THE LANGTON FAMILY TREE

LANGTON WILLS

Sir Thomas Langton, Knt, Alderman of Bristol. Will dated May 24, 1672, proved Oct 2, 1673, by the executors. My brother in law Mr Robert Yeate, my cousin Mr Joseph Creswicke, & Mr Thomas Earle, Sheriff of Bristol, executors. My house at Easton Piercy, Wilts to my wife Dame Elizabeth Langton. Thomas Langton my eldest son by her. To my eldest son John Langton, a bason and ewer that was my grandfather's. Goods plate & among my children. My daughter Hester, £1,500, also £100 given to her by her mother's will. My daughter Elizabeth, £1,000, & my daughters Joanna and Frances £800 each, all at ages of 18, or marriage. My youngest son Robert Langton, £500. To my son Thomas Langton,

MY MANOR OF BRISLINGTON COMING TO ME BY THE DECEASE OF MY BROTHER EZEKIEL LANGTON WHO PURCHASED IT OF ROWLAND LACY, ESQ,

remainder in default of heirs to my son Joseph, then to Robert. To my son Joseph Langton, lands in Doynton, Co. Glouc, which was in the possession of my uncle William Langton, & now in possession of my sister Elizabeth for life. My daughter Mary. My brother in law Mr Edward Strowde & Mr Richard Streamer, overseers. To be buried in the Crowde of St Nicholas. My brother Joseph and his wife £10. My sister Vaughan and her husband, £10 for mourning. My brothers in law Robert Goning and John Goning and my sister Mary Goning, £10 each. My cousins Virtue, Mrs Readwood & Mary Gray, £5. Poor of St Nicholas, £50.

Ezekiel Langton, late of Bristol dec'd. Admon May 28 1686, to his brother Joseph Langton.

Joseph Langton, of Bristol, merchant. Will dated May 18, 1694, proved June 21, 1694 by Thomas Langton. My sister Elizabeth, wife of Sir William Canne, Bart, my sister Joanna, wife of John Knight of Bristol, esqr, my sister Mary Swimmer, widow, my sister Frances, wife of Edward Bath of Bristol, merchant, and my brother Robert Langton of Bristol, one guinea each. Residue to brother Thomas Langton, and to be executor.

Thomas Langton of Brislington, Somerset. Dated August 14 1696. All my lands &c in Bristol & Somerset, Glouc, and Wilts, to my only surviving brother Robert Langton, & to his heirs in trust, to pay debts &c. To my mother Dame Elizabeth Langton, £10 for mourning. To Sir William Cann, Knt and my sister Dame Elizabeth Cann, £4 for mourning. [Proved July 8, 1701]

Addenda to Brislington Bulletins I

1.

Tucked away amid the Gore-Langton papers at Somerset Record Office - and dated 1675 - is a document:

"Customs of the Manor of Brislington"

"Every tenant who holdeth a yarde land on death to pay to the Lord two heriotts of his best quick cattle.

Every tenant with half a yard land, one heriott.

If he but holdeth a cottage, no heriott.

If a tenant dies without cattle the next tenant to pay ten shillings in lieu of heriott.

The widow of a copy holder to keep land during her lifetime, but if she marry with a stranger, then he is to pay one heriott.

Sundry Commons within the manor.

Birchwood, Eastwood, Ramscliffe, Smallridge, the common from St Anne's Bridge to Pallard's Bridge, Hengrove, with the Fishponds. Tenants and parishioners, time out of mind kept all manner of cattle as many as they were able to winter, the farmer only excepted. And that the farmer of the land in the Manor to have no right to keep any kind of cattle on the common.

[Signed] Nicholas Thorne
Richard Vaughan, freeholder.

There follows a list of Brislington worthies:

William Bartlett	John Greene	John Puxley
William Payne	William Abbott	Thos Foord
John Masie	Thos Greene	William Howard
Thomas Maynard	John Bowman	William Payne
Thomas Bord	Thos Russell	John Summers
John Greene	John Daniell	Richard Ifell
John Hedges	William Newman	William Daniell
John Parsons	John Foord	Robert Lanne
William Webley	John King	William Tibbott
John Eiden	John ffelpes	Thomas Daniell

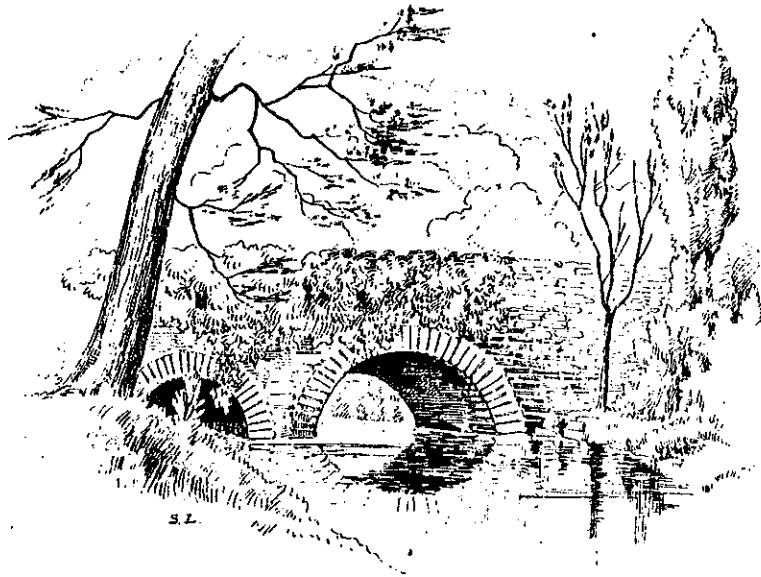
Any reader of Brislington Bulletins I will recognise most of these men at once, for they were alive and kicking at the end of the Tudor era when John Lacy convened his Manor Court. I suspect the "Customs" which belonged to the previous century were got out and dusted off when the Langton's bought the manor, and that a date of 1675 was incorrectly appended. Some of the family names were of course still going strong during the century presently under review, for instance for Eiden, see Eyton, and for Ifell, see Ithell. And was Robert Lanne [Lanel] the ancestor of his namesake who married our Mary Langton Swimmer in 1698?

2.

The case of Agnes de Blakeford in 1286.

Misplaced feminism allowed me to suppose that Alice's accomplice in the murder of her husband, who I believed had been set free, was a man. I was wrong on both counts. Alice's alleged assistant was Joan of Bannebyr, and after the deed was committed, both women fled. Alice alone was captured, stood trial, and was condemned. Joan remained at large, but was outlawed in her absence. Furthermore, it was probably in Bristol where the crime took place that Alice was burnt at the stake, and not in Brislington Square! The affair therefore had little direct connection with Brislington itself, though Alice's late husband, Robert of Bristilton, may have been born in the village, or if not then his father almost certainly was. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the affair was at least talked about here!

I am grateful to Jonathon Rowe who drew my attention to this error, and to Margaret McGregor at Bristol Record Office who in 1987, supplied Jonathon with a full translation of the entry concerning the above from the Assize Roll.



S^r Annis Bridge.

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- NB. 1. * denotes the same name appears more than once on the page.
 2. Women have been indexed in both maiden and married names.

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