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Brislington Bulletins

No. 6
1800 - 24

D.P. Lindegaard

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D.P. Lindegaard B.A.

BRISLINGTON BULLETINS

No.6

1800-1824

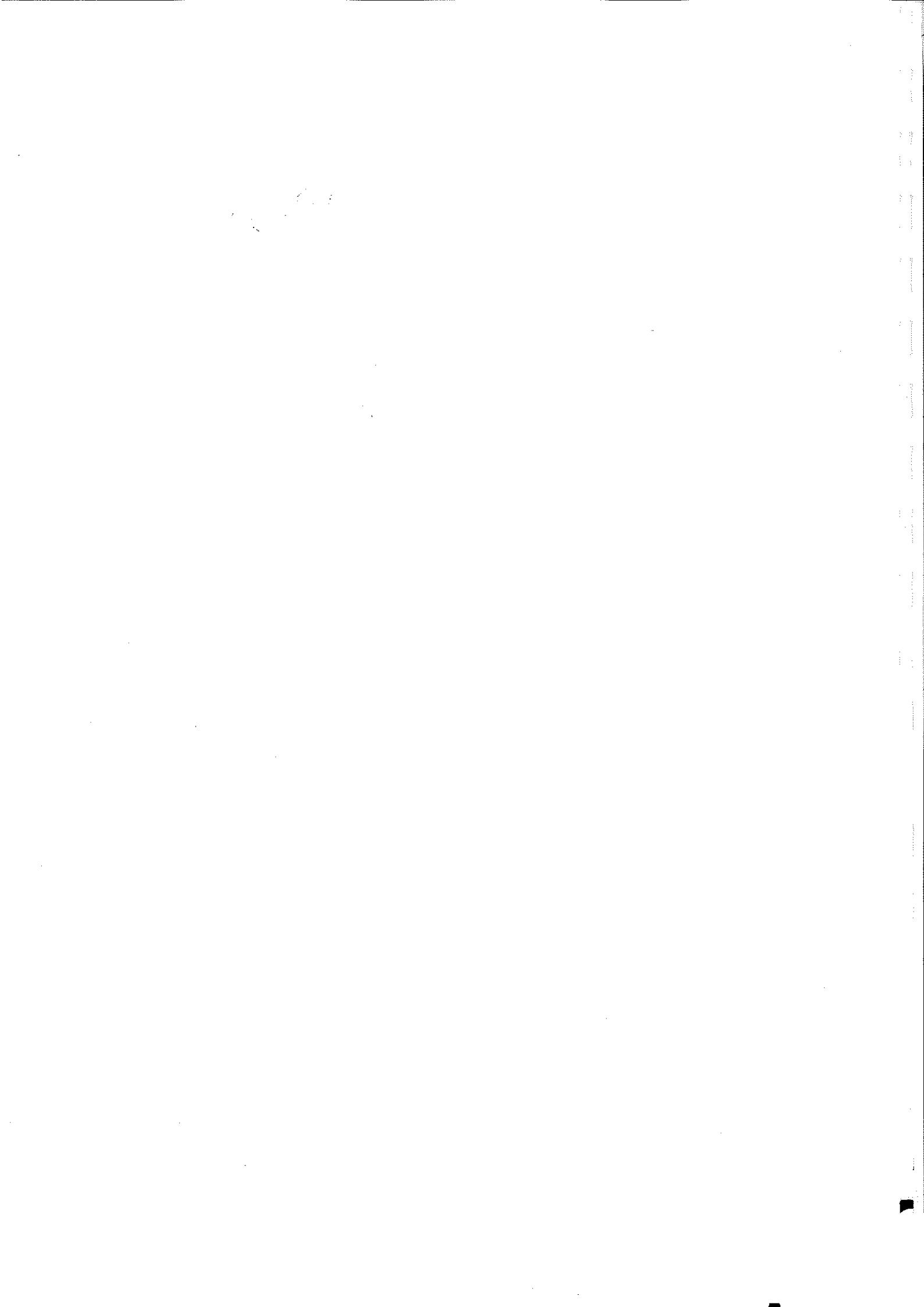
RECIPE

4lbs of Rice
A Qtr. lb of Suet or Hog's Lard
3 gallons of water
A little Allspice
Salt & sugar.

First boil the water, put in rice, then skim it, add suet or lard cut small. Boil for 20 minutes. Take saucepan off the fire and season the mess with allspice and salt. Take particular care to cover it close and keep warm by the fire for an hour and quarter to allow time for the rice to swell and soften. This mess will keep for two days and when used should be gradually warmed and stirred. Sugar or treacle may be added for children at leisure.

4lbs of Rice will produce 26 pounds of pleasant and nourishing food at a cost of about a halfpenny per pound.

From the Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor.
Reprinted, Felix Farley's Bristol Journal, 31.5.1800.



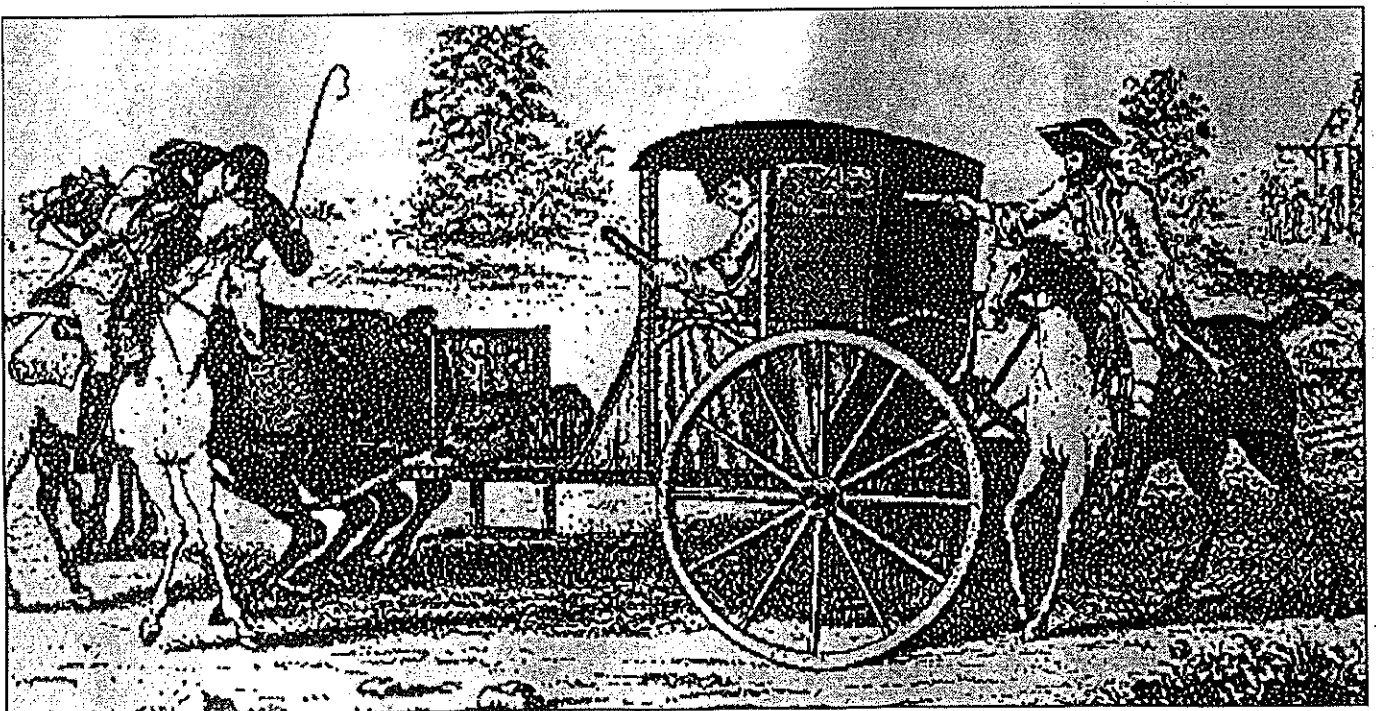
It seems strange that my original idea was to compile a short history of the parish of Brislington in mediaeval times as a dissertation for my BA degree in 1992. Insufficient data made the project impractical and it emerged as a general study of four parishes. However, I thought the specific information I had gathered too good to waste, and I wove it into what became part one of this series. One grew into another, and now this is Number Six, covering the years 1800-1824. Our parish of Brislington has continued in its own sweet way, largely untroubled by the great big world beyond the parish boundary, though by now our fame has spread to Bristol. We have become attractive to newly rich families who have settled here away from the hustle and bustle of Bristol commerce. "What a wonderful place to build a collection!" thought the businessman G.W. Braikenridge when he took early retirement to become a notable antiquarian. "A good calm place for an asylum!" thought the mental health pioneer Doctor Fox, though the tranquillity may have been disturbed by Colonel Gore, marching about showing the colours, and an unfortunate double hanging, which came about as a direct result of the (temporary) cessation of the War.

The usual robberies took place and I have amongst my bits and pieces, dated April 1822, a note - "Brislington Common, the Hounslow Heath of the West". Unfortunately, try as I might, I cannot now locate the source.

Nothing much else happened, though once again, I hope that those whose ancestors lurk here will have genuine pleasure in reading about their minor affairs. My "pet" this time has to be Mary Jane Catherine Comet. If you know what became of her, please do let me know.

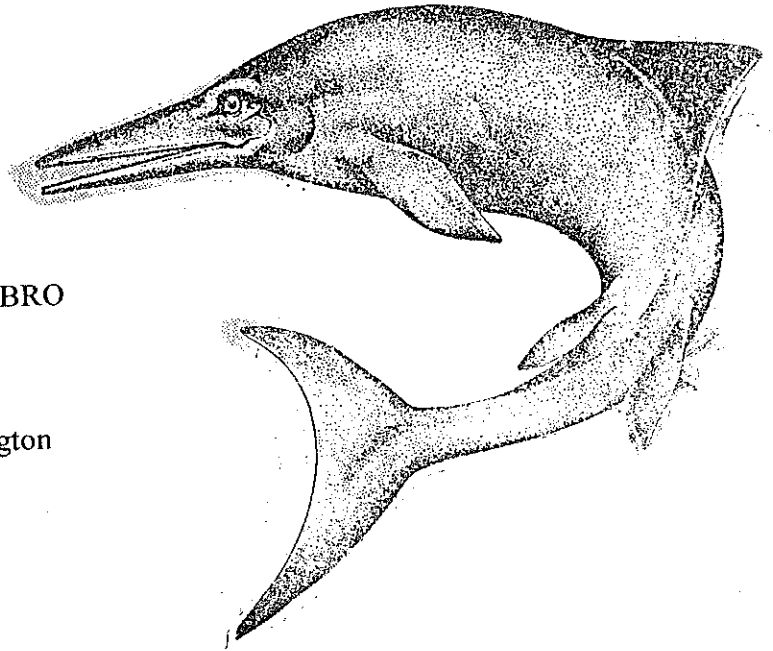
Number Seven, 1825-49 is already in progress. Two censuses and Rev Charles Ranken's Visiting book. It should be a bumper edition. Watch this space!

D.P. Lindegaard
January 2003



Abbreviations

BM - Bristol Mirror
BMBJ - Bonner & Middleton's Bristol Journal
BRO - Bristol Record Office
CWs - Churchwardens of Brislington filed at BRO
under P/StLB/Ch
FFBJ - Felix Farley's Bristol Journal
G-L - Gore-Langton papers
OP - Overseers of the Poor records of Brislington
filed at BRO under P/StLB/OP
PR - Parish Register
SRO - Somerset Record Office



Bibliography

Edward Long Fox:

A Biography and Portraits of Edward Long Fox, can be found in History of the Bristol Royal Infirmary by G. Munro Smith. More information about the remarkable Dr Fox is in Bristol & Avon Family History Society Journal 77, September 1994, "Edward Long Fox Snr. M.D. & Brislington House" by Muriel Maby and "Riot - the Bristol Bridge Massacre of 1793" by Michael Manson.

George Weare Braikenridge: Essential reading is "Mr Braikenridge's Brislington" by Sheena Stoddard.

Clayfield-Ireland family: see "Tracking Down the Clayfield-Irelands" by Barry Williamson in Avon Past, 14, Spring 1989.

William Conybeare: is mentioned frequently in "The Dinosaur Hunters" by Deborah Cadbury.

Thomas James: I am indebted to Bob Simmons for his "Short Account of the United Reformed Church of Brislington, Bristol", to Thomas James' descendant, Ann Wolforth, and John Tomkins' descendant Isobel Jones.

Quarter Sessions: My thanks to Richard Withers for his transcription of Quarter Sessions Records at BRO, and therefore the statements from Messrs Triston, Murphy, Morgan and Whittingback, and almost, indeed, from the horse's mouth!

Is Your Name Comet? previously appeared in the Bristol & Avon Family History Society Journal, December 2002.

Thanks as always to the Bristol & Somerset Record Offices and Bristol Reference Library for allowing me to reproduce and quote from items in their care and especially to **Rose Sutton**, who did the additional drawings.



GEORGE WEARE BRAIKENRIDGE

Handwritten text, possibly a list or notes, located in the upper left quadrant of the page. The text is faint and difficult to read.

Vertical text or markings along the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or a reference code.

1800

4 January

"On Christmas Day last, eighty children at the school in Keynsham, established by Mrs Ireland of Brislington, were plentifully regaled with Beef and Pudding (in celebration of Christmas). Clothes, Bibles and testaments & other pious books were given by the above lady to be distributed among them according to their diligence and good behaviour."
(BMBJ/FFBJ)

1 March

Obituary: "Died at Arno's Vale, John Cave, esquire, a gentleman whose stirring worth will never die in the remembrance of those who knew him best."
(FFBJ)

5 April

"Married by Special Licence at Netherton, (perhaps Nettleton?), Wiltshire, William Gore-Langton, esquire, Member of Parliament for the County of Somerset, Colonel of the Oxfordshire regiment of Militia to Miss Browne, daughter of the late John Browne, esquire, of Salperton, Gloucestershire."
(FFBJ)

19 June

"To attending Sarah Wilson, a woman found speechless in a stable, 12s 5d." So wrote the Brislington clerk on this day. Naturally, when there was an occurrence such as this, the Overseers of the Poor became involved. The Overseers, along with the Churchwardens and Parish Constable, were responsible for the local government of the parish. These, (almost always), men were drawn from the yeomanry and minor gentry of the parish who took turns in office as an amateur civil service. Basic numeracy and literacy were generally essential, for they collected the rates from the better off, and at the other end, distributed money amongst the needy, and had to catalogue both sorts. Every half year, the poor of the parish would wait cap in hand to collect their dole, and would be listed by name and the amount received. As well as these regulars, a large cast of irregulars take the stage in the meticulously kept Brislington books, reluctant bridegrooms, unmarried mothers, orphans, pauper apprentices, the sick, the dying and the already dead, militia substitutes and any number of wanderers who passed through the village. As was once said of "The News of the World", all human life is there.

27 August

The name of this child speaks for itself of the pride in which our greatest naval hero was held: Horatio Nelson, (born 27 July), the son of Abraham & Grace Mereweather, was baptised this day at St Luke's.

13 September

The Overseers claimed expenses for "a journey to Keynsham, &c, taking Elizabeth Cole before the Justice and sending her and the child she had left upon the parish away". This judgement seems unnecessarily harsh, but the parish where she was actually "settled" was supposed to look after her, and make what arrangements it could to be repaid, as with Martha Griffin, whose case appears below.

18 September

The Overseers paid sixteen shillings and threehalfpence to a crowd of *'Ninety* (my italics), travellers, mostly disabled soldiers and seamen, with wives and children', who passed through Brislington. Such pathetic roving bands were regular arrivals in our parish during this time of war with France. They carried Admiralty and War Office passes which apparently put them outside the normal settlement laws, and which required that they be given subsistence to take them on their way. (BRO P/StLB/OP/6(a)4)

5 October

Sarah Jones, born 6 April 1774, and Jane Jones, born 17 June 1780, the daughters of William & Ruth Jones, were baptised at St Luke's. (More than 20 years late, and this is the reason, we poor family historians often have difficulty completing our family trees!)

26 November

Martha Griffin, who was pregnant, and no doubt thrown out of her employment in St Augustine's, Bristol was "removed" home to Brislington, and a hue and cry was raised. By the 5th December, the alleged father of the child had been located and rooted out. He was John Gifford, a cooper of Pipe Lane in Bristol. He declined to marry the girl, and accordingly had to pay the price. A bond of indemnity was drawn up between Gifford and Capel Cook, esquire, the Churchwarden, Thomas Tipton & Thomas Vaughan, gentlemen, the Overseers of the Poor, all of Brislington, "in respect of the expected child of Martha Griffin of Brislington, for the maintenance, education and bringing up of the said child or children." (BRO P St LB/OP/11/34 & P StLB/OP/13/22)

1801

In this year, a census of the parish was taken: the population was numbered at 776. No other information survives.

17 January

Obituary: "Died at Long Ashton, William Reeve, the son of the late William Reeve, formerly an eminent merchant in this City." (FFBJ)
(For William Reeve senior, and his part in Brislington affairs, see "Brislington Bulletins" 3-5, inclusive. His "Black Castle" - infamously dubbed "the Devil's Cathedral" is still with us - as a pub, as is Arno's Court, now irritatingly, (and inaccurately) called Arno's Manor. What, I wonder, would William, a Quaker, have made of a night club on the same premises called by his name, "Reeves"?)

11 February:

William Moxham had taken his family to Oldland, in the nearby parish of Bitton, but could no longer provide for them. They belonged to Brislington, and it was there they had to be sent. An order was drawn up to remove William, his wife Jane, and their children Sarah, 9, Jane, 6, and William, aged about 3, from Oldland to Brislington.

(BRO St LB/OP)

7 March

"Married at Brislington, on the 7th instant, Mr Robert Noyes, merchant of Bristol to Miss Thompson, daughter of Mr Charles Thompson of that place." (FFBJ 21.3.1801)

4 May

Obituary: "Died at Kidlington, Mr Edward Gore, father of William Gore-Langton, esquire." (FFBJ)

22 May

The infant son of Edward Clayfield was buried. (PR)

9 June

The Langtons were still nominally our Lords of the Manor, even though they lived at Newton St Loe. On this day, "Mary Morris, late laundress to Mr Langton, aged 64", was buried there. (PR)

9 July

A pauper couple, George and Ann Corner were removed from St Philip & St Jacob's, Bristol, to Brislington. (BRO OP/St LB/OP/11/34)

29 September

A lease was drawn up for three lives between (1) William Gore-Langton, esquire and (2) Mr Henry Brown, (of Brislington) and his sons James, 11, Nathaniel, 10, Edward, 8. Yearly Rent one shilling; herriott, two shillings. (SRO G-L Papers)

10 October

Obituary: "died Sunday last at Park Row, Mrs Beale, sister of Mrs Ireland of Brislington." (FFBJ)

30 October

Creating a charity: John Cooke-Hurle, esquire, Captain John Arthur Cooke-Hurle, Alfred Clayfield-Ireland, esquire, all of Brislington, trustees of the will of Henry Cooke-Hurle, in the amount of £139 part of the sum of £250, laid out in stock, the income to be distributed each St Thomas's Day in sums of not less than one guinea around the deserving poor of Brislington. (BRO P/StLB/Ch/13)

12 December

Obituary: "died Monday sennight, at her house in St George, in the 94th year of her age, Mrs Elizabeth Pullin, mother of the late John Pullin, esquire, of Brislington. She kept to her bed the last eight years and bore her illness with truly Christian fortitude." (FFBJ)

31 December

Obituary: "Harriet Catherine, amiable and only child of Mr John Hill of Brislington, to the inexpressible grief of her parents and friends." (FFBJ)

1802

22 April

The parish bore the cost, 5 shillings, of the lying in of James Baker's wife. He was away serving in the militia. (OP)

5 June

One of our more intriguing inhabitants, "died at Brislington Cottage, in the bloom of youth, Miss Carolina Vander Horst, youngest daughter of Elias Vander Horst, esquire, the American consul."
(Obituary, FFBJ)

19 June

It occurs to me that a man would have had to be quite desperate to take on the task of serving in the militia as a substitute for somebody else. Nevertheless it seems to have been commonplace for those villagers unlucky enough to be chosen by lot for service to try to find others to take their place. On this day, the Overseers paid 5 guineas, which represented 105 weeks pay from 13 April 1800 to 18 April 1802 as "Substitute money for Wilcox's wife, serving in the militia for I. Powell."
(OP)

10 August

Poor George Thorne accidentally drowned. The high cost was met by the parish. The writing of a letter, five shillings, delivering it to the Coroner by a postman, two and sixpence, the convening of a Jury, eight shillings, the taking of the inquest at the White Hart, and the Coroner's expenses, who perhaps stayed the night, six shillings and sevenpence. Once a verdict had been delivered, Coroners' records were their own property, so most do not survive. George was buried the next day at St Luke's. (OP,PR)

27 November

"A servant of Mr Prescott's of Brislington was robbed near Totterdown of about 30 shillings after having first knocked him down with a bludgeon so as to render him senseless, and but for an umbrella which the man held over his head at the time, the consequences might have been fatal."
(FFBJ)

10 December

Mary Scudamore Cook, of Brislington was buried at St Michael's, Bristol, aged 70. An obituary appeared in Felix Farley's Bristol Journal on 11 December, "Sunday last at Brislington, in the 71st year of her age, Mrs Mary Scudamore Cooke, wife of Mr Capel Cooke and daughter of the late Dr Greville of Gloucester."
(PR, FFBJ)
(We met Mr Capel Cook, the churchwarden, in 1800.)

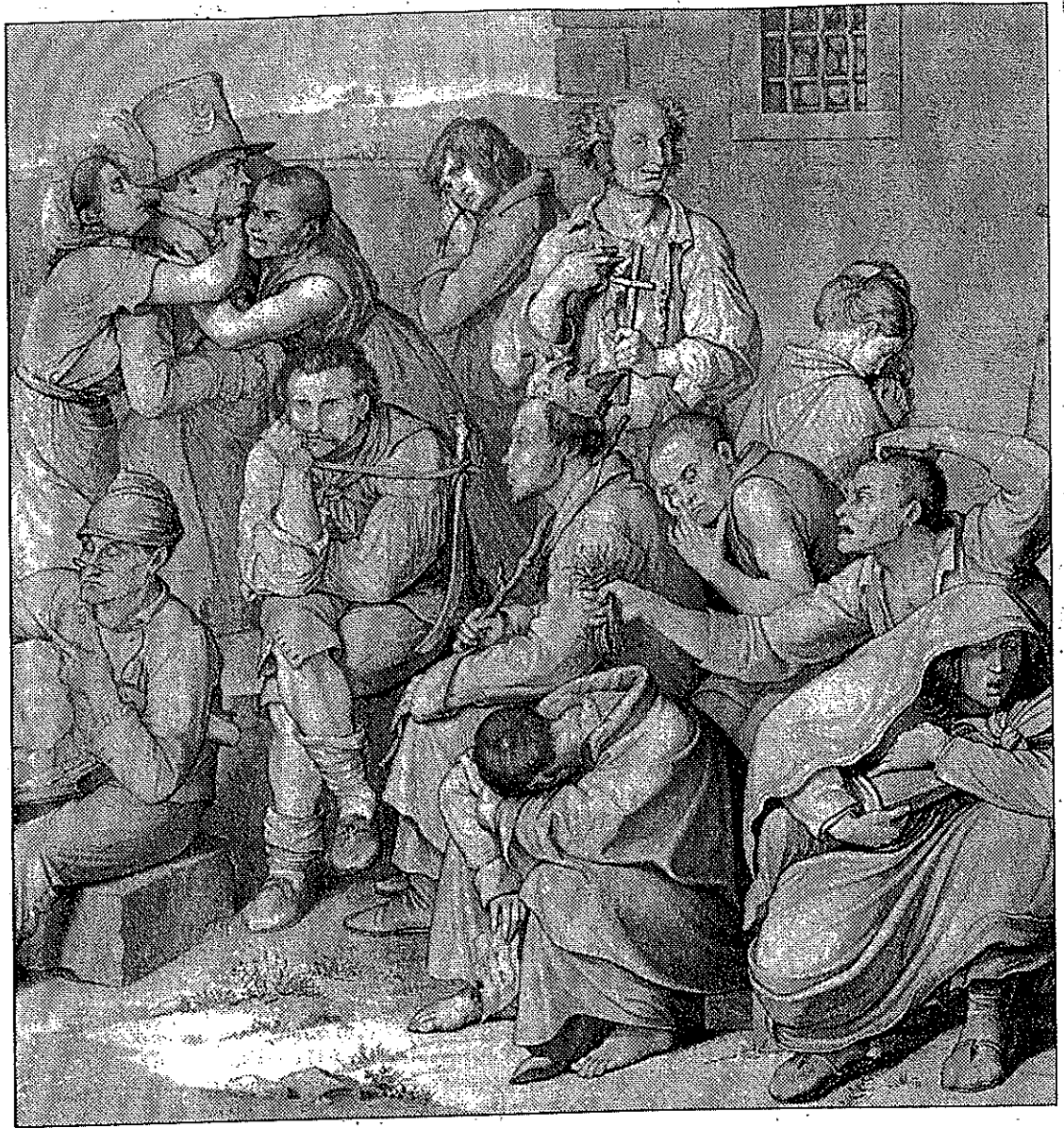
24 December

More wringing of hands: "Swearing Martha Anthony to a bastard - one shilling. Warrant against William Hutchins, 2s 6d. Officers for taking him and bringing him to Brislington, 10s6d."
(OP)

1803

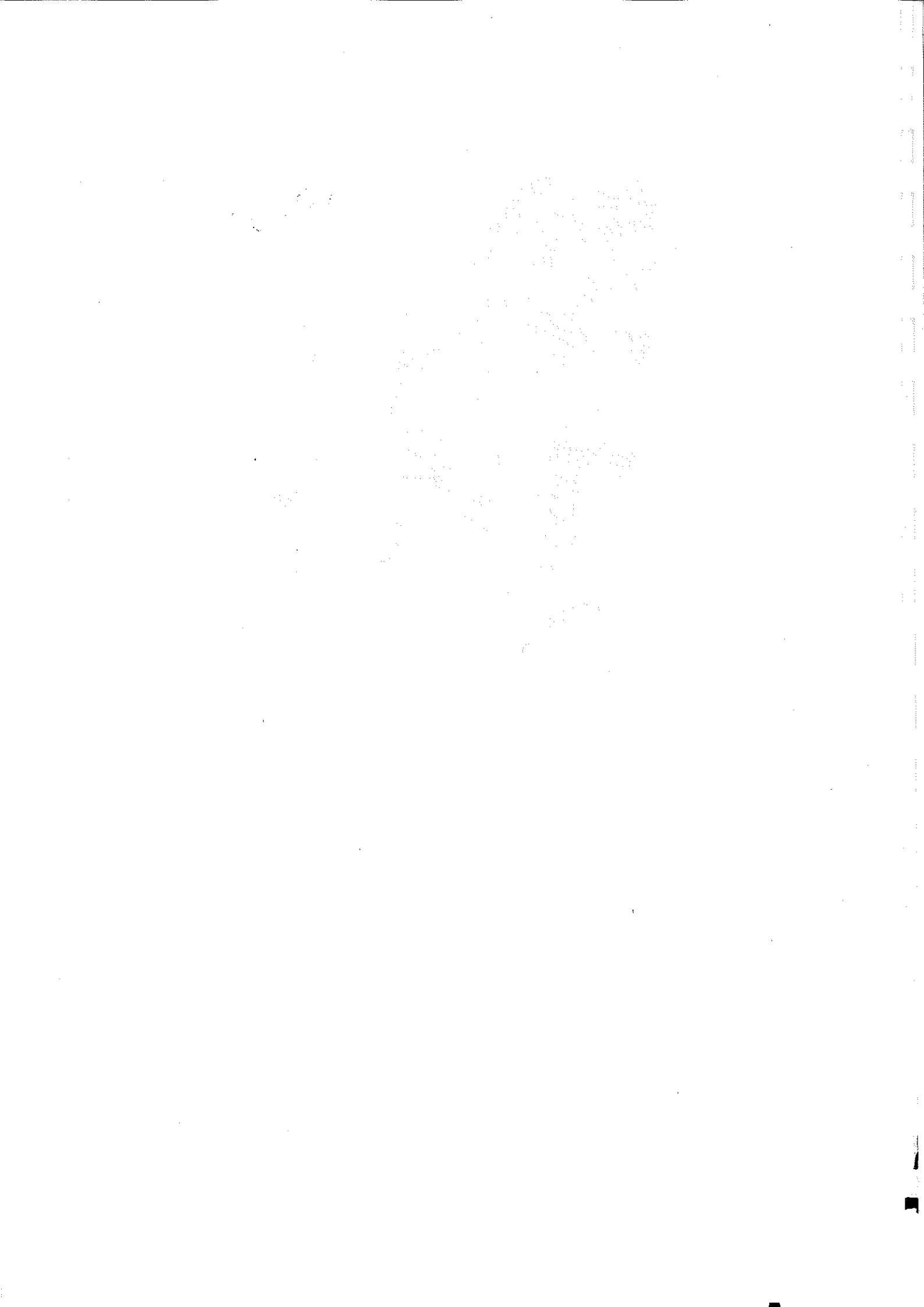
15 January

"Yesterday sennight nearly 150 feet of a wall fence of a field, part of the inclosure of Brislington Common was wickedly destroyed, but from circumstances which have been disclosed, a reward being offered, there is reason to hope the offenders will soon be



THE MADHOUSE by Wilhelm von Kaulbach (1835)

**Dr Fox's was more humane than
this horror**



brought to justice." Wishful thinking perhaps, for there seems to be no further mention of the incident. (FFBJ)

12 February

a sad death far from home: "Early in the last month, died in the South of France, in the 28th year of his age, E. Estridge, esquire, son of John Estridge, esquire, some years since of Wick in the parish of Brislington." (FFBJ)

(The peace treaty between England and France was signed at Amiens in 1802, which enabled gentlemen like young Mr Estridge to resume going on The Grand Tour. The peace unfortunately proved temporary and hostilities began again in this year of 1803.)

21 April

James Niblet of Brislington & Ann Bullen were married at Keynsham. (PR)

29 April

Robert Francis Willoughby, esquire, was buried. (PR)

6 August

Another substitute militiaman: "24 weeks pay for the family of Johnson, serving in the militia for Jeremy Pillinger, £3.12s.0d." (OP)

18 August

Lease and release of three tenements in Brislington, (BRO 27689/2a-b) between

- (1) Charles Hill of Brislington, esquire, Thomas Hill of Shirehampton, esquire
- (2) John Maxse, Richard Edols, John Hurle, Wintom Harris, turnpike trustees.

24 August

"Paid six men for taking a man to the Infirmary with a broken leg." Thomas James's cart presumably not being available, it looks like they carried him. (OP)

23 September

The parish made payments for the militia:

- James Laver, serving in Old Militia £5.5s.0d
- James Clark, ditto, by substitute, £7.9s.6d
- Francis Young, ditto, by substitute, £7.7s.0d
- Jeremiah Pillinger, ditto, by substitute, £2.12s.6d
- Benjamin Britton, ditto, by substitute, £2.12s 6d
- Daniel Weymouth, ditto, by substitute, £5.5s.0d. (OP)

17 October

Capel Cook, formerly a Churchwarden of Brislington, was buried at St Michael's, Bristol, aged 60.

20 October

Another shotgun wedding: The parish paid for "A licence to marry Samuel Ford & Ann Weymouth, £2.12s.6d." The marriage was solemnised the following day, with the groom described "a bachelor, of Keynsham". Neither party could sign their name. Their witnesses were John Weymouth and Mary Peachey. (PR, OP)

17 December

Obituary: "Saturday last, died Mrs Powell, wife of Joshua Powell, esquire of Brislington." (FFBJ)

On the same day Edward Rolle Clayfield's gift of 5 guineas was included in a list of donations towards the arming of the Bristol Sea Fencibles (Fortunately, they were never needed.)(FFBJ)



1804

8 February

More militia business: "To Keynsham to examine about John Cox, returned as 'deceased' from Somerset Regiment, by which the man balloted in his place was discharged, and the allowance from the parish saved, 10s 6d." (OP)

17 February

"45 weeks pay to the wife and family of Thomas Johnson, now in the militia for Jeremy Pillinger, due 10 February 1804." (OP)

17 March

John Vaughan of St Michael's, Bristol, and Anne Maria Maxse were married by licence at St Luke's, before witnesses John Maxse, Ann Theresa Ferrers, Charlotte Maxse & Mary Miles.

April:

Dr Edward Long Fox had bought land from the Willoughby family in 1799 for £4,000 and wind of his intentions at last reached the vestry. A meeting of the churchwardens delegated George Braikenridge, the current churchwarden "to take legal opinion concerning the right of erecting a madhouse on Brislington Common."

(Bygone Brislington)

4 May

Bad weather caused a great deal of damage in the neighbourhood of Bristol, and Felix Farley reported: "There was a thunderstorm in the afternoon when a singular transition of terra firma took place in the upper part of a dingle formed by two hills to the right of the Turnpike at Bath Road, an acute ridge upon which grew a hedge crossing the dingle and stopped from its base precipitation at its rear a piece of ground 18 yards in breadth and 54 in length".

(FFBJ 12.5.1804)

(This land slip is described in "An account of the movement of the earth behind Brislington Turnpike", R.S. Kirby, Wonderful Museum, Vol 24 p279, &c, 8 Vol 1804, Bibliography at Bath Reference Library).

5 May

"Tuesday night at half past 9 o'clock, as Lieut-Col Gore was returning from this City to his home in Brislington, on the road between Mr Maxse's and Kensington Place, he observed two stout men quitting the footpath to come towards him, upon which he warned them to keep off as he was armed. Shortly afterwards however they rushed him and seized his horse's bridle and one of them holding a pistol to his breast demanded his money. The Colonel immediately drew out one of his pistols but in attempting to fire it, it flashed in the pan, and in taking out the other it fell to the ground. Being defenceless, he clapped spurs to his horse which being a spirited animal sprang with violence from the hands of the footpads and carried him in a few minutes safe home. Colonel Gore having reloaded his pistol, remounted his horse and with some attendants went in quest of the men. On coming to the spot where he was attacked, he found the pistol he had dropped. It is supposed they are the same persons who yesterday sennight stopped a gentleman and lady going in a post chaise to Bath on Brislington Common and robbed them of 11 guineas, &c."

(FFBJ)

Colonel Gore evidently took issue with the reporter in respect of some of the details of the affair, for on the following week, 12 May, Felix Farley printed the following:

"The statement in our last about Colonel Gore was not quite correct. On the villains' demanding money the Colonel drew one of his pistols which missed fire, at the moment the other fell to the ground by the startling of his horse. The men stepped back and one said 'Now damme, I'll do for you sir!' and he spurred his horse and broke from them without injury. Had the Colonel's pistol gone off, the villain must have inevitably lost his life as the muzzle was within a pan of his breast. The Colonel without going home quickly afterwards returned to the spot and picked up the one which fell so that in all probability the robbers made off immediately fearing pursuit."

12 May

"On Monday evening last a gentleman was stopped by two ill looking men upon which he called out as if speaking to a friend 'Come, Mr -----, we shall be late'. The fellows made a spring at him, but his horse being spirited pushed through them. He made his escape and heard one of them say 'Damn it, never mind, we will rob the other.' These are the same men that attacked Colonel Gore." (FFBJ)

4 June

There was Meeting of Brislington Friendly Society at the White Hart. (FFBJ)

2 September

Richard Jones, esquire was buried. (PR)

1805

A land transaction between the following parties:

- (1) James Batten, St George, yeoman & Sarah his wife
- (2) Joseph Blackford of Inner Temple, London, gent
- (3) Benjamin Millward of Keynsham, gentleman
- (4) Henry Brown of Brislington, gentleman

(BRO 5918/33 ©-(d) 1805)

2 March

Mr Nehemiah Bartley, junior, of Lawrence Hill, was married to Miss Taylor, of Cathay. (FFBJ 2.3.1805)

(Mr N.B. senior, my hero of the coriander fields, see "Brislington Bulletins 5", seems to have left Brislington by this time.)

6 April

Married at Brislington, Mr John Carruthers to Miss Beard of this City. (FFBJ)

4 May

Mr Joseph Cooke of this City and Miss Hurle of Stourton, Wiltshire were married at Clifton. (FFBJ)

4 June

A tragic accident: "Mrs Ireland, wife of James Ireland, esquire, of Brislington died at Bridport whilst driving her daughter, Mrs Clay, in a gig. The horse took fright and Mrs Ireland was much bruised to occasion her death in two hours. Mrs Clay was not hurt."

The death was announced on 6 June in the local press, "died in Dorsetshire, the Lady of James Ireland, esquire, of Brislington." (Annual Register, 1805, p483 & FFBJ)
(Frances Ireland, (nee Godde), was the second wife of James Ireland. It is believed that her epitaph in St Luke's was written by Hannah More.)

22 June

"Lieutenant Braikenridge of the Grenadier Company of the Royal Bristol Volunteers resigned due to ill health." (FFBJ)

6 July

"Saturday was married Mr Jacob Ricketts, son of J.W. Ricketts, esquire, of this City to Miss Martin of Brislington." (FFBJ & BM formerly BMBJ)

9 August,

James King, upholsterer of Brislington, son of Samuel, bricklayer, deceased, was admitted to the Freedom of Gloucester. (Glos Freemen)

10 August

Obituary: "yesterday sennight at Brislington in the prime of life, deservedly regretted after a long confined illness which terminated in a rapid decline supported with extreme patience and resignation to the Divine Will, Mrs Noyes, wife of Mr Robert Noyes, of this City, merchant." (BM formerly BMBJ)

9 September

Robert Leane or Lane was buried. According to the Overseers expenses he was "killed at Dr Fox's Buildings" though no other details are given, except that the costs to the parish for the Coroner, Jury and digging his grave amounted to £2.1s.0d. (OP)

Apart from the initial concern of the churchwardens, this is the first mention I have discovered of Dr Fox's asylum, and shows that the house was in an advanced stage at this time. It is unfortunate that such a venture began with a tragedy.

Edward Long Fox, a Quaker, and pioneer in humane treatment for the insane was born in 1761 in Cornwall. He graduated MD in Edinburgh, 1784, practised at Plymouth until 1786, came to Bristol and at the age of 25, was elected Physician at the Infirmary. As we have seen, in 1799, he bought land at Brislington, and in 1805 after being in charge of an asylum at Cleve Hill, he opened Brislington House as an asylum for the insane. There was to be as little as possible restraint and more occupational therapy, enlightened ideas, in an age when lunatics were often put display as entertainment. He married firstly, Catherine Brown, and secondly Isabelle Ker. From his two marriages he had eight sons and 15 daughters. (Maby & BB)



Dr Edward Long Fox

8 October

George Weare Bush, son of Robert, esquire & Susannah, born 24 April and privately baptised was received into the church on this day. (PR)

12 October

"Saturday was married at St Philip and St Jacob's, Mr Henry Ricketts, son of J.W. Ricketts, esquire of this City to Miss Eliza Ricketts, only daughter of Robert Ricketts, esquire of Brislington." (BM formerly BMBJ)

21 October

The Battle of Trafalgar took place on this day. Brislington would later commemorate the famous victory with the building of "Nelson's Glory" a house that is still occupied in School Road. It has a version of Nelson's famous signal to the Fleet set in the front wall. "Let Ev'ry Englishman do his duty."

1 November

"Ann, wife of Christopher Luway, mariner, was delivered of a female child which she has since sworn to be a bastard. George Blacker, butcher, who lodged £21 in lieu of all demands made on him by the parish."

(It was just as well George paid up, for the money had to go a long way, at least until the child, a girl called Fanny, could go out to work. The Luways made frequent appearances thereafter in the overseers book, thus, "a journey to Bath about Luway, and Blacker's mother, by order of the vestry, 8 shillings", "making a frock for Luway's child, 9d", "Fanny Luway, infant, 26 weeks pay, £3.18s.0d", "Fanny Luway, 2 calico shifts 4s 3d", "Fanny Luway, frock, petticoat and shoes, 11s 3d", "Fanny Luway, pinafores, shoes, frock, etc, 7s 8d, shoes, 3s 6d, skirt, gown and pinafore, ten shillings and twopence ha'penny". "Shoes, 4s 2d", "4 yards of dowlas for 2 shifts, 4s 4d", "26 weeks at 3 shillings per week £3.18s.0d", "petticoat and pinafores, 6s 7d" and so on, all the way up to 1819, when she was 13. In this year, her mother reappeared, still one of nature's walking wounded, and on March 26 was the subject of a removal order. As she had no settlement in Brislington, the parish had no hesitation in getting rid of her: "Removal order against Ann Luway and family to Temple, Bristol." It was time to do something about Fanny too. On 2 June 1819, one of the overseers went to Compton Dando to "settle with B. Pow about F. Luway, 2s 6d." It was settled, and Fanny was apprenticed, no doubt to learn the "art and mystery of housewifery" until 21 or married. On 29 September, Benjamin Pow, was paid "for clothing for Fanny Luway, as agreement, 10s.0d." Fanny received her last dole, 9 weeks at 1s 6d per week and disappears from our story.

7 December

Another untimely death occurred, shown only as "Jury, coroner, messenger etc, for Thomas Peasley 19 shillings." (OP)

same day:

"Lately married, Edward Long Fox to Miss Ker, daughter of the late Charles Ker, esquire, Major in the British Forces." (FFBJ & BM formerly BMBJ)

28 December

"Married at St Paul's, William Parsons of Brislington to Miss Baylis, only daughter of the late William Baylis of Stapleton." (FFBJ)

1806

4 January

"A gang of desperadoes which has for a length of time been a terror to the neighbourhood of Brislington and Whitchurch, we are pleased to find, is apprehended, and will speedily be brought to justice." (FFBJ) (As I found nothing else about this, perhaps it was simply a few boys scrumping apples!)

11 January

The overseers paid 2s.6d for "Charles Pope, in Bridewell", but did not say how he had transgressed.

18 January

Advertisement: "Brislington School. J. Hill respectfully informs his Friends and the Public that his school recommences Monday next, the 20th instant. NB A Classical Assistant wanted: (One concern)." (FFBJ)

3 March

Betty Norton gave birth to a boy who was christened John Ferris Norton on this day, and "swore the bastard" to John Ferris, who had removed himself to the West Indies, well beyond the reach of the churchwardens. The initial cost to the parish was seven shillings, but what happened to them later is not known. (PR, OP 5.4.1806)

5 April

"William Moxham, and family, he has dislocated his shoulder, incapable of working, (paid) 20 weeks, £5.0s.0d." (OP)

24 October

John Maxse, esquire of Arnos Vale died aged 66. His memorial is in the Lady Chapel at St Luke's. He and his wife Charlotte had a son John, who had predeceased his father at the age of 10 years and six months on 8 May 1798. Charlotte Nicholas, the widow and mother died 8 March 1814 aged 54. All were buried in the family vault. The announcement of his death on 1 November was brief: "Friday sennight died John Maxse esquire of Arno's Vale." (PR, FFBJ)

25 October

Announcement: "Married at Brislington by the Rev R. Chichester, A. Chichester, esquire to Miss M.C. Hill, only daughter of Charles Hill, esquire, of Wick House." (FFBJ)

4 November

Mrs (Ann) Gore buried.

(PR)

7 November
Mrs Edols buried.

(PR)

1807

10 January

"J. Hill respectfully informs his friends and the public that his school re-commences on the 19th inst. NB an assistant wanted." (Public Notice in FFBJ)

(Mr Hill appears to have had difficulty finding and keeping staff.)

14 January

William Peasley, clerk of the parish, was buried.

(PR)

25 April

Announcement: "Lately married at Brislington, Mr Thomas Kebby, junior to Miss E. Grimstone." (FFBJ)

16 May

John Edols, gentleman, was buried at St Luke's. A newspaper obituary appeared on 23 May: "Tuesday sennight, died at West Town, John Edols, gentleman, eldest son of Mr Richard Edols, of Brislington, a young man universally regretted." (FFBJ)

3 July

To "Henry Harrill, constable, for conducting a girl to Hambrook, supposed to be bitten by a mad dog, 2s 6d." (OP)

12 August

Probably another marriage under duress, when a licence at the somewhat steep cost of £3 5s 0d was obtained by the Overseers for marrying Thomas Hitchens with Sarah Meredith. The wedding was on the same day, both making their marks in the register, in the presence of James Meredith, (Sarah's father?) and Ann Willcox. (OP, PR)

27 August

Another reluctant bridegroom was much more troublesome to the vestry than Thomas Hitchens and it took three constables to get him to church. The dire details were recorded by the Overseers: "Going to Cotham to have a warrant against Nourse indorsed to Keynsham, and to the New Church (i.e. St George's, Kingswood), to the constables, three shillings. Isaac Nash, one day and one night guarding Nourse, 4 shillings, marriage fees, banns for Joseph Nourse and Martha Bowls, 15 shillings, 3 constables for taking Nourse in Gloucestershire and bringing him to Brislington, 15 shillings, William Ball, for lodgings, meat and drink for constables, £1.0s.5d, expenses, etc, 1s 11d." On 28 August, Joseph Nurse, (sic) who signed, and Martha Bowls, (x) were married, in the presence of James Weymouth and John Palmer. It was never going to be a happy marriage. By February 1817, Martha Nourse, then of Hanham, and with two children, had apparently been deserted, or perhaps Nourse was dead. In any event, she was "in distress" and Brislington paid her eleven shillings then, and other sums at various times. (OP)

8 November

Sarah Clemments, the daughter of William & Elizabeth was buried. It was not a natural death, and the Overseers record expenses for the Coroner of one guinea on 5 November.

11 November

The Governor of St Peter's Hospital was paid £10.17s 6d for the maintenance of "Elizabeth Probert, a lunatic". Two months later on 5 November, a whole list of Betty Probert's needs was detailed. A serge petticoat, a bed gown, a skirt, 2 handkerchiefs, 2 caps, a check apron, and shoes, the lot amounting to £1. 4s.11d, plus another £7.10s for her maintenance. (OP)

12 December

There was deep snow, and "a poor old woman on the Bath Road was found almost frozen to death by the wayside. She was taken to the first house, and through the well-meaning but imprudent humanity of the cottagers, placed close to a warm fire. She almost instantly died." (FFBJ)

1808

12 March

The obituary of Mrs Sarah Prosser, "the relict of the late William Prosser, esquire, and fully respected" appeared. She was buried at St Luke's. (FFBJ)

26 March

According to a newspaper report, Mr Joseph Edwards and Miss Mary Ann Barnwell were married at Brislington, but I did not find it in the parish register. (FFBJ)

19 April

Mr Henry Brown & Mr William Parsons, were elected churchwardens for the year.

6 May

Elizabeth Joyce, innholder, was buried.

(PR)

15 July

The churchwardens took note of "a child born at the house of John James, supposed to be a bastard, and William Foster of this parish has agreed to indemnify the parish of any expenses arising". This was more formally rendered on 8th August when "William Foster, of Brislington, housecarpenter, (was) bound to Henry Brown, William Parsons, gentlemen, churchwardens of Brislington and Thomas Tipton and John Tompkins, yeomen, Overseers of the Poor in the sum of £200, whereas Ann Poole, singlewoman was, on 25 June last, delivered of a male bastard child at the home of John James, labourer in Brislington, and the father of the child is unknown, but in order to indemnify the parish of all charges, William Foster has entered into this bond of his own free will, signed William Foster." - and it sounds suspiciously like a cover up to me.

(BRO P/St LB/OP/14/23)

20 August

Obituary: "died in the 4th year of his age, John Rolle Clayfield, youngest son of Edward Rolle Clayfield of this City and grandson of James Ireland, esquire of Brislington, a most amiable and promising child." (FFBJ)

3 October

William Waymouth, yeoman, buried.

(PR)

13 October

Alexander Townsend, widower of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire married Mary Clayfield, spinster, by licence at St Luke's, with a roll call of the local great and good as witnesses, E. Rolle Clayfield, Richard Vaughan, junior, E.J. Clayfield, S. Forster, Louisa Frederica Vaughan, J.C. Clayfield. The Rev Thomas B. Simpson officiated. The marriage was announced in the local press thus: "Married at Brislington, by the Rev T.B. Simpson, Alexander Townsend, of Therscombe, Gloucestershire, to Miss Clayfield, youngest daughter of the late Michael Clayfield, esquire, of this City." (PR,FFBJ)

21 October

The overseers evidently had a drink while they decided what to do about "a woman, a lunatic, found in the fields at night, at White Hart, &c, 3s.6d."

1 November

John Croome Mereweather, aged 11, and Mary Elizabeth, his sister, aged 6, the children of Abraham & Grace Mereweather were baptised. (PR)

(Members of this family, variously spelt, had been in Brislington since 1623 when there was a to do about "the settling of John Merryweather" see "Brislington Bulletins 2-5 inclusive.)

20 November

Benjamin Cropier, coachman to Mr Langton, aged 24, was buried at Newton St Loe. (PR)

31 December

Obituary: "Sunday, died the infant son of Henry Ricketts, esquire, of Brislington". (FFBJ)

31 December

Overseers expenses at "H. Pillinger's funeral" were recorded, as an afterthought, for poor Henry was buried the previous 3 August! He was baptised in 1773, son of Henry & Mary Pillinger, nee Yard and married Grace Somerville in 1794. They appear to have been childless. The funeral, which cost only one and sixpence, must have been a pretty poor do.)

1809

26 March

Thomas Whippie of Whitchurch and Sarah Britton, of this parish, married by licence.

2 May

Charles Lemuel Thompson of St Mary Redcliff and Catherine Brown were married at Brislington before witnesses Henry Brown, Deborah Brown and Charles Thompson. An announcement appeared in the press on 13 May: "Last week, married at Brislington, Mr C.L. Thompson, of this City, to Catherine, youngest daughter of Mr Charles Thompson, of the former place." (FFBJ)

23 May

Concerning dwelling house and land at Brislington held in trust for Mr John Tompkins

- (1) Thomas James, Brislington, carpenter
- (2) John Tompkins, Brislington, yeoman
- (3) William Barwell, Brislington, yeoman

(BRO 27689/6a-b)

(We have noted in previous "Bulletins" that a strong thread of non-conformity runs through Brislington. Thomas James, the village carpenter and John Tom(p)kins of Hick's Gate inherited this tradition. On 20 May 1796 they obtained a licence from the Bishop of Bristol to open a chapel for "Independents". To begin, there was little more than a barn or shed to house a small band of worshippers. Tomkins, a man originally from Rangeworthy, was converted at the aged of 18 after reading "A Pilgrim's Progress". He later worked at Langton Court, and various items of his family history appear in this "Bulletin" I suspect the above land lease may have been for a new chapel. As we shall see the same two men with others leased more land in 1813. In 1827, a new "Zion Chapel" would be built on the same site. In 1881 the fellowship became known as "The United Christian Church, Brislington." In January 1894 the building was destroyed by fire but rose from the ashes and in 1898 joined the Congregational Union of England and Wales. The present church building on the corner of Wick Road and Bath Road was opened in 1901 and in 1972 became part of the United Reformed Church. I understand that in 1901, Oliver Tomkins, great grandson of John, was eaten by cannibals in Papua New Guinea when serving with the London Missionary Society. Another descendant, also called Oliver, was Bishop of Bristol in the 1960s, so the family went "full circle".)

27 May

"We understand that on Monday the 29th inst, being the anniversary of the Brislington White Hart Friendly Society, the members of that respectable body will attend Divine Service precisely at 11 o'clock, attended by the Loyal Somerset Militia Band." (FFBJ)

3 June

"Monday last, the members, 96 in number, met their President, Mr C. Thomson, who accompanied them to church and the militia band. An excellent discourse was delivered by the Rev T. Simpson. Never were a more respectable body assembled. Their conduct that day was exemplary and their brotherly affection unanimous." (FFBJ)

6 June

John Jones and Phoebe Crichley were married by banns in the presence of William J. Barlow and Mary Hodge. An announcement appeared 17 June: "Thursday sennight at Brislington, Mr J. Jones to Miss P. Critchley, both of Bristol." (FFBJ)

20 June

Nicholas Davey, bachelor & Sarah Gibbs, of this parish, spinster, by licence, before witnesses Henry J. Brown, Sarah Gibbs, Richard Beacham, Thomas Willcox.)

20 September

Paid "Martha Hudd, late Anthony, 28 weeks for her bastard child, the father William Hutchins refusing to pay, £2.2s.0d." (OP)

30 September

Obituary: "At Newton Park, Paul Thomas Gore-Langton, 4th son of Colonel Gore-Langton, MP for Tregony." (FFBJ)

3 October

William Bradley, clerk, Vicar of Hamstead (sic) Norris and West Hendred, Berkshire, was buried in the church. (PR)

(My maternal grandparents lived in the village of Hampstead Norris in Berkshire in the late 19th and early 20th century, and my mother's elder brother and sisters were born there. I never imagined a connection, however tenuous, with Brislington, when I came to live here in 1968.)

16 October

Betty, wife of Henry Brown, gentleman, buried. (PR)

28 October

The Jubilee of George III was celebrated in respectful, though, muted style because of the King's illness. A Brislington man, our Colonel Gore marched at the head of an 800 strong procession of the Bristol Militia, colours flying, band playing, to St Paul's. A collection was made for the poor and a pound of bread and potatoes and a quart of ale (was) distributed to all the prisoners in Newgate & Bridewell. As prisoners normally had to supply their own food, they gave, no doubt, three hearty cheers for good King George. A waggon load of coal also went to Newgate, but not, apparently to Bridewell. Elsewhere, William Burridge and Son of Portsmouth distributed 3d, (a little over a penny in today's money), to each of the 6,715 French prisoners in the prison ships which lay in the harbour, and 6d each to 186 Danish prisoners, "in consequence of the humanity shown by Marshal Mortier to the British sick and wounded after the Battle of Talavera." (FFBJ)

1810

14 January: A lease for 8 years from 1808, between.

1. William Gore Langton, of Newton Park, Somerset
2. Henry Brown, Brislington, yeoman. Farmhouse & lands in Brislington, annual rent £515 plus £40 per acre, pasture converted to tillage. (BRO 24759/54)

3 February

Protests were made about the unpleasant sight and the even worse stench caused by the flying of dead horses near the Iron Bridge on Totterdown Hill. (FFBJ)

7 February

Miss Jane Brown, buried in the church.

(PR)

17 February

Thomas Young of Brislington, buried at Corston.

(PR)

11 March

Mrs Susanna Collier buried.

(PR)

April

A (presumed) debtor, Sam Hart was in Newgate gaol. The parish allowed his distressed family eight shillings to keep the wolf from the door.

(OP)

10 April

Our soon to be lecturer christened his own child on this day: "Charles, son of Rev Thomas and Sarah Brown Simpson, (born 3 February)".

(PR)

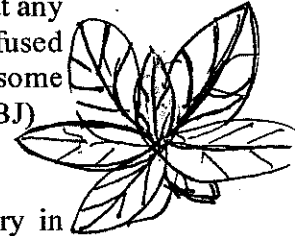
14 April

Edward Rolle-Clayfield was re-elected as Governor of St Peter's Hospital. This was the Bristol workhouse, and a forerunner of the Union Workhouses, which would shortly be erected.

Same day

"A Caution. Two labourers of Brislington went into the fields in search of the herb Comfrey but in mistake gathered a large quantity of Foxglove (*Digitalis*), which they boiled in their pot with potatoes and other ingredients for their dinner. The men eat freely of it and were both soon seized by incessant vomitings, which continued several days. Their recovery on Wednesday evening was doubtful. Neither of their wives eat any of the greens but all freely of the potatoes. One of them was a nurse. Her child refused her milk till the woman recovered. By the interference of Dr Fox, there is now some hopes of their recovery."

(FFBJ)



24 April

The daughter of Seporah Rich, fathered by Stephen Jones, who is the last entry in Brislington Bulletins Number 5, was now 11 years old. It was agreed by the Overseers that he be discharged from any further expenses. (Presumably old enough to work!)

and on the same day

"that Mary Hutchins, a vagrant, taken up in a diseased state, be provided for and given medical relief and administered at the expense of the parish".

(OP)

(Was Mary a relation of the feckless William Hutchins, of 1809? It is good to see that she wasn't bundled out of the parish, as often happened to vagrant women.)

17 June

Catherine Brown Lemiel, daughter of Charles and Catherine baptised.

(PR)

14 July

"The meeting of Brislington and Keynsham female Benefit Society will not take place this year owing to the ill-health of one of the patronesses." (FFBJ)

21 July

The Overseers ordered "Castor Oil for Jane Bullock" at a cost of eight pence. (It must have been quite an enormous dose!)

25 August

Paid to Thomas James "for a cart and horse to carry a man to the Infirmary, 2s 6d". (OP)

26 August

Miss Caroline Heath buried. (PR)

30 August

Horatio Nelson Hancock buried. (PR)

2 September

Louisa Bromhill Leroux buried. (PR)

24 September

John Brown, bachelor, of this parish, and Caroline Hatton, spinster, married by banns. (PR)

19 October

"Five pounds allowed towards placing James Laver, son of George Laver as apprentice, he being afflicted with a scrophulous disorder, and if above could be found, for George Laver, aged about 12, another son of George Laver, and like £5 for apprenticing him. Also to bind Sarah Rich, aged 12, (Sephora's daughter?) and Thomas Sheppard, aged 12 and upwards as soon as conveniently be done." (CWs)

27 October

As we have already noticed, "the half century of King George III was not celebrated with such joy last year for obvious reasons." Now, "the rabble and boys indulged in bonfires, squibs and crackers." A collection for the poor raised nearly £770, which provided necessaries to 49 husbands, 112 wives and widows and 274 children. Thirty two debtors were released to the relief of 17 wives and 66 children. (FFBJ)

1811

16 March

Obituary: "Yesterday sennight died at Broomwell House, near this City, in his 88th year, in the full possession of his vigorous faculties, the Rt Hon John (the 8th) Lord Colville of Culross, Scotland. His early life was passed in active military duty: he was of the expedition against Carthagen in 1740 when his father commanded a regiment and where he lost his life. He was at the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745, of Culloden 1746 and of Lafeldt in 1747, and in 1761 he accompanied his Regiment the Scotch (sic) Fusileers (sic) to the

Population
of the Parish of Brislington
in the County of Somerset
taken 31st May 1811 by Thomas Tipton, Cur.

Inhabited Houses	156	
Void ditto	2	
Building	1	
Males	510	}
Females	542	
		Total 1052

Employed in Trade	74	}	
in Agriculture	138		
Not employed in either	840		
			1052

It is almost impossible to say how many are employed in Trade and Agriculture as the occupations are frequently so intermixed that it is difficult to place them in a class - likewise many of the Children are partly employed at different seasons of the Year

Increase since the last Census taken March

(276)

Since which period an Asylum for Lunatics has been established in this Parish by D^r Fox which



siege of Belleisle. On the peace of 1763 he quitted the army and retired to the privacy of domestic life where in the exercise of all social virtues he attached to him the affections of his family, and has endeared his memory to his surviving friends. The title devolves upon his eldest son John, a Captain in the Royal Navy. His remains were interred yesterday in our Cathedral." (FFBJ)
(Broomwell House formerly stood in Wick Road.)

6 April
Obituary: Mrs Ann Haskins of Brislington. (FFBJ)

13 April
Obituary: "Yesterday sennight, at his house in Gloucester, Robert Raikes, esquire, aged 75, who in the year 1783 first instituted Sunday Schools." (FFBJ)
(The following year, the widow of this distinguished man would die in Brislington.)

18 May
Portugal had recently been invaded by Napoleon's army. A Meeting held at the Guildhall in Bristol to render assistance the brave and suffering Portuguese", listed donations from the following Brislington gentlemen: Edward Long Fox (£15.15s.0d), Henry Hawes Fox, (£5.5s.0d), John Hurle, (£21.0s.0d), William Hurle, (£21.0s.0d), E & W. Clayfield, (£21.0s.0d), John Hurle, junior, (£5.5s.0d), E.R. Clayfield, (£21.0s.0d). (FFBJ)

31 May
The Census: "To taking the population of the parish, and drawing out a fair copy to deposit in the church chest according to Act of Parliament, £1.1s.0d." (OP)

(The census was taken by Thomas Tipton, the Overseer, who recorded: "The population of Brislington was 1,052, (510 male, 542 female), 156 inhabited houses, 2 empty, 1 being built, 74 in trade, 138 in agriculture, 840, not employed in either. Increase since 1801, 276, during which time an asylum for lunatics has been established in the parish (98 persons)." (No individual details have survived of this census.)

1 June
Obituary: Philip John Worsley, esquire, of Arno's Vale. (FFBJ)

19 June
Jonathon Grigg, of this parish, bachelor and Deborah Brown were married at Brislington, before witnesses, Henry Brown, John Brown and Mary Ann Brown. The announcement appeared in the local press on 22 June: "Married at Brislington by the Rev T.B. Simpson, Mr Grigg of Hengrove House, to Miss Brown, eldest daughter of Mr Henry Brown, of St Anne's in the same place." (FFBJ)

2 July
Thomas Gale, of St Mary Redcliff ad Sarah Thompson, spinster, married by licence, before witnesses, three men called Charles Thompson!

27 July

Obituary: William Parsons, esquire of Brislington, "beloved by all". (FFBJ)

16 October

James Dunscombe of Stokegurse, Somerset, bachelor and Amy Ann Norman, of this parish spinster, married by licence. (PR)

14 November

Herman Arend Meyer, of this parish, widower & Frances Coggins, of this parish, married by banns. (PR)

1812

1 February

A very tragic event occurred "At Brislington House, Edwin Fydell Fox, aged 5, the son of Edward Long Fox MD who was dreadfully burnt the previous evening by a spark, as it is supposed, having fallen from a candle on to the bedclothes." (FFBJ)

29 March

Frances, wife of Edward Rolle Clayfield, and daughter of James Ireland was buried at St Luke's.

4 April

An inquest was held on George Taylor, who was thrown from a horse in Brislington. (FFBJ)

21 May

Francis Coaker of Upway, Dorset and Marcia Ford, spinster, of this parish, married by licence, before witnesses William Chubb and Thomasin Ford.

29 May

Thomas Brown Simpson had been recently installed as "lecturer" of Brislington, and preached when the Brislington and White Hart Friendly Society celebrated the anniversary of King Charles II. Afterwards they repaired to the Society Room attended by the Glamorgan Militia Band. (FFBJ, 6.6.1812)

6 June

Married, "Saturday, (6 June), at Brislington, John Blagden Hale, esquire of Alderley, Gloucestershire to Jane Eliza, eldest daughter of Joshua Powell, esquire, of Brislington." (FFBJ)

20 June

Married, "at Bedminster, Mr Henry Brown of Brislington to Miss Edgell, eldest daughter of Mr John Edgell of the former place." (FFBJ)

4 July

Obituary: "At Brislington, after a lingering illness, borne with Christian fortitude, Mr Charles Thompson, senior, a truly honest man, universally respected by all who knew him." (FFBJ)

31 July

Louisa Bromhill Leroux, daughter of Midford George & Catherine Leroux of Clifton, baptised. (PR)

8 August

Obituary: "Tuesday at Brislington, Mr John Turner, of the White Hart, Broad Street, after a long, severe illness." (FFBJ)

10 August

Ann Raikes, the widow of the Rev Robert Raikes of Gloucester was buried at St Luke's. He was the founder of Sunday Schools.

3 October

Obituary: "Francis Fox of Plymouth, deservedly lamented for liberal charities. He was one of the people called Quakers. His funeral took pace on the 25th ult, and was attended by 250 persons." (FFBJ)

22 November

Richard Vaughan, son of the Rev Thomas Brown Simpson & Sarah his wife was baptised at St Luke's on this day. (PR)

The following Brislington men appear on the Bristol Electoral Roll for this year as Outvoters of Bristol:

- James Am(s)bury, yeoman
- H.M. Am(s)bury, attorney
- Joseph Bally, gent, (St Nicholas)
- Joseph Cooke, linendraper
- William Edwards, blacksmith
- Richard Eddolls, gent.
- James Gurner, victualler (from St James)
- George Wilmot Hulbert, accountant
- John Hurle, jun., linen draper
- William Jones, house carpenter
- Thomas Morris, labourer
- Joshua Powell, merchant
- Rev Thomas Brown Simpson,
- Thomas Vaughan, yeoman
- Sydenham Teaste Wylde, clerk
- John Withyman, yeoman
- Thomas Wilcox, cordwainer

The two elections that year were remarkable for the appearance of Henry Hunt "the Orator", the famous radical

Mr. Hunt's reception in Bristol in 1812, when he came, on May 12th, on the invitation of some Radical friends, was most enthusiastic. Riding on a grey horse, he was received by thousands of persons at the entrance to the city. On his arrival at the Exchange he mounted one of the brass pillars and addressed the multitude. He advocated a petition for peace, which was adopted and received some thousand signatures. One hundred and ten persons dined at the new Assembly rooms; amongst the toasts, No. 10, was "The House of Commons in the river Thames and every honest member a cork jacket."

1812	*Davis, Richard Hart ²⁰ ...	Tory	June 30	July 13	1,907
	Hunt, Henry ...	Rad.	...	...	235

1812	*Davis, Richard Hart ²¹ ...	Tory	Oct. 6	Oct. 16	2,895
	*Protheroe, Edward ...	Whig	...	...	2,435
	Romilly, Sir S. ...	Whig	...	...	1,683
	Hunt, Henry ...	Rad.	...	...	523

20 December

Louisa daughter of Rev Robert and Sarah Halifax buried.

(PR)

1813

13 January

It was "Ordered that Churchwardens procure an iron chest for deposit of the parish register" - more than two and a half centuries later, the register was still kept there when I first saw them twenty five years ago. It is now, of course, at the Bristol Record Office.

It is not often that events in the wider world found their way into the Churchwarden's books, but now we are reminded that Britain was still at war with the French, and on this day it was ordered that "a fifteen (pound?) pay rate be allocated to defray expenses for the raising of the volunteers for the Local Militia agreeable to the directions of an Act of Parliament." (CWs)

3/4 March

Leases re land in Brislington: Thomas James, carpenter, Brislington (1), John Hurle, linendraper (2), John Tompkins, Brislington, yeoman (3), James Eley, Thornbury, Mary Cox, widow, signed by John Hurle & Thomas James. And Thomas James, carpenter, John Tompkins, yeoman, lease for a year, Royal Oak in Brislington.

(BRO Ref 35447 Box 2, bundle IX)

11 March

Anne Amsbury, 49, buried. An obituary appeared 20 March: "Thursday sennight, Mrs Amsbury, wife of Mr Amsbury of Brislington."

(FFBJ)

20 March

A marriage took place at St Luke's this day, and was announced in the press, 27 March, "Married at Brislington, Mr William Llewelin, woollen draper of Bristol to Miss Hancock of Arno's Vale".

(FFBJ)

2 June

The Vestry discussed the complicated history of a piece of property formerly called "Skinners". In 1656 it was in the tenure of William Webb, afterwards Thomas Munday and descended to William Munday, who sold it to William Noble, by whose granddaughter, who intermarried with a James Moon, it came into the family of Moon who sold it with other property to John Estridge, esquire.

5 June

Married, "Lately, at Stapleton, by the Rev Mr Shute, Mr J. Brown of Brislington, to Miss Cater, only daughter of Mr J.W. Cater, of the former place."

(FFBJ)

15 June

Some of the children of Edward Long Fox's first marriage, who were brought up as Quakers, and were now adults, converted to the Church of England: Catherine Brown, 25, Henry Hawes, 24, Jane Brown, 21, children of Edward Long and Catherine Fox, Doctor in Physic of Brislington, were baptised at Temple Church, Bristol.

17 June

Discussions re "Skinners" continued. An annuity of £20 was payable with the property and then Mr Ireland brought in all his deeds. It was decided that Henry Brown should apply to Mr Langton for an inspection of the ancient Rent Roll. (CWs)

21 June

The French Army was defeated by Wellington at Vitoria.

3 July

"On Wednesday night. A post boy, belonging to the White Hart Inn, Bath, returning over Brislington Common with a pair of horses was attacked by a gang of fellows who desired him to stop. But disregarding their menaces, he galloped off whereon one of the villains immediately fired a pistol which fortunately missed." (FFBJ)

10 July

"On the Brislington Road a few days ago, a lad being fast asleep and riding upon the shafts fell under his cart and the wheels going over his thigh, the bone was broken and the limb dreadfully torn." (FFBJ)

11 September

"The fossil head of a large animal of the crocodile species was discovered last week in a limestone quarry between Bristol and Bath. It lay about 7 feet below the surface with the *Cornu Ammonis* and other marine reliquiae. Many of the teeth are remaining. It is in the possession of a gentleman of this City." (FFBJ)

(The gent in question was George Weare Braikenridge, antiquarian of Brislington, and the crocodile was an ichthyosaurus! The new science of geology, and later paleontology, had just been invented, and fossil hunting was all the rage, though it threw religious teaching into chaos. For George W.B. see "Mr Braikenridge's Brislington" by Sheena Stoddard.)

20 October

Ann Fifoot, aged 27 of Brislington was buried. This was another unnatural death for the Coroner and Jury were summoned, and the expenses to the parish came to £1.4s 6d. (OP)

29 November

Wellington's triumph in Spain and his entry into France, signalling the end of the long war was celebrated locally with scenes of great joy. All of Bristol was lit up with brilliant stars, torches, crosses, lanterns, Corinthian columns and so on. Red White and Blue bunting was everywhere. There were statues of Britannia crowned by Victory, Napoleon kneeling before Britannia, busts of Wellington with the British Lion at his feet. The landlord of the Champion of Wales public house was moved to verse, and hung out a banner bearing the couplet:

"By the firmness of England, rescuing Spain,
"We've beat the French minions again and again."



The tone was lowered when Napoleon was hung in effigy. (And I can quite imagine this would have been obscene, having seen a similar thing done to Hitler's effigy on VE night.)

Crowds flocked to see the spectacle, and we can be sure that many of our people joined in the fun. We know of at least one, a gentlewoman called Frances de la Moliere, who excitedly got into her carriage and sallied forth to Bristol to see the lights, leaving her mansion in charge of her maid, Sarah Ovens. When the cat's away, the mice play and mischief was afoot.

Frances's intentions must have been known well in advance, and Sarah passed on the news to her lover, a man called George Long, the landlord of the Old Duke in King Street, which famous hostelry is still in business. George, who had parted from his wife and taken up with Sarah, saw a chance of getting away to start a new life. The couple decided to rob Sarah's mistress whilst she was in town, take the loot and run away to London. They put their two heads together, plotting what was to be done, at which point you want to shout "Stop! Think!" But once in motion, the thing moved of its own volition - to disaster. So we see them, perhaps with others, running about the house, and lifting moveables into two trunks - jewels, plate and watches, "to a very great value". Did George knock the girl over the head to make it look as if she had been overpowered by assailants who had forced their way in? I suspect as much. Did Sarah tell a tale that some of those notorious robbers who infested Brislington Common were to blame? Initially, she may have been treated with sympathy when her mistress returned but it was soon found that her story didn't quite add up and that everything pointed to an inside job.

Meanwhile, George had sent the trunks to a house in St Philips with instructions that they were to be kept there until he went to London.

By 4 December all had been discovered, George and Sarah, also known as Nancy, and two other women were arrested. (FFBJ 4.12.1813)

The story of the robbery was sold on the streets in a lurid broadsheet.

"A True and Particular Account of the Apprehension of a Gang of Thieves who robbed the Mansion of Lady Frances Louisa de la Moliere on Monday Night, last, Nov. 29, 1813:

"On Thursday last, -----Long, who lived at St Philip's and who formerly kept the Old Duke in King-street; Nancy Ovens, nursemaid to the above Lady Moliere, Ann Hill, daughter of Mrs Hill, butcher, in Gloucester Lane, and Margaret Howard, who keeps a house in Brick-street without Lawford's Gate were apprehended by Messrs Arnold and Durnall, Constables, viz. Long for entering the above mansion, with many others not taken on Monday night last and stealing thereout a quantity of jewels, plate and other valuables to a great amount; Nancy Ovens for aiding and assisting the robbery; and the two latter for receiving the stolen property. A reward of 70L (£70) was offered for the apprehension of the parties. It appears that Long had formed an attachment to Nancy

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AT BRISLINGTON, on Monday Night last, Nov. 29, 1813.

ON Thursday last, ——— Long, who lived in St. Philip's, and who formerly kept the *Old Duke*, in King-street; Nancy Ovens, nurse-maid to the above Lady Moliere; Ann Hill, daughter of Mrs. Hill, butcher, in Gloucester-Lane; and Margaret Howard, who keeps a house in Brick-street, without Lawford's Gate, were apprehended by Messrs. Arnold and Darnall, Constables, viz. Long for entering the above mansion, with many others not yet taken, on Monday night last, and stealing thereout a quantity of jewels, plate, and other valuables to a great amount; Nancy Ovens for aiding and assisting in the robbery; and the two latter for receiving the stolen property. A reward of 70l. was offered for the apprehension of the parties. It appears that Long had formed an attachment to Nancy Ovens, and by that means prevailed upon her to admit him and the gang in the dead of the night to plunder the house. The landlady, at whose house Long lived, having observed him taking a number of trunks to his apartments, suspected it was stolen property, and immediately gave information, when he was apprehended, and a considerable Part of the stolen Property found in the trunks. Another Part of the Property, containing two boxes of jewels, &c. was traced to Margaret Howard's house, but is believed to have been conveyed there by Ann Hill, who had heard that her Mother's goods were likely to be seized, and fled to her there for safety, and hoped she would take great care of them. After an examination before the Justice yesterday, the whole of the above party were committed to Newgate Gaol, under a strong escort of Officers, to take their trial at the next Assizes. We understand the remainder of the gang are well known, and all vigilance used and exertion making

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Ovens, and by that means prevailed upon her to admit him and the gang in the dead of night to plunder the house. The landlady, at whose house Long lived, having observed him taking a number of trunks to his apartments, suspected it was stolen property and immediately gave information, when he was apprehended, and a considerable Part of the stolen Property was found in the trunks. Another part of the Property, containing two boxes of jewels, &c was traced to Margaret Howard's house, but it is believed to have been conveyed there by Ann Hill, who told her that her mother's goods were likely to be seized and begged to leave it there for safety and hoped she would take great care of it. After an examination before the Justices yesterday, the whole of the above party were committed to Ilchester Gaol under a strong escort of officers to take their trial at the next Assizes."

And there they languished until the following April.

1814

4 March

Lease for a cottage, tenement, & garden for 99 years and three lives between William Gore-Langton, and Mr Henry Pillinger, 57, Joseph, 16 and William, 14, his sons.

(SRO G-L papers)

(This cottage and garden would be known as "Nelson's Glory". See 1805)

16 March

Samuel James Peacock, under 21 of Mangotsfield, butcher & Charlotte Weymouth of Brislington, with consent of Samuel Parker of Mangotsfield, yeoman, his father in law, to consent; Joseph Hawkins of Frampton Cotterell, hatter & John Smith, Mangotsfield, cordwainer, his guardians.

(Som Mar Lic, 16.3.1814, SRO)

2 April

Obituary: "Saturday at Tracy Park, Mrs Mary Adams, widow of the late John Adams, esquire, of Brislington."

(FFBJ)

9 April

The Ilchester Assizes, and George Long, Sarah Ovens and Elizabeth Hill took their trial for the Brislington burglary. Margaret Howard's name was not mentioned. Perhaps the Crown did not proceed against her, or maybe she died in gaol awaiting trial. All three were found guilty, and along with Richard Franks, for sheep stealing, were sentenced to death.

Hill and Franks were subsequently reprieved and would go for transportation, but Long and Ovens were left for execution.

(FFBJ)

On 30 April, there was the following short announcement in the paper:

"Wednesday sennight, George Long and Sarah Ovens were executed at Ilchester for robbing the house of Mrs Lamelliere at Brislington to whom Ovens was servant."

4 June

"An interesting scene presented itself in the gay little village of Brislington when the White Hart Friendly Society commemorated the restoration of King Charles the Second. The members repaired to church under a grand array of British colours, each wearing a cockade of red, white and blue ribbons decorated with oak and laurel branches. They were attended by the Royal South Gloucestershire Militia Band whose behaviour on and off duty was truly exemplary. A sermon was preached suitable to the occasion by the Rev Mr Cockin, after which they returned to the Society room to dine on good old English fare, beef and strong beer. The day was spent in utmost conviviality and the evening was ushered in by the joyful ringing of the bells when each member departed with an elated heart to his own cottage." (FFBJ)

11 July

Colonel William Gore "of Clifton", aged 61, was buried at Brislington. As second in command of the First Regiment of the Bristol Volunteers, he had marched at their head to celebrate George III's Jubilee. Luckily, as with the later "Dad's Army", the volunteers never heard a shot fired in anger.

On the 16th July, the following eulogy was published: "The funeral of Colonel Gore took place Monday last. Part of the garrison accompanied the body from King's Parade to Temple Gate where Sir John Jervis's Rifle Corps was in attendance. Near Arno's Vale it was received by his late brother officers in mourning who attended it to the family vault at Brislington. Nothing can more highly testify the regard and esteem in which this officer was held by his fellow citizens and companions in arms than the noble and liberal use they have made of a fund originally subscribed for the use of the Corps. A sum of £3,000 has been appropriated to benefit Mrs Gore and her family." (FFBJ)

(Though Mrs Gore was left with five children, this was a staggering sum when a labourer's wages might amount to £12 a year! Sir John Jervis's second son, Humphrey had died from wounds received and after a field amputation, the previous January 1814, when fighting under Wellington at Bayonne.)

14 July

James Ireland, esquire, aged 89, was buried at Brislington.

3 September

E.R. Clayfield and William Gore-Langton were among other luminaries at the Anniversary of the Clergy and the Sons of Clergy meeting in Bristol. "The discourse was followed by dinner at the White Lion." (FFBJ)

24 September

"A very melancholy accident happened at Brislington on Saturday evening last. As two gentlemen were passing in a gig, a fox ran out and bit the horse on the nose, and the reins breaking at that moment, the animal ran away. The gentlemen happily got out of the gig. Mr Bally, a gentlemen of that neighbourhood happened also to be passing in his gig attended by his servant, who on observing the animal got out to avoid the danger but the

wheel of the latter came in contact with his head, fracturing it, and he (the servant) died immediately." (FFBJ)

1815

7 January

Martha Isles gave birth to a child, and was examined as to the father, which cost the vestry four shillings. The rest of the month was taken up with the sordid business of apprehending the supposed culprit. A horse and cart was despatched from Brislington, and went from "Hotwells to Henbury" in search of Isaac Hewlett. When he was caught, John Coffee stood guard over him for one night. This was a comparatively cheap transaction, the entire parish expenses only amounting to £1.19s.0d, but it does not look as if he could be persuaded to be married. At Easter, the parish paid £2 for Martha's lying in. (OP)

31 January

A marriage took place on 31 January and was announced 4 February, "married at Brislington, Mr Henry Wood, butcher, to Miss Tomkins, eldest daughter of Mr John Tompkins, of Wick, near Brislington." (FFBJ)

19 February.

On Sunday evening, William Maberley died, aged 72, his death being announced in Felix Farley's Bristol Journal. In his will he left £200 to be distributed to the poor of Brislington at Christmas. The money was invested in the names of Edward Rolle Clayfield, John Hurle, Henry Ricketts and John Brown. (he was buried 27 February). (FFBJ, PR, BB)

18 March

Obituary: "died at Wick House, near Bristol, after a lingering illness, Margaretta, the wife of Charles Hill, esquire." (FFBJ)
(Wick House is one of the few grand houses which remain. It is on Wick Road, and after serving many years as a children's home, is now a nursing home for the elderly.)

15 May

Obituary: "died last week, at Brislington, Mr M. Holbeche, formerly ribbon-manufacturer of Broad Street", (Bristol). (FFBJ)

20 May

"Last Saturday night between 11 & 12 o'clock, a person was robbed on the Brislington Road, near the one mile stone by a person dressed as a seaman in a blue jacket and trowsers (*sic*). He was nearly six feet high, searched for a watch, took 10 or 12 shillings, returning some copper, knives, keys, and one shilling. He behaved very civilly and was armed with a stick." (FFBJ)

(The heroes of the war for the most part were cast aside at the cessation of hostilities. Destitute men discharged from the Navy and Army roamed the countryside and were forced into crime like this otherwise decent thief.)

1 July

Our victory at Waterloo was announced in the local papers. A meeting was arranged to solicit subscriptions for the fallen. Edward Rolle Clayfield was elected to the committee and donated £30. The firm of Braikenridge and Honnywill gave £52.10s.

(FFBJ 1.7., 15.7., 22.7.1815)

7 September

The marriage was announced "Tuesday sennight at Bedminster, (of) Mr James Ambury, formerly of Brislington, to Mrs Margaret Leslie, sister of the Rev Dr Ashe, formerly of this City".

(FFBJ)

30 September

"married at Brislington, Mr John Albion Shore of Whatley to Miss Maryanne Hurlé of Brislington."

(FFBJ)

4 November

Obituary: "died Thursday sennight, at Rock House, Milverton, aged 94, Mr Hill, father of Mr Hill, schoolmaster of Brislington."

(FFBJ)

1816

About this time, George Weare Braikenridge moved to Brislington and lived at Winash with his family and his widowed father.

(Stoddard)

3 March

Dr Edward Long Fox announced his retirement from Bristol Infirmary and his son Dr Henry Hawes Fox was elected in his place, polling 968 votes. The total number of votes cast for the three contenders was 2153, but it appears that some of the trustees had multiple votes. Voter apathy being no new thing evidently, though to modern eyes it is an excellent turn out, the newspaper editor bemoaned the fact that "it is supposed that only about 1200 out of 1500 actually voted".

(FFBJ)

On the same date, Edward Long Fox inserted a notice in the paper:

"To the Subscribers of Bristol Infirmary.

"In resigning the appointment of Physician, I begged to convey to the House Committee my thanks for the liberality which has always marked our intercourse. A renewed occasion for gratitude by your election of my son, Dr Henry H. Fox to a situation so favourable for cultivating medical science and for eminent usefulness elicits thankfulness which it becomes a father to feel but what language is unequal to express.....long may this excellent institution prosper!

I remain,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

Edward Long Fox

Brislington House, 1 March 1816"

Henry Hawes Fox of Berkeley Square inserted his own thanks below that of his father, promising "to devote my attention to a faithful discharge of my duties."

25 May

Obituary: "died on Wednesday in his 75th year after a long and severe illness, Rev Thomas Ireland, DD, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Gloucestershire and Somerset, Prebendary of Bath & Wells, Rector of Bourton on the Water and the consolidated parish of Christchurch and St Ewens." (FFBJ)

(Thomas Ireland, vicar of Christchurch, had formerly lived at Langton Court, and occasionally ministered to Brislington in the later years of the 18th century when there was no official parson.)

3 October

James King, stonemason, son of Francis, stonemason of Brislington, was admitted to the Freedom of Gloucester. (Glos Freeman)

13 December

The will of John Duncombe Taylor, of Antigua, dated 4 August 1784, has a codicil added this day saying he was "now resident of Brislington", which was signed by Elias Van der Horst, United States Consul, Bristol. (BRO 8032 [3]) & [13])

(Elias Van der Horst, of South Carolina, was appointed American Consul to the Port of Bristol 4.5.1792. His daughter had lived in Brislington.)

16 December

A new outside door for the church was ordered; so were "Twenty sacks for the accommodation of the poorer classes". (CWs)

(What can this mean? Unless they stuffed them and used them as cushions in church? Only the nob's had pews. Perhaps it should be shacks?)

1817

5 May

A marriage took place at St Luke's and was announced on 10 May: "On Monday, Henry Davis, junior of London, merchant, son of Henry Davis, esquire, of Berkeley Square in this City, to Jane Brown, daughter of Edward Long Fox MD of Brislington House."

(FFBJ)

29 May

"The Old Established Brislington White Hart Friendly Society celebrated their anniversary. They repaired to the village church to hear divine service under a grand display of very handsome colours attended by the Brislington Band whose conduct both in duty and behaviour was quite satisfactory to the Society. A suitable sermon was delivered by the Rev. T.B. Simpson. After that they returned to the Society Room to dine. The day was spent in mirth and the evening ushered in with the ringing of the bells when the Society broke up and each member departed to his homely cot." (FFBJ)

16 June

The Overseers record the expenses resulting from "John Cox, a boy found drowned." A messenger to the coroner, six shillings, for the jury eight shillings, the coroner's expenses, 5s 8d, the coffin, (in part), 7s 6d, and two men carrying him to church, 2 shillings.

(The boy was buried in Corston, which perhaps explains why the vestry had been able to defray part of the expenses for the coffin. The lad's body must have been swept down the Avon, from his home parish, for a note of the tragedy appears in the Corston burial register on 18 June: "John Cox, 10 years. Drowned by the Horse Boat. Found after ten days at Chew Hole (sic - Crew's Hole) below Brislington.")

17 June

"Going to Keynsham to search for Stephen Watkins, by which he was found to have been examined in 1794, and belongs to Hereford, though himself and his wife have been relieved by this parish" (OP)

(Oops! Oh dear. In the following January the hue and cry was still on - "going to Keynsham and copying Watkins' examination, 2s 6d.")

15 October

It was agreed to erect an additional number of houses for the accommodation of the poorer classes. (CWs)

(More shacks?)

18 October

Obituary: "died Tuesday, in his 87th year, Mr Hancock, of Brislington, late partner in the Royal China Manufactory at Worcester." (He was buried on 21 October). (FFBJ)

1818

24 January

A revised list of those "Persons Receiving Pay from Clifton Parish for themselves and their families" includes the name of Charlotte Waters of Brislington. Readers were asked to notify the authorities if any these people were receiving pensions or other monies from elsewhere. (FFBJ)

21 March

Obituary: "lately, William Overton of Brislington, (died) aged 70." (FFBJ)

May

The cost of the houses to be erected for the poor would be £160 to be discharged by instalments of £20 per annum, together the interest. This was made up as follows:

Thomas James, carpenter, £155.0s.0d

John Smith, for five grates, £1.16s 4d

Carriage 10d

(CWs)

2 June

William Jordone, son of George Weare & Mary Braikenridge was baptised at St Luke's. (PR)

6 June

Obituary: "Yesterday morning at his residence in Brislington after a protracted illness borne with great courage and fortitude, Richard Ricketts, esquire, in the 71st year of his age, a kind and affectionate friend and a man of sterling integrity. (FFBJ)

27 June

Obituary: "Saturday at Hotwells, Miss Langton, the eldest daughter of William Gore-Langton, esquire, a lady of most amiable and accomplished manners but so retiring were her habits that studiously avoiding the painful gaze of public notice she pursued the noiseless tenour of her way where her philanthropic benevolence flowed through a deep and extended, though silent, channel." (FFBJ)

(I postulate the begetter of this preposterous passage was intoxicated by his own verbosity. Two can play at this game!)

20 August

Eleanor Dundas, daughter of Abraham & Elizabeth Gray Harford Battersby, esquire, was baptised at St Luke's. (PR)

14 October

St Luke's could no longer accommodate the congregation, now swelled by the lunatics from Dr Fox's. Edward Rolle Clayfield and George Weare Braikenridge, the churchwardens, petitioned the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to enlarge the church by taking down the north wall. The plea was granted and the work cost £851. (BRO StLB/OP)

17 October

Paid to "Thomas James, carpenter, for work at the Poor House, £3.14s 5d." (OP)

4 November

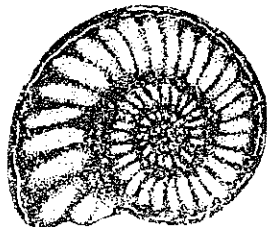
Thomas Brown Simpson died at the early age of 40. As well as being Lecturer of Brislington, and Vicar of Congresbury, he was Pastor of Keynsham for 14 years. His memorial is in Keynsham church. Mr Simpson's wife Sarah was pregnant, and later gave birth to a posthumous daughter, Ellen. The baby was baptised at St Luke's on 4 April 1819, the father described as "late curate and lecturer of this parish." Sarah died aged 74 in 1853. (BRO P/StLB/HM/11 & PR)

14 December

The Overseers incurred "Expenses at White Hart for James Allen sent to Shipton Bridewell," for an unspecified crime. (OP)

1819

One of the "Fathers of Geology", William Daniel Conybeare became resident curate at St Luke's at the age of 31. He was the son of a doctor, also called William Conybeare, of St Botolph's, Middlesex. He matriculated from Christchurch College, Oxford, aged 17, on 28 January 1805, became Bachelor of Arts in 1808, and MA in 1811. By the time he came to Brislington, he had become fascinated by the new sciences of geology and palaeontology. He was a friend of William Buckland with whom he went on a number of



expeditions. There exists a fanciful drawing by Conybeare of Buckland entering a cave in Kirkdale in Yorkshire with a lighted candle, which depicts not only fossil bones littering the floor, but hyena like creatures themselves as if alive feeding on them! The famous fossil hunter Mary Anning of Lyme Regis had recently excavated a fantastic "crocodile", which the Keeper of Natural History at the British Museum named "Ichthyosaurus" meaning fish-lizard, though Brislington appears to have had one first. William Conybeare and an associate Henry de la Beche prepared detailed drawings of the creature for the Geological Society and gathered many more specimens from Lyme and the Bristol area. These discoveries of previously unknown extinct creatures preserved within rock strata brought science and religion into conflict. An earth, with man and all creation made in seven days, which now included previously unknown species trapped in rock, now seemed doubtful. It was even suggested that higher forms of life might have emerged from lower forms! It could even mean that man was not specially made by God, in his own image. Conybeare, the clergyman, was perplexed and outraged, and finally denounced this idea as "monstrous". In this view, he concurred with Buckland, who eventually went mad trying to reconcile Biblical text and scientific discovery.

When not away fossiling with Buckland, Conybeare lived at Gotley Lodge, in Water Lane with his wife, Sarah Ann Ranken who he married in London in 1814. Sarah Ann was the sister of Charles Ranken who would succeed him as curate of Brislington in 1827. Conybeare became Vicar of Axminster, Devon in 1836 and Dean of Llandaff from 1847 until his death on 12 August 1857. No mention is made in the Oxford University records of his sojourn at Brislington. (BRO/StLB/HM/11 & Alumni Oxon.)

23 January

Obituary: "At Ceylon, of the island fever, in his 27th year, Captain John Gore-Langton of His Majesty's 19th Regiment, and 3rd son of Colonel Gore-Langton MP in whom the service has lost an able and gallant officer and society an amiable and accomplished young gentleman." (FFBJ)

29 May

Married "at Brislington, Mr Charles Shuttle Williams, salt refiner of Bristol, to Anne, second daughter of the late John Herman Kater, esquire." (FFBJ)

11 June

James Murphy, a boy, and Charles Triston, were accused of the theft of a grey mare, worth £4 from Watkin Morgan, a farmer of Langatock, Carmarthen, Wales.

The story is a strange one. When Murphy was apprehended he said he had been minding the horse the previous afternoon at St Thomas Street Market in Bristol when Triston took it off him. The boy said he ran after him and asked the gatekeeper at the first Turnpike on the Bath Road if he had seen a man ride through on the mare. The man replied that he did, that he went through at full gallop, and had hardly time to pay the three half pence for the pike fee.

Charles Triston's story was somewhat different. He said he had come to Bristol by the Bridgwater coach so that he could get a coach to London, but missed it, and proceeded along the Bath Road in the hope of getting a conveyance so that he could catch it up. Near the First Turnpike he saw James Murphy leading the mare in question. Triston asked him if he had seen the coach and Murphy said it had gone by about a quarter of an hour ago. Triston asked him if he could overtake it, and the boy said it would be easy if he was to ride. Triston asked if he would lend him the horse, and, if so, he would leave it at any inn, and would give him two shillings for the lend. The bargain was struck, and Triston mounted and rode about a mile, but then rode back and returned the horse to the boy, because it had no saddle on. The boy took the horse again. Having presumably walked, Triston encountered the boy and the horse again at the Lamb and Lark in Keynsham. Morgan, the owner, also arrived there and when Murphy saw him coming, he slipped off the horse and ran away. Triston was arrested and so, later, was the boy.

Which is where the gatekeeper of the turnpike came in, and he wrote to the Mayor of Bristol:

"To the Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Bristol.

"An it please your Worship, this is to inform you that the man Charles Triston who is in custody for stealing Mr Morgan's mare from Thomas Street Market did not meet the Boy until after he past Brislington Gate, when he gave the boy now in custody two shillings to let him ride to overtake Fromout's coach for which he had paid his fare to London. I heard the boy tell Charles Triston to leave the horse at some Inn on the road if he overtook the coach. I would come in only I cannot leave the Turnpike Gate, my master being out of Town."

"Sir, an it may please your Worship

"George Whittingback, Collector of Tolls, Brislington Gate."

(Q/S at BRO transcribed by Mr Richard Withers)

(Triston, having had a very nasty experience seems to have released on the evidence of George Whittingback. James Murphy according to Felix Farley's Journal of 12 June was "committed to Newgate for stealing a grey mare the value of £4 property of Morgan Watkin")

19 June

Obituary: "died Sunday sennight, Mr Francis King of Brislington, aged 72, many years a respectable mason of that parish." (He was buried on 8 June). (FFBJ)

and on the same day:

Repairs, and road widening had become necessary at Brislington. Notice was given to the Trustees "named in Bristol Roads, Brislington and Whitchurch Division to meet at the White Hart on Thursday 24th June at 1 o'clock."

(FFBJ, & Book 2 p59, Bibliography at Bath Ref Library.)

And also:

An advertisement for: "A dwelling house, adjoining the residence of Mr H. Ricketts for immediate reception of a genteel family. Breakfast, dining rooms, eight bed chambers

with water closet, china pantries, housekeeper's room, servants' hall, kitchen with both sorts of water, arched wine and beer cellars, dairy, out offices, coal house, 3 stall stable, commodious yard, garden & lawn, one acre and a meadow of nearly three acres, with a pool of water and a cowshed adjoining the house. The tenant may be accommodated with a seat in church if required. To be viewed with ticket only on application to Mr Henry Ricketts at the Glass House, Bristol." (FFBJ)

20 June

John, son of John & Sarah Tompkins of Brislington was christened at the non conformist Penn Street Tabernacle in Bristol.

It appears that John, the father of the above child, was also christened at Penn Street, as were two other babies by this name: John, son of John & Sipariah Tompkins, of Brislington, on 29th October 1792, who must have died in infancy, and John son of John & Sipariah Tompkins of Brislington, born 10th August, and christened the following 14th April 1794.

26 June

Obituary: "Sunday, died at Brislington, Mary, wife of Rev P. Surle and on the Tuesday following, his infant daughter." (FFBJ)

18 August

Expenses for guarding a Brislington prisoner: "J.L. Simmons, his bill for detaining James Allen in Goal, (sic) Counsellors. &c, £3.4s.6d." (OP)
(Allen had been in gaol since the previous December, and I still have no clue about what he did.)

28 August

Obituary: "died at Brislington, Mrs Sarah Robe, wife of Captain Alexander Robe of this City, after a lingering illness." (FFBJ)

2 September

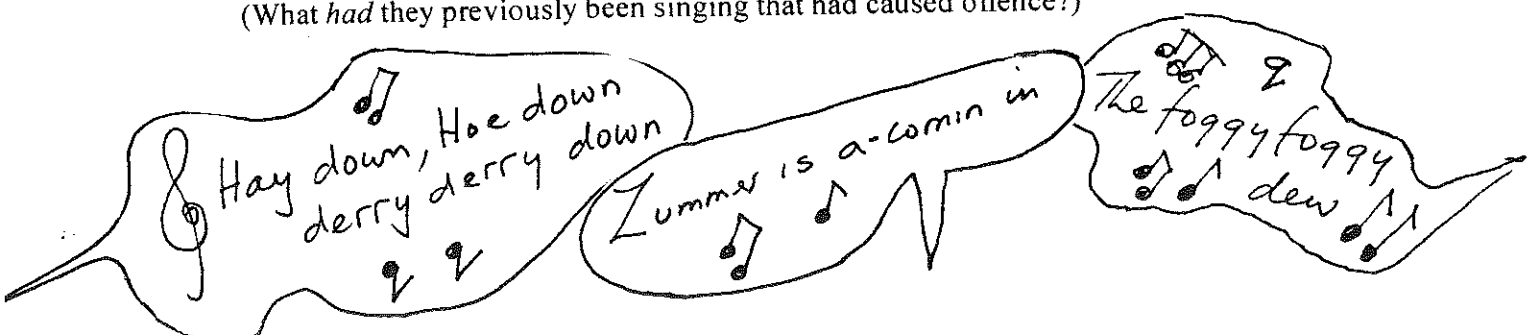
John Braikenridge & Sarah Kater were married by licence at St Luke's, before witnesses Mary Kater, Mary Hassall and Samuel Weir. (PR)

2 October

Obituary: "died at Beckington, Mrs Chislett, mother of Mr William Chislett, late of Frome, but now of Brislington, near this City." (FFBJ)

13 October

It was ordered that: "The church singers be recommended to appear in their places before commencement of divine service and to remain until they be ended and to make use of such selection of tunes as the Minister and churchwardens shall appoint, that the words be regularly selected by the Minister which will be communicated by the clerk in the course of the preceding week." (BRO P/StLB/HM/11)
(What *had* they previously been singing that had caused offence?)



3 November

Richard Edols aged 76, was buried at St Luke's.

6 November

Obituary: "died at Brislington, Mrs Martha Watkins, daughter of the late Mr George Watkins, sailmaker of this City." (FFBJ)

25 December

Bread was distributed to the poor at a cost of £6.14s 6d and £7. 5s 6d, from the bequest of William Maberley' who died in 1815. James Gwyer and Joseph Tomkins were reimbursed. (see OP 14 Feb & 24 Feb 1820)

1820

In this year, George Weare Braikenridge, aged 46, and with "an ample fortune", was fortunate to be able to retire from the business of Braikenridge & Honeywill. He devoted his life to his collections and became a famous antiquarian.

The following Brislington men voted in the General Election of this year: Mr Meredith Ambery, Attorney, Joseph Cooke, linendraper, John Hurle, linendraper, Henry Ricketts, esquire (from Temple), Isaac Williams, carpenter. A former resident, James Coggins, a basketmaker, voted from St George.

23 January

The Bibliography at Bath Reference Library lists: "Bowles of Brislington; A reply to an unsentimental sort of critic". The reviewer of Spence's anecdotes, Quarterly Review" "One of the Family of Bowleses." 8 volumes Bath 1820 23 January.

23 January

John Coafee, who had previously done guard duty for the parish was now in Newgate Gaol himself. His family were paid £2.3s 0d by the overseers.

March to September:

A list of those drawn by lot to serve in the militia, and their substitutes:

DRAWN	SUBSTITUTES
Joseph Coggins	Charles Dungey
John Clarke	Sam Ford
John Braikenridge	William Bird
James Smith	John Netley
James Weymouth	Christopher Howell
William Clissold	William Sharland

15 April

Obituary: "died, Mrs Ball, wife of Mr William Ball, of the King's Arms, Brislington, after a severe illness which she bore with the greatest fortitude and resignation. She continued in prayer to the last, trusting in the sure promises of the blessed Lord & Saviour." (FFBJ)

20 May

Married at Brislington, Mr Thomas Wickett, brushmaker of Bristol to Miss Court of Stoney Hill, daughter of Mr Court, cabinetmaker, of Bristol. (FFBJ)

23 June

Lease from James Maxse to Stephen Prust and Richard Colesworthy; of a capital messuage, mansion house and grounds at Brislington at the South Side of the Turnpike Road to Bath. ("Arno's Court" (BRO 12151 [66]))

Summer:

During this year - and surely in high summer - a perambulation of the parish took place. As we can see the expenditure on drinks vastly exceeded that spent on food. And we've all been to parties like that! A jolly time must have been had by all - until the following morning..... Don't you wish you could have been there?

The following expenses are listed:

White Rods - 3s 6d

Band & Music - £3

Use of two Boats - 10s 6d

Beer & Porter - £7.19s 7d

Cheese - 9s 7d

Bread - 6s 9d

Raisin Wine - 16s

Cakes - £1.1s 0d

Carts, &c - £1.3s 6d. A map with a description of the parish was made and given by Mr John Brown. (BRO P/St LB/HM/11)

25 November

Married at Brislington, by the Rev William Davies, Rector of Rockhampton, Robert Stephens Davies, esq. of Stonehouse & Mary, daughter of John Clissold, esq., late of the City of Bristol. (FFBJ)

1821

5 March

More business to do with "Moon's" - "Agreed that Mr H. Ambury be desired to call up James Pillinger & --- King, who were the purchasers of the estate, late Moon's which estate is supposed to be charged with twenty four shillings per annum for the poor of the parish. To inspect title deeds and take such steps that may be thought expedient thereon." (CWs)

4 June: Gravestone in St Luke's Churchyard.

"In the midst of life we are in death.
"Sacred to the memory of Siparia, wife of John Taylor
who departed this life 4 June 1821, aged 36 years
Also of five of their children who died in infancy.

"A tender mother, a wife so dear
She is not dead but sleepeth here
If love or care could death prevent
Her days had not so soon been spent
But with a Christian's spirit did resign
Her soul to God at his appointed time."

4 August

"A liberal subscription was made to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King George IV.

Tables were laid out on the bowling green of Mr Cheesewright of the White Hart Inn and 450 men, women and children were regaled with plenty of good beef, mutton, plum pudding and strong beer and those unable to attend through old age and infirmity were bountifully supplied in their houses. A quantity of plum cakes were distributed among children too young to join in the general festivities at the tables and each one was presented with a medal.

After dinner, His Majesty's health was unanimously and affectionately drunk with every mark of loyal attachment which was immediately followed by the national air of God Save the King in full chorus accompanied by an excellent band. On the same occasion the two Friendly Societies united together in one club and each member was presented by W. Withering esquire with a handsome medal. The day was spent in perfect harmony and the party retired highly gratified with the entertainment." (FFBJ)



28/29 September

Lease & Release

1. Edward Acraman of North Petherton, George Edols of Bridgwater, Richard Edols of Banwell, all in Somerset &
2. William Gore-Langton, John Hurle, Edward Ireland-Clayfield, George Weare Braikenridge, John Braikenridge, Daniel Stanton, Joseph Cooke, Henry Brown, senior, Henry Brown, junior, John Brown and Henry Meredith Ambury, concerning

premises in Home Close, Brislington, in which it is intended to erect a school for
Brislington, (P/St LB/Sch/4)

13 October

An early example of global warming? - "Mr Cheesewright of the White Hart in
Brislington has an apple tree in blossom." (FFBJ)

1822

23 May

The marriage took place of Joseph Rawlings of Christchurch, Surrey, a bachelor and
Sarah Maria Ann Guppy, by licence, with witnesses Samuel Guppy and Mary Elizabeth
Guppy. A newspaper announcement appeared two days later: "Thursday, married at the
parish church of Brislington, Joseph Rawlings, esquire, merchant of Nelson Street,
London, to Sarah Maria Anne, eldest daughter of Sam. Guppy, esquire of Arno's Court,
late merchant of Bristol." (FFBJ)

1 June

Obituary: "died yesterday sennight, at Sidmouth, Emma, wife of Mr John Betts, of
Brislington, aged 38." (FFBJ)

20 July

"On Friday the 19th instant the United Benefit Society of Brislington held its annual
meeting being the 1st anniversary since the amalgamation of the two clubs. Their union
was happily effected on the day of His Majesty's coronation and has therefore been
chosen as the day of their future commemorations. Two hundred mustered, joined by the
superior inhabitants of the parish most of whom have enrolled themselves as honorary
members. Medals were distributed by Mr W. Withering of Wick House who addressed
the Society at 11am. The whole body went in procession to open a new school (on Dr
Bell's system) lately created in that parish. An examination of the children took place and
afterwards they partook in a cold repast. The ladies honoured the occasion by their
presence and Mr Withering spoke again on the benefits of a moral and religious
education. After Divine Service the company sat down to dinner prepared for them at the
White Hart which was concluded by His Majesty's Health and God Save the King in full
chorus. The evening concluded by a dinner for the gentlemen honorary members. This
commemoration afforded a spectacle which though common in England is such as
England alone can exhibit and furnished a most tangible refutation of the gloomy
representations which would persuade us that the country is ruined and its inhabitants in
a state of division which can issue only in Revolution." (FFBJ)

26 September

Thomas Hooper of St Mary Redcliffe, City of Bristol, bachelor, and Sophia Leonard
Martin, of Brislington, spinster, married by licence at St Luke's, before many witnesses
Charles Martin, Sophia Martin, Emma Martin, Ann Hooper, Martha Day, H. Hooper,
E.E. Day, Charles Martin junior, H.C. Martin and George Routh! (PR)

29 October

Reverend James Gray and Catherine Powell were married by licence at St Luke's. Catherine was evidently under 21, for the marriage was "with consent of parents". The newspaper announcement appeared on 2 November: "Tuesday, at Brislington, married by the Rev Joseph Dornford, fellow of Oriel College, the Rev. James Gray, A.M. of Queens College, Oxford, to Catherine, daughter of Joshua Powell, esquire, of Brislington."
(FFBJ)

2 November

Obituary: "died Wednesday, the infant son of Dr Henry Fox of Berkeley Square." (FFBJ)

1823

J.P. Neale, writing in "Seats of Noblemen and Gentlemen", waxes lyrical in his description of Wick House, at this time occupied by Charles Hill, a Bristol merchant:

"The pleasure grounds, about 60 acres, in which natural advantages have been judiciously improved by art, present a bold inequality of surface, and an association of beauties rarely to be met with in a similar compass. The little sequestered valley, in which a stream expands into a small lake is animated by a Rookery, swans and other water fowl. Here the brilliant kingfisher haunts the recesses of the babbling brook, or glances beneath the arch of the ivy-mantled bridge: - the Hermitage (a rustic summerhouse), in the midst of the shady grove, invites to musing and retirement". All of which reminds that about 20 years ago, I saw a kingfisher dart across Brislington Brook near the dip in Allison Road, but never since.....

Back to 1823, the church surplices were stolen. Eleven shillings was spent advertising the theft, and £5s 5s.6d in replacing them. (BRO StLB/HM/11)

7 February

Sarah Gamage, the widow of Abraham Gamage, was buried, aged 45. (PR)

9 April

Notice given that the partnership between Joseph Phillips and Henry Isaac Williams, carrying on business as carpenters in Brislington was on 6 December 1820 formally dissolved by mutual consent. Witness our hand, 9 April 1823." (FFBJ)

20 June

Henry, the son of William Conybeare, curate/lecturer, was baptised at St Luke's.

27 December

Married: Mr Charles Oldfield, woolstapler of Frome, to Mrs (Deborah) Grigg (widow) of Brislington. Before witnesses John and Sarah Brown. (Jonathon Grigg, Deborah's husband was buried the previous 1 October 1817). (FFBJ, PR)

1824

13 January

"On Tuesday, January 13th, to the lady of Edward Long Fox, esquire, MD, of Brislington House, a son, her 15th child." (Birth announcement, FFBJ)

14 February

A meeting of the Bristol Philosophical and Literary Society was held. The Rev W.D. Conybeare gave the exciting news of Professor Buckland's recent discovery of a perfect specimen of the fossil genus Plesiosaurus. (FFBJ)

Same day

"A man approaching the City was stopped near Arno's Vale on the Brislington Road by two men, who after beating him in a violent manner, took from him his bundle and made off." (FFBJ)

27 March

Obituary: died, "On Tuesday at Brislington, Mr Rousseau Willoughby". "John Jaques Thompson Willoughby" was buried at Brislington aged 50, on 29 March. (FFBJ)

3 April

Obituary: died, "On Wednesday, at his house in Brislington, in his 70th year, John Hurle, esquire, many years an active magistrate for the County of Somerset." (FFBJ)

8 May

Married, "at St George's Church, Hanover Square, E. Ireland-Clayfield of the 40th Regiment, eldest son of E. Rolle-Clayfield, esquire of Brislington, to Miss Charlotte Louisa Cox, granddaughter of the late Major General Cox of the 1st Foot Guards." (FFBJ)

25 May

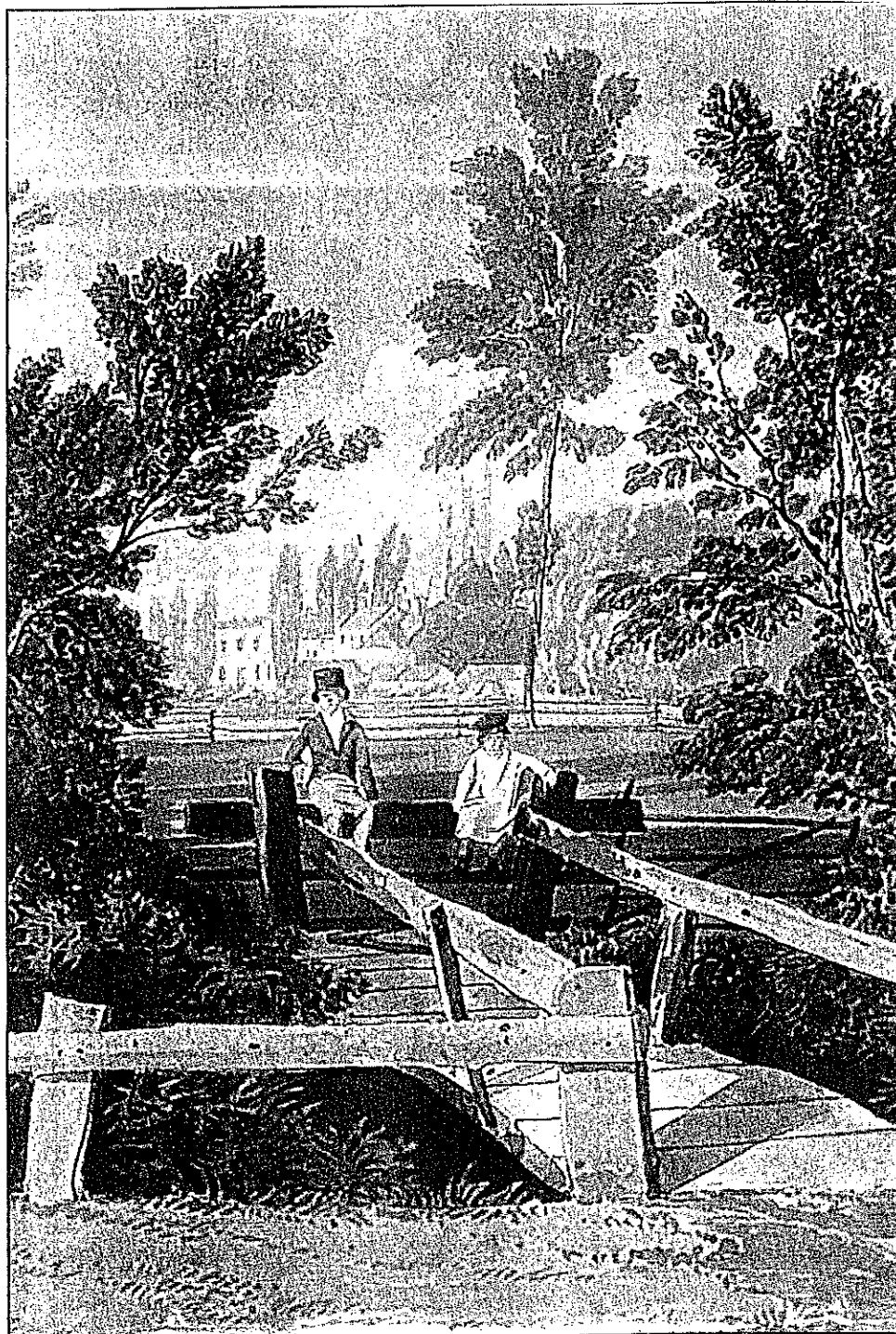
Obituary: died, "Yesterday at Brislington in the Meridian of Life, Mr John Smith. His loss was much lamented by an aged mother and those who best knew him." (He was buried 26 May, aged 31). (PR, FFBJ)

19 June

The death was announced of the Rev John Josias Conybeare, the elder brother of our Rev William Daniel Conybeare.

"At Blackheath, while on a visit to a friend, the Rev John Josias Conybeare, vicar of Batheaston. One who knew the deceased says "Whether as a divine, a scholar, a man of universal science, though eminent as a chemist, mineralogist and geologist as well as a Saxon scholar of exquisite taste and vertu (sic), he bore a station transcended by only a few." John Josias matriculated at Oxford in 1797 aged 18, became BA in 1801 and MA, 1804. He was Rawlinson Professor of Anglo Saxon 1808-12 and Professor of Poetry 1812-21. The funeral was reported the following week, 26 June. His brother William Conybeare, and his brother in law the Rev Charles Davies were the chief mourners. "The

TWO BOYS ON A STILE AT BRISLINGTON BROOK
by Samuel Jackson, 1824



100

100

100

100

qualities of his heart were as much the object of love, esteem as his intellectual endowments were of respect and admiration." (Alumni Oxonienses, FFBJ)

13 November

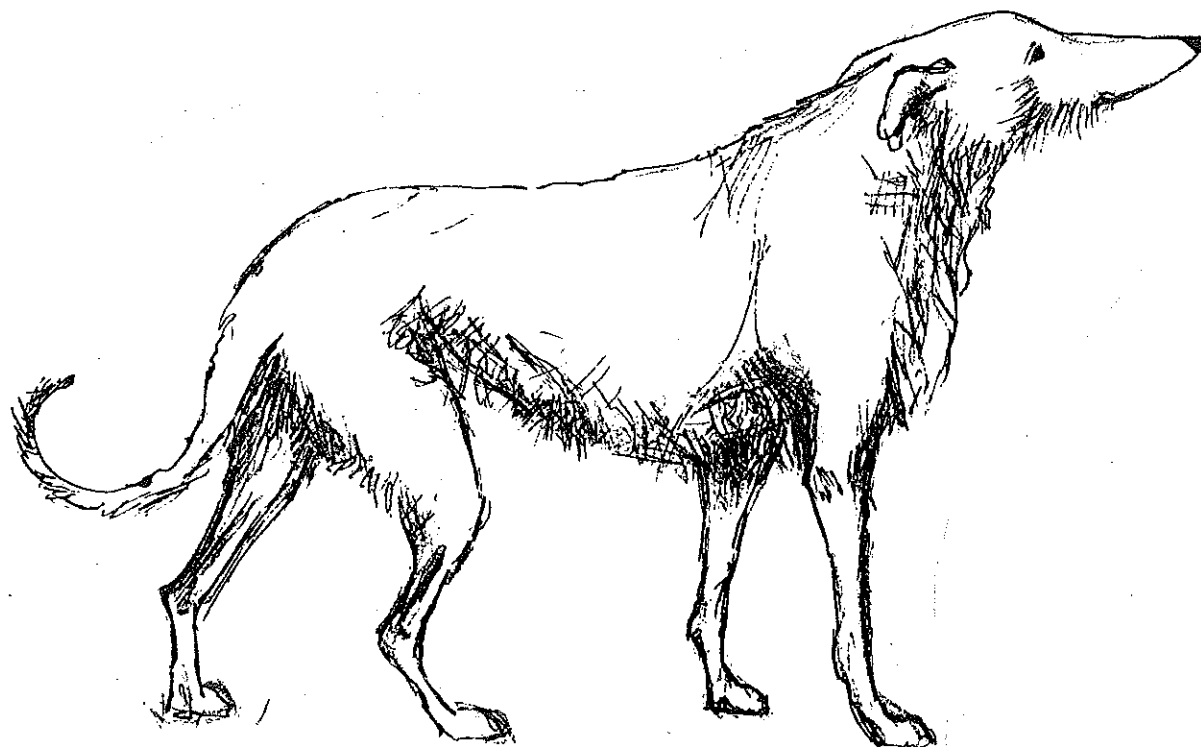
"A Robbery was committed at the dwelling house of Mrs Simpson of Brislington. The thieves having entered the house proceeded to the bedchamber from whence they stole the plate commonly in use by the family. No suspicion of connivance attaches to the servant of Mrs Simpson who was absent from home at the time. (FFBJ)

20 November

Obituary: died "At Brislington, Mr Thomas Tipton, aged 75, late a distiller of Redcliff Street, under the firm of Harding & Tipton." (FFBJ)

And finally

A mean edict from the Overseers that no relief would be given to any person who kept a dog. (quoted Egarr)



Appendix 1.

Apprentices: (BRO P/St LB/OP/15)

1801 Hannah Haines bound to Richard Ricketts, esq.,

William Anthony, bound to Jacob Meredith, lastmaker, St Mary le Port

Henry Burden to James Burden, shopkeeper, Downton, Wilts.

1802 Sarah Haskins bound to John Bally, gent

Appendix 2.

Brislington patients at the Infirmary:

All were described "cured", unless otherwise stated. I feel this was probably over optimistic, and a complete check of the burial registers might tell another story. In some cases I have included the name of the Brislington gentleman who recommended the patient for treatment. In others I have attempted to decipher the complaint, (in Latin, and in Doctors' handwriting!), from which they suffered. Most are obvious, and can be found in the dictionary, but bearing in mind that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and at the risk of appearing patronising, I append the following glossary:

brachii: "of the arm"

capiti: "of the head"

colle: "of the neck"

cruris: "of the leg"

febris: "fever"

genu: "the knee"

hydrocele: "water retention"

hydrops: "dropsy"

ischia: "base of the pelvis"

labia: "of the lips"

manus: the hand

morbus: "disease"

pedes: "of the feet"

phthisis: "progressive wasting disease, pulmonary tuberculosis"

vertigo: "dizziness"

vulnus: "wounded"

I apologise for my mistakes, which I am sure are many. Those ailments which are beyond me, I have left blank. The initials M.O.P. after the entries for some patients defeat me. It is noticeable that there are very many more males than females in this list. I cannot account for this, unless it was considered more appropriate for a woman to die than be examined by a male doctor.

1801

Thomas Dyer, 56

William White, 10

1802

John Ellway, 65, fracture

John Latour, 55, casualty

Sarah Green, 13, febris

Jemimah Ball, 44

J. Robins, 50

1803

William Allen, 12

Jacob Chandler, 27, M.O.P.

Henry Gane, 35

Martha Laver, 51, hydrops, dead. (As Martha Leaver, she was buried at St Luke's, 16.10.1803)

Sarah Green, 14, M.O.P.

Thomas Burford, 33, left at own request

Richard Jefferies, 23

1804

Sarah Priday, 14

William Peasley, 51

1805

Richard Radford, 30, M.O.P

Mary White, 12

John Moffatt, 20

Ben Anthony, 25, rheumatismus

Elizabeth Weeks, 25, febris, dead

1806

Ann Dunston, 27, rheumatismus

James Banwell, 17, febris

Thomas Bird, 51, M.O.P

William Cogan, (more likely Coggins), 19

Andrew Miles Cartney, 24, rheumatismus

Jane Fowles, 50, febris

1807

Isaac Pillinger, 60, fracture of the femur, dead (4 April 1807)

Robert Blackmore, 23, rheumatismus

James Niblett, 28, trachea abscessus

Ann Herbert, 27, (from Dr Fox), pneumonia, dead.

1808

Henry Banwell, 10, scrophula, M.O.P.

Sarah Phillips, 52

James Tovey, 40, femoris contusis

William Allen, 17, rheumatismus

1809

James Wynne, 28

James Talley (Talboy?) 30, mania, improper

Sarah Evans, 73, casualty

Ann Ford, 32, casualty, digit fractura, M.O.P.

James Lavers, 13, M.O.P

Joseph Brookes, 18, femoris vulnus, dead

Joseph Pillinger, 14, casualty, manus vulnus

Elizabeth Atherton, 23, amenorhea, cured

John Noble, 25, cruris vulnus, M.O.P.

1810

Elizabeth Munday, 34, casualty, hernia, dead

Thomas Foster, 32, pneumonia, M.O.P

Elizabeth Uncles, 45, ischia contusis, M.O.P

Sarah Jones, 23, febris

Thomas Miles, 17, M.O.P

1811

Thomas Foster, 32, rheumatismus

Mord: Harding 55, inflammation

William Coggins, 24, rheu acutus

1813

Isaac Jones, age blank, cured

Mor: Harding, 61

Thomas Dundney 45

Ann Bevan, 45, casualty, fractura

Thomas Davis, 30

1814

James Coggins, 28, fractura

Rebecca Jones, 29, hepatitis

Chris: Humphries, 20, hernia

John Coal, 37, rheum

Thomas McCollister 21

Ann Banter, 50

John Jewell, 33

Richard Fear, 30, casualty, fracture, dead.

1815

John Hale, 45

Thomas Dyer, 11, casualty

John Harwood, 4, (Mr R. Ricketts) Convulsions(?)

John Jeremy, 41, (Mr J. Hurle), hydrocele

Joseph Ward, 14, casualty, fracture

John Howell, 42

George Wookey, 11 (Mr H. Aldington) ulna affective, M.O.P

Henry Allsworthy, 42, (Mr C. Hill) rheumatismus

James Laver, 11, (Mr G. Braikenridge) Labia Carcinoma, M.O.P

1816

Robert Blackman, age blank, (Mr J. Hill)

Eliza Clarke, 60, cinasarca (?), died 31 July. (She was buried at St Luke's, as Elizabeth

Clark, aged 55, on 4 August 1816)

John Miles, 22, phthisis, died, 29 November

Thomas Hayes, 26, (Dr Fox) abscessus

Henry Elsworthy, 24, (Mr C. Hill), pneumonia, M.O.P. 6 February.
1817

Henry Batten, 28, (Mr J. Hurle), rheumatismus, M.O.P., 23 May

William Clements, 44, casualty

John Edwards, 52, (Mr John Hurle)

Joseph Rook, 24, (Mr John Hurle) rheumatismus

Abraham Bevan, 52, (Dr Fox), M.O.P., 11 February

1818

John Smith, 17, (Mr Clayfield) pedes vulnus

John Evans, 26, (Dr Fox), pneumonia

James Moore, 31, pneumonia

Agnes Nibbs, age blank, (Mr Wasborough) hepatitis

Mary Carter, 28, (Mr George Braikenridge) hydrops

Mordecai Harding, 58, casualty, humerus fractura, M.O.P

John Jeremy, 54, casualty, contusiones, M.O.P

William Huish, 35, (Mr John Battersby), dolor facie

John Smith, 18, cruris fractura, M.O.P

Joseph Ball, 68, (Dr Fox) pneumonia, M.O.P

Jacob Buckwell, 29, (Mr G. Lewis) phthisis, M.O.P

Thomas White, 22, casualty, clavicula fractura, M.O.P

Elizabeth Jeremy, 24 (Mr J. Hurle) digitis morbus, M.O.P

Robert Coggins, 23, casualty

1819

James Dyer, 40, (Mr E. Clayfield) abscessus cruris

Thomas Ball, 69, (Mr J. Hill), rheumatismus

James Niblett, 40, (Mr E. Clayfield), rheumatismus

Martha Hart, 40, (Mr J. Hurle), bronchii inflamus

Samuel Coggins, 30, casualty, cruris vulnus, M.O.P

Charles Humphries, 32, (Mr A. Battersby) febris, left own request

Thomas Howard, 4, brachii fractura & contus, cured 23 October

William Thrush (?) 26, (Mr A Battersby) phthisis, relieved

Martha White, 16, (Mr E.R. Clayfield), phthisis, M.O.P

1820

Mary Ford, 27, (Mr Wm Merrick) genu morbus

Leah Brooks, 10, casualty

James Leaver, 35, (Mr H. Brown)

Samuel Sutton, 34, (Dr E.L. Fox)

Samuel Bevan, 54, casualty, pedes vulnus

John Williams, 47, (Mr J. Hurle) febris

John Browning, 18, (Rev W. Conybear) pedes abscessus

Thomas Ball, 70, (Dr Fox) rheumatismus

George Coggins, 8, brachii injura, M.O.P

Uriah Applin, 24, (Dr Fox) hepatitis

John Harris, 33, (Dr Fox)

Thomas Dukeney, 50, (Mr E.R. Clayfield), abscessus

Eliza Tovey, 15, (Mr E.R. Clayfield), femoris brachii abscessus

William Dyer, 43, (Mr J. Hurle)

1821

Daniel Norcote, 43, (Mr J. Hurle), cruris ulcus, M.O.P

John Hope, 5, (Rev W. Conybeare) capiti injuria

George Leaver, 45, (Mr John Hurle) capitis injuria, M.O.P

John Williams, 44, casualty, manus injuria

Hannah Morgan, 22, catarrhus

Sarah Haughton, 22, (Mr Wm Mortimer), febris

Ann Webb, 20, (Mr N. Smith) haematensis

Jane Osborne, 26, (Mr J. Hurle) pneumonia

William Langdon, 24, (G.W. Braikenridge) cruris ulcus

John Williams, 49, (Mr John Hurle) vertigo

Maria Williams, 30, (Dr Fox) cruris ulcus

Mary Williams, 13, (Mr J. Hurle) colle tumor

1822

Samuel Cogans, 32 (Mr John Hurle)

Sylvia Bryant, 37, (Mr Edward Knatchbull) ulcus, relieved

Eliza Jeremy, 27, (Mr J. Hurle) ?.. injuria

Eleanor Jellamy, 27, rheumatismus

Robert Willey, 21, (Dr E.L. Fox)

Elizabeth Bees, 18, (Mr John Hurle) febris

Thomas Challenger, 45, manus injuria M.O.P.

Elizabeth Staples, 25, (Mr William Bush)

Fanny Flag, 18, (Rev W. Conybeare), febris

James Hart, 15 (Mr W.H. Clayfield), abscessus

Elizabeth Barnes, 23, (Mr H. Ricketts)

Thomas May, 75

Mary Nicholas, 46

1823

Job Small, 23

John Williams, 50

William Bennett, 20

Richard Cruse, 32

Mary Baker, 70

James Hart, 40, emergency

1824

Grace Atkins, 33

George Bowden, 36

Eliza Kebby, 16

James Hart, 13

Ann Reeves, 17

Appendix 3

From Dr Fox's

The registers of Dr Fox's famous asylum as far as I can discover, have not survived, but the following who died there are commemorated in the parish registers of St Luke's.

- Mr Robert Biss, 1 January 1809
- William Broughton, 13 May 1809
- Hannah Land, 20 December 1809
- Mr Jackson, 10 June 1810
- John Kite, 1 March 1810
- Mr William Strickland, 17 October 1810
- William Rowley, esquire, 8 March 1812
- Thomas Williams, gent, 12 April 1812
- William Russell, 49, 6 December 1813
- Mary Travers, 80, 9 September 1814
- Mary Parks, 11 September 1814
- Amelia Cantzoul, 24, 14 December 1814
- Robert Hughes, 50, 20 February 1815
- Dorothy Davis, 64, 17 December 1816
- Timothy Price, 39, 13 March 1820
- John Hurt, 21, 5 February 1821
- Mary Ann Morris, 34, 8 March 1822
- Herbert Hunt, esquire, 57, 27 September 1822
- Charles Stanton, 29, 13 December 1822
- John Finch, 77, 18 September 1823
- Louis Jerome de Goujon de Thursy, Commander of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, 75, 27 August 1824
- Robert Simpkin, 36, 2 November 1824



Dr Fox's was a mixture of gentry, who are sometimes identified by "Mr", "esquire", or "gent.", and were admitted privately, and pauper patients who could be employed in the work of the house. In 1804 there was a separate room for each patient, a public room, chapel and "airing courts". In 1815 there were 70 patients and 28 servants.

In 1825 one of the pauper inmates was John Gregory. He was the illegitimate son of Phoebe Gregory, and at the age of 37, when residing at Paulton, he became insane and was removed to Dr Fox's. He stayed there 18 weeks and the parish of High Littleton paid his expenses. The rest of his sad story is told 5.12.1848 in "Somerset Paupers, Unremembered Lives" by Thelma Munkton, quoting SRO D/H/Men 17/1/1 case 19, page 23.

Apart from the paupers who "helped out", regular staff were also employed, and among them were Henry Marshall, a footman, whose son was christened at St Luke's on 29 June

1817, and Thomas Nott, a labourer, married to Hannah, whose son James was christened at St Luke's on 22 March 1818.

Dr Fox, a Quaker, was said to be "one of the kindest and most affectionate of men" and was one of the first to introduce humane treatment for the insane.

Appendix 4

IS YOUR NAME COMET?

At the end of March 2002, if you were very lucky indeed, you might have seen a comet in the night sky over Brislington in the vicinity of Mars. It recalled a previous heavenly visitor.

When researching the Poor Books of Brislington for this edition of "Bulletins", I noticed that the Overseers were making regular hand outs, both in money and clothing over many years to one "M.J.C. COMET". Brislington families being like bread and butter to me, I knew that "Comet" was never a "native" name. It was unusual too for a person to have three initials. Most of us in the lower orders in the early 19th century made do with one name. Having a family interest in matters astronomical, (my brother Professor Colin Pillinger's "Beagle Project" is looking for life on Mars), I wondered whence this person with the celestial name had come.

I looked backwards for the first mention of the name and found it on 23 September 1811, when the Overseers recorded: "Expenses at the Christening of M.J.C. Comet, a child found in a basket in this parish, - one shilling". This entry was followed by "to advertising a reward for the discovery of the person who left the above, etc, - eight shillings" and "Grace Challenger for nursing said child, 2 weeks, two days, nine shillings. Calico for Bedgown, etc, three shillings and ninepence."

The baby had been christened six days earlier at the parish church of St Luke's where the register records "A foundling was baptised by the name of **Mary Jane Catherine Comet**, 17 September 1811."

I think of the Overseers in general as a sober lot, not given to flights of fancy, but there may have been a poet among them. Imagine the hubbub of a committee to name the baby. As they fail to agree on either Mary, Jane or Catherine they approve them all. The business of a surname remains. "Parish.....?" says one gloomily, thinking of the rates. "Field...? It's where she was found....", opines a mundane soul. "Moses perhaps?" suggests a Biblical type, thoughtfully, "after all, she *was* in a Basket...". The fourth, our poet, is inspired. "Look up in the sky, ye dimmocks!" he cries. The sight, in a black heaven, then unsullied by street lights, is awesome. "Adopted", says the chairman, banging his gavel. "Comet it shall be."

On New Year's Eve 2001, over a glass or several, I discussed M.J.C. Comet with my brother, and asked him whether 1811 had been "a Comet Year". He produced a book,

"Fire in the Sky" to which he contributed, and from which I discovered that it certainly had been and that the 1811 Comet was very spectacular indeed. [REDACTED]

On 25 March 1811, Monsieur de Flangurgues studying the heavens at Vivier, spotted it in the night sky. On 11 April, Monsieur de Pons recorded it at Marseilles. On 20 May it was seen in Paris. In August it was seen in Britain for the first time.

The Bristol press recorded the event from 7 September: *"On Monday night a most brilliant Comet made its appearance in the North East quarter of the sky. Its tail was almost absorbed. It was plainly seen at Plymouth during the eclipse of the Moon, the night being particularly clear. It was observed last night in this City about half past nine immediately under the tail of the Great Bear."*

And the following week, 14 September, at about the time our baby was found in the field in Brislington: *"To many minds the Comet has produced awe and dread, and we have received several letters in which fear is strongly depicted. In general, indeed, nothing affects the imagination more than uncommon appearances in the heavens. The fall of a meteor strikes deeper awe than the spectacle of the stars and comets from time immemorial have been beheld with terror, amazement and expectations of divine wrath. The poets have taken happy advantage of the situation, none more so than Milton:*

*"On the other side
Incensed with indignation Satan stood
Unterrify'd and like a Comet burned... ..
.....and from his horrid hair
Shakes pestilence and war."*

"There is however, nothing in the appearance of the mysterious stranger that should strike dread. He draws after him a train of beautiful light resembling in color and exceeding in lustre the traces of the Milky Way and we confess he has impressed our mind with different feelings from those of dread.

"We have gaz'd with delightful wonder on his sweet and tranquil aspect and instead of Satan, we would compare him to Raphael, "sociably mild" of whom the same poet by the mouth of Adam thus speaks in language too exquisite for us to profane it by a parody:

"Haste hither Eve, and with thy sight, behold Eastward among those trees what glorious shape comes this way moving. It seems another moon ris'n in mid noon, some great behest from Heaven to us perhaps he brings."

"From the presence of such a messenger we need fear no evil; he brings the pleasantest weather we have experienced this year and he comes to witness the joy of Heaven in our fields."

Alas, the fine warm spell for which the Comet was given credit, (and which had probably prevented our little baby dying from hypothermia), broke on 20 September when there

was a terrific thunder and lightning storm followed by hailstones which broke numerous windows. (Some people may have held the Comet responsible, but strangely enough, the newspapers did not.)

Whilst the Brislington Overseers still held to their difficult task of trying to find the baby's mother, the newspapers continued to look heavenwards. On 28 September it was said *"It may not be unacceptable to our Readers who are not astronomical to be informed that if we were to descend to the bottom of a deep well, we might see the comet at Noon Day, the sky being clear, for it crosses our south meridian about a quarter past twelve at an elevation of 33 degrees of our zenith and about a quarter past twelve at night it passes our north meridian at an altitude of seven degrees, and there now it never sets."*

And again on 19 October: *"Astronomers tell us that the Comet will be nearest the Earth on the 23rd instant at which time it will be distant 108 millions of English miles."*

And on the 26 October: *"The Comet appeared on Thursday night with uncommon brilliancy. It was then in its nearest position to the earth and we regret to say that this awfully sublime stranger will not much longer appear to the same advantage in our view."*

On 2nd November, *"Mr W. Burke, an astronomer of great repute in Ireland has published his opinion that the present Comet has an influence on the weather. It is said that if his hypothesis is correct, we shall have a winter most uncommonly severe as to cold. The Comet had a singular appearance a few evenings since, being almost in close contact with a fixed star. This sublime stranger will now gradually decline in brilliancy."*

And so it did. The heavenly stranger gradually disappeared, but the little stranger who had been left in the fields remained as a burden on the Brislington rates. Her mother was never found, but Grace Challenger had done a great job of wet nursing. Little Mary Jane Catherine thrived.

We watch her growing up in the Poor Books:

"28 May 1814: a frock for M. Comet, 3/1d.

22 November 1815: shoes 4/1d, 2 pinafores 2/9d and a frock 5/10d for M. Comet.
Ditto, at school for Comet, 9d

25 March 1816: shoes for Comet, 2/4d."

Then suddenly, she is joined by another little girl, Mary Newton, and the two become a double act, "Newton and Comet". (My sister in law pointed out that the romantic person who had named "Comet" perhaps also named "Newton" as well, after our greatest scientist!) In 1816, they received "2 shifts, 2 pair of stockings, at a cost of 6s 6d. Both girls were paid £5.4s.0d half-yearly from the rates. Expenses continued as follows:

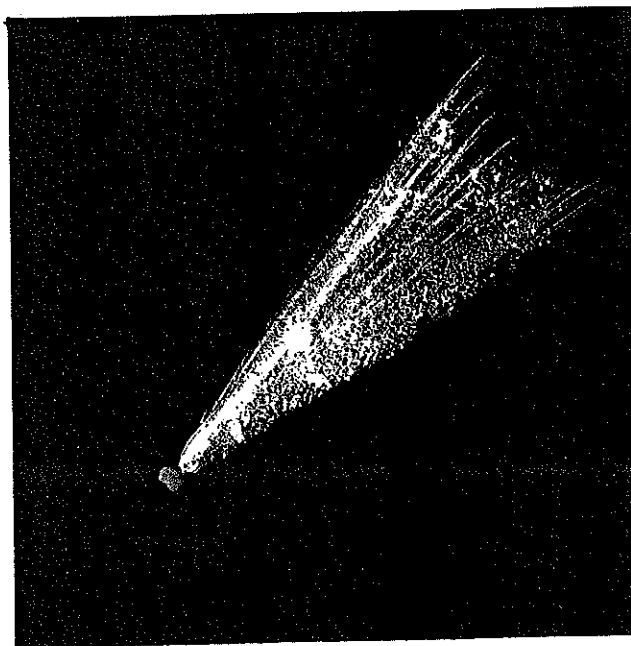
"11.3.1817, Newton & Comet, 2 frocks, 11/3d
4.4.1817, Newton & Comet, 2 flannel petticoats, 5/7d, ditto stockings, 2 pair, 2/10d
10.1.1818, Comet & Newton, 2 stuff gowns, 11/-
8.2.1819, Comet & Newton, 2 pair shoes 6/4d"

Sadly the story of "Comet" as far as my researches go ends abruptly on 29 September 1820 when she receives her last parish payment of £5.4s 0d. A revolution in the treatment of the poor was afoot. The Overseers had purchased, in October 1819, at a cost of one shilling and ninepence, "An Act of Parliament for Regulating Certain Settlements of the Poor." The era of the Union Workhouse had begun. I can only think this is where nine-year-old Mary Jane Catherine Comet and her friend Mary Newton were placed. I long to know what happened to them. I do hope they survived. Does anyone have the name "Comet" in their ancestry? Please let me know if you do.

By the way, for once my old chum Rev Schickle of hallowed memory, got it wrong. If Mary Comet is anybody's ancestor, they will not find her by looking at his transcript of the Brislington parish register. His typescript version says "baptism, Sep 17 1811, Mary Jane Catherine EMIT, a foundling", which only goes to prove that transcripts are great, but you should always go back to the original!

Sources:

"Fire in the Sky", Olson & Pasachoff, Cambridge University Press, 1998
Gentleman's Magazine, September 1811,
Felix Farley's Bristol Journal, Bristol Reference Library.
Brislington Parish Register and Overseers of the Poor, at Bristol Record Office.



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Thomas James 1768-1831
 Co-founder of Brislington
 Congregational Church

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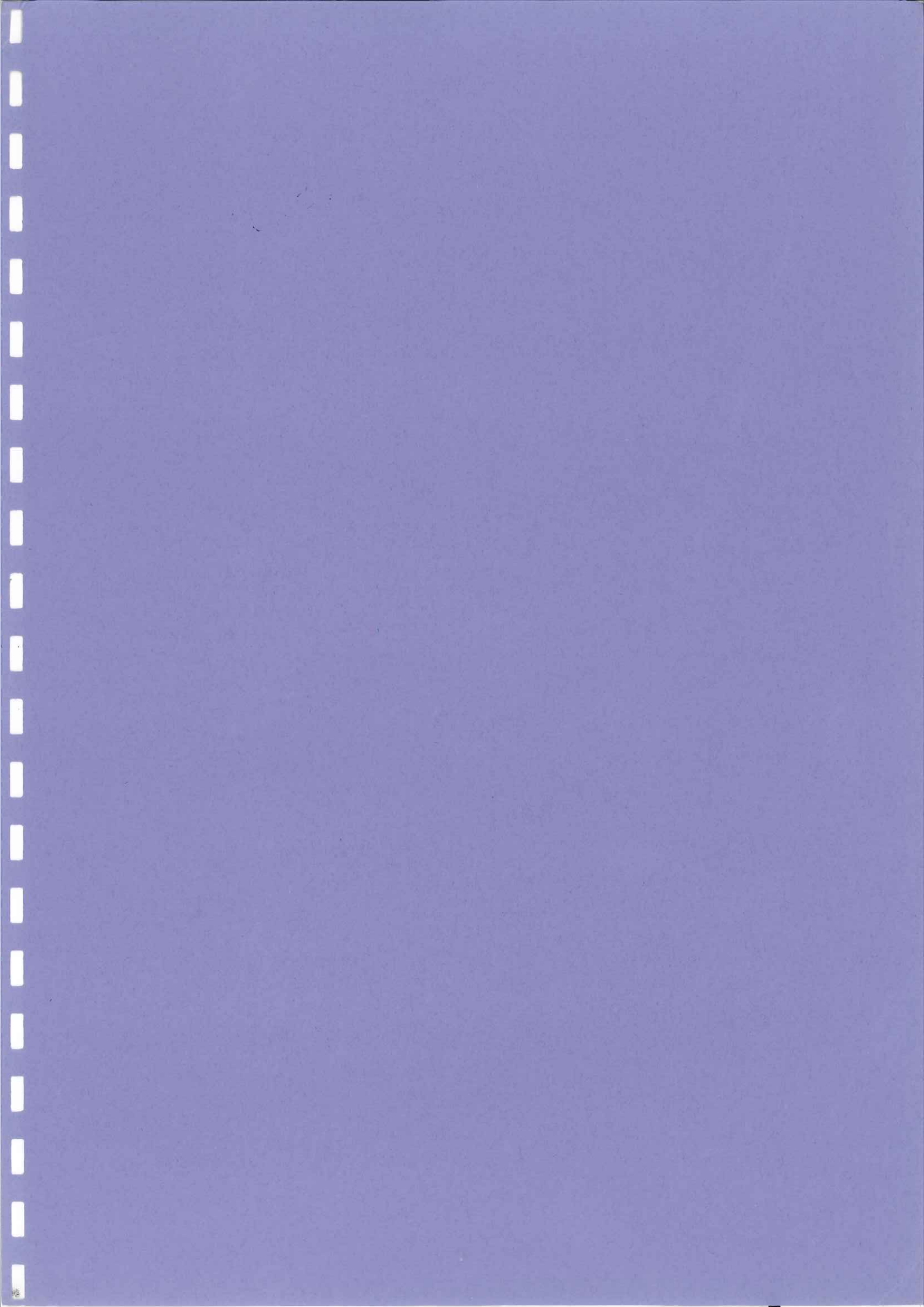
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by Samuel Jackson, 1824

