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No. 7
1825 - 40

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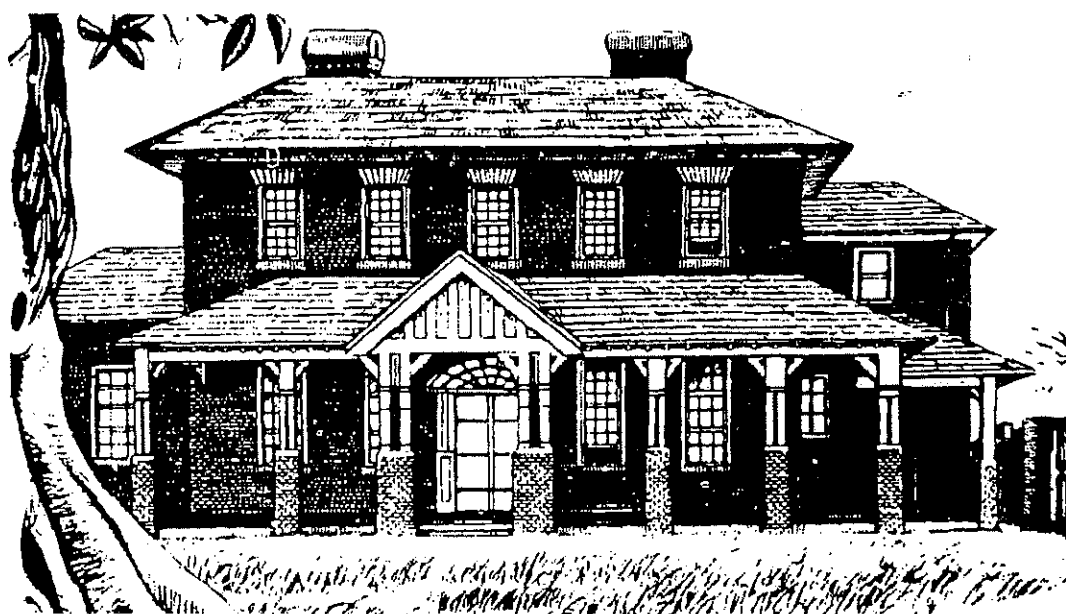
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D.P. Lindegaard B.A.

BRISLINGTON BULLETINS

No. 7
1825 - 40



BRISLINGTON 1821

This historic house in Parramatta, Australia was later occupied by members of the Brown family who emigrated to Australia, having been parishioners of Brislington at from at least 1650. They named their house after our village.

100



Brislington Village, 19th century.

St Luke's and the King's Arms are still there. There is a petrol station on the site of the smithy.



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These two little figures are in a niche on St Luke's church tower. They are supposed to represent a mediaeval Lord and Lady la Warre, Lords of the Manor, who built the church. See Brislington Bulletins No. 1. My four year old grandson is fascinated by them along with the chimes of the church clock and the graves which contain some of his distant relatives belonging to the Pillinger family. I hope I have a future family historian in the making!

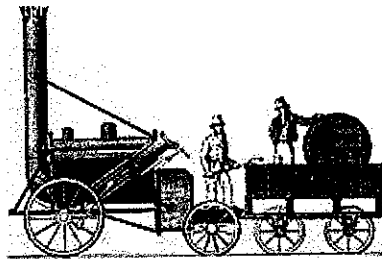


The photograph captures a scene where several individuals are gathered around a central point, possibly a table or a piece of equipment. The people appear to be in a professional or academic environment. The image quality is poor, with significant noise and loss of detail, making it difficult to discern specific actions or identities.

Each new Bulletin is a voyage of discovery, in which I track the development of our village as I go along. It is therefore just as new to me as I hope it will be to you.

Though Brislington in this period remained a bucolic watering hole for some of the newly rich merchants of Bristol, we can also see how the other half lived from the Rev Charles Ranken's fascinating records of his visits to the cottages of the poor. A soldier, Thomas Williams, returned after twelve years of taking the king's shilling, having had, no doubt, enough of "abroad", but with plenty of tales to tell. I can imagine him and Suttly Willoughby, demobbed in 1808, holding court in the White Hart.

Without doubt the main event during this period was the coming of the Railway which brought ease of travel previously undreamed of. But the work was hard and dangerous for the navigators and tragically some of their number lost their lives whilst engaged in the construction of the tunnels near Brislington. They were buried at St Luke's church.



Stephenson's Rocket – built 1829.

In these years there were three resident curates: William Coneybeare was succeeded by Charles Ranken who in turn was succeeded by George Leopold Cartwright. Nothing remarkable in that, you may say. But listen up. William Coneybeare was married to Sarah Ann Ranken who was the sister of Charles Ranken who was married to Isabella Ker Fox who was the sister of Anna Mary Fox, who was married to George Leopold Cartwright. Talk about keeping it in the family. Three brothers in law succeeding each other must be something of a record. I have put their family tree at the back of this volume.

In the Appendices will be found a number of events missed from previous volumes which I hope will be of interest.

In recent editions I have abandoned the page showing the numerous alternative spellings of Brislington, as generally by the late 18th century, we had become standardised, but lo and behold there is a new example which will be found in this volume: "Burshyton" - the alleged home address of one who found himself in Ilchester Gaol in 1838!

D.P. Lindegaard, BA
September 2008/revised March 2010

Sources and Abbreviations:

BJ: Bristol Journal
BM: Bristol Mercury
BMi: Bristol Mirror
BRL: Bristol Reference Library
BRO Bristol Record Office
FFBJ: Felix Farley's Bristol Journal
JOJ: Jackson's Oxford Journal
MI: Monumental Inscription
NA: National Archives
PR: Parish registers of St Luke's Brislington
SRO: Somerset Record Office. An excellent source of Brislington History is the Gore-Langton archive under reference DD/GL at SRO.
Cal-Glos: "A Calendar of the Registers of the Freemen of the City of Gloucester, 1641-1838. Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, Volume 4.

Bibliography:

G. Munro Smith. "History of the Bristol Royal Infirmary"

With many thanks to the archivists of Bristol and Somerset Record Offices and the librarians of Bristol City Reference Library for their kind permission in allowing me to reproduce documents in their care.

Gravestone, St Luke's Churchyard:

J.W. 1800
Short was my life
Great was my pain
Great is your loss
Much more my gain
Therefore dear parents
Grieve not for me
For I will dwell with Christ
Eternally
J.W. 1819

1825

8 January

"The vigilance and efficiency of the Brislington nightly patrol was demonstrated Monday night last by their stopping two horses almost immediately after they had been stolen from a field of Mr Hunt's in that parish. The patrol apprehended two men also, one of whom had a mare of Mr Hunt's in his possession. Against the other there was no such direct evidence.

"Edward Rolle Clayfield, Mr Hunt and other gentlemen of the Brislington Association, together with Bristol Police Officers produced such evidence which caused the second man to go for trial. A third man, mounted on a horse, not Mr Hunt's, escaped." (FFBJ)

15 January

Obituary: died "lately, at Brislington, Mrs Batten, aged 79, relict of the late James Batten of St George's, Gloucestershire". (FFBJ)

25 January

Baptised, James, son of James & Elizabeth Hallett, of Brislington, clerk at the Coalworks. (PR)

(The coal mine was located underneath the former Brislington common, but information about it is scarce. However, the "Engine House", dated 1790, stands roof and windows above the other houses in Hollywood Road. See also 23 July 1831)

20 February

James Trail, son of Henry & Mary Christie, of Brislington, gentleman, who was born 25 May 1823 at Legerie, near Limoges, France, and Daniel, his brother, born in Brislington on 13 January, 1825 were baptised together. (PR)

5 March

Obituary: died "Thursday, at Brislington, Mrs Elizabeth Annis. In a humble sphere she had discharged every duty with strictest propriety; she enjoyed her mental faculties to the last and after a protracted life, at her death afforded an example of fortitude and pious resignation which true Christianity alone can imagine." (FFBJ)

26 March

News of a death abroad that took six months to reach home: "October 26, at Chirar, Bengal, in the 23rd year of his age, to the great grief of friends and fellow officers, Lieut. G.W.M. Gore, 52nd Regiment, Native Infantry, 2nd son of the late Lieut-Col Gore of this City." (FFBJ)

(For Lieut-Col Gore, see Brislington Bulletins No. 6, 1800-24)

9 April

Obituary: "Thursday morning, after an illness of a few days, Mr William Stock of Brislington, a man whose excellent principles, agreeable talents and social benevolent disposition secured the affection of all who knew him." (FFBJ)

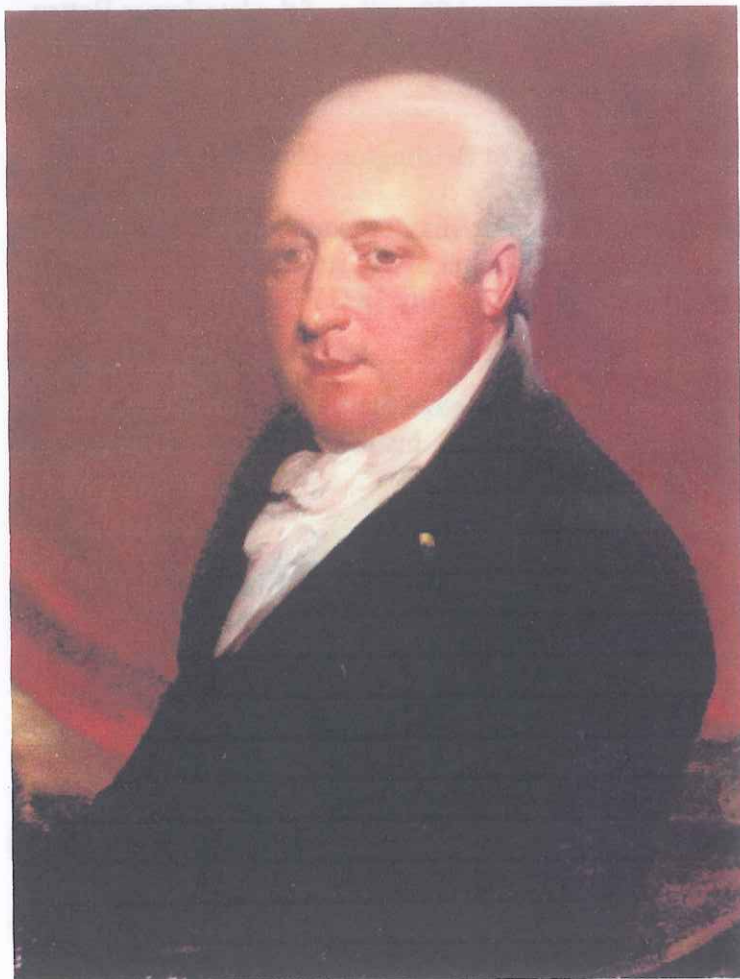
17 April

James Millard from Brislington was buried at Newton St Loe. (PR)

26 April

Edward Rolle Clayfield was buried at St Luke's. A plaque in the church says "Those who knew him best loved him most, and for the applause of the stranger what availeth it?" A terse obituary appeared in the local press on 16 April: "Wednesday at Brislington, aged 58, Edward Rolle Clayfield, esquire, a magistrate of the County of Somerset."

(PR, FFBJ)



This portrait of Edward Rolle Clayfield was painted when he was thirty six.

28 May

"The apprehension, conviction and transportation of the felon who stole Mr Hunt's horses has not deterred other villains from attempting robbery in the parish. On Thursday morning the panel of a door of Mr Tomkins, a shopkeeper in the village was nearly cut out. In forcing it away, a bell attached to the door rang with such force as caused the fellows to fly. They left behind them a new gimlet (broken), a small bent chisel and a walking stick. The Brislington Association was again on the alert and made such arrangements that by a simultaneous movement of the church bells, no outrage can take place without the offender being detected." (FFBJ)

For this heinous crime, Felix Farley added a rider, which seems to advocate the death penalty:

"We are not cruel, but lenity appears to encourage crime, and transportation seems to have lost all terror in the minds of the ill-disposed crew now infesting Bristol and its vicinity."

(What would he make of our society today? Such a minor incident would not even be reported, let alone raise a hue and cry!)

20 September

"Mary Ann daughter of Thomas and Hannah White, died September 20th 1825 aged 3 years and 6 months." (MI, StLB)

15 October

"A Caution to Carriers. William Ruddle, servant to Mr John Duffett was brought before the sitting magistrates at Brislington and fined forty shillings (£2) and costs for improperly driving against a pony carriage which was standing at the bottom of Saltford Hill, and greatly endangering life." (FFBJ)

7 December

died at Brislington, Miss H. Hillier, sister of Mrs Rickards, late of St Winifred's Cottage, Sion Hill, Bath. (FFBJ)

Sometime in 1825, a Mr A. Bagnail of Brislington compiled eight volumes of a work called "Facts, Incontrovertible Facts, etc". It is listed in the Bibliography at Bath Reference Library, and I suspect it is religious. Maybe someone will let me know.

1826

1 April

"To be Let: A ready furnished Dwelling House with bedrooms, parlour, kitchen, cellar, stable and offices. For further particulars, the White Hart, Brislington, or Mr Hill, Brislington. Also a convenient furnished cottage for the summer months." (FFBJ)

7 May

Jane Hunt, of Brislington, who lived "near the River", was buried at the good age of 91, which refutes the hoary myth that people died aged 32 or thereabouts, though despite

child mortality there were a good many more young people than old people. See 1827 for an even older inhabitant.) (PR)

13 May

"Brislington Union Friendly Society will hold its Annual General Meeting on Whitsunday." (FFBJ)

18 May

Robert Gough, dealer and chapman of Brislington, declared bankrupt.
(see website, "Gough families of Wolverhampton")

17 June

Alfred, son of Robert and Elizabeth Gough, gentleman, of "the Cottage, at the Rock" was baptised at St Luke's. (I wonder if there is a story to be discovered about these gentlefolk-come-bankrupts from the cottage. Is this the dwelling now known as "Fir Tree Cottage", though without a fir tree in sight? The Goughs went on to have other children, and Robert appears on the Electoral Roll in 1830.)

On the same day, privately, Stella Salome, the daughter of John and Stella Betts, gentleman, was baptised. Stella Salome Betts! I can't help thinking she belongs in a Hardy novel. (PR)

4 August

Benjamin Jones, of Eastwood Farm, aged 64, was buried at Brislington. (PR)

13 September

William James Goodeve, Clifton, bachelor and Elizabeth Ann Fox, spinster, were married by licence at St Luke's, in the presence of Edward Long Fox, Francis Ker Fox, H. Goodeve, Isabella Fox, and Jos Lowden. An announcement appeared 3 days later: "Wednesday, at Brislington, by the Rev. Charles Ranken, William James Goodeve, esquire, of Clifton and Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Edward Long Fox of Brislington House were married." (PR, FFBJ, BM 18.9.26)

7 October

"Last week, John Sheppard was brought from Keynsham to the Infirmary badly wounded in the hip. It appears that in conjunction with three others, he had attempted to move J. Jellamy, a fellow of that parish to a place of safety. Jellamy who was drunk and lying in the horse road drew a large clasp knife and made a number of lunges, one of which hit Sheppard who had a narrow escape as the blade passed under the large artery. Jellamy is in custody to answer for the offence." (FFBJ)

17 October

A property agreement between, (1) John Wind, gent; (2) Marianne, his wife; (3) Thomas Wigan of Brislington, esq., re land in Kingsland Road, St Philips. (BRO 40184)

11 November

Marriage: "At St Paul's church, George King, esquire, of Brislington and Ellen, relict of John Hutchings, esquire and eldest daughter of the late Samuel Rogers of this City."

(FFBJ)

20 November

Elizabeth Kingslade of Brislington was committed to Shepton Mallet Gaol for six months with hard labour for leaving an illegitimate child chargeable to the parish of Brislington.

(BM)

9 December

Married "lately, in London, Mr T.S. Harrison, chemist of Romford, Essex, to Amelia, youngest daughter of the late Mr T. Tipton, of Brislington."

(FFBJ)

1827

In this year, Thomas Williams of Brislington who had served 12 years in the 46th Regiment of Foot, was discharged from the Army aged 38. During these years the regiment served in India and Australia.

(NA WO 97/610/50)

2 January

Harriett Elizabeth, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Lucy Jenkinson, Captain, RN, was baptised at St Luke's.

(PR)

4 January

Obituary: died "aged 102 years and 10 months, Hannah Lewis, above 30 years a pauper of Brislington. She was born 4th March, 1724."

(BMi 13.1. and FFBJ 20.1.1827)

11 January

The marriage of Charles Ranken, clerk & Isabella Ker Fox took place at St Luke's. The bride was the daughter of Edward Long Fox who signed the register along with Isabella Fox, F.R. Russell, and W.H. Herring.

(PR)

13 January

George Braikenridge was buried at St Luke's. A plain obituary states: "Saturday in his 89th year died George Braikenridge esquire of Winash in the parish of Brislington."

(FFBJ)

26 February

£15 reward offered for the apprehension and conviction of the parties who stole timber from Henry Ricketts esquire, of Brislington.

(BM)

27 February

married at Brislington, Mr. James Gething to Miss Amy Edwards, both of Newport, Monmouthshire.

(BM 5.3.27)

11 March

"John Davies of Highworth died March 11th 1827."

(MI, StLB)

6 April

died lately, at Vine Cottage, Thornbury, aged 82, deeply regretted, Mrs. Bally, relict of John Bally, esq., of Brislington. (BM 16.4.27)

and on the same date, at St Philip's church, Mr. John Sandford of Bedminster married Miss Charlotte Thomas of Brislington, late of Cardiff. (ibid 30.4.27)

21 May

The King has granted unto James Ireland Clayfield of Brislington, esquire, second son of Edward Rolle Clayfield late of the same place by Frances Constance, his wife eldest daughter and co-heir of James Ireland of Brislington aforesaid, all deceased, his Royal License that he and his issue may use the name Ireland in addition to and after his present surname of Clayfield and also bear the arms of Ireland. (BM)

22/23 July

Deeds concerning No. 6 Bishop Street, Bristol, naming (1) Martha Hancock, widow of Robert Hancock of Brislington, (2) Martha Hancock, Thomas Hancock of Birmingham, engraver and others, (3) Henry Meredith Ambury and John Brown of Brislington, land surveyor (4) John Cotterell of Bristol, gentleman. (BRO 278216/3)

1 August

Joshua Powell, the son of James and Catherine Gray of Southampton, Hampshire, Clerk in Holy Orders, was baptised in our church by his father. (PR)

4 August

Arthur the son of John and Mary Brown of Kensington House was baptised. (PR)

By August, the newly married Charles Ranken was Brislington's resident curate, having succeeded his brother in law, William Daniel Coneybeare. Like the Good Shepherd, he lost no time in rounding up his flock. He called at individual cottages questioning the occupants, and his original notes, which are held in the Somerset Record Office, form a telling snapshot of the Brislington rank and file. Most managed to survive just above the bread line, though a few were desperate. Apart from those youngsters who went to school, and the two Pillingers and John Shepherd who played and sang in church, (as in Hardy's "Melstock Town Band"), there seems to have been little of mental stimulation or what we should now term "enjoyment". It was almost worse if you *could* read: "Martha Humphries", said Ranken, "wants books". Of course she did. Ranken had Bibles and sold them to some of the people - at half price. Most were respectful of their caller, and cheerfully answered his questions - after all, it broke the monotony. Only one person, Mary Hunt, said "Not today, thank you", and firmly shut the door on him.

The "club" to which many belonged was a workman's friendly society, which met at the King's Arms or the White Hart, (both still in business). Members paid one shilling and fourpence per month (about 7p), and received approximately half wages if they were sick and could not work. Funerals were also paid for by the club.

On 20 August, Ranken commenced his rounds with **James and Jane Niblett**, and recorded his visits as follows:

James, 58, lame, cannot work, cannot read, does not go to church, not able, in club, 3 shillings a week. **Jane**, 46, reads a little, has Bible, goes out washing, one shilling a day, and food. Goes to church. Four children at home: **James**, aged about 16, can read, has a Bible, generally goes to church, works for [Mr] James, 10 shillings a week. **John**, about 14, can read, generally goes to church, works for [Mr] Long, 3 shillings a week. **William**, 12, can read. Is in the Sunday School. **Edward**, 7, can read goes to [Mr] Taylor's school. **Mary**, James's daughter by his former wife, aged about 21, works by the day for a farmer's wife. Goes to church sometimes, has a Bible and Prayer Book.

John and Hannah Jellamy: **John**, 63*, cannot read, has asthma, dropsy, goes to church irregularly, works for [Mr] Cook, 8 shillings, in club. **Hannah**, 55, can read, has prayer book, works in fields, 5 or 6 shillings a week sometimes, goes to church regularly, sews, has 4 children, 1 daughter at home, **Sophia**, aged 16, can read, goes to church regularly. (Facing page: "sold her a Bible at half price, 1st September 1827") (* John Jellamy was buried 29.3.1829 aged 65.)

George Davis, 48, can read, has a Bible, goes to church, works for [Mr] Edwards, 11 shillings a week, in club. Five children, 3 at home: **Job**, 13, can read, sometimes goes to church, **William**, 11, can read, goes to [Mr] Taylor's school, **John**, 8, can read, in Mrs Allpass's school. Removed to the Brook. (whether this is George and family, or an account of Rev. Ranken's itinerary, is not clear. On facing page: "Promised book on prayer. Wants a Prayer Book".)

Charles and Martha Humphries: **Charles**, 48, cannot read, does not go to church, ill. **Martha**, 47, can read, wants books, goes to church. Two children, **Mary**, 8, can read a little, **Harriet**, 1. They want clothes, shirts, etc.

24 August

Ranken visited **William and Elizabeth Warburton**: **William**, 39, can read, goes to church, has Bible, works for [Mr] James, 10 shillings a week, has rheumatism and a pain in side. **Elizabeth** cannot read, goes to church irregularly, two children, **Maria**, 3, and **John**, 5 months.

George and Ann Bowden: **George**, 47, cannot read, goes to church generally, works for [Mr] H. Brown, 11 shillings a week. **Ann**, aged between 30 and 40, cannot read, goes to church irregularly. Six children, 5 at home: **James**, 12, can read, goes to [Mr] Taylor's Sunday School, out of work. **Elizabeth**, 11, [Mrs] Allpass's school, **Thomas**, 10, Taylor's school, **Henry**, 7, Taylor's school, **William**, 3.

John Challenger: aged above 50, can read, does not go to church, gets 2 shillings and sixpence from the parish, and 1 shilling a week from Mr Hill. Stands on the Road. (As we shall later see, poor John will land up in the Workhouse, which may or may not have been preferable to standing on the road.)

31 August

Ranken saw **James and Martha Hart**: **James**, 40, cannot read, does not go to church, works for [Mr] James, 10 shillings a week. **Martha**, 39, cannot read, washes, one shilling a day plus victuals, has 3 children, 2 at home: **Benjamin**, about 15, cannot read, goes to church irregularly, has no work, **William**, 14, can read, goes to Sunday school.

Mary Palmer, 77, cannot read, goes to church, and (takes) sacrament, 2 shillings and sixpence a week from parish. (Opposite page "dead")

Sarah Cole, 68, cannot read, goes to church, and (takes) sacrament, 2 shillings and sixpence a week from parish.

William & Elizabeth Clements: **William**, between 50-60, reads a little, goes to church, works for Dr Fox, 10 shillings a week. **Elizabeth**, 48, can read, has Bible, works at Mrs Tovey's; in club. Has 7 children, 3 at home. **Susan**, 20, can read, does not go to church, not able. (facing page: "dead".) **Simon**, 13. Cannot read, goes to church sometimes, works for old Mrs Harrill, sixpence a day. **Luke**, 10, cannot read, goes to church sometimes, works for Dr Fox, 4d a day. (Facing page: "sold her a Bible at half price", 1st Sep 1827.")

James and Edith Proberts: **James**, about 30, can read a little, does not go to church, works for [Mr] James, 10 shillings a week. **Edith**, 39, can read, has Bible and Prayer Book, does not go to church. Has 6 children, 5 at home, **George**, 10, cannot read, goes to church, **Caroline**, 8, can read, goes to Mrs Allpass's school, **James**, 7, goes to [Mr] Taylor's Sunday school, **Elizabeth**, 3, **Edith**, 1.

James and Mary Staples: **James** about 36, can read, has Bible and Prayer Book. Works for [Mr] G. Braikenridge, 10 shillings a week, in club. (Facing page: "sold him a Bible at half price 1st Sep 1827".) **Mary**, about 35, cannot read, generally goes to church. Five children, 4 at home, **Elizabeth**, 14, can read, works for Mrs James, 1 shilling a week, and victuals, ("sold her a prayer book at half price"). **Marianne**, 8, Allpass's school, **Harriette**, 5, Allpass's school, **John**, 2. Also in this household: **Thomas Allen**, 9, who can read a little, goes to [Mr] Taylor's school. The parish pays 3 shillings a week for his maintenance.

1 September

John & Elizabeth Shepherd: **John**, between 50-60, goes to church, can read, works for [Mr] Britton at Knoll, (presumably Knowle?) 9 shillings a week, in the club, sings in church. **Elizabeth**, 51, washes for Miss Vanderhorse at Clifton, does not go to church. Four children, 3 at home, **John**, 22, can read, does not go to church, works with his father, 9 shillings a week, **William**, 19, the same. **Thomas**, 18, does not go to church, does not work.

Joseph and Mary Newick: **Joseph**, 34, can read, has a Testament and prayer book, does not go to church, has been at sea. **Mary**, 21, does not go to church. (These people were evidently in a desperate condition: in pencil is written "gave 2/6d".)

John and Mary Pullman: **John**, 52, cannot read, generally goes to church, works for [Mr] Cook, ten shillings a week, in club. **Mary**, 49, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book, goes to church, washes. In club in Bristol. Ten guineas rent.

Robert and Lydia Knight: **Robert**, can read, has a Prayer Book and Bible, goes to church, works for Dr Fox, 10 shillings a week, in a club in Devonshire. **Lydia**, can read, does not go to church, charwoman at one shilling a day, plus victuals. Five children, 4 at home, **Elizabeth**, can read, goes to Allpass's school, **Samuel**, can read, in Taylor's school, **Mary**, 5, and **Harriette**, 1. Pay 5 guineas rent to Pullman.

8 September

Henry and Sarah Pillinger: **Henry**, between 60-70, cannot read, does not go to church, works for himself. In club. **Sarah**, about 40, has Bible, goes to church very seldom. In club. 5 children, 2 at home: **Charles**, 10, in [Mr] Taylor's school, **James**, 2. They own their own house. (This was very unusual: the house is Nelson's Glory, which still stands in School Road.) **Ann Shepherd** (lodger), 22, can read, has Prayer Book.

Eliza Whippie, 52, can read, has Bible, goes to church, in club in Bristol, sews, 5 children, 2 at home, **Mary**, 18, can read, has Prayer Book, goes to church, sews at Dr Fox's, 10 pence a day. **William**, 11, can read, goes to church. Works at Wilcox's. £14.14s rent.

William and Harriet Pillinger: **William**, can read, seldom goes to church, works for his father at Nelson's Glory, 12 shillings a week, in club. **Harriet**, 30, can read a little, does not go to church, one child, **William**, 6 months, and a nurse child, taken care of by his sister, **Ann Britten**, 12, 6 shillings a week. Lodgers **Joseph Ward**, **Cornelius Wyatt**, **John Jellamy**, £9 a year.

John and Ann Jewell: **John**, 50, can read, has a Bible, generally goes to church, works for Dr Fox, 10 shillings a week. **Ann**, 38, can read, goes to church when she can, in club. Four children, **Elizabeth**, 9, in Allpass's school, **William**, 7, in Taylor's school, **Fanny**, 4, **Edwin**, 2. Has two nurse children, 8 shillings a week for one, 6 shillings for the other. £7 rent.

14 September

Joseph and Sarah Viney: **Joseph**, 40, cannot read, does not go to church, works in Mr Ricketts' garden, twelve shillings a week, in club. **Sarah**, 30, can read, seldom goes to church, goes out ironing for Mrs Pillinger, 1 shilling a day and victuals. Four children, **Matilda**, 6, at Allpass's school, **John**, 4, at Mrs Jones' school, **Mary**, 2, **Harriette**, 10 months. **Elizabeth Brice**, Sarah's mother, 73, cannot read, goes to church when she can. £7 rent.

William and Mary Coggins: William, 66, cannot read, goes to church when he can, works, 10 shillings, irregularly, in club. Mary, 57, cannot read, goes to church, in club, wants Bible and Prayer Book. James Coggins, brother, 74, cannot read, does not go to church, works on road, 7 shillings a week, one shilling a week for lodging from parish. Charles Humphries, about 44, cannot read, goes to church when well, one shilling a week lodging from parish. £6 rent.

Thomas and Mary Hayes: Thomas, 35, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book, does not go to church. Keeper at Dr Fox's, £20 per year. Mary, 35, can read a little, goes to church, one child, Sarah, 4, in Mrs Jones' school. Mr Taylor, schoolmaster, pays two and sixpence per week lodging and waiting upon.

William and Martha Coggins: William, above 40, can read, has a Testament, goes to church, gardener, two and six a day, in club. Martha, about 44, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book, goes to church generally, takes in washing and ironing, two shillings a week, irregular. Two children, one at home, Fanny, 17, has a Bible and Prayer Book, goes to church. £20 a year in rent and taxes.

Thomas and Hannah Nott: Thomas, about 40, cannot read, seldom goes to church, in club. Hannah, about 39, can read a little, has Prayer Book and Bible, goes to church generally, works, in club. Four children, James, 9, at Taylor's school, Tamson, 7, at Allpass's school, Sarah, 5, Allpass's school, John, 3 months. Hester Haviland, Hannah's mother, about 66, cannot read, goes to church. Elizabeth Ham, 17, can read a little, seldom goes to church, one shilling a week wages. William Brown, brother to J. & N. Brown, £12.10s.0d a year, lodging. Marianne Hubbington, 7, nurse child, at Mrs Allpass's. 3 shillings and sixpence a week. £12 a year rent.

John and Mary Harris: John, near 40, can read, has Testament and Prayer Book, goes to church irregularly. Works for Mr Betts in Bristol, 15 shillings a week, in club in Bristol. Mary, about 47, cannot read, goes to church sometimes, works at Mr H. Brown's. 5 shillings a week. Four children, Sarah, 10, at Mrs Allpass's school, George, 7, at Taylor's school, Joseph, 5, at Mrs Jones' school, John, 3. £5 rent.

Joseph and Ellen Pillinger: Joseph, 35, seldom goes to church, works for [Mr] James, 10 shillings a week, steward in club. Ellen, 33, cannot read, goes to church irregularly, works sometimes at White Hart and at Nelson's Glory, a shilling a day. Ann Bennett, niece, lives with them, in Mrs Allpass's school, £5 per year

Nancy Coggins: between 70-80, cannot read, goes to church when she can, gets 2 shillings a week rent from next cottage. Mary, her daughter, 30, can read a little, has a testament, seldom goes to church, sews. Elizabeth Bevan, about 37, can read, goes to church sometimes, goes out washing. Has one child, William, 4. Gets one shilling a week from a parish in Bristol. Nancy's own house.

Jeremiah and Mary Pillinger: Jeremiah, 49, can read, goes to church, works for [Mr] Shute, 10 shillings a week, sings in church. Mary, 53, can read, goes to church, takes in

washing. Five children, **John**, 21, can read, works [Mr] Miller's nursery, plays in church, **William**, 18, can read, goes to church, works at [Mr] Hurle's quarry, 8 shillings a week, **Fanny**, 13, can read, **Susannah**, 11, goes to Mrs Allpass's school, **Mary**, 6, goes to Mrs Allpass's school. **Virtue Faux**, 19, lodger, can read, goes to church. Own house for life.

John and Mary Clements: **John**, about 35, can read, has a Bible, goes to church generally, works for [Mrs?] Harrill, 10 shillings a week, in club. **Mary**, about 50, cannot read, does not go to church, not able. Takes in washing. **George Steeple**, 9, in Taylor's school. £7 rent.

Here ended Mr Ranken's visits for the time being.

15 September

married: Walter Turner, esq., of Taunton to Jane, relict of John Jones, esq., of Brislington. (BM 15.9.27)

19 September

William Plummer of St Augustine, City of Bristol, bachelor and Elizabeth Cooke, spinster were married by licence at St Luke's in the presence of Jos[eph?] Cooke & Seth Burge Plummer. (PR)

25 September

Francis Ker, Charles Joseph and Madeleine, the adult children of Edward Long Fox and Isabella Fox were baptised at St Luke's by their brother in law, Charles Ranken. They had previously been Quakers. (PR)

4 November

Obituary: died "at Brislington House, in her 78th year, Mrs Young, widow of the late T.M. Young, esquire of Netherex House, Devon." (FFBJ)

15 December

"At Brislington, Highway robbery. Discovery of a gang of thieves. Thursday sennight a man was robbed in the lane from Knowle to Brislington. On his arrival at Knowle and giving a description, suspicion alighted on a man employed by Mr Ring as a labourer. This person was sent for and immediately recognised as one of the robbers. The person robbed could swear to one of the shillings taken and the marks on it, which was found on the accused. The other robber was soon taken and we understand that this has led to the discovery of a gang of the most desperate thieves." (FFBJ)

1828

2 February.

"Two grave robbers were caught in Brislington Cemetery by Mr R. Gough and others, and were taken without resistance. Their tools consisted of a shovel, a sack and a powerful turn screw upon a novel construction, a packing needle and a cord of rope. These men were Dr Wallis, a founder of a notable anatomical school in Bristol and Dr Riley, also an anatomist. Both subsequently became physicians at the Infirmary. They

were fined £6 by Councillor Thomas Hassell, who evidently did not consider their offence that wicked as he proposed Dr Wallis for election as Physician to the Infirmary on 21 February, 1828, less than three weeks later!"

(History of the Bristol Royal Infirmary by G. Munro Smith, page 212.)

(Some of the well to do parishioners were seriously alarmed and subsequently erected railings round the graves of their loved ones, and these can still be seen in the churchyard today. Some alas were removed – perhaps for munitions in World War 2?)

9 February

Ranken continued his perambulation: **Ann Brain**, about 67, can read a little, goes to church sometimes, works for Mr H. Brown, and [Mr] Tompkins. Rents of Mr Brown, a withy bed, pays 5s shillings a year rent. (Wants Bible and Prayer Book.)

Grace Coggins, about 64, cannot read, generally goes to church, goes out washing, a shilling a day, in club.

George and Ann Kendall: **George**, about 32, can read, generally goes to church, works for [Mr] Tompkins, 10 shillings a week. **Ann**, 30, can read, seldom goes to church, takes in washing from Bristol, one daughter, **Elizabeth**, 2. One nurse child, **Henry Mason**, 6, at Taylor's school. Rent £2.10 shillings a year.

Thomas Challenger: can read a little, has Bible and Prayer Book. Goes to church, works at a shot manufactory in Bristol, 11 shillings a week, in club. Two daughters, **Fanny**, 15, can read, generally goes to church, **Eliza**, 10, can read, goes to Allpass's school.

Samuel and Margaret Coggins: **Samuel**, 27, cannot read, goes to church, works for [Mr] Meredith, 10 shillings a week, in club. **Margaret**, 41, cannot read, goes to church, goes out washing two days week, one shilling a day. Four children, **John**, 12, can read, goes to Taylor's Sunday school, works when he can, 6d a day. **Caroline**, near 8, can read, goes to Mrs Allpass's school, **Ellen**, 5, goes to Mrs Allpass's, burnt, in Infirmary. **Sarah**, 2. Rent £13.13s. 6d per year.

George and Elizabeth Silman: **George**, cannot read, generally goes to church, works for [Mr] H. Brown, in club. **Elizabeth** cannot read, generally goes to church, in club, takes in washing for Mr Russell, in Bristol. Six children, **William**, 14, can read, was in school, no books, works with horses for Mr H. Brown, 4 shillings a week. **George**, 14, can read, was in school, works with horses for Mr H Brown, **Marianne**, 11, can read, goes to Sunday school, **Eliza**, 9, can read, goes to Mrs Allpass's, **Caroline**, 4, **Louisa**, 1. Rents a pear orchard with a garden by the Mill.

Richard and Mary Cruse: **Richard**, 35, can read, has a Bible, goes to church, works for [Mr] Tompkins, 10 shillings a week, in club. **Mary**, 33, cannot read, seldom goes to church, works for Mr Brown, 10d a day. Six children, **Marianne**, 11, can read, goes to Mrs Allpass's, **Elizabeth**, 8, can read, goes to Mrs Allpass's, **Eliza**, 7, can read a little, goes to Mrs Allpass's, **Maria**, 5, **Richard**, 2, **John**, 2 months. **Ann Lankyer**, Mary's

mother, 74, cannot read, goes to church, gets one shilling a week from Clutton parish. Rent £2.10s.0d.

James and Elizabeth Coggins: **James**, about 48, cannot read, generally goes to church, works for Mr Hurlle, 10 shillings a week, in club. **Elizabeth**, 44, can read, goes to church seldom, works the [Conham] ferry, average 5 shillings a week. Nine children, 7 at home: **Sarah**, 14, can read, goes to the Baptist school over the water. (Nowhere exotic! She was probably ferried across the river to Hanham by her mother.) **Leah**, 10, can read, **Thomas**, 7, at Taylor's school, **Betty**, 6, **George**, 1, **Isaac**, 22, cannot read much, goes to church often, works for Dr Fox, 10 shillings a week, [pays] £3 a year. **Rachel**, 24, married to **Daniel Waymouth** who works in Dr Fox's wood. Can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book. **Henry**, 18, can read a little, lodges in Brislington at Ward's, where Gadd lived. Works for Robert Harrill at Eastwood Farm. **Jacob**, 21, can read a little, at Risca, a blacksmith.

Mary Hunt, no information.

Samuel and Hester Hobbs: **Samuel**, above 30, can read and has a Bible and Prayer Book. Keeper at Dr Fox's. **Hester**, 32, can read, does not go to church, takes in washing for Dr Fox's outpatients. Two children, **Samuel**, 5, **Fanny**, 3. Five guineas rent.

Samuel and Elizabeth Salter: **Samuel**, near 40, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book, keeper at Dr Fox's. **Elizabeth**, 44, can read, seldom goes to church, works with Hester Hobbs, one shilling a day, and victuals. Four children, **William**, 11, goes to Taylor's school, **Henry**, 4, **Harriette**, 4, **Marianne**, 6 months. Five guineas rent.

12 March

James and Philippa Allen: **James** has a Bible and Prayer Book, takes the Sacrament. Works for Mr Ireland, 15 shillings a week. **Philippa**, 65, can read, goes to church has a Bible and Prayer Book, takes Sacrament. One daughter, **Frances**, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book. Works at home. £5.10 shillings rent.

Elizabeth Peters, 38, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book, goes to church, does knitting and washes for Mrs Phillips' guests, four children, 3 at home, **Marianne**, 10, can read, at Mrs Allpass's school, **Elizabeth**, 6, can read, Mrs Allpass's school, **Henry**, 5, at Mrs Allpass's school. In same house, **John and Mary Masters**. Rent Mr Withering's farm, £9.

James and Mary Hope: **James**, can read, has a Bible, works at Arno's Court gardens, 10 shillings a week. **Mary**, 39, cannot read, goes to church, works at Mr Cook's and Miss Schroder's. Three children, **James**, 16, goes to church, works at Dr Fox's, 4 shillings a week, **John**, 11, cannot read, was at school, goes to church, **Thomas**, 2.

Charles and Hannah Clark: **Charles**, can read, goes to church, works for Mr Ricketts, in the garden, 11 shillings a week, in Club. **Hannah**, 30, can read, goes to church. **Sarah White**, above 80, can read, has books, does not go to church, deaf. Pays one shilling a week lodging.

John and Elizabeth James. James, 52, has Bible and Prayer Book, wants large print. Church generally, works for Farmer Trull, 9 shillings a week, in club. Elizabeth about 49, can read very little, goes to church when she can. Three children, Elizabeth, 19, reads, goes to church. Louisa, 12, reads, was at Allpass's school. Harriette, 8, at Allpass's school. Two nurse children, Frances Waters, 2, and a baby, 10 shillings a week for both. £8 rent.

Francis and Mary Filer. Francis near 40, has Bible and old Prayer Book. Did work for Mrs Hurler for 13 years. Works for Mr Betts, 10 shillings a week, in club. Mary, near 48, can read a little, goes to church, works in fields, 10d a day. Ann, 13, can read, has prayer book. Joseph, 11, can read, in Taylor's school, Hester, 10, can read, in Allpass's school, Charles, 7, can read a little.

15 February
Ranken, still busily converting his in-laws from Quakerism baptised another adult Fox: Charles Edward, on this day. (PR)

18 February
a daughter was born to the lady of Robert Gough, esquire, at Brislington. (BM 25.2.28)

and on the same day.....Richmond, the son of Thomas and Ann Lenox, gardener of Arno's Court was baptised. (PR)

26 April
Obituary: died on "Thursday, at Brislington, aged 18, of a deep decline, Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr W. Webb of this City." (FFBJ)

5 May
Mary, the infant daughter of James and Elizabeth Hicks, of Brislington, was interred at the Baptist burial ground at Keynsham.

6 May
Mr Joseph Thornly, of Clare Street, Bristol, was killed near Arno's Vale due to the breaking of a rein on a two horse coach. (BM)

8 May
Not long after his son's christening, Thomas Lenox of Arno's Court died. The record states: "age on coffin, 48, supposed older." (PR)

10 May
Captain and Mrs Withering of Wick House gave £1 each to a fund for "six destitute orphans, natives of Bedminster, the children of a respectable family. John Porter died insolvent at St Clare in Wales on 16th September, 1826, and their mother Ann was compelled to seek assistance from friends until she too succumbed." (FFBJ)

and the same day...the Brislington Friendly Society announced their Annual Meeting to be held at the White Hart on Monday, 26 May. (ibid)

31 May

Sarah Braikenridge was buried at Brislington, aged 31. Her obituary "Sarah, wife of John Braikenridge, esq., of Brislington" appeared 3 June. (PR,BM. 3.6.28)

5 June

Now follows a story of the "good old days", one of Dickensian destitution and squalor. *Hard Times* indeed.

"William Ball, son of Mr Ball, who formerly kept the Kings Arms at Brislington was in very narrow and necessitous circumstances and with his wife rented an underground apartment in the house of John Shipp of No.10, Narrow Plain, St Philips. For several months he had been in ill health, due to poverty and starvation and his landlords, John & Margaret Shipp were very desirous of getting rid of them and had repeatedly warned them off. Mrs Shipp thought of an expedient, which was effectual, though fatal. She sent for a chimney sweep called Richard Johnson and instructed him to fill up the top of the chimney with wadding but omitted to tell him there were tenants in the room below. Mrs Ball lit a fire in the grate, and left her husband who was ill in bed for about five minutes. On her return she found the room full of smoke and he died in less than ten minutes. The Coroner's Jury decided that William Ball suffered from asthma, but that his death was accelerated by the smoke." John and Margaret Shipp, were charged with manslaughter, and arraigned to appear at the Gaol Delivery in October, but granted bail. (FFBJ)

14 June

The gardens of G.W. Braikenridge were broken open and gooseberries uprooted and flowers wantonly trampled. A reward of £15 reward was offered for anyone who would identify the miscreants. (FFBJ/BMi)

24 June

The previous Tuesday evening Mrs Simpson of Brislington was robbed by a thief who secreted himself in the house. He escaped with a considerable quantity of plate. (BM)

25 July

Nature notes: "We paid a visit the other day to the Agave Americana or American Aloe, now in full bloom in the garden of Mrs Phillips of Brislington. This is much finer than that exhibited last year. It is 22 feet high and has twenty one beautiful flowers under which are several plates hung to collect the honey that drops from it, of which those yellow coated pirates of the garden, the wasps have a plentiful share. It has been in the possession of several members of Mrs Phillips' family for the last seventy years.

The Aloe is a useful medicine in Mexico and in all parts of the Western and Eastern world. The natives cover their houses with its leaves, make ropes of the roots and weave the smaller fibres into cloths. There are excellent examples of the fibres in Brislington

that are upwards of three yards in length. The flower will soon fade and those who want to see it in its beauty should make haste." (FFBJ)

28 September

The aloe appears to be still in full bloom. Bristol Mirror reported that Mrs Susan Marsh, (she seems to be identical with Mrs March Phillips) mother in law of the Bishop of Lichfield & Coventry, now living in the house where Edward Rolle Clayfield formerly lived had a marvellous (but unspecified) plant in her garden. (BMi)

22 October

Alfred Robertson, the son of Thomas & Mary Butt le Worthy Miller, an Officer in the Custom House, was baptised at St Luke's. (PR)

1 November

The case against John and Margaret Shipp for the manslaughter of William Ball was heard at the Assizes.

The court was told that William Ball was about 28, and had taken a chill in Birmingham. He came to Bristol in early May where he took lodgings with the prisoners. His friend William Thomas, a waiter at the White Hart in Broad Street, Bristol, gave evidence that when he last saw him alive he was very weak, having been bled the day before. He said that Ball had been in St Peter's Hospital for a week, and Dr Fox had attended him there. Thomas said he advised him to get a note for the Infirmary, but Ball said he would wait a week and see what fresh air would do for him. If he was no better, he would go to the Infirmary. With other friends, Thomas had given Ball some maintenance. The next time the witness saw him, it was as a corpse.

Richard Johnson, the sweep, was called. He said Mrs Shipp told him that she wanted the chimney stopped up. She provided a blanket, and he went up the chimney and stopped the flue. Contrary to previous reports, he admitted he had asked what she wanted this done for, and she said they had people in the house she wanted to get out.

Jane Ball the widow of the deceased, who was described as "of very respectable appearance" said her husband had been ill for 28 weeks. Neither of them had any work. They paid rent of one and ninepence (12 ½ pence) per week, but had received no notice to quit until the morning of her husband's death when she paid the rent at 9 a.m. Mrs Shipp took the money, but took the key out of the door and said she desired them to go. Jane Ball said "Ma'am, I will go as soon as I can find another lodging to put my husband into, but he is too ill to be moved into the street." Mrs Shipp replied "I shall take care he shall not pass another night in my house." Mrs Shipp did not lock the door when she took the key and Mrs Ball went back into the room, made her husband's breakfast, and lit a fire because the room was damp. She then went out to get someone to sit with him. When she returned a great smoke came out of the door, which was stuck against her husband, who had crawled out of his bed towards the window. She screamed, "Oh my Lord, my husband's smothered." He turned to her and threw his arms around her neck. She tried to pull him out, but her strength gave way and they both fell back into the

smoke together. Mrs Shipp and his wife came down and they helped to put him on the bed. He never spoke again.

The examination of the witness by the Coroner was put before her and read. By this, she did not impute any malice towards the prisoners but attributed her husband's death to his having eaten more heartily than usual - they being in a state of extreme deprivation - at his sister's house the preceding day. She said on this occasion that had it not been for the smoke, she thought her husband might have lived a little while longer, but he could not have eventually recovered.

The male prisoner declared he was quite innocent. Mrs Shipp said they - her tenants - were so dirty she could not keep them, had given them notice and offered to forgo a week's rent if they would leave the house. She did not know the man was so ill. She had wanted to call a medical man, but Mrs Ball would not let her, as she didn't want a doctor to cut up his body. The Recorder said the Jury would have to consider whether malice was intended by the prisoners. The Jury found them guilty but recommended them to mercy. The Shippes were sentenced to 12 months with hard labour. What became of the young widow, Mrs Ball, is unknown. (FFBJ)

23 December

The gathering of the Fox clan into the Anglican fold continued. Charles Ranken baptised Elizabeth Anne, the daughter of Edward Long and Isabella Fox, the wife of William James Goodeve, surgeon of Clifton.

1829

In this year a hoard of Roman coins was found in the vicinity of St Anne's. Seventy years later a Roman villa was found during the building of Winchester Road, whose last occupants came to an unhappy end when the dwelling was fired.

10 January

died at Great Shelsley, aged 64, Mr. John Mapp, late of the White Hart, Brislington.

(BM 20.1.29)

17 January

A labouring man on his way to Brislington was stopped in Sandy Lane by four fellows who stripped him quite naked, and in that state he was forced to return home. The poor man's clothes were afterwards picked up in the road by two men who left them at the Turnpike House. Several suspicious characters are daily annoying the passengers from Temple Gate to Totterdown." (BMi)

20 January

Francis Newenough was committed to Shepton Mallet Gaol for three months with hard labour for begging in Brislington the previous Sunday. (BM)

21 February

Obituary: died, "Lately, of Arno's Vale House, Bath Road, of a consumed liver, Mr Thomas Bamfield, aged 36." (FFBJ)

2 May

"A fine aloe" in bloom at Brislington Hill that had formed "a fine peak at the summit of the stalk", was unlikely "to blow" for the present and was expected to do even better than last year. (BMi)

15 May

Announcement of the Anniversary meeting of the Brislington Friendly Society to be held at the White Hart. (FFBJ)

16 June

Thomas Moor, the driver of the mail coach between Bristol and Calne was fined £5 at Brislington for allowing an outside passenger to take the reins and drive from Keynsham to Bath. (BM)

22 May

a son was born to the lady of the Rev. Charles Ranken. (BM 2.6.29)

23 May

Sadly, the publicity concerning the mighty Brislington Aloe, may have generated unwelcome attention, for "Brislington Hall, the residence of Mrs March Phillipps was broken into, but from the circumstances of the male servants sleeping on the ground floor the thieves were immediately disturbed and decamped without taking anything of value. The servants were *amply provided with firearms* (my italics) for the protection of the premises." (FFBJ 23.5.1829)

26 May

A cow belonging to Mr S. Hardwick of Brislington was delivered of three calves. Eleven months ago she added a similar number to her master's stable. (FFBJ)

(Mr Hardwick is remembered by having a road - Hardwick Close, off School Road, named after him.)

6 June

Obituary: died, "at Plymouth, Edward Long Fox, merchant of London, son of Dr Edward Long Fox, of Brislington House." (FFBJ)

20 June

"Yesterday sennight, as Mr Brown and his family of Brislington were returning home in a four wheel carriage late at night, on descending the hill at Totterdown, the horse suddenly became restive and unmanageable and started off furiously and drove the vehicle with great force against the bank, upsetting and breaking it to pieces. Mr Brown and his family were thrown out with great violence but fortunately without injury." (FFBJ)

24 June

Edward John, son of Charles and Isabella Ranken, Clerk in Holy Orders was baptised by his father. They went on to have Isabella Maria in 1831, William Henry in 1833, and Mary Elizabeth in 1836 during Charles's incumbency in Brislington.

29 June

Ranken resumed his visits to the poor of the parish: **Samuel and Ann Middleton**. **Samuel** above 60, can read, has a Bible and Prayer Book. Carpenter, works at Whitchurch. **Ann**, above 60, reads, goes out washing, does not go to church. One son, **Samuel**, 22, labourer, can read, goes to church sometimes, one daughter **Maria**, 20, can read, goes to church. £6.15.0d rent.

Elizabeth Paul, 76, cannot read, takes in washing. **William and Sophia Hazell**. **William**, 22, can read a little, has a Bible and Prayer Book, goes to church, has a horse and cart. **Sophia**, 24, reads, goes to church. £7.10s rent.

John and Mary Green. **John**, 37, can read a little, goes to church generally, works for (Mr) Hunt at Lower Knoll (*sic*). **Mary**, 39, cannot read, goes to church, works for E. Paul.

Thomas and Ann Nash. **Thomas**, 40, can read, has a Prayer Book, works for himself. Does not go to Church. In Club. **Ann**, 39, cannot read, does not go to church, goes to Bristol with milk. **Marianne**, 9, can read, was in Allpass's school. **Eliza**, 5, **Thomas**, 3, **Marianne**, 6 months. Rents 40 acres at St George.

This is the last of Ranken's perambulations. The number of those who did not attend church is remarkable, and whether he succeeded in persuading any of these to do so, is not recorded.

25 July

A visit was made by Royalty: the Queen of Portugal came to Brislington to see the latest display of our "Agave Americana".

(see FFBJ and also the Natural History Section of B26068 "Collections for Brislington at BRL)

27 July

Elizabeth Anne, daughter of William James and Elizabeth Anne Goodeve of Clifton, Surgeon, was baptised. (PR)

18 August

Francis Ker Fox & Janet Sarah Simpson were married at St Luke's in the presence of Edward Long Fox, Isabella Fox, Chas Jos[eph] Fox, Sarah Simpson, and Richard Vaughan Simpson. (PR)

26 September

died aged 21, Elizabeth Anne, wife of W.J. Goodeve, esq., of Clifton and daughter of Dr. E.L. Fox, of Brislington. (FFBJ 3.10.29 & BM 6.10.29)

(Sadly, it appears that Elizabeth Anne had not recovered from the birth of her daughter two months before - see above.)

27 November

Lease for a year between (1) Thomas Lyddon Edwards of Brislington, esquire, and Job White of Weston super Mare, mason and (2) the Rev William Barlow, rector of West super Mare, clerk, re a plot of land forming part of Weston super Mare Moor. Consideration, five shillings. (SRO A/ATH/10)

1 December

notice was given for the proposed Bath and Bristol Railway to go through Brislington among other stations. (BM).

1830

The following Brislington residents and trades people appear in Pigot's Directory for this year:

Jane and Elizabeth Abbot, Gentlemen's Preparatory Day School

George W. Braikenridge, esquire

Thomas Lyddon Edwards, esquire

William Hicks, tailor

Isaac Jones, shopkeeper & Dealer

----- Parks, esquire

Joshua Powell, esquire

Mrs Simpson

Mrs Stiche

Charles L. Thompson, blacksmith

Nehemiah Bartley - whose family once lived in Brislington was an agent for the Blacksmith Smelting Company, and was living at Unity Street, St Philips.

John King, who was the landlord of the White Hart on Brislington Hill at the time, does not appear in the directory.

15 May

The Brislington Friendly Union Society will hold its Annual Meeting at the White Hart on Whit Monday. (FFBJ)

13 June

Job, the son of George and Elizabeth Silman, labourer of Pear Tree Cottage, St Anne's was baptised at St Luke's. (PR)

27 June

Jeremiah the son of William and Sarah Hurler, labourer, of Wick House Lodge was baptised at St Luke's. (PR)

21 July

William Withering bequeathed 200 guineas (£210) to the Minister & Churchwardens of Brislington to be invested and the interest distributed on Christmas Day to the deserving poor of the parish who have not received relief during the year. (BRO P St LB/CH/12)

Register of Brislington Electors, 1830 - (Outvoters in Bristol Poll)

Richard Edward Aston, plasterer	Abraham Evesham Meredith, cornfactor
John Brown, land agent, frm Redcliff	John Morrall, miller
Joseph Cooke, linendraper	Abraham Meredith, merchant
Thomas Lyddon Edwards, esq	Henry Prichard, oil merchant
Robert Gough, gent	John Protheroe, Kensing.Place, ironmonger
Henry Hall, chairmaker	Francis Probart, cheese factor
Nicholas Webber Jones, gent, frd St James	Henry Ricketts, glass manufacturer
Joseph James, carpenter	Richard Frank Ring, potter
William Jones, house carpenter	John Stych, gent., frd St James
William James, carpenter	Daniel Weymouth, farmer, frd Temple
Thomas James, junior, carpenter	Thomas Wilcox, cordwainer
Isaac Jones, shopkeeper	Henry Williams, cordwainer
John Jones, labourer	Robert Leonard, esq., frd Temple

30 July

Samuel King, cordwainer, son of Francis King of Brislington, deceased, became a Freeman of Gloucester. (Cal-Glos)

31 July

The death was announced "Wednesday sennight at Clifton, at an advanced age, Charles Hill, esquire, late of Wick House, Brislington and for many years an acting Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Somerset." According to the Parish Register of Brislington he was supposed to be "between 50 and 60" which is not particularly advanced, even for those times! (FFBJ, PR)

On the same day.....

James Briggs King, upholster of Cheltenham, son of James King, deceased, of Brislington, became a Freeman of Gloucester. (Cal-Glos)

29 August

James Coggins was admitted to the Infirmary with contusions and Abraham Coggins aged 25, with a broken humerus. James worked at Mr Hurler's quarry – at the Rock – and both must have been engaged in this dangerous work when they met with the accident. Abraham was probably one of the many children who had left home when Ranken visited

– see February 1828. James died of his injuries and was buried on this day at Brislington, “aged 52, of Conham Ferry”. Abraham was pronounced “cured”.

(PR & BRO BRI/3(n) 2-11)

5 October

Frances Janet the daughter of Francis Ker and Janet Sarah Fox, Doctor of Medicine, was baptised at St Luke’s. They went on to have Edward Long Fox, (named after his illustrious grandfather) in 1832, Francis Frederick in 1833, Vaughan Simpson in 1834, Madeline Maria in 1836, Charles Henry in 1837 and Florence Amelia in 1838. (PR)

27 November

“The Parish of Brislington has established an efficient Night Patrol which we have no doubt will have a beneficent effect of securing the persons and property of that district. We shall be glad to see this spirited example followed by other parishes in the district.”
Twelve constables had been sworn in. (FFBJ, BM,23.11.)

and the same daya marriage was belatedly announced on “Monday sennight at Brislington, (between) Mr William Starkings of Yarmouth and Miss Sarah Stoate of Brislington.” (ibid)

2 December

Isabella Sophia, daughter of Thomas and Maria Brown, schoolmaster, was baptised was St Luke’s. (PR)

1831

January

Thomas Perceval, (the younger son of Spencer Perceval, the Prime Minister, who was assassinated in 1812) was confined as a lunatic at Brislington House. He wrote several accounts of his treatment there in 1838 and 1840 – restraint in the form of strait jackets were often used, he said, adding that Dr Fox’s “was a madhouse, for to call (it) an asylum is cruel mockery and revolting duplicity.” In May, 1832 he was removed to Ticehurst Asylum in Sussex. (see www.mdx.ac.uk/WWW/STUDY/4Asylums.htm)

6 February

Obituary: died on “Monday in her 14th year, Julia, daughter of Mr John Brown of Brislington.” (FFBJ)

28 January

Elizabeth Cogan, (sic), widow, and her children Thomas, 11, Elizabeth, 9, and George, 4, were “removed” by the parish from Brislington to Bitton.

She was not “Elizabeth Cogan” but Elizabeth Coggins, whose husband James had died the previous August from his injuries at the quarry. Their children had been 7, 6, and 1 year old when Charles Ranken visited them in 1828. Coggins is such a well known name in Brislington that it comes as shock that James had been “settled” in Bitton. It was cruel, but a widow “inherited” her husband’s parish and Elizabeth would be obliged to go there to obtain relief. (BRO/P/B/OP/6c/89)

26 May

Robert Lindon Collings of North Petherton & Sarah Brown were married by licence at Brislington in the presence of John Brown, Elizabeth Lindon Collings, and Mary Ann Brown. (PR)

30 May

On this date in 1831 - a National Census was taken:

Forms were distributed around the parish. The householder, whose name appears on the outside of the form was requested to list the number of persons who lived in the house, to divide them, male and female, and specify those over 20 years old. This inevitably led to confusion, with some including their labourers who did not live in. Occupations were classified as agriculture, trade, and coalpit or quarry. Gentlemen of course, had no occupation. One wonders who was the nitwit who suggested this system, and why even greater idiots adopted it. Why on earth the householder was not simply asked to list by name all those whose lived in the house, with their names, ages, and occupations, as in later censuses is beyond me.

Eliza Abbott (10f)	James Allen, carpenter (also lists his labourers (?), Peters, Hope, Harrill, Clark, Leaver) (1m 2f)	William Betts (3m, 13f) Prof(essional) or no occupation
James Bevan, labourer (5m 2f, 2 over 20)	Samuel Bevan (4m 3 f, 1m over 20)	Joseph Bicknell, blacksmith, Mary Bicknell, Daniel Hill, and James Probart named
George Bishop, blacksmith (6m 3 f, 1 over 20)	Richard Bowcott, St Anne's, miller (2m 2f, 2 over 20)	George Weare Braikenridge (2 m, 10 f, 2 over 20) Professional, or no occupation.
John Braikenridge (3m 3 f, 2 over 20) Professional	Henry Brown, (also list of his agricultural labourers, James Pillinger, M. Harris, Richard Crier, Jn Clements, G. Selman, Jeremiah Pillinger, B. Biggs, M. Waters)	John Brown, esquire, professional, (4m, 2 f, 2 over 20)
Henry Brown esquire, (1 m, 2 f, 1 over 20)	Thomas Brown, Church Hill House, schoolmaster (27m, 7f, 3 m over 20)	John Burge, no occupation, (7m 2 f, 2 over 20)
William Castle, gardener (2m 1 f, 1 over 20)	Charles Clark, jun, carpenter, (3m 3 f, 1 over 20) also M. Smith & A. Rossiter	Charles Clark, senior (no additional information)
Daniel Clark, agric. (2m 3f, 1 over 20)	John Coleman, butcher, 4m, 3 f, 3 over 20, including 1 female servant	Joseph Cooke, esq., (3m 9f, 2m over 20), linen merchant, 3 female servants

Giles Dagg, victualler, (2m, 2f, 2 over 20)	Ann Derrick (3f) also lists W. Pillinger, lab, and G. Chilcott	John Dunn, horticulture, (2m, 6f, 1 over 20)
Mrs Edols (2m 9f, no male over 20)	Thomas Lyddon Edwards, not in trade, (2m, 3f, 2 over 20, including 2 female servants	Joseph Collins (form marked on outside Sarah Guppy) labourer, 4m, 4f, 1 over 20)
Henry Hall, (1 chairmaker, 1 carpenter), (3 m, 2 f, 2 over 20)	Jemima Harrill, agric. (2m, 2f, 2 over 20, including 1 female servant)	Robert Harrill (6m, 2f, 4 males over 20, 1 male servant over 20, 1 female servant over 20) occupier of land.
James Hardwick, agric, husbandry, 6m 5f, 1 m over 20	Samuel Hardwick, 5m 3 f, 2m over 20, 2 f over 20, occupier of land, 1 f servant	William Harwood, of Wick, mason, 1m 2f, 1 m over 20
Richard Harris	James Hazell, agriculture, 3m,3f, 1m over 20	William Hicks, taylor
John Hill, esq	Thomas Wilcox, cordwainer	Mary Hodge
Thomas Hunt (outside form is written Wm Williams)	Elizabeth Hurle	J.C. Ireland, esq
Thomas James, sen, carpenter, coach painter (3 males, (2 over 21) 2 females, 1 female servant. Written on this form in pencil: Sam Coggins, (2m, - 1 over 21- 3f), labourer George H-----, Mary Hunt, Dr Fox, Nancy Brain, M. Harrill, Thos Challenger, M. Davey, Haynes	Thomas James, jun., carpenter	Henry Jenkins, Captain, RN, on half pay
Isaac Jones, grocer	William Jones, sawyer	N.W. Jones
Thomas Kibby, labourer	John King, miller	Joseph King, gardener, (G.W. Braikenridge)
Ruth Ring, Hengrove	Samuel King, cordwainer	Thomas Hillier (outside form is written Sarah King)
George Leaver	Robert Leonard, esq	George Lewis, quarry or coalpit
Henry Loney, carpenter	Charles Martin	John Masters
William Medway (also a list of his labourers?): Joseph Warr, John Perrier, James Coggins, H. Fowler, James Niblett, James Stephen John Probart, W.	Abraham Meredith	James Meredith

Blizett, Thomas Soby, G. Bond, ? Mutton?)		
Thomas B. Miller, belonging to HM Customs	George Moon	Thomas Naish
Thomas Nott, of the Rock, agriculture	George Pamplin, agriculture	Elizabeth Paul
John Perry, labourer, not agriculture	Susan Marsh Phillips	Henry Pillinger, haulier, (3m, 1f, 1m over 20)
William Pillinger, agriculture, (7m 2 f, 2m over 20)	James Pillinger, labourer, (3m 3f, 2m over 20)	Jeremiah Pillinger. Also shown in pencil: Mrs Allerton, Wm Coggins, M. Jewell, J. Challenger, Hurth, Mary Allen, Sam Whippie, Mrs Whippie, cordwainer, Wm Coggins, W. Taylor, schoolmaster.
John Pillinger, milkman (3m 2f)	Joshua Power, merchant	Henry Pritchard, Linton Cottage, West Town, merchant
William Jones, of the Rookery, gardener	Harriet Schroder, gentlewoman	Sarah Simpson
H.A. Styche	Charles Thompson, smith	Mary Tipton
John Tompkins, sen	John Tompkins, jun	Joseph Tompkins, gardener
John Weymouth, butcher	Wm. Weymouth, butcher	John Wiltshire, gent
William Withering, esq, LLD		

(BRO/P/OP, Brislington.)

The Lunatics at Dr Fox's do not appear in the census. In later censuses, which took place every ten years from 1831, they are often only noted by initials because of the perceived shame of mental illness.

9 June

Elizabeth Coggins, aged 11, of Conham Ferry, was buried. (PR)

(Could this be Elizabeth who had been removed with her mother a few months before? If so the family had been allowed to return. Or is she another child of the same name?)

21 June

died lately at Barbados where she went for the recovery of her health, Mary, wife of Mr. John Brown of Brislington. (BM 21.6.31)

(John Brown, son of Henry Brown and Betty Harrill was born in Keynsham about 1785. On 12 May 1813, described as a surveyor of Brislington, and a bachelor, he married Mary Cater, spinster at Holy Trinity, Stapleton by licence with the consent of her parents. Mary was the daughter of John Wyatt Cater and Mary Fisher of Stapleton.

John and Mary Brown had nine children of whom three died in their teenage years and another, Louisa Caroline, the wife of William Morcom died aged 35, leaving a young family. They lived at Kensington House. Mary Cater Brown, named in the above obituary died of tuberculosis as did many of the children, and it is suggested that it was for health reasons that their four surviving sons emigrated to Australia in the late 1840s and 1850s. Two sons became doctors, Dr Walter Brown at Paramatta where he renamed a historic house at Parramatta in honour of his birthplace and Dr Henry Hort Brown first at Richmond, NSW and later Queensland. A daughter remained in England.

In 1851, the widowed John Brown was living at Gothic Lodge with two servants.)



Kensington House.

25 June

Obituary: died on "Thursday sennight, much regretted, Mary, the wife of Mr John Hill of Brislington." (FFBJ)

23 July

John Landcastle was discharged from the Insolvent Debtors' Court. (FFBJ)
(Is he the J. Landcastle whose carpenter's shop is shown next to the Old Engine House in Rowbotham's drawing of 1826/7?)

30 July

"On Wednesday, the stable of Robert Leonard, esquire at Brislington was entered and robbed of a gig-harness, a saddle and bridle and other articles." (FFBJ)

8 October

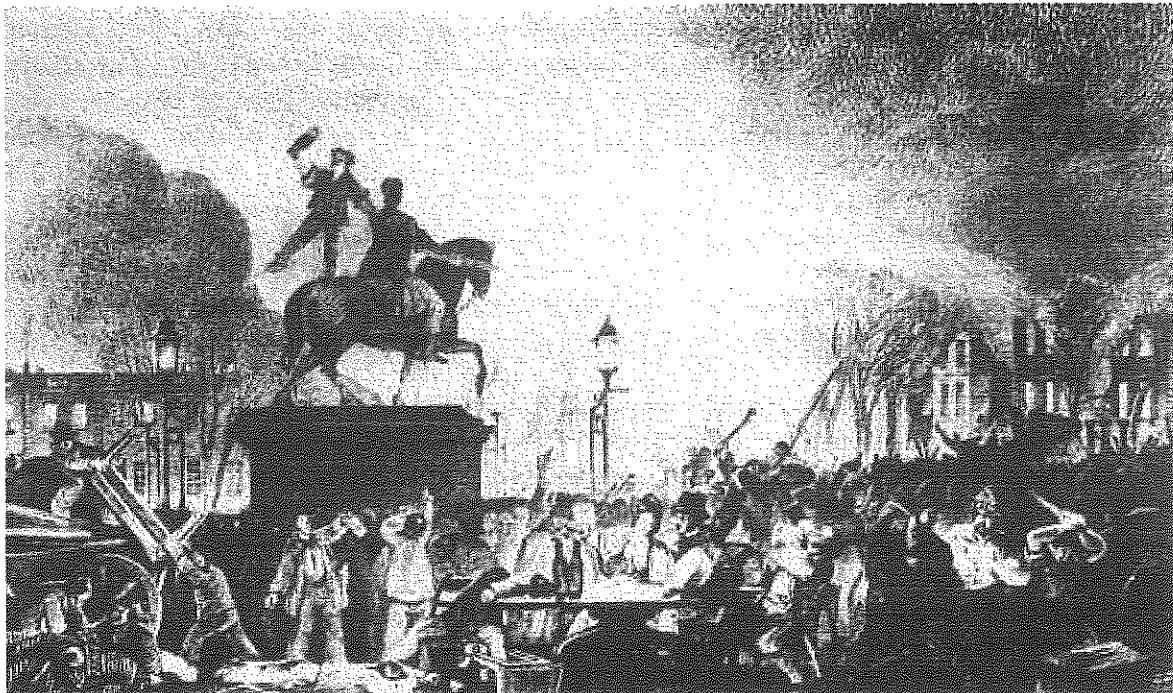
Obituary. "Yesterday sennight at his house in Brislington in his 64th year, Mr Thomas James, an individual not less remarkable for vigour of intellect and independence of mind than exemplary for the indefatigable industry, rare ingenuity and honourable integrity with which for many years he conducted multifarious transactions of business. The respect inseparable from such a character was strongly manifested on the occasion of his funeral by the unsolicited attendance of several of the principal inhabitants of the parish." (FFBJ)

29 October

On this day, a Saturday, the Bristol Riots began. Early in 1831, Lord John Russell had introduced a Reform Bill to give more people the vote, to ensure the new industrial towns were properly represented in Parliament, to stop people buying their way into office, and finally to end the scandal of "Rotten Boroughs" like the infamous Old Sarum, which had three houses, and a population of fifteen people, but nevertheless had a Member of Parliament all to itself. Russell's Bill was defeated. A new attempt by Lord Grey passed through the House of Commons, but was rejected by the House of Lords. Only about 6,000 men out of a population of 104,000 Bristol people had the right to vote.

On 26 October, the Bishop of Bath and Wells who had voted against Reform arrived in Bedminster to consecrate a new church and was barracked by the crowd. On Saturday, 29 October, Sir Charles Wetherall, the Bristol Recorder, who had been even more outspoken in his condemnation of Reform arrived in Bristol to open the Assize Courts. His carriage was pelted with stones all along the route through the City and violent interruptions caused the Court to be adjourned. The missiles and jeering accompanied Sir Charles all the way to the Mansion House, where he took shelter.

A troop of 93 dragoons, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brereton was called in to deal with the disturbance, and they were assisted by 100 constables and 119 "specials", one of whom was Isambard Kingdom Brunel! By the time the dragoons arrived, a full scale riot was under way. The windows of the Mansion House were smashed and rioters were tearing up the paving stones and railings in the square. The Riot Act was read, but Brereton refused to fire into the crowd unless he was given direct orders to do so. Charles Pinney, the Mayor of Bristol declined to give such an order and in the stalemate, Wetherall escaped the angry throng by hot footing it over the roof tops.



At dusk, the soldiers were ordered to charge across the Square. Order was temporarily restored, but a man called Stephen Bush became the first fatality of the riot, shot by one of the soldiers. Rioting began again the following morning and this time it was the Mayor who ran for his life over the rooftops. The Mansion House was entered and looted, particularly the contents of the wine cellars. The soldiers, still without orders to open fire on the crowd were powerless to stop the destruction and by nightfall, the Mansion House, the Excise Office, the Custom House and the houses on the north and west sides of Queen Square were ransacked and on fire. Several rioters were trapped in the melting lead of the roofs and burnt alive. The conflagration could certainly be seen in Brislington, as attested by a member of the Cruze family, (of Crew's Hole) and indeed was so great that they were allegedly seen across the Bristol Channel in Wales.

At Bridewell and at the prison at Lawford's Gate, the mob released the prisoners and torched the building. At the New Gaol they battered a hole in the wall, through which a boy was pushed to release the bolts. One hundred and seventy prisoners joined the riot and the gallows was thrown into the New Cut.

The Palace of the Bishop of Bristol was attacked. The Bishop's servants and the constables held the rioters off for a time, breaking heads with their batons. The melee was broken up by Brereton and his dragoons who threatened to "ride the constables down" if they did not stop the beatings. This calmed the mob, but as soon as Brereton and his men withdrew, the Palace was burnt to the ground.

At the Chapter House, many valuable books and manuscripts were heaped on the floor and burned. The Cathedral itself was defended by the Sub Sacristan, called Phillips, who armed with an iron bar, persuaded the mob to withdraw.

On Monday, 31st October, the Mayor, Charles Pinney finally ordered Brereton **"take the most vigorous, effective and decisive measures to quell the riot."** When Brereton hesitated, Major Mackworth took command and gave the order to attack. The soldiers charged Queen Square. There were 250 casualties, killed and wounded. Hundreds more troops were drafted in, and by the Monday morning, the riot was quelled. It is believed that between five to ten thousand people took part in the uprising. Five hundred died.

Brereton was court martialled, but on the fourth day of his trial shot himself dead. Charles Pinney, the Mayor, was tried for dereliction of duty, but acquitted. Five rioters were sentenced to be hanged, and eighty-eight others were sentenced to transportation or given terms of imprisonment.

The Reform Bill became law in 1832. Fifty-six Rotten Boroughs were deprived of their status. The new towns were properly represented in Parliament. The vote was given to householders who paid more than £10 rental in towns or £40 in the country.

Apart from those who watched the blood red skies, Brislington's only direct involvement with the riot seems to have been when the landlady of White Hart served some thirsty military reinforcements on their way from Keynsham to Bristol. But another person had got ideas. Had our friend the curate been preaching against Reform? Something was clearly amiss, for on.....

4 November

.....the vicarage was set on fire. A poster was issued. Offering
100 Guineas Reward

Whereas

On the Morning of 4th November instant, the House of the Rev'd Charles Ranken, Curate
of the parish of BRISLINGTON was discovered to be on fire and Suspicions have been
entertained that it may have been occasioned by an Incendiary, a reward of

ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS
Is hereby offered to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to the
Conviction of the Offender or Offenders.
NB. The reward to be paid upon application to the Authorities of the Parish.

BRISLINGTON Novr 4th 1831 (BRO 9731(5))

1832

27 January

The five men condemned for their part in the riot were Christopher Davies, John Kayes,
Richard Vines, Thomas Gregory and William Clarke. However, on the day before
sentence was due to be carried out, Richard Vines was declared to be an idiot. His
sentence was commuted to transportation to Australia.

Despite a petition to King William IV. signed by 10,000 Bristolians, "including several
merchants of the greatest respectability", there was to be no mercy for the rest.

On this day they were led out to the top of the gatehouse of the New Gaol where the
open-air scaffold had been erected and there hanged by the neck until they were dead.

18 February

Marriage announcement: Tuesday, at Brislington, by the Rev Charles Ranken, the Rev
James Bedford Poulden, Rector of Filton in the County of Gloucestershire to Harriott,
younger daughter of the late Herman Schroeder esquire, of Clapham Rise, Surrey. (FFBJ)

3 March

died, "Wednesday, at Brislington, in her 67th year, Mrs Mary Hodge, relict of the late
Herman Boerhaave Hodge, esquire, of Beaminster, Dorset." (FFBJ)

24 March

and a birth....."at Brislington House, to the lady of Dr Francis Fox, a son." (FFBJ)

31 March

A marriage took place on the previous "Thursday sennight, by the Rev the Dean of
Guernsey, James Clayfield Ireland, esquire of Brislington, to Letitia, younger daughter of
Thomas Priaulx, esquire of Montville in that Island. (FFBJ)

(This match produced 13 children, none of whom left descendants. The "Where I live" BBC website for Guernsey hilariously states that "Arthur Clayfield from Ireland" inherited the Priaulx estate in 1883. Arthur was the third son of James Clayfield - Ireland & Letitia Priaulx.)

10 May

Mary Coggins of Conham Ferry died aged 61 and was buried at St Luke's. (PR)

9 June

Obituary: "Lately at Hotwells, in her 19th year, Anne Catherine Cooper, younger daughter of Captain Shewer, RN and grand daughter of the late Elias Vanderhorst, esquire, the American Consul (and occasional Brislington resident.) (FFBJ)

23 June

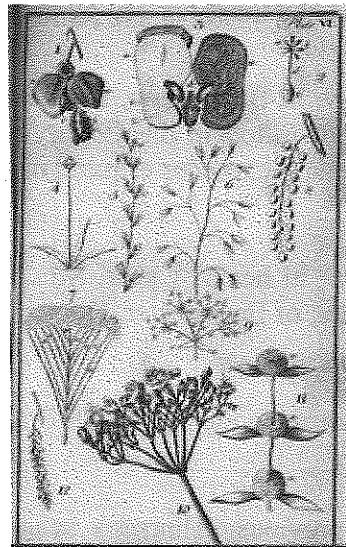
Obituary: "Thursday, sincerely regretted, Stella, the wife of Mr John Betts of Brislington." (FFBJ)

(sadly Mr Betts soon followed his wife to the grave - see below.)

23 June

died aged 55, from an attack of apoplexy at his residence, Wick House, near Brislington, William Withering, esq., LL.D. born 1776 in Birmingham. He was buried at St Luke's on 2nd July

He was the son of William Withering, M.D. and his wife, nee Helena Cookes of Edgbaston Hall, Warwickshire. Withering senior was a scientific pioneer and the celebrated author of the "Botanical Arrangement of British Plants" and the discoverer of digitalis.



(The botanical classification of plants and the method of systemic experiment was then a novel idea. Through his research William Withering (1741-99) was able to investigate the properties of the foxglove, known in country medicine as a traditional remedy for dropsy. His publication on the use of digitalis, the first cardiac drug, led to an acrimonious dispute with Erasmus Darwin, a fellow member of the famous Lunar Society.)

Perhaps William died from cholera, which raged in the Bristol and district during July, August and September. Prayers were said in St Luke's for the sufferers.

Because of the outbreak, the newspapers helpfully printed the following advice:

Hints on the treatment of Cholera:

“Take Calomel, 2 grains, Powder of Rhubarb, 5 grains, Tincture of Rhubarb, enough to make into 2 pills to be taken at bedtime. A dessert spoon of Castor Oil to be taken the following morning. After the Castor Oil has operated freely a composing mixture to be taken as follows:

“Chalk Julep, 6 ounces, Spirit of Nitrous Ether, 2 drachms, Tincture of Opium, 20 drops. A 4th part of this mixture to be taken every 4th hour.

“The dose of Calomel and Castor Oil is prescribed for a strong man. For a female or a person of delicate health, one gram of Calomel and one teaspoon of Castor Oil is sufficient in case of diarrhoea. A diet of chicken or veal broth with rice is recommended, but no vegetables.

“The best prevention is warm clothing and avoiding all irritating articles of food. Bread, water and other provisions should be kept in pure air and the house drains etc should be in order so that no poisonous effluvia may be conveyed into the system by food or inhalation. If the disease has proceeded to the spasmodic stage, the patient should be wrapped in blankets and a bottle of water applied to the extremities. A tablespoon of common salt dissolved can be given and repeated every half hour until the vomiting of bile is established when the patient will break into a fine sweat. To aid the promoting of sweat is critical. The patient's head should be covered with bedclothes and should not be suffered to rise in order to perform any evacuation by vomiting or purging and the whole must go on between the blankets – life is at stake.

“After all bile is discharged a saline draught is to be administered. Then Carbonate of Potash, 30 grains, half an ounce of mint water, half an ounce of distilled water with a tablespoonful of lemon juice in a state of effervescence. After the stomach is quieted administer the Calomel pill as before and four hours later the Castor Oil. If there is pain in the head or abdomen, leeches are to be applied to the abdomen and behind the ears, and after the leeches, warm poultices to the pit of the stomach.

“NB: to assist in the sweating, a large bag of scalded bran may be applied to the abdomen whilst the patient's head is under the bedclothes.” (FFBJ 28.7.1832)

(Much of which appears to me to be the exact opposite of what was required. Up to the 22nd September, the death toll in Bristol was said to be 549. I'm surprised it wasn't higher. Amazingly 764 people were thought to have recovered.)

11 August

Dr Fox of Brislington was in the process of opening medicated baths, with fresh and sea water, at Knightstone, Weston-super-mare. (BM)

6 October

The death was announced: "at the Castle Inn, Taunton, whilst on a journey, Mr John Betts of Brislington, of the firm of Betts and Drew of this City." (FFBJ)

23 October

a baby, Letitia Clayfield-Ireland was buried, "new born, a quarter of a day old." (PR)

November

"died November 1832, Eleanor wife of George Pamplin." (Gravestone, StLB)

29 December

"A serious accident took place last week to a son of Mr Drewe of Brislington. He was amusing himself throwing gunpowder from a flask into the fire when the whole became ignited and produced an explosion that carried away a considerable portion of his hand and dreadfully lacerated the remainder," (FFBJ)

1833

14 January

Phoebe, the daughter of Nevon Alexander Porter, a Captain in the Army, and his wife Mary Connor, was baptised. (PR)

9 February

A Commission of Enquiry was held at Devizes as to whether Mrs Sophia Frances Mary Caulfield, now at Dr Fox's was a lunatic. Evidence was given by Dr Francis Fox, and by two nurses at the Institution, Elizabeth Kidney and Martha Leakey. When Mrs Caulfield was examined "her explanation of different alleged acts of insanity were given with much shrewdness", nevertheless the Jury found that she had been of unsound mind from July 1818 until the present time. (FFBJ & see Appendix 1 for full account.)

28 February

at Bishops Tachbrook, Warwickshire by the Rev. Mr. Morris, Mr. James Coster Dew, solicitor, Brislington to Anna Sophia, daughter of Henry Robins, esq., of Apps House, near Warwick. (BM 9.3.33)

15 March

at Brislington House, Mrs. Francis Fox, gave birth to a son. (ibid 23.3.33)

16 March

Advertisement: "A desirable country residence with two distinct cottages and 33 acres of rich pasture to be let near the delightful village of Brislington." (FFBJ)

25 May

Annual Meeting of Brislington Club at the White Hart announced. Divine service was to be taken at 10 a.m. at the express request of Rev Charles Ranken. (BM)

2 June

Charlotte Frances the daughter of Henry Acland, a Captain in the Royal Navy and his wife Elizabeth Lucy Theresa, born in August 1832, was received into the church on this day. (PR)

5 June

married at Brislington, by the Rev. R.S. Cox, George Cox, esq., of Beaminster, Dorset to Susan Hurle, daughter of Joseph Cooke, esq., Brislington. (BM 8.6.33)

9 June

Elizabeth Coggins of Conham Ferry aged 11 was buried. (PR)

2 July

A collection was taken for the distressed (Anglican) clergy in Ireland. G.W. Braikenridge, gave £10 to the fund, John Braikenridge, £2, Rev Charles Ranken, 2 guineas, and Mrs Hurle, 10 shillings. (FFBJ)

6 July

"Cruelty. A young man, well known in Bristol, undertook for a wager to ride from Bristol to Bath and back, 24 miles in an hour and a half. On his return to Brislington, having ridden 22 miles in an hour and quarter, the generous beast fell beneath his weight. It was taken to the White Hart where it died in an hour or two in excruciating agony. The poor animal was in such pain, it continued rising up and lying down like a human being under intolerable suffering.

"Surely it is time for man to protect such creatures, especially the generous horse against such cruelties from its inhuman rider." (BM)

9 July

Siparia Tompkins of Langton Court, aged 71, was buried at St Luke's. (PR)
(She was the wife of John Tompkins, the co-founder of Brislington Congregational Church).

13 July

land called Hawkins Grove at Wick, Brislington, in occupation of Isaac Nash offered for rent. (BM)

20 July

A Commission of Lunacy was held respecting the state of mind of the Earl of Kingston, of Mitchells Town, County Cork, then residing at Brislington House. Dr Francis Ker Fox, who gave evidence, said he was under various delusions, that Ireland no longer existed, that Daniel O'Connell would be in Bristol with an army in a week or two, and that he was an officer in the employ of the Emperor Paul. The Commissioners found that "he had been a lunatic since 9 April, 1830, and was found to be still of unsound mind. (FFBJ)

27 July

The death was announced, "suddenly, William Harris esquire, formerly of Brislington." (FFBJ)

25 August

Obituary: "At Brislington, in his 77th year, Mr Richard Chamberlayne, son of the late E.P. Chamberlayne, esquire, for many years Searcher of HM Customs at the Port of Bristol. (FFBJ)

14 September

"Lately, at Brislington, aged 64, Jeremiah Pillinger, husbandman of that parish. He was a quiet, sober, honest man and one who joined to inoffensiveness and civility firmness and independence. His life was a proof that the highest respectability of character may be obtained in the humblest man." (He was buried in St Luke's churchyard on 11th September. His gravestone and that of his young daughter Mary is in Brislington Churchyard under a tree on the opposite path to that of the famous Thomas Newman.) (BM)

1834

15 March

Ivy Lodge to be let. Enquire of Thomas & William James, Brislington. (BM)

6 April

Birth: "At Brislington House, to Mrs Francis Fox, a son." This baby was baptised on 3rd August and given the names Vaughan Simpson. (FFBJ, BM, 19.4.34, PR)

19 April

Marriage: "At St Paul's Church, Mr Thomas Webb of Stoke Gifford to Miss Anne Hardwick, of Brislington". (FFBJ)

17 May

"Brislington Friendly Society will hold their Annual General Meeting at the White Hart Inn on Monday next, from whence they will proceed to the village church for the purpose of hearing divine service at 11 o'clock precisely." (FFBJ)

6 June

Obituary: At Brislington, in her 21st year, Caroline, the daughter of the Rev John Fry, of Desford. (FFBJ 7.6.1834, BM 14.6.34)

24 June

Emma Selina, adult, daughter of Edward Long and Isabella Ker Fox was baptised at St Luke's. (PR)

24 August

Obituary: "died Mr Nehemiah Bartley, lead merchant of this City."

(FFBJ, 30.8.1834)

(Mr Bartley, horticultural pioneer, will be recalled from previous "Bulletins".)

2 September

Obituary: "At Brislington, in his 52nd year, Joseph Cooke, esquire, of West Town."

(FFBJ 6.9.1834)

3 September

died at Brislington in his 52nd year, Joshua Powell, esquire.

(FFBJ & BM 6.9.1834)

6 September

"Several depredations having been committed for some time past in the poultry yards and orchards of individuals in the village of Brislington, and the poultry yard of T.L. Edwards esquire having been frequently robbed, a watch was kept and on Saturday night, James Cook was captured with seven chickens in his pockets, and was committed on Monday by Captain Jenkinson, RN, to take his trial at the next Somerset Sessions." (FFBJ)

11 October

"A valuable carthorse belonging to Mr James Hardwick was stabbed in the chest by some villain on Monday whilst grazing in a field in Brislington." (FFBJ)

2 December

Obituary: "At Brislington, aged 64, Mr Charles L(emuel) Thompson aged 64. A most affectionate husband and tender father, and much respected by all who knew him". He was buried on 8 December, and his obituary appeared on 13 December. (FFBJ, BM, PR)

23 December

Obituary: "Henry Brown, esquire, steward to William Gore-Langton of Newton Park." He was 85, and was buried at Brislington on 31 December.

FFBJ, 23.12.1834 and 3.1.1835, PR)

30 December

At Cheltenham, Dr Charles Joseph Fox, the son of Edward Long Fox, MD, of Brislington House, married Ellen, the 3rd daughter of the late Thomas Lucas, esquire, of London.

(FFBJ 3.1.1835 & BM 10.1.35)

Ellen Jemima and Charles Edward, their children were born in 1836 and 1837.

1835

Outvoters, Brislington, Bristol Poll Book:

Richard Edward Aston, plasterer

Henry Hall, chairmaker

John Jones, labourer

William Jones, labourer
John Morrall, miller
John Protheroe, ironmonger
John Protheroe, junior, hatter
Henry Williams, cordwainer.

(BRL)

3 March

Mr Clark of Arno's Vale was married to Miss Jane Reynolds of Bath at Bedminster.

(BM 14.5.35)

14 March

Mrs Clayfield of Brislington was delivered of a son whose birth was announced on 21 March.

(FFBJ)

27 March

Ann Clements, 24, born in Brislington, whose last abode was Bristol, was an inmate of Ilchester Gaol.

(SRO Q/Ag 15/3)

17 April

Obituary: Martha, aged 21, daughter of Mr Robert Leonard died in Brislington.

(FFBJ 25.4.1835)

2 May

died at Brislington House, Edward Long Fox, MD, aged 74. (He was a pioneer in the humane treatment of mental illness and for many years Brislington House was the foremost mental institution in the land.)

(BM & FFBJ 9.5.35)

7 May

Rev. Walton (sic) Kitson, Vicar of Brislington instituted to the Rectory of Marksbury in Somerset on the presentation of Edward William Legbourne Popham of Littlecote, the Patron.

30 May

The annual meeting of the Brislington Friendly Union Society was advertised in the Bristol Journal and scheduled for the 8 June. The following week, it was cancelled with no reason given, "the committee being resolved to forgo the meeting for the present year."

(FFBJ 30.5. and 6.6.1835)

31 May

"George son of Thomas & Jemima Harrill departed this life 31st May 1835 aged 38." (A death notice appears in Bristol Mercury, 20.6.1835). His grave is next to that of Thomas Harrill, departed this life 16th July 1824 aged 89, his wife Jemima who died October 1st 1837, their son Robert who died 6th March 1857 and Robert's wife Maria who died April 1st 1867 aged 75.

(MI, StLB, BM)

24 June

married at Brislington, the Rev. Seth Burge Plummer of Castle Cary to Mary Anne Hurle, 2nd daughter of the late Joseph Cooke, esq. of Brislington. The Parish register gives the

bride's name as Mary Anne Hurle Cooke and their witnesses were William Plummer, Charlotte Cooke, Joseph Cooke, Mary Shore Cooke, Elizabeth Plummer and Susanna Hurle Cox. (BM 2.7.35& PR)

1 November

Obituary: Henry Vincent Holmes, youngest son of Mr Henry Holmes, of Brislington. (FFBJ 7.11.1835)

22 November

Obituary: "At Brislington, after a long and severe illness, Elizabeth, only surviving daughter of the late Major Davey, Honourable East India Company." (FFBJ 28.11.1835)

1836

The "History and present state of Brislington House, near Bristol, an asylum for the cure and reception of insane persons, established by Edward Long Fox, MD, A.D. 1804, and now conducted by Francis & Charles Fox MD.D." was published in Bristol by Light and Ridler.

Daniel Burges, Town Clerk of Bristol, 1836-49, lived at Gotley Lodge in Brislington. (BRO/StLB/HM/11)

25 February

Thursday, at Minchinhampton Church was married by his father, Rev. John Hole, rector of Woolfardisworth, Glos. The Rev. Nathaniel J.B. Hole to Louisa Godde, eldest daughter of the late Edward Rolle Clayfield, esq. (BM 3.3.36)

19 March

at Brislington, to the lady of Dr Charles Fox, gave birth to a daughter. (BM 19.3.36)

26 June

"Fatal Accident: On Monday last, a poor woman named Sarah Cross in the late stages of pregnancy whose husband is employed by the Great Western Railway works fell into the river at Crew's Hole while dipping water and was drowned. It appears her struggles were observed by some of the railwaymen but they supposed from seeing her black hair on the surface that it was a dog in the water and rendered no assistance. Her mother having gone to her daughter's cottage and finding her absent, proceeded to the dipping place intending to help her with the water when she saw a bucket floating on the surface. She immediately obtained assistance and the body was taken out, but all attempts to restore animation failed." (FFBJ)

18 August

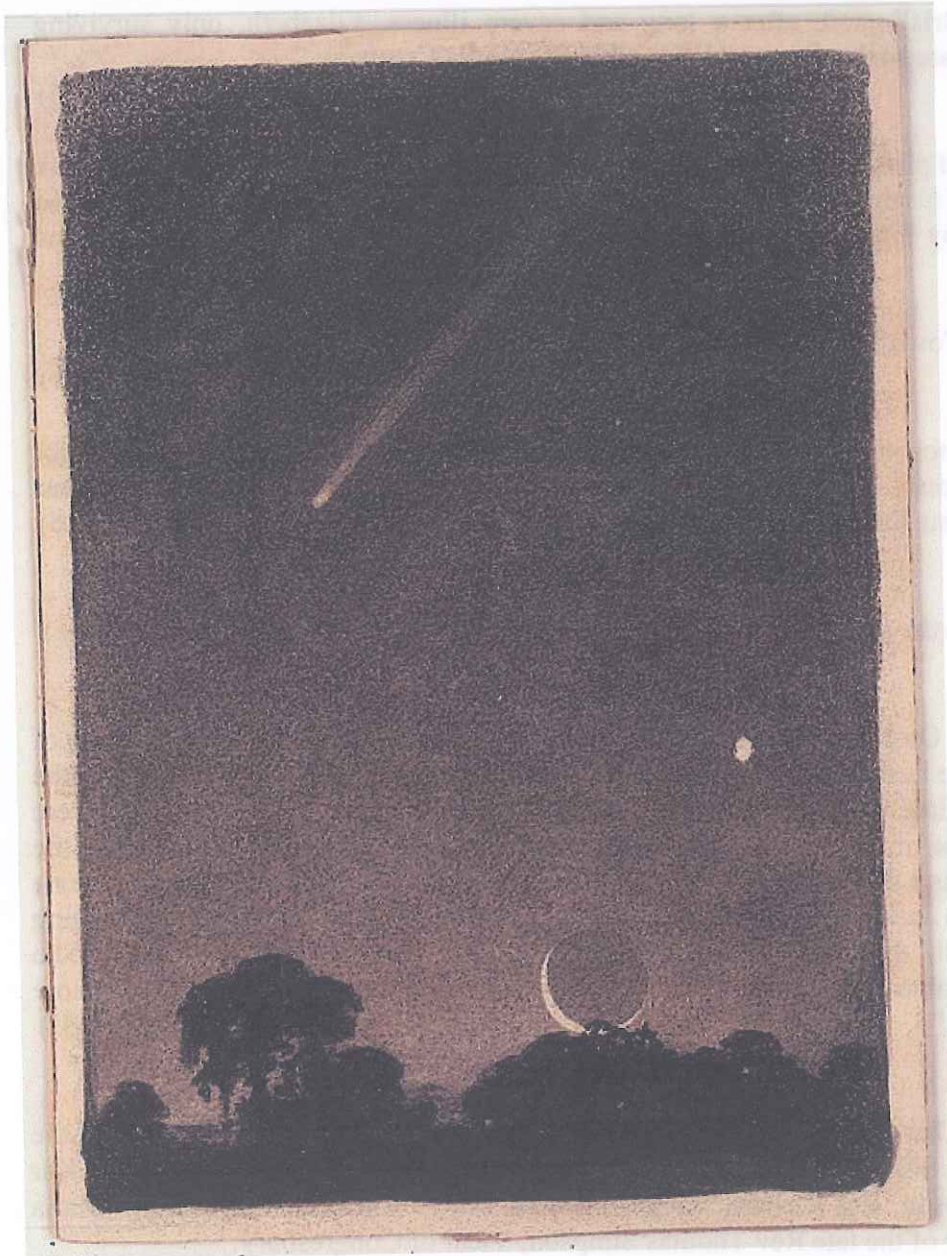
William Hunt, Clerk, MA, of Clifton, married Maria Simpson, at St Luke's, with the consent of Sarah Simpson, widow, her mother, as she was under twenty one. Francis Ker Fox, Ellen Simpson, and Richard Vaughan among others witnessed the event. Maria was the daughter of the late Rev Thomas Simpson, Vicar of Congresbury. (PR & TEPF 1.9.36)

3 September

died "At the house of her father, Mr Cox of Long Ashton, Harriet, wife of Mr William Braikenridge, solicitor, of Bartlett's Buildings, London. (FFBJ)

10 October

Halley's Comet was visible in the night sky.



It must have been a fantastic sight above Brislington with no street lights to mar the view. Mary Jane Catharine Comet, the Brislington foundling named for the last heavenly visitor of 1811 would now be 20 years old. I wonder what had become of her?

15 October

“A woodcock was killed by a gentleman in the vicinity of Brislington on Tuesday last.”

(FFBJ)

(After the Lord Mayor’s Show...a puzzling entry – is it a code for something more interesting?)

12 November

“On Monday morning, about 7 o’clock a poor man named James Smith was at work in tunnel No. 2 at Brislington, when some large stones fell from the top and crushed him. He was immediately removed to the Bristol Infirmary where he expired on Tuesday morning.”

(FFBJ)

A coroner’s inquest returned a verdict of accidental death, and I am quite sure the tragedy had everything to do with the next incident, reported on.....

.....19 November

“Monday last, Thomas Sobey, William Haddington and Samuel Gardner were charged before City magistrates with a violent assault on the Police on Saturday last. It appeared a party of the Bristol Police proceeded to the works of the Great Western Railway at Brislington to apprehend some men charged with a breach of the peace, when they were met by the prisoners at the head of a large body of others who prevented them from exercising their duty, pelting them with large stones and mud and compelled them to beat a precipitate retreat.

“The magistrates fined Sobey £4, in default of payment 6 weeks in prison, Haddington and Gardner 40s. and 10s. costs, or imprisonment for one month. Daniel Hooper was also fined 40s. and 10s. costs for a similar assault on the same occasion.”

(FFBJ)

1837

4 January

married at Brislington, by Rev William Proctor Thomas, Richard, 2nd son of Henry Ricketts, esq., of the Grove, Brislington, to Harriet, only daughter of Thomas Lyddon Edwards, esq., of that place.

(BM 7.1.37& PR)

10 February

Obituary: “died at Brislington House, Madeline Maria, the youngest daughter of Dr Francis Fox.”

(FFBJ)

7 June

Birth announcement: “At Brislington, to the lady of Dr Charles Fox, a son”

(FFBJ 10.6.1837)

23 July
died at Brislington, aged 37, Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Mr. William Slape of
Bristol. (BM 5.8.37)

Outvoters, Brislington, Bristol, Poll of 1837.

Richard Edward Aston, plasterer
Henry Chambers
Henry Hill Harvey
Henry James, carpenter
Thomas James, jun., carpenter
William James
Isaac Jones, yeoman
John Jones, labourer
William Jones, labourer
John Morrell, miller
John Protheroe, hatter
John Burge Plummer, linendraper
John Russell, Rock House, accountant
Henry Williams, smith
Rev John Ward

(BRL)

1838

6 January

John Clemments, 38, born "Burshyton" was in Ilchester Gaol. His last abode was at
Bristol. (SRO Q/Ag/15/3)

21 February

at Westleigh, married by the Rev John Done, Michael Elijah Hearn, esq., of Brislington
to Louisa Emily eldest daughter of R. Lang, esq., Lieut. Col. of the South Devon Militia
and sister of the Rev. Dashwood Lang, Vicar of Westleigh.

(TEFP 8.3.38 & BM 17.3.38)

8 April

Ann Pearce from Oldland Workhouse was buried. No age is shown but two days later,
Mary Wilkins aged nine was buried from the same place. (PR)

The Workhouse: In addition to Dr Fox's, a new institution commenced during this period.
The Poor Laws of 1838 required Workhouses to be built which were under the control of
Guardians. The poor of Brislington were sent to Keynsham Union, known in Brislington
as "The Poor House at Keynsham", to Bedminster or occasionally, Oldland. The paupers
were sent home to be buried and appear in the parish register of St Luke's.

12 April

married at Brislington Mr. John Parker, junior of Bath Street to Jane, only daughter of
Mr. John Dunn of Brislington. (BM 14.4.38)

5 July

William Tovey, aged 26, was killed on the railroad, and buried at St Luke's. (PR)

14 July

Thomas Mockridge was also killed on the railroad and buried at St Luke's. (PR)

21 September.

Ranken continued to convert the adult members of the Fox family. Anna Mary and Catherine Lucy, were baptised on this day, and followed by George Frederick, on 12 June, the following year. (PR)

6 October

died after a long and severe affliction, sincerely lamented, Elizabeth, wife of Henry Ricketts esq., of the Grove, Brislington. (ibid 6.10.38)

21 November

Buried at Brislington, Mary Harriet Barwell, aged 81, of Langton Court. The name on the gravestone is partially obliterated: "----- Barwell, died November 21st 1838 aged 81." (BM & MI, St LB)

5 December

Buried at Brislington: Susan Marsh, the relict of Thomas March Phillips, esquire. (PR)

26 December

Mary Harriet Barwell of Langton Court, aged 81 was buried. (PR)

1839

10 January

Samuel Rendall and Samuel Harwood were killed on the railroad and buried at St Luke's. (PR)

5 February

married at Brislington, Mr. Thomas Baker of East Limbrook to Mary Ann, 2nd daughter of Mr. Thompson of Brislington. (BM 16.2.39)

8 February

Obituary: "On February 8th at Brislington House, John Webb, aged 73, the son of the late Mr John Webb, copper of Redcliffe Street. (FFBJ & BM 9.2.1839)

11 February

Married at St Luke's by licence: John Hill, solicitor of Paulton and Mary Shore Cooke, the 4th daughter of Joseph Cooke, merchant. The announcement appeared in the newspapers on 16th February. (PR, FFBJ)

16 February

"We regret to state that one of those appalling occurrences which are almost unavoidable in public works of great magnitude took place on the afternoon of Thursday se'nnight at

Brislington in Tunnel No. 1 of the Great Western Railway. It seems that whilst some workmen were engaged in striking away a prop under the brickwork of an arch (against which they had been cautioned and had in fact received orders to the contrary) the brickwork gave way overwhelming three of them and killed them on the spot. A body of men rushed to their assistance when unfortunately a further prop gave way by which two of them received severe fractures of the skull and seven others were injured. An inquest was held on Friday on the bodies of the deceased and a verdict of accidental death was delivered. The two wounded men were conveyed to the Infirmary and are in a dangerous state.”
(BM 16.2.39)

(The reporter, it seems, did not bother to enquire the names of the three navvies who were killed, or the two who were badly injured in the second incident. Two of the fatalities, Samuel Rendall and Samuel Harwood were buried at St Luke's – see above.)

17 March

Birth announcement: “On March 17th at Brislington, to the lady of Dr Charles Fox, a daughter.”
(FFBJ 29.3.1839)

11 April

Obituary: “On April 11th, at Bath, Mr William Brown, eldest son of the late Henry Brown esquire of Brislington.”
(FFBJ 20.4.1839)

8 May

George Layton was drowned and buried at St Luke's. (PR)

15 May

Obituary: On May 15th at Brislington, aged 48, Mr James Cave, carpenter of Bridgwater and many years a resident of Brislington.
(FFBJ 25.5.1839)

George Leopold Cartwright was invested as resident curate.

1 June

“On Monday last two men were brought before magistrates for trespassing on the premises of the General Cemetery Company at Arnos Vale, and breaking and damaging trees there. The Cemetery Company is to prosecute all such future cases. The men were fined 10 shillings and in default committed to Shepton Mallet gaol for three weeks.”
(FFBJ)

9 June

died at Brislington, after a long affliction, in his 75th year, Mr. Gibbs of Union Street, Bath.
(BM 15.6.39)

30 July

“More rain fell on Tuesday (this day) than in any one day for twenty years.” (So weather was always a topic of conversation!)
(reported by FFBJ, on 10.8.1839)

1 August

“About 4 o’clock on Saturday morning PC 191 Lewis stopped a man near Bath Bridge with a basket containing a leg of mutton, 3 cucumbers and some vegetables. Suspecting he had stolen the same the PC took him to Bedminster Station but from the satisfactory statement he gave of his possession thereof he was not detained in the course of the morning.

However, information was received that a sheep belonging to Mr Hardwick at Brislington had been slaughtered in a field and part thereof stolen. Also the gardens of Mr Ireland’s, a magistrate, were plundered of some vegetables which left no doubt but that the man in question was the depredator. In consequence of which Sgt West and PC Lewis were immediately specially employed and succeeded in tracing and apprehending him in a house in a court in Redcliff Street in the act of enjoying his booty but part of the vegetables had disappeared. They then took him to Bedminster Station with the remaining part of the dressed mutton, the bone of which was matched with the portion from the garden robbery and he was sent for trial at the Bridgwater Assizes for killing and stealing part of the sheep.” (see “Law and order – Bedminster Police Station.”)

14 August:

Obituary: “On 14th August, at Brislington, aged 12 years and 9 months, Amelia, 2nd daughter of Mr Isaac Jones and on the 22nd, aged 71, Mrs Sarah Ford, relict of Mr William Ford, and grandmother of the above.” (FFBJ 7.9.1839)

14 September

Obituary: On 14th September at Bruton, Frances, eldest daughter of Mr James James, Brislington. (FFBJ 21.9.1839)

29 October

Marriage: On October 29th at St John the Baptist, Bedminster, Francis Grigg, esquire of Brislington and Ann, second daughter of Mr John T. Pike, accountant of Bristol. (FFBJ 2.11.1839)

8 November

Obituary: “On November 8th, aged 25, Edwin John, eldest son of John Brown of Brislington. (FFBJ 16.11.1839)

16 November

Marriage: “lately, previous to his sailing for Australia, Captain Smale of Bristol, and Miss Charlotte Harvey, 2nd daughter of Mr H.H. Harvey of Brislington. (FFBJ)

23 November

“A Daring attempt at Highway Robbery” at Arno’s Vale when Mr Francis Phillips, a coachmaker and the son of the sub-sacrist of Bristol Cathedral was returning from Bath to Bristol. Two men, armed with bludgeons jumped out of the hedge and struck Mr Phillips and his horse on the side of the head, with which three other men appeared. However, the mare, though bleeding heavily, goaded by the blow took off at a rapid pace and Mr Phillips escaped. He said he thought he could identify one of the men. (BM)

29 December

William Roberts, an infant from the Union Poor House, Keynsham was buried. (PR)

1840

6 February

died at Brislington, Esther, beloved wife of Captain Griffiths, H.E.I.C. (BM 15.2.40)

15 February

An inquest was held at the White Hart on Jane Walter Packer, 26, of Montpelier who was being driven to Bath in a gig by Mr James Bowsher, her cousin's husband. Between Arno's Court and Mr Ricketts' house at Grove Road the horse took fright at a drove of pigs. Instead of trying to turn the animal round which would have brought the gig into collision with another vehicle, Mr Bowsher continued along Water Lane, passing Gotley Lodge, in a straight line at a terrific pace. The lane in those days formed a rivulet and because of heavy rain, the water had risen 6 or 8 foot above the usual level.

The horse which was usually manageable plunged into the water and the carriage was overturned and carried away by the current. Miss Packer and Mr Bowsher were thrown into the water where he managed to hold on to her at first but she was swept away when the branch which he was holding on to broke. He was later rescued by James Proberts, who was a witness and two other men but when they found Miss Packer she was lifeless. She was taken to the house of Daniel Burges, the Town Clerk, who lived nearby but efforts to resuscitate her were in vain. The horse too was drowned.

(BRO St LB/HM/11 & BM)

20 February

married at Brislington, R.F. Finis, esq., to Violette only daughter of the late William Gerard esq. (FFBJ, 22.2.1840 & BM 29.2.40)

(Robert Finis was a solicitor aged about 45 and Violette was ten years younger. In 1841, they were living at Turnham Green, Chiswick with Robert's children from his previous marriage, and Violette's mother, Elizabeth.)

16 April

married at Brislington, Mr. S. Stone of Easton and Ann, second daughter of Mr. John King, Brislington. (BM 25.4.40)

23 April

Obituary: "At Brislington, after a short illness, in her 76th year, Mary beloved wife of H.H. Harvey." She lived a Christian and was at peace." (FFBJ)

14 May

The Fox clan and in laws gathered happily at Brislington Church to witness the spring wedding of George Frederick, son of the late Edward Long Fox to Ellen, the youngest daughter of the Rev Thomas Brown Simpson who had often officiated at St Luke's. It was not then considered seemly for heavily pregnant women to be seen in public and

Janet Sarah, Francis's wife stayed at home in Brislington House. On the 18th May, joy turned to tragedy when she was delivered of a still born daughter. (BM 23.5.40)

13 June

"Wanted a Gardener who is capable of undertaking the management of a large garden, Forcing Houses and Pleasure Gardens. Address by letter only to Mr. Ricketts, Grove, Brislington. NB. A Character as to capability, industry and integrity will be required." (BM)

30 July

John Challenger from Keynsham Union Poor House "age unknown" was buried.

Surely someone knew his age? John was born in Brislington in 1775. On 27th June 1837 he was in Bedminster Workhouse, "not disabled, cause of seeking relief, age." He also appeared in Charles Ranken's notes, see above. (PR, SRO)

1 August

The following is an abridged version of an article in Bristol Mercury of this date – "A walk along the Railway Line from Bristol to Bath in order to examine one of the noblest productions of modern art – the Great Western Railway."

The writer passed first through "the busy operations of numerous workmen repairing the sunken arches of Temple Meads, along the viaduct on the lower extremity of St Philip's where the works are nearly completed and even amidst the smoke of St Philip's the sight is calculated to excite feelings of delight and satisfaction in a true lover of his native city. In every direction we espied the monuments to her industry and new factories rising into existence; capacious funnels of various glass houses, tall chimneys of the distillery and different foundries. On our left Bristol Gas Works, on our right the buildings under construction by Messrs Acramans & Co and before us the Great Western Cotton Manufactory presenting an appearance of gaiety which we trust is in keeping with the hearts of the numerous inmates. In the distance is some fine woodland scenery and to our right Arno's Vale, the beautiful buildings standing out in bold relief from the Knowle hills.

"The next point is the Avon Bridge of substantial masonry with a central arch and two land arches. After crossing, we come to the first of the Brislington tunnels, known as No. 1 Tunnel, the entrance under a handsome Saxon archway, length about a quarter of a mile and near the entrance, the massive boulder stones which fell in the course of the operation. Once more in the light of day and breathing the wholesome air of heaven in Nightingale Valley, a charming spot but after a minute's walk we find ourselves at the entrance of No. 2 Tunnel, about 200 yards in length.

"Leaving the tunnel we catch a glimpse of the Avon as it meanders through meadows clad in the richest verdure and come to No. 3 Tunnel which carries under Birch-wood. The entrance has castellated turrets and is nearly three quarters of a mile in length, one of the finest monuments to the skill and enterprise of man in our city. There are four shafts for light and ventilation and it is so dark it is unsafe to walk without a lamp. The mind is

struck by the gigantic nature of the work and the extraordinary physical difficulties that have been overcome. The stone is of a hard nature having the appearance of a sea cavern composed of massive pieces of rock which seems to threaten the traveller with instant annihilation. Beyond this, the surface of the road is composed of coarse cinders making walking difficult but which will be remedied as soon as the rails are laid and will be compensated by the sylvan nature of the scenery with the river on our left and orchards in full bearing, meadows skirted by top elms and tall poplar trees and the hills above them crowned with green furze and short brushwood.

“We next pass through a short tunnel at Fox’s wood where we find the rails laid on both lines and the works bordering on completion. We have now got within a stone’s throw of Keynsham and here a charming English landscape bursts into view. At a short distance to the right is the High road to the metropolis along which vehicles of every sort pass and re-pass whilst above stands the extensive village of Keynsham with its ancient and beautiful church. At Keynsham Station we witness an unfortunate melancholy event which unhappily on occasion attends all great enterprises. A boy, in attending to his duty had been run into by a wagon, the short wheel of which was lodged in his back. Four of his companions were bearing him on their shoulders to the hospital but his groans were no inconsiderable drawback to our day’s gratification.”

The way passed through Saltford and at Saltford tunnel they were shown the first locomotive of the new railway, called the “Meridian” built by Messrs R & W Hathaway of Newcastle, with the tender supplied by Messrs Stothert & Co of Bristol. Both had been successfully tried out the previous Tuesday.

After Saltford, the writer continued his journey through Twerton to Bath and concluded by honouring the enterprise and skill of his fellow citizens.

(The railway between Bristol & Bath (via Brislington) was opened on 31st August 1840 and a full report can be found in Bristol Mercury of 5.9.1840.)

26 September

Game Certificates (Licences £4.0s 10d each) issued to Henry Ricketts and William Plummer of Brislington. (BM 26.9. & 3.10.40)

..... and for those who had none, a reward of £20 was offered for the apprehension of the thieves who stole a sheep from one of our fields, leaving behind the skin and entrails. (BM)

13 October

A lease for 99 years and three lives, between

(1) William Gore-Langton

(2) John Brown, of Brislington, gentleman,

re premises called “Black Dog” near Brislington Bridge. Consideration £5, annual rent 5 shillings. (BRO 24759/60)

6 November

Charge for securing £340.18s 6d (£340.94p) and interest, between

1. The Guardians of the Poor, Keynsham Union
2. Churchwardens and Overseers of Brislington

Charge for repayment and instalments placed on Keynsham poor Rate.

(BRO P/StLB/D/1)

3 December

married at Newton-St-Loe, Robert, only son of Mr. Robert Harrill, of Eastwood Farm, Brislington to Elizabeth Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. Abraham Collings of Newton-St-Loe.

(BM 12.12.40)

(In 1841, Robert and Elizabeth Jane who were in their twenties were living at Hollybush Farm, Brislington, with William Baker, "60, of Independent Means" presumably a lodger, and two young servants, both not much more than fifteen, Hester Friend and Charles Andrews.)

Appendix 1:

Report from the Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette

Thursday, February 7th, 1833: Commission De Lunatico Inquirendo.

A Commission of Inquiry, directed by the Lord Chancellor, was held at the Bear Inn, in this town, on Monday last, before **Perigrine Bingham, esq.**, and **Joseph Trigge Schomberg, esq.**, barristers; and **James Slade, esq.**, solicitor; to enquire whether **Sophia Frances Mary Caulfeild** was a lunatic, so that she was not sufficient for the government of herself, or her property; and if so, from what time. The unfortunate subject of this inquiry is between 30 and 40 years of age, of the most refined and delicate manners, and of considerable intellectual powers and attainments. The origin of the disorder (mania) to which she has, no doubt, for a great length of time been subjected, has been traced to an excessive grief for the loss of an only sister, who died in 1817, and from which time the disorder has been rapidly increasing. **Miss Caulfeild** is the only surviving daughter of **Madame de Bolleville** (a descendant of a family of great respectability) by a former husband - **Wade Toby Caulfeild, esq.** - by whom she had **Warren Caulfeild**, and another daughter, who married a **Mr. Campbell**, and died, leaving no issue. **Madame de Bolleville** the daughter of **Sir C. Cope, bart.** Due notice of the inquiry had been given by **Messrs. Salmon and Tugwell**, (Solicitors to the Commission) to **Miss Caulfeild** (who is at present under the care of **Dr. Fox** at Brislington), and up to Saturday night last, it was expected that she would have employed counsel to defend her.

Mr. Sergt. Merewether opened the case, in a manner alike creditable to his feelings and to his talents. In the course of his observations, he said, he was sure that the Jury, before they deprived the unhappy lady, who was the subject of this inquiry, of her natural rights of personal liberty, and the uncontrolled power of her property, would require the most direct evidence that she was incapable of government; whilst, if from the evidence he should adduce, they should be of opinion that she was incapable of managing her own affairs, they would agree with him, that she ought to be protected by that humane law,

which would guard her against the fraud and wickedness of others, and the no less dangerous consequences of her own acts. The situation of **Miss Caulfeild** was not one of constant furious madness - not one of those cases, in which the barriers of reason are wholly broken down, so that the insanity is apparent to every casual observer, but one of those unhappy cases in which the patient exhibits, during intervals of irregular duration, (but occasionally for long periods) if not perfect soundness of mind, yet such a state of comparative sanity, that persons who had not seen her during paroxysms of disease, might not suspect the existence of such a malady; and it was the contrast in her conduct during the paroxysm, and when not under its influence, that formed the proof of the existence of the disorder. One most distressing feature, accompanying mania was that the patient, after the paroxysm had subsided, had a perfect recollection of all that took place during the attack. The learned Sergeant here observed, that whilst he was at the College of Physicians a few evenings ago, the President of the Society stated, that he knew a gentleman who, after being subject to violent paroxysms of mania, became at last so sensible of the symptoms which preceded them, that, on the last occasion, he went and voluntarily surrendered himself to that custody, which his own sense told him would in a short time be necessary for his protection; he was soon afterwards attacked with a paroxysm; from which, however, he never recovered; so that his last act of sanity was, placing himself in the hands of those who would protect him whilst labouring under a paroxysm of insanity. When free from a paroxysm, **Miss Caulfeild** was uniformly kind to all around her, particularly affectionate towards her mother, and her conduct altogether exemplary; when under its influence her conduct formed a striking contrast; those who had been the most kind towards her, and for whom she had previously entertained the greatest affection, became the objects of her aversion - sometimes of her attack. The learned sergeant then spoke of the facts which he would call witnesses to depose to, and if satisfactorily established, he said, it would be the height on inhumanity to suppose that the unfortunate lady ought to be responsible for her own acts. He should trace the history of her disorder over a wider space of time than might otherwise be thought necessary, because this inquiry was unopposed, and in order to shew that it was not an accidental disease, likely soon to pass away; but that it had gone on increasing, until it was absolutely necessary she should be placed in that custody, where, whilst she would be treated with kindness and humanity, every means would be taken to mitigate the disorder. From 1818 until 1824 **Miss Caulfeild** resided with her mother at Malvern. In 1824 they removed to Pickwick, where they lived until 1828, when they returned to Malvern; in 1830, they came to live at Etchilhampton; and in December 1832, **Miss Caulfeild** was placed under **Dr. Fox's** care at Bristol, in all which places, and during each year, witnesses would depose to particular acts of insanity.

Dr.F.Fox : I am the son of **Dr.Fox**, who has conducted the lunatic asylum at Brislington during the last 30 years. I have assisted my father for ten years, and am acquainted with disorders of insanity. **Miss Sophia Frances Mary Caulfeild** has been at my father's establishment since the 5th of Dec, 1832; since that time she has been attacked by a paroxysm of mania, which commenced on the first and continued until the 11th of January. On the first of January, I observed that her whole appearance and demeanour had undergone an entire change - her countenance was more lively, and her language more voluble, losing all chain of connection in her ideas; her conduct and language had previously been perfectly correct - her countenance somewhat dull, she had been rather

HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE OF
BRISLINGTON HOUSE

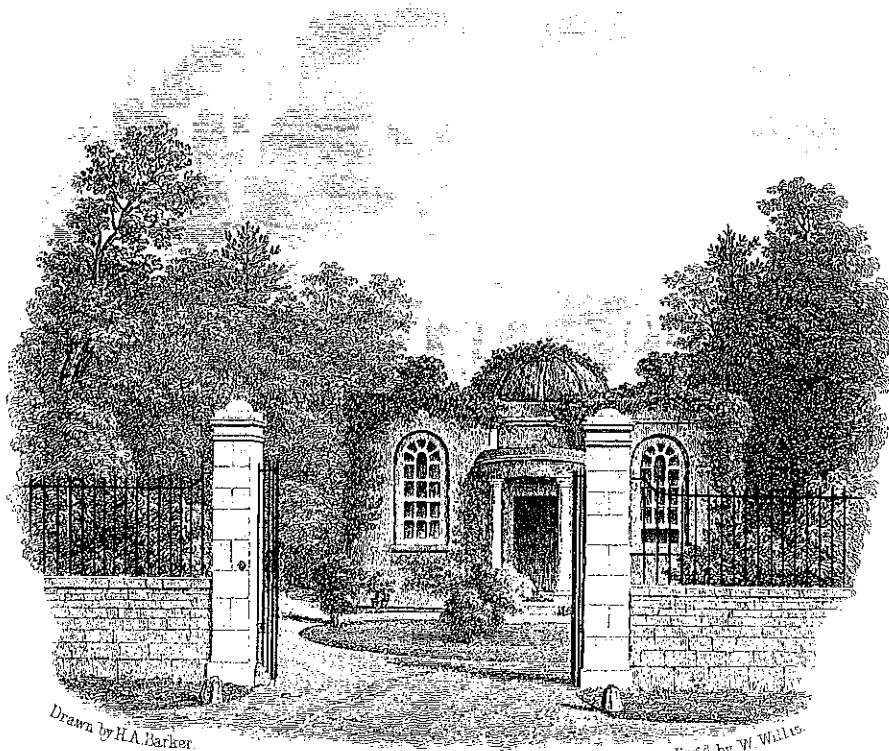
NEAR BRISTOL.

An Asylum for the cure & reception of
INSANE PERSONS.

ESTABLISHED BY EDWARD LONG FOX M.D. A.D. 1804.

and now conducted by

Francis Charles Fox, M.D.



THE LODGE.

Exiit per amplum

Mittitur Elysium
Donec longa dies perfecto temporis orbe
Concretam exemit labem, purumque reliquit
Aetherium sensum

En d: Lib VI.

BRISTOL,
LIGHT AND RIDGER
1836.

1000

disposed to taciturnity, and indisposed to any exertion; her only employment being that of religious reading. After the 1st of January, she was exactly the reverse : she was never still, but constantly moving about the room, and it was with great difficulty she could be confined to her bed at night. In fact she did not sleep for six or seven successive nights. An indisposition to sleep is presumed to be an aggravation of the disorder, and sleepiness or an inclination to sleep, is afterwards considered an indication of recovery. During the continuance of the paroxysm, she would sing patches of different songs, and burst into frequent exclamations of O, Jesus Christ ! O God ! &c., which would be followed by an unmeaning laugh - the character of the laugh resembling the idiotic laugh. On the 2d January, she was very incoherent, and constantly laughing. - I related to her the melancholy death of a relation of mine; but this appeared to increase her laughter, and she interrupted me by saying, "O ! Doctor Fox, how funny it is !" On the same day she said "I have just been thinking, Dr.Fox, that I might cut off people's heads without being hanged for it. Her tone and feeling of respect to her mother too, was completely changed : before the paroxysm, her affection and kindness were most marked ; afterwards, her language was extremely bitter - She was also enraged against her attendants, particularly the one that was accustomed to wait upon her. She came to our asylum soon after a paroxysm, and remained until the 1st of Jan before she was attacked; she recovered on the 11th, but from her appearance and particular symptoms, I am apprehensive that another paroxysm is approaching. There is the same inclination to talk, and she appears to be aware she is talking nonsense. Last night, she commenced a sentence - "I was going to say, Dr.Fox" - and then broke it off, and said "Have you such a thing as a gag in the house ? I wish you would gag my mouth." - She never could have seen such a thing in the house. After deposing to other incoherent expressions, **Dr.Fox** said : she refused to take medicine, and frequently attacked the person who attended her, and was so violent at one time, that it was necessary to put a strait waistcoat on her. It is very common for insane persons to hold conversation with spiritual beings, whom they imagine to be in the room. **Miss Caulfeild** has apparently been in conversation with a sister who died some years since, and has directed the servant to bring some bread and cheese for Satan. From the 5th of December to the 1st of January, and from the 11th of January to this time, I have never seen her in what I consider a state of complete mental soundness.

Elizabeth Kidney : I am nurse at **Dr.Fox's** Establishment. I attended **Miss Caulfeild** from the time she came to **Dr.Fox's**, on the 5th of December until last Thursday week. When she first came she was low and melancholy; she had an opportunity of associating with **Dr.Fox's** family if she thought fit, but she declined : she felt disinclined to associate with any one; she got worse from the beginning of January, when she became altogether restless, and did not sleep, but screamed and talked aloud to herself during the night, and it was with difficulty she could be induced to rise from her bed; when up, she would frequently go to the window, and sometimes she would sit on the floor; she allowed her hair to hang loosely about her shoulders, and she would tie a scarf around her head; she has violently attacked me during her illness; and once she caught hold of my cap, and tore it, because I would not allow her to go out of the room; twice she was confined by the strait waistcoat; she has refused to take medicine, and several times she had endeavoured to effect her escape. I have seen a great many people mad, and I consider she conducted herself as a mad person. I saw her the day before she got well; on that day she ceased to abuse me, and in the middle of the night she called for her medicine; on the

next morning she was quite herself. - In answer to **Mr. Bingham** witness deposed, that she did not consider Miss **Caulfeild** a fit person to manage her own affairs, or to be left alone.

Martha Leakey : I am a nurse at **Dr. Fox's** Establishment. In May, 1831, I attended **Miss Caulfeild**, near Devizes. She was then getting better from one of her attacks; but I never considered her in possession of her senses. She appeared rational at times, and when first I saw her she was rather quiet - shy, reserved, modest; but when ill, she was violent, and abused every one in the house, particularly her mamma and family; she sang and screamed frequently during the night - talked to herself quickly, flying from one subject to another in rapid succession; night and day she would stand at the window open; mad people are insensible of cold; she would dress herself with two or three shawls, and bind the Bible round her head : at one time she asked me if I was not the devil from hell; and she would call to strangers as they passed. I have accompanied her in a walk; she has run away, and I have had great difficulty in getting her back. I consider her of unsound mind, and not fit to be left alone.

Dr. Brabant :- I am a physician residing in Devizes - In the course of my practice I have been accustomed to see persons of unsound mind. I know **Miss Caulfeild** well. I have attended her whilst she has been suffering under several distinct attacks of madness. I witnessed three such attacks in the year 1830; two in the year 1831; and one in the end of the year 1832. They were decided paroxysms of mania. I have also visited her in the intervals between these paroxysms. During the intervals I have found her conduct modest and retiring : she was not at all loquacious; her conversation was rational; she spoke respectfully of her friends, and her whole behaviour was that of a well-educated young lady. I acknowledge that I have seen her at some intervals, when scarcely any trace of an unsound mind could be discovered; but there was still a peculiarity of countenance which cannot well be mistaken by persons accustomed to watch narrowly the indications of insanity. Cases certainly occur, where for hours together, the most experienced persons fail in detecting the existence of this disease. The last time I saw **Miss Caulfeild** was on the 5th of December, 1832 : before I saw her I heard her screams. At the moment I entered, she was singing very wildly, "Who is the King of Glory ?" She was dressed very ludicrously; her hair hung loosely on her shoulders; her bed was much disordered, and there was a variety of trinkets and pictures strewn and hidden on and about the bed. She talked volubly and incoherently. I told her that I had come at the request of her friends. She replied, "I do not know that I have a friend left in the world !" Her conduct altogether, formed a striking contrast to what it had been in the absence of those paroxysms. There was, also a peculiar apprehensiveness of look, and a restlessness of manner, which are very characteristic of insanity. In the other paroxysms which I witnessed in 1830 and 1831, the symptoms were very similar to those I have now described, but on some occasions considerably more violent. I recommended **Madame de Bolleville** to place **Miss Caulfeild** under the care of **Dr. Fox**. In the year 1831, I requested and obtained of **Madame de Bolleville** permission to write to **Miss Caulfeild's** banker to beg he would forbear to send her further supplies of money. In my judgment **Miss Caulfeild** is certainly of unsound mind; and I give this opinion without the slightest hesitation or reserve. I think her incapable of managing her own affairs, and labouring under that form of madness called mania.

The **Rev.T.A.Methuen** : I am rector of All Cannings; I have had occasional opportunities of judging of the conduct of **Miss Caulfeild**. When she has been well, her manner has been sedate, her conversation not unconnected, her demeanour towards her family amiable; when labouring under what I consider mental aberration, her deportment has been the reverse - bold, loquacious, incoherent, and disposed to speak unkindly of all around her. - I will mention two or three facts, which I think will shew that she must at those times be deprived of reason. - On one occasion, when I visited her mother, and declined taking an refreshment, she poured out a glass of wine, held it over my head, and threatened to throw it in my face, if I refused to drink. At another time, I called at her mother's house, when she was labouring under a paroxysm, and was about to return, when I heard her screaming in a maniacal manner, and begging me, if I was a Minister of Christ, to come and rescue her. On another occasion I overtook her on the road; she wished me to dismount, and accompany her; finding that she talked incoherently, I excused myself; but after proceeding a few yards, she took off her clogs and threw them into the mud, and then bid me dismount, and take them out for her; I did this; afterwards she took of my hat, and it was with difficulty I could recover it from her; I went on, and she called after me like a maniac. - I have received letters from her, which proved her to be of unsound mind. I am decidedly of opinion, that she is incapable to manage her own affairs.

Anna Maria Slade : About 2 1/2 years ago, I nursed **Miss Caulfeild** at Etchilhampton. During one of her paroxysms, she had not been undressed for five nights, and when I undressed her, I found 3 or 4 score of needles about her, which she said were intended to scratch those persons who came to force her away. On another occasion, I found a gun under her bed, the lock of which had been taken off, and concealed; she told me that she kept the gun for the purpose of beating out the brains of any one who might offend her. - There was a painting of the Bohemian brothers in her room, and to one of those brothers she would talk for an hour at a time :- she would ring the bell violently, and when any one came, she would lock the door, and prevent them getting out. I have been sleepy while attending upon her : at one time, while I was lying down, she lay upon me, and endeavoured to smother me; there were iron bars to the window, and she has taken up the rushlight, put her hands through the bars, and applied the candle to the thatch of the cottage; she has struck me with her fist, and broke the windows; she refused to take medicine, the medicine has been obliged to be mixed with her food, and she has fancied her food was poisoned.

Rev.Mr.Medlicott :- In the year 1830, when I was curate to the **Rev.Mr.Methuen**, I recollect meeting **Mrs.Caulfeild** at **Mr.Hitchcock's** house at Etchilhampton. She came and stood close by me, and called for wine, requesting me to take some; I declined, and reminded her that she was not in her own house; she said that did not signify, I Should drink; I then told her that wine would disagree with me; she replied "I'll engage that the I give you shan't disagree with you." She then filled the wine glass with sugar, put some wine into it, and forced it down my throat. I wished to leave the room, but she placed her back against the door and prevented me. She then insisted upon my taking another glass of wine, and upon my refusing, she gave me a blow. On another occasion, she contrived to take from me the sermon that I was going to preach on a Sunday afternoon. I suspected that she had it; but wishing if possible to prevent the attention of the congregation being

disturbed, I took my testament into the pulpit, with the intention of proceeding as well as I could without the sermon. Perceiving that I was going on without it, **Miss Caulfeild** called a little girl, and rolling the sermon up, directed her to give it to me, but the clerk, according to my desire, took it from the girl. upon which **Miss Caulfeild** exclaimed aloud in the church – “How dare you take it - give it to **Mr. Medlicott** directly !”

Job Cox, deposed to the artful manner in which she effected her escape on one occasion.

Mr. Addison :- I am a surgeon of Malvern : I attended **Miss Caulfeild** once in 1828, and three times in 1829, when she was labouring under paroxysms of mania. On one occasion she wished to go to my house, and **Madame de Bolleville**, thinking that it might appease her, recommended it. I accompanied her, and after being in the dining-room for some time, she induced me to leave her with **Mrs. Addison** : I had not been gone long, before she induced **Mrs. Addison** also to quit the room. She then bolted the door, and all my entreaties could not prevail upon her to open it. I was at length obliged to employ a carpenter to force it open. At the periods I have spoken to, as having attended her, I am decidedly of opinion, that she was of unsound mind.

The **Rev. Mr. Noble**, Clergyman of Corsham, deposed to the eccentric conduct of **Miss Caulfeild** whilst in church.

Mr. Morgan, surgeon of Corsham :- I attended **Miss Caulfeild** at Pickwick, during repeated paroxysms, for March 1825 to August 1827. Some of the paroxysms were very violent, and lasted nearly a fortnight; others did not continue quite so long. I have been compelled to apply the strait waistcoat. On one occasion I overtook her, in company with a little girl named **Vale**, walking on the road to Chippenham, and Devizes. I endeavoured to persuade her to return, but without effect. - In my opinion, she is incapable of managing her own affairs.

Nancy Parrot attended **Miss Caulfeild** in 1826, and gave similar testimony to the other nurses.

Lucy Durham :- I live in Devizes. About 6 or 7 years ago, between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening, when it was quite dark, **Miss Caulfeild** came to my house with a little girl named **Vale** : she complained of fatigue; after supper she went to bed, where she remained until six the following evening, when she dressed me in her clothes, and desired me to go to **Mr. Salmon's** for a bottle of champagne. At half-past ten o'clock on that evening, she went to the shop of **Mr. Harrison**, and going behind the counter, tumbled about the things. It was with difficulty she could be got out of the shop. A chaise was brought for her, but she refused to enter it, unless accompanied by one of **Mr. Harrison's** young men. The young man went into the chaise at one door, but got out at the other. **Miss Caulfeild**, not aware of the deception, then went into the chaise herself.

Charlotte Vale deposed to walking from Corsham to Devizes with **Miss Caulfeild**.

Jas. Hall, footman to **Mad. de Bolleville** :- At Malvern **Miss Caulfeild** on one occasion went to the house of **Mr. Garlick** without a bonnet; borrowed one from **Mrs. Garlick**;

wore it home, and then took all the ribbons off from it. This witness said that **Madame de Bolleville** was at all times extremely kind to her.

Miss Candler : I first became acquainted with **Miss Caulfeild** at Malvern, in the year 1818; a short time previously **Miss Caulfeild's** sister died. I have seen her repeatedly when labouring under paroxysms from 1818 to 1825 : and during these periods I have not the slightest doubt of her being of unsound mind. During the absence of the paroxysms, she was particularly mild - kind and affectionate to her mother, - and rather of a serious turn of mind : when the attacks came on, she was animated, talked and laughed a great deal, abused her mother, and dressed herself in a peculiar sort of way. When well, she always stopped at home, and appeared of a melancholy turn; when ill, she was fond of visiting strangers, and going into houses that she had never before entered. She presented **Mr. Wall**, the banker, with a nosegay composed of nettles; she has told me that the only consolation she had was in a silk stocking. She has called **Dr. Card's** son into her bedroom, and after tying an old fashioned picture around his neck, has brought him down, and placing a stick in his hand, made him walk in military step before her from **Barnard's Green** (when she then lived) to Malvern, a distance of a mile and a half. Once at tea, speaking of the toast, she said, "that she wished it buttered on one side with silver, and the other with gold." The last time I saw her in a violent paroxysm, she forbid me the house, saying that I was a spie (sic) upon her.

Mr. Plimmer, surgeon of Melksham; saw **Miss Caulfeild** in May, 1831, in a shop at Melksham, expounding on the bible; while there, she gave a half sovereign to a beggar; when she discovered that she was known, she left the shop, and proceeded on the Bath road; witness followed her in a post chaise, and succeeded in bringing her back to Etchilhampton.

Mr. W. Fowler, surgeon of Devizes; attended **Miss Caulfeild** at different times in May, 1831, and in February, March, April, September, October, November, and December, 1832; and he should decidedly say, that at all those times, she was of unsound mind. The continuance of the attacks was uncertain.

Hester Sutton attended **Miss Caulfeild** , and deposed to various acts of eccentricity and violence. This witness expressed the greatest anxiety for the welfare of **Miss Caulfeild**, and trusted the gentlemen would do her no harm. A kinder, better creature, she said, never existed.

Mary Watts, daughter of **Mr. Watts**, of the George Inn, of Potterne, deposed, that about the latter end of April or the beginning of May, 1831, between 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening, **Miss Caulfeild** came to her house and wished to be accommodated with a bed. Not knowing her, **Mrs. Watts**, (mother of the witness) questioned her as to being out at that late hour; when she replied "Don't make yourself uneasy, I can sleep under the tombstones in the churchyard just as comfortably as I can here." She had tea; but she did not appear inclined to go to bed; and when shewed into a double-bedded room, she expressed her abhorrence at sleeping there, and supposing witness was going to close the door upon her, she darted out of the room in a minute, went into the bar, and said she would be the happiest person in existence if she was allowed to sit up all night; witness sat up with her

until 3 o'clock; she appeared to amuse herself very much with some of the keys she had : she said they were the keys of her mamma's wine cellar, and she was so glad that her mamma would not be able to get any wine with her dinner.

Virtue Watts, sister to the last witness : **Miss Caulfeild** gave me a gold watch to keep for her sake; she left our house very suddenly; and begged us to say, if anyone inquired for her, that she had not been there.

There were a great number of other witnesses in attendance, but it was thought unnecessary to call them. There were altogether, in fact, 5 witnesses who could depose to acts of insanity from 1818 to 1826; 12 from 1827 to 1829; 14 from 1830 to 1832, and 3 from Dec.1832 to the present time. The Chief Commissioner (**Mr.Bingham**) in addressing the Jury, said it was necessary that their attention should be directed to one simple point, and that was, whether the unfortunate individual who was the subject of this inquiry, was so far of unsound mind as to be incapable of managing her own affairs. In his opinion, a clearer case had never been made out. He would not trouble the Jury with a disquisition upon the various kinds of lunacy, by he would read an extract from the work of **Dr.Cullen**, and **Dr.Cullen** was considered of high authority, which he thought would bear upon the present case. Speaking of Mania, **Dr.Cullen** says –

"What for the most part distinguishes the disease, is a hurry of mind, in pursuing any thing like a train of thought, and in running from one train of thought to another. Maniacal persons are in general very irascible : but what more particularly produces their angry emotions is, that their false judgments lead to some action which is always pushed with impetuosity and violence; when this is interrupted or restrained, they break out into violent anger and furious violence against every person near them, and upon every thing that stands in the way of their impetuous will. The false judgment often turns upon a mistaken opinion of some injury supposed to have been formerly received, or now supposed to be intended; and it is remarkable, that such an opinion is often with respect to their former dearest friends and relations; and therefore the resentment and anger are particularly directed towards these. And although this should not be the case, they commonly soon lose that respect and regard which they formerly had for their friends and relations. With all these circumstances , it will be readily perceived, that the disease must be attended very constantly with that incoherent and absurd speech we call raving. Further with the circumstances mentioned, there is commonly joined an unusual force in all the voluntary motions; and an insensibility or resistance to the force of all impressions, and particularly a resistance of the powers of sleep, of cold, and even of hunger; though indeed in many instances a voracious appetite takes place. - After reading some further extracts,

The learned Commissioner expressed his opinion to the Jury, that the symptoms laid down by **Dr.Cullen**, entirely concurred with the evidence which had been given by the witnesses examined on the present occasion; and after some able remarks on particular parts of that evidence, he left it in the hands of the Jury.

Just as the Jury were about to deliberate, it was intimated that **Miss Caulfield**, who had been expected much earlier, had arrived. She was immediately asked if she was desirous

of being present in the room where the inquiry was holding, and upon replying in the affirmative, she was soon afterwards introduced.

The Chief Commissioner then told her the names of the witnesses examined, and some of the facts they had deposed to; and asked, if she wished to hear the evidence from their own mouths?

Miss Caulfield : I will take your word for what you have said, **Mr.Bingham**; but certainly I should like to hear the evidence from the witnesses themselves; for I assure you this is a very iniquitous business on the part of all concerned against me, not even excepting the **Rev.Thomas Anthony Methuen**. - But first with regard to that good man, **Dr.Francis Fox**; and does he say that I am of unsound mind?

Dr.F.Fox (addressing her) I think you are a lunatic.

Miss Caulfeild :- What are your reasons, **Dr.Fox**? - That is only an opinion, a mere assertion. Prove your words. Let us have the facts and the reasons upon which you ground that assertion; because it is not right that an Englishwoman and a citizen of Westminster should be deprived of her liberty upon your assertion. Now good **Dr.Fox** proceed. I shan't be angry with you.

Dr.Fox :- Is not your Sister **Emma** dead, and have you not been speaking to her, as if she had been present ?

Miss Caulfeild : I am glad you came to the facts. I had a sister **Emma**, it is true, but I trust she is in Heaven. Now, gentlemen, **Doctor Francis Fox** and his wife sleep in the next room to me, and it appears have overheard me talking of my sister **Emma**, which they have mistakenly construed into me talking to her. Surely such evidence as this will not convict me of a loss of my senses.

Dr.Fox :- Have you ever had any intercourse with Satan ?

Miss Caulfeild :- (laughing immoderately.) Thank God Almighty, - Never ! - What a strange - what a preposterous idea ! Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not go unpunished.

Mr.Bingham then stated the substance of **Mr.W.Fowler's** evidence.

Miss Caulfeild :- I should like to hear **Mr.W.Fowler** myself; but first I will state how **Mr.W.Fowler** came to attend me. You must know then, that **Dr.Brabant** was our usual medical attendant; but as my mamma and me have studied economy, and as **Dr.Brabant** charged a guinea for each visit, and **Mr.W.Fowler** only 5s, we have employed **Mr.W.Fowler**.

Mr.Bingham :- It is necessary that I should inform you, that the witnesses have given their evidence upon oath.

Miss Caulfeild :- I don't mean to say, **Mr.Bingham**, that the witnesses would intentionally perjure themselves; but still they are liable to mistakes; and I believe and trust, they have been mistaken in what they have said of me.

Mr.Bingham :- It has been stated that on one occasion you held a lighted candle out of the window, and applied it to the thatch, for the purpose of setting it on fire.

Miss Caulfeild :- That's partly false, and partly true; and I will give you the explanation. I had rung my bell, and I had knocked the poker against the floor, but still nobody came to me; at last I held a candle out of window, and I was not long without assistance; so there's the solution to that affair; and surely that's no proof of insanity. If any one has said that I burned the thatch, he has said what is false.

Mr.Bingham :- **Miss Candler** has deposed that you have called **Dr.Card's** son into your bed-room, and after tying an old fashioned picture around his neck, and placing a stick in his hand, you made him walk in military step before you.

Miss Caulfeild :- I can't recollect whether that is true or false, but it is not at all unlikely, for **Dr.Card's** son was a mere child, and I might have played some childish trick with him.

Mr.Bingham :- **Miss Candler** further says , that you once presented **Mr.Wall** with a stinging nettle as a nosegay.

Miss Caulfeild : That's false. I'll assure you, **Mr.Bingham**, that's false. But, (laughing immoderately) what an idea to found my lunacy upon !

Mr.Bingham :- **Miss Candler** has also said that you have spoken unkindly of your mother; that she has seen you with your hair loose on your shoulders; and that you have said your only consolation was in a silk stocking.

Miss Caulfeild :- I have never treated my mother unkindly : I have told her that she is surrounded by a bad lot, and have insisted upon **Miss Candler's** quitting the house. With regard to seeing me with my hair loose on my shoulders, will that be wondered at, when it is known, that from the terms of intimacy which subsisted between me and **Miss Candler**, she had free access to my dressing room. What has been stated of the silk stockings is false; and if it was not, I am not the only lady who has been fond of a silk stocking.

Mr.Bingham :- **Eliza Kidney** has stated that you have acted very violently towards her, and that on one occasion you tore her cap.

Here **Miss Caulfeild** entered into a long conversation with **Eliza Kidney** on the subject, and afterwards said to her - What a fool you must have been not to have moved your head quicker than I moved my hand; and when I caught hold of your cap, why did you force yourself from me - that is the way the cap was torn. But the truth is, **Mr.Bingham**, **Eliza Kidney** threatened me, and I gave it to her.

The Chief Commissioner told her of other facts which he had been deposed to; all of which she either parried or explained. Previously to her leaving the room, she said to **Mr. Bingham** : "Here are the Gentlemen of the Jury ! But where is the Judge ? We are in a room which might yesterday have been used for a feast- to-morrow a Bible meeting may be held in it. In my opinion the Town-hall would have been more befitting this occasion."

Miss Caulfeild's recollection appeared to be remarkably clear and the shrews and clever remarks she made excited the astonishment of all present : but the disease was visibly marked in her countenance; and her laugh (which was almost constant) was truly maniacal. She was under great excitement during the whole of the time she was in the room.

The Jury, without much hesitation, returned their verdict - "That **Sophia Frances Mary Caulfeild**, had been of unsound mind from July 1818, up to the present time."

Appendix 2:

Buried from Dr Fox's

Ann Rudhall, 72, 28 February 1825
John Vere Cole, 32, 19, January, 1826
Elizabeth Andrew, about 35, 30 March 1826
Rebecca Hicks, 75, 9 June, 1826
John Edgehill, age unknown, 17 December 1826.
Philip Tutley, 75, 29 December 1826
John Bailey, 30, 17 July 1827
Marianne Priscilla Gosselin, 31, 3 November 1827
John Vaughan, 32, 21 December 1827
C.F. Luttrell, (a woman), 61, 21 January 1828
George Marsden, 43, 9 July 1828
Charlotte Penn, 32, 9 April 1829
Charles Cole, 38, 6 November 1829
Lucy Arthur, about 25, 26 August 1830
Charles Roebuck Fenton, 40, 20 November 1830
John Furnish, 58, 11 October 1831
Joseph Douglas, 40, 2 December 1831
Robert Russell, 45, 3 February 1832
Elizabeth Canner (?) 82, 14 May 1832
Catherine Gwin, 45, 17 October 1832
David Thomas, 21, 23 February 1833
Henry George Paunceford Cook, 30, 1 October 1834
Elizabeth Chambers, 44, 12 December 1834
Sarah Walker, 55, 28 December 1835
Isabelle Rudd, 60, 25 March 1836
Samuel Patey, 31, 10 May 1836
Sarah Smith, 32, 15 June 1836
Mary Anne Sendall, 53, 6 August 1836

Mary Lintorn, 85, 26 August 1836
 Mary Morgan, 72, 7 September 1836
 Lewis Watkins, 44, 5 January 1837
 Catherine Louisa White, 53, 20 May 1837
 Rev Hugh Fitzgerald, 23 May 1837
 Withers Bunney, 37, 20 September 1837
 Robert Rogers, 40, 27 February 1838
 Susanna Jefferies, 70, 30 July 1838
 Mary Bain (?) 60, 21 February 1840

Baptised from Dr Fox's:

Harriet, daughter of George & Mary Lewis, servant at Dr Fox's, 31 July 1825
 Elizabeth, daughter of George Griffiths & Mary Lewis, servant at Dr Fox's, 6 November 1836.

Appendix 3:

A sample of Brislington people who went to Bristol Infirmary for treatment, 1825-34.
 The list is incomplete - full lists at BRO Microfiche: FCH/BRI/3(O)

1825

J(oseph?) Lavers, 24	Mary Nicholas, 50	Thomas Bull, 70
Thomas Dewdney, 54	Edward Jones, 23	Elizabeth Gibby, 19
Henry Pitman, 66	Elizabeth Pawker, 8	

1826

James Leaver, 55	William Miner 27	Mary Newton, 18*
Henry Hill, 19	William Peters, 42	George Probarads, 10
James Sheppard, 23	Robert Veale, 33	

- See Brislington Bulletins, No 6, 1800-24. I am glad that Mary Newton was still in Brislington in 1826, and not in the Workhouse. Of Mary Jane Catherine Comet, there is so far no sign.

1827

Mary Vowles, 21	Elizabeth Davis, 18 (13?)	
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1828

Thomas Lenox, 50	Mary Morgan, 22. (Died March 29 th . Not buried at Brislington.)	John Horwood, 17
Elizabeth Dunscombe, 31		

1829

John Niblett, 16	Martha Lecky, 22	Henry Simmons, 29
Eliza Loud, 26	William Langdon, 31	

1830

Mary Tandee, 18 (contused femor. Back as Mary Tandy, 19, "ulcus")	Mary Perram, 19	James Coggins, 52, (died, buried Brislington, 29 th August. See main text.)
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Abraham Coggins, 25 (contusions – recovered see: main text.)	Maria Rossiter, 20	
1831		
Elizabeth Hoskins, 18	Hart Steeples, 18	George Jones, 40
Mary Ponting, 16	William Reynolds, 36	
1833		
Samuel Little, 30	Mary Hallett, 15	Anne Pillinger, 19
Maria Harwood, 20	Mary Naish, 16	Samuel Littell, 39
Anne Pillinger, 19	Robert Boyce, 60	William Hallett, 45
Jane Stinchcombe, 20	Robert Boyce, 60	
1834		
Martha Newman, 21	William Boyce, 50	James Hart, 44

SORRY! – missed first time round:

Addenda 1600-1699

2 November 1676

Probate: Elizabeth Pitts, daughter of James Pitts of Brislington, an infant under 2 years old. (GRO PROB/4/21527)

Addenda 1750-1774

8 April 1771

“Hester Walters, now resident in St Peter and St Paul, Bath, widow or wife of Richard Walters, mason, who absented himself from her about 22 years past from whom she has never since heard, that she was married to her lawful husband on 19 November 1727 in the parish of Brislington as appears by a certificate witnessed by the hand of M. Hunt, Minister, which certificate is in the custody of the parish officer of St James, Bath. . Her said husband was a parishioner of Ross, Herefordshire by serving an apprenticeship there.” She signed Hester **Walters**.

(“Examinations before Justices, Book 3, pp88, Bath Record Office.)

Her marriage to Richard Waters did indeed take place at Brislington on the date stated, though she is recorded as **Mary** Shell of Castle Precincts, Bristol.

Addenda, 1775-1799

11 September 1784

ERRATUM: Col. Griffiths should read Col **Grossett**, and the full report is as follows:

“Thursday night between 8 and 9 o’clock, Col. Grossett’s gardener of Brislington was attacked on a footway in the fields a little beyond Mr Tory’s house by two men with bludgeons, one of whom gave him a blow to the head with which he fell to the ground. Upon the gardener’s crying out, ‘Murder’ he seized him by the throat and endeavoured to

strangle him, but the London coach fortunately coming by, and the outside passengers hearing his cries, got off the coach, jumped over the hedges and secured the fellow and in all likelihood preserved the man's life. He was placed under armed guard for the night at Brislington and next morning committed to Shepton Mallett Bridewell by Vickery Dickinson, esquire."

13 November 1784

A Post Chaise was stopped on Brislington Common by three footpads and a gold watch, a silver watch, and money was taken from two gentlemen. They presented a pistol at the head of a young lady passenger, but went off without robbing her. (FFBJ)

16 April 1785

A lad under the pretence of delivering a letter to a house in Brislington obtained the opening of a door, when two men, their faces covered, pushed into the house and robbed it of £7 or £8 in cash. (FFBJ)

1 April 1786

"On Monday evening, two milkwomen on their return from Brislington to Bristol were attacked in the road by a footpad who held pistols to their heads and robbed them of 20 shillings. A pistol was discharged, which grazed the face of one of the women, but did no material injury." (FFBJ)

29 April 1786

"died at Brislington, Mrs Whelan, widow of Mr J. Whelan, cooper in King Street, Bristol" (FFBJ)

6 May 1786

"Thursday, died at Brislington, Mr James Smith, sometime since a land waiter (i.e.- a customs' inspector) of this port (Bristol) from which employ he had retired." (FFBJ)

21 October 1786

"Sunday evening, died at Brislington, Thomas Kington, esquire, formerly an eminent linendraper of Bristol. He was a tender husband, indulgent parent and a sincere friend and his death will be long regretted by a select circle of friends and acquaintances." (BJ & FFBJ)

(Thomas Kington was 47. His wife Susannah died aged 42 in 1792 at Clifton. The family is being researched by their direct descendant Stewart Kington. email stewart@kington.fsnet.co.uk)

28 October 1786

"Tuesday night, between the hours of 7 and 8, as Mrs Ireland of Brislington was returning there from this City in her carriage, she was stopped near Arno's Vale by two footpads one of whom seized and held the reins of the horses whilst the other opened the coach door and demanded money, but the horses taking fright ran off with the coach, at which one of the villains fired at the coachman, but happily without effect." (FFBJ)

3 February 1787

"The following vagrants were taken up and flogged and sent home to their different parishes:

William Clarke and John Purnell of St Philip and St Jacob's

William Webb of St Nicholas

Charles Pope of Brislington

William Dyer of St James

James Larkin, an Irishman, and Thomas Bailey, an American. (Very suspicious fellows taken out of the Glass House, and a quantity of old junk found on them.)

William Watkins of Carmarthen

William Churchill of St George's, Somerset

Elizabeth Werton of Birmingham

Ann Waters of St Peter's and Ann Reynolds of St James, Ballad Singers. (FFBJ)

Previous readers will know we last met Charles Pope in 1781, when as "a rogue and vagabond" he was returned home to Brislington from St Augustine's. After his next ignominious homecoming as described above, the parish seems to have deliberated what to do with him. In 1790 he was given "an apron, a knife, and an iron to work with", but he seems to have been incapable of making anything of himself. He was whipped again in 1796, and I wonder whether he was "quite the thing" as my mother used to say. His experience may be food for thought to those who still advocate corporal punishment and say knowingly "They wouldn't come back for more." They would and they did.

Addenda 1800-24

1808

Sutty Willoughby, born Brislington, served 28th Light Dragoons, discharged 1808 aged 28 after 3 years service. (NA WO 121/87/107)

(I am intrigued by his first name, which is how it is listed. As previous readers will know, I would like to know anything about the Willoughby family of Brislington.)

Also in 1808

Hermon (sic) Conway Hodge of Brislington, was apprenticed to Thomas Conway & Partners, grocers, of Maiden Lane, London. (Apprenticeship indenture) see Family Tree Magazine, November 2000. (quoted John Titford's "Guide to Auctioneers & Booksellers Catalogues".)

1818-20

Headstones at Brunswick Square, Cemetery, St Paul's.

Richard Ricketts, esquire, of Brislington in the County of Somerset, died 5 June 1818 aged 70 years. Ann Ricketts, wife of the above, died 29 October 1819 aged 71 years.

Rachel Ricketts, wife of Jacob Wilcox Ricketts, died 12 March 1820, aged 63 years.

1819

21 January

Died, January 6th at Guernsey, Mr John Pullin of Brislington.

(BM)

8 March

married at Clifton, Mr John Wigan, solicitor to Eliza, only child of Mrs Fry at the Hotwells, niece to the late William Parson, esq., Brislington.

(BM)

25 May

at Haverfordwest, Timothy, youngest son of Joshua Powell of Brislington to Elizabeth Hungerford, eldest daughter of the late Walter Powell esq., of Mesgwynne, Carmarthen.

(BM)

6 June

died at Brislington, aged 72, Mr Francis King, many years a respectable mason of that parish.

(BM, 14.6.19)

28 September

20 guineas reward was offered for the apprehension of a footpad who attacked Mr J. Arnold of London on the Bath road to Bristol, near Dr Fox's on the Brislington side. "The Man demanded Mr A.'s money and immediately inflicted a severe Wound to his Temple, with a Stick having a *large* Nob (sic) at the End, and newly peeled. Mr A. contended with him for upwards of ten minutes, but from a loss of blood and exhaustion he was compelled to relinquish his Gold Watch of French Make, having the name William Gill, engraved on the outside Case with two Gold Seals and a Key on which is engraved the initials J.A. He also took from him a brown silk Umbrella, in a green Case.

"The Robber appeared about 30 Years of Age, 5 feet 9 inches in height (sic) speaks somewhat in the Irish Accent. From the blows that were given and received in the scuffle, the Clothes of the Robber must have received a considerable quantity of Blood. Any person giving Information whereby the same may be apprehended shall upon Conviction, receive the above Reward of Messrs. J. J. Arnold, Druggists, No. 59, Barbican, London."

29 November

For Sale, a Family Residence at Brislington, Apply Mr Thomas James, post paid. (BM)

1823

Antique deed, dated 1823, between George Chilton of the Exchequer Office, Lincoln's Inn, London, Esquire, (1) John Thomas Croft of Wick in the parish of Brislington in the County of Somerset and Ann Francis, his wife (2) and the Rev. John Price, Vicar of the Parish of Worle, Somerset and John Fisher of the parish of Churchill, Somerset. (3) Being a Settlement Indenture with pages of information on Lands and Fields to include Earls Court Farm, Wanborough, Wiltshire and Land and Closes at Highworth, Wiltshire.

("Size 27 Ins x 29 Ins ~ in very fine condition ~ escutcheoned revenue stamp ~ wax seals ~ on 5 sheets of folded parchment" - offered for sale on the internet.)

Soapbox: St Anne's Well

■ WAS very upset to read of the sad state of St. Anne's Well (*Bristol Times, Post, February 12*). I lived in St Anne's from 1961 to 1983, and my four children all grew up in the area.

It was a marvellous place for children. They roamed through Nightingale Valley from Alison Road to First Avenue, building dens, damming the stream, swinging on ropes across the waterfalls at the back of Wick House, climbing the slopes among the trees and running over and under the pack horse bridge.

In summer, there were apple and plum trees, blackberries and hazel nuts, purple willow herb and balsam, yellow lupins, squirrels and foxes and all kinds of birds, including kingfishers. In winter, snow it was a really magical place to visit.

Then there was the railway station to explore.

Even more fun was St. Anne's Woods, with its bluebells, pools for paddling, and the big summer house which was in turn a castle, a palace, the three bear's home in the forest and a brilliant place for summer picnics.

Many happy hours were spent



Left to right: St Anne's Well has fallen into disrepair in recent years, and, inset, the well in all its original glory important and much-loved feature of St. Anne's.

Each year there was also a procession to the woods led by church dignitaries followed by Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, the Boy's Brigade Band, and various other organisations carrying banners and garlands of flowers.

The rest of us would march down to the well to join the service. Once St. Anne's Well was as important and much-loved feature of St. Anne's.

I now live not far from Walsingham, which attracts visitors from all over the world while poor St. Anne's Well lies in ruins. I wish Councillor Barbara Lewis luck in her campaign to restore it to how I remember it.

Mrs Ann English,
Dereham,
Norfolk.

The disgraceful state of St Anne's Well.

I echo Mrs. English's good wishes to Councillor Lewis for her campaign to restore this ancient and important site.

100

100

100

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

20 GUINEAS REWARD,

Over and above what is allowed by Act of Parliament.

On Friday Night last, Mr. J. ARNOLD, of *London*, was attacked by a Footpad on the Bath Road, leading to Bristol, near Dr. Fox's, on the Brislington Side.

The Man demanded Mr. A.'s Money, and immediately inflicted a severe Wound on his Temple, with a Stick having a *large* Nob at the End, and newly peeled. Mr. A. contended with him for upwards of ten minutes, but from loss of blood, and exhaustion, he was compelled to relinquish his GOLD WATCH, of French Make, having the name of WM. GILL, engraved on the outside Case, with two GOLD SEALS and a KEY, on one of the Seals is engraved the initials, J. A. he also took from him a brown Silk Umbrella, in a green Case.

The Robber appeared about 30 Years of Age, 5 feet 9 inches in height, speaks somewhat in the Irish Accent. From the blows that were given and received in the scuffle, the Clothes of the Robber must have received a considerable quantity of Blood. Any Person giving Information, whereby the same may be apprehended, shall upon Conviction, receive the above Reward of Messrs. J. and J. ARNOLD, Druggists, No. 59, Barbican, London.

N. B. If a Watch of the above Description should be offered for Sale or Pawn, please to stop it and the Bearer, and give immediate Notice to Messrs. ARNOLDS as above, or to the Printer hereof.

September, 28, 1819.

Handwritten scribbles or marks at the top of the page.

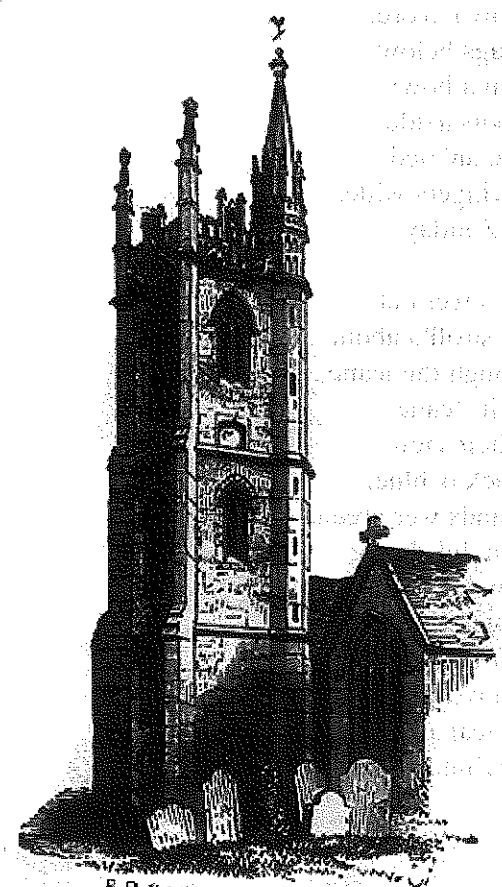
Faint vertical text or markings along the right edge of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

2 June
Family dwelling house in Brislington to be let, lately occupied by Joseph Grace Smith,
esq. (BM)

1824
4 April
Charles Bevan, 19, born Brislington, last abode Bristol, was in Ilchester Gaol. (SRO Q/Agi/15/2)

29 November
A nightly patrol established at Brislington. (BM)

20 December
Mr Robert Leonard contributed 10s 6d to a fund to reward a constable and two watchman
who apprehended a gang of marauders in the parish of St Mary Redcliffe. (BM)



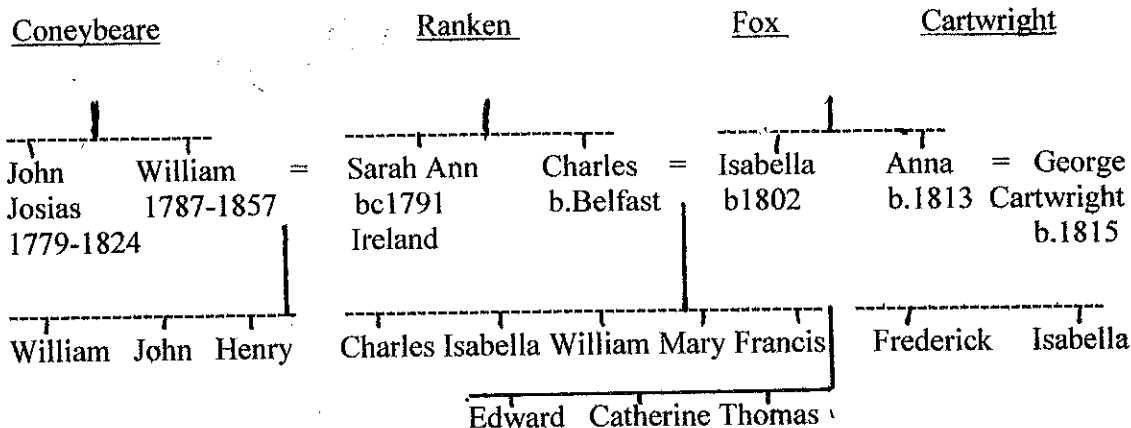
R. R. P. sculp.
Brislington, Somersetshire.

Easter Zunday

by William Barnes

Last Easter Jim put on his blue
Frock coat, the vu'st time-vier new;
Wi' o'llow buttons all o' brass;
That glitter'd in the zun lik' glass;
An' pok'd 'ithin the button-hole
A tutty he'd a-begg'd or stole.
A span-new wes-co't, too, he wore,
Wi' yellow stripes all down avore;
An' tied his breeches' lags below
The knee, wi' ribbon in a bow;
An' drow'd his kitty-boots azide,
An' put his laggens on, an' tied
His shoes wi' strings two vingers wide,
Because 'twer Easter Zunday.

An' after mornen church wer out
He come back hwome, an' stroll'd about
All down the vields, an' drough the leane,
Wi' sister Kit an' cousin Jeane,
A-turnen proudly to their view
His yellow breast an' back o' blue.
The lambs did play, the grounds wer green,
The trees did bud, the zun did sheen;
The lark did zing below the sky,
An' roads wer all a-blown so dry,
As if the zummer wer begun;
An' he had such a bit o' fun!
He made the maidens squeal an' run,
Because 'twer Easter Zunday



William Coneybeare lived at Gotley Lodge and was Brislington's resident curate 1819-27. He was a noted fossil hunter when the science of paleontology was in its infancy. In 1845 he became Dean of Llandaff. He died 12 August 1857.

His wife Sarah Ann, nee Ranken, was living in 1861, aged 70, at 20, Duke Street, St Margaret's, Westminster, the grand establishment of her son Henry. (A near neighbour at no.18 was none other than Isambard Brunel, then a 23 year old student!) Henry Coneybeare was 38, a civil engineer, who had served the British Raj in India where his wife Ann and two of their children, Edith and Henry were born. By 1856 they had journeyed to Llandaff where another daughter, Emily was born. Three other children were born in London, the latest arrival being Charles, 10 months old in 1861. The six female servants included an Irish "wet nurse", Mary Johnson, aged 25.

Charles Ranken succeeded his brother in law and married Isabella, one of the daughter's of Dr. Edward Fox. In 1831 the Vicarage was set on fire, possibly by agitators in sympathy with the Bristol Rioters. He was absent from Brislington in 1841 when the census was taken. Isabella his wife was living in the village at "West End Town House" with her children Isabella, 10, William, 8, Mary, 5, Francis, aged one and three servants.

In 1861, the family lived at 7, York Place, Clifton. Charles, aged 64, was "lecturer at Brislington, Somerset." Isabella was now 59; Mary aged 24 and Catherine, 18, still lived at home. A young grandson, Edward, aged 7, was staying with them.

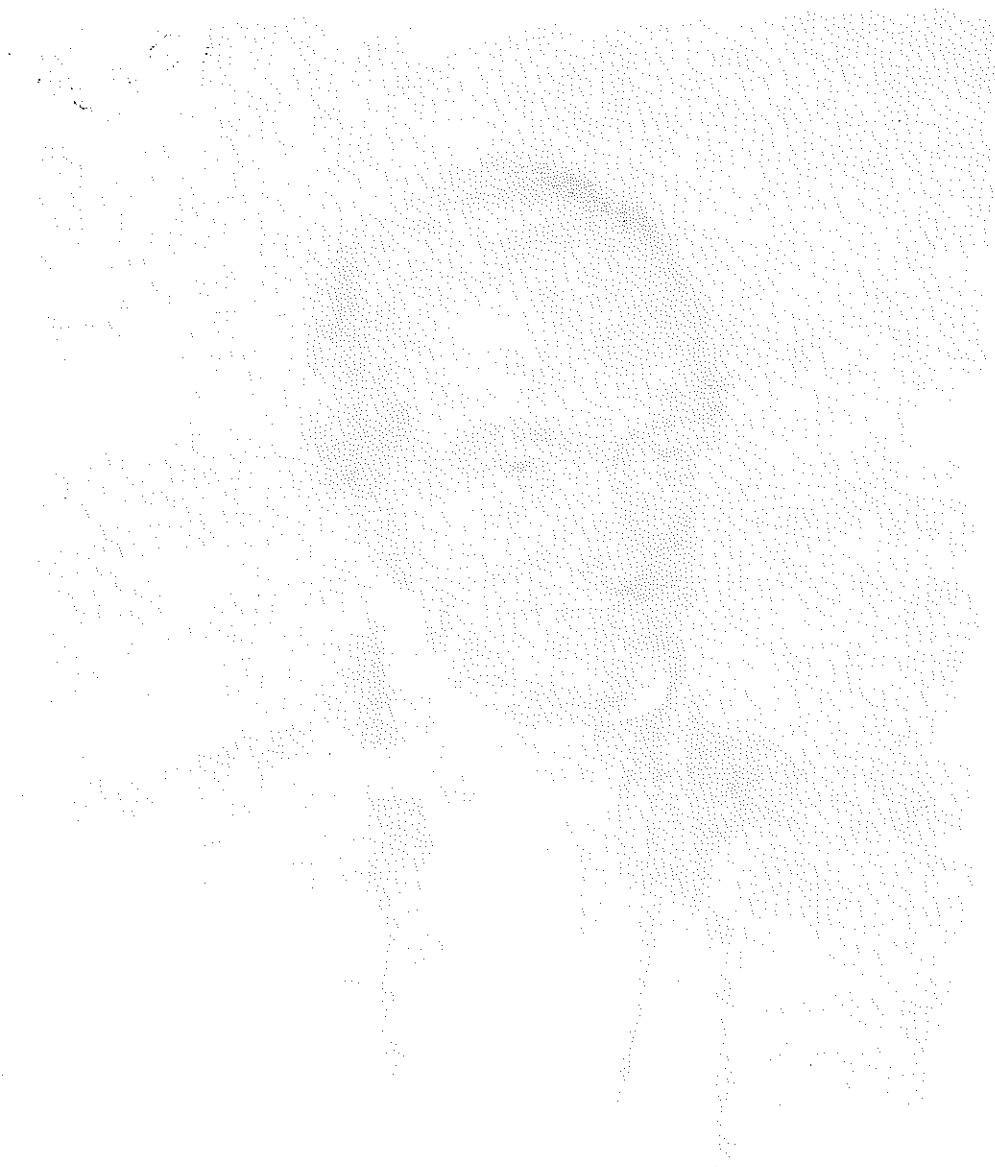
By 1881 Charles, had retired from the Church ("aged 86, clergyman without cure of souls, born Belfast") and was living at Townshend Villas, Richmond, Surrey in an interesting household which contained his wife Isabella, 78, his daughter in law Catherine Ranken, born Lucerne, Switzerland, Marie, her daughter, aged 13, born Pisa, Italy, and his son in law Thomas Samon, a widowed artist, born Greenock, Scotland. Charles died at Richmond in 1883.

To be continued in Brislington No 8.....

1000



William Daniel Coneybeare



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It is worth noting that some surnames appear only once which implies only a fleeting acquaintance with our parish. However, a glance at the parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials may tell a different story. "Happy is the country which has no history" a wise man once said and this must surely apply equally to family history!

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*The Pillingers "played in church"
and perhaps went carol singing too.....*

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Cottage in St. Anne's Wood.

HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE OF
BRISLINGTON HOUSE

NEAR BRISTOL.

An Asylum for the cure & reception of
INSANE PERSONS.

ESTABLISHED BY EDWARD LONG FOX M.D. A.D. 1804.

and now conducted by

Francis Charles Fox, M.D.



THE LODGE.

Exinde per amplum

Mittimur Elysium
Donec longa dies perfecto temporis orbe
Concretam exemit labem, purumque reliquit
Ætherium sensum

Æn d: Lib VI.

BRISTOL,
LIGHT and RIDLEE
1836.