

THE
Journal
OF
THE KILVERT SOCIETY



THE KILVERT SOCIETY

*Founded in 1948 to foster an interest in the Reverend Francis Kilvert,
his work, his Diary and the countryside he loved*

Registered Charity No. 1103815

www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk

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*Contributions are welcome for the March Journal – in words or
pictures – by post or email by 11 January 2013, please*

Website: www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk (for additions or
corrections, please email the Editor of the *Journal*). If you have
mislaidd the password for the Archive section of the website,
please email the Editor, who will send it to you.

The Society would like to send relevant communications to
members by email, where possible, to reduce our postage costs.
If you are on email, please send an email to the Secretary at
jeanbrimson@hotmail.com. Otherwise mailings will be sent to
you as usual. The *Journal* will continue to printed and posted.

Dates for your diary

2012

Saturday 29 September

Meet at the Church at Clifford at 12 noon.
(Map ref. Sheet 148 252 451) Bring a picnic lunch as there
are no food outlets in the village.

A circular walk of 1½ to 2 hours with a short uphill section,
passing the Priory, the home of Haigh Allen and Clifford
Castle. Wear sensible footwear and don't forget the water-
proofs. Tea will follow at Hay parish rooms, £4.50 pay on the
day. There will not be a service this weekend.

2013

Wednesday 6 March

A visit to Oxford (please return the enclosed 'expression of
interest' slip to the Secretary. Details will be sent out at the
end of January.)

Friday 26 April

AGM at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford 7pm with speaker.

Saturday 27 April

Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne.

10.30am Seminar – Details of speakers in the March edition
of the *Journal*.

6.30pm for 7pm. Same venue

The Kilvert Society Annual Dinner.

The booking form for this weekend's events will follow in the
March edition of the *Journal*.

Saturday 29 June

12 noon. Meet at Tintern for a pre booked lunch (to be
confirmed), a visit to Tintern Abbey with a short walk after-
wards.

Sunday 30 June

3pm. A commemoration service at Glascwm (to be con-
firmed).

Saturday 28 September

A visit to Lacock, Wiltshire, which will include lunch and
Lacock Abbey, the home of Fox Talbot the founder of mod-
ern photography (all to be confirmed in the *Journal*).

Front Cover This is the Kilvert Family Album which the Society bought at auction in February. The Society intends in the near future to publish a copy for Members to buy. For more information about the exciting purchase, turn to page 163

Back cover Members pause in front of the Assembly Rooms in Bath during the Society's visit to Bath in March. For Dudley Green's report, see pages 264-167

List of publications, 2012

Three-Volume Diary, packed in slip case, available to members at £60 plus £10.50 p&cp.

Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary

At last, a fully comprehensive Who's Who with over 400 biographies and 22 family trees. It took the late Tony O'Brien many years to compile this volume and it makes a fitting memorial to him. £13 including p&cp.

More Chapters from the Kilvert Saga (reprinted) Contents: The Memoirs of the Rev. Robert Kilvert (the Diarist's father) and Recollections of Emily Wyndowe (the Diarist's sister); also extracts from Augustus Hare's account of the school at Hardenhuish Rectory. £5.

Jubilee Praise. The Tom Palmer Memorial Booklet, compiled to celebrate the Society's Jubilee in June 1998. This new publication, edited by our former Chairman, Michael Sharp, is a selection of the best essays from the Newsletters of the last thirty years. £5.50.

Francis Kilvert Priest & Diarist, by Frederick Grice.

This book is a reprint of the 1975 original. £5.50.

Collected Verse Contains the 55 poems of Francis Kilvert printed privately in 1881. £4.50.

The Frederick Grice Memorial Booklet Contents: The Missing Year – Kilvert & 'Kathleen Mavourneen' by Laurence Le Quesne; two hitherto unpublished

articles on Kilvert by Frederick Grice; several articles, also by Frederick Grice, reprinted from various newsletters. £5

Kilvert's 'Kathleen Mavourneen', by Eva Farmery and R.B. Taylor. The publication records the painstaking research, extending over some 35 years, into the Heanley family of Croft, Lincolnshire, and the related Cholmeley family, who were related by marriage to the Kilvert Family. Particularly interesting is the section dealing with Katharine Heanley ('Kathleen Mavourneen'), her relationship with the Diarist and her tragic death. £5.

A Kilvert Symposium.

Eight contributions from members who read papers at the Kilvert Conference held at Attingham Park in 1975. £4.50.

Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle, by R.I. Morgan. The author summarises his researches into the Wordsworth – Monkhouse – Dew connection, in which Kilvert was so interested. £4.50.

Looking Backwards. References to Kilvert's wife, their marriage and honeymoon; accounts of their home-coming to Bredwardine and of Kilvert's death and funeral; extracts from the diary of Hastings Smith (Kilvert's nephew) relating to his enquiries into his uncle's year at St. Harmon, etc. £4.50

Miscellany Two: The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet.

Contents: The Solitary of Llanbedr by the Rev. D Edmondson-Owen; Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions by Mrs. Essex Hope; Honeymoon Journal by Dora Pitcairn; The Venables Diaries by L. Le Quesne; Memories of the Monk by Ann Malinsson. £4.50.

Kilvert's Poetry: A Study, by Bernard Jones. £4.

The Other Francis Kilvert. Francis Kilvert of Claverton (1803-1863), by Teresa Williams and Frederick Grice. The authors, after diligent research, have produced an extremely interesting account of the life and work of the Diarist's Uncle Francis. £2.

The Books Kilvert Read, by John Toman. £2

Index of Journal/Newsletters 1956-2000, by the late Revd Dr Nigel Rowe. £2.

The Bevan-Dew Extracts. Entries from the original Diary relating to the Bevan and Dew families which were omitted from the published Diary. £2.

Kilvert and the Visual Arts, by Rosalind Billingham. A transcript of the authoritative lecture given by Miss Billingham at the 1979 Annual General Meeting. £1.50.

Vicar of this Parish, by John Betjeman. £2

Children of the Rectory, by John Toman. £1.50

Newsletter/Journals. Back numbers of some Newsletters and Journals. £2.50.

The following list of books can be purchased at good booksellers or obtained via the internet or booksearch:

Francis Kilvert, by David Lockwood. Seren Books, 1990. ISBN 1-85411-033-0 paperback.

Kilvert The Victorian, by David Lockwood. Seren Books, 1992. ISBN 1-85411-077-2.

After Kilvert, by A.L. Le Quesne. OUP, 1978. ISBN 0-19-211748-3.

Francis Kilvert and His World, by Frederick Grice. Caliban Books, 1980. Hardback ISBN 0-904573-52-4; Paperback ISBN 0-904573-78-8.

Kilvert The Homeless Heart, by John Toman. Logaston Press, 2001. ISBN 1-873827-37-7.

Growing up in Kilvert Country, by Mona Morgan. Gomer, 1990. ISBN 0-86383-680-1.

Exploring Kilvert Country, by Chris Barber. Blorenge Books, 2003. ISBN 1-872730-24-8.

Moods of Kilvert Country, by Nick Jenkins and Kevin Thomas. Halsgrove, 2006. ISBN 1-84114-525-4 / 978-1-84114-525-9.

Kilvert's Diary and Landscape, by John Toman. Paperback, 404 pages, illustrated, 2008. ISBN 9780718830953. £27.50. The Lutterworth Press, PO Box 60 Cambridge CB1 2NT. Tel 01223 350865, email publishing@lutterworth.com

The last three books are copies of Kilvert's original Diaries and are complete – the only surviving examples of his work.

The Diary of Francis Kilvert, April-June 1870 edited by Kathleen Hughes and Dafydd Ifans. National Library of Wales, 1982. ISBN 0-9077158-02-1.

The Diary of Francis Kilvert, June-July 1870 edited by Dafydd Ifans. National Library of Wales, 1989. ISBN 0-907158-02-1.

Kilvert's Cornish Diary, edited by Richard Maber and Angela Tregoning. Alison Hodge (Cornwall), 1989. ISBN 0-906720-19-2.

SEND orders to the Publications Manager, Colin Dixon, Tregothnan, Pentrosfa Crescent, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5NW (tel 01597 822062).

Prices include UK postage and packing, unless noted. For overseas orders, please see below. If postage prices change, the price list may have to be amended. Remittances for publications (kept separate from subscriptions and donations etc.) should be made payable to The Kilvert Society and accompany orders.

Overseas members kindly note most items can be sent by surface mail at printed paper rate for an additional charge of £6. For airmail rates please enquire from the Publications Manager. It is regretted that, owing to the prohibitive cost charged by British banks to convert foreign currencies, only drafts in sterling can be accepted.

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would prefer not to have your details stored on computer, the Hon. Secretary will ask you to provide stamped self-addressed envelopes for your mailings.

Subscriptions The new ordinary subscription from 1 January 2013 will be £15 (Joint membership £18), due on 1 January. PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR BANK of the change. Cheques, payable to The Kilvert Society, should be sent to: Mrs Sue Rose, Seend Park Farm, Semington, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 6LH.

From the Chairman

IN the March issue I expressed the hope that we would again be lucky with the weather for our outdoor events. We have indeed been lucky so far this year in that although we had some morning rain at Bath in March and grey skies at Monnington in June both days were fairly dry and both events were very successful.

Our September event is to Clifford. I do not remember a Society visit to this venue in the last twenty years. There are passing references to Clifford in the Diary and descriptions of events at the Priory (home of Benjamin Hugh Allen.) Some of the parish is hilly and our walk will, weather permitting, afford wonderful views of parts of West Herefordshire, Radnorshire and the Brecon Beacons. As well as visiting the parish church where Kilvert preached, our walk will also pass the Old Vicarage, Upper and Lower Courts, the disused Golden Valley railway line and station, Clifford Castle and an interesting Calvinistic Methodist Chapel.

The visit promises to be an interesting and stimulating afternoon before our tea in Hay and I hope as many as possible will attend.

From the Secretary

AS we now come to our final event in our 2012 calendar, at Clifford, the committee have put together an interesting programme for 2013 (please see forthcoming events). If you are interested in our meeting at Oxford early in March please return the expression of interest slip by 18 January.

Following the tremendous response to our lunch at Monnington in June, when 42 members attended, I am hopeful that a similar lunch can be arranged next June when we visit Tintern. This is subject to confirmation, with details to follow.

Two events this year have proved to be most successful. In May, at the Bredwardine weekend organised by the PCC, the Society helped to raise £1,600 towards the improvement of facilities at St. Andrew's Church.

In June, our visit to Monnington raised £966 for a similar cause there at St. Mary's Church. Here, our hosts Sarah Girling and Bill Sewell generously donated the cost of the food so all the proceeds went to the Church restoration fund. So this very enjoyable occasion had a positive extra outcome. Our thanks to all those Members who supported these events.

As a registered charity, it has to be evident that the Society provides a public benefit. This we do through talks, seminars and publications. The results of these two events also addresses this requirement and enhances our charitable status.

I am compiling a list of Members' email addresses to be used for communications and newsletters etc from the Society. I would like to emphasise this is the sole purpose of this exercise – email addresses will not be passed on to any third party. To keep the list updated we will need to be informed if and when you change your email address. Be assured, however, that if you are not on email, information from the Society will continue to be mailed to you as before. This does not in anyway affect the *Journal*, which will continue to be published and posted twice a year.

This we hope will help us to contain our ever increasing costs which had led the committee to ask for an increase in subscriptions. The Annual General Meeting in April agreed an increase of £3 would be appropriate. From 1 January 2013, the subscription will be £15 single, £18 joint membership at the same address. For new members these rates will apply from 30 September 2012. This, we feel, still represents very good value.

Can I ask to you to amend, or set up, a new standing order with your bank to pay your subscription. This helps our membership secretary greatly and also helps to keep down costs by avoiding the need for reminder letters.

Finally, my usual plea at this time of year is for speakers for the seminar at the AGM weekend. It's rather unfair that we rely so heavily on our usual in-house researchers to fill the Saturday morning session, so if you could give a Kilvert related talk for approximately 45 minutes I would be pleased to hear from you.

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The Annual Meeting and the Seminar and Dinner at Presteigne

WE were warned the talk after the annual meeting at the Bishop's Palace in Hereford was going to be about Rorke's Drift, but not that the speaker, Bill Cainan, lived and breathed the famous battle of the Zulu Wars.

When we arrived, Bill, Curator of the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh Regiment in Brecon, was on 'sentry duty' in fully authentic 19th century uniform at the door. He had certainly left any inhibitions he might have behind. When our Chairman, David Elvins, welcomed him in his introductory remarks, 'Sergeant Major' Bill gave us all a fright by instantly bellowing from the back, 'Sir!', at the mere mention of his name.

The news of Rorke's Drift squeezes in right at the end of the three-volume Diary (III/354) and it is evident that there was some confusion with the action at Isandhlwana. But the impact of the disastrous campaign was keenly felt in the Brecon area. *Col. Thomas much affected by the news and obliged to leave the concert room. He knew the officers intimately when the 24th were quartered lately at Brecon, writes Kilvert.*

Bill Cainan expertly and enthusiastically analysed the campaign and illuminated for us the arts of soldiering in the 1870s. He won his audience at once by telling us we were the 'handsomest and most intelligent audience I have ever addressed'.

Using Mike, the husband of our Membership Secretary Sue Rose, he demonstrated bayonet practice with a real bayonet – and instructions to Mike not to move. The trick, he explained, is to wave the bayonet in front of the eyes of the enemy in a figure of eight till the eyes follow the tip, then make a loud noise (which he did, making us all jump) and then stab the enemy in the neck while he's distracted. There's no escaping, however the story is told, that war is a nasty business.

Earlier the meeting heard David report another very successful year for the Society with some important happenings. The three outdoor events (visits to Snodhill, thanks to Peter and Carol Beddall, Langley Burrell, thanks to Jim Hall, and Bath, thanks to Alan Brimson and John Toman) had been blessed with excellent weather. The conservation project had been finished on time and on budget. And the climax was the Society's success in obtaining at auction the Kilvert family photograph album. 'We were pleased to acquire it,' he said with marked understatement.

David listed the members of the committee and their various tasks and thanked them for their service.

He said the Society had a rolling programme of care for the graves and monuments associated with Francis Kilvert, like the recently completed restoration of the seat



'Sergeant Major' Bill Cainan calls on Members to 'fall in'

in Bredwardine churchyard. He said it had been a 'momentous year' for the Society. When he said we all owed a special debt of thanks to Alan there was loud applause.

Richard Weston, the Treasurer, commenting on the accounts of the restoration programme, said: 'I hope everyone feels the work has been worth while', at which there a buzz of agreement.

He announced the committee had decided the Society needed to raise its subscription – postage costs in particular were rising and we were spending more on graves and monuments. It was eight years since they last went up, he

said. 'Most people would feel that from the quality of the *Journal* alone it is good value.'

The meeting agreed to the subscription going up from £12 to £18 for a single membership (there was even a call from the floor for it to go up to £20) and from £15 to £18 for a joint membership. Richard gave his thanks to our auditor, John Wilks, who was reappointed, as were all the members of the committee.

The excellent buffet was prepared by Sue Rose with Mike; and Colin and Val Dixon sold Society publications.

The next day, Saturday 28 April, the Society held its annual seminar and dinner at the Radnorshire Arms Hotel in Presteigne.

There were two talks by Members. David Harrison (assisted with slides by his wife Susan at the computer) gave a talk on Capel-y-ffin and Father Ignatius. He said that when he gave the talk at the Three Salmons in Usk, he was told at the last minute that half the room was related to Eric Gill. He said, to laughter, he hoped the room wasn't full of relations of Francis Kilvert. His talk was lightened by anecdote and asides and Alan, in his appreciation afterwards, said the Society had found it had a comedian among its members.

John Toman's talk, on *The Other Brother: Edward Kilvert at Marlborough College* (see p168), covered much new ground with the attention-grabbing thoroughness that we have come to expect from John. Alan said afterwards: 'I am really impressed by the amount of dedicated research he goes into. He is a terrific asset to the Society.' And turning to John, he said: 'The members really appreciate your research.'

The dinner was well attended and much enjoyed. The courses were punctuated by readings, including Val Dixon with Essex Hope's memories of her childhood at the Rectory at Monnington (which was topical in view of our planned June outing) and Michael Reynolds with a passage from the late Mona Morgan's book, *Growing Up in Kilvert Country*.



'The bids opened at £500 and within seconds went to £600, £700, £800, £900 until it reached £1,000 but hallelujah the winning bid was ours and so was the Album' Alan Brimson

The day the Society acquired possibly the most important Kilvert 'relic' ever to come up for sale

FEBRUARY 25 this year was a day of high tension for the officers of our Society. We had been alerted by friends in Chippenham that a Victorian album of Kilvert family photographs – including the iconic side-on view of the seated Diarist – was coming up at auction. Attempts to buy the Album before the sale failed and Alan Brimson was obliged to compete in the open market for it on the Society's behalf. An email from Sue Rose later that day paints the picture well: 'Very proud of Alan today, he bid for the Album in a very professional way and managed to get it for us within budget – £1,000 (plus 18% commission). (I think he was shaking just a little bit though)'

The Album has now gone on loan to the Chippenham Museum where in the autumn it will become the centrepiece of a Kilvert collection with an emphasis on Wiltshire. It can't come too soon – we apparently only have about half a dozen members in the 'other Kilvert country'.

John Toman is researching the people in the pictures and the connections between them and the Society intends to publish an annotated edition of the Album for Members to buy.

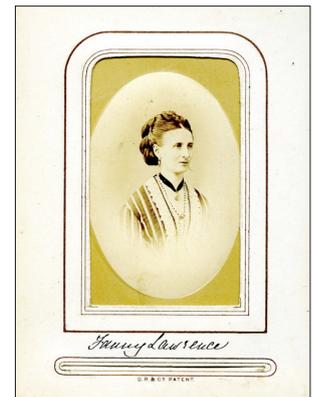
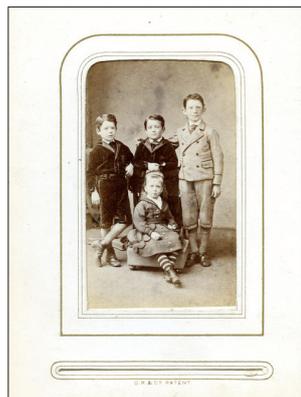
He says: 'I am excited at the extent to which their stories, deeply interesting in themselves, cast much light on the Bath society in which the Kilverts grew up. The Album people are the sons/daughters, their spouses and friends, of Dr. John Kilvert, the diarist's uncle.'

'We know very little of this dimension of the *Diary* except that Kilvert recorded the death of one of Dr. John's sons and that Kilvert performed the marriage ceremonies for two other of



Curator of Chippenham Museum Melissa Barnett with the Album. It is being lent to the museum and will form the centrepiece of a Kilvert display. Below, Album pages

Dr. John's children. Through the Album, the family of the Bath doctor comes to life in a story that takes us into the worlds of fashionable Bath society, the Australian Outback and of British rule in India.'





Making connections in an ‘enchanted city’

Francis Kilvert loved Bath and we felt, on our visit in March, as he had on 6 May 1871, it had never looked lovelier.

DUDLEY GREEN – who by sheer chance lodged the night before in the house next to Thersie’s – had his notebook to hand

KILVERT weather is a frequent topic of conversation on Society outings and this year’s winter visit to Bath was no exception. It had been raining throughout the night and I emerged from my B&B in Raby Place to encounter increasingly heavy showers. As I was getting reconciled to a very wet day walking round the city, the clouds gradually lifted. By the time I had walked over Poulteney Bridge and past the Abbey on my way to our meeting place in Queen Square, the rain had virtually stopped.

The elegant Queen Square was an appropriate starting place for our wanderings round Bath in the footsteps of Francis Kilvert. A sizeable group of members had assembled in the centre of the square. By this time the weather had greatly improved and there were hints of blue sky when our indefatigable Secretary, Alan Brimson, started the proceedings by reminding us of Francis Kilvert’s regular visits to Bath and of his great love for the city. Alan read the account Kilvert wrote when he came down to Bath to see his sister Thersie on 6 May 1871:

Went down to Bath by 9.20 train. I think I never saw the beautiful city look lovelier than this morning in its early summer morning’s dress, with the blue encircling hills climbed by crescents and terraces and the great Abbey towering above the river and looming across the river meads.

Kilvert expressed similar sentiments when seeing the city from the train on his way to Taunton (8 September 1873):

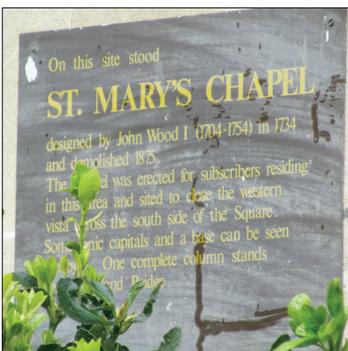
It was a lovely morning, the clear shining after rain, and in the strange gauzy sunlit mist of the morning Bath looked like a beautiful mirage with a weird strange unearthly beauty, like an enchanted city.

Alan then handed over to John Toman, who gave us a clear and detailed account of the close connections which the Kilvert family had with Bath. Thomas Kilvert (Kilvert’s paternal



St Mary’s Chapel, Queen Square

PICTURE BY HENRY VENN LANSDOWN, c1855, BY COURTESY OF THE VICTORIA ART GALLERY, BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL
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great-grandfather, born in 1706), worked at Conover Hall in Shropshire as steward to the Lady of the Manor, Mrs Letitia Barnston. In 1745 Mrs Barnston moved to Bath, where in 1751 she bought No 24 Queen Square as a lodging house for the fashionable visitors then coming to the city. No 24 was a spacious house with four big rooms on each of the three floors and was well suited for her purpose. When Thomas Kilvert’s first wife Mary died in 1753 he contracted a second marriage, to Elizabeth Caink, a Shropshire woman who was then living in the parish of Walcot in Bath. The wedding took place in Bath on 1 August 1754, in St Mary’s Chapel at the south-west cor-



Kingsmead Street today. Once a main access to the city centre it was badly damaged in the ‘Baedeker’ raid of April 1942

ner of Queen Square. The chapel had been built in 1734 by a consortium of the residents of the square and was the earliest proprietary chapel to be built in Bath. It was demolished in 1875 to improve access to Bath’s Green Park Station and the site is now marked by a commemorative tablet. After their marriage Thomas and Elizabeth Kilvert returned to Conover. They had two sons, Richard and Francis (Kilvert’s grandfather) and when Thomas died in 1782 the family moved to Bath and took up residence in Caroline Buildings, Widcombe. In 1792 Francis married Anna Parsons, the daughter of John Parsons of Shropshire. They had eight children including Francis (Kilvert’s uncle) and Robert (Kilvert’s father).

John Toman also stressed the importance of the business connections which the Kilvert family had with leading entrepreneurs in Bath. After his arrival in the city Francis Kilvert set up a coach building business in Kingsmead Street. In doing this he was following in the footsteps of his maternal uncle, Richard Caink, who had earlier been a coach builder in Bath. Grandfather Francis had other business connections through his wife’s family. A granddaughter of John Parsons married George Stothert, who came to Bath in 1779 and started an ironmonger business which developed into the well-known firm of Stothert and Pitt. This was a highly successful venture and became the outlet in Bath for the products of the Coalbrookdale iron works of Abraham Derby. The extensive building work then going on in Bath created a huge demand for iron products and Stothert’s firm provided the stoves, fireplaces, grates, pipes and other items which were required. He also presumably supplied the materials which Francis Kilvert needed for building his coaches. John pointed out that in later years Kilvert’s uncle Francis was well acquainted with the Stothert family, and when George Stothert’s wife Elizabeth died in January 1855 he wrote her obituary in the *Bath and Cheltenham Gazette*. Three years later he also wrote the obituary for Stothert’s son in the *Bath Chronicle*.

After his arrival in Bath in 1782 Francis’s coach building business prospered for a time, and in 1787 he moved to better premises in Westgate Street. But then his finances deteriorated. The outbreak of war with France in January 1793 caused a slump in business, and in the following year the failure of a local bank

in which he had placed much of his money led to Francis being declared bankrupt in October 1794.

We then left the square and walked to the nearby Bath Assembly Rooms, constructed by John Wood the Younger and regarded as one of the finest of Georgian civic buildings. The Assembly Rooms were opened in 1771 and rapidly became the centre of Bath Society. A ballroom ran the entire length of the north side, and on the south there was a fine Tea Room which was also used for concerts. The building was severely damaged in the Second World War but it has been magnificently restored. Kilvert visited the Assembly Rooms on Friday 10 October 1873 for a reception given by the Mayor and Mayoress for those attending the Church Congress. The Congress was a church body created to provide a forum for general



Kilvert's dentist was at 8 Edgar Buildings . . . the trade continues at No 7

debate on ecclesiastical matters. The first meeting was held at Cambridge in 1861 and thereafter until the outbreak of the First World War Congresses were held annually in some large town. Although the gathering had no legislative power, it was thought to provide a useful opportunity for the exchange of ideas. Large numbers attended each year and reports of the speeches and the debates were published and widely read. The Bath Congress of 1873 seems to have been a particularly successful event. In his *Diary* account of the proceedings Kilvert commented: *It was stated that the Bath Congress was the most successful and the largest Church Congress yet held, 1400 more tickets having been sold than last year at Leeds. Altogether between 6000 and 7000 tickets were sold.*

Three days earlier, on Tuesday 7 October, Kilvert had come down to Bath for the day with his Father and Mother, in order to go to the Abbey for the opening service of the Congress. Before returning home he went to the afternoon session where he heard papers from the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Oxford and other speakers on 'the duty of the Church with regard to strikes and labour', which was a particular theme of that year's Congress. On the following day he took an early train to Bath in order to spend the next three days at the Congress. His Aunt Marianne provided him with accommodation in her home at 9 Darlington Street. He went to two or three sessions each day in the specially erected temporary wooden building, which he described as 'the new wooden Congress Hall, admirably arranged for sound and ventilation.'

True to his usual form, the arrival of a beautiful young girl at the morning session on the Friday provided a welcome distraction from the business of the meeting and prompted some romantic musings:

An angel came into the Congress Hall and stood near the door listening. It had taken the form of a beautiful young girl in a long grey cloak and a shower of golden-brown hair. I watched her intently and as she bowed her fair head and knee at the Name of Names she assumed

exactly the attitude and appearance of the angels that overshadowed with their wings the ark and the Mercy seat.'

The last subject for debate that day was Church Music and at the conclusion of the session Kilvert went to the Assembly Rooms to attend the civic reception. Although about 3000 people were present there was apparently plenty of room to walk around the building. Kilvert was accompanied by three young ladies: Miss Armine Furlong, a cousin of the Revd Henry Dew of Whitney, Jane Dew, Henry's daughter, and a Miss Reece. They arrived at 9 o'clock and listened to the band and enjoyed light refreshments, before hearing speeches by the Bishop of Peterborough, and the Bishop of Manchester and other dignitaries. It was midnight before they left.

No visit to Bath would be complete without paying a visit to No 8 Edgar Buildings where Charles Gaine, Kilvert's dentist, lived. Kilvert regularly came to Bath to see Gaine and on the first occasion recorded in the *Diary* (6 May 1871) he wrote:

I went to Gaine's and had two teeth stopped. He had just come in from ball practice with the militia with whom he is attached. A surgeon is always required to be on the ground during ball practice. He was still in his uniform, black tunic braided, and black trousers with a narrow red stripe, and looked very soldier-like.

In December that year he was back again: *At 10.30 went to Gaine to have a tooth stopped. The tooth was so sensitive that it could only be stopped temporarily and it was necessary to destroy the nerve. Happily not long ago Gaine discovered by accident that a combination of concentrated carbolic acid and arsenious acid will destroy the nerve almost entirely without pain. He put this mixture into my tooth on a bit of cotton wool and after ten minutes' discomfort not to be called pain the nerve was destroyed and the tooth became quite easy.'*

We walked down Milsom Street, passing the site of Fortt's, the maker of the famous Bath Oliver Biscuits and for many years a renowned restaurant. Kilvert often came here for lunch with his sister Thersie. I was at a boarding school near Bath and have happy memories of sumptuous afternoon teas there with my parents during school half-terms. Sadly, the building is now a Waterstone's bookshop. After entering the Abbey Courtyard we adjourned for lunch. It was fitting that the only shower of the day took place while we were safely ensconced indoors.

After lunch we strolled down South Parade to visit the Roman Catholic Church of St John the Evangelist. On 7 September 1875, having some time to spare before yet another visit to the dentist, Kilvert decided to go into this church, which he mistakenly called the Catholic Cathedral. St John's was built by Charles Francis Hanson in 1863 and its soaring spire was added four years later. Its Decorated style was designed as a riposte to the predominantly Georgian buildings of Bath. The grandeur of the building was a sign of the new confidence of Roman Catholics in the mid-19th century, after the granting of emancipation in

1829. Completed just eight years prior to his visit, the church must have looked very impressive and Kilvert's error in thinking it to be a cathedral is understandable:

Having an hour to spare I went into the Catholic Cathedral, but at first missing the door I wandered round the pretty sunny garden bright with flowers and green turf. At a side door I met with an old woman who ... led me up a flight of steps and along a passage and opened a door softly, and suddenly I found myself in the great and beautiful Church. The sunshine streamed in through the richly-painted windows of the choir throwing the warm colours upon walls and floor, the whole place was filled with the faint sweet odour of the incense which instantly carried me a thousand miles away to some of the Churches of France and Germany and Switzerland, and before the images of our Lady and the picture and crucifix of our Lord the oil lamps burned low and faint and dim within coloured glass shades. ... I knelt in the Church and prayed for charity, unity, and brotherly love, and the union of Christendom. Surely a Protestant may pray in a Catholic Church and be none the worse.

Kilvert was obviously considerably moved by this experience and three years later, on 11 January 1878 (after another visit to the dentist!), he revisited the church:

Whilst waiting for the train I spent a quiet solemn half hour in the Roman Catholic Church.

These *Diary* comments reveal an open, reflective, spiritual side to his character which is not always apparent in his statements about Roman Catholics.

We walked on to Caroline Buildings, a terrace of late Regency houses adjoining the Kennet and Avon Canal. Several members of the Kilvert family lived here. Soon after his bankruptcy Kilvert's grandfather, Francis, with his wife and large family moved from Westgate Street to take up residence at No 7. After Thomas Kilvert's death in 1782 his widow, Elizabeth, moved to Bath and lived at No 15 until her death in 1821. In his *Memoirs*, Kilvert's father, Robert, recalled that as a small boy he regularly visited his grandmother to read to her the Psalms of the day. After Francis Kilvert's death in 1817, his wife, Anna, also came to live at No 15, where her eldest son, Francis, took in pupils before moving to larger premises for his school at Claverton House on Bathwick Hill. An uncle, Robert Falkner, described by Kilvert's father as 'a fat man with aldermanic proportions', lived at No 11.

Our next port of call was Raby Place, an elegant Georgian terrace at the foot of



St John the Evangelist RC church



No 7 Caroline Buildings. Kilvert's grandfather, Francis, moved here from Westgate Street after his bankruptcy in 1794



No 13 Raby Place, Bathwick Hill, home of Thersie and where Kilvert first saw his newborn nephew Hastings Smith in 1872

Bathwick Hill. Kilvert's sister, Thersie, and her husband, the Revd William Smith, a master at the nearby Bath Proprietary College, lived at No 13 for some years. When I booked my B&B at No 14 Raby Place I had no idea that I would be staying next door to the home of Kilvert's sister. Kilvert paid regular visits to No 13. He had lunch there on 18 May 1870, while on a day trip to see the Bath Flower Show. On 1 November 1872 he called on his sister just nine days after the birth of her first son, Hastings. He had proudly recorded the event in his *Diary* entry for 23 October: *When I reached home I heard that Thersie had a son, born this morning at 3 o'clock. Our first nephew.*

He found that his mother was staying there to assist with the nursing. Thersie was only making slow progress and had had a bad night *disturbed continually by the passing of trains under that row of houses*. Brunel's line into Bath took the railway under Raby Place in a very shallow tunnel. On the previous evening I had wondered what the rumbling sound was and in the morning looking out of my bedroom window I could see the trains passing in an open section of the tunnel. Kilvert was taken up into the nursery and shown *a fine dark-complexioned black haired boy sound asleep in his cradle*. He also stayed at Raby Place at the beginning of January 1873. There was very heavy rain of this occasion and on 3 January the morning was so gloomy that *we were obliged to have the gas lighted at breakfast at 9 o'clock*. These visits to Raby Place came to an end in August 1874 when William Smith was appointed the Rector of Monnington-on-Wye.

We then made our way to Darlington Street to see the home of Kilvert's Aunt Marianne at No 9. Marianne's husband John was an elder brother of Kilvert's father. After spending a few years at sea as a midshipman, John had settled down in Bath where he had practised as a surgeon. He died in 1861 at the age of 64. Kilvert occasionally called on his widowed aunt when he visited Bath, and he slept at her house for three nights while attending the Bath Church Congress.

On New Year's Eve 1874 Kilvert came to Bath to officiate at the marriage of his cousin Eliza (Aunt Marianne's daughter) to Frank Russell. The day was not without its problems. It was very cold with 17 degrees of frost when Kilvert left Chippenham by the 8.30 am train to Bath. Unfortunately the train was late arriving and he had to run from the station to Darlington Street and did not get there until about 9.30am. By then Eliza and her mother



In Sydney Gardens, beside the railway opened in 1841. A passer-by asked if we were a railway appreciation society

had given up hopes of his arrival and had sent for the curate of the parish. After a quick cup of coffee, the small wedding party walked across the road to St Mary's Church, Bathwick. News of the marriage had been kept very quiet and, apart from the wedding couple and Kilvert himself, there were only two other people present, Mr Gwatkin (a cousin of Kilvert's) and his daughter Maria. They came from Liverpool and Kilvert had stayed with them two years previously. The only other people in the church were Stiles the clerk and the pew-opener and his wife. Kilvert approved of his cousin's appearance. She was wearing a travelling dress of dark blue cloth trimmed with brown fur and had a dark velvet bonnet. He felt that she *looked very warm, sensible and comfortable*.

After their arrival in the church Kilvert encountered further problems:

Stiles the clerk produced a surplice that barely covered my knees. I said, 'That is a chorister's surplice.' 'No,' said the clerk, 'the clergy here are very small.' 'Then get me a cassock, Mr Walsham's will do.' 'Mr Walsham has left the parish.' The clerk however produced three cassocks all very small and struggled fiercely like a lion to get them on, but one after another cracked so ominously and tore so alarmingly that we were obliged to desist and I strode up the church before the wedding party who came pell-mell behind.

He then found that on that dark winter morning there was insufficient light for him to read the marriage service:

The morning was so dark that at first I could hardly see a word and blundered terribly till I got used to the darkness, once nearly coming to a dead stop in the miserable dark little chancel hole.

Eventually all went well, however, and the ceremony came to a fitting conclusion:

Russell was so eager to show his willingness to take Eliza for better for worse that I had scarcely asked, 'Wilt thou take this woman to be thy wedded wife?' when he burst in with great and sudden emphasis, 'I will!' Eliza looked up at him reproachfully.

Kilvert was full of praise for the way in which his cousin conducted herself:

She behaved very nicely and well all day, perfectly simple, natural, unaffected and self-unconscious. She is a right dear good girl and thoroughly deserves to be happy.

He also formed a good impression of her husband, commenting *I like what I have seen of Russell.*

It was a lovely spring afternoon as we walked round to the nearby Sydney Gardens. John Toman explained that in 1791 a scheme was formulated for the development of pleasure gardens at the end of Great Pulteney Street. The gardens were opened in 1795. The *New Bath Guide* for 1801 described the amenities

as including: 'waterfalls, stone and thatched pavilions, alcoves, a sham castle, bowling greens, swings, a labyrinth, a fine Merlin swing, a grotto of antique appearance, and four thatched umbrellas as a shelter from rains. Kilvert's grandfather, Francis Kilvert the coachbuilder, revealed his entrepreneurial spirit by contributing £100 (equivalent to £5,000 today) towards the scheme. George Stothert (related to the Kilvert family through Francis's wife Anna), also made a contribution to the project. The list of Proprietors of the gardens in 1822 includes the name of George Stothert junior. John speculated whether, but for Francis Kilvert's bankruptcy and the disaster of the bank crash, members of the Kilvert family might also have been included in the list and their subsequent clerical careers might have taken a somewhat different path.

The fine regency building at the western end of the gardens is now the Holborne Museum. In its heyday this was a hotel which provided elegant facilities for visitors to the pleasure gardens. These included coffee, tea and card rooms and a ballroom on the first floor. In the basement there was also a public house, named the Sydney Tap, for the use of coachmen, chair-men and other servants not allowed into the gardens. The building was later developed as a hydropathic establishment. Then, from 1853-1880 it was the site of the Bath Proprietary College, where Thersie's husband William was a master, and in 1916 it became the Holborne Museum.

There was a delightful feeling of peace and serenity as we strolled across the gardens in the mild spring sunshine. One could almost imagine smartly dressed waiters coming across the lawns to serve afternoon tea to Georgian ladies and gentlemen as they sat relaxing in the sun. As we lined the wall overlooking the railway, our musings were interrupted by some friendly toots from the driver of the London train, as he passed by on his way into the nearby Bath Station. A few minutes later we were serenaded once again, this time by the driver of a passing freight train. Kilvert was a great train lover and I think he would have appreciated this touch as an appropriate finale to our highly successful day in Bath. Surely it would have warranted an entry in the *Diary*.

Our thanks are due to Alan Brimson for arranging this visit and for his informed commentary as he guided us around the city. We are also grateful to John Toman for providing such detailed background on the Kilvert family's close connection with Bath and for his interesting reflections on their links with local industrialists.

I should like to record my personal thanks to Alan and John for making available to me their notes for the visit.



The other brother: Edward Kilvert at Marlborough College

JOHN TOMAN, struck by the note of almost parental affection that Francis Kilvert (b. 1840) showed for his brother Edward (b. 1849), explores the 'modern education' 'Perch' enjoyed at one of the most go-ahead schools of the day

EDWARD Kilvert's time at Marlborough College has not been studied at all and yet the fact that it was chosen for him casts much light on the Kilvert family's values. One key to the relationship between Kilvert and his brother is their respective ages. Several things stand out: Kilvert is the second oldest of the Kilvert children; Edward is the youngest and the only other brother. It's worth noting too that Dora is the second youngest – because later I shall argue that Kilvert and his two youngest siblings were especially close. Nine years separated the two boys; Edward was Kilvert's 'kid' brother and I believe he had a protective feeling for him as the baby of the family. He looks like the baby of the family in the picture we have of him.

A tenderness about his brother's childhood appears in the *Diary* entry in which Dora showed Kilvert the initials of Edward's early lovers carved on a tree in the garden at Langley Burrell vicarage. Can we detect the family's tender feeling for its youngest in the nicknames 'Teddy', 'Perch' and 'Jack'? On one occasion, Edward, Kilvert and their father were removing dead branches from an elm tree and Robert Kilvert fell backwards hitting his head. *Edward was quite frightened*, wrote the diarist with a kind of fatherly concern for the younger brother. Doing many things together was a feature

of their relationship as for example cricket. Edward played for the Langley Burrell village team and some of the occasions are recorded in the *Diary*. Kilvert seemed proud to note once that his brother scored fourteen runs. The brothers did however set up the tennis net and played together. Evidently Edward was an admirer, as his brother was, of military men. Kilvert noted in April 1871 that Edward was in Brighton for the great Volunteer Review. (The Volunteers, whose local activities Kilvert recorded, were the amateur riflemen raised in the 1860s when war with France threatened.) An early *Diary* entry shows the brothers engaged in such manly activities as playing football and (becoming boys again themselves) staging a mock battle with the Thomas boys. Religion was another thing the brothers shared. Edward's piety emerged in such simple things as dressing the Langley Church font, with Dora noticeably, for the christening of their sister Emily's baby.

Mention must be made of the Mutual Improvement Society which Kilvert set up on 11 August 1874 with Katharine Heanley and Jessie Russell as members. Edward joined the following No-

vember. Mutual Improvement Societies were established by early 19th-century radicals and secular groups among the working class and lower middle class. Their aim was to spread education and to improve society by improving the individual. Typically at each meeting one member would deliver a paper on politics, religion, ethics, science, useful knowledge, and discussion would follow. Kilvert conducted his Society by means of written questions and answers. Edward was interested in poetry because Kil-

vert bought him a copy of Coleridge's poems for his birthday on 9 November 1871. Edward invariably joined his brother in visiting art galleries in London. They usually went together to the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, to Doré's Art Gallery, as well as to theatres and International Exhibitions that mirrored industrial and technological progress. When Edward was ill in summer 1875, Kilvert stayed with him in London for a week and his concern comes through in this entry dated 10 May 1875:

I found Teddy going on pretty well, though not making rapid progress. He looks pale and delicate from want of fresh air and exercise but he has no pain and a good appetite. I was much struck on the first sight of him by the old childlike look which had come over his face with a singularly earnest and pathetic look in his eyes. He reminded me strongly of what he was as a child of 8 years old.

Again, one is struck by the note of almost parental affection in this entry as Kilvert looked back to the time when his brother was a child of 8,

when he himself was approaching full manhood at the age of 17.

One important difference between the Kilvert brothers was their education. A public school was not chosen for the diarist but it was for Edward. When Kilvert was of an age (ten or eleven) to go to a public school, he went instead to his uncle Francis's Claverton Lodge school. One reason would have been money. When Kilvert's father was vicar of Harnish, public school fees would have been impossible. A more important reason why Kilvert was not sent in 1851 to a public school concerned religion.

Public schools had been notorious for several decades for being totally irreligious institutions. However, the upper classes continued to send their sons to them because they were exclusive and fashionable. This was the Venables' case. Richard Venables, Kilvert's Clyro vicar, and his brother George were sent in March 1821 to Eton, then regarded as the most prestigious school in the country. An Eton pupil who joined the school the year the Venables left (1823) stated later that the standard of its education was 'disgraceful' (his word), but he insisted that he would send his sons there so that they could benefit from its social 'tone'. Evangelical



Edward Kilvert, who was known by the family nickname of Perch.

PICTURE: KILVERT SOCIETY COLLECTION



The Common Room at Marlborough College in 1867. G.G.Bradley, Head Master in Edward's day, is at top, middle; Horace Moule is at his feet; Handley Moule is at Horace's left hand; and the Rev. Thomas Preston, who led the College Natural History Society, is at Horace's right hand, slightly hidden by a gown; W.H.Macdonald, Edward's housemaster 1864-6, is at centre, front (with mortar board); CW Moule had left the school by 1867

PICTURE COURTESY OF MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE ARCHIVES

cal regularly attacked the school for its immorality and neglect of religion. Evangelicals valued the home, especially the religious home, as the best source of influence on individual character and morality. At public schools, masters had so little influence on boys' behaviour that boys themselves set the moral tone of their society. Two years of Eton's superior social 'tone' was quite enough for the Venables boys: their father withdrew them in 1823 but then chose Charterhouse, which, though socially a step down from Eton, was nevertheless a very fashionable school in 1823, attracting many sons of noblemen and of wealthy country gentlemen.

The conditions that prevailed at Eton and Charterhouse typified those at other English public schools, with the notable exception of Rugby School, where Dr. Arnold set out to bring morality and religion into a sphere where the law of the jungle had ruled. Many, perhaps most, clergymen were unable to afford Rugby's fees.

However, their situation was changed when, on 20 August 1843, a new public school, Marlborough College, was established, designed to provide a moderately priced education for sons of clergymen. Its rules laid down that laymen's sons were to form only one third of the pupil total. In addition, sons of clergymen paid lower fees. The fees paid by Robert Kilvert in 1861 for his son Edward were £52.10s per year; a layman's son then would have been charged £70. Edward, born 9 November 1849, was almost twelve when he became a pupil in August 1861. Kilvert knew of the school's history. On 31 March 1870, he referred to

its original site – 'the old inn'. The Castle Inn, so called because of Marlborough Castle, which was a ruin by 1403, was originally the home of the 6th Duke of Somerset. The house became the Castle Inn in 1774, and was an important stop on the London to Bath road. When the railway came to nearby Swindon in 1841, the Inn went into decline.

As a school primarily for clergymen's sons, Marlborough could not be dominated by noblemen's sons nor by the snobbery of rank. Other facts would have made it seem right for Edward Kilvert to the Kilvert parents. It was an Evangelical establishment where religion would be properly observed and encouraged. Its first headmaster was the Rev. Matthew Wilkinson, who had been at Cambridge in the time of the influential Evangelical churchman Charles Simeon, who said he'd rather see his son dead than a pupil of the Eton of his day. Wilkinson was followed by another Evangelical, the Rev. G.E.L. Cotton, who had been a master at Rugby; several other Rugby masters followed him to Marlborough. Cotton was something of a hero in Kilvert's eyes because he was reading a biography of him on 20 March 1871. After he left Marlborough in 1858, Cotton became Bishop of Calcutta where he pioneered the introduction of Christian schools. He lost his life tragically early there when he drowned in a river. Yet another Evangelical headmaster succeeded Cotton – the Rev. George Granville Bradley, the headmaster that Edward Kilvert knew. Bradley too had previously been a master at Rugby.

At this point we must pick another thread, a very significant one, in the Kilvert story. At the end of April 1874, Kilvert made a

visit to Dorset specially to meet another Evangelical, the Rev. Henry Moule of Fordington, near Dorchester. To Kilvert, Moule was a hero because of his piety, devotion to parishioners, and progressive endeavours. Kilvert called him 'a universal genius'.

The relevance of this Moule family background is that Edward Kilvert had one of Moule's sons, Charles Walter, as his housemaster at Marlborough from January 1862 until 1864. Edward spent his first three months at the school in a house specially for new boys. (The school comprised 500 boys at this time.) From January 1862, he was at C3 house – that meant the 3rd section of the original Castle Inn. Charles Walter Moule became a master at Marlborough in 1858 and left, to return to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1864. Had he not left the school then, he might have been Edward's housemaster for his entire period as a pupil. Did the Kilvert parents make a special request that Edward was put in the charge of a son of the exemplary Henry Moule? I think it highly likely that they did.

The Moule influence on and care over Edward did not end there. When Charles Walter left in 1864, two other Moule sons, Horace and Handley, joined the school staff. Several Moule sons were teachers, clergymen, or both; two were missionaries in China. Ralph Pite in his book on Thomas Hardy tells how Horace Moule, 'the cleverest in a family of clever children', was an inspiring teacher and became Hardy's teacher.

Marlborough College was a school of which the Kilvert parents could approve, to which they could entrust the youngest of their children. We need to ask, however, how it suited Edward and how it shaped him. There are signs that he struggled with the Latin and Greek of the curriculum. Boys moved up into higher forms on the basis of form work and exam performance. Edward remained in the Upper 3rd for eighteen months from January 1863 till summer 1864. Form lists for this period show him usually three quarters of the way down. In August 1864, he was moved into what was called the 'Modern School' (his form then was called Modern Lower Fourth). The 'Modern' nature of the curriculum exists in the absence of Greek, the reduction in the amount of Latin studied, the presence of such modern languages as French and German, and of a syllabus of relatively recent history. Significant also are the lessons in chemistry. Bradley, the headmaster who had come into post just before Edward became a pupil, had introduced lessons in science. The Modern School curriculum seemed to suit Edward better. A form list for the Lower Fifth shows him in third position. However, at other times he came 25th out of 30. It seems likely that the almost paternal care and sympathy Kilvert showed for his younger brother



G E L Cotton



Henry Moule



Hopewell Morrell



T A Preston

was founded partly on his awareness that he had struggled at school. Edward had, however, knowledge and skills which his elder brother made a point of recognising, which Marlborough College had helped in significant ways. It was in Edward's house that an initiative emerged from some pupils towards the founding of the Marlborough College Natural History Society, which came into being on 9 April 1864. The pupils approached a master, the Rev. Thomas Preston, who agreed to lead the Society and read numerous papers based on his own research. He had the reverential stance towards natural phenomena that Kilvert had. The pupil members of the Society also read papers, often of a very high standard. Other masters, including Handley and Horace Moule, were members. Edward's name does not appear in the lists of members but this is not significant. The Society was founded only in his penultimate year as a pupil, when he was a fifth-former and when studies were most demanding.

Edward Kilvert had considerable knowledge of natural history. The *Diary* entries that deal with what were essentially natural history field trips in mid-June 1870 were largely omitted by Plomer, but exist in the NLW edition. On 11 June, we find Edward identifying some beetles, while Kilvert stood back and admired his brother's knowledge. Kilvert commented: *Those beetles seemed to be old acquaintances of Perch who recognised them immediately as the wailing beetle of Necrophorus sepultor.* (Kilvert himself never used Latin names for fauna and flora. Edward seems to have been, much more than his brother, the formal, classifying, recording kind of naturalist.) It was Edward too who found, as Kilvert put it, *the curious circular nest of the ground bee* two days later. Edward was regularly to be found *groping* in streams in the hunt for creatures, as on 17 June when he found a crayfish. Kilvert had learned something from his brother for he commented: *I did not know there were any crayfish in the brook.* When, on another nature ramble, Edward *caught a young skylark*, just fledged, he was helped by Kilvert's friend Hopewell Morrell, a former pupil (1849-1856) of Marlborough College. The fact that Morrell employed such a good naturalist as Miss Sandell as governess indicates the depth of his natural history interest (see *Diary* vol 1, 348-9).

Diary entries concerned with Marlborough College show Kilvert looking forward to a period of better, more enlightened medical treatment based on sound knowledge. His brother Edward had been a pupil there in the 1861-1866 period when there were six deaths from scarlet fever. (60,000 people in Britain died from it in 1863-4.) Kilvert knew that the College's earlier history was marked by outbreaks: *How they do get it... The place never seems free of it*, he remarked on 31 March 1870, when the College was once more in its grip, adding *Now they have*

60 cases, 3 deaths, and the school entirely broken up for the time. Bad drains were often seen as the cause of the disease and those who installed them were ignorant of requirements to ensure they were safe.

Kilvert would have been anxious for Edward's safety while he was at Marlborough. Pupils died from scarlet fever in every year but two that Edward was in residence, with no less than three deaths in 1864. Sir John Simon, adviser on public health to the Privy Council, was very despondent in his 1869 Report about controlling the disease. Because, he wrote, 'not even the best medical skill' could cure it, he felt 'almost humiliation in having to advise about it'; how it developed 'is far beyond our positive knowledge'.

It is time to underline the themes of this account. I have emphasised that Kilvert had a concern for his younger brother verging on the paternal. He would have worried over the danger from scarlet fever that threatened at Marlborough. The chances that a child who contracted it would die were very high; fatality rates sometimes exceeded 30%. However, between 1861 and 1891, deaths from it declined by 81%. Kilvert would have worried too over Edward's scholastic progress at Marlborough. Only four years after he had left the College, and was making his way as a clerk in the Inland Revenue, Kilvert wrote with satisfaction, and even perhaps some relief: *Perch gives a good account of his own position in the Inland Revenue which he considers now to be safe and he thinks he will shortly have an increase of salary.* On 20 February 1873, Kilvert visited Edward's office in the Legacy Duty department of Somerset House. Edward must have been a man of some determination because he rose to be head clerk of that department. The 1881 Census shows him living at 37 Nicoll Road, Willesden in London.

Edward was able to use his determination and his natural history knowledge to control a troublesome member of his staff, whom he declined to reprimand. He



From top, two views of the Castle Inn, which formed the nucleus of Marlborough College; the part of College called C3, where Edward boarded; No 37 Nicoll Road, Willesden, where Edward later lived (PHOTOS C3 AND No 37 © JOHN TOMAN)

had become an expert on reptiles and took one of his pet snakes to the office and placed it on his desk visible to his staff. The awkward member of staff from whom Edward wanted more respect, was especially terrified of the snake and caused no further trouble.

I have drawn attention to what I believe was a particularly close relationship between Kilvert, Edward and Dora in the area of natural history. It seems that Dora was often a companion of her brothers on nature rambles. It was also she who accompanied Edward and Mrs. Kilvert on their July 1875 Isle of Wight holiday, which involved seeing natural phenomena. Much can be learnt of the outlook of the Kilverts from their decision to send Edward to Marlborough College with its Evangelical ethos and its favouring of natural history and science, studies which were used to foster reverence for God's world. The picture I have presented of Edward, so significantly shaped by Marlborough, is that of the Victorian muscular Christian: sporty, manly, practical, and proud.

The over-riding impression one gets of the relationship between Kilvert and Edward is of the affection the older brother felt for the younger, epitomised by the Diary entry for 31 March 1875 when Edward left Langley Burrell to return to London: 'It was rather a sad evening,' the diarist wrote. The same sadness overwhelmed him on 7 August 1874 when he recorded: 'This evening Teddy left us, to our great regret'. It is at moments like these that Kilvert's Diary reads like a novel. In recommending it to people who don't know it, I often say that at times it resembles fiction because it is about relationships, about people's development, contains major and minor characters, is full of drama, comedy, pathos, tension, conflict and tragedy. It is composed of the stories of people's lives.

The story of the two Kilvert brothers is one of those stories.

The writer gratefully acknowledges assistance from Terry Rogers, Archivist at Marlborough College



I can hear that wagon coming down loaded with oats

The world around Clyro that the Diarist knew still continues in many ways through family links and land holdings. Here, EVA MORGAN, of Peterchurch, herself born a Watkins, shares her discoveries about the Watkins families of Clyro

HESTER (sometimes Hesther or Esther) Lloyd of Lower Cwmgwannon, Clyro, who was probably born there, certainly in Clyro, in or about 1799, married in c1828 William Watkins who was born in Llanigon c1792. Hester's mother, Anne was still alive aged 80 in 1841, living at Lower Cwmgwannon, with her sons, John and George (who were probably twins) and Thomas and their sister, Anne. The twins and Anne were still there in 1861 but I found no more record of Thomas, except three possible death dates registered in Hay district, all for Thomas Lloyd born 1808, April 1877, April 1880 and July 1886. Maybe one of these was our Thomas.

William and Hesther must have lived in Llanigon for the first few years of their marriage as both their first two children, William and Mary Ann were born in that parish. By c1835 they were living at Crosvillog, Clyro, where their younger son, James was born. William must have died between 1851 and 1861 when Hesther, a widow, was still at Crosvillog with her three unmarried children. By 1871 James, still unmarried and aged 34, was farming at Crosvillog, with a widow, 65-year-old Anne Bevan, as his housekeeper, and a live-in farm servant, 21-year-old John Prothero. I found nothing more of John or Mary except her possible death registered as Mary Watkins so probably unmarried, in Hay district, January quarter 1882.

William had taken as his bride in 1865, Anne Gwilliam, the widowed daughter of David and Elizabeth Herring of Penforrest, Clyro. Anne had married in 1850, John Gwilliam, of Lower Lloyney, Clyro and was recorded there as his wife and with his parents, in 1851. Sadly John died in 1860 aged about 33 years old, leaving Anne, a 28-year-old widow, with 5 young children, 3 sons and 2 daughters. She returned to her home at Lower Lloyney and is shown in the 1861 Census as housekeeper to her aging parents and her brother, John. With her were her two little girls, Elizabeth, aged 4 and Eliza Mary, 6 months, who may have been born after her father's death. Anne's 3 boys, John, 9 years old, Thomas, 7, and David, 6, were with their paternal grandfather, John Gwilliam, now aged 65, a widower and retired farmer

(one suspects he, like Anne, had come on hard times), all born at Clyro and said to be visitors, (maybe lodgers) at Travellers Rest, Llyswen (the inn is no longer there, unless under another name, The Griffin being the only inn in that village nowadays) with Elizabeth Newby, aged 57, born at Llanstephan, Innkeeper and three servants and three more visitors. John and Ann Gwilliam, senior were born at Newchurch but their son, John, Anne's late husband, was born at Llanstephan, as was Elizabeth Newby, so maybe they were relatives?

So in 1871 we find William and Anne at Lower Cwmgwannon, with her reunited family (except David who was a farm servant at Pendre, Llanbedr, the home of Kilvert's *Mayor of Painscastle*), their 3 new daughters, Emily, Catherine and Jane, aged 6, 4 and 1, his uncles, John and George and his mother, now aged 79 years, a full house indeed.

In July 1871 Robert Francis Kilvert (who had arrived as Curate in Clyro in 1865) mentions, in his *Diary* meeting John Lloyd who told him *his sister, Mrs Watkins, had gone mad and was living with them at Cwmgwannon and they did not know what to do*

with her. There follows a description of her illness and on September Eve, Kilvert went to see *the old mad woman, Mrs Watkins.* The only mention Kilvert makes of the large family we presume were living there with William and his mother is that *they sent up into the oatfield for her son, but I had waited nearly an hour before the oatladen wagon came creaking and swaying and sweeping the hedge along the edge of a brow high above the house and then down a steep rough path into the rickyard. The womenfolk of the house were unloading the oats....*

Hesther, who appears to have had a dementia, probably died, her death being recorded in Hay district in October quarter, 1871 aged 72.

Clara, another daughter for William and Anne, was born at Clyro in 1874, and sometime before 1881 the family moved to Dolward, Turnastone, in Herefordshire's Golden Valley. The Gwilliam girls had left home, probably they had gone into service in the houses of the gentry as did so many farmers' daughters

No. 309.	John Williams Great Llanigon	September 2 nd 1871	62	R. F. Kilvert Curate
No. 310.	Caroline Whiting Village	October 5 th 1871	10	R. F. Kilvert Curate
No. 311.	Richard Clark Cwmpelred Green	October 8 th 1871	80	R. F. Kilvert Curate
No. 312.	Esther Watkins Llanigon Cwmgwannon	November 1 st 1871	72	R. F. Kilvert Curate

Kilvert's Clyro register records the burial of Esther (Hester) Watkins, Cwmgwannon, in 1872



Lower Cwmgwannon in 1969, the home of the Lloyds and Watkinses in the 1870s. Jean and Tony Carter gave the picture to Eva, who writes: 'As Jean said, apart from the renewed galvanized roofs very little will have changed in the previous 100 years. The long barn across from the house has been converted into a house. I must say as we approached in my friend's car I could hear the wagon loaded with oats coming down round the steep bend above the house as described so well by RFK.'

then. John Lloyd was still alive and with them, but his brother George had almost certainly died. Neither the Lloyd brothers nor William and Anne, who died in 1890 and 1892, are buried at Turnastone, they were probably taken back to the family plot at Clyro.

By 1901 only David Gwilliam, Clara and Jane Watkins, were still at Dolward. In 1904 Clara married Tom Powell of Michaelchurch Eskley and in *Kelly's Directory* of 1909 he was listed as the farmer. They both died fairly young, leaving a large family, some of whom remained at Dolward until the late 1950s.

Anne's cousins, the Herrings were at Cothill, an adjoining farm, all of which are much mentioned in the book on Turnastone Parish, recently published by the Golden Valley Studies Group. David married Martha Prothero of Llanigon in spring, 1905 but they had no children, lived and are buried at Dorstone.

In May 1905 Jane married Arthur Watkins, from The Cornel (or sometimes Corner) Farm, St Margarets, a neighbouring farm to Dolward. They had two sons, Thomas (Arthur) in 1906 and (David) George in 1908, my father. He married Margaret Morgan, formerly of Old House, Bredwardine, in 1941 and I was born to them in 1942 to be followed by my sister, (Georgina) Mary in 1944.

In 1912 when my father was aged 4, Jane and Arthur had moved to another farm, Penlan, Peterchurch, adjoining Dolward on the far boundary, as tenants of the Urishay Castle estate, buying the farm and other land with a ruined cottage, called Castle Cwm, in 1919 on the dissolution of the estate. Jane became blind and died at Penlan in 1935. Arthur had earlier inherited Oxpastures Farm, Marden, from his father and two unmarried brothers and died there in 1941.

Jane and Arthur's great-grandson, (my elder son) David Morgan and his wife, Helen, (née Davies of Knill, near Prestiegne) have farmed at Penlan from 1999 to the present day, following Arthur and Jane, who farmed it from 1912 to 1941, my father

and mother, 1941 to 1961, and my husband, Brian Morgan (of Snodhill Court, Dorstone, famous for the Kilvert picnic, still farmed by Brian's brother, Elwyne, his wife and sons), and myself, from 1961 to 1999.

Visiting at Dolward in 1881 were Anne's sister Eliza Watkins and her son Thomas. Eliza but not Thomas was also recorded at home, which was by now at Gwernalwy, in Llowes parish, but just off the Clyro to Paincastle road going up towards the Beggwins. Eliza Herring, Anne's sister, had married, in 1856, into another Watkins family of Clyro, marrying Richard, son of James and Esther Watkins of Crossfoot.

In the Census record for 1871 James, aged 70, was at Crossfoot with (obviously his second) wife Margaret, aged 45, Edmund 14, Eleanor 12 and Martha 7.

Kilvert mentions in April 1872 *that miser, curmudgeon and villain and beast, Watkins of Cross Foot, son-in-law of old Price who is in a miserable state, and has left him to his fate and will not let his wife come near her father or help him in any way. The Lord reward him according to his works.*

A few days before this Kilvert had *hurried up to Cross Foot to consult Mrs Watkins about her father, old Price, who is lying ill in his wretched hovel in a most filthy state of dirt and vermin with no one to look after him. She promised to do what she could but said her husband, old Watkins, would not have her father to stay in his house, where she might see to him, nor would he permit her to give her father anything if he knew of it. Who knows how he may have treated both his wives! In March 1871 Kilvert called at Cross Foot and the sick child Martha sat immovable in a low chair staring at the fire like an image.*

In December 1871 he visited *the sick woman at Cross Foot Mary Price, (probably Margaret's mother or sister) cowering before a roaring fire. She described to him seeing what she obviously thought was an angel in such a strange weird way that I felt uncomfortable.*



Monnington smiles

What started as a fundraiser for the local church turned into a venue for our Commemoration Service and a memorable meal. VAL DIXON and CHARLES BOASE report

AS WE gathered near the stable yard of Monnington Court for our outing in June, we were treated to a sight that would have been familiar to Francis Kilvert. The current owner of the Court, John Bulmer, came speeding down the Monnington Mile in a little carriage drawn by a single blinkered pony. The Diarist would surely have been lost in admiration at the carriage's superb engineering, rear disc brakes and all, *writes Charles Boase.*

Forty-three members responded to an invitation to make a change from our usual picnicking outing, to be entertained to lunch in aid of the Monnington Church restoration fund. But this was no ordinary lunch. For a start it was being held in The Chase, which in Kilvert's time was the Rectory where his brother-in-law William Smith was the Rector when Kilvert was at Bredwardine, and the cook was the well-known chef Bill Sewell. He owns The Chase with his partner Sarah Girling, whose idea it was – she is after all the treasurer of the church.

We spread out across five rooms at The Chase for lunch, from the light-stone flagged kitchen with its pink-wash walls, through to the magnificent drawing room, the tables dressed with meadow flowers and we were beautifully waited upon by the two children of the house.

During the meal, Alan Brimson read the Diary entry (20 April 1876) about Kilvert's misery at Monnington after he had received his farewell letter from Ettie Brown; and Val Dixon read from the account of Essex Hope, one of the Smiths' children, of their idyllic childhood at Monnington and how it suddenly ended.

Lunch was mustard and thyme roast chicken with new potatoes and summer salad followed by Edna's apple and blackberry pie with cream (Edna is a neighbour) and coffee. It was a feast. Alan's short, warm speech of thanks spoke for us all.

About half of those at the lunch followed it with a walk to Brobury Scar along the Monnington Mile. This avenue of Scots pines and yews planted to celebrate the election to Parliament in 1641 of Sir Thomas Tomkyns, the owner of Monnington Court, seemed to Kilvert *a vast and solemn Cathedral aisle* (23 April 1876) – echoes of his visit to Hawkchurch, where *the lime avenue looked more like a vast church than ever* (11 August 1871).

Val Dixon writes: "The party of twenty five or so members sauntered up Monnington Walk in several small groups, chatting and admiring the tall Scotch firs which bordered the sides. One tree having a very odd branch formation which looked for all the world as though a monkey was swinging in it. The weather was kind and although the sky at times looked threatening no rain fell to mar the afternoon. Once into the trees at the end of the grass walk, however, it became muddy under foot and care was needed



Top, Alan Brimson reads from the Diary outside the old rectory. Above, members enjoy their lunch at The Chase, prepared by Bill Sewell, middle, with his daughter waitressing



Monnington Milers' set off after lunch. The Court is behind them

to avoid slipping or even falling into the numerous puddles. Before long a clearing on the left of the path gave access to Brobury Scar and members were able to see down to the Wye far below.

To avoid the mud on the return journey Colin Dixon led the party through fields and back onto the grassy track. As we approached the end of the walk a cuckoo was heard making his lone call. The first cuckoo this year said several people. Yet another fine Kilvert afternoon.

Charles writes: The next day, St John's Day, we returned to Monnington for our Commemoration Service. Michael Sharp introduced the priest, Prebendary Bob King, whose group of parishes is centred on Weobley, as a worthy successor to Francis Kilvert's brother-in-law. In welcoming us, Bob joked that only the Kilvert Society could start an afternoon service with the hymn, *When Morning Gilds the Skies*.

Jeff Marshall read the Lesson, from the first letter to Timothy (fight the good fight) and Bob led prayers of thanks "for the opportunity to celebrate in this beautiful part of the world.

Shunning the 16thc pulpit (which, incidentally, still had a little printed prayer card for 'thy servants our King and our Queen, at this time, from all perils by sea and by land, and so prosper their journey that it may tend to the increase of good-will among the peoples of India') Bob spoke in his sonorous voice of Francis Kilvert's dedication to his mission.

The challenge today, he said, of communicating the faith to a new generation, is the same as it was for Kilvert. He spoke about a choir of Traveller children he had got going, children who were naturally 'outsiders', and said: "The welcome, the delivery, and the feeling valued – the valuing is what comes through[Kilvert's] Diary. That is how we will continue this society – and others."

Then Bob threw out a challenge to the Kilvert Society, for 'each one of you to go into your local school to tell them about Francis Kilvert'.



The Chase (formerly Monnington Rectory) a century ago and today

He concluded on a happy, personal note. He said it was eighteen-and-a-half years since the Bishop of Hereford, John Oliver, had admitted him as a deacon and he was pleased now to see him in the congregation at our Commemoration Service.

After the service, we returned to The Chase for a tea of homemade cream tea. It was a delightful way to end a most successful weekend – but the best news of all was that we helped to raise nearly £1,000 for the church. Our thanks go to our kind hosts.



COLIN BROOKES offers some 'Idle thoughts of an Idle Fellow' (with a nod to Jerome K.) after the Monnington service

THREE matters raised on the Sunday at Monnington:

1. Did Kilvert have access to maps in order to find his way around?
2. At Monnington, is the harmonium the one that Kilvert recalled in his Diary?
3. *Hark, Hark My Soul*, tune *Pilgrim*: how sure am I that it was the actual tune known to Kilvert?

First the second, the harmonium in Monnington Church. Sadly it has medallions on the keyboard about London 1890, making it too late for Kilvert.

Kilvert and maps. I airily stated that Kilvert would not have access to Ordnance Survey maps as they were not on public sale. Alas, I would have been right before 1820, but by Kilvert's time the one inch was widely available and we can be sure that he embraced them. Indeed I have a modern facsimile of a map

which would have been familiar to Kilvert. So, wrong again! (Old Series 1830-33. New series not until 1877. 1840-1877 one inch available.)

The hymn tune is interesting, not at all popular and does not appear in modern hymn books. Where it did in older editions, there are some three tunes listed in various hymn books in my collection and the oldest (about 1900) lists two tunes, one by J B Dykes (set) and the second tune is *Pilgrim* by Henry Smart. However I was able to check the contents of the first *Ancient and Modern* hymn book of 1868 (actually published 1871) which would be contemporary with Kilvert, and there the hymn has only one tune set, yes it is *Pilgrim*, by Smart.

Annabelle Brown (pictured above) is spot on as you would expect. Well done!



Bredwardine throws open its doors

The Almighty must like Bredwardine parish. In a summer of seemingly unending rain, St Andrew's Church enjoyed the finest weekend of the year for a fundraising festival in which our Society was invited to play its part.

ALAN BRIMSON and DAVID HARRISON were there

There was much laughter and clapping in Bredwardine Village Hall at the showing of the 'Kilvert Society 1948' film launching the fundraising weekend for St Andrew's Church when a man in his 70s identified himself as one of the choirboys at the Society's inaugural service, writes Alan Brimson.

This caused much mirth as the film was stopped on the relevant frame and he came out of the audience to point himself out. The film was restarted, stopped and restarted yet again too much cheering as the aged choirboy revelled in his long lost past.

So the weekend at the end of May kicked off on a high note, as the audience left the hall amidst much chatter and good humour.

David Harrison writes: Saturday, 26 May, must have been one of the hottest days of the year with temperatures hitting 27C. But inside a cool St. Andrew's Church, the cut flowers were amazingly attractive with bright colours lit by the warm sunshine streaming in through the windows and the open porch.

Thirty-three members and friends heard Alan Brimson give his Talk on 'Francis Kilvert's Life in Bredwardine'. Much of the narrative was, of course, familiar, but its very familiarity was welcoming and even comforting.

After a Ploughman's lunch in the Bredwardine Village Hall, resplendent in red curtains and a close boarded floor, it was time for a necessitous call to the Red Lion.

The afternoon's Walk drew forty-four so-called walkers, some geared as if for Everest. Alan had the unenviable task of leading and shepherding and generally co-ordinating this assorted crew around the village.

First port of call was next door to the Red Lion, The Cottage (now renamed Bredwardine Hall). Here the current owner, Ray Harberd, with excellent Father Christmas style beard, explained that this was once home to the Newton family and their many servants. Externally the huge cedar dominated and rose from a dilapidated goose-grass lawn. Indoors, Ray had replaced various mouldings, window frames and door covers. He rejoiced in the restored 19th century splendour, complete with original shutters. It dated from 1855 certainly, but probably earlier, and Kilvert had been a frequent dinner guest.

Next, uphill to the Bredwardine School (1822), much visited by Kilvert who taught Scripture and got to know the children well. Closed in 1969, it is now a private home.

Crossing the six-arched Bredwardine Bridge (1764), once a toll bridge and survivor of many tremendous floods which brought the Wye over the bridge, carrying packs of ice, dead cattle and

sheep. Today, two plaques, one in the field next to the bridge and the other on the parapet itself records a seventeen year old who lost his life in recent memory when he drowned in shallow water.

One of the many joys of Kilvert Society outings is that signs proclaiming PRIVATE, NO PUBLIC ACCESS are of no account. Brobury House Gardens were all ours, with wisteria, lilac and clematis in abundance. The views from the terrace were lovely. Sadly, Kilvert did not know the present house as it was built in 1881.

Finally, The Vicarage, rebuilt in 1805 to replace a 13th century construction, it was sold into private ownership in 1959. In Kilvert's incumbency the kitchen garden was on the opposite bank making extra work for his five servants. Overall, The Vicarage is a strange amalgam of styles, but commands a splendid site with extensive vistas.

After we had trekked over Bredwardine in terrific heat the ladies of St. Andrew's Church provided a most welcoming cream tea from an out building in the grounds of the Vicarage. I found Alan much enjoying his refreshing cuppa, as well he might, as the organisation of two groups over

a three-day event had been outstanding and his contribution magnificent.

Alan writes: On Sunday 27 May St. Andrew's Church was the setting for a Kilvert themed family service which many of our members attended. The children of the village took the major part of the service reading extracts from Kilvert's Diary.

The hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy* was sung along with *My God my Father, Eternal Father strong to save, Sun of my soul* and *Lead us heavenly Father*.

On Sunday afternoon the proceedings were brought to a happy conclusion when our Vice Chairman Michael Sharp gave a talk on Kilvert's life and the *Diary* in general, as opposed to Saturday's talk which had concentrated of Francis Kilvert's time in Bredwardine, his marriage and death.

Michael's address, to a sizeable audience, was well received.

The weekend was blessed with typical Kilvertian weather, sunshine all the way, and proved to be a great success, well supported by both society members and parishioners alike.

Val and Colin Dixon brought along the Society publications to sell and there was a display of Kilvert related material in the Church.

The Society's efforts and support was very much appreciated by the PCC and re-established and strengthened the link between the parish and the society.

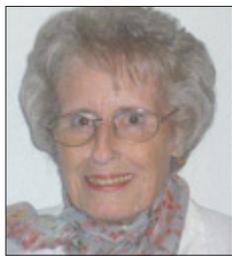


The Cottage, where the Newton sisters lived PICTURE: DAVID HARRISON

1894. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucester								
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
58	Nov 15 1894	Ambrose Valentine	69	Widower	Major	Milverton Leamington	Thomas Valentine	Clerk in Holy Orders
		Thersie Mary Smith	55	Widow	--	20 Royal Parade.	Robert Kilvert	Clerk in Holy Orders
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence or after _____ by me.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		Ambrose Valentine Thersie Mary Smith		in the Presence of us,		Mrs. Severn Burrell Florence M. Smith Catharine Valentine		William F. Hutchinson John S. C.

A terrible tale... above, Thersie marries Ambrose Valentine ... below, the record in the Register of Ambrose's death by suicide the very next day

277	Retired Major of the Austrian Army	Ambrose Valentine	Male	69 years	Retired Major of the Austrian Army	Suicides by throwing himself from a bedroom window during temporary insanity	George F. W. Brown	James Goughly	November 16 1894
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Thersie and the retired major in the Austrian Army

Hours of painstaking research in old newspapers produced some information that was so shocking and sensitive TERESA WILLIAMS kept it secret for years. Here she finally shares what she discovered

The Editor writes: It is one of the joys of our Society that after so much study Francis Kilvert and his circle are still capable of throwing up surprises.

In the last *Journal*, Margaret Collins wrote of her quest to find out who the Mrs Valentine was who Kilvert's widow mentioned in her will. Her belief that this could only refer to Kilvert's sister Thersie (Thermuthis) was confirmed when she read a *Newsletter* article of 1979 by the Society's late Secretary Edward West (Members who happen not to have kept their old *Newsletters* as carefully as Margaret will be pleased to know that the whole series should be available on our website within a few months).

Now comes another surprise, a real shocker, and one that takes the story of Thersie a lot farther forward.

It is a tragic tale that Teresa Williams came across a while ago while researching Kilvert at the British Library's Newspaper Library at Colindale, north London (she has been a fixture in the reading room for 33 years), but which she felt was possibly too sensitive for publication.

Teresa Williams writes: It is now 90 years since Thersie died (21 March 1922) and I would hope that no descendant would be distressed by the circumstances. I also think that as Thersie was sister to the Diarist the details might be of interest to members of the Society.

The Editor writes: What put Teresa on the trail of the reports on the death of Thersie's husband, Major Ambrose Valentine (carried overleaf) came about by sheer coincidence. She had been visiting Salt Lake City, Utah, to do research at the Latter Day Saints' Library. There, on the same microfilm as she had found the letter from the Rev-

erend Samuel Ashe about a bassoon for Langley Burrell Church (see *Journal* 32 Notes) were the contents of some West Sussex church registers.

Teresa writes: Idly looking at the Baptism Register for Cocking Church, I saw an entry for an Ambrose Valentine and then a Memoir by his father. The Reverend Thomas Valentine wrote about his own career, his marriage and the birth of nine children, but the interesting part was the details of Ambrose's career in the Austrian Army.

Remembering that Thersie's death certificate said she was the widow of an Ambrose Valentine, a retired Major in the Austrian Army, I checked for their marriage, after finding the death of his first wife, Catherine, in October 1893. The marriage of Ambrose and Thersie was easy to find, but Ambrose's death was not.

My search went into the 20th century without success. Eventually, as a last check, I looked at the year of their marriage, 1894, and was astonished to find he had died the day after the ceremony.

On my return to England I obtained his death certificate but it was only a couple of years ago whilst at the Newspaper Library that I decided to check for an Inquest report.

FOOTNOTE: The Colindale Newspaper Library is due to close in June next year (*writes Teresa*). Many of the newspapers covering the areas in which FK lived, worked and travelled are being sent into permanent storage in West Yorkshire.

Unfortunately, many of these papers have not been micro-filmed because of 'cuts' in the past ten years so it is a race against time. I have been increasing my efforts to find out any more information on Kilvert, especially any mention of him during the 'Missing Diary' period of 28 June 1876 to 31 December 1877.

From the Leamington Advertiser and Warwickshire Observer

Thursday 22 November 1894

MARRIAGE:

On the 15th November 1894 at Cheltenham, a marriage took place between Major Ambrose VALINTINE and Mrs Thermuthis SMITH.

DEATH:

On the 16th November 1894 at Malvern, Major Ambrose VALINTINE

In Major VALENTINE'S (sic) death Leamington loses another of its well known faces, and one which it can ill-afford. His genial presence and soldierly figure – the courteous, though old-fashioned salute so familiar to us – will be long remembered.

Perhaps his best epitaph, however, will exist in the sense of loss which his departure occasions among the poorest and most forlorn of the inmates of the Warwick Union [house]. Regardless of close rooms and unpleasant surroundings, he made a practice, as one of the Guardians, of visiting, with words of hope and comfort, the bedside of many a wretched tramp and outcast.

Tragic Death of Major Valintine:

A Fatal Leap Through Window:

A Curious Dream

Today it is our sad duty to record the tragic suicide of one of Leamington's best known residents – the tragic end of a soldier, who had on more than one occasion faced death on the battle field, and who held a Cross for bravery in the Austrian Army. It is now exactly thirteen months since the deceased gentleman lost his wife and on Thursday last at Cheltenham, he took unto himself a second partner, who was no sooner a wife than she was placed in the sorrowful position of a widow. Judging by appearances, Major Valintine was one of the last men in the world with a tendency towards suicidal mania. He was not weighed down by poverty, and so far as is known – he was not troubled, domestic or otherwise, with that which would render life unpleasant, If he had a secret, he

has taken it with him to the grave. It is a trite reminder that 'all human kind are sons of sorrow born.'

The facts in regard to Major Valintine's death are painfully simple. It is only a few days since he left Leamington on a visit to some friends at Malvern. After a brief stay there, he travelled to Cheltenham, where, as stated above, he was married to a widow lady, somewhat his junior. It is said that he had been in a depressing (sic) state for several months, in fact, ever since the death of his first wife a year ago. Whether this statement be true or not we have ascertained that the deceased was apparently in good health and spirits when he and his wife reached Malvern on Thursday afternoon, the 15th instant. Of course, it is just possible that he may have been brooding over some real or imaginary trouble which was known to himself only, and which in the end, drove him to commit the rash act. That he had determined to take his life was clear. The facts show that after unsuccessfully trying to strangle himself in the temporary absence of his wife from the bedroom he jumped a distance of some 35 feet through the bedroom window. On returning to the room, after waiting breakfast for the deceased, Miss Valintine (his daughter), to her horror, saw her father lying on the lawn in front of the house, dead. Death must have been instantaneous. Deceased, who for many years resided in [4] Heath Terrace, was the Milverton representative on the Warwickshire Board of Guardians and he was intimately associated with the Church of St Mark's at Milverton, as well as with several religious and philanthropic institutions in the town. He was a keen sportsman and enjoyed shooting rights over a large farm at Lillington.

The Inquest

MAJOR AMBROSE VALINTINE

On Saturday an inquest was held before Mr G F S BROWN (Deputy-Coroner) at Saint James' House, Malvern touching the death of Major Ambrose Valintine, aged 69 years, a retired Officer of the Austrian Army, who served in the Hungarian War, but who had retired from the Army some 20 years ago. The deceased was brother-in-law to Mr John Severn BURROW, Wine Merchant, Saint James' House, Malvern, where he had been on a visit. The evidence of Mr Burrow was to the fact that for the last month or so the deceased had been suffering from a

cold and a great amount of nervous depression, He had been regularly attended by Dr Otho Francis WYER of Leamington upon whose recommendation the deceased came to Malvern for a change of air, but he did not seem to improve, being always very anxious and nervous in the daytime but better and brighter in the evening. The death of the deceased's first wife a year ago had been a great blow to him and he had never seemed to recover from it. An old friend, Dr MARRIOTT from Reading saw him recently and knowing that he was to be married on the Thursday following, had advised that the marriage should take place as it might be of benefit to him.

Witness went with deceased to Cheltenham on Thursday the 15th instant, where he was married to a lady, a very old friend of the deceased, who was anxious to marry him, saying that she had promised to do so when he was well and would reproach herself for not doing so when he seemed most to need her services. After the marriage was over the party returned to Saint James' House, Malvern to stay the night. On his return the deceased seemed very bright and happy over the event which had taken place that day.

In the morning his wife came down first to breakfast, but her husband did not follow. The deceased's daughter, a young lady of about 20 years, went to the bedroom and soon returned stating that she did not find her father there, but on looking through the window, which was open, she saw him lying face downwards on the lawn, having fallen from the window. Witness went to deceased and sent for Dr PIKE, who came immedi-

ately, but life was extinct. Witness had never heard deceased threaten to take his life, but deceased told him on Saturday that he had dreamed a horrible dream, to the effect that he had taken his own life. This, he said, made a deep impression upon him; he felt so nervous when he came to shave himself he was obliged to thrust the razor from him lest he should be tempted to do himself an injury. Witness spoke to him seriously and begged him to dismiss the thought from his mind and asked for the razors and anything else he had with which he might do any injury to himself. This he did willingly and from that time until Wednesday last, witness slept in the deceased's room. Witness tried to persuade both the deceased and the lady not to marry. The deceased complained of pains in his head and made the remark that he was no use to anyone.

Dr Marriott was told of these things and so was the lady who married the deceased – the Coroner said the deceased's wife was in a very painful position and he did not think it necessary to call her as a witness. Miss C Valentine detailed her visit to the room and what she saw. Dr Pike said he saw blood on the rockery under the window and that the deceased had sustained a severe fracture at the skull's base, which was the cause of death.

Dr Wyer also gave evidence of the deceased's depression and had advised against the marriage, but without success. There was nothing organically wrong with the deceased.

The Jury return a Verdict of *Suicide during Temporary Insanity*.

The Memoir of the Rev Thomas Valentine, Rector of Cocking, West Sussex, is written in a difficult copperplate and Teresa has done brilliantly to transcribe it.

It recounts how Thomas Valentine married Anne Charlotte West on 3 December 1816 and they had nine children (five sons). '... of these Ambrose [fifth child and third son, born 1825] and Edward [sixth child] entered in 1847 the Service of his Imperial and Royal Majesty, the Emperor of Austria and in the War with Charles Albert, then of Sardinia and the Rebellion of 1848, Ambrose being a Cadet in the Distinguished Service by God's mercy greatly acquitted himself and at the great and decisive Battle of [] obtained the great Gold Medal for Bravery, and was made Lieutenant by Field Marshal Radetsky, shortly after which the Governor of [], General Gorskowski, appointed him First Lieutenant in his Regiment the Cuirassian quartered then in Hungary, and in which he served during the Rebellion with much distinction and on the 3rd of June 1853 was promoted to the Rank of Captain (Rittmeister) in a very gratifying manner, the Colonel telling him he had earned his promotion by his good conduct. Edward, also a Cadet, was promoted to be a Lieutenant after the great Battle of Novara in Piedmont in

the 43rd Baron Gapper Regiment of Infantry. Francis James [fifth son] who entered the same Regiment in 1852 as a Cadet is now a Corporal therein – God grant he may soon obtain his promotion for Jesus Christ's sake!

'... I should have mentioned in the proper place that during the conflict years 1848 and 1849 in the Campaign of Italy and Hungary, my son Ambrose was engaged in thirteen pitched battles besides numerous skirmishes in which a merciful God preserved him. Thanks be to Him for His great mercies and loving kindnesses to my dear Family and myself through Jesus Christ our Father. Amen.'

The Rev Thomas Valentine died aged 70 in 1859. His wife predeceased him in 1855, aged 54. Her children's births spanned the years 1817 to 1836.

Major Valentine died intestate. A Grant of Administration was given to his son, also called Ambrose (he had a brother and a sister), a Mechanical Engineer. Effects totalled £2,123 12s 9d.

The Times of 24 March 1922 recorded the death on 21 March in London of Thermuthis Mary, widow of Major Ambrose Valentine, aged 82 years.

'She is right and I have been, alas, very very wrong'

After discussing the Diarist's love for Fanny Thomas in the last Journal, SHEILA JONES concludes her article on an Alternative View of Francis Kilvert's Courtships with an insightful examination of his affairs with Katherine Heanley and Ettie Meredith Brown

Katherine Heanley (part I)

ABOUT this courtship there is much that is uncertain as the *Diary* entries are sparser and shorter than those about Fanny.

'Kathleen Mavourneen' is the name associated in the *Diary* with Katie Heanley, daughter of Marshall Heanley, a well-to-do Lincolnshire farmer, whom he met at the wedding of his second cousin Addie Cholmeley in Findon in August 1874 (III/60-68) and with whom he records falling in love at first sight. The assumption has been that there was significance to him in the line *it may be for years or it may be for ever* that they will be parted, a foreboding that this love affair will have no more successful an outcome than his earlier ones. This, of course, both confirms and perpetuates a view of Kilvert as a man who suffered a sense of rejection in love.

But look instead at the poem he wrote around the time of the wedding as a gift to the bride, which was never published but has been printed in the booklet *Kilvert's 'Kathleen Mavourneen'*¹⁴. In the section entitled 'The Bridesmaids' he extols Katie Heanley as *Sweet*

Kathleen Mavourneen, the flower of the lowland...../The pride of Kesteven, the glory of Holland.... In the following verse, the name and adjective is repeated but joined with that of Eileen Aroon, a reference to Katie's sister Ellen and the title of another song. The words bear no appropriateness to Kate's sister.

The next verse reads: *Here's a toast to the beauty of Annie Mavourneen/And Jessie Acuthla and Ella Ma Chree.* The words 'mavourneen', 'acuthla' (more usually 'acushla' – a mistranscription has crept in here) and 'machree' are Anglicised forms of Irish terms of endearment for women; they have no significance when attached to these particular women. The last two are translated as "pulse of my heart" in the song *Cushla Machree*, which starts *O Erin my country*.

It looks as if Kilvert had Anglo-Irish songs running through his mind around the time of the wedding, but why? A possibility is that *Mrs Roe, a handsome elderly Irish lady*, who had been visiting Langley House a week or so before the wedding might have entertained the company with her singing or the conversation might have turned to the popular Irish songs Kilvert knew (III/56).

A further possibility is that the poem pre-dates the *Diary* entry. The editors of the *Cornish Diary* have described in detail Kil-

vert's method of working, from the jottings in his pocket-book to the rough draft to the copying out into the notebook, with gaps left where he had incomplete information, sometimes filled in later, sometimes not, and additions made of words, phrases or sentences, squeezed in if he had run out of space¹⁵.

The *Diary* entry for 10 August, the day before the wedding, (III/60-63) was definitely written retrospectively, as Kilvert uses the name 'Kathleen Mavourneen' to refer to Katie Heanley even though he had yet to meet her. Given the social events over the next few days, it would have been 14 August at the earliest, possibly not until the 17th, before he had time to write up his *Diary*. If he had already sketched out the draft of a poem for the

bride during this period, using Anglo-Irish songs as inspiration, it could have occurred to him at this point, rather than at the time of their first meeting, to use this private *Diary* name for the woman he then loved.

As with his courtship of Fanny Thomas, Kilvert confided in an older woman, his cousin Adelaide Cholmeley, mother of the Findon bride, who lived at Clifton, on the outskirts of Bristol. *She gave me hope and encouragement,*

Kilvert writes (III/71). In truth, she spent the next few months encouraging the relationship by issuing invitations III/87 and III/119), and letting Kilvert see extracts from the letters Katie wrote to her (III/72 and III/90). On 10 December Adelaide told him *Katie likes you very much* (III/119) while Kilvert responds *Well, patience, patience, hope and wait. The course of true love never did run smooth* (III/120). All very reminiscent of the affair with Fanny Thomas!

He received a Christmas Card from *dear Katie Heanley with a warm greeting*. Kilvert writes *God bless you, dear love, and give you a happy Christmas* (III/125). He received a New Year's card from her too, with her Mutual Improvement Society's questions for January. *I felt her love all round me and I was very happy. My last thoughts and prayers in the Old Year 1874 were for her....Kathleen Mavourneen, dear Kathleen Mavourneen* (III/130-131).

On 21 May 1875 Kilvert accompanied his sister Emmie to Bristol on a house-hunting trip and called on their cousin Adelaide. While there he was given one of Katie's letters to read (III/190). On 22 June she sent him a letter of sympathy that she had received from Katie over his brother's illness (III/200). Finally, on 9 August Adelaide sent a letter enclosing a charming letter from Katie, and her photograph (III/217).



A post card of Findon Church, on the South Downs just north of Worthing

It would be extraordinary if William Plomer had not included in his selection all that Kilvert wrote about Katie Heanley and yet one has the impression that, after the initial strong attraction, he enjoys her friendship and wishes to continue their contact, encouraged by his cousin Adelaide. There is fondness and admiration for her strength of character but not much more. What it might have developed into is anyone's guess, for, on 6 September, he met . . .

Ettie Meredith Brown

SHE was a far different kind of woman from Fanny Thomas and Katie Heanley: fashionably dressed, with an *exquisite figure and black hair and eyes and her dark Spanish brunette complexion with its rich glow of health which gave her cheeks the dusky bloom and flush of a ripe pomegranate . . . the dark wild eyes looked with a true gipsy beauty* (III/229). Sophisticated and confident, in fact.

Three days later there begins a gap in the published *Diary*. It is frequently assumed that Mrs Kilvert censored the *Diary* throughout before it was passed on to the Smith family after her death, and that this included this missing section. Her niece, however, states that her aunt said *she should take out that part of it that alluded to herself*¹⁶. Samuel Pepys, it will be remembered, wrote in shorthand to keep his *Diary* private from his inquisitive wife. He, of course, had much more to be ashamed of than Kilvert, but moral standards change, and Kilvert did get involved in a way that he felt guilty about. What more likely than



Ettie Meredith Brown in 1875

that he himself destroyed whatever of his *Diary* he didn't want his future wife to see? An episode that did him no credit as a man or a clergyman?

The *Diary* resumes on 1 March, six months later. On 4 March Kilvert went to Bristol, and after a visit to his cousins did some shopping and went to a bookbinders to get *dear Ettie's name stamped on the leather cover of an MS. Book of my poems which I am copying out for her as an Easter offering* (III/238). She had already given him *the beautiful sermon-case [she had made] which I carried in my pocket* and he had sent one of the poems to her (III/243).

In the entry for 21 March, Kilvert records writing a letter to her on 6 October and remembers *all the sweet strange sad story that has happened since. All the Bournemouth memories of last December came back upon me, and those wild sad sweet trysts in the snow and under the pine trees, among the sand hills on the East Cliffe and in Boscombe Chine* (III/246). The word 'trysts' suggests meetings unchaperoned and arranged unbeknown to Ettie's family. In the entry for 14 May, he records their last meeting as being on 7 December, in Salisbury, apparently in the Cathedral, *that dark sorrowful winter's day* (III/298). He began another poem to send to Ettie at Easter. He posted her a long letter and the MS. Book

of his poems on 15 April (III/255). That evening he *received from dear Ettie two such sad sweet little verses, beginning 'When shall we meet again'. I think she had composed them herself. . . . They were very sweet but very sad and made me feel strangely unhappy. I could not tell what they meant* (III/258).

He was a little concerned by 19 April not to have yet received another letter from her, but there was no cheerful news in the one that arrived on 20th: *a long sad sweet loving letter. . . a tender beautiful letter of farewell, the last she will ever be able to write to me. With it came enclosed a kind friendly little note from young Mrs Meredith Brown, so friendly and so kind, saying she is afraid Ettie and I must hold no further communication by letter or poetry or any other way. I know it. I know it. She is right and I have been, alas, very very wrong. . . . I hope, I hope, I have not done her any harm or wrong.*

What exactly had he done that he admitted

was *very very wrong*? We can probably rule out sexual intercourse – considerations of morality apart, it was going to be difficult for a respectable unmarried couple to consummate a relationship in the cold and open air and nothing else was possible. Anything short of that might have taken place. Kilvert sounds like a moth drawn to a candle flame and much would have depended on what Ettie wanted. This was unlikely to have been life as a clergyman's wife.

The letters and poems are a different matter.

Victorians took the cynical but prudent view that correspondence between a couple who were not engaged was wrong: the

woman might write something that would lay her open to an Action for Breach of Promise, or the threat of such Action, or use endearments that might lead to blackmail by an unscrupulous man. Presents given and received were also frowned on as they might suggest a commitment greater than the woman intended, particularly ones of a personal nature such as a hand-made sermon case or an autograph book of poems.

Mrs Fleming has long since pointed out that there's no sign that either Kilvert or Ettie were thinking of marriage¹⁷. The whole affair was being kept secret, away from family on either side until Ettie let slip something by accident, or intent. One can be sure it was all for the best.

On 24 April Kilvert was offered the living of St Harmon, a small community between Rhayader and Llanidloes (III/265). He asked permission for a few days' grace so he could go and see the place. He felt he ought to accept it *as it will be worth between £300 and £400 a year when the lease on one or two old lives falls in* (III/265). He closed with the offer, though he was mistaken over its worth.

Entries continue in the *Diary* until the end of June, not to resume until December 1877, a gap of eighteen months.

Katherine Heanley (part II)

IN the June of the same year he saw Katie Heanley in a train stationed at Chippenham and comments that he is *glad to see her again* (III/330). The ever-useful Adelaide provides the venue for a meeting between them. *Dear Katie Heanley was very nice and sweet and kind and I spent a happy day.* (III/332)

There is a report from *The Chippenham Chronicle* dated 19 August 1876 of the presentation to Kilvert of gifts from the parishioners at Langley Burrell on his leaving the parish for St Harmon¹⁸. Even allowing for press inaccuracy, then as now an issue, the report states in plain terms that Kilvert was about to get married: *alluding to the present from Langley House, said he received it at a happy time when a friend of his who was dearer to him than his own life, was staying at Langley, and one whom he hoped would shortly halve his troubles and double his joys.*

Was this woman Katie Heanley?

This matter is discussed at length in an article by Laurence Le Quesne¹⁹, who brings forward strong reasons to suggest it was, based upon the booklet written by Eva Farmery and R. B. Taylor¹⁴.

The writer is not wholly convinced. Mr Le Quesne refers to the recollection of one of the Cholmeley family of a visit to Croft Kilvert made possibly about 1875, when he paid *delicate attentions* to Kate and Ellen Heanley²⁰. A further visit to Croft School in March 1877 is not necessarily indicative of anything, given that Kilvert's cousin Addie had just had a baby, who was about to be christened²¹.

Eva Farmery was lent a copy of a pamphlet on the records of the Heanley family, compiled by Charlotte Heanley, Katie's cousin. A note was subsequently added to it, written by Charlotte's sister, stating, next to the record of her death: "This is the Kathleen of the Rev. Kilvert's diary. He was engaged to her, but she broke it off."²² The note was probably written after the publication of the *Diary*, otherwise how would its author know Kilvert had written a diary in which he had referred to Katharine as Kathleen?

If there was no engagement to Katie Heanley, then of course speculation about the date it was broken off is futile.

Frederick Grice quotes the opinion of Mrs Essex Hope, Kilvert's niece, that he made a trip to Paris, arranged by some of his

friends, to help him recover from the disappointment at losing Ettie, and that it was on that occasion that he met Elizabeth Rowland, his future wife²³.

Is it, therefore, possible that she is the woman referred to in the newspaper article of August 1876? Kilvert now had a living and, as he believed, with a good stipend; if he fell in love, he could afford to marry. This suggestion has the merit of explaining the long gap in the *Diary*, though not the fact that, when it resumes in December 1877 right through to its ending in March 1879, there is no mention of her. They were married on 20 August this year. Whether they met and became engaged in the summer of 1876, with the wedding postponed until Kilvert was presented with a suitable living, or they met in the Spring of 1879, became engaged and were married four months later, there are still some awkwardnesses to reconcile.

There is a further piece of evidence: a letter which the writer finds quite distasteful to read, which was written to Mrs Venables by Fanny Kilvert, a fortnight after her brother's funeral²⁴. Even allowing for Fanny Kilvert's natural grief, it comes across as self-centred, mawkish, and vindictive towards one particular woman. *I feel more and more sure now that he had been passing away from us ever since his terrible sorrow, it just crushed him. I did so hope that this marriage would have cheered him and broken off all those sad remembrances and I believe he would have been very different – but his health was quite broken up – it is very terrible to me to think of the sad cause of it all. I hope she will never know what she did (humanly speaking).*

If you continue to eat and drink and carry out your daily duties, you don't die of grief. Kilvert died of peritonitis, though he did suffer from bouts of ill-health, which could have been caused by any number of the minor recurrent ailments which Victorian doctors were unable to diagnose. There is also no mention of a broken engagement, though it is usually taken for granted it does, let alone one broken by Katie Heanley. The writer can offer no suggestion as to what the words *terrible sorrow* refers to or *sad remembrances* or who was *the sad cause of it*.

The fuller entries of the earlier part of the *Diary* enable us to reconstruct to an extent what was happening in Kilvert's life which he hasn't chosen to tell us – after all, he was writing for himself, not strictly speaking to provide evidence for posterity. When wide gaps start to appear, the temptation is to fill them by guesswork – albeit educated guesswork – based on quite slight scraps of information.

The writer hopes she has not gone beyond – or at least not much beyond! – what the evidence will support.

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The Ladies of Llanthomas

Llanthomas must have seemed an unassailable bastion to Francis Kilvert. But, in exploring the lives of the unmarried Thomas daughters (including Fanny), ROB GRAVES finds it would not always be so

BY the time Colonel William Thomas died on 24 September 1909, after twenty-three years as master of Llanthomas and successor to Kilvert's nemesis, the Reverend William Jones Thomas, it had become evident that the house and grounds were in a sad state of dilapidation and urgently in need of a substantial injection of money. That Colonel William had not been able to provide this is a reflection of his own limited finances.

This was still the state of affairs when, on 9 April of the following year, Anne Elizabeth Pateshall passed away. Anne, known in the family by the sobriquet 'Aunt Evan', was the widow of Mr. Thomas' younger brother Evan. It was this marriage that had brought Evan himself not only the estate of Allensmore Court near Hereford but also the right to bear the name and arms of Pateshall. The marriage of Anne and Evan being childless, it had been expected that Colonel William, as the eldest of the Llanthomas brothers, would succeed to the Allensmore estate. Now the second brother John was to take William's place and, like his Uncle Evan before him, assume the name of Pateshall to secure his inheritance.

With Charlie, Lechmere and Walter all dead, this left only the third brother, Henry, to assume control at Llanthomas and take the three surviving sisters, Charlotte, Edith and Fanny (Kilvert's 'Daisy'), now in or approaching their sixties, under his wing.

It seems unlikely, however, that Henry, married and with a family of his own, and, like William, with only a military career behind him, would be any more capable than William of conjuring up a sum adequate to the task of rescuing the house from decay. Furthermore, within a year, on John's demise in a private asylum in Kent, it would now be Henry's own turn to take possession of Allensmore and the Pateshall surname, rather incongruously styling himself in the process Henry Evan Pateshall Pateshall.

Things were looking bleak at Llanthomas. The three sisters, it appears, had run out of brothers to support them. When salvation actually came for them and their home, it was not in the shape of any of any of their siblings, but in that of Edward Dumaresq Thomas, a cousin from the Brecon and Henllys branch of the family, who had not only acted in partnership with both Lechmere and Walter Thomas in their Ceylonese coffee and later tea plantations, but in 1881 had married Lechmere's widow Anina, or Nina as she was familiarly known (the 'Mira' of the published diary presumably being William Plomer's misreading of Kilvert's handwriting, III/415).

In 1910 Edward Dumaresq Thomas was leasing Llandefaelog House some two miles north of Brecon. He was a rich man, a solicitor by profession, who had earned his wealth mainly through investments in Ceylonese tea companies and rubber companies in the Federated Malay States. As a member of the Brecon Board of Guardians, the Brecon Rural District Council and a representative on the Breconshire County Council for the division of Merthyr Cynog, he conscientiously exercised the civic duties expected of a man of his station, and was respected as much for his business acumen as for his sense of public responsibility.

The particular solution to the problems at Llanthomas proposed by Edward Dumaresq was a curiously complex one. On

14 September 1910 he and the sisters came to a legal agreement according to which he would lease Llanthomas at an annual rent of £80, at the same time receiving from them a sum of £250 per annum allowing them to remain in the house as paying guests. This agreement stated that 'the payment to be made shall include the board, lodging and maintenance of the Misses Thomas and generally all the requisites for their comfort except the wages of their maid, their dresses and things appurtenant thereto and except washing and medicine medical attention.'¹ In effect, the sisters were to pay Edward Dumaresq a net total of £170 a year. The chief benefit they derived from the arrangement lay in the fact that in addition Edward undertook to pay for all repairs and improvements to the house and grounds up to an expected maximum of £1000. The sisters were to pay annual interest on this sum at a rate of 4%, but the capital was not required to be repaid until after the death of the last survivor of them provided the interest payments continued to be made. This part of the agreement was designed to provide them with a secure and comfortable home for life, and would remain in force even if the tenancy were to lapse.

It was a most generous arrangement, as is underlined in a letter from the sisters' solicitor Mr. W. J. Humfrys of Hereford, who wrote to Edward on 14 June 1910: "I cannot help thinking that the ladies will be only too anxious to avail themselves of a scheme which enables them to reside at Llanthomas, for they certainly could not do so in any other way."² And he reiterates more fully on 24 June: "I can quite understand you are in for a very big expense and the ladies recognise I think how great is the advantage to them that this should be borne by you, as I do not know what they could do if this arrangement had not been come to, and I can quite understand in fixing the sum they are to pay for board etc. you have not forgotten that their income is small and that the figure you have named was fixed bearing this in mind."³

Sadly, despite this promising start, things were not to run as smoothly as both sides had supposed, for on 1 March 1911, less than a year after the agreement had been signed, Edward Dumaresq died of colon cancer at Walford House, Ross, where he had been brought by Nina from London to be in the country. What was more, the cost of repairs to Llanthomas had in the meantime risen astronomically, far beyond the estimated £1000 to a total of £2700, of which all but £300 had already been expended. It seems that the building work had proved a good deal more extensive than had been anticipated. The list of improvements by now included not only the building of bay windows and a gas house for acetylene heating and lighting, the installation of bells, hot and cold water and sanitary plumbing, but also the replacement of floors and roofs. This was clearly more than had been budgeted for.

Nina's brother, Walter de Winton, a retired civil engineer, in a report⁴ on the state of the house after its restoration presumably made for Nina's benefit a year later, blames the disparity between the original figure and the actual cost on careless estimating by the architect and the need for extra work which could not have been foreseen in the repairs to roof and floors. At all events this



Llanthomas at Llanigon, just south-west of Hay-on-Wye, the seat of Kibvert's 'nemesis', the Rev William Jones Thomas. Its upkeep proved too big a burden on his successors and eventually it was demolished in 1954

development must have caused the sisters serious consternation. Though it is clear that Nina fully wished to pursue her husband's plan of residing at Llanthomas, and indeed was pressing on with arrangements for the surrender of the lease on Llandefaelog House and the moving of furniture even during Edward's final days of life, the sisters now found themselves confronting an annual interest payment of £108 instead of the £40 which they had expected to pay under the terms of the agreement. Such an increase represented a considerable burden given their limited income.

Under the weight of these circumstances the advice from their solicitor Mr. Humfrys was to take what steps they could to limit their liability to £1500, and for a while he even found himself contemplating the unwelcome necessity of telling them to lower their standard of living.⁵

It was Walter de Winton who seems to have come up with an eventual solution to this problem. In the report referred to above he makes the recommendation that the trustees of Edward's estate, now responsible for managing the loan, should lower the percentage rate from 4% to 2%, thus halving the sisters' payments. He even declares that Nina would be prepared to increase her annual rent to aid the sisters further. He states, with some justification, that the sisters "now live in as good and comfortable a house as there is in the British Isles without any of the anxieties and troubles of the housekeeping."⁶ And in his remarks on the house's former condition he does not mince his words: "I understand that it was almost uninhabitable and would have become entirely so before the death of the last survivor of the sisters, who were not in a position to spend money on the repairs."⁷

The trustees, Edward's brother Evan Henry Thomas and solicitor nephews David William Evan Thomas and Molyneux Frederick Thomas, appear to have fallen in with the essential elements of Walter's proposal, for in an indenture dated 28 May 1912 the sisters agreed that the trust fund would be reimbursed with the full £2700 on the death of the last survivor of them under the terms of the original 1910 agreement, and that that they would pay the sum of £60 annual interest. Whether Nina did in fact make any extra contribution to this is not certain, but it was clearly a generous move on the trustees' part. Evan Henry may not have been entirely happy with the new arrangement, as the repeated and somewhat acerbic references to the 'Llanthomas

women' in his letters suggest, but it seems that even he regarded the solution reached as the only one practicable.

As for Nina, she was to exhibit a feverish determination to pursue those aspects of her late husband's work at Llanthomas which remained unfinished at his death.

We must now briefly go back one year to a time when the settlement outlined above had not yet been reached. The 1911 census, taken on the night of the second to the third of April, places Nina, the three sisters and Nina's widowed sister-in-law Julia Sophia Bennett, her close companion in the days following Edward's death, at Llanigon Vicarage as guests of the Reverend W.E.T. Morgan, Mr. Thomas' successor as vicar. Here they were evidently waiting until the work on Llanthomas had reached a stage permitting them to move in. On their eventual move to the house in the spring of that year, Nina threw herself energetically into overseeing a series of outside works for which the thus far unexpended £300 had evidently been intended. Since at this stage the money was unlikely to be released by the trustees until a settlement of the loan repayments had been reached with the sisters, Nina was faced with rather a gap in her own finances. The work in question was on a fairly ambitious scale, including the demolition of old vine houses in the kitchen garden and their replacement with a greenhouse, the laying out of croquet and tennis lawns and improvements to the shrubbery path. This list of items was to be further expanded when the house's septic tank malfunctioned in early 1912.

Nina's insistence on pressing on regardless with these projects was to prove particularly provoking to others, not least Evan Henry, but most especially to Violet Sandys-Thomas, widow of Walter, the youngest of the Llanthomas brothers. On 22 January 1912 Violet wrote to Molyneux Frederick Thomas from Giggleswick School in Yorkshire where she was employed as matron – a position suggesting her own more straitened circumstances – of her misgivings that arrangements at Llanthomas 'are not on a clear and business-like footing'⁸. In her letter, emphatically headed 'Private', she implied that Nina was expecting the sisters to pay a share in the expense of these works, her chief concern being that the rapidly mounting debt might at some point fall on the shoulders of her elder son, another Walter, who was due to inherit the property. In actual fact this Walter – nicknamed 'Tommy' – would be killed in action on 4 February 1917, though

Llanthomas did ultimately go to Violet's second son, Ifor. Violet shows herself especially irked by the extravagance of the plan not to sow grass seed for the croquet and tennis lawns but instead to cart turfs from land close to the River Wye, a procedure entailing much needless expenditure. Her indignation on this point is echoed by Evan Henry a few months later on. 'Let the lawn wait and don't part with the cash until the agreement is signed', he instructed Molyneux Thomas on 1 April 1912. And again, on 19 June 1912, three weeks after the signing of the agreement of 28 May he informed Molyneux's brother, David: "I sign your Aunt Nina's [cheque] on the understanding that it is included in the £2700 already lent to the Llanthomas Estate. If more Tennis Lawns, Rose Gardens or Grape Houses are wanted, let your Aunt Nina find the money elsewhere."¹⁰ The capital letters are his, and they provide an incisive reflection of his views on the subject.

Even the signing of the 1912 agreement, however, did not put an end to crises in the household that had now been established at Llanthomas. In February 1915 the acetylene gas lighting and heating apparatus, installed only five years previously, broke down. Repairs were to cost £90, and the question naturally arose as to who was responsible for meeting this bill. Evan Henry remained adamant that it would not be the trust fund, as had been argued by the sisters, emphasising that the latter had done very well by the fund with their interest rate reduction. Nina's proposal was that, since she was now intending to leave the house in May, the sisters should choose from items she had brought there at her own expense up to the value of £45 and retain these as her share of the cost. She went so far as to call in a valuer from Brecon to put a price on these items, and at one juncture even threatened to remove certain grates which she had installed. There was clearly an element of tension between Nina and the sisters at this time, as is revealed in a letter from Mr. Humfrys to Molyneux and David Thomas in which he states that rather than bear the cost of re-installation the sisters ought to have told Nina that they should cut off the gas supply and go back to lamps and candles¹¹. Nonetheless, in the end, the sisters did acquiesce in Nina's suggestion, probably in order to settle the matter on an amicable basis.

Nina left Llanthomas in May 1915, ending both the lease and the paying guest arrangement made by her husband. Despite her departure the sisters continued to pay the 2% interest on their loan to the trust fund, thus maintaining their all-important hold on the house.

One common thread which can be traced throughout the sisters' lives is their need for support, their reliance on a strong individual to manage affairs for them. By a natural process this bred in others a powerful protective instinct with regard to them, Edward Dumaresq being the most notable exponent of this. In some measure it appears in the relationship between the sisters and Nina, although Nina was essentially an accidental and involuntary protector, and the relationship proved a more volatile one than would have suited the sisters.

It is very apparent, however, in the approach which Mr. Humfrys takes to them. As their solicitor his letters show him to be scrupulously cautious in his dealings with the sisters, taking pains to shield them from disagreeable developments, speaking to them personally whenever possible rather than writing, and ensuring that matters are explained in detail and in terms not likely to upset or perplex them. It is noteworthy that in all the mass of legal correspondence contained in the Powys Archives on Llanthomas there are no more than half a dozen letters from Charlotte, writing, as the eldest, for all three of them, and these

are merely the briefest of notes accompanying interest payments, which she preferred to make quarterly. It is strikingly evident that the role of the sisters in the course of events is a uniformly passive one. Dependency had, after all, been a feature of their lives from the start. Mr Humfrys highlights this in a surprisingly touching letter to Molyneux Thomas of 13 May 1912: 'I feel it is exceedingly unlikely I shall be alive when this £2700 has to be paid, and bearing in mind that at last there will be only one of the sisters left I am somewhat anxious about the whole matter, because I feel they are so essentially people who need someone to lean on to guide them, though if you are, as I trust you will be, alive to deal with the matter till the very end, I am sure it will be fairly and kindly worked out.'¹²

In the event, Molyneux was indeed alive to see the matter worked out, and it was fairly and kindly done.

As for Llanthomas, the house rescued by Edward Dumaresq, its history subsequent to Nina's departure is of considerable, if increasingly sad, interest. Nina's place was taken in 1915 by Violet Sandys-Thomas, Walter's widow, who had objected so violently to Nina's croquet and tennis lawn projects. Doubtless her experience as matron of a boys' school would have equipped her more than adequately for the management of the Llanthomas household, though she is exasperated by what she regards as the sisters' lack of business sense and their inability to deal with financial matters. Plainly money problems continued to plague the residents of Llanthomas, and this again led to strains within the



The Thomases of Llanthomas in their prime. Top, the grave of Fanny, Kilvert's Daisy, who died in 1928, is to be found among other family graves at Llanigon

household. A search through the Pateshall family papers in the Herefordshire County Archives reveals that on 31 March 1920 Violet wrote to Harry Pateshall, who had succeeded to Allensmore Court after his father Henry's death in 1912: 'Charlotte cannot take in or understand business of any sort.'¹³ and later in the same letter we find her urging him: 'We simply must try and increase [the sisters'] income by good investments as they cannot pay me at present their share towards the running and upkeep of the house, and it means that I have to try and make it good out of my pocket when they fail.'¹⁴

This time the solution to their problems came in the form of a decision, its immediacy suggesting it was prompted by Violet, to sell off Llanthomas farm. On the same date as the above letter we find Charlotte writing to Harry Pateshall: "Will you please write to Molyneux, and let him know we are probably selling the farm."¹⁵

Molyneux Thomas had to be informed, of course, because, as a trustee of Edward Dumaresq's trust fund he would be required, along with his brother David and Uncle Evan Henry, to approve the disposal of any part of the Llanthomas estate which might affect, adversely or otherwise, the repayment of the £2700 loan. The sale proved a long drawn out process with much discussion of valuations, auctions and advertising in local newspapers, and it was interrupted on 12 December 1920 by the death of Edith. The funds from her estate, valued at £5129.7.7d, do not seem to have stretched very far. In a letter bearing no date, but which must have been written early in 1921, Charlotte tells Harry – named as one of Edith's executors – of her relief that Edith's Palmerston tea shares have been sold. She states: "The very first payment to be made out of the sale must be £360 to Aunt Vi, what we owe as our share of House Expenses."¹⁶ By the time deductions have been made for taxation, lawyers' fees and costs incurred in the on-going farm sale, she envisages that there will be little left over for Fanny and herself to reinvest on their own behalf.

The farm was eventually sold in 1922 for the sum of £3000 to Mr. Thomas Jones Davies, it having finally been agreed with the trustees that a mortgage for that amount should be advanced by Charlotte and Fanny, thus enabling them to profit from the interest, but with the trust fund accepting the charge on this mortgage.

The sum, though considerably lower than the valuations received, seems to have satisfied the trustees that their original loan would remain secure. With Fanny's death on 18 December 1928 and that of Charlotte on 16 January 1933, Llanthomas and the remaining parts of its estate passed, as we have seen, to Violet's second son Ifor. That same year the mortgage on Llanthomas Farm was called in to allow repayment of

the £2700 loan, and the trust fund was at last wound up.

For a brief time Llanthomas was allowed to change both in function and character, being used to house the pupils of a girls' school during the Second World War. The voices of the young pupils resounding through its rooms and passages must have created a novel atmosphere in the old building, and Violet, with her history as a school matron, may well have appreciated the presence of numbers of young people around her.

After this short episode, however, the story of the house assumes a darker note. Richard Thomas, a descendant of the family writing in 1983, tells us that on the death of Violet in January 1949, Ifor emigrated to Southern Rhodesia for the sake of his health and no doubt too in imitation of his father Walter's ventures in far-flung regions of the empire. Richard Thomas reports that what was left of the Llanthomas estate was sold to a local farmer, but the house and gardens were repurchased by Ifor's sister Eileen Garnons-Williams in 1950 as the basis for a tomato growing business. In the struggle to make a profit Eileen and her husband Roger demolished the house in 1954 and sold off the materials, "the most lucrative thing," according to Richard Thomas, "being the tons of lead taken from the roof."¹⁷ Even this, however, was not enough, and in 1956 the Garnons-Williamses gave up and sold out.

The story of Llanthomas ends here. The three sisters, along with Mary and Grace who passed away in 1886 and 1909 respectively, now lie in Llanigon churchyard close to their brothers William and Walter and their sister-in-law Violet. Together in a single plot lie Edward Dumaresq Thomas, Nina and Nina's son Edward Lechmere, the child of her marriage to Lechmere Thomas. Nina died in a nursing home in

Worthing, appropriately named Caergwent, on February 19th 1932, eleven months before Charlotte. She left an estate to the value of £1824.14.9d.



Ifor Sandys Thomas, the son of Walter, with his wife and their son John in June 1953

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Hay's 'universally acclaimed' junior doctor

Kilvert obviously enjoyed the company of Dr Charles Clouston, the young Scottish doctor who was on his way up and didn't stay long in Hay. Here AJ LARNER puts some more biographical flesh on the good doctor's bones

IN a previous article, in *Journal* 31,¹ the accounts which appear in Kilvert's *Diary* concerning Dr Charles Clouston, dating from 1870-1872, were collated, in part to redress his absence from O'Brien's *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary*.² The current article seeks to put a little more biographical flesh on Dr Clouston's bones. However, besides Kilvert's *Diary*, the sources are rather limited, including appearances in the *Medical Directory* (the annual list of medical practitioners licensed to practice medicine by the General Medical Council, the statutory body charged since 1858 with oversight of the nation's doctors) and an obituary in the *British Medical Journal*,³ as well as publications by Clouston himself,^{4 5} and various internet entries related to genealogy.

Charles Stewart Clouston was born at Sandwick in Orkney, on 28 May 1847. He was the fifth child and third son of the Reverend Charles Clouston, LLD (1800-1884), a minister in the Church of Scotland at the parish of Sandwick, and Margaret Clouston. Clouston's obituary states that his father was "now the venerable father of the Church of Scotland, and the oldest member of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh".³ The Medical Register confirms that Clouston senior gained the Licentiate Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) in 1819, when aged 19, qualifying him to practice 'the arts of anatomy, physiology and surgery'. At the time of his son's death, Clouston senior was 83 years old, and therefore quite possibly the eldest living member of the RCSEd. Clouston junior studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, qualifying MB, CM in 1868, but never became a Licentiate of the RCSEd like his father.

Following graduation Clouston 'first went to Hay' built up a practice, as large as he could possibly overtake, and was universally esteemed as a man and as a physician'

Clouston's obituary states that following graduation he 'first went to Hay'.³ This was presumably to build up a practice, but in addition his income would have been supplemented by appointment to the post of 'Medical Officer to the Radnorshire District Hay Union', the local workhouse. The Hay Poor Law Union dated to 1836, shortly after the introduction of the New Poor Law of 1834, and represented 25 constituent parishes, eleven in the county of Brecon (including two in Hay), five in the county of Hereford (including Bredwardine), and nine in the county of Radnor (including Clyro). In Hay, Clouston 'built up a practice, as large as he could possibly overtake, and was universally esteemed

as a man and as a physician'.³ His marriage to Emma Traill (1848-1916), in July 1875 at St Andrews, Fife, presumably indicates that he was earning a sufficient income to support a wife and family. Clouston's paternal grandmother was born Traill, so there may have been a family connection to his wife. Emma was the daughter of William Traill MD.

From Hay, Clouston 'removed to Gunnersbury, London', but the date is not specified in the obituary other than as 'a few years ago',³ hence the date of his departure from Hay is unclear. The Medical Register of 1880 gives his address as 2 Marlborough Road, Gunnersbury, Chiswick, so he must have moved before 1880. He does not appear amongst the Hay workhouse staff listed in the 1881 Census, but as the Medical Officer was a non-resident post this does not particularly help.

Clouston 'did not rest contented with relying on former rules of practice, but made accurate observations for himself on many subjects', perhaps an indication that he had 'inherited his father's scientific tastes'.³ Evidence of this may be found in the two papers he published in *The Practitioner* ('A Journal of Therapeutics and Public Health') in 1882, both entitled 'On the salicylate treatment of rheumatism',^{4 5} and subtitled as his graduation (MD) thesis to the Medical Faculty of the University of Edinburgh in 1881.

The papers detail 27 cases of 'subacute articular rheumatism' treated with salicylate. Clouston noted that the severity of pain was much lessened after about five or six hourly doses of 10-12 grains of salicylate, with resolution of pain in 2-4 days, with reduction in elevated body temperature (pyrexia) and heart rate (tachycardia). A noted side effect of salicylate treatment was tinnitus (ringing in the ears), 'like the sound of a train or like machinery at work'. Clouston recommended hourly salicylate treatment 'till pain is relieved, or singing in the ears comes on'.

A number of unknowns are to be noted with these publications. No correspondence address is given, nor any information on the source of salicylate, both of which would be anticipated in a similar publication today. Although it is difficult to extrapolate disease categories over time, it is possible that 'subacute articular rheumatism' might represent cases of septic (infective) arthritis,

Clouston 'did not rest contented with relying on former rules of practice, but made accurate observations for himself on many subjects', perhaps an indication he had 'inherited his father's scientific tastes'

a condition associated with joint pain, pyrexia, and tachycardia. The anti-pyretic action of salicylates might be anticipated to be of symptomatic benefit in such cases, although not addressing the underlying infective cause. All Clouston's cases were stated to have been 'encountered in private practice'. Prior to the advent of the National Health Service in 1948, all medical practice was private (i.e. undertaken for a fee payable by the patient) unless performed under charitable auspices, for example in a local voluntary hospital, access to which was limited to subscribers or those given a ticket by a subscriber. Whether any of the patients described in Clouston's papers date from his Hay years, perhaps collected over a number of years, is not stated, but since the

*He died in
the manse
where he
was born,
aged 36, cut
off in the
very prime
of his life*

papers postdate his move to Gunnersbury this may not be the case. Of note, these publications predate by some years the synthesis of acetylsalicylic acid, better known as aspirin, by Eichengrün and colleagues in 1897 at the dye manufacturer Friedrich Bayer & Co, which initiated the global use of aspirin.

Clouston's time in Gunnersbury was limited, since he fell 'a victim to professional duty, for he caught a bad attack of scarlet fever some years ago from a patient, to which his later illness can be traced'. He 'suffered from pneumonia in November last [1882], and this was succeeded by a series of obscure hepatic [liver], renal [kidney], and purpuric [bruising]

symptoms'. He 'went up to the Orkneys in June [1883], to see if his native air would not restore his health', and one wonders whether he may have consulted medical opinion from his father and/or father-in-law. However, regrettably, 'he steadily got worse, and died in the manse where he was born, calm, cheerful and resigned to the will of Providence' on 16 September 1883, aged 36, 'cut off in the very prime of his life'.³ (Some internet entries on Clouston date his death as 16 December 1883, but this cannot be correct since his British Medical Journal obituary appears in the issue for 29 September 1883.) The obituary notes that Clouston left "five young children".³ Charles Traill Clouston, his only son, died at Ficksburg, South Africa on 9 April 1902 at the age of 23, at which time his mother was living at 4 Kinburn Place, St Andrews.

Clouston was described as a 'man of sound judgment and of high professional honour, as well as marked general ability and culture'.³ One has the impression from the limited entries in Kilvert's *Diary* that he was an acquaintance, rather than a close friend, of Kilvert.

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The writer is Consultant Neurologist in the Cognitive Function Clinic at the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Liverpool

Ashbrook House, where Francis Kilvert lodged for seven years from 1865 when he was curate at Clyro, has had a makeover to make it fit for the 21st century. Its new owners, Mark and Sally Bailey, have it as a bolthole from their business near Ross-on-Wye. Baileys Home & Garden is a leader in architectural salvage and the house reflects their liking of a stripped-back, plain but highly imaginative style of living. In a feature for *The World of Interiors* magazine Ros Byam Shaw writes: 'After many months of assiduous



scraping, the house has been laid bare. Curtains and floor coverings are minimal, soft surfaces the exception.'

The picture above shows the arch that catches the eye of passers-by on the road. The story is it comes from the village church when it was being restored and altered in the 1850s. The one below is of what was Kilvert's bedroom. Quite what he would have thought of a headboard made from the two halves of a Hungarian stable door can only be guessed at.



PHOTOGRAPHS: ANTONY CROLLA © THE WORLD OF INTERIORS



A book so good it was given twice

A copy of 'My Bee Book' inscribed as a Kilvert family gift has been given to the Society. KARL SHOWLER, famed as the bee man of Hay and a former dealer in bee books, puts the book into its historical context

IN April the Rev John Baggley of Oxford presented an inscribed copy of *My Bee Book* to our Society and it is now deposited in our collection in the Chippenham Museum, through the kind offices of its curator Melissa Barnett

The book's flyleaf was first inscribed: 'E.A.S.L. a birthday present from her affectionate husband Francis Kilvert 5th August 1843'. The first recipient was Eleanora Adelaide Sophia Leopoldina (1791-1870) from her husband Francis Kilvert (1793-1863). He is known as 'the antiquarian' to distinguish him from the other members of the Kilvert family. Eleanora was of French extraction. She was the aunt of our Francis, the diarist, who attended their school at Claverton Lodge.

A subsequent inscription was added to the flyleaf 19 years later: 'To Adelaide Maria Cholmeley a birthday present from her affectionate Grandmamma 31 July 1862 Claverton Lodge.'

The second recipient was 'Young Addie'.

The author of *My Bee Book* was William Charles Cotton (1813-1879), the son of William Cotton (1786-1866), a wealthy London industrialist, inventor, philanthropist and active High Churchman; he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, also serving the usual two year term as Governor of the Bank of England to which was added a further year in view of his negotiations with the government in respect of the Bank's charter.

William Charles was privately educated prior to attending Eton, and then going up to Christ Church, Oxford. After a number of curacies he joined his friend from his Eton days, the Rev Augustus Selwyn, who was to lead a team to New Zealand to institute the first colonial diocese in the Church of England. The Church in the USA was then under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London.

William Charles assembled *My Bee Book* before departing to New Zealand with Bishop Selwyn. It was published by Rivington, London, in 1842. A facsimile was produced by Kingsmead Reprints, Bath, in 1977. *My Bee Book* contained a useful bibliography of the bee books currently available as well as a very mixed collection of essays from a range of sources and authors.

William Charles also showed how he proposed to convey bees to New Zealand in ventilated barrels packed with ice. This shipment of bees was unsuccessful but subsequently in New Zealand William Charles was able to obtain bees from other introductions.

On the voyage out he learned one of the Maori dialects from a young man who was returning to his people after visiting Britain. William's linguistic skill were to stand him in good stead in his many adventures in New Zealand. He was in the end able to write a book about beekeeping in Maori.

The party arrived in New Zealand at a time when its population was riven by conflicts between the official settlers and unofficial ones as well as the migrating Maori tribes who were also establishing their claims to the islands.

William Charles returned to Britain taking up the living of Frodsham, Cheshire, where he did much good work. He improved the local church facilities. He also built up an extensive collection of European theological books and a significant library relating to bees and beekeeping. He travelled in Europe visiting the battlefields of the Franco-Prussian War.

Held in great respect by British beekeepers William Charles sadly was afflicted by mental health problems and died in the Tukes private asylum Chiswick. Like his father he had adequate capital resources.

Letters to the Editor

SIR,

It bothers me that much has been built on Elizabeth Kilvert's niece's remark (*Looking Backwards*, p25) that her aunt wanted to 'reserve' a plot alongside her husband but was selfishly prevented by the burial of the younger Newton sister. It may add up but I'm not sure it does.

The possibility that it was the Newtons' own grave plot struck me on looking at the oddity of the way the three graves are arranged, so very close together. It's in a prime spot in the churchyard too. I can almost believe that a splendid memorial with some kind of superstructure was intended to take up the entire space.

The Rector and churchwarden must allow the burial of a parishioner but have the discretion as to a particular part of the graveyard.

It is still possible to buy a burial plot 'ahead of time', as it were, if you have a liking for a particular spot in a graveyard. Was Kilvert buried, by special privilege, in the Newton sisters' plot? If so, then naturally they would be buried in the remaining available space, with no intention to exclude Kilvert's widow. Elizabeth

Kilvert could not have reserved a place alongside her husband unless she had bought a double plot or depth had been left for two coffins in one grave. The fact that she was buried elsewhere in the graveyard suggests either that the location of her actual grave was not material to her or that she understood, once over her immediate grief, that what she might have wanted was not going to be possible.

Whatever the legal position, the Misses Newton would have great influence on who was buried where. It may be possible to discover whether Kilvert was buried in their plot, in which case a Diocesan Records search would be the only way forward.

Mrs Kilvert would have needed to have bought a plot to ensure her burial alongside her husband, and it may be the Misses Newton never even thought of her wishes as to where she was ultimately to be buried – they may have simply never looked that far ahead, but then neither did Mrs Kilvert's own relations nor those of her husband.

SHEILA JONES
Bow Street,
Ceredigion

Letters to the Editor

SIR,

I have just received the latest number of the *Journal*, and was intrigued by the letter from Laurence Le Quesne suggesting a commentary on the *Diary*. This is something that has occurred to me in the past. As he says, there are many references in the diary to places and events that need explanation.

To me a good model of how to compile a commentary is the way that the Gladstone diaries were edited over many years by M R D Foot and Colin Matthew. They used to ask people to supply answers to their queries by sending a proforma with their question on it, and a space below for the reply. Nowadays, of course, it would be done by email. So in the case of Kilvert, somebody with the time and the knowledge might be found, who could rely on the help of members who had signed up to identify people, locations, etc. An immense amount of work has already been done by Kilvert Society members, whose work has appeared in the *Journal* and the society's other publications. A good start might be made by reading through these systematically, and writing up references ready to supply notes arranged by date for incorporation into the commentary. These might be added to the website as the work progressed, so that contributors would have the encouragement of seeing their work appear with only a short delay. There is so much information available online now that the editor's task has become easier, with many biographical works, catalogues and indexes to draw on.

If the whole of Kilvert's manuscript diaries had survived, we would probably by now have the whole text published by an academic press in a multi-volume edition. Tragically, this cannot ever be done in Kilvert's case. However, I have sometimes wondered whether there is an opening for a companion volume to the diaries. The diary of Samuel Pepys, published in a splendid edition in 1970, includes such a companion volume, with short entries identifying people and places mentioned, and longer articles on food, music, the Navy, etc. An online commentary would be a step towards a Kilvert volume on these lines. I believe that a companion volume might sell well, since there is a worldwide interest in Kilvert. A moderately priced companion volume might be an attractive purchase for those who already have the volumes of the diary that have come down to us.

CHRISTOPHER J WILLIAMS
Marford, Wrexham

SIR,

Lawrence Le Quesne raised some interesting ideas in his article 'Kilvert and politics' in the last issue of the *Journal*. However, I was perplexed by his opening statement: 'none of the quite numerous band of writers about the *Diary*...has ever touched on the subject at all as far as I know.' It is true that Lawrence's definition of politics – 'what the government did or didn't do' – is a narrow one and his article is much concerned with the 1874 Chippenham election. Nevertheless, more than half of the article concerns wider political issues, confirming the obvious fact that 'there were actually plenty of politics in the world in which Kilvert lived'. Instead of hearing so little of them in the *Diary*, as Lawrence asserts, Kilvert shows that he is often aware of them, as 'Kilvert and politics' exemplifies.

Several writers on the *Diary*, including some members of our Society, have certainly 'touched on' these wider political issues

yet Lawrence ignores them. Grice (*Francis Kilvert and his World*) observed that Kilvert was 'aware of social tensions' in Wiltshire (p.102) and that he was 'troubled by the inequalities of the society in which he lives' (pp.107-8). Grice also referred to the *Diary* entry in which 'John Couzens foretells a revolution in English society' and to the patronising way labourers were 'preached at' by their betters (one of whom was the MP for North Wilts.) at the Chippenham Agricultural Meeting (itself a highly political event).

Brenda Colloms ('The Reverend Francis Kilvert. Parson and Impressionist 1840-1879' in *Victorian Country Parsons*, 1977) is another writer who has recognised the politics in the *Diary*. She noted that Kilvert was 'a natural democrat' and commented on his stance towards the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune. She also stated: 'He was not sentimental about the conditions in which many of his flock lived but did not consider it his place to change society or to persuade others to do so'.

My own *Kilvert: The Homeless Heart* (2001), also overlooked by Lawrence, may fairly be said to be fully engaged with the politics of the *Diary*. The review of the book by Pamela Jackson (*Journal* 6) stated at the outset: 'Mr Toman has set his book in the wider world of politics....' I found plenty to write about of a political nature exactly because there is so much politics in the *Diary*. My *The Books That Kilvert Read* (2002) dealt with one of the key political questions: the Woman Question (i.e. the question of Woman's status, education, employment, suffrage).

In the last issue of the *Journal* are two letters by Lawrence in which he draws attention to omissions and shortcomings in works of writers on the *Diary*. This time it is the failure to provide a commentary on the *Diary* by Kilvert's biographers. There are only two biographies of Kilvert: Lockwood's *Francis Kilvert* (1990) and my own (sort of biography) *Kilvert: The Homeless Heart*. By 'commentary' Lawrence means 'comments or explanations' of *Diary* entries, 'explaining references' which are obscure to modern readers. I should like to think that my biography was not guilty of the 'sad' failure of which Lawrence complains. It contains commentary, some of it very detailed, on 245 *Diary* entries. My numerous *Journal* articles also feature that kind of commentary. In my last book, *Kilvert's Diary and Landscape* (2009) there are explanations of no less than 331 *Diary* passages. A book which offered commentary on the *Diary* is *Kilvert the Victorian* (1992). This too is overlooked by Lawrence, though it was by one of our members. In it, David Lockwood commented on *Diary* entries specifically chosen to illustrate Kilvert's engagement with contemporary events, issues and personalities, although the amount of detail is small and not backed by research.

The Woodforde Society, of which Lawrence is a member, is praised by him for surpassing the Kilvert Society in members' contributions 'to a rather larger quantity of serious research on their diarist'. His proposal is that our *Journal* publishes commentary in serial form on the *Diary*. Certainly, this is a very laudable proposal and it is to be hoped that members will respond to it.

Lawrence himself has offered to play a part in the work. He issued a similar rallying cry in 1975 at the Attingham Park Kilvert Symposium. It is sad that he did not initiate the *Diary* commentary then and that the rallying cry needs to be repeated.

JOHN TOMAN
Bristol

Notes

Welcome

The Society warmly welcomes the following new members

Mr & Mrs Oliver Balch, of Clyro, Powys
Mrs Sally Corrick, of Dorstone, Herefordshire,
Mr Bernard & Mrs Wendy Hill of Ledbury, Hfds.
Mrs Mike Stone, of Chippenham, Wiltshire
Mr Philip Thomas, of Hay on Wye
Mr John Wesson, of Abingdon, Oxon
Mr Vernon & Mrs Margaret Wrigley, of Brigsteer, Cumbria

❖ Our President sent his Easter greetings to the Editor. 'How I wish I could be with the Society on its Victorian rambles,' wrote Dr Blythe. 'And dinners. It may seem that I am an honorary but at heart I am with you. I will be reading Kilvert at Easter in church, as I always do. And as you know, I was a neighbour of Miss Kilvert when she lived near Framlingham. I found that remarkable – that Francis's niece should be accompanying me to the Deanery meetings when I was lay-chairman. And when some of my co-members could have stepped straight out of the Diary; Suffolk ladies and gentlemen, and parsons.'

We send our warmest congratulations to Dr Blythe on the occasion of his 90th birthday on November 6.

❖ Andrew Pitt writes with news that, according to Amazon's website, the one-volume edition of the *Diary* is to be published by Vintage Classics on 3 January 2013.

❖ Our longstanding member Lord Cormack (formerly the Conservative MP Sir Patrick Cormack) addressed the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust – and didn't miss an opportunity to refer to the Diary (which, he mentioned in passing, he had chosen as one of his desert island books at the Lincoln Book Festival). Our thanks to Margaret Burchett for sending us Lord Cormack's talk.

❖ Jeff Marshall's ears pricked up listening to the Easter Eve service from King's, leaving him 'so thrilled I could scarce contain myself', he said. The cause? The last reading was from the *Diary* for Easter 1876 (III/258-59).

❖ John and Alison Kilvert have kindly lent the Society *The Little Green Book* and *The Memoirs of The Revd Robert Kilvert* to add to our Archive collection. Our Archivist, Colin Dixon, writes: 'The thin green leather book was presented to Kilvert on his leaving Clyro in 1872. It contains a list of the 113 people from the Parish who contributed to Kilvert's leaving present. The collection totalled £19.10.4. The title page shows a painting of Clyro Church and School by Mrs Chrichton with R.F.K.'s initials in gold on the cover.' Lawrence Jackson wrote an article about it for *Journal* 5. Colin adds: '*The Memoirs of Robert Kilvert* has been published by the Society in "More Chapters from The Kilvert Saga" April 1971 edited by Heather Tanner. I think we may have the original in Robert Kilvert's hand.'

❖ The Newsletter of Bredwardine church offered 'many thanks to all those who came to help with our Grand Spring Cleaning of the Church; we had a record turn out, and as a result everything looked brilliant by the end of the morning. Several people also cleared gutters, weeded the Churchyard and cleared a huge compost heap away from beside Mrs. Kilvert's grave – for which I am sure she will be very grateful!' The Society is grateful too!

Obituaries

THE death of **Helga Fisher** (1935-2012), the wife of the Rev Dr Humphrey Fisher, was noted in *Journal* 34. He is a shortened version of an Address given by Canon Nigel Hall at a Memorial Service in her honour at St Mary's Church, Newchurch on February 12:



For all who enjoy a long and happy marriage each partner is enriched immeasurably by the love and companionship of the other, And so it was for Helga and Humphrey in their more than 50 years of marriage. Was it chance or fate or divine providence that brought them together, having lived previously thousands of miles apart – Helga coming to England from Peru via Germany, Humphrey having spent his latter teenage years with his family in the United States. There is perhaps the consciousness of a unique blessing when a couple find each other against all the odds. The enrichment of their lives is made all the more manifest by the knowledge that a slightly different set of circumstances would have prevented their chance encounter.

For Helga, following their marriage, she was blessed with the opportunity to support her husband in his academic career – her young 'Herr Professor' as she might have described him, admiringly, to German friends. In Helga, Humphrey found the perfect helpmate to love and to cherish, one who excelled as hostess to his students, colleagues and friends, as well as home-maker for him and their growing family. She made their homes in Hampton, and in the countries where they lived abroad, places of generous hospitality – which continued to this day at Rose Cottage with refreshments provided to the congregation after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Her marriage was blessed with the birth of their four sons.

Helga ensured that her home was always open to those who needed a welcome. Perhaps coming herself to live in a foreign land she was especially attuned to others who felt themselves to be outsiders. Perhaps, recognising her many blessings in life, she was especially sympathetic to those who were in need of compassion. Her treasury of blessings were above all her family, which increased in time with the addition of ten grandchildren, each one bringing for Helga a special joy. In recent years she and Humphrey began taking their grandchildren each one in turn on holiday, inviting them to choose a place where they would like to go.

'Her children with one accord call her happy' – words from the Book of Proverbs. Happiness for Helga was achieved by securing happiness for other people – in practical ways, as well as by sharing with others her innate sense of fun and enjoyment of life. One could, I often thought, detect in Helga's voice when something amused her the echo of a schoolgirl giggle.

Of course there was a serious side to her nature. With four sons attending university, Helga decided to study herself and earned a BA in Art History from Birkbeck College in London; she loved Renaissance art in particular. She was a perfectionist in striving for order in life – at home as well as in the garden, extending also to the cleaning of this church when it was her turn on the rota. Most of all, her seriousness found expression in an integrity of heart and mind. For Helga these words from the Bible passage ring true:

'She is clothed with dignity and honour,
When she speaks, her words are wise,
and faithfulness is the theme of her teaching.'

For all that Helga was, and is in the cherished thoughts of all who knew her, we give thanks today as we honour her memory.

Obituaries It is with regret that we record the deaths of the following members

MONA MORGAN has died at Cartref care-home in Hay. An Honorary Life Member of the Society, she produced the booklet, *Twenty-four walks in Kilvert Country*. Here, she is pictured with her husband Reg who passed away a couple of years ago.



IN an address at her funeral a niece recounted how Mona was born the third of four children of Alice and William Mantle at Gwerndyfnant Farm, Gladestry on 4 August 1916. Her father was keen to better himself and the family moved several times during her early childhood. First to the Drewern at Glascym and then to Pontfaen at Newchurch.

Following the death of their elder brother Arthur from rheumatic fever at the age of 12, Mona and her older sister Muriel (Mu) were left together to play with their dolls and do their allotted chores for several years, until one day, to their surprise they were summoned upstairs to be presented with their new baby brother Bill. They shared babysitting duties and soon realised that this was not just another doll to play with but a noisy smelly creature that needed constant attention.

They had a very happy childhood although they had very little in the way of material goods compared to modern children, enjoying instead simple games and pranks. However it must be said that Mu was the naughty one and Mona a bit of a goody two shoes. Mona's favourite game was playing school, teaching her dolls their lessons and disciplining them for wrongdoing. A foretaste of things to come perhaps?

Mona's memories of her childhood were so vivid that she was later able to record them in a book called *Growing Up in Kilvert Country (Recollections of a Radnorshire Childhood)*. A delight to read of the days of pony and trap, oil lamps, feather mattresses and pig killing.

Mona was considered bright by her father and was encouraged to study her books, often being let off the outside chores of a hill farm to the chagrin of her brother and sister. Her hard work paid off when she passed the entrance exam to Llandrindod Wells Grammar School. This meant going into digs, quite a daunting experience for a girl brought up in such an isolated place. Despite feeling homesick and knowing no one she worked hard and soon got moved to the A form.

Once settled she did very well at Llandrindod and records many happy times there before going on to Teacher Training College in Wrexham where she met the friends she was to keep for the rest of her life – all teachers and full of fun.

Becoming a teacher was a responsibility that she took very seriously. She was adored by her pupils, and although she was very strict they all wanted to please her. First at New Radnor then at Ledbury and Clyro. When the family moved to

Hazle Farm at Ledbury Mona moved too and spent many years teaching at the Girls School there. Her daily routine never varied, always smartly dressed, she took her breakfast then applied Astral cream, face powder and lipstick. With her handbag swept under her arm she set off like the piper not looking to left or right. Children clamouring for her attention all the way to school. Once in the classroom she reigned supreme. She was very successful getting pupils through the dreaded 11 plus.

She always lived either at home or with a landlady so she was not very domesticated – she couldn't cook as her husband Reg later found out. Once when funds were needed for the chapel, unable to make something for the cake stall she hit upon the idea of cutting children's hair to raise money. This was a roaring success, but made her a little unpopular with the local hairdressing salons. She ran the Sunday School during her time in Ledbury and put on many concerts, plays and pantomimes.

She went to the Buckingham Palace garden party on a bitterly cold day and, ever resourceful, kept warm by stuffing cotton wool under her flimsy summer outfit.

In retirement she dropped a real bombshell, when she announced that she was going to marry Reg. They met through the Kilvert Society and were immediately smitten. Mona and Reg had 33 years of very happy marriage and were quite devoted to each other.

She loved clothes – it was her main weakness. Always smartly dressed she took over practically all the wardrobe space in their home with Reg's clothes relegated to a very small closet.

In recent years she lived at Cartref here in Hay and was very content there. She appreciated the care and kindness she received there and it was always a pleasure to visit her. She never lost her determination and spirit, and although forgetful could talk on so many subjects until very recently.

Committee member Michael Reynolds represented the Society at Mona's funeral. He paid a further tribute to her when he read a passage from her book *Growing Up in Kilvert Country* to the Society's Dinner at Presteigne in April.

Mr John James Farquharson, of Earls Court Road, London. He had been a life member since 1984. The card notifying us of his passing said he was descendant of the Prescotts of Bockleton (II/74)

The Revd. Dr. Peter Gomes, an Honorary Life Member since 30 April 1993, has died. He was one of the Society's friends at Harvard and a link with our late Secretary Edward West's visit to the United States.

Mr Harry Saunders, of Whitney Drive, Stevenage, Herts, has died. He was a member from June 1987. His Great Grandfather was John James, the farmer at Llanbedr on whose land the Rev. John Price, the 'Solitary', lived.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

