

THE METROPOLITAN TOWN OF THE CLOTHING TRADE by IAN MACKINTOSH

In November 1634 Thomas Webb the elder, of Painswick, offered for sale at the Blackwell Hall cloth market two Stroudwater Reds. Contrary to the Statute, the mark of the clothier was woven between the Forvels, not in the cloths. When one of the cloths was seized to be carried away to the King's Storehouse, Thomas Webb violently took it back. He railed at Anthony Wither, the King's Commissioner of Clothing, saying that he hoped the curses of the poor would one day root him out.

THE WEBBS, & OTHER CLOTHIER DYNASTIES.

Later Webb (and others) petitioned the Lords of the Treasury. Their forefathers beyond the memory of man had followed the trade of making red cloth, but only coarse cloths of a blood colour. Webb's people, however, about thirty years earlier began to make finer cloth and to dress it far better. "We make of the same near three thousand every year: and we hope, if allowed to go on in our lawful calling, to revive the trade of making white cloth".(1)

Clearly the Webbs not only helped to revive the white cloth trade; they firmly laid the foundations of the family fortunes. In 1608, in "Men & Armour", the Webbs frequently appear in the Stroud area. They include a weaver, two tuckers, a fuller and a clothier, just to take the tythings of Upper and Nether Lypiatt and Steanbridge. In 1658/9 John Webb clothier occupied Gunhouse and Stafford's Mill.(2) A wedding in 1675 was an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the family. The groom was the heir of William Webb of Stowde (sic: the spelling of various names varies considerably, and is given here as recorded in documents consulted) - a clothier who had bought the Bige Place, or Brimscombe estate, from Henry Fowler in 1648.(3) Trustees included William's brother, John, a clothier of the Newhouse, Thomas, clothier at Wallbridge, and Samuel, clothier of the Ham. The Brimscombe estate, centred on the capital messuage which was (I understand) a Tudor house demolished in living memory, had fulling mills, gigge mills and grist mills. This wedding was a truly industrial celebration. The bride was a Pinfold, of the Rodborough clothier family. The other trustee was Daniel Clissold, a clothier from Pitchcombe.

Samuel Webb's estate was described in a marriage agreement of 1685 when he married Elizabeth Smart, whose 'gentle' family owned the manor of Througham.(4) Doleman's Hamme (see spelling of names: this is given in VCH xi - Doleman's Hamm) had been bought from the Tayloe family in 1634. In 1685 it had a mansion house, various other houses, extensive lands and "the liberty of fishing in a river called Stroudwater from Chalford to Dudbridge". The purpose of the estate, though, was industrial. The mill and mill-house contained two stocks for fulling, a gig mill and a grist mill. There was also a dyehouse, press-house and five racks.

The neighbouring landowners to the Webbs were the Davis family. A will of 1691 by Thomas Davis of Richmond, Surrey, gentleman, disposed of his estate called Brimscombe.(5) The mill site was later incorporated into the Port Mills, as probably also were Webb's Bige Place mills. The estate extended on the north side of the valley with Hill House, now rather decayed in appearance, as the capital messuage. In 1691 the main house seems to have been divided among various tenants, including a butcher. There were still seven messuages, fourteen gardens, thirty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture and ten acres of wood. Perhaps this was a rather ritual summary fulfilling legal form, but well-known names - Butterowe, Prydyhay and Bownhams (called confusingly Boleninam) appear.

By 1691 the family interests were rather decayed. Their other Brimscombe property, Sudwells, dating from the sixteenth century appears as a field name on the Webb's Newhouse estate.(6) For in 1638/9, two Inquisitions Port Mortem were held on two separate Giles Davis.(7) One, late of Nether Lypiatt, had estates more extensive than that of 1691 but effectively the same. The other, of Stroud, a mercer, left an estate which emphasises the importance of the cloth industry in the development of Stroud town itself.

This Giles had invested in land and a mill to the west of Stroud, I have already mentioned the appearance of New Mills in late sixteenth century documents.(8) In the early seventeenth, two other mills along the Slad Brook appear for the first time. Giles had purchased from Samuel Hobson two messuages called Piggins alias Pigghouse, now Peghouse. These were water grain- and fulling-mills in Painswick and in Steanbridge tything, suggesting the property straddled the Brook. Lower downstream, in 1634 Robert Hawker held Badbrook Mills from Lypiatt Manor. In 1651 in the will of Robert Hawker of Stroud, dyer, we learn that he had a newly-erected mill and house, as well as a deserted mill or building and meadow ground called Budbrook Meade and Rowcroft.(9) Clearly, by the mid seventeenth century the swift running streams round Stroud were being extensively exploited.

INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION

Slightly further west, Giles Davis had purchased lands from John Stratford in Pagenhall, alias Pakenhill tything. The will of Richard Stratford in 1612, husbandman of Stroud, makes no mention of John.(10) The field names suggest that these closes, mainly of pasture, were newly created around "Collowell". The twenty-four acres were subject to a yearly rent of 5sh & 6d., along with other unnamed lands bought of Stratford, worth 2sh & 6d. a year. These properties do not seem to be anything more than farmland, and may well represent the Collowell lands which appear in later Gardner documents. Certainly, in 1683 Sarah Gardner, widow, and her son Giles of Stratfords, clothier, made certain unspecified purchases from Giles Davis of Stroud, yeoman, from Rich Davies of the City of London, salter, and Eliz, of Stroud, widow.(11) The "Collowell" lands had been left to Giles' son Richard, so apparently here is a link between one expiring cloth dynasty and one, the Gardners, showing ample evidence of expansion in the seventeenth century.

Giles' father had invested considerable sums in building up the town. His interest in Prydiehay has earlier been traced - still not positively identified, but extending along the main street at some point.(12) He had bought cottages and parcels of land, dividing the cottages sometimes and building on the land. He had an inn, the King's Head. He had bought three-quarters of an acre enclosed out of Church Close, adjoining the churchyard, and converted it into a garden. By the middle of the century this was being divided up and built on. It cannot be exactly identified but Matthew Rose of Stroud, cloth worker, bought property in this position from a Giles Davis in 1675. In 1680, at least, there was a house on it.(13) Another deed of 1688 describes the property to the east of Rose's. Here John Viner, broadweaver was selling a property forty-four yards by twenty-one yards, which he had bought from Giles Davies.(14) There were, a dwelling-house, two "shoppes", a stable, court, orchard and garden ground.

Perhaps No. 57 High Street represents one of these houses. Under the bland Georgian facade there survived until recently many of the original seventeenth century features. It was probably an L-shaped house with two upper storeys. The street facade had two gables. The main door probably opened on to the side of the building. There

was a cellar and the hearth was still in position in the rear of the building. There were other features which left it uncertain whether the buildings was early, or later in the century.(15) Re-development by Boots has sadly altered the interior beyond recognition.

Clearly, the Davis family were not the only family to invest in land around Stroud, or to benefit by the increasing concentration of buildings around the Church and along the king's highway to Bisley. Reference has been made previously to property owned by Holloway, the clockmaker.(16) This is mentioned in Giles Davis' will of 1639. It had been built on land enclosed from a close called Ryeleaze, and was on the north side of the upper end of the High Street. Another property can be traced which was slightly higher up the same street, and is instructive about the character of development in the seventeenth century. In 1619, John Winstone of Berkeley, gentleman, sold to Henry Wake, yeoman of Stroud, two tenements, a yard, stable and dwelling house for £44. The property extended to Rye Close, and adjoined a mound (or enclosure) known as Manfields Mound. In 1644 Henry Wake, chandler, extended his property by buying the mansion house where William Manfield, baker, lived.(17)

The Wakes were successful, and set about adding to their investment. In a mortgage of 1676 William Wake lists his property. He had a court with stables, another little court above the other adjoining another property inherited from Henry Wake. The latter had "lately" built several tenements and another which had been converted into a warehouse. The gardens behind adjoined Thomas Webb's close, Ryleaze. All this make up Manfield's former property of four messuages, one cottage, five gardens, an orchard and fiftysix acres of arable, meadow, pasture and wood with common rights, in Stroud, Rodborough, Minchinhampton, and the Syddingtons.(18)

In 1710 Daniel Capel, physician of Stroud, and his son Richard, a clothier, bought this property, benefitting from the first fire found recorded in Stroud.(19) Now it was entierly destroyed. He had purchased the inheritance of Peter Mill, clothworker. This was a dwelling house containing three lower rooms - hall, buttery and shop, the loft and chambers over the same, the tenements on the east and west, the orchard and garden on the north-west. Richard already rented a garden, store and workhouse for the clothing trade. His father occupied the upper part of the garden, more for his indulgence. He had erected a summer house or pleasure house - again, the first to be mentioned in Stroud. We are witnessing the establishment of the Capel dynasty, which took over Orpin's Mill about the same time.

STROUD SPREADS UPHILL.

The Wakes retained some property adjoining that of the Capels. A will of 1708 emphasises how the development of Stroud was continuing.(20) The Wakes had established another inn, the White Hart, with houses adjoining. This was near the Wheat Market, the first mention of which was at The Cross. Clearly, this was an area worth investment. In 1732 a William Wake leased out two tenements, a newly-built shop with a room adjoining, the use of a pump, and a vault or privy house in the stables.(21) Sadly, all evidence of the Capel and Wake properties has been eliminated just as effectively as those of Peter Mill by fire. All were swept away in the great plans to bypass Stroud, which left a 'hole' in Stroud, only now beginning to heal over.

Almost opposite these properties, No. 33 High Street reflects further evidence of the increasing concentration of population. By the 1650s the building had been separated from its land in Stroud Field.(22). In the 1720s the building was 'lost' to the manor, and it believed to have been divided into three dwellings. Separate confirmation for this comes from a deed of 1715 reciting a lease of 1706.(23) By now one of the dwellings was a shop. William Payton, broadweaver, occupied one of the dwellings, the garden and orchard, as a sub-tenant at a rent of ten shillings. Possibly parts of the orchard had been developed separately as in Farr's Lane, off Nelson Street, Nathaniel Poole sold several dwellings including brewhouses, stables, workshops etc., and some orchard.(24) Between Farr's Lane and No. 33, the Crown Inn's deeds included land bought from the Pooles in the 1760s.(25) Various Poole documents refer to properties in Long Street which later became Nelson Street. In fact, the former spacious property had been divided, built on and added to. Both 32 and 34 High Street were attached to the original fabric of 33 in the late seventeenth century.(26)

However, as with the Capels, new owners felt that 33 represented an attractive investment. Richard Aldridge, tallow chandler, had bought Payton's lease, and in 1718 he bought the property from Nathaniel Poole of Stonehouse, gentleman (and lawyer) for £220.(27) He settled in the venerable building and established his shop, his workshops and his home there. When the building was recently renovated, plenty of evidence was found of how the Aldridges adapted the building. There was space to house ten children and to develop the business into one of the most important in Stroud.(28)

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT ON STROUD FIELD.

Naturally the increasing urbanisation of Stroud encouraged expansion. In the late seventeenth century a mass of deeds record the development of parts of Stroud Field.(29) The initiator of this expansion seems to have been Robert Viner, an illiterate yeoman and free tenant of Mayseys - as yet unidentified but probably somewhere in the Slad Valley. In 1661 he leased land to Thomas Kinner the elder, a labourer of Stroud. This land bordered on the Stroud-Bisley road somewhere near the junction with Acre Street; the field was called Two Acres. (Viner had a bad experience with Kinner, & the parish had to redeem the property.)(30) In the next forty years building continued unabated in this field and the adjoining seven acres to the east. The plots varied considerably in size, but many were about thirty yards by twenty yards. They were marked out in the arable pasture by 'meter and bounds'. Tenants were given ninety-nine year leases at anything from one to eleven shillings rent, though there is evidence that they paid more when the houses were built.

Others followed Viner's example. The Arundells by the 1690s were developing land adjoining The Castle where Hemlock Well House now stands.(31) In the area of Whitehall Post Office a piece of land called the Upp Acre was also developed.(32) The earliest mention of Nounsells Cross comes from a lease by John Arundell of the parish of Stroud, clothier, to Samuel Gibins of the same parish, husbandman, for 5 shillings, of a plot of "earrable land" adjoining the king's Highway.(33) The measurements of this plot were given as 34 x 21 x 26 x 18 yards, and Gibins covenanted to built on it within a year. What exactly he built is not recorded but by 1808 several messuages with shops had been demolished to make way for the existing Georgian properties.

Many of the cottages still exist and for some the origin can be traced. Daniel Grime senior, a mason of Stroud, bought for fifty shillings a lease of a plot thirty by sixteen yards in Seven Acres.(34) He was to pay five shillings a year for ninety-nine years. He covenanted to build within two years a dwelling house of good stone and timber and to put a good stone wall or quickset hedge round it. Other covenants speak of using oak, ash, or elm, and of roofing in 'tills or slatts'. No. 27 Middle Street still stands as evidence of Grime's craftsmanship. It is rubble stone with lead mullion stone windows. It has a single gable with one upper storey and an attic above. There is a single hearth in the end wall, and the narrow lattice stairs wind round. These are typical features of these houses. Though some are larger, the layout is simple and the timberwork is plain. Some cottages built by John Wilson, a carpenter, in 1707 show the same features except that the stone mullions have been replaced by simple lintels of wood.(35)

These cottages are commonly called weavers' cottages. The weavers were supposed to want the high, well-lit attic rooms for their looms. In fact, the truth is more complex. One group of seventeen Viner properties, including eighteen messuages, two gardens and five shops, was sold in 1702 to Jasper Leech, a clothier of Badbrook, for £105. (36) The occupation of tenants were as follows:

<u>Textiles</u>	Clothworker (sic)	2
	Sheergrinder "	2
	Taylor	2
	Cardmaker	1
	Broadweaver	11
<u>Others known</u>	Husbandman	2
	Mason	3
	Cordwainer	1
	Baker	1
	Innholder	2
	Chandler	1
	Carpenter	1
	Widow	5
	Labourer	2
<u>Occupations unknown</u>		15

There are so many tenants as the period covered extends from 1669 to 1701. The masons and carpenters were mostly the contemporary equivalent of speculative builders, selling the lease within a year or so of buying it. Others were simply investing in property, just as the clothiers were at a higher level. For example, one of the innholders was William Wake of the White Hart. Other tenants sub-let part of the property or built another house in the garden. The shops are not evidence of a thriving commercial life: they are almost certainly workshops.

It can be said that weavers dominated this area and that, with associated trades, cloth was as important here as lower in the town for the development of the area. However, Grime and Wilson did not have weavers exclusively in mind when erecting these dwellings; clearly, craftsmen in general were prospering sufficiently to settle here.

Given the 'green field' site, the shape of this development at the upper end of the town of Stroud was very different from that of the straggling High Street. There was unity of architecture. The footpath down the edge dividing Seven Acres and Two Acres was upgraded with a right of way later called the Acre Hedgeway. In 1676, Middle Street

was simply a footpath through Stroud Field heading for the town. Not surprisingly, insufficient care was taken to create streets, and in the 1890s the Middle Street Improvement Committee had to set about demolishing some of the more irregular developments. This explains the extensive late Victorian terraces to be found along the street.(37)

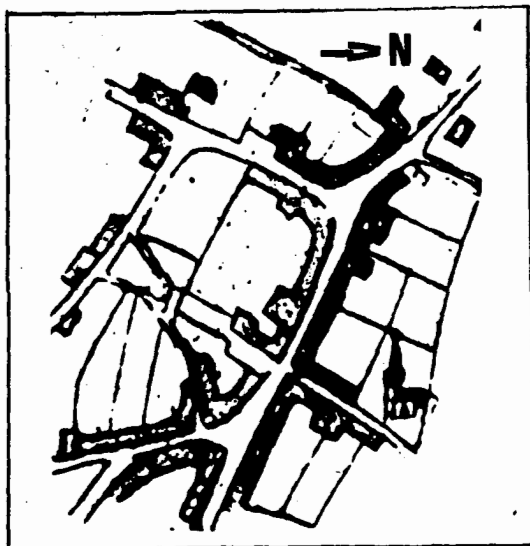
Viner and Arundell responded apparently to demand, without obvious plan. As a result, pockets of garden and orchard remained for later development. Edith Ockford, a widow, and her son Jasper, a broad-weaver, inherited half of a two-acre arable in 1702 from Jasper Leech. (38) They quickly set about benefitting from their inheritance. They gave two carpenters leases to build houses along a "new made way" which led from Bittern's Ditch to the other half of the field where another heir of Leech had built a house. The curious results of their work are to be found in the 'sunken' private road running parallel with Middle Street.(39)

This burgeoning development spread no further eastwards (i.e. uphill). Bittern's Ditch, clearly by now a road, was to be the limit of Stroud until the break-up of the Arundell estate by William Cowle after 1873. In the 1690s John Arundell was happy to build along the extremity of his estate around Middle and Lower Streets. However, the Bowbridge road ran right past his house - The Field. So perhaps it is not surprising that Bittern's Ditch remained such a sharp boundary between artisan Stroud and the increasingly gentlemanly Arundell family.(40) Orpin's Mill throughout the century was leased to the Viners until the Capels took over.(41) The Castle, a capital messuage in which Richard Arundell dwelt in 1687, was leased in 1677 and 1698 to a clothier, and a clothworker.(42) It has not been clear whether The Field, or Field House, was the centre of this ancient estate. This is now clearer, as in 1699 John Arundell of Stroud, gentleman and heir of the clothier of the same name, sold The Field to John Long, another clothier of Stroud, for £60. The house had been mortgaged in 1653 and then leased to Richard Hopton, clothier.(43) Clearly it was his death in 1696 which enabled 'Hopton's' to be sold, along with an acre of ground.(44) Perhaps it lacked attraction now that a rack close for Bowbridge Mill had been set up on the south.

STROUD PARISH CHURCH, AND THE FEOFFEES.

Plainly, by the 1700s Stroud had become a significant centre of population. Its growth is reflected in its institutions. The present writer has always emphasised the importance of the parish church in the development of the town. In fact, a report of 1563 revealed a sad state of affairs: many were not attending services "because the parish is so wide and large they resort to other places nearer ... our churchyard is neither well fenced nor yet cleanly kept, for it is made a common jakes" (i.e. privy) In 1690, twenty yards were added to the west side of the churchyard at a cost of £20.

In 1659 John Webb of Gloucester, clothier and churchwarden, and Nathaniel Gardner of Stroud, mercer, agreed to erect at their own cost a gallery on the south side of the church. The inhabitants, meaning the 'important' people, had approved the plan. They included the Lord of the Manor (John Stephens), and the long-established land-owning family of Thomas Freme - but of the other fourteen signatories, eight could be connected directly with the cloth industry.(46)



However, by 1700 Stroud was no longer united in religion. A meeting house existed near the top of Silver Street in 1708, and in 1715 Sarah Viner, spinster, granted land in Seven Acres rent free to establish a chapel. No doubt its location in the heart of the development at the upper end of Stroud reflected the feeling of the inhabitants.(47)

Commerce and religion had been intimately connected in Stroud since the will of Thomas Stephens, Lord of the Manor of Over Lypiatt, in 1612 (see GSIAG for 1985). He gave the lease of the Market House, yielding £10 a year, to various men of sort and ability and of religious disposition: the money was to maintain "a godly learned preacher". In fact, a writing in 1726 suggested that it was from several messuages and tenements being erected on Pridie's Acre that Mr Pleydell, vicar from 1653 to 1670, was finally paid £15.(48)

These "men of sort and ability" were the Feoffees. They leased out the properties and administered others which they bought, or were left. Once again those involved in textiles dominated the group. In 1642, out of twelve listed, six of the feoffees were clothiers. As the century advanced, the leases simply give a single name, presumably the most senior. In both 1636 and 1653 a Thomas Fream Esq of Nether Lypiatt headed the list. However, in 1677 and 1709, the named feoffee is a clothier.(49)

The cloth trade showed consistent interest in having premises at the Shambles. In 1627, the Gile Davis of Stroud, son of a feoffee and a mercer, leased half of Church House, which stood at the junction of Church Street with the king's highway. His widow Alice continued the lease for some years. From 1642 Edward and Nathaniel Gardiner, mercer, leased one tenanted newly-repaired and partly rebuilt house,(50) and they also had stalls and standings adjoining the street. This house was called Egby's House, though who Egby was or when he lived is not recorded. A more informative reference was made in 1651 to the place called the Pitching.(51) This is a term usually applied to an area paved or cobbled where market stalls could be erected (hence perhaps 'pitched?')

However, it was in the seventeenth century that the long association of the Shambles with butchers began. In 1650 John Bond, a butcher of Stroud, leased "all those standings, penthouses, shambles and stalls in a place called the Pitchings, all pickage and stallage there, all benefits of stalls except the standings adjoining Gardiner's house and under the Market House". The following year he rented the two messuages between Gardiner's house and the churchyard. The family was still there in 1725, and in 1814 the origins of the Bonds and their association with the building were remembered as it was still called The Butchers' Arm. Clearly Bond prospered. He bought pasture called Great Shermore behind the George and Swan Inns. He rented Gittoes Close and bought Burroughes Leaze behind Pridihay, and where he pointed others followed. At some point the family acquired 55 High Street - recently restored by the Stroud Preservation Trust - and Gannicox. Sarah Bond married into the Arundell family. By the 1720s the vicar of Stroud was a Bond, while another was a clothier.(52)

Stroud was offering opportunities for advancement for more than those just involved in textiles. But other tenants were obviously humbler. Edward Pritchard, cordwinder, (ie cordwainer = shoemaker) staked out a plot ten by nine yards in 1606 on Feoffee land, probably at the Cross. In 1653 another shoemaker occupied Pritchard's house. Later a mercer moved there. In 1636 another 'cordwinder' occupied the other half of Church House and his son by 1653 had inherited the lease and the trade. In the early part of the century, a number of clerics appear among the tenants. Considering the purpose of the Feoffees, this is reasonable.

Alice Wodwall, widow of one of them, devoted part of what was later the Butchers' Arms to use as a school - the earliest mention so far of one in Stroud. Many of these clergy appear only transiently in the records but the Sweeper family made a slightly deeper mark, as the cleric's son leased some of the stalls and became inn-keeper at The George.(53)

The institution of the Feoffees was firmly established by the end of the seventeenth century and the succession of leases can be traced directly into the nineteenth century, so perhaps it is not surprising that they became concerned with the issue of housing the poor. In 1698 the Market House was considered as a possible workhouse.(54) However, in 1714 part of the garden of Jacob Hooper, 'pargitor,' was bought. At the upper end of Stroud in the street called Silver Street the site can still be precisely located. In 1724 Articles of Agreement were drawn up with a joiner from Minchinhampton to spend £400 for a workhouse for the poor inhabitants of the parish to "work, labour, dwell and reside". It was the most significant building built in the town since the Market House. It measured 150 feet in length, and was 20 feet wide. Given the importance of the undertaking, it is not surprising that the agreement went into considerable detail about the materials to be used, and a plan also was made which enables us to identify the building. The first governor, Sam Cugley, was a cardmaker who was allowed to employ the poor children and others in his trade. The value of textiles, recognised by Thomas Webb back in 1636, was now institutionalised.(55)

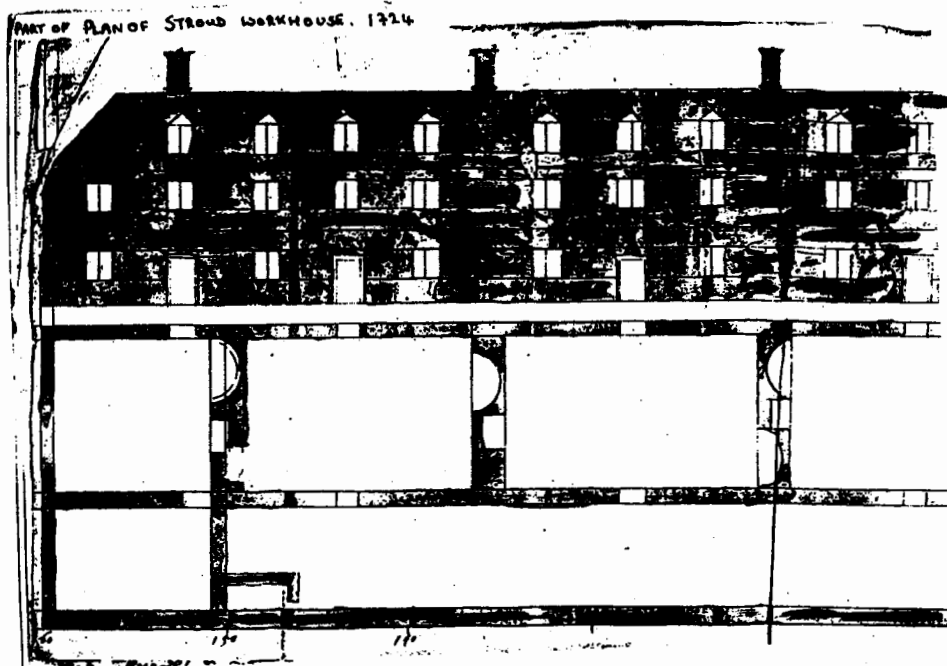
The present writer has set out to emphasise the independence that had developed in Stroud. Although gentlemen again led the Feoffees throughout the eighteenth century, developments can be traced which were independent of the Manor. By the 1720s, the Stephens family was simply just another landowning interest which might benefit from the town's expansion. The gentlemanly eighteenth century meant that they, with the Arundells and Coxes particularly, played their part in the vestry and work of the Feoffees. In the turbulent nineteenth century, landowners even attempted to reshape and improve the unplanned growth of previous centuries.

However, in the seventeenth century, the identity of the town had been established. The need of clothiers and mercers to carry on their trade and to diversify their investments had ensured that they had not remained isolated in their mills in the valleys. They were as interested as the farmers in the successful development of the market, and as landowners they also benefitted from the expansion of the town. Without a greater concentration of weavers and other craftsmen, the production of cloth could not increase. So it is fair to call Stroud a textile town; the industry permeated all the life of the "metropolitan town for the clothing trade."

Ian Mackintosh © 1986

PART III of the Growth & Development of Stroud.





STROUD WORKHOUSE 1724

The Plan of the
Workhouse is from
GRO D 914.

REFERENCES

- 1 This well-rehearsed tale comes from W St C Baddeley, A Cotteswold Manor. Webb is described as of Painswick, but just possibly he might be the Thomas Webb who founded Stroud's almshouses and lived at The Hill, Stroud. For a history of the cloth trade in the early 17th century, see E Lipson, Economic History of England: the attempt to finish cloth in England and by-pass the Netherlands nearly ruined the West of England clothiers.
- 2 PRO Wills & VCH xi p 99.
- 3 GRO D 873 T102.
- 4 GRO D 1842 H3.
- 5 GRO D 1347 Box 5.
- 6 GRO D 873 T86.
- 7 1625-50 Inq. P.M. p 41-2, 42-3.
- 8 See Laying the Foundations: Stroud in the 16th century, in GSIAJ for 1985.
- 9 GRO D 745 M1; PRO will.
- 10 GRO wills.
- 11 GRO D 149 T904.
- 12 See GSIAJ for 1985 as 8 supra.
- 13 GRO D 149 T886.
- 14 GRO D 3968.
- 15 Observations by Dr N Pattison & I Mackintosh, with comments kindly supplied by L Walrond.
- 16 See GSIAJ for 1985, 8 supra.
- 17 GRO D 1571 T69.
- 18 VCH xi p 55 notes that John Washbourne, rector of Miserden, also held in plurality Siddington, south of Cirencester, 1790s.
- 19 GRO D 3634, D 892 T80. J Tann says this is evidence of Capel's purchase of the mill which the family owned in Stroud. (Glos. Woollen Mills). Since it adjoined the Ryeleaze this is clearly wrong. There is plenty of evidence that the Capels purchased Orpin's mill from the Arundells. The Manor Book makes several references to it without giving the sale a date.
- 20 GRO D 149 T852.
- 21 GRO D 1571 T69.
- 22 GRO D 745 M1.
- 23 GRO D 892 T80/6.
- 24 GRO D 1241 Box 24 bundle 6.
- 25 GRO D c/re 147.
- 26 Observation made during restoration by Stroud Preservation Trust.
- 27 Nathaniel Poole was one of the first mortgagees of the Stroud Turnpike 1726; the other was John Stephens, of Eastington.
- 28 GRO D 982 T80/6, DC/M135.

- 29 Among these deeds is a reference to a stone "heretofore situated" at the junction of Acre St and Silver St - presumably a field marker from the lower end of the former Stroud Field. See 38 below.
- 30 GRO P 320a M1/D 914.
- 31 GRO D 1842 T1.
- 32 GRO D 846 III/21.
- 33 GRO D 1347.
- 34 There is a wealth of deeds to do with this area in D 149.
- 35 GRO D 1842 T3.
- 36 GRO D 189 II/3/T12.
- 37 GRO D 3187/1/3/21 & D 149 T837-839 & D 149 T 841; & D 1241 Bundle 9 Box 5.
- 38 See note 29 supra: "a small plot ... divided by mear stones ..." from a deed of relating to a tenement between Parliament St and Gainey's Leaze, dated 1815: see note 29 supra.
- 39 GRO D 1842 T3 & D 1347 Acc 1603.
- 40 Bittern's Ditch = Hollow Lane and Trinity Road.
- 41 GRO D 745 M1.
- 42 GRO D 1852 T2.
- 43 GRO D 1347 Acc 1603 Box 6.
- 44 PRO Probate 11.
- 45 C W Field, The State of the Church in Gloucestershire, 1563. 1971 (Stroud Library).
- 46 GRO D 914, bundle of 'unimportant' documents; D 149 F84.
- 47 GRO wills.
- 48 GRO D 914.
- 50 GRO D 149 T897-899.
- 51 See P H Fisher, Notes & Recollections of Stroud, 1871. p 60.
- 52 GRO D 914; D 745 M1; D 149 T811; D 1437 Acc 1603. In his will of 1738 Thomas Bond of the parish of Stroud clothier left a variety of property. No 55 High St was occupied at the time by a cooper. Thomas lived at Gannicocks (sic), an estate of 30 acres. Perhaps these two properties were mentioned in a deed of 1674 when John Bond bought a messuage in Stroud and 30 acres mostly in Paganhill tything from the Davis family. (GRO D 745 M1) Giles Davis had bought the land from the Warners. This is all very much guess work, but it is nice to go back in time!
- 53 GRO D 914; D 149 T897-9; D 745 M1.
- 54 GRO D 914.
- 55 GRO D 745 M1. Hooper had leased a messuage from the Manor - D 914.

KEY TO MAP OF STROUD

- 1 Workhouse
- 2 27 Middle Street
- 3 Acre Hedgeway (Acre Edge)
- 4 Whitehall: area of Upp Acre & Ockford land.
- 5 Bittern's Ditch (Hollow Lane & Trinity Road)
- 6 The Castle
- 7 Webb's Almshouses
- 8 The Shambles
- 9 Area of Wake & Capel property
- 10 33 High Street
- 11 55 High Street
- 12 Badbrook Mill
- 13 Wallbridge Mill

Extra Notes

The title of the article is a quotation from Sir Robert Atkyns' Ancient & Present State of Gloucestershire.

The date of the school at the Butchers' Arms is given as 1651.

Genealogical information is often complex owing to the habit of giving the same name to more than one member of the family, e.g. in the Webbs. There were also three Peter Leversages, one after the other. "Forvel" & "pickage" ? See next issue!

