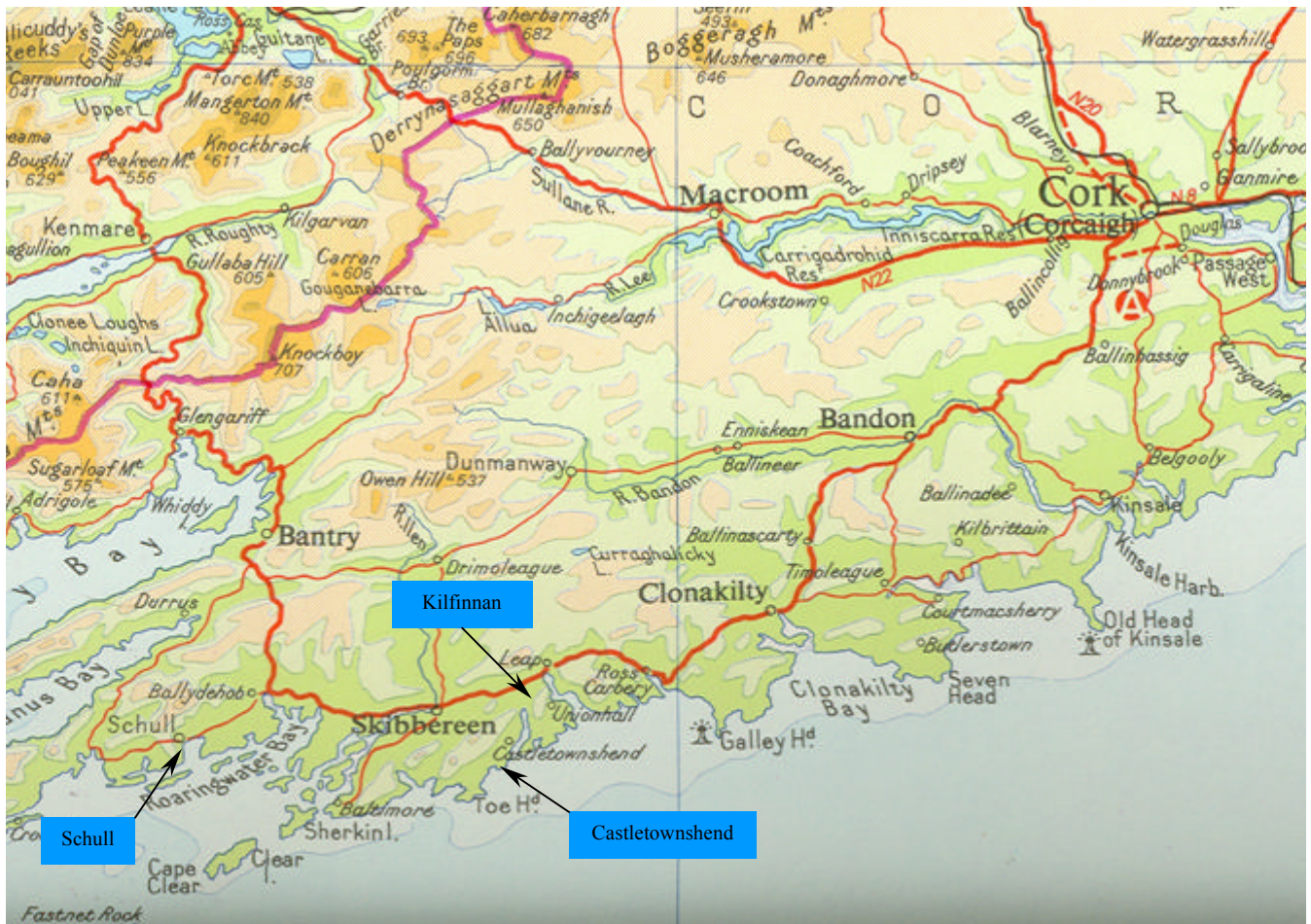


Major Henry John Townsend [251]

Portrait of Henry in 2nd Life Guards





Eton School - The Cloisters



Eton School – The Lupton Tower



The Castle and St Barrahan's Church 2013



The Main Street



Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Directory 1837

CASTLE-TOWNSEND, a village, in the parish of CASTLEHAVEN, East Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 4 1/2 miles (E.) from Skibbereen; containing 901 inhabitants. This village, which derives its name from Castle-Townsend, the seat of Col. Townsend (*Colonel John Townsend [230]*), is situated on the north side of the harbour of Castlehaven, and consists of one long street, with a shorter one diverging from it, comprising 150 houses, which are mostly small but well built. It contains the custom-house for the port of Baltimore, and is a coast-guard station in the district of Skibbereen, and a constabulary police station. It occupies a gentle declivity, which descends to the bay, and is well adapted for an extensive trade, but has none, except a little in fish. The harbour, which is half a mile wide, is well sheltered, and vessels of 500 tons' burden can anchor within the haven. There is a ferry to the opposite parish of Myross, affording a ready communication with the village of Union-Hall, on the harbour of Glandore. The fine seat of Castle-Townsend was attacked, in 1690, by about 500 Irish troops in the interest of Jas. II., under young O'Driscoll, who were so warmly received by the proprietor and a garrison of 35 men, that in two assaults they lost 40 of their number, with their commander and two other officers. It was attacked again, soon afterwards, by Mac Fineen O'Driscoll, at the head of 400 men, who, having slain five of its garrison of 30 dragoons compelled the rest to surrender. Col. Culliford subsequently retook the castle, after killing ten and capturing five of the Irish garrison. The elegant church of Castlehaven stands on a bold eminence above the village; and the parochial and infants' schools are also situated here. --See CASTLEHAVEN.

CASTLEHAVEN, a parish, in the East Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 4 1/2 miles (W.) from Skibbereen; containing 5619 inhabitants. This parish, anciently called *Glanbarrahane*, derived that name from a deep rocky glen dedicated to St. Barrahane, and its modern appellation from the castle that protected the haven. This parish is situated on the harbour of the same name, on the southern coast, and contains 10,421 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, and valued at £6336 per annum. About two-thirds of the land are cultivated; the remainder is waste, consisting of high barren rocky ridges, or bog. Cultivation is principally performed by the spade, or the heavy old wooden plough. The harbour is more than half a mile in width, and is very secure and well sheltered: it is adapted for vessels drawing 10 feet of water, which can lie about a quarter of a mile above Reen Head, with the rocks called the Stags in sight. The

coast here is bold and picturesque, with several small islands lying off it, the principal of which are Horse Island and one called Blackrock. The Stags are three very conspicuous rocks lying four miles (S. W. 1/2 W.) from the entrance of the harbour; and Toe head is a broad promontory, between which and Gokane point is a small but well sheltered bay. The principal seats are Castle Townsend, the residence of Col. Townsend (*Colonel John Townsend [230]*); Point House, of R. B. Townsend (*Richard Townsend [221]*), Esq.; Drishane, of T. Somerville*, Esq.; Smithville, of T. Townsend (*Thomas Townsend [319]*), Esq.; and Shepperton, of M. Townsend (*Jonas Morris Townsend [222]*), Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the alternate patronage of the Crown and the Bishop: the tithes amount to £600. The church is a large and very handsome edifice, with a lofty square tower supported by buttresses and crowned with pinnacles: it stands in the demesne of Castle Townsend, and was built in 1827, of hewn fawn-coloured freestone obtained from the quarries on Horse Island, at an expense of £1500, of which £1250 was granted by the late Board of First Fruits, and £250 was contributed by Col. Townsend [230]. There is an elegant glebe-house, standing on a glebe of 15 acres. The male and female parochial schools are in Castle Townsend, and are aided by the rector and Col. Townsend [230]. An infants' school was established there in 1835, and is supported by subscription. There are also four hedge schools and a Sunday school in the parish. The ancient castle, the walls of which are still visible near the mouth of the harbour, was built by the O'Driscolls, and subsequently belonged to the family of Touchet, of which George Touchet, Lord Audley, who had been governor of Utrecht, and was wounded at Kinsale in 1602, was created Earl of Castlehaven, in 1616: this title was enjoyed through five generations, but became extinct in 1777. Not far distant from the castle are the remains of the old church of Glanbarrahane; and near it is a well, dedicated to St. Barrahane, still frequented.

* *Somerville connections here at Elizabeth [225], Henrietta [234], Jonas Morris [237], John [316] and Mary [506].*

GLANDORE, a small but rising village, in the parish of KILFAUGHNABEG, Western Division of the barony of EAST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 miles (S. W.) from Rosscarbery; containing about 200 inhabitants. This seems to have been a place of some importance at an early period, as appears from the erection of the castles of Glandore and Kilfinnan; for many years it continued in a very impoverished state, but it has again become a place of considerable note through the spirited exertions of its present proprietor, J. Redmond Barry, Esq., who has within the last few years expended upwards of £10,000 in various improvements. It is situated on the eastern side of Glandore harbour, which affords secure anchorage to vessels of large size; and is navigable to Leap, a village on the Cork and Skibbereen mail road. The scenery at the entrance of the harbour is extremely picturesque, and is remarkable as having formed the subject, of a Latin poem, called "*Carberiae Rupes*," written by Dean Swift, who spent some time in the neighbourhood. A pier has been recently constructed near the village, which affords protection to about 20 fishing yawls of three tons each; fish of every kind is abundant in the bay. Many elegant houses and a comfortable hotel have been erected, and from the beauty of its situation and the salubrity of the climate, the village has become a favourite place of residence, and much frequented during the bathing season; baths have been erected and every accommodation afforded for the convenience of visitors. The principal residences are Glandore Castle, the seat of P. Morris, Esq.; Glandore House, of J. Redmond Barry, Esq.; Glandore Cottage, of JFH. Townsend (*Judge John FitzHenry Townsend [250]*) Esq.; Glandore Lodge, of R. Adams, Esq.; Stone Hall, of Major T. Allen; Westview House, of Major Edw. Allen; Chateau Maria, of F. Allen, Esq.; Kilfinnan Castle, of T. Raneland, Esq.; Prospect House, of John Morris, Esq.; Glenville, of Capt. E. Hart; Union Cottage, of Mrs. Donovan; and Cliff Cottage, of the Rev. Mr. Walker. A school-house capable of containing 600 children has been lately erected by Mr. Barry, with the aid of the National Board of Education; the boys receive instruction in agriculture and trades from competent teachers, and a model farm and carpenters' workshop are connected with it. The management of the girls' school reflects the highest credit on Miss Adams, the acting patroness, who most benevolently devotes her time to its superintendence: an infants' school has also been established.

SCHULL, a parish, in the Western Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 11 1/2 miles (W. S. W.) from Skibbereen, on the road to Crookhaven; containing, with several inhabited islands in Roaring Water bay, 15,252 inhabitants, of which number, 385 are in the village. It is exceedingly wild and uncultivated, and appears in the earlier periods of Irish history to have been regarded as of very great importance from its numerous defiles and strongholds amidst its rocks; and in later times, from the erection of several castles by the various native sects, which from their situation and great strength would appear to have been impregnable. The castles of **Dunbeacon*** and Dunmanus, on Dunmanus bay, were built by the sect of O'Mahony; the former to protect the boundary and pass between their territories and those of the O'Donovans. The parish forms the eastern portion of a peninsula extending from Dunmanus Bay, on the north, to Roaring Water Bay on the south, and comprising 84,000 statute acres, of which 24,204 are apportioned under

the tithe act, and valued at £7898 per annum. The surface is rocky and very uneven, rising in some parts into mountains of considerable elevation; the highest in a chain extending from east to west is Mount Gabriel, 1145 feet above the level of the sea; the whole are of the schistose formation, in some places passing into all the varieties of transition rock. About one-third of the land, consisting principally of small patches between the rocks, is under tillage; but the system of agriculture is in a very backward state, and spade husbandry is in general practice. There are some tracts of mountain which afford tolerable pasturage to numerous herds of young cattle; but the greater portion presents only a bare rocky surface, and appears to be wholly irreclaimable. There are also considerable tracts of bog, producing a good supply of peat, part of which might be reclaimed at a moderate expense. The principal seats are Ardmanah House, the residence of Major J. Wynne; Lemcon House, of R. E. Hull, Esq.; Rock Cottage, of J. O'Callaghan, Esq.; Gortnagruach, of R. Swanton, Esq.; Audley Lodge, of Capt. Forster, R. N.; Greenmount, of Capt. Long; Ballydehob Cottage, of the Rev. J. Barry, P. P.; and Ardirivema, of the Rev. L. O'Sullivan. The islands within the limits of the parish are Long island, Goat island, Castle island, Horse island, Dunmanus, Ballydehob, Carbery island, the Three Calves, and the islands of Carty and Moan. The largest of these is Long island, but the most valuable is Horse island, abounding with copper ore of good quality, which is found also in other parts of the parish. Some very extensive mines have been opened on the summit of Cappach hill by the proprietor, Lord Audley; they were subsequently worked by the Irish Mining company, but are now rented by the West Cork Mining company, who have for a time suspended their operations here while they are working the mines in Horse island, about a mile and a half distant; the ore found at Cappach and Horse island is very pure. The same company, in 1835, opened very extensive slate quarries at Audley's Cove and at Tilemuck, in this parish, in which 500 men are constantly employed; the slate is of excellent quality, compact, hard, and durable; and great quantities have been already sent to London and other English markets, where it is in great demand. Trials for copper ore and slate have also been made with success in various parts of the parish, the working of which will be highly beneficial, by providing constant employment to the dense population of this wild and hitherto almost unknown portion of the country. The mines and quarries now in progress are situated close to the shores of Roaring Water bay, upon a small creek called Audley's Cove, from which their produce can be readily shipped for any British port. The bay is accessible to vessels of 600 tons' burden; and the harbour of Skull is well sheltered, the ground level, and the water in the anchorage averaging from three to four fathoms; the entrance is perfectly safe, and at all times practicable, there being only one rock, which is situated nearly in the centre, and is dry at two hours' ebb. A new line of road parallel with the shore, and leading from Skibbereen to Rock island and Crookhaven, has been constructed, which will materially benefit the trade of the place. The village contains 79 houses, several of which are modern and well built. A fair for cattle, sheep and pigs is held at Skull on the 5th of January, and fairs are also held in the village of Ballydehob. A constabulary police force is stationed here and also at Ballydehob; and there are coast-guard stations on Long island and at Skull, which latter is a detachment from the station at Crookhaven, in the district of Skibbereen. A manorial court is held at Lemcon, every third Monday, at which debts under £5 are recoverable; there is also an ecclesiastical manor belonging to the bishop of Ross, for which a court is held occasionally; and petty sessions are held at Towermore every alternate week. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cork, and in the alternate patronage of the Crown and the Bishop: the tithes amount to £850. The glebe-house is a handsome residence, and the glebe comprises 63 3/4 acres. The church, towards the repairs of which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £207, is a small plain edifice, erected in 1720. At Ballydehob is a very handsome church, in the later English style, erected in 1829 as a chapel of ease, at an expense of £600, a gift from the late Board of First Fruits; divine service is also performed in three schoolrooms in the parish. About 340 children are taught in six public schools, of which three are supported by the rector; and there are nine private schools (in which are about 230 children), a Sunday school, and a dispensary.

** Dunbeacon connections with Richard [221], Richard [254], Richard [266] and Richard [284].*

**Transcript of a letter from Henry's sister, Geraldine Townsend [252], to Edward Mansel Townsend [630]
concerning the loss of Chavenage**

[black edged & embossed]

27th November 1896.

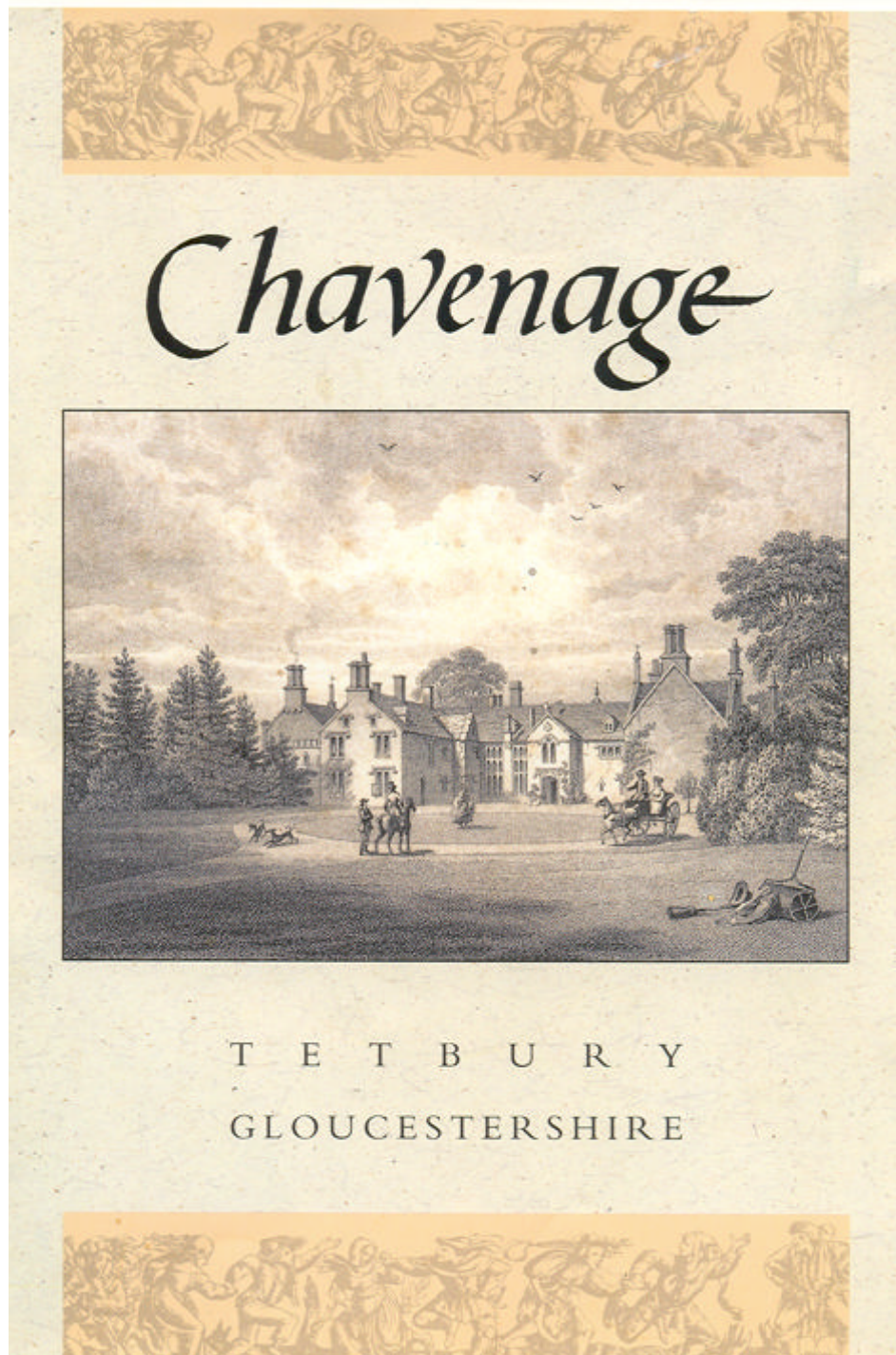
Thornbury House, Thornbury,
Gloucestershire.

Dear Mr. Townshend,

I can satisfy your interest in our affairs up to a certain point. That Mr. Holford, the principal Mortgagee left in his will that all his securities should be realised. Consequently the Sum he lent to my Father (after the effects of the famine of 1845) has been called in, & must be paid. It is over £30,000 - My sister & I can only

offer our joint (the FitzGerald) Estate in Kerry as security for a fresh loan; & so far we have not been successful, as Irish Security is doubted in the Money Market - & my poor brother's widow (*Jane*) caused the sale of our Mother's Gloucestershire Estate which was the security of the original Loan.....The Court of Chancery offers the Estate to tenants (12,000 acres) - leaving just the demesne & house, at present untouched. I cannot tell you more, knowing nothing beyond this. I am glad you have benefited by the death of that dreadful woman (*Samuel Townsend's [443] wife, Elise*).....I have the greatest regard for Mr. R.B.Townshend [*5D15*] who lives at Oxford & remember quite well your Cousin with the Hodgson's (*Susan Townsend [5D21]*) at Firleaze which we left in 1877 - I live now at Thornbury. Believe me **Geraldine H.T.Mundy.**

Chavenage Brochure (12 pages)





4

MEDIEVAL CHAVENAGE

The earliest recorded owner of Chavenage was Princess Goda, the sister of Edward the Confessor, however there are records of Chavenage Green being the meeting place of the Hundred Court early in the ninth century.

In the troubled times prior to the successful Norman invasion, Earl Godwin (Goda's husband), and former friend of the King, gathered a regiment together at a point on the estate, still known today as Longtree Bottom, with the purpose of confronting his brother-in-law, Edward, at Gloucester. The Earl Godwin, and his sons controlled much of southern England at this time and in 1054 had his headquarters at Beventone. The Godwin family resisted the King's Norman advances and wished to make him see sense; fortunately a compromise was reached and no fighting ensued.

After the Conquest a community of Augustinian monks from Tournai in France settled at Horley, which since Anglo-Saxon times had encompassed Chavenage. Shortly after, however, the Abbot of Beaton, Somerset,

was given authorisation to transfer some French property to the Augustinian Order in exchange for the Manor of Horley and surrounding lands. Thus an English Community was established at Horley in the late eleventh century.

Due to a serious indiscretion by the Prior in 1320, which resulted in his excommunication, there followed a long period when the Community at Horley and the lands were administered from Bruton, Somerset. The administrative headquarters of the estate was presumably in Horley, where the abbey had a little dependent monastery, but despite this, buildings of some sort had been erected at Chavenage in the late fourteenth century. Parts of the present-day house are thought to date from this period. The house would have consisted of the Great Hall with kitchens at the north end and a one-up and one-down at the south end of the Hall. At this period the fine medieval cowshed barn (which now houses a modern squash court) was built on the adjoining farm.



A window from the large stained glass window in the Great Hall, featuring Horley giving the head of John the Baptist.

5



THE STEPHENS FAMILY

After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, the manor and estate were granted to Thomas Seymour, who shortly after Henry VIII's death married his widow Katherine Parr and was subsequently created Lord Seymour of Sudley by Edward VI. During 1549, Thomas was executed and his lands attached for his role in an attempted plot against the Crown. The property, then reverted to the Crown, was granted anew in 1553 to Sir Walter Denny of Dyham and in 1564 Sir Walter's son, Richard sold the estate to Edward Stephens of Eastington.



Two of the East Wall (The Queen and The Foolish, painted in the Oak Room panelling, now the medieval heads - these were probably removed during Parliamentary times to be replaced anonymously, with plaster, at a later date.

The Norman House of Fitz Stephen originally took its name from the christian name borne in honour of St. Stephen. The name, over a period, became Fitz Stephens then Stephens or Stevens. The Fitz Stephens family, had come over with William the Conqueror and were

feudal barons in Gloucestershire from the reign of Henry II. In the sixteenth century they were a family of wealth and influence in the county with estates at Eastington, Chavenage, Lyptott, Cherington, Lyngrove (recently owned by the Earl of Wootton) and Little Sodbury.

On purchasing Chavenage, Edward Stephens started the massive project of a major reconstruction of the site. He gained the medieval building he found, and put on the new wings and the porch to create a manor house of the classic Elizabethan style. He also fitted the strikingly large windows on the south side of the porch, much of the glass being ecclesiastical coming from the redundant churches and monasteries in the area. He also used old timbers from old galleons, broken up on the nearby River Severn. Upon these were literally hundreds of tons of mellow grey Cornish tiles. By 1576, the date carved with his initials and those of his wife Joan were carved above the front door when his work was finished. On Edward's death the house and estate passed to his eldest son Richard. Richard died in 1599 and left Chavenage to his second wife, Anne before his eldest surviving son, Nathaniel (born in 1589) inherited. Richard Stephens was probably responsible for the screen in the main Hall, in which he placed his father's initials. The panelling is contemporary with this period and that of the Oak Room is dated 1627. The Gothic-styled



The Oak Room showing the elaborate scheme of panelling (c.1587-90), also the early seventeenth-century chimney-piece of the same date although once filled in.

fireplace in the Oak Room is dated between 1587-99 (recently filled in and made much smaller) whereas the chimney-piece in the Great Hall, was constructed in 1625-30.

Nathaniel Stephens was a Knight of the Shire in Parliament and according to the *Parliamentary History of The County of Gloucester*, the fatal illness which attacked him 'a few

months after his acquiescence in the King's death' gave rise to the legend of Chavenage. The story of the Stephens' family ghost is well known and has been told many times, and was in 1843 the subject of a poem by the Rev. B. W. Hussey of Dursell entitled *Chavenage*.

The Billiard Room - part of the early seventeenth-century addition of Henry Willis Stephens.



CIVIL WAR

Nathaniel Stephens, M.P., P.C., was Lord of the Manor during the Civil War (1641-45). He raised a regiment of horse of which he was Colonel and fought on the side of Parliament against Charles I. At this time, General Henry Ireton (Cromwell's son-in-law) was a guest, being a relation by marriage of Colonel Stephens.



A contemporary copy of the Peter Lilly's famous portrait of Oliver Cromwell - 'War and all'.

In 1644, from Charnage, troops under the overall command of Colonel Massey were charged with the task of besieging nearby Beversham Castle, which at the time was inhabited by an important Royalist family, a branch of the Berkeleys of Berkeley Castle. After the Roundheads failing twice to breach

the strong defences at Beversham, it was discovered that a young girl at Charnage was secretly dating the commander at Beversham. To let her lover know that the coast was clear and that no attack was planned that night from Charnage, she would place a candle in a window (see the garden door, leading from the Library passage). On the detection of this subterfuge, a candle was placed in the window and the order given to attack in the knowledge that the commander was away for the night!

After the cessation of hostilities whilst Charles I was imprisoned, it became apparent to Cromwell that the King would have to be executed in order to stop any form of Royalist uprisings. To this end he sent Ireton to Charnage, to try to persuade Colonel Stephens to add his support to the regicide. Ireton arrived whilst Colonel Stephens was keeping the festival of Christmas in 1648. Stephens, known as a mild man, had shown much irresolution in deciding upon sacrificing the life of King Charles I and was on the verge of wavering when Ireton reached his destination. It is said that they sat up all night and eventually Ireton obtained from Stephens his very reluctant acquiescence.

Shortly after his daughter Abigail returned from having passed the New Year elsewhere, she, in a fit of horror and angst, laid a curse on her father for bringing the name Stephens into such dispute. The story goes that the Colonel was soon taken terminally ill and never rose



Cromwell's room, showing the 1640s room-remodeling tapestry with its forest design.

'The Coronation of King David' - a close-up of one of the biblical scenes painted in the tapestries in Stephens' Room.



from his bed again. When the Lord of the Manor died and all were assembled for his funeral, a hearse drove up at the door of the manor house driven by a headless man, and the Colonel was seen to rise from his coffin and enter the hearse after a profound reverence to the headless personage, who as he drove away assumed the shape of the martyr King, Charles I - this being regarded as retribution for the Colonel's disloyalty to the King. Thereafter until the line became extinct, whenever the head of the family died, the same ghost of the King appeared to carry him off. In Cromwell's and Ireton's room there are several relics from the Civil War including horse furniture, a leather hat cover and several swords and pikes.



HAVENAGE AT WAR

At the village of Leighton (four miles south-west of Chavenage) in the century there are the graves of twenty-four Australian servicemen killed while learning to handle early aeroplanes. They all belonged to the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and were part of the ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). During the autumn of 1917 two aerodromes were constructed at Anon Down (on land owned by the Lowesley-Williams) and at Leighton, Chavenage, being almost equidistant between the two, became an 'open house' to the airmen. It was the grandparents of the present owner who invited the Australians to dances, parties and occasionally for morning coffee, sometimes with disastrous results. The family received many souvenirs from this period - one large

photograph album containing many aerial views of local towns and villages and various parts of their aeroplanes including a biscuit barrel carved from the propeller boss of a Sopwith Camel.

The 654th Engineer Topographic Battalion arrived in Tetbury in late 1943. Their mission was to make maps for the battles that were soon to take place in France. One of the most important undertakings was the construction of a detailed scale model of 'Orsaku Beach'. At this period Chavenage was occupied by 'B' of the Battalion, and in the main house was an Officers' Mess as well as the NAAFI and the Barber's Shop, whilst the greater portion of men were housed in a single row of tents along the avenue. Even a baseball pitch was put in as well as an athletic field.



A diagram sent to Chavenage by a member of the AFC.

10



OWSLEY-WILLIAMS AT CHAVENAGE



The Ballroom at Chavenage, part of the Edwardian wing.



Reverend George Williams, M.A., Canon of Worcester married Mary Lowesley in 1845. Mary was in her forty-second year at the time of her marriage. Next year, she gave birth to the heir of the Lowesley Estate, Mary Caroline Eleanor Williams. In her turn, Miss Williams married Colonel W. W. Hoole of Ravensfield Park of the County of Yorkshire. However sadly, in 1869, she died at the birth of her first-born, a son christened George Williams Lowesley-Hoole. As the Reverend Williams was predeceased by both his wife and daughter it was left to him to settle the estates on his death in 1874. Reverend Williams bequeathed the Lowesley property to his grandson George.

12

her evacuation from London during the 1939–45 war. Mrs. George Lowndes-Williams became her lady-in-waiting and accompanied her on several trips overseas. In her book *My Monies of Six Reigns* she tells of her experiences of ghost and of doors opening and shutting – perhaps Sir Hugh Cholmondeley? The room she occupied was named after him, he being one of Cromwell's generals during the Civil War. Her maid recounts that whilst sewing she saw a lady in an old-world dress, walk through the maid's room into that occupied by the Princess, who was resting prior to dinner. The maid saw the lady bend over the Princess then quietly withdrew and fade away, and noticed her very beautiful hands and lace ruffles at the wrist. Was this the Grey Lady????



Chavering Chapel

In 1970, a friend of the family made an astonishing discovery of a portfolio of drawings in the attic of Chavering. The group of drawings were taken to Sotheby & Co. and were perceived as drawings of both historic and artistic interest, showing the designs for the redecoration of the interior of a large number of the private apartments at Windsor Castle. For the most part, they were finished drawings executed

in watercolour over black chalk with all the furnishings shown in great detail. Many of them had the monogram of George IV on the mount and some had the letters 'appd' indicating the monarch's approval of the designs. On the mount of one of the drawings for a bathroom, is written in the King's hand 'Colour of hangings to be changed'. These drawings were identified as the work of Sir Jeffrey Wyatville 1827–1830, and were sold as a private collection at Sotheby's in April 1970.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

We have been fortunate to have been used as the location for some television films. Most notably in 1990 Chavering was featured in the extended episode of *London Weekend Television's Point to celebrate Agatha Christie's 100th birthday*. The episode was called *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. In 1991–1992, Chavering was known as 'Millstone Manor' and was the setting for the return of the *As You Beirg Served* cast in a new series called *Guest and Favour*. The house and grounds have also been featured in *The House of Elton* and on a lighter note, as the setting for one of Noel Edwards' 'Gothic' in *Noel's House Party*.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Chavering House is open to the public May to September, from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Thursdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays, Easter Sunday and Monday. The last tour starts at 4.30 p.m. Groups are welcome at any time, or day – by appointment. Catering is not at all usual by arrangement. Chavering is available for hire for private functions, such as weddings, dinners, lunches, etc.

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