

Minchinhampton History Group

Newsletter No 15 October 2026

Editorial

Unfortunately, I have been unable to commit to a newsletter every two months as the material is simply not there. Therefore, I will produce newsletters when the material comes to hand. However, be assured – I am always on the lookout for things to keep you informed and in this issue have two submissions from family historians with a Minchinhampton connection.

You will also find a list of events at the back, and I will shortly be working on events for 2028!! Also, exciting news – Howard Beard will be back in January with a new talk!

2 – Clutterbuck Family Notes Dr Mike King

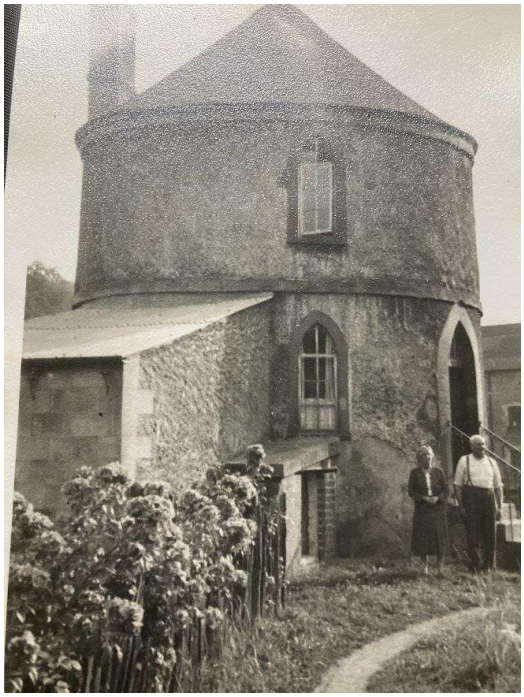
7 - The Phillpotts and Minchinhampton Colin Philpotts

21 Dates For your diary

CLUTTERBUCK FAMILY NOTES – 1

By Dr Mike King

My Grandmother was Agnes Annetta King, née Clutterbuck (1894-1977) she was married to Cecil King (1897-1985) who was, at the time I was born in 1954, the lockkeeper and canal lengthsman[1] at the Round House, Chalford, Gloucestershire.



Agnes & Cecil King at the Round House, Chalford, Gloucestershire.

1



With my mother (Frances) and Granny King in the garden of the Round House 1955

Agnes was the daughter of Samuel Joseph Clutterbuck (1864-1930) who worked at the Chalford Stick Company as a handle bender. Previously he had been a silk weaver.

At this time the manufacture of sticks was still a significant source of employment in the area, although it had fallen to about 700 from a high of 2000 in the 1870's. The sticks were used for walking sticks, umbrellas and parasols and there was a significant export trade to New Zealand, Australia, USA, and especially Ceylon. Handles of these were often made from both local and exotic woods finished in many different styles. Mountings and fittings were often ornate and made of gold and silver and other precious metals.



The employees of The Chalford Stick Company Ltd outside their premises at St. Mary's Mill, Chalford. c. 1910.

St Mary's Mill had formerly been a Woollen Mill, built by another member of the Clutterbuck family Samuel (1784-1860).

Samuel's parents were Edward Clutterbuck (1826-1912) and Hannah Close (1838-1868), they married on 5 June 1859 and had three children; Sarah, Samuel and Flora, their mother Hannah was born in Minchinhampton to Hannah Mansfield (1801-1879) and William Close (1795-1870).

William was a boat builder originally from Somerset.

Sadly, Edward's wife Hannah died suddenly on 16th December 1868, probably of a post-partum haemorrhage, after giving birth to a stillborn son on the 15th December. Hannah was only 30.

When she died, she was buried in Holy Trinity churchyard, Minchinhampton on 21 December 1868.

Edward was left a widower with 3 young children to look after - Sarah 8, Samuel 4 and Flora 2 years old. Less than a year later on 5 October 1869 Edward married Hannah's cousin Mary Harry (née Close 1821-1882) the daughter of Robert Close a plasterer and tiler of Rodborough.

Mary had been married to a Thomas Harry but was recently widowed - they had no children. At the time Edward was 43 and Mary was 48.

In the census of 1871 Mary is described as a 'Marine Store Dealer' - a dealer in scrap materials and Edward as a general labourer. In 1870 they were living at Wall's Quarry, Brimscombe.

Money must have been short at this time because on the 15 November Edward stole some children's clothes, the property of a Jesse Drinkwater of Horsley. On 24 November he was arrested and sentenced to one month's hard labour at Horsley Gaol.

He is described in the police records as being 5 feet 3 inches tall with hazel eyes and grey hair. He had a mole on both shoulders, a pockmarked face and a fractured left leg (presumably this meant he walked with a limp as it hadn't healed properly).

There are also other records of Edward being in trouble with the law, one which involved stealing brass, and another on the 29 April 1879 when he was arrested and charged with having debts of 2 pounds 19 shillings and 9 pence. He was told to pay or be given 14 days imprisonment. The debt was paid on the 12th of May 1879, and after this Edward does not seem to have had any further convictions.

Edward and Mary were married for 13 years, Mary died in December1882 aged 61.

At the time Edward was 56, Sarah 23, Samuel 19 and Flora 17 years old.

Two years later on 16 July 1884, somewhat ironically, Edward married Sarah Clark née Hogg the widow of Police Constable James Clark of Cheltenham. They were married in the Parish church of St Michael, Gloucester. The 1891 Census records them living in Bagpath Road, Brimscombe,

Edward was then working as a stonemason.

By 1901 they had moved to Burleigh, Edward was 75 and had retired. In December 1907 Sarah died and was buried on 21 December at Brimscombe aged 77.

In the 1911 census Edward was 81 years old and living with his oldest daughter Sarah Ellen. She was 51 and married to Samuel William Blatchley (aged 50). The household was completed by Samuel's sister Rosa Ellen Blatchley who was 59 and single.

Samuel Blatchley worked as a domestic gardener and Rosa was a domestic cook - they were both born in Chalford.

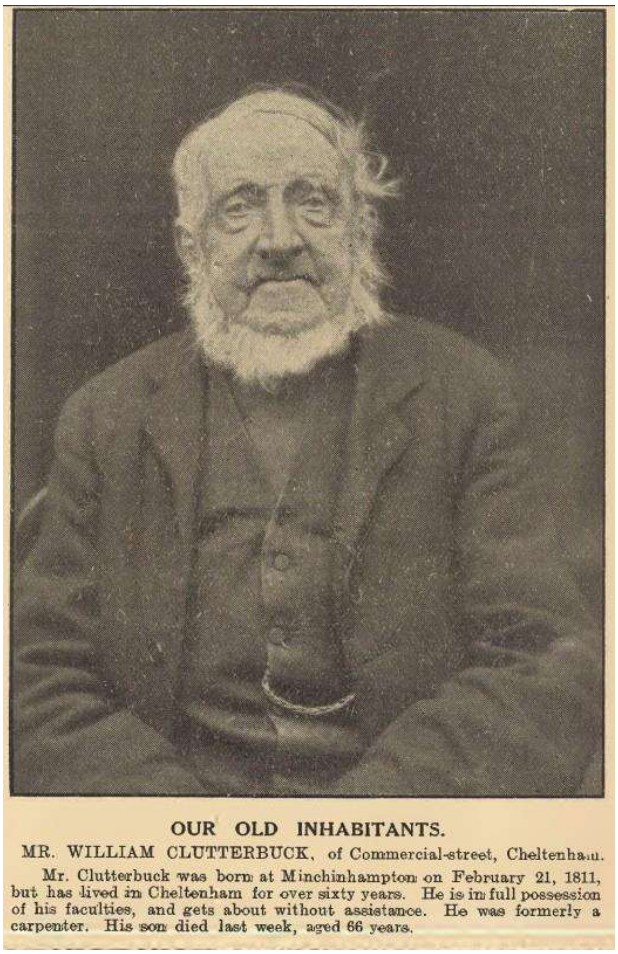
Edward Clutterbuck died in 1912 aged 86. He may have got into trouble with the law for petty larceny when times got financially tough, but it seems he cared for his children and they cared for him in his old age.

I found a very sad story in 'The Citizen' newspaper of Tuesday 16 March 1897 which was probably more representative of Edward's true character:-

When living at Walls Quarry, Edward's neighbour Mrs Creed had asked her 9-year-old daughter, Edith, to put the kettle on the stove, which she had done many times before.

Unfortunately, on this occasion, her dress caught fire. Edith was understandably frightened and ran around. [Editor –something which probably more fanned the flames than otherwise] Her mother heard her screams and tried to put the flames out but failed and called next door to Edward to help.

He came immediately and put the flames out with a wet blanket. Edward and another neighbour Albert Roberts then took Mrs Creed and Edith to Stroud Hospital in a pony and trap, which must have been a harrowing journey. Edith was still alive when they got to the hospital but sadly, she was so severely burnt that she died later of shock. It must have been an awful thing to witness.



OUR OLD INHABITANTS.

MR. WILLIAM CLUTTERBUCK, of Commercial-street, Cheltenham.

Mr. Clutterbuck was born at Minchinhampton on February 21, 1811, but has lived in Cheltenham for over sixty years. He is in full possession of his faculties, and gets about without assistance. He was formerly a carpenter. His son died last week, aged 66 years.

Photograph from The Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic No. 315, Saturday, January 12, 1907. Entitled: Our Old Inhabitants. 'Mr William Clutterbuck of Commercial Street, Cheltenham. Mr Clutterbuck was born in Minchinhampton on February 21, 1811, but has lived in Cheltenham for over sixty years. He is in full possession of his faculties and gets about without assistance. He was formerly a carpenter. His son died last week, aged 66. This is William Bryan Clutterbuck (1811-1908), older brother of Edward Clutterbuck (1826-1912) and oldest son of John Clutterbuck (c. 1785 -1850), carpenter of Minchinhampton, and Sarah Clutterbuck (née Bryan) (1785- 1861)

Unfortunately, I don't have any portraits or photos of Edward, but I do have one of his older brother William Bryan Clutterbuck (1811–1908), who was a carpenter in Cheltenham, who lived to the ripe old age of 97. This can be seen above.

The Clutterbuck family is very diverse, ranging from some dodgy characters to war heroes and knights of the realm. There are even two Clutterbucks from different branches of the family who were unfortunately shot down by the Red Baron in the first World War.

I have already traced many branches of the Clutterbuck family and hopefully I will tell you another story of one of them in future issues.

I have had some trouble in confirming the parents and date of birth of Edward's father, John Clutterbuck, carpenter and Joiner, of Minchinhampton (c.1785 – 1750). John was married to Sarah Bryan (1785-1861), they lived in Box, near Minchinhampton If anyone has any information about this or any other character in this article, I would be very interested to hear from you.

Dr. Mike King

The Phillpotts and Minchinhampton

I used to occasionally visit Minchinhampton some 35 years ago when my first wife and I used to take our children from the urban wasteland that was Bristol to play on Minchinhampton Common during summer weekends. Unfortunately, she passed away in 2008. My children left home, as they do, and when I retired, I decided to go and return to Cambridgeshire where I was born. It seemed healing at the time and, indeed, so it proved as I met my second wife there.

My second wife is a Londoner, and I decided to show her my old stamping grounds in north Bristol. Not wanting to stay in Bristol itself we decided to stay at the Amberley Inn near Minchinhampton. We walked around the beautiful little town that is Minchinhampton and I spied the Baptist Chapel. I am a complete sucker for church buildings. I just love them and the history they hold (my wife gets a bit fed up with this). Just imagine my surprise upon exploring the graveyard at the rear to find several monuments to Phillpotts! I had never seen so many in one place.

On returning home, I thought I would use the mighty power of the internet [presuming a sound connection] to really look at the Phillpotts family. It was fascinating – or at least **I** thought so. Below follows a short synopsis. I hope you don't find it too tedious.

I have been casually interested in my genealogy, as indeed many people are, for some time although a little cynical about the whole thing. I am well aware of the effects of doubling dilution. Most people will know they get their DNA 50% from their mother and the other half from their father. Of course, without investigation, you don't know which interesting bits come from each! This means you get 25% from each of your four grandparents. Trace it on and it means 12.5% from each great grandparent. I am lucky in that I knew my maternal great grandfather well. He died when I was 19 and 12.5% of me was him. He stood a strapping six foot, was rather taciturn and had a full head of hair. He grew flowers for a living. I am five feet six, totally bald and an ex-university lecturer. Yes, you can trace your ancestors but the total amount of DNA you share is low. You can, of course, trace markers and there is always mitochondrial DNA but to fool yourself you are really anything much like your ancestors is a conceit, thus wasting time tracing them seems a bit pointless. However, look at it another way and it is a glimpse into history and as you can research your own line a little bit more closely than most, it can be very illuminating.

I knew the Phillpotts came from around Stroud and Thrupp as my paternal grandparents told me when I was young. They were strict Salvation Army, had moved to Croydon in Surrey and not much inclined to discuss towns in the Cotswolds with their small

grandson. When I later started to investigate it became apparent, upon casual research, that Phillpotts was definitely a West Country name. There aren't that many in East Anglia but since the two World Wars social mobility has increased markedly and the Phillpotts are steadily spreading.

Opinions on the origin of the name vary. It may be ancient in that Philip has Greco/Roman origins and relates to horses. An 's' on the end usually means the bearer was Philip's villein, which quite appeals to me. I think in those days it did not pay you to stick your head up too far! Another plausible explanation is that it comes via Phillipo which is a fairly common Spanish name. The Armada was wrecked all around the West Country coasts and the theory is that several Phillipos staggered ashore and were consoled by the local West Country ladies. I quite like this one too. [Editor – For information, a John Philpot, Archdeacon of Westminster was a protestant martyr under Queen Mary in 1555 – 33 years before the Armada]

Now there comes another issue which you come across quite quickly if you look into your ancestors. How was the name spelt? This is never simple. Get much beyond 1800 and no one really cared. The thought that I could stick with the spelling as two Ls, two Ts and an S on the end is quite simply ludicrous. When I attend the doctor and the receptionist says - as they do - 'what's your NHS number 'I say, 'just look under Phillpotts there won't be many of them' This won't actually work for tracing ancestors. Why didn't they learn to spell? There is also the use of 'family names'. The Phillpotts boys of every generation in my family seem to be called 'William'. With this and the DNA issues you are on a bit of a loser to start with but, as history is important, you can't just give up. However, don't expect too much. I found it fascinating – or at least **I** thought so. I hope you do too.

Family trees don't fit on small pages, so I thought I'd just list the ancestors in 'lines' as though they were a chart.

FIRST LINE

I have not traced earlier than the eighteenth century, I leave that to others, so the first ancestor I note is William Phillpotts who was born in Minchinhampton in 1781. He married Elisabeth Ockford, also born in 1781, on 29th October 1799.

I don't know how they made a living but would guess they were employed in agricultural work of some sort. Their children, all born in Minchinhampton were

- William born 1801 who married Elizabeth
- Stephen born 1805 who married Sarah
- John born 1806 who married another Elisabeth
- Thomas (my ancestor) born 1807 married yet another Elisabeth
- Daniel born 1809 who married, yes, another Elisabeth [This time Franklin] from Rodborough and
- Richard born 1816. [Richard seems to have run out of Elisabeths, and I have no record of any marriage]
- Ann who was born in 1826 which must have been a bit of a shock – if the date was recorded correctly.

SECOND LINE

My ancestor Thomas Phillpotts (see above) was born in Minchinhampton in 1807 and was a carpenter, a tradesman which speaks of the way the area was headed. He made an interesting marriage to Elisabeth Matthews born 1811 who came from Cricklade in Wiltshire. Interesting because she was recorded as a clothworker, not 'just' a wife. She may have been attracted to Minchinhampton by the new local mills and no doubt earned money in her own right, before falling in with Thomas Phillpotts. It was the dawn of the Victorian era [Editor – 1837?] and they had eight children. One assumes it was a happy, or at least very busy, marriage.

Their children apart from the the last two, were all born in Minchinhampton and seem to have worked in small factories.

- Mary-Anne (born1831) became a clothworker like her mother
- Adeline (born 1833) also became a clothworker
- Joseph (born 1834) was a flock-worker
- Thomas (born 1837) was a clothworker in 1851 but later became a railway labourer in 1871.
- Elisabeth, born in 1838 (I was waiting for Elizabeth!) - clothworker
- Jane born 1841- clothworker.
- William (my ancestor) was born in Stroud in 1845
- Ellen, the last child, was born in Stroud in 1847. She became a silk worker in 1861 and a factory clothworker in 1871.

It is not clear why Thomas and Elisabeth senior moved to Stroud, but the author suggests "There would no doubt have been better carpentry work in the town"

THIRD LINE

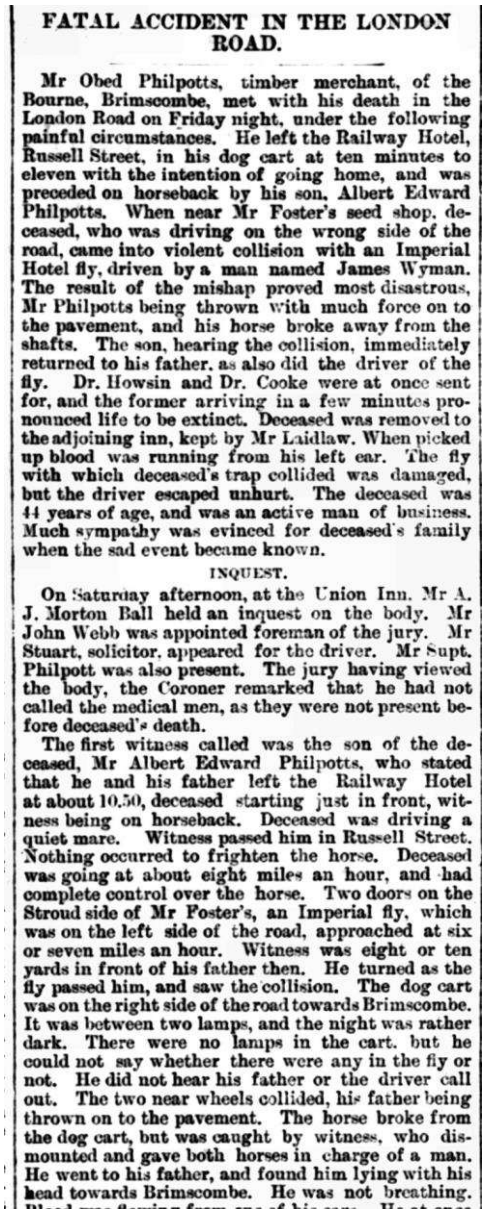
My great grandfather William (see above) was born in Stroud in1845 and married Mary Ann Ricketts who was born in Gloucester in 1842. She was a tailoress. William was firstly a woolworker in 1861 aged 16, then a factory worker in 1871 then a 'stick' worker in 1881 (umbrellas and walking sticks were a diversification of the mills) possibly at Philpotts (ignore the spelling!) saw yard at Bourne Mills, Brimscombe) and finally a mason's labourer in 1891. This last must have been very hard for a man aged 51 and William had his problems (see below). These problems were not helped by he and Mary having 10 children.

I feel they were probably crushingly poor. He seems to have been overly fond of a drink, or several, and you can read into his life that he was helped and supported by the people in the Baptist Chapel graveyard, who I think were relatives. Perhaps they thought they could rescue him from sin.

Their children

- Kate [The first child] was born at Brimscombe in 1871 where her father worked in the mill with Obed Edom Phillpotts. A splendid name!
- Thomas, was born on 1874 in Gloucester. Did Mary go back to her mother for a while? She may well have done with William's 'difficulties" [Editor – highly speculative]
- Ellen was born in 1875 in Stroud. The next four children were all born in Thrupp: -
- Arthur 1877
- Elisabeth 1880
- Joseph 1882. He joined the Royal Navy as a boy and sailed out of Gloucester to Newfoundland. Here he jumped ship (not a good plan if you're in the Navy) and ran off with a Canadian girl. They married and crossed into the USA where he became a citizen and joined the American Army. He survived the Second World War, with the rank of Sergeant and is buried in Arlington National Cemetry.
- William Charles, [My grandfather] was born next in 1885.

Life For William and Mary seems to have stabilised a little. Some factories in the Stroud valley became sawmills and others took to making sticks and umbrellas. Remember William became a stick labourer in 1881? Disaster now struck and poor Obed Edom was 'accidentally killed' (to quote the stone in Minchinhampton Baptist Church graveyard) on 2nd April 1886 aged 45.



FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE LONDON ROAD.

Mr Obed Philpotts, timber merchant, of the Bourne, Brimscombe, met with his death in the London Road on Friday night, under the following painful circumstances. He left the Railway Hotel, Russell Street, in his dog cart at ten minutes to eleven with the intention of going home, and was preceded on horseback by his son, Albert Edward Philpotts. When near Mr Foster's seed shop, deceased, who was driving on the wrong side of the road, came into violent collision with an Imperial Hotel fly, driven by a man named James Wyman. The result of the mishap proved most disastrous, Mr Philpotts being thrown with much force on to the pavement, and his horse broke away from the shafts. The son, hearing the collision, immediately returned to his father, as also did the driver of the fly. Dr. Howsin and Dr. Cooke were at once sent for, and the former arriving in a few minutes pronounced life to be extinct. Deceased was removed to the adjoining inn, kept by Mr Laidlaw. When picked up blood was running from his left ear. The fly with which deceased's trap collided was damaged, but the driver escaped unhurt. The deceased was 44 years of age, and was an active man of business. Much sympathy was evinced for deceased's family when the sad event became known.

INQUEST.

On Saturday afternoon, at the Union Inn, Mr A. J. Morton Ball held an inquest on the body. Mr John Webb was appointed foreman of the jury. Mr Stuart, solicitor, appeared for the driver. Mr Supt. Philpott was also present. The jury having viewed the body, the Coroner remarked that he had not called the medical men, as they were not present before deceased's death.

The first witness called was the son of the deceased, Mr Albert Edward Philpotts, who stated that he and his father left the Railway Hotel at about 10.50, deceased starting just in front, witness being on horseback. Deceased was driving a quiet mare. Witness passed him in Russell Street. Nothing occurred to frighten the horse. Deceased was going at about eight miles an hour, and had complete control over the horse. Two doors on the Stroud side of Mr Foster's, an Imperial fly, which was on the left side of the road, approached at six or seven miles an hour. Witness was eight or ten yards in front of his father then. He turned as the fly passed him, and saw the collision. The dog cart was on the right side of the road towards Brimscombe. It was between two lamps, and the night was rather dark. There were no lamps in the cart, but he could not say whether there were any in the fly or not. He did not hear his father or the driver call out. The two near wheels collided, his father being thrown on to the pavement. The horse broke from the dog cart, but was caught by witness, who dismounted and gave both horses in charge of a man. He went to his father, and found him lying with his head towards Brimscombe. He was not breathing.

William and Mary moved away to Ruardean across the Severn, possibly to live with one of his uncles, and had another baby, Jane (born 1888) but it didn't work out and William and Mary returned to Sauls Court, Parliament Street, Stroud. The area has largely been redeveloped and no trace of Sauls Court remains. Here Mary Ann was born in 1891 and William started work as a mason's labourer. The equivalent these days would be a building site labourer. Before I move on to my grandfather I must conclude the tale of William Phillpotts, my great grandfather. I feel I really owe it to him to make his sad demise known. It brought tears to my eyes and not a little anger. People should know these stories. With drink and poor employment life just got too much for him and he descended into mental ill health and was incarcerated in the Gloucestershire asylums.

The earliest of these asylums was the Wotton Asylum where the first expansion took place during the 1870 and 80's, with a new three storey block added to the southwest for females, and a similar detached block to the north for males. The detached block was linked to the north wing in 1885 with the construction of a single storey day room. A new Chapel was also constructed on the former burial ground directly to the south of the asylum, replacing the one constructed in 1849.

The County of Gloucestershire, keen to limit further development on the restricted Wotton site, purchased land to the east at Coney Hill, a short distance to the south of the private subscribers new Barnwood House Asylum. Coney Hill had been planned as an extensive complex initially but was never to reach its projected capacity as the county decided to implement only the initial phases of its construction leaving the majority of the ward blocks permanently unbuilt. The truncated complex opened in 1883, receiving committed paupers from Wotton and out-of-county asylums where some had been boarded due to lack of space. Private patients were transferred to the more rural Coney Hill where congenial surroundings and more hospitable and modern facilities were provided. Wotton Asylum remained the principal of the two complexes with management of both combined at this original asylum and Coney Hill retained the effective status of an annexe until 1948 despite a number of additions taking place at the newer institution into the 20th century.

William Phillpotts was committed to Wotton on June 13th, 1898, aged 53 years by Mark Bell-Marshall JP and was transferred to Coney Hill asylum April 20th 1904. He was classed as a pauper lunatic. The reason for admission seems to be 'melancholia' together with 'loss of work' and 'intemperance'. If these definitions were used today half of us would be 'inside'!

He was re-committed in May 1899, May 1900, May 1902, May 1905, May 1910 and May 1915. He was classed as a general labourer and registered in the census as a 'lunatic'. Nobody was 'woke' then! The transcript below is taken from Coney Hill records, which are fairly detailed from 1904, and I give them under date headings. His name is given throughout as 'Philpotts' rather than the 'Phillpotts' my great grandmother used. Where the error lies is hard to say as it is a difficult name to spell correctly and the literacy rate was not high.

April 24th1904

A case of melancholia. He has delusions about his wife and tells me that his three last children she had were not his and uses very strong language about her. Is said to get noisy and excited occasionally but since he has been here he has been quite quiet and orderly. Does a little ward work, sleeps and takes good walks. In good health. EWN

July 21st

Made his escape while with a picnic party at Painswick today but was soon recaptured by attendants. He is a very artful fellow and requires a good deal of watching. He used to be very suicidal some years ago and I would not trust him much now. EK

October 9th

Still has the delusions about his wife and speaks very badly of her. Has become more excited of late; talks a great deal and often sings. EWN

November 7th

Again, tried to escape the other day. Got very excited when prevented and vowed that he would kill himself if he were not given his discharge. EWN

February 8th 1905

Singing all day long and is often restless and noisy at night. Gets excited and abusive occasionally. EWN

May 8th

Just the same. Very restless and noisy. EWN

August 8th
Sings all day long, words are his own invention and mostly all filth. EK

November 9th 1905

Wanders about singing all day long and smokes a great amount. Gets frequently excited and abusive about his detention here. Makes himself useful. In good health. EWN

February 7th 1906

A bit quieter, on the whole, but got very excited and abusive the other day when some trivial fault was found with his work. Was inciting others also to refuse work. EWN

May 6th

Condition does not change in any way. EWN

August 6th

Very noisy lately singing at the top of his voice all day long. Working fairly well. Health good. EWN

November 6th

No change at all. Is always singing and uses filthy language. EK

December 19th

Patient has a swollen hand due to struggle with the Attendants this morning. It appears he was asked to come away from the fire so that the others could get the benefit of the heat and he resented this so much he commenced to fight and kick. I do not think that he has broken his fifth right metacarpal bone but have put it up in a splint so as to be on the safe side. He says he hurt it in trying to prevent himself falling on his head. The Attendants Hodges and Flack say he was trying to kick them when he slipped. BB.

December ??

William Philpotts suffered a black eye due to Tom Crutchley lying in wait and hitting him. (Nursing Day Book)

February 4th 1907

Just as noisy and quarrelsome as ever. The hand is quite well again.

May 1st

He is a great singer and puts new word into old songs making them very foul. Gets very abusive to several members of The Committee and is generally lazy. BB

August 1st

Continues noisy and abusive. Makes the most fearful row singing. BB

November 1st

No change mentally and is violent tempered but rather amusing at times. BB

February 1st 1908

Just as violent and abusive towards some people as ever but he is always very nice with me. He makes a great deal of noise singing in the morning. Health good. BB

May 1st

Patients condition does not alter he is full of mischief and must have his own way. BB

August 1st

Always very pleasant with me now. Not quite so noisy this summer BB

Nov. 1st

Still terribly deluded about his wife and he makes use of the most awful language about her and is a most violent tempered old fellow if he is put out in any way whatever. BB

February 1st 1909

Patient is very noisy and always singing about the place. NF

May 1st

Mischievous individual who troubles the other patients. NF

August 1st

Has been excited or swearing a great deal lately. NF

Nov 1st

No change to report. NF

February 1st 1910

Has been quite lately but is still very abusive at times. NF

May 1st

Is a great singer with a voice considerably larger than himself. NF

August 1st

No change to report

November 1st

Has been quieter lately but changes little. NF

February 1st 1911

As deluded and at times noisy as ever. BB

May 1st

Still has delusions regarding his wife's fidelity. ABR

August 1st

At times he is very noisy and abusive, especially if The Committee are about. He threatens violence to his wife should he ever get away from here. ABR

November 1st

No change whatever; threatens to kill his wife if he gets out.

February 1st 1912

He is at his best but is very noisy and excited at times. BAM

May 1st

A quiet demented old man; is sometimes noisy. BAM

August 1st 1912

He is very abusive and noisy when The Committee comes round, says he is unlawfully detained. At other times he is quite quiet and tractable. BAM

November 12th

He is quiet and working well now but resents being detained here very much. BAM

February 1st 1913

He has been rather quiet since last notes. Works well. BAM

May 1st

He has been working well and is quiet. BAM

August 1st

He is excitable and abusive at times. BAM

1st November

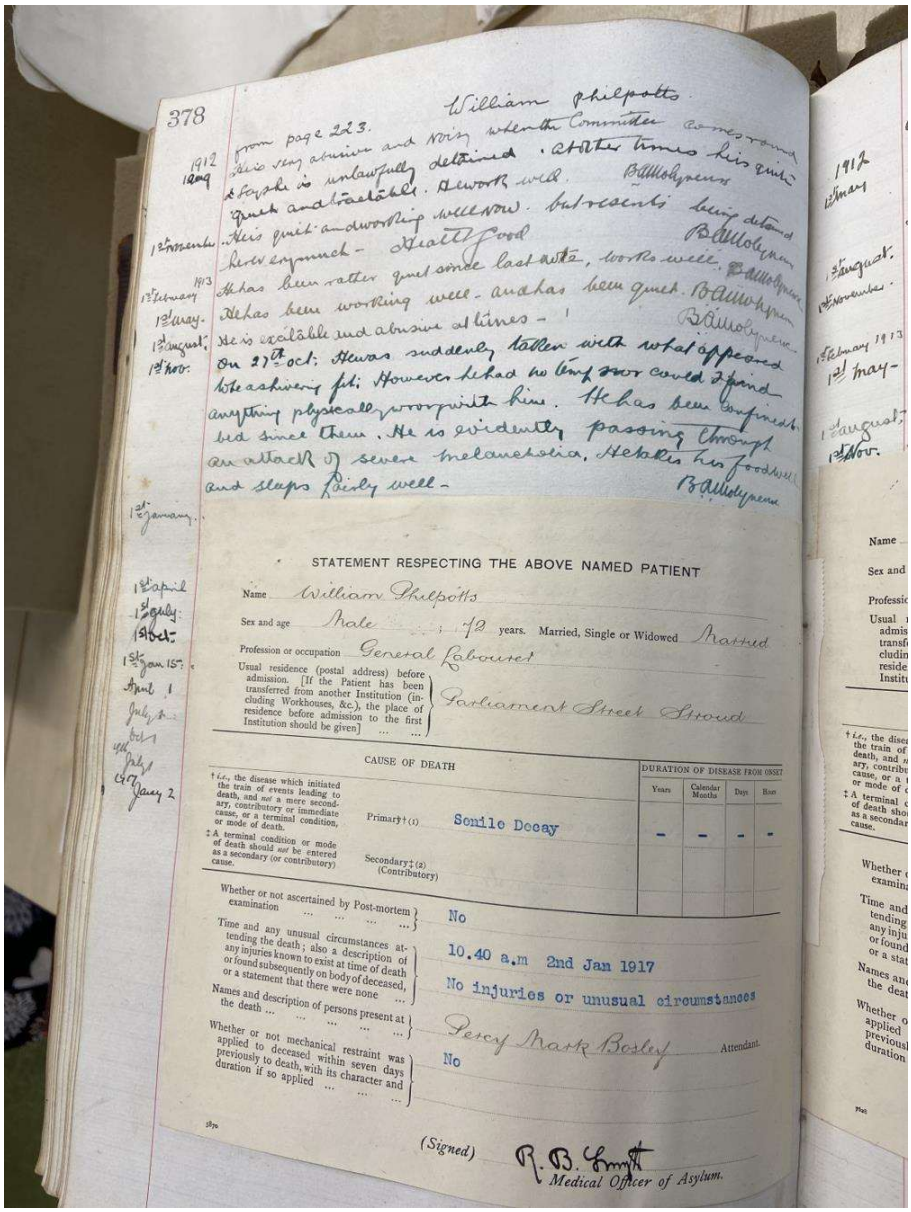
On 27th October he was suddenly taken with what appeared to be a shivering fit. However, he had no temperature neither could I find anything physically wrong with him. He has been confined to bed since then. He is evidently passing through an attack of severe melancholia. He takes his food well and sleeps fairly well. BAM

Here the record is lost as the Death Certificate has been pasted over the last very small entries in the Record Book. There are four entries for 1914, three for 1915 and only one for 1916 all under the Death Certificate. Just discoverable from the nursing Day Book are:

December 6th and Decenber13th 1913

Melancholia.

William Philpotts died on January 2nd, 1917, in Coney Hill Asylum. His death certificate is appended. I do not know where he is buried. Of William's children both Ellen and Mary Ann suffered from depression and his grandchild, Jessie, developed depression with paranoid delusions in her fifties. She was a Major in the Salvation Army and spent some time in hospital before being looked after by the Army for the rest of her life. His son, William, my grandfather was a very happy and humorous little man but I never heard him sing!



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William Philpotts.

from page 223.

1912 1909

1913

1914

STATEMENT RESPECTING THE ABOVE NAMED PATIENT

Name William Philpotts

Sex and age Male 72 years. Married, Single or Widowed Married

Profession or occupation General Labourer

Usual residence (postal address) before admission. [If the Patient has been transferred from another Institution (including Workhouses, &c.), the place of residence before admission to the first Institution should be given] ... ... Parliament Street Stroud

CAUSE OF DEATH

DURATION OF DISEASE FROM ONSET

		Years	Calendar Months	Days	Hours
† i.e., the disease which initiated the train of events leading to death, and not a mere secondary, contributory or immediate cause, or a terminal condition, or mode of death. Primary†(1)	Senile Decay	-	-	-	-
‡ A terminal condition or mode of death should not be entered as a secondary (or contributory) cause. Secondary‡(2) (Contributory)					

Whether or not ascertained by Post-mortem examination ... ... No

Time and any unusual circumstances attending the death; also a description of any injuries known to exist at time of death or found subsequently on body of deceased, or a statement that there were none ... 10.40 a.m 2nd Jan 1917 No injuries or unusual circumstances

Names and description of persons present at the death ... ... Percy Mark Bosley Attendant.

Whether or not mechanical restraint was applied to deceased within seven days previously to death, with its character and duration if so applied ... ... No

(Signed) R. B. Smyth
Medical Officer of Asylum.

FOURTH LINE

If you survived **that** I now continue with my grandfather William Charles as above.

He was born in 1885 in Thrupp to William and Mary. It is this generation that broke all ties with Stroud and Minchinhampton. In fact, Mary abandoned William in the asylum and moved to Croydon in Surrey to be with her daughter Kate in 1901 who obtained a job in general service with a baker William Thompson.

Elisabeth came too and married a Mr Ramsbottom in Croydon who was a Major (equivalent to ordained) in the Salvation army. She made sure **all** the Croydon family became Salvationists.

Of the other great aunts and uncles, Thomas became a tailor in Bristol, Ellen went into service in Bradford on Avon, Arthur remained a tailor and pressor in Stroud.

Poor Jane was sickly and died aged 22 in Croydon. Mary Anne (Great Aunt Polly) was looked after in Croydon. She 'suffered with her nerves' as later did Ellen who also came to Croydon. I remember my grandmother talking darkly about the 'family disease' but no one told me what that meant.

Great Aunt Kate got my grandfather a job as an errand boy with William Thompson and he became a Master Baker marrying Jessie Elisabeth Ling who came from Chevely near Newmarket and renting the house they all lived in, a three-bedroom terrace.

William Charles had two children:

- William Charles born 1919
- Jessie Mary born 1923.

As you can see, my family is not very original with their names! Jessie Mary didn't marry and spent some time in a mental hospital in London with paranoid schizophrenia, which was successfully treated. She was killed on a pedestrian crossing in Croydon by a speeding motorbike whilst delivering the 'War Cry'. Both the rider and his female passenger were killed instantly.

FIFTH LINE – modern times.

William Charles, my father, went to war. He signed on before call-up; he told me it was to avoid the Salvation Army! He and his mother, who was a fierce Salvationist, did not get along that well.

He went out with the Expeditionary Force and came back fairly quickly via Dunkirk. He would never talk to me about Dunkirk. He then went to join Monty in North Africa and became a motorcycle dispatch rider. He was sent back with yellow fever to the Liverpool Hospital for Tropical Diseases. They got him fit and sent him off to invade Italy so he missed D Day. Must have been some sort of error!

Whilst recovering from Italy near Huntingdon he met my mother who lived in Huntingdonshire. He died aged 92 and my mother was 96. They were unlucky enough to have two sons who were teenagers in the sixties. Myself who has a son and a daughter and my brother Robert (a PhD Virologist who worked for the MOD on Salisbury Plain) who adopted a son and a daughter. Both my children went to 'the other place' as Oxford

is known round here. My daughter lives in Scotland but my son lives in Cheltenham so the family maybe on the way back to Minchinhampton!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Oct 30 – The Market House – John Putley – Witchfynder - History of witches and tales of Gloucestershire witches

Nov 6 – The Market House – Andy Meller – The Glosters at Waterloo.

Dec 11 – The Market House – Patrick Furley – Magic Lantern Christmas Show followed by AGM.

2027

Jan 22 - Howard Beard

Feb 19 – Gareth Howell – Medieval Medicine

Mar 19 Barry Simon – The History of Aviation in Gloucestershire

Apr 16 Simon Draper Lordship in the Landscape: Medieval Manors in the Cotswolds

May 21 – The Market House – Patrick Furley - Titanic - A 1912 magic lantern show and associated commemorative material

Sep 17 - The Market House – Tony Carver – Gloucestershire & Slavery

Oct 15 – The Market House – Funerary Monuments in Gloucestershire

Nov - TBA

Dec 10 – The Market House – Kirsty Hartsiosis – Christmas Ghosts of Gloucestershire