

# The Landmark Trust

## WHITEFORD TEMPLE History Album



**Written by Charlotte Haslam, 1987**

**Updated 2015**

The Landmark Trust Shottesbrooke Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 3SW  
Charity registered in England & Wales 243312 and Scotland SC039205

*Bookings* 01628 825925 *Office* 01628 825920 *Facsimile* 01628 825417  
*Website* [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk)

## **KEY FACTS**

**Built c. 1799**

**Architect: Possibly Philip Stowey**

**Sold to Duchy of Cornwall 1879**

**(Whiteford House demolished 1913)**

**Temple given to Landmark Trust 1984**

**Architects for restoration: Pearn & Procter with Philip Jebb**

**Builders: Penbekon Ltd**

**Work completed 1987**

Contents

Whiteford Temple	5
Restoring the Temple	13
Mrs Coade & Coade stone, by Caroline Stanford	17
Sir William's Birthday	21
Whiteford House by Alastair Forsyth	23
Extract from <i>Regional Architecture of the West of England</i>	31
Extract from <i>Cornish Characters and Strange Events</i>	33



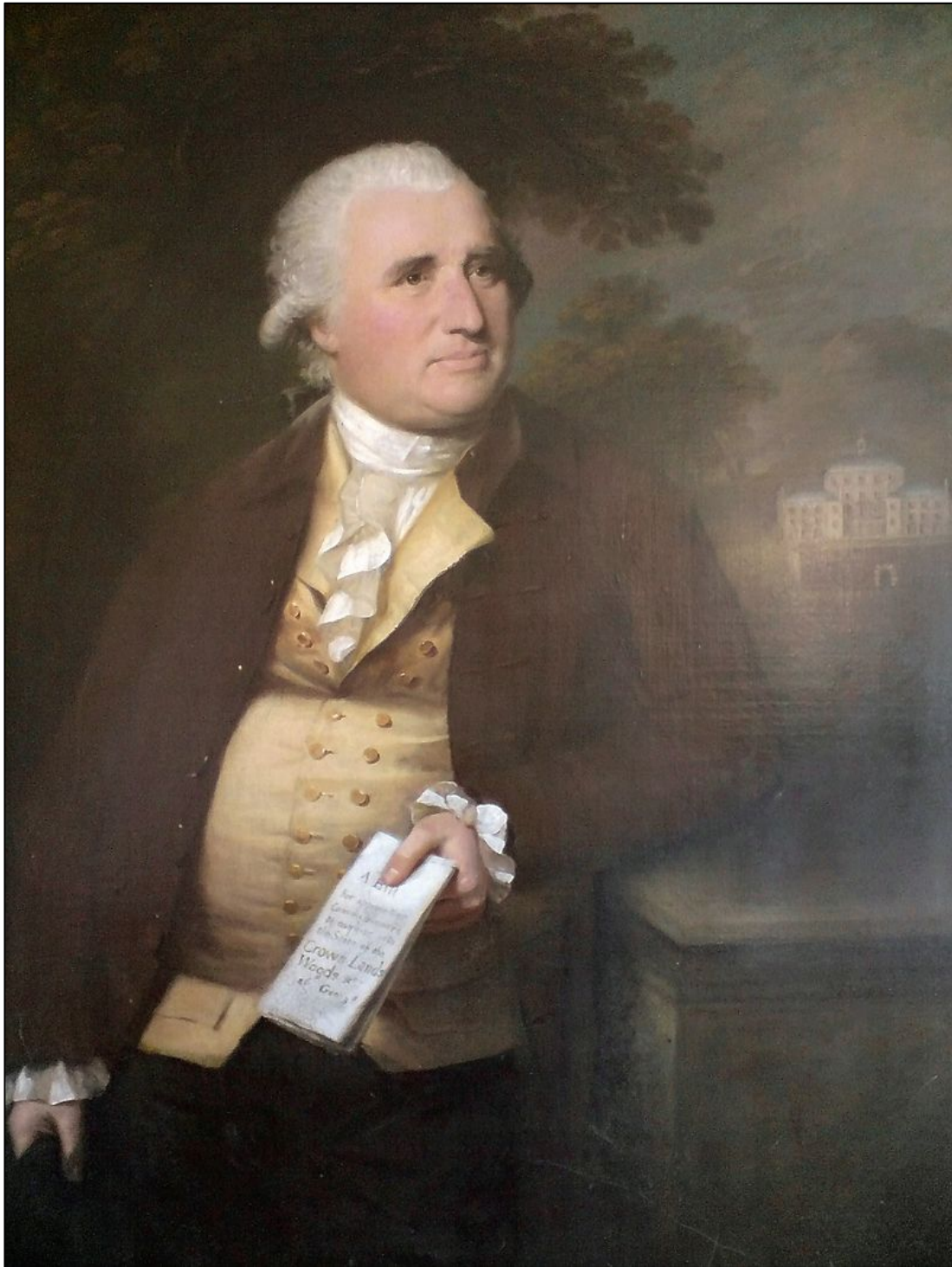
**The Whiteford Temple**

## Whiteford Temple

The Duchy of Cornwall very generously gave the Whiteford Temple to the Landmark Trust in 1984. It was originally a summer-house for Sir John Call's Whiteford House, down at the foot of the hill, which was built in 1775 after his return from India as a wealthy man. We do not know the date of the Temple itself; on one of the Coade-stone panels on the front is the date 1799, but Baring-Gould in his biography of Sir John in *Cornish Characters and Strange Events* (for which see end of album) says that Sir John lost his sight in 1795 and he would have been unlikely, after that, to put up a building whose main point is the view to be enjoyed from it. It is possible that the Temple was built some years before and the panels were added to it – the panel on the left, which has India and America inscribed on it, clearly refers in some way to Sir John's career, depicting a goddess of conquest or exploration, perhaps.



**The inscriptions of America and India are in the bottom right corner of the Coade stone panel.**



**Sir John Call, 1st Baronet, with Bodmin Gaol in the background. Sir John commissioned the gaol in 1770. Attr. to Francis Alleyn.**

Tradition says that the Temple was built to celebrate the coming of age of Sir John's eldest surviving son, William; a fete was held, and there was dancing. The panel on the right, with its harvest goddess, refers to the season of William's birthday, at the end of August, but in 1799 he was only eighteen. It may be that a tradition of celebrating his birthday had grown up before that - and it certainly lasted into his old age: in 1847 Sir William's niece (he succeeded his father as 2nd Baronet in 1801) recorded in her diary that they spent the evening dancing there.



**The second Coade stone panel with its reference to a goddess of the harvest.**

There are other unanswered questions concerning the Temple. There is no record of the architect, but Alastair Forsyth, who has researched the history of Whiteford House (and whose account of it follows), thinks that the most likely candidate is Philip Stowey, a gentleman architect from Devon, who with his partner Thomas Jones drew up designs for Bodmin Gaol under Sir John Call's patronage. It was probably Stowey, too, who enlarged the Manor House at Launcells, paid for by Sir John, and who also, therefore, designed the new

reredos (decorative altarpiece) in the church there, recorded as being given in gratitude for completing the building work without accident.



**Whiteford House**

There are stylistic similarities between both Whiteford House and Temple and Stowey's work elsewhere - at his own home, Kenbury House, Exminster for example. So while it is possible that Sir John himself played a part in the design of the main house, the Temple was probably the work of Stowey alone. There is also a tenuous link with the Wyatt family, though more one of influence than actual design. It is known that Sir John and Samuel Wyatt, brother of the more famous James, were personal friends. *The Survey of London* attributes alterations of c.1785 to Sir John's London house, in Old Burlington Street (originally built by Lord Burlington for Marshal Wade), to Samuel Wyatt. It may have been at Wyatt's suggestion that the Coade-stone panels were incorporated in the front of the Temple; it was a material of which he made frequent use himself. It is also recorded that Philip Stowey's design for the Sessions House in the Castle at Exeter, which he exhibited at the Society of Artists with a design for the General Hospital, Taunton, in 1775, was submitted to James Wyatt, who made



recommendations for the improvement of the elevation. This elevation has the triple arch which seems to be a recurring theme in Stowey's work.



**The Session House designed by Philip Stowey, who may also have designed the Whiteford Temple. This print was published by H. Besley, 1836.**

Another unanswered question is whether the Temple was ever any larger. There was an archway in the back wall which looked as though it might have given access to another room behind. And the account of Sir William's birthday in Mrs Prior's diary seems to indicate a larger building than the one we see today. It would make sense, in terms of design, if the present building was only the portico to a larger chamber behind, possibly even a rotunda. This could have been made of less durable materials and never intended to last; when it became too dilapidated it was simply dismantled. To support this theory, when the new drive was being laid, it was thought that a length of wall projecting from the rear of the Temple had been found, but it rose no higher than foundation height and did not continue, so that it provided no sound evidence of further building. No other traces of foundations were found, but the area has all been ploughed and disturbed, so this was not necessarily to be expected.

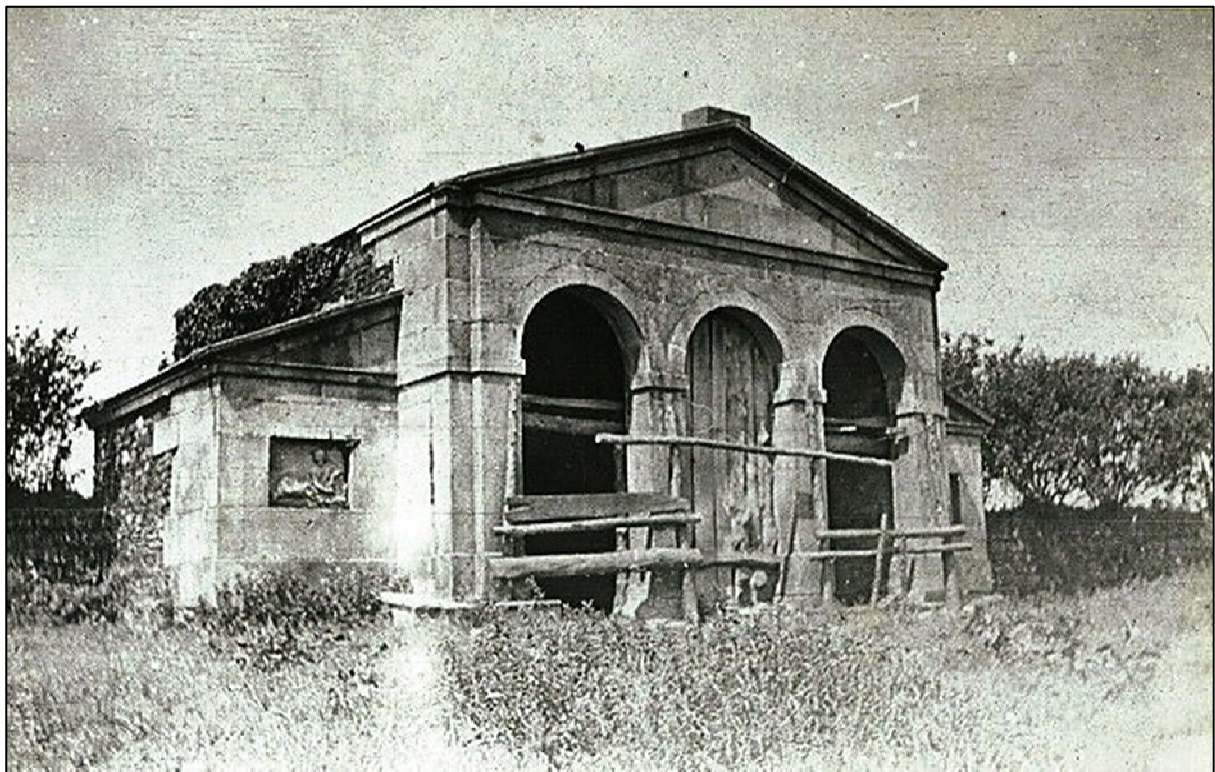
Another, but more remote, possibility is that the Temple originally did not stand on this site at all, but was nearer the house - from which the access is by no means obvious now. Apart from the difficulty of getting to it, the reason for thinking this is that the granite blocks of the facade do not fit well together, as though they have at some stage been taken apart and rather roughly reassembled. If there was originally a rather gimcrack structure attached to it, which was later pulled down, it could be that the solid front of the building was taken down at the same time and re-sited as a belvedere.

Against this is the fact that the Temple occupies a splendid and, to the 18th-century mind, very obvious site for such a building, with its glorious views, and itself acting as an eye-catcher for the surrounding area, so that it is easy to believe that it was always there. There is also the tradition (repeated by Alastair Forsyth) that the way to the Temple was lit by torches and could be seen for miles around, which confirms that it was on an elevated site; it also indicates that the approach from the house was, somehow, up the slope in front, rather than along behind the kitchen garden as now.

The later history of the Calls is a sad one and is given in detail by Alastair Forsyth; the family went bankrupt and the Whiteford estate had to be sold. In 1879 it was bought by the Duchy of Cornwall, but the house was already in poor condition, and in 1913 it was demolished, leaving the Temple, isolated on its hilltop. The windows were taken out, and it was used as a field-shelter for cattle. Later the roof went as well, and was replaced with corrugated iron. Stone paving in front of the Temple survived into this century (the local contractor who laid the new drive in 1985 remembered playing on it as a boy) but has since been taken up and the area ploughed. One of the Coade-stone figures lost her head.



1910 The Temple can be seen, on its ridge, beyond the house.



c.1910



**Whiteford Temple in 1983.**



**1984**

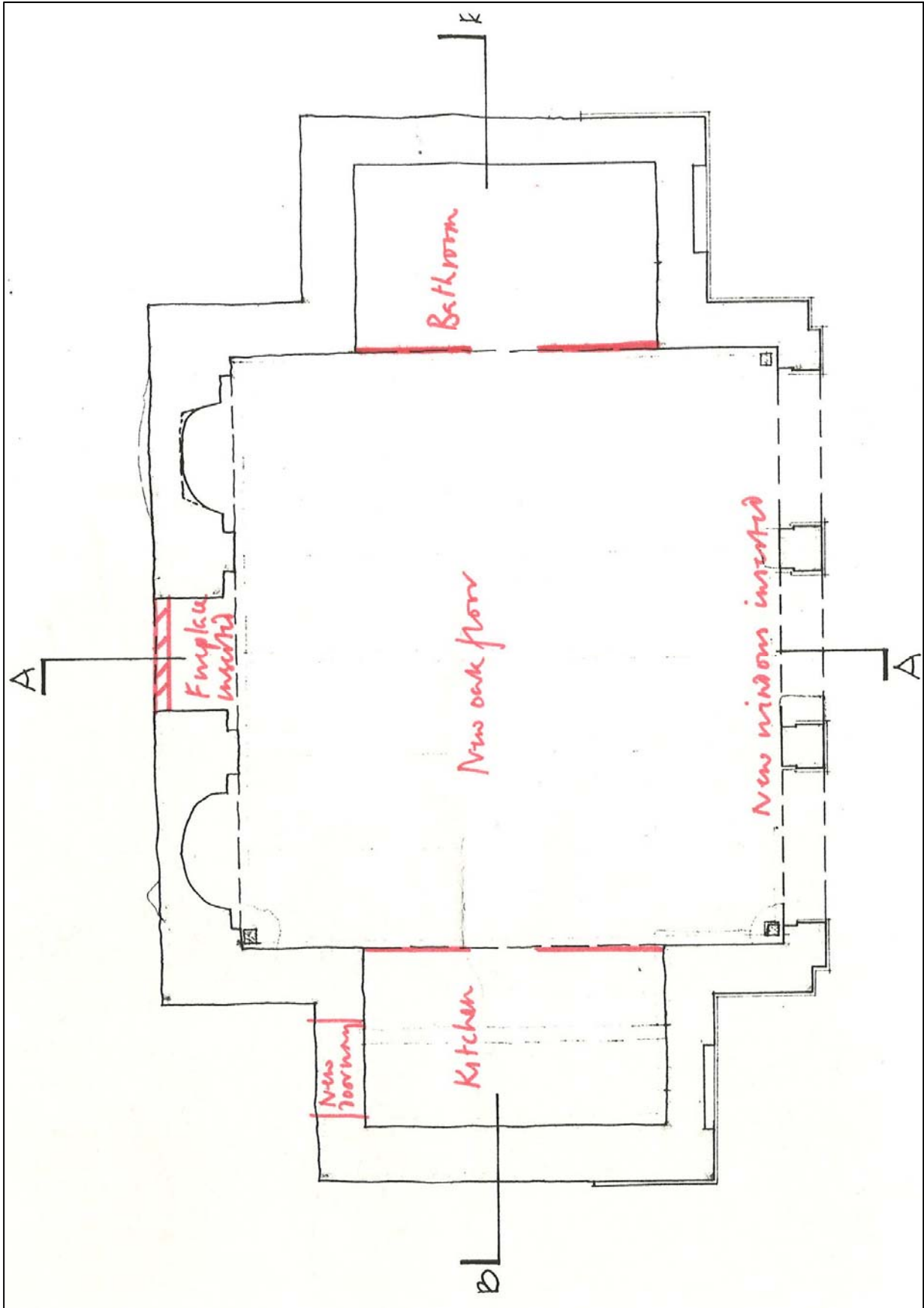
## Restoring the Temple

As so often with small and simple buildings, a great deal more work was needed to restore it than was originally envisaged. The back and sides of the building had not been built with the same care as the front of ashlar masonry and needed extensive rebuilding and reinforcement. A ring beam round the wall-head was also needed, to hold the front to the side walls. New granite coping stones were needed round the sides and back of the building, which were obtained from a local quarry.

A main consideration in the repair of the Temple had of course to be the weather - in a strong wind it can seem as though the whole building is going to take off. Especially large Burlington slates were chosen, as less likely to be lifted by wind, and the lead flashings were more generous than usual, to increase their strength and durability. The frames for the windows in the arched openings are all hard-wood, rather than soft-wood as is usual, and painted, to withstand the driving rain.

It would not have been appropriate to enlarge the building, but by fitting the kitchen and bathroom into the side wings, it was possible to leave the main room uncluttered, to live in. There was no need for the rear entrance arch - it would only create drafts, and it was better to make a new back door leading into the kitchen - so it was blocked up, and a fireplace inserted in its place. A new floor of oak boards was laid.

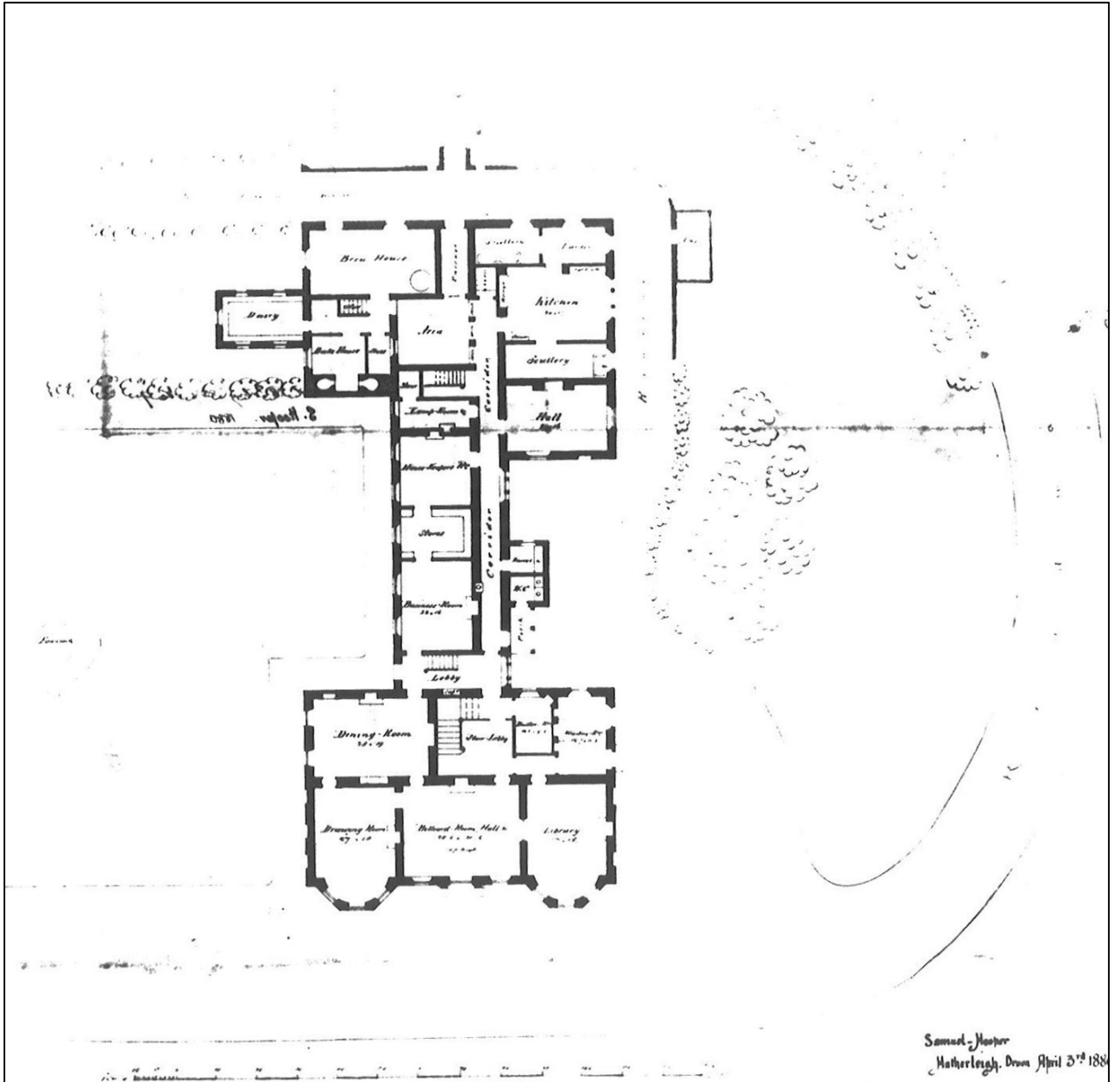
All the interior detail is, of course, entirely new. No drawings survived to show how it originally was, but all the new work has been designed in a manner suitable for, and sympathetic to, a provincial architect of the late 18th century.



Sadly, although rumours about its whereabouts have been heard and followed up, the missing head of the Coade-stone figure has never been found. Both panels are rather broken and in need of repair, but since so little is known about the composition of the material still, it was decided to leave them alone for the time being, rather than attempt a restoration which might damage them.

The surroundings of the Temple have all the romance of a place which was once great, but which is so no more. Trees which belong in parkland and not in farmland hint at other and different landscapes, as do buildings too grand for their present occupation - the stables and outbuildings of the main house survive, converted to farm use. Beyond them are intriguing remains of the garden layout, and of the house itself. Bits of the house have been rebuilt into other houses round about, such as the Duchy Home Farm. But as so often when a house such as Whiteford has disappeared, and anything which could be useful has been made use of, the buildings that were put up purely for pleasure and festivity are left, and if they are caught in time, can continue indefinitely to serve the purpose for which they were intended.

Charlotte Haslam  
December 1987



Plan made in 1880 for the Duchy of Cornwall, who had bought the house the year before.



Coade stone & Mrs Eleanor Coade – 2015 update,

by Caroline Stanford

In 2015, Landmark's 50th anniversary year, we opened Belmont in Lyme Regis. This pretty seaside villa, built in 1784, belonged for nearly 50 years to the redoubtable Mrs Eleanor Coade, creator and purveyor of the eponymous artificial stone used for the plaques on Whiteford Temple. Much more is now known about Coade stone and its composition: even as Charlotte was writing this album in 1987, Alison Kelly was working on her magisterial Coade Stone, published in 1990 and which remains the authority on the subject.

Eleanor Coade is a unique figure in architectural history as a single woman managing a hugely successful artificial stone manufactory in Lambeth. 'Mrs' or Mistress was a courtesy title since she never married. Part of a large extended family active in the wool trade, she retained strong links with the south west. She was born in, and lived most of her early life in Exeter and then, from 1759, in London. From 1784 until her death aged 89 in 1821, Mrs Coade owned Belmont as her seaside villa.

In 1769, Eleanor Coade and her mother (who bore the same name) went into business with one Daniel Pincot who ran a struggling artificial stone manufactory at King's Arms Stairs, Narrow Walk in Lambeth. Crucially, Coade stone is a fired ceramic, relying for its hardness on firing in a kiln, in contrast to cast cements, which harden through simple chemical reaction with the air and make up most artificial stone ornaments today. Eleanor Coade perfected the formulation of a fired ceramic mix and then, through the exceptional skill of her craftsmen and artistic credibility of the artists who made the models, she succeeded in positioning her wares as superior to natural stone for their hardness, adaptability and reliability of dimension. Coade stone was used by all the greatest architects of the time, both inside and out, so it is not surprise to find it featuring at Whiteford.



The frontispiece to Mrs Coade's 1784 catalogue of her wares shows Fire defeating Time, as Architecture looks on. The coal fired kiln appears behind.

Also in the 1980s, Belmont was the home of the writer John Fowles, author of *The Magus* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and much else. He was greatly interested by Mrs Coade and corresponded with Alison Kelly. He also gave her a chip from one of the Coade stone gateposts at Belmont, whose frontage is encrusted with Coade stone. This she gave to Dr Ian Freestone, then of the British Museum, for analysis under electron microscope.

This allowed the composition of Coade stone to be scientifically analysed for the first time. The Coade mix was revealed as 50-60% ball clay from South West England; plus 10% grog (finely ground, pre-fired stoneware); 5-10% crushed flint; 5-10% fine quartz or sand, and 10% crushed lime soda glass (which had a higher calcium content in 18th century than today's soda glass). These aggregates strengthened and stabilised the ball clay, which is inherently brittle when single-fired. The pre-fired material also reduced shrinkage during firing, and made it more predictable. The silicates – sand, quartz, flint, glass – partially vitrified during firing, and gave Coade stone its great hardness and durability. In comparison with pure clay ceramic mixes, their grittiness also provided the coarser texture necessary to imitate natural stone.

It is a common myth that Coade stone was a secret, patented recipe that was lost when Mrs Coade died (her manufactory failed in the 1830s). In fact, rather obviously when one pauses to reflect on the widely varying scale of Coade artefacts, the grind size of the grog also had to vary according to the size of the finished piece. Coade stone was no single recipe. The proprietorial secret, if such there were, lay as much in the consummate skills of the craftsmen who mixed the clay and the fireman who tended the kiln as in the formulation.

By 2015, the Coade process has been revived by two separate workshops, Philip Thomason of Thomason & Cudworth, Axminster, and Stephen Pettifer of Coade Ltd., Wilton. If funds were available, it would now be possible to restore the plaques on the Temple, something that remains an aspiration for the future.



**A contemporary watercolour showing the yard of the Coade manufactory in Lambeth c1800. The River God (as at Ham House, Richmond) is prominently displayed, as is the royal coat of arms hinting at Mrs Caode's Royal Warrant. Workmen grind grog, and mix the raw formula in a tub.**



**Coade stone on the front of Belmont House.**

## **Sir William's Birthday**

(From the diary of Emma Catherine Prior (née Young), wife of John Lawrence Prior, nephew of Sir William Call (2nd Bart) of Whiteford.

### **Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> (1847).**

A grand day, being the birthday of Sir William. All the party repaired to the Temple for the purpose of adorning it at an early hour. Julia Carwithen<sup>1</sup> the only addition to the family party. At 6 we repaired to the Temple which looked exceptionly (sic) pretty and did great credit to our exertions of the morning. I danced the first country dance with Lord Aylmer<sup>2</sup> who footed it manfully. There was a charming old Dr Fletcher of 87 who danced with Aunt Aylmer and then Louisa<sup>3</sup>. Some capital comic songs were sung and at 10 we took leave of them. There had been a dinner for the labourers in the afternoon at which the gentlemen attended and various healths drunk and speeches made.

We returned at 10 to supper, more speeches and songs before we retired to our rooms

### **Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup>**

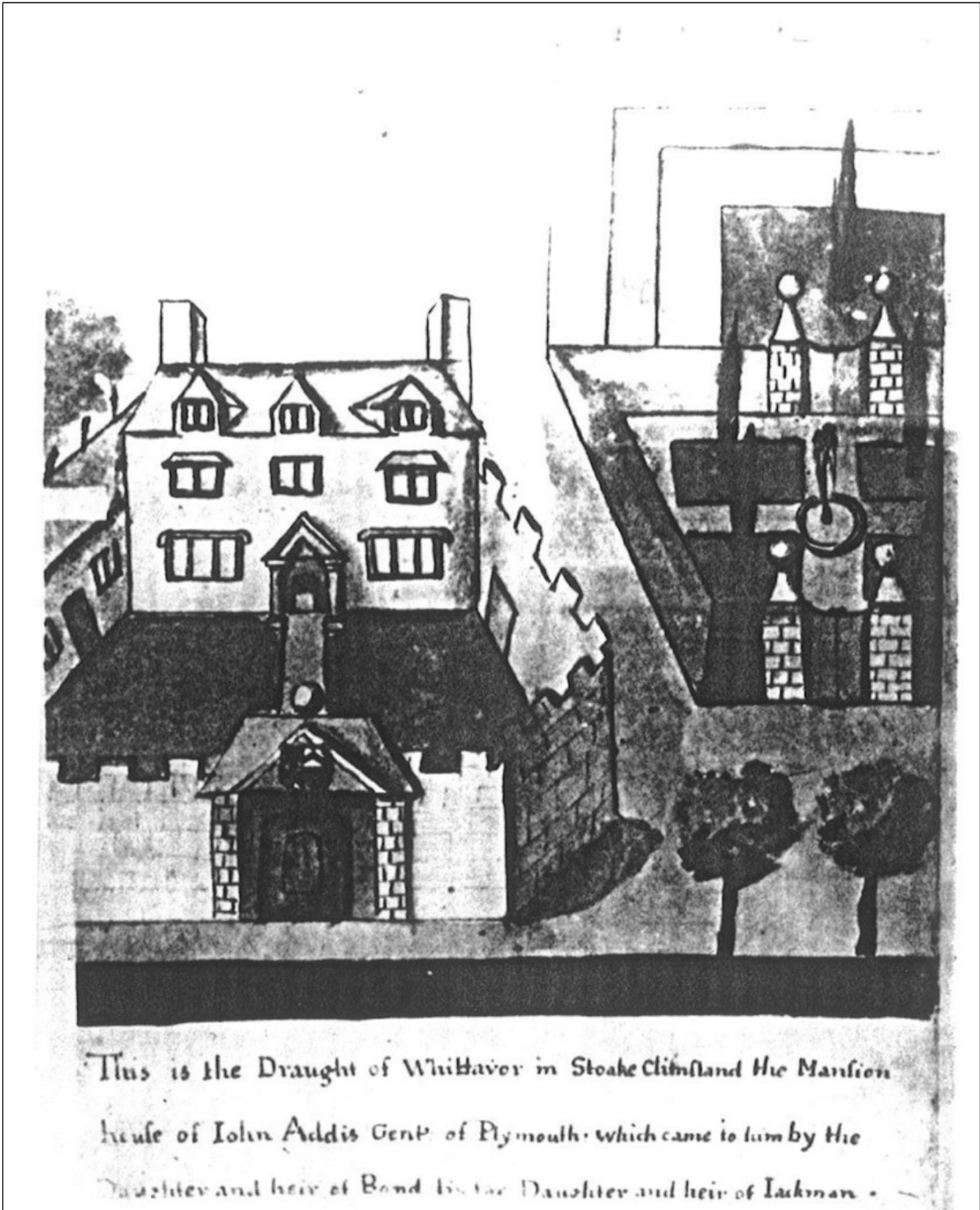
Desperately tired!

---

<sup>1</sup> Daughter of the then rector of Stoke Climsland.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Aylmer married Louisa Call, sister of Sir William. He had been Governor General of Canada 1831-33.

<sup>3</sup> Daughter of Sir William, later married the Hon William Spencer, who was rector of Stoke Climsland after Dr Carwithen.



This is the Draught of Whitavor in Stoake Clitland the Mansion  
house of Iohn Addis Gent. of Plymouth. which came to him by the  
Daughter and heir of Bond by the Daughter and heir of Iackman.

From the *Black Book of Trebartha*.

## Whiteford House by Alastair Forsyth

(From '*Duchy Digest*' of Cornwall, Spring 1984 Vol 4, updated by the author 1987)

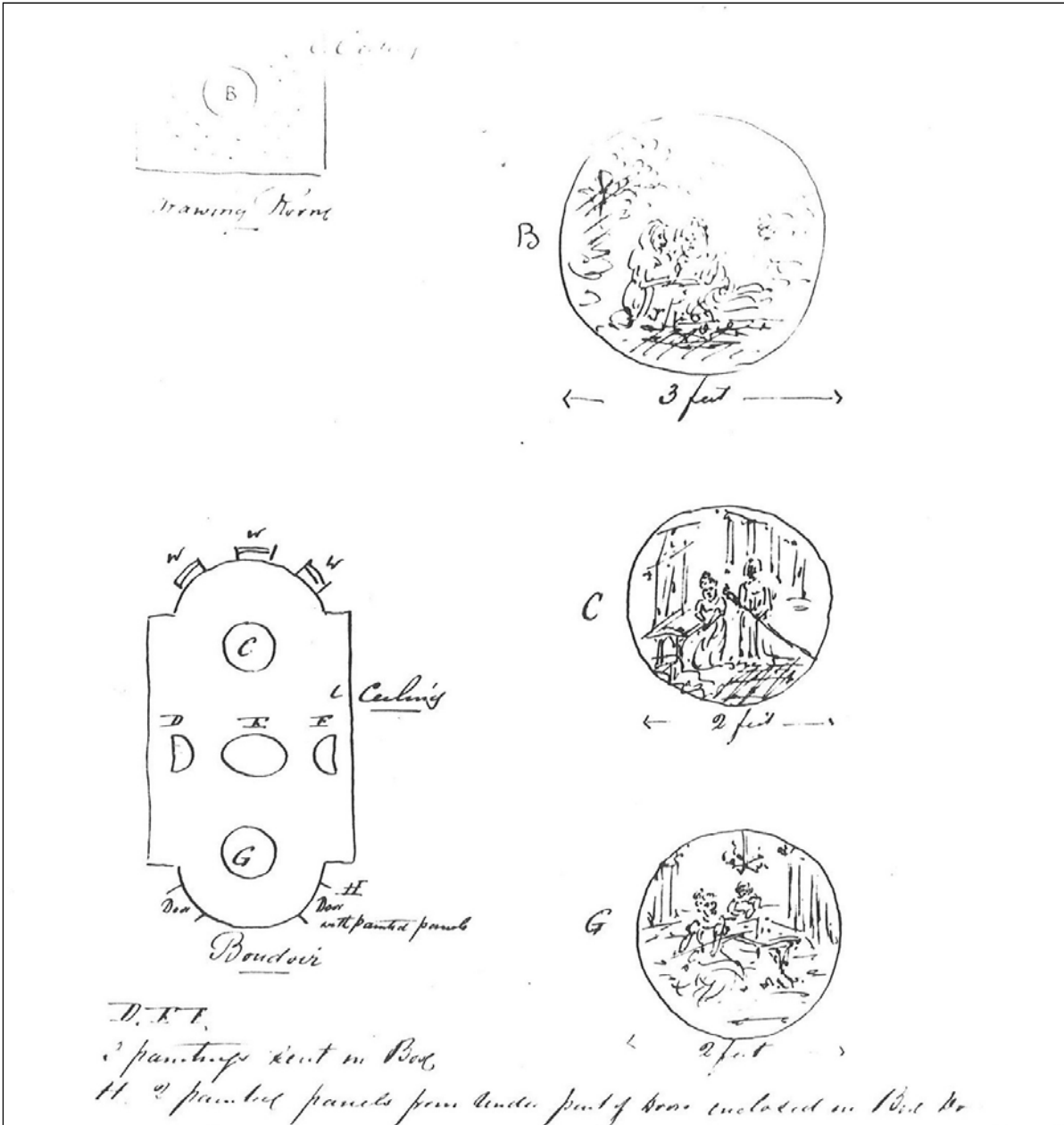
For the last three years I have been researching the history of Whiteford House, Stoke Climsland, the seat of the Call family. In 1879 the Whiteford estate was bought by the Duchy of Cornwall, and the decayed mansion was finally demolished in 1913, when some of the materials were used by the architects Richardson and Gill when they were employed by the Duchy to design the Manager's House and model Home Farm at Stoke Climsland.

The known history of Whiteford itself goes back some time. In the early seventeenth century the manor belonged to the Clark family, later passing to the Addis family. A picture of the manor house of 'Mr John Addis of Plymouth' appears in the 'Black Book of Trebartha', the Spoure family document, which is now in the care of Mrs E. Mann, née Rodd. The manor is referred to as 'Whittavor in Stoke Climsland.' This small manor house was provided with a separate walled garden, with a fountain at the centre of a parterre with clipped trees in the centre of each square of lawn. The estate passed on to Mrs Elizabeth Prowse, whose niece Margaret Stillingfleet sold it to John Call in 1763 after earlier negotiations in 1760 had come to nothing.

It should be made clear that there were two John Calls, father and son. Between 1751 and 1770 the younger John Call, born in 1732, was in India establishing his name and fortune, both as a military engineer, involved in several campaigns, and through his connections with the East India Company. His father, a native of Launcells, was acting as his son's agent in 1760 and 1763. The death of John Call, senior, in 1767 seems to have acted as a catalyst for in 1770 John Call, junior, returned from India to administer his Cornish estate. In 1771 he became High Sheriff of Cornwall, a Duchy appointment, and in 1772 he married Philadelphia Battie, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of the very wealthy Dr William Battie of Bloomsbury. These two events would seem to be the chief factors leading to Call's building of the new mansion at Whiteford, which is thought to have been completed about 1775.

It is not recorded which architect was consulted, but almost certainly the house was overseen by Call himself. It is known that Call commissioned the new Bodmin Gaol in 1779, which still stands today in a roofless condition; his part in its construction is made clear in a portrait attributed to Francis Alleyn, as well as in the Bodmin Register of 1838 which also mentions that a Mr Jones (Thomas Jones of Exeter, partner of Philip Stowey of Kenbury House, Exminster) was consulted. Shortly after his return Call also remodelled Launcells House, which had been rented by his brother-in-law, the Rev. Cadwallader Jones, from the Orchard family of Hartland Abbey. It is also recorded in *Betham's Baronetage* (1803) that Call built a mock Saxon Castle of granite stones on the summit of Hingston Down which he could see from Whiteford. Call also stipulated in his will that Philip Stowey (Jones' partner) was to design his monument and tomb on Hingston Down, if he died in Cornwall.

Despite the plain exterior of Whiteford House, some trouble was taken over the interior. One Walter Storey Wivel created the main staircase (see *Regional Architecture of the West of England*) which was provided with fine plaster work and elegant chimney pieces. The drawing room and the room above it, a boudoir, were further enhanced by small ceiling canvasses painted by the Swedish artist Elias Martin.



Sketch of the ceiling panels from the Boudoir and Drawing Room, by Elias Martin, sent to Marlborough House 1880 and subsequently lost.



The boudoir was seen in 1899 by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe who described it as 'oval-shaped...must have been a lovely room - delicately painted shutters and ceiling - pretty gilt mouldings and decorated doors and looking-glasses.' The room at one time had been additionally adorned with Wedgwood plaques.<sup>4</sup>

This circular-ended room with the looking-glasses may perhaps be the origin of a Stoke Climsland legend, recounted to me by Mr John Coad of Venterdon, former Home Farm Manager, of a postboy delivering goods to Whiteford House in the depths of midwinter, being invited in for a hot drink by a saucy parlour maid, then later led to and locked into a confusingly mirrored room from which he could not find the exit.

John Call meanwhile served on Lord Shelburne's Commission on the Crown Lands and became one of the MPs for Callington in 1784, from then on spending much time in his London town house. He also became a partner in a banking house, Pybus & Co. He was created a baronet in 1791, and for the last seven years of his life until his death in 1801 he was blind from cataracts.

In 1799 a summer house finely built of granite to resemble a temple was erected on the brow of the slope to the side of Whiteford House. It seems likely that Philip Stowey and Thomas Jones were consulted, as the triple arch motif appears constantly in their other buildings. Perhaps this elegant structure was built at the behest of Lady Call, but it was much associated with her son Sir William Pratt Call, 2nd Bart., who was said to have held balls and banquets by the Temple, and the drive leading up to it was lit by torches which would be seen for miles twinkling at night.

Sir William became High Sheriff of Cornwall as did his son Sir William Berkeley Call, 3rd Bart., but the first hint of financial trouble seems to have beset the Calls on the latter's early death in 1864 at the family bank, Call, Marten and Co., at 25 Old Bond Street, London. His executors found it necessary to sell his fine collection of 'modern' pictures at Christie's in June 1865. Two landscapes by G.E. Herring raised £149 and £179 each, but the undoubted star was 'On the Cornice Road' by C. Stanfield RA, which raised £493, a vast sum in those days. The picture had previously been exhibited at the Royal Academy. It is not clear if these pictures had come from Whiteford House or the Calls' residence in London. In 1870 Christie's sold Sir William's wine, and in 1876 a further set of pictures was sent to Christie's by Lady Call (who as Laura Emma Gardiner, of Coombe Lodge, Oxon, had married William Berkeley Call in Naples in 1841).

By then the Calls had left Whiteford. Sir William George Montagu Call, 4th Bart., had succeeded before his majority - later he was said to have run a stud at Newmarket and lost heavily. At any rate in 1871 Sir William sold the Whiteford estate to Andrew Montagu of Ingmanthorpe Hall. Montagu vainly tried to let the house, which was afflicted with dry rot, and finally sold it to the Duchy in 1879.

Sir William died in 1903, apparently without an heir, and the baronetcy died with him. But a breath of scandal attached to the matter of heirship, and an intriguing reference, recently

---

<sup>4</sup> Or perhaps, more likely, they were Coade stone especially given their size. CS, 2015

iscovered by Mr Peter Murton Reid, may be found in the will of Call's widow. In 1884 Call had married Marie Valentine de Mauleon of Anjou, who died in London in very straightened circumstances in 1909. She left most of her tiny estate to 'my son Albert Edward Call of Johannesburg, South Africa.' In 1911 one Albert Edward Call was committed to the Pretoria lunatic Asylum as 'an alleged lunatic' following an accident at the Mali Dyke Mine, near Pilgrim's Rest, where he had been working. No further record of this tragic character is known. He is believed to have been a natural son of Marie Valentine's who took his Stepfather's name.

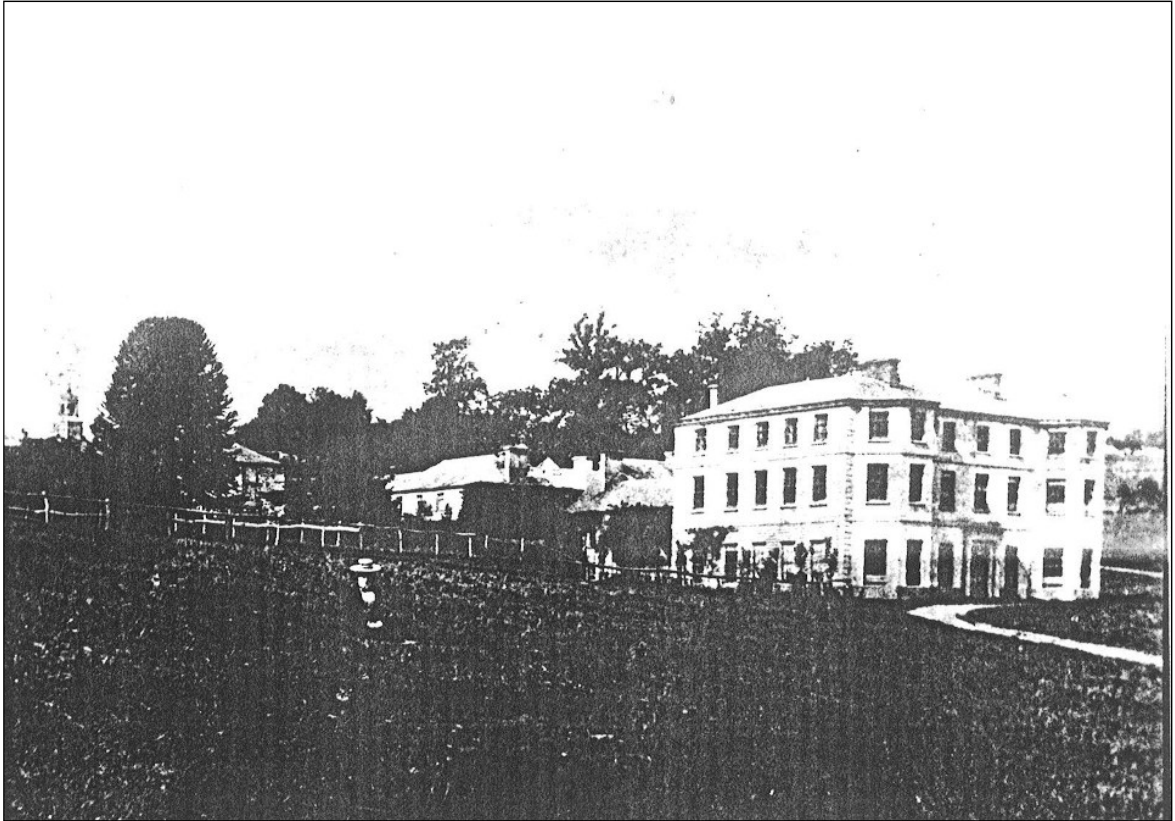
In the autumn of 1879 a sale was held at Whiteford House of all its furnishings, where it is said many fine things went for a song. No catalogue is known to have been made, but it is recorded that a life-size portrait of Sir John Call, which formerly hung over the chimneypiece in the lofty entrance saloon, was knocked down for a sovereign to the butler of a neighbouring squire - a farmer on the Whiteford estate then offered the butler another pound for his bargain rather than let it fall into strange hands. (This portrait reappeared at Sotheby's in July 1986!)

In July 1880, the fine ceiling paintings by Elias Martin, seven in all, were removed from Whiteford House and sent to Sir Dighton Probyn at Marlborough House to await the decision of the Prince of Wales.

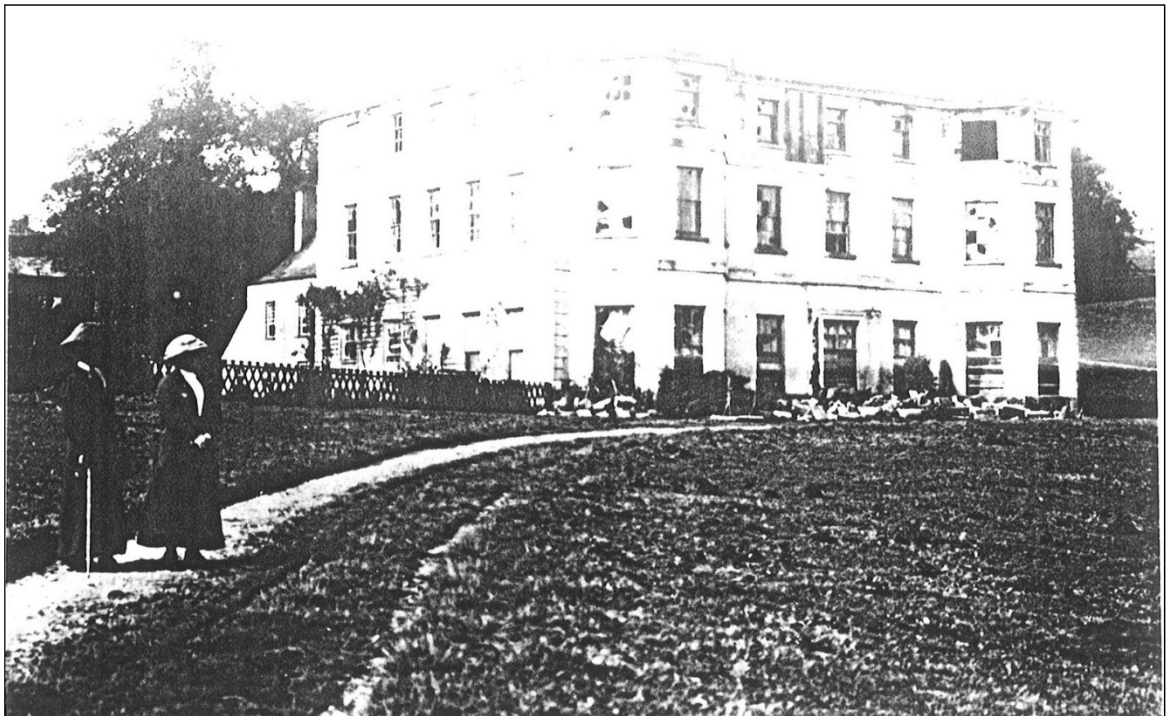
Today neither the present Administration Officer at Marlborough House nor the Surveyor of HM The Queen's Pictures have been able to trace any further record of the canvasses, which were perhaps disposed of by the Prince of Wales. The main part of Whiteford House was kept locked and continued to decay. Around 1900 the kitchen wing was demolished. Later a small fire in the chimney damaged the uppermost storey and in 1913 it was finally decided to demolish the mansion block which, incidentally, had always been lit by oil lamps, never having had gas or electricity laid on. This left only the connecting wing between the mansion and the kitchens and brew house, which had been maintained by the Duchy for the use of its employees and was at one time leased to William Mitchell, a local farmer and builder, whose men were accommodated at Whiteford.

Today, Miss Nellie Smith, the younger daughter of the then Clerk of Works to the Duchy at Whiteford can just remember a visit inside the old mansion; the one detail which still sticks in her mind was a piece of old plasterwork she saw on one of the ceilings - bowls, with fruit brimming over the edge, carried out in delicate blues and mauves. Miss Smith can also remember the great 'ructions' following the fun had by naughty schoolboys who, as if demolishing the icing on a wedding cake, damaged with sticks some pieces of plasterwork which had been carefully taken down for possible use elsewhere. They were caught in the act and caned by the village headmaster Theo Mutton. The plasterwork was sent to London for repairs, presumably by the architects Richardson and Gill. There is a particularly fine frieze in the drawing room of the Manager's house at the Home Farm - it is composed of rams heads and up-ended fish. Almost certainly this once adorned one of the rooms at Whiteford House; whether it also once had an adventure with some naughty schoolboys cannot be confirmed.

The Manager's House is also furnished with an elegant Georgian staircase with fluted balusters, altered in London, but said to have come from Whiteford House. A portion of the balustrade of the original staircase was bought by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe along with some chimney pieces, but all these perished in the bombing of Mount Edgcumbe in the Second World War. Two fine chimney pieces from Whiteford House graced the Manager's House for



**Whiteford House in 1896 soon after it was sold to the Duchy of Cornwall.**



**Taken in about 1911, after fire had destroyed the upper floor. The house was to be demolished in 1913.**

nearly fifty years before being removed to the war-damaged 10 Buckingham Gate offices of the Duchy, where they remain.

Today the ghost of the grounds of Whiteford House remains to hint of its former prestige. The overgrown shrubbery of rhododendrons is dominated by a giant and very ancient monkey puzzle tree, and an oval granite fountain bowl sits forlornly in its dried up basin near the foundations of the connecting wing which, having succumbed to the death-watch beetle, was fired and demolished in the 1960s. One wing of Sir John Call's stables survives but the fine clock tower block and other wing were demolished in the 1960s to make way for a new barn more suitable for modern farming equipment. The rest of the outbuildings remain intact, partly sold off as a private residence, as does the enormous walled nursery, which was revived in the 1930s as a cut flower nursery under the auspices of the then Rector, the Canon Martin Andrews, at the instigation of the then Prince of Wales, who was anxious to relieve the effects of the Depression in Cornwall. At one time the park at Whiteford had a small boating lake but this has long silted up and is overgrown. The one really fine architectural survivor is the Temple. Standing a little moodily on the brow of a hill, it is none the less a greatly loved landmark. In its time it has suffered the indignity of being used as a cattle byre, but perhaps a happier future awaits it.

I first heard about Whiteford some years ago when I visited my great-aunt the late Enid Stumbles, who later lived at Grove Cottage, now Manor Cottage, which overlooks the Whiteford site. When I came to work at the National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, the national photographic repository of our architectural heritage, I looked to see what record there was of Whiteford House and found that there was no real record of the mansion itself - only a 1920s photo of the Temple and a couple of 1960s photos of the connecting wing and the stable block. I became fascinated by this virtually unknown 'vanished' house and resolved to trace its history with any photos, drawings or plans that might be copied for posterity by the National Monuments Record.

Fairly soon I discovered my great-aunt had bought in a shop at Saltash a Stockdale engraving depicting Whiteford House. My great-aunt had also given a friend a few tiny photos of Whiteford just after the First World war, taken by Miss Margaret Sansom, whose father was one of the Duchy's agents and lived in the connecting wing at Whiteford. These included a particularly charming view of the former business room with its tall marble chimney piece which had become the Sansom's drawing room.

Mr John Coad, the former manager of the Home Farm, generously lent a superb photograph which he had found by pure chance concealed behind a picture frame he had bought in a sale. Dating from 1896 it was taken by one W. A. Call. About thirty years later Mrs Walters, the wife of Charles Walters, Rector of Stoke Climsland between 1908 and 1921, took her children to be photographed in Monmouth and found the photographer's name was W. A. Call. She mentioned to him that she associated the name Call with Whiteford. The photographer knew all about the Calls of Whiteford, because he was in fact the natural son of the last baronet. His name is well known in the National Monuments Record, as he took a vast number of photographs of architectural scenes and the negatives for some years have been deposited in the NMR. However the negative of Whiteford House is missing so Mr Coad's chance discovery was fortunate indeed.

It all goes to show how vital a photograph or drawing or plan can be. Once a building has gone if no illustration remains - or should they be destroyed later - it is often difficult to gauge its original appearance. Mr David Thompson clearly remembers being shown a photograph of the boudoir at Whiteford House by Mr Bert Garland, the former blacksmith in Stoke Climsland. Mr Garland died fairly soon afterwards and his son John cannot recall ever seeing this photo. Perhaps it had been destroyed accidentally or Mr Garland gave it away to someone who was interested. Perhaps the negative survives somewhere. It is the only known photo, apart from Miss Sansom's photo of the Business Room, of any part of the interior of Whiteford House. The Duchy archives include an excellent ground plan drawn in 1880 and a rough sketch of the Elias Martin ceiling canvasses. These have been lent for copying by the NMR by Gracious Permission of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

One final note, by curious coincidence the present Duchess of Cornwall, Her Royal Highness Diana, Princess of Wales, is a distant cousin of the Hon. and Rev. William Spencer, the fourth son of the first Lord Churchill, who in 1850 was appointed Rector of Stoke Climsland by the Prince of Wales. Two years later he married Louisa Mercer Call, the third daughter of Sir William Pratt Call. The Spencers left the Rectory in 1870 about the time of the sale of Whiteford to Andrew Montagu.



**The former Business Room, which was in the connecting wing between the main and kitchen blocks, in 1918. This part of the house was not demolished until the 1960s.**



**View of Stoke Climsand and the rear of Whiteford House from  
oil painting by H. Moore (1831-1895)**

From *Regional Architecture of the West of England*, A.E. Richardson and C.L. Gill, 1924

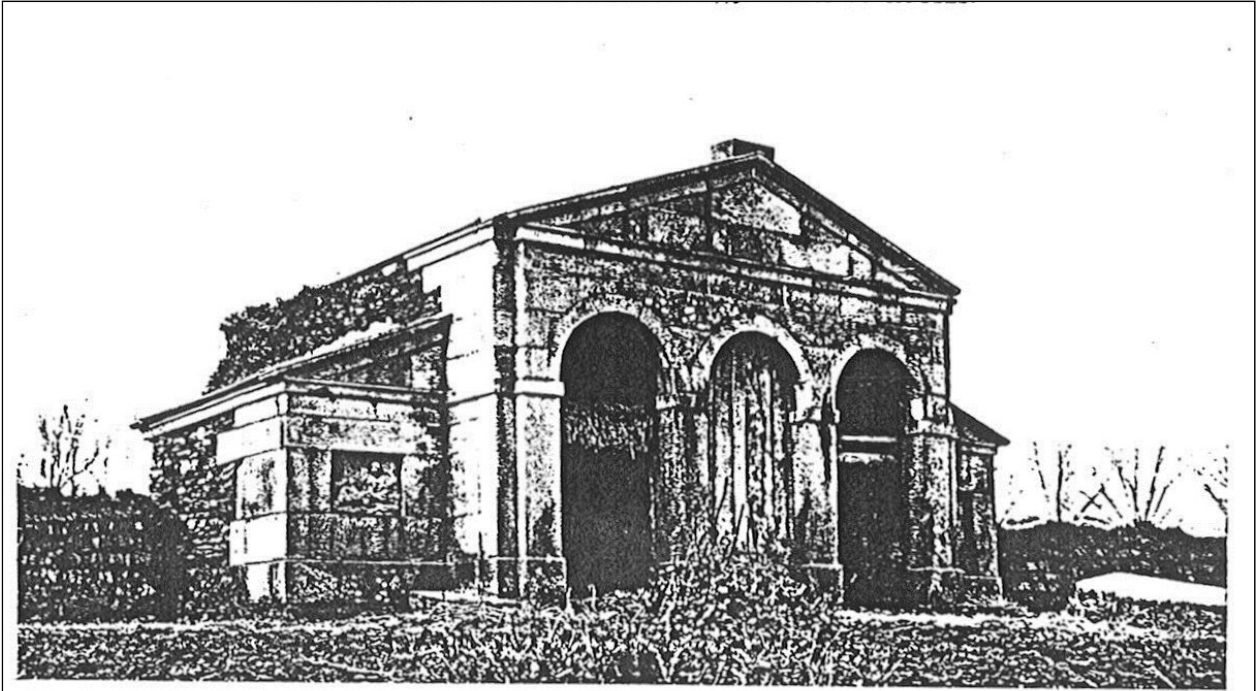
As the eighteenth century touched its zenith many new houses rose like exhalations in Devon and Cornwall. We have the historic mansion at Whiteford, which Sir William Call, a nabob returned from India, built near Stoke Climsland in 1775, with the help of local craftsmen and an Italian or two versed in stucco decorations. This house, although plain externally, possessed some good features, including one of the finest staircases in England. It will be described further on in this book. Whiteford in the days of its grandeur was one of the sights of mid-Cornwall. What remained of the house has recently been remodelled into the Manor Farm belonging to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at Stoke Climsland. The influence of such works on local craftsmen at once became apparent in the locality. There is a fitted cupboard in the Half Moon Inn at Stoke Climsland with mouldings corresponding to those belonging to the mansion. At South Coombs Head Farm, a building belonging to the year 1776, the joinery shows a similar regard for refined detail. Close investigation of the towns, villages and hamlets previously mentioned reveals the interesting fact that as the newer information reached the remoter parts of Cornwall it was accepted with avidity by both patron and artificer. There were very few architects practising in Cornwall in those days. Sir William Call, the original owner of the Whiteford estate, took more than ordinary interest in building. It was this gentleman who succeeded in persuading the people of Bodmin to build the Mayoralty building on the outskirts of the town, and it was he, without doubt, who advised on the choice of mahogany furniture for the rooms.



NELSON HOUSE, ST. AUBYN STREET, DEVONPORT. 1775.

The building of Whiteford House, near Stoke Climsland, in 1775 is the tidal mark reached by regional architecture of the late middle period. The house was projected by Sir William Call, a retired nabob, who obtained plans from London and proceeded to build for himself. The house was pulled down in 1913. Local artisans worked Kit Hill granite for the walls and shaped the massive granite cornice. Local carpenters formed the mahogany-sashed windows and Walter Storey Wivel took a pride in designing the mahogany staircase, one of the finest in England.

Determined that his work should be remembered, Master Wivel pencilled his name and the date of completion on one of the fir carriages out of sight. Sir William Call built Whiteford regardless of expense; he engaged Italians from London to model the ornate plaster ceilings to the principal rooms and to fashion the vaulted corridors and lobbies. The stable buildings accorded with the state of the house. The garden house, of which an illustration is given—it is now a cattle byre—was devised of cut granite with ornamental panels from Mrs. Coade's factory at Lambeth. It is evident that the nabob wished to possess a palace. Some of the marble fireplaces and a portion of the balustrade were removed to Mount Edgcumbe thirty years since. The rest of the material, including most of the worked granite, has been reused in the new Manor Farm-house, which is the property of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.



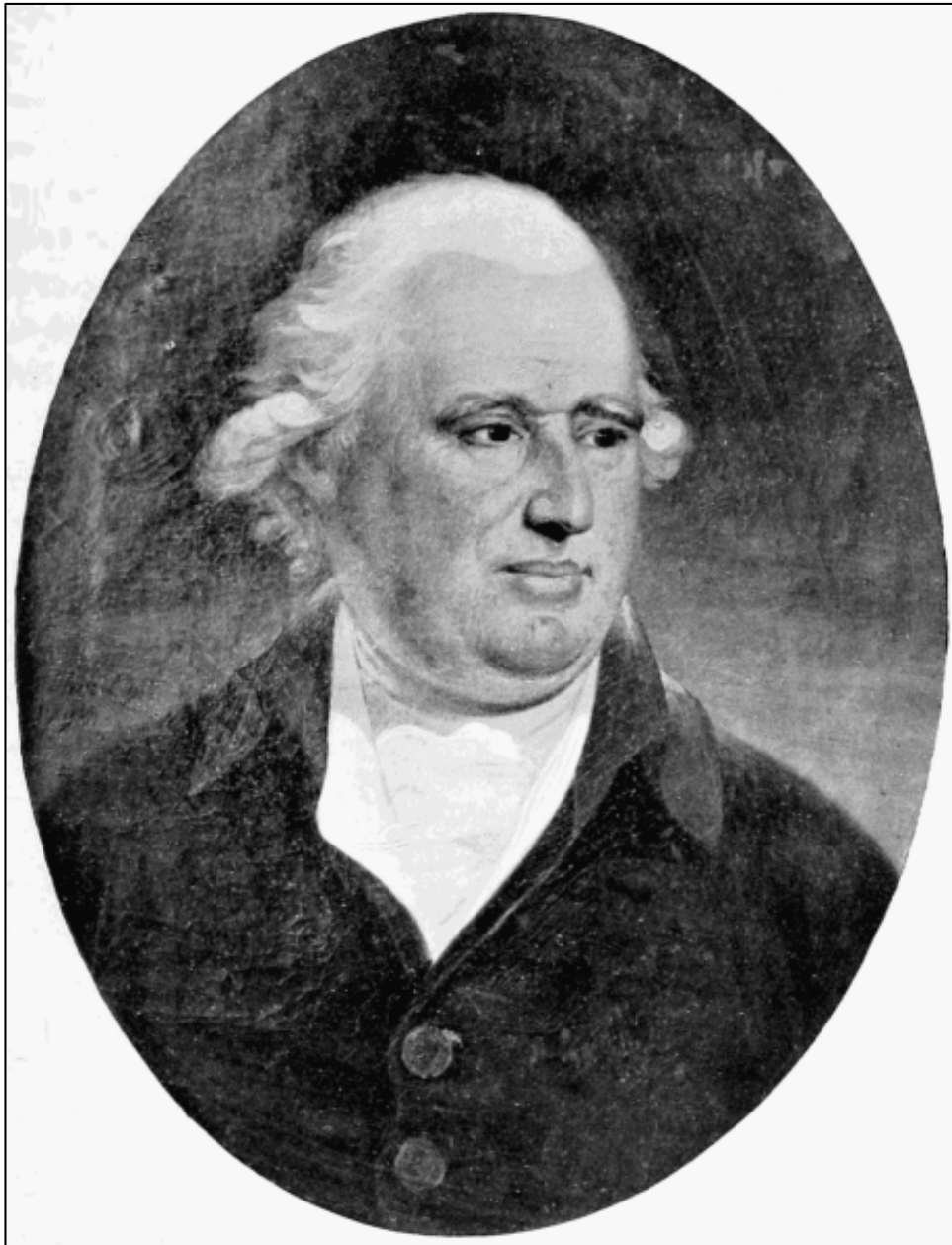
WHITEFORD, STOKE CLIMSLAND, CORNWALL. THE TEMPLE.  
Now used as a cattle byre. The three arched openings were originally sashed.



From *Cornish Characters and Strange Events* by S. Baring Gould 1925

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

**T**HE *Dictionary of National Biography* says of Sir John Call that he was "descended from an old family which, it is said, once owned considerable property in Devon and Cornwall." That proviso "it is said" is conveniently inserted. Anything may be said, as that the cow jumped over the moon, but that a saying may be believed we must know who uttered it. Now the originator of this saying was probably William Playfair, in his *British Family Antiquity*, 1809. In that the following interesting statement occurs: "From papers in the possession of the family, partly fabulous, though partly true, it appears that the family of the Calls, consisting of three brothers, came into England from Saxony towards the end of the eighth century. One of these brothers settled in Scotland, from whom is descended the clan of the McColls; the second in Norfolk, where the family continued until the beginning of the last (eighteenth) century; and the third settled in Cornwall, from whence the present family derives its origin. This very ancient, but latterly not very opulent family, was formerly possessed of considerable landed property both in Devonshire and Cornwall, which was first reduced by the civil wars in the time of Henry VII, and afterwards nearly annihilated, in consequence of the loyal attachment of some of its individuals to the royal cause during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I."



**SIR JOHN CALL, BART.**

*From a portrait (by A. Hickle) in the possession of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. de Lucy Lucy*

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

155

Why was the eighth century fixed on for the advent of the Calls upon the scene? Presumably because the first Norsemen arrived in 787. Conceive the Calls coming over in a dragon ship, filled with berserker rage, to ravage England and glut themselves with our blood.

But we shall look for Calls in vain among the records of the past. As it happens, Saxons and Northmen had no family, only personal names. The story is as absurd as that also put forth that Callington derived its name from the Calls, who only settled near it in 1770.

But these "family papers" are not so ancient as Sir John Call, who would have been above such a pretence. As a matter of fact, the account supplied to Playfair shows a surprising ignorance in the writer as to the existence of Heralds' Visitations, Inquisitiones post mortem, Wills, Royalist Composition Papers, Parish Registers, and all the material at hand to confirm or disprove reckless genealogical assertions. Playfair does admit that the story contained in the "family papers" is "partly fabulous." He might have said that it was fabulous from beginning to end.

The Calls had no right whatever to bear arms, till a grant was made to them—after reading the above flourish not inappropriate—of three trumpets.

The MS. "Names of Gentlemen in Devonshire and Cornwall with their Arms," drawn up by John Hooker, *alias* Vowell, in 1599, is the only armoury of the West that gives the name of Call with arms: Party per pale or and gules; upon a chief az. 3 geese sable. But he gives no indication of place where such a gentleman possessed land—and that, before this "opulent family" had been ruined by the civil wars. Hooker probably included the name, because, at the time, there was some gentleman Call from another part of England living

in Exeter. That the Calls of Whiteford had no claim to his arms, nor could exhibit descent from him, is shown by their not adopting his coat. In a MS. armoury of all England dating from 1632, that belonged to C. Pole, the name and arms of Call do not occur.

According to Foster's *Baronetage*, the Calls hailed from Prestacott, in Launcells.

Actually the great-grandfather of Sir John was of Grove, in Stratton, a tenant farmer. A good many Calls appear in the register of the parish, never with *gent.* appended to the name, or even with Mr. preceding it, a title generally accorded to a yeoman or a well-to-do tradesman; and one in 1735 is buried as a pauper. Their marriages also show to what class they belonged, with the Uglows, Tanners, and the Jewells, in a humble walk of life.

John Call, described as of Prestacott, in Launcells, was born in 1680, and in 1702 married Sarah Jewell, and died in 1730.

Prestacott consisted of three very small farms on the right-hand side of the old road from Stratton to Holsworthy. Of late years the ramshackle buildings have been pulled down and the lands thrown together and constituted one farm, and a new house has been built. It belonged at the time that John Call rented one of these little holdings to the Orchards of Hartland Abbey. John Call had two sons, John and Richard. John was born 1st March, 1704-5, and married Jane, daughter of John Mill, of Launcells, "the descendant of a respectable family, which had considerable possessions there, as well as in Middlesex," says Playfair. He might have added with equal truth that they possessed castles in the air. As it happens, the Visitations of Cornwall and Lysons knew nothing of the family of Mill. The Mills were of Shernick, a farm in Launcells,

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

157

which they rented of the Arundels of Trerice. Their ledger-stones are in the parish church, but they are never described as *gents*. Mrs. Judith Mill was buried on October 14th, 1723, and Mr. John Mill on December 1st in the same year, and Mr. Richard Mill on July 11th, 1766.

Sarah Call, widow of John Call (without even Mr. and Mrs. prefixed), was buried on February 1st, 1747-8. Shernick is now the property of Sir C. T. Acland, Bart., inherited through an heiress in the nineteenth century of the Arundels.

John Call, who married Jane Mill, had a son, the subject of this memoir. Afterwards, when this son was rich, he set up a tablet to the memory of his father in Launcells Church, on which he gives him the title of "gent."

In Memory of John Call gent of Shernick  
in this parish, and of Whiteford in Stoke Climsland.

He was interred in this church 3 Jan. 1767,  
aged 63. Also of Jane Call his widow, who  
was interred 9 Nov. 1781, aged 70.

Also of Jane Jones their daughter, wife of  
the Rev<sup>d</sup> Cadwalader Jones, minister of this parish,  
who was here interred 2 April, 1790, aged  
50, and of their two children, etc.

Concerning Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, more hereafter. The old gentleman, John Call, had died on December 31st, 1766, going out with the old year.

John, the younger, was born June 30th, 1732, at Fenny Park, near Tiverton, and was educated at a private school. For some reason or other, not known, his mother disliked him, and when aged seventeen, and he had been recommended to the notice of Benjamin Robbins, who was going out to India, she refused to furnish him with the money required for his outfit

## CORNISH CHARACTERS

and passage to India, so that his more distant relatives, probably the Mill family of Shernick, supplied the money.

Benjamin Robbins had composed a treatise on the principles of gunnery and the price of gunpowder, that was not as yet published, and also an account of Lord Anson's voyages. He was a mathematician, and had been appointed chief engineer and captain-general in the East India Company's service, and he was looking about for commercial clerks who would serve on a small pay, when Call was recommended to him as a shrewd lad. John Call was glad of the chance of seeing something of the world and of escaping from a mother who flouted him, and he embraced the offer with gladness. Robbins quitted England in 1749, and arrived with his clerks at Fort William in July, 1750.

Call had been given by Robbins his treatise on explosives to transcribe for the press, and this interested the young man in the subject, and he pursued the theme, and made considerable improvements in rifling barrels. He also introduced one that enabled shells to be discharged from long guns. When Robbins landed he had with him eight young clerks, of whom Call was one. Robbins died in July, 1751, and Call then became the leading engineer.

War broke out among the native princes, backed up upon one side by the French, on the other by the English, and Call was employed to carry out the erection of defensive works at Fort S. David. This was an English settlement near the mouth of the Southern Pennair River, and was only twelve miles from Pondicherry, the French head-quarters.

Madras, at the mouth of the Triplicane, consisted of the native or black city and of Fort S. George, which lay on the sea, and was almost engirdled by the

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

159

North River that with the Triplicane formed an island crossed by the main road from Chinglapett and Vandalone.

The French, whilst in possession of Fort S. George, after it had been taken by Labourdonnais in 1746, had made several improvements and additions to the slight works they found, which, nevertheless, rendered the fort little capable of long resistance against the regular approaches of a European enemy; nor had they given any attention to the internal area, which did not exceed fifteen acres of ground. Nevertheless, the English let the place remain in the same state after its recovery from the French in 1751 till the beginning of the year 1756, when the expectation of another war with that nation, and the reports of the great preparations making in France against India, dictated the necessity of rendering it completely defensible; and Call was employed in the extension and perfecting of the work, that had received the consideration of Robbins before his decease. Accordingly all the coolies, labourers, and tank diggers whom the adjacent country could supply were from this time constantly employed on the fortifications: their daily number generally amounted to four thousand men, women, and children. The river channel was diverted, and the old channel was filled up; very extensive bastions and outworks were erected; and it was due to this undertaking that Fort S. George was able to stand successfully against the siege by the Count de Lally in 1759.

In the beginning of the year 1752 Call accompanied Captain (afterwards Lord) Clive in an expedition against the French, who had possessed themselves of the province of Arcot, and were plundering up to the very gates of Madras; and he was with him in his

## CORNISH CHARACTERS

occupation and subsequent defence of Arcot, during a fifty days' siege. Clive had marched from Madras with two hundred English soldiers and three hundred sepoys. He had with him eight English officers, but of these only two had smelt powder, whilst four, Call among them, were only commercial clerks forced by Clive's example to draw the sword. The battle of Coverplank, near Arcot, gained by Captain Clive in the February of 1752, in which the French lost all their artillery and were totally dispersed, cleared the province of their influence and established the English in the garrison of that capital. From Arcot the victorious army, consisting of about five hundred Europeans and one thousand natives, marched through the country back to Fort S. David, when Mr. Call was appointed chief engineer at Madras, and eventually of all the Coromandel coast.

In 1753 the French under Bussy and Dupleix were full of schemes to retrieve the honour of their arms, and to obtain the absolute empire of the Deccan and the south. In that year, the cession of five important provinces had made them masters of the sea-coast of Coromandel and Orissa for an uninterrupted line of six hundred miles, and also furnished the convenient means of receiving reinforcements of men and military stores from Pondicherry and Mauritius. But neither the Court of Versailles nor the French India Company at home had approved the grand projects of Bussy and Dupleix. The Court questioned the propriety of these wars with the English in a time of peace, and the Company was impatient at the cost of these wars, and doubted whether the territorial acquisitions could be maintained profitably to themselves. The English Company also was impatient at the heavy outlay, and was willing to leave the French in possession of the



## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

161

Northern Circars; but Dupleix was not to be restrained. He saw further into the future than did the merchants of Paris; he perceived that an unrivalled opportunity was open to him to make all India tributary to France, and he was determined to seize it. But to do so he must expel the English. He claimed to be Nabob of the Carnatic, and unless his authority as such were recognized by the English, he would make no terms whatever with them. But Dupleix had had his day. His protectors and admirers were now out of office, and he was recalled to France.

As soon as war had been declared in Europe, the Government of Louis XV commenced preparations on a large scale for an expedition to the East, and the arrival of a great armament was daily expected at Pondicherry.

It was not, however, until 28th April, 1758, that a squadron of twelve vessels reached the coast. These ships had on board a regiment of infantry eleven hundred strong, a corps of artillery, and a number of officers, all under the command of the Count de Lally, a veteran officer of Irish extraction, who had been all his life in the service of France. He had been appointed Governor-General of the French possessions in India. He was a man of great ability and ambition, and was animated by intense and passionate hatred of England. Had he been supported from home, he would almost certainly have made France predominant in the peninsula. No sooner was he landed than he organized an expedition against Fort S. David, and in June, 1758, he captured it. He then prepared to take Madras as a preliminary to an advance on Bengal, and he hoped to drive the English out of Calcutta. But he was without resources; there was no money to be had at Pondicherry. At last he raised a small sum, chiefly out of

## CORNISH CHARACTERS

his own funds, and began the march to Madras; his officers preferring to risk death before the walls of Madras to certain starvation within the walls of Pondicherry. Lally reached Madras on the 12th December, 1758, and at once took possession of the black or native town, commanded by Fort S. George, and began the siege of that fort with vigour. Call was within. It was due to him that the defences were in such a condition that the garrison could look with confidence to withstand a siege. We hear, indeed, nothing of any active part taken by him during the progress of the siege, but undoubtedly his knowledge and talent had much to do with rendering the defence effective. The real command was with Major Laurence and Mr. Pigot. The total force collected was 1758 Europeans and 2220 sepoy. On the other side Lally had an army of 2700 Europeans and 4000 native troops.

On 14th December the French took possession of the black town, which was open and defenceless; and there the soldiers, breaking open some arrack stores, got drunk and mad, and committed great disorders.

Taking advantage of this, a sortie was resolved upon, and six hundred chosen men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Draper and Major Brereton, with two field-pieces, rushed into the streets of the black town. Unluckily the drummers, who were all little black boys, struck up the "Grenadiers' March" too soon and gave warning to the French, who left off their drinking and plundering, and, running to their arms, drew up at a point where the narrow streets crossed at right angles. Those who were drunk were joined by those who were sober, till the whole number far exceeded that of the English detachment. If Bussy, who was at hand, had made one of the bold and rapid

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

163

movements which he had been accustomed to make when acting on his own responsibility, he might have taken the English in rear. But he was sulky, and jealous of Lally, and remained inert. When Draper saw that he must retreat, he found that all his drummer-boys who should sound the recall had run away. He, however, managed to bring off his troops, leaving two field-pieces behind, and having lost or killed, wounded and prisoners, about two hundred men.

The siege dragged on. Most of Lally's heavy artillery was still at sea, and a corps of sepoy captured and spiked his only 13-inch mortar, which was coming by land. All his warlike means were as deficient as those of the garrison were perfect, and dissensions and ill-will against him increased among his officers.

For six weeks the French were without any pay, and during the last fifteen days they had no provisions except rice and butter. Then the ammunition of the besiegers failed. On the 15th February, 1759, he resolved on raising the siege. He had thrown away his last bomb three weeks before, and he had blazed away nearly all his gunpowder. Pouring forth invectives and blaming every one but himself, Lally decamped on the night of the 17th as secretly and expeditiously as he could.

In March, 1760, Call was employed in reducing Karikal, and at the latter end of the year and in the beginning of 1761 he was employed as chief engineer under Sir Eyre Coote in the reduction of Pondicherry, which, after it had been battered furiously during two days, surrendered at discretion. Then the town and fortifications were levelled with the ground. A few weeks after the strong hill-fortress of Gingi surren-

## CORNISH CHARACTERS

dered, and the military power of the French in the Carnatic was brought to an end.

In 1762 Call had the good fortune, when serving under General Cailland, to effect the reduction of the strong fortress of Vellore, one hundred miles west of Madras, which has since been the *point d'appui* of the English power in the Carnatic.

In July, 1763, Mahomed Usuff Cawn, a native of great military talent, employed in the service of the English, for usurping the government of Madura and Tinnevely, the two southernmost provinces of the peninsula, had to be dealt with summarily. A considerable force marched against him, under the command of Colonel Monson, of His Majesty's 69th Regiment. Call acted as chief engineer under him, till the heavy rains in October obliged the English army to retire from before Madura. Eventually that place and Palamata were reduced, and Mahomed Usuff Cawn was taken and hanged.

At the latter end of 1764 Call went into the Travancore country to settle with the Rajah for the arrears of tribute due to the Nabob of Arcot. Having satisfactorily accomplished that business and other concerns with southern princes, he returned to Madras in January, 1765, and took his seat at the Civil Council, to which he was entitled by rotation, and he obtained the rank of colonel.

During a great part of the war with Hyder Ali in 1767 and 1768 Call accompanied the army into the Mysore country, and whilst he was there the Company advanced him to the third seat in the Council, and he was strongly recommended by Lord Clive to succeed to the government of Madras on the first vacancy. But news reached him of the death of his father, and he made up his mind to return to England. He had

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART.

165

managed to scrape together a very considerable fortune, and he desired to spend the rest of his days in the enjoyment of it. He embarked on February 8th, 1770, after a service of nearly twenty years, and he landed at Plymouth on July 26th.

He bought Whiteford, in the parish of Stoke Climsland, and greatly enlarged the house. In 1771 he was appointed Sheriff of Cornwall, and in March, 1772, he married Philadelphia, third daughter of Wm. Battye, M.D., a somewhat distinguished physician living in Bloomsbury.

From this period till the autumn of 1782 he lived in retirement at Whiteford.

Whilst in India, Call had not forgotten his parents and sister at home, and had sent to his mother priceless Indian shawls, which she, not knowing their value, cut up and turned into under-petticoats for herself and daughter and maids. A pipe of Madeira sent to the father was also as little appreciated. It was distributed among the farm-labourers during harvest time to economize the cider.

Now that he was in England and wealthy, he resolved on doing something for his sister. She had married Cadwalader Jones, the vicar of the parish, and the vicarage was a small, mean building, so Cadwalader Jones had taken the manor house that was near the church on a long lease from the Orchards, who were lords of the manor. This house had been a cell of Hartland Abbey, but at the Restoration had been given to the Chammonds. That family had died out, and now it had come to the Orchards, owners of Hartland Abbey. Call rebuilt the house, or, to be more exact, built on a modern house to the old, and installed Cadwalader and his sister in the new mansion; he also made for them a large walled garden. When he did

## CORNISH CHARACTERS

this, he was under the impression that the property belonged to Cadwalader, and not till he had completed his building did he learn that Mr. Jones had only a lease of it. Moreover, Mrs. Jones did not live to enjoy the new house very long, as she died in 1780, and then Cadwalader married again. In course of time Cadwalader went to join his ancestors, and thereupon Mr. Hawkey saw and loved the widow and the mansion, and married her. Thus it came about that the manor house built for Mrs. Jane Jones passed into other hands. But thus it happens also that through Miss Charlotte Hawkey we have some account of Sir John Call.

Lord Shelburne, when Prime Minister, being desirous of investigating some of the existing abuses and reforming some of the public departments, fixed on Call and engaged him along with Mr. Arthur Holdsworth, of Dartmouth, to inquire into the state and management of Crown lands, woods, and forests, which had long been neglected; Call had seen this with regard to the Duchy property at his doors, and had drawn attention to it. In November, 1782, they made their first report; but a change of Ministry taking place soon after, their proceedings were interrupted till the Duke of Portland, then First Lord of the Treasury, authorized them to continue their investigation. Before they had gone far another change took place in the Ministry, and Pitt became Prime Minister. These frequent interruptions interfered with the progress of the investigation, and to obviate that, in 1785-6 Sir Charles Middleton, Call, and Holdsworth were appointed permanent Parliamentary Commissioners.

Call became a banker, a manufacturer of plate-glass, and a copper-smelter. He designed and saw to the execution of the Bodmin gaol in 1779. He was elected

## SIR JOHN CALL, BART. 167

M.P. for Callington in 1784, and retained his seat till 1801. On July 28th, 1791, he was created a baronet, and granted as his arms, *gules, three trumpets fessewise in pale, or*; as crest, a *demi-lion ramp. holding between the paws a trumpet erect, or.*

By his wife he had six children. In 1785 he purchased the famous house of Field-Marshal Wade, in Old Burlington Street. He became totally blind in 1795, and died of apoplexy at his residence in town on March 1st, 1801, and was succeeded in the baronetcy by his son, William Pratt Call, who died in 1851, leaving a son, William Berkeley Call, the third baronet, who died in 1864, and with the son of this latter, Sir William George Montague Call, the fourth baronet, the title became extinct. It will be noticed that the two last affected aristocratic Christian names, Berkeley and Montague. Whiteford was sold to the Duchy of Cornwall, and all the noble trees in the park were cut down and turned into money, and the mansion converted into an office for the Duchy. Davies Gilbert, in his *Parochial History of Cornwall*, tells a couple of anecdotes of Sir John, but they are too pointless to merit repetition.

Call was one of those admirable, self-made men who have been empire-makers in the East, and, better than that, have been makers of the English name as synonymous with all that is powerful and true and just. He well deserved the title accorded to him. He was a man of whom Cornwall may be proud, and it needed no trumpets in his arms and fictions about the origin of his family to make the name honourable.

As Dr. Johnson said, "There are some families like potatoes, whose only good parts are underground."

The authorities for the life of Sir John Call are Play-

fair's *British Family Antiquity*, 1809; Clement R. Markham's *Memoir on the Indian Surveys*, 1878; H. G. Nicholl's *Forest of Dean*; and *Neota*, by Charlotte Hawkey, 1871.

The grant of the baronetcy to Sir John Call, dated 1795, is now in the Museum of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, at Truro.