



## **Historical Briefing Documents**

From time to time issues confront the people of Tewkesbury which earn the sobriquet "political". Perhaps because Tewkesbury is such a Historic Town, these issues have a very important historical context. If the history is better understood, then the resolution of a "political problem" might be more easily resolved.

The aim of this series is to provide the historical context by putting together information readily available to interested members of the public. There are standard books relating to the Town written by James Bennett, Anthea Jones and Kathleen Ross which can be either purchased or borrowed from the Library (*L*). At the Town Library also is the Society's *Woodard Database* (*W*) which is open to the public and which, with a minimum of computer skill can yield a mass of random information. It contains a wide variety of valuable information: notably census data from 1841-1901; the invaluable Land Tax Survey of 1909-13 and the on-going indexing of one of our historic local newspapers, the *Tewkesbury Register*. Slightly further afield is the County Record Office in Gloucester (*GRO*) but increasingly an index to the records it holds can be accessed on the internet via <http://www.a2a.org.uk>.

It is the aim of the Society to assemble the available information in as digestible way as possible for the general public but, because of time constraints, it is only the first stage of historical writing. We have included **footnotes** only because they enable readers to follow up facts by looking at the original sources. There will be many questions left unanswered and we ask readers to contribute their knowledge either as a correction of new knowledge to me on [john.history@freeuk.com](mailto:john.history@freeuk.com) or 5 Stokes Court, Oldbury Road, GL20 5JL. It has also been produced as cheaply as possible with a view of breaking even financially.

Within the limits of its aims, we hope that these documents will enable readers to understand better the historical context of "political" issues and, in so doing, add to our collective knowledge of the history of our beloved Town.

However, it is the aim of the author to produce a "non-political" briefing; any errors or judgements are those of the author alone and do not represent those of the Society.

**John Dixon,**

**President of T.H.S. and Research Coordinator.**

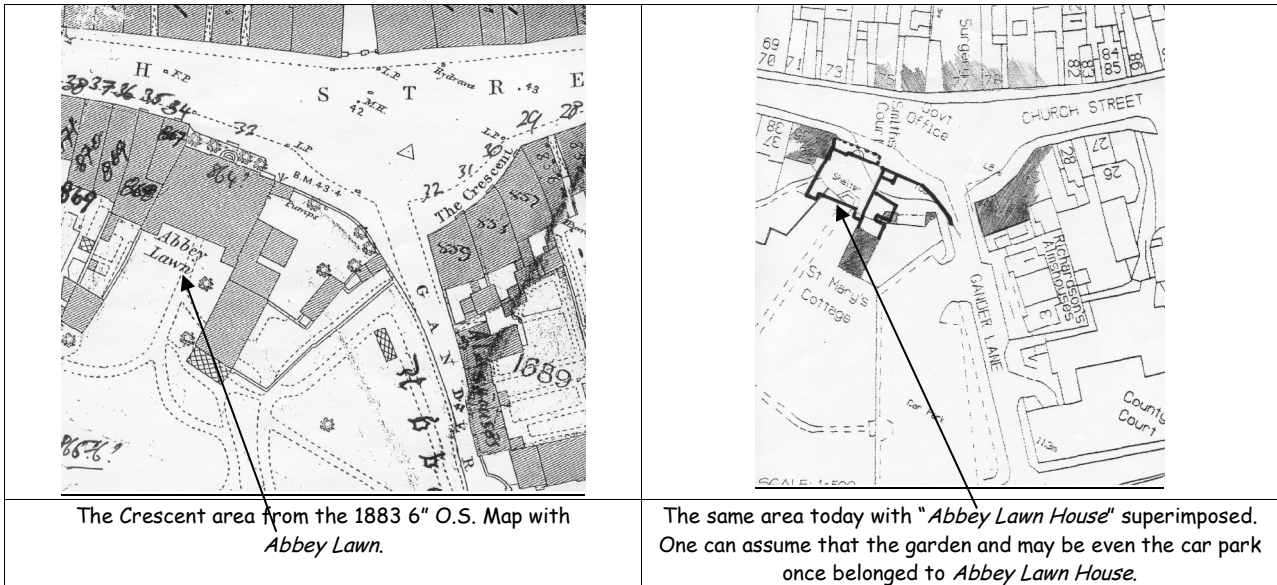
### **Acknowledgement of Sources**

We are grateful to the following colleagues who have made resources available to the Society: Cliff Burd, Reg Ross, Roger Butwell, and Wendy Snarey

**Tewkesbury's "Crescent"**  
**A T.H.S. Historical Brief**

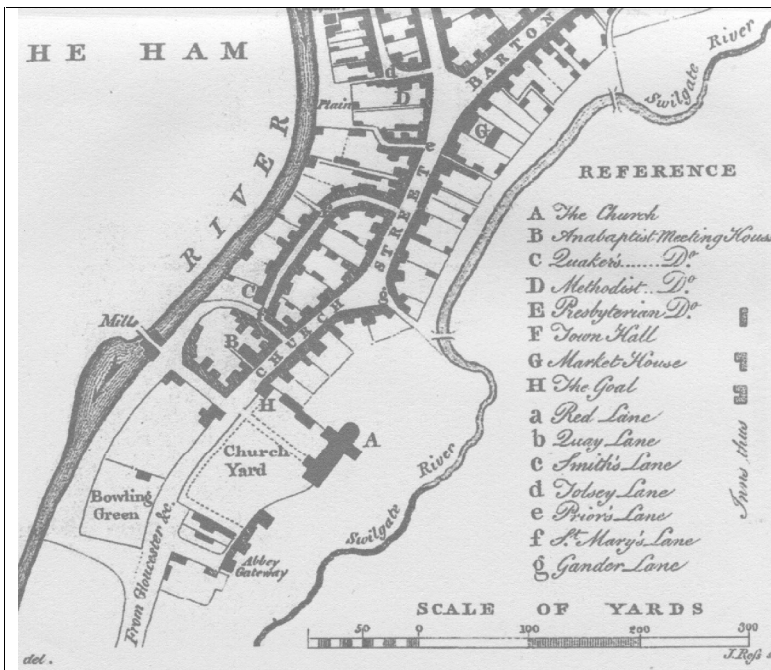
In a town with Tewkesbury's long historical tradition, it is important that any improvements made should pay due regard to its historical context. It is essential to ensure that the town is enhanced and not violated by "progress".

In considering changes to the "**Crescent**", we need to be aware of several elements:



- **Church Street:** until the completion of the by-pass in the 1990s, it formed part of the main A38 trunk road from Birmingham to Gloucester and Bristol. However, before about 1780, *Church Street* only stretched from the Cross to the Bell Hotel; there was no continuation into *Gloucester Road* as today.
- The **Crescent: 31-33 Church Street;** the three *Georgian* houses which were built in c 1813. The *Crescent* was never a fully fledged crescent on the Bath scale.
- The area now dominated by the bus shelter and the gates which, until a generation ago was the site of "**Abbey Lawn House**", known locally as the *Mayor's House* and the *Town Clerk's House*; in the Middle Ages the Crescent area was known as the **Bull Ring**.

**Church Street, which until the completion of the by-pass was the main A38 trunk road from Birmingham to Gloucester and Bristol.**



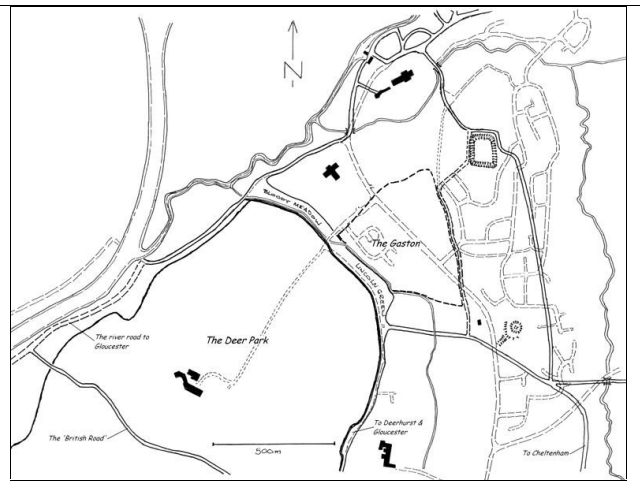
Dyde Map of 1790 (part) (Bennett)

Our problem is that most surveying maps have been produced since the road from Tewkesbury to Gloucester was *turnpiked*,<sup>1</sup> taking the same route as it does today. This is the **Dyde** map from c1790: it indicates that the road system is similar to that of today, with the road from Gloucester, merging into *Church Street*.

It is difficult to prove but the road to Gloucester used to pass through the modern *Victoria Pleasure Gardens*, pass behind *Abbey Terrace* and the (*Wyatt's Meadow*) coach park before crossing the river *Swilgate*. It then proceeded to *Lower Lode*, then a very important ferry crossing for the Abbot of Tewkesbury going home to *Forthampton Court*. The road then followed the *Severn* via *Deerhurst* and *Wainlodes* on to Gloucester.

This map<sup>2</sup> from 1796 show the old road system with the present main road as a dotted line, proceeding from the *Crescent* to the bridge over the *Swilgate*<sup>3</sup>, swinging through the *Gastons* and in between *Queen Margaret's Camp* and the rear of the *Gupshill* Public House.<sup>4</sup>

We must remember that Tewkesbury's **Workhouse**, which today is a restored retirement complex known as **Shephard's Mead**, was built in c1793 and would need the service of a main road. The cottage opposite is the former **Hermitage Toll House**, indicating the official beginning of the turnpike road.

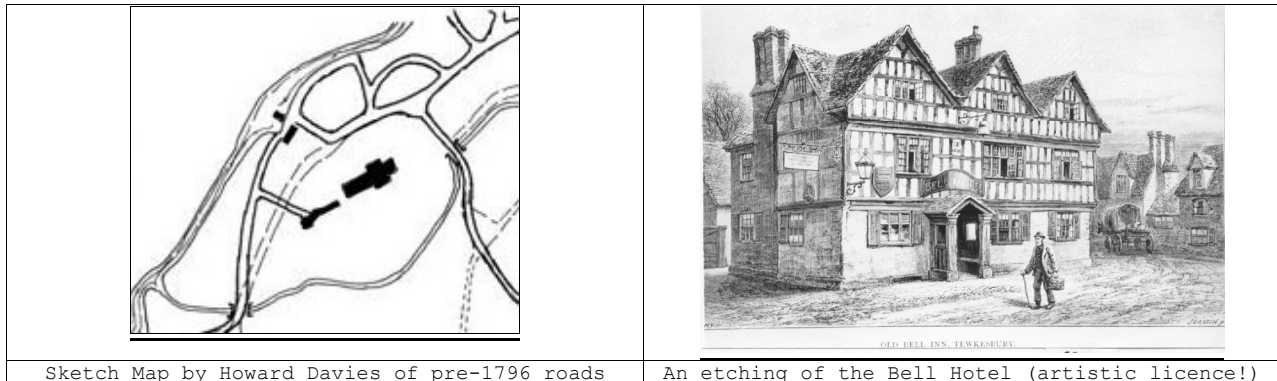


<sup>1</sup> Like modern Toll Motorways, *Turnpikes* were roads built by private enterprise. To recoup their investment, Trustees would charge road users.

<sup>2</sup> Supplied to Howard Davies from unknown source.

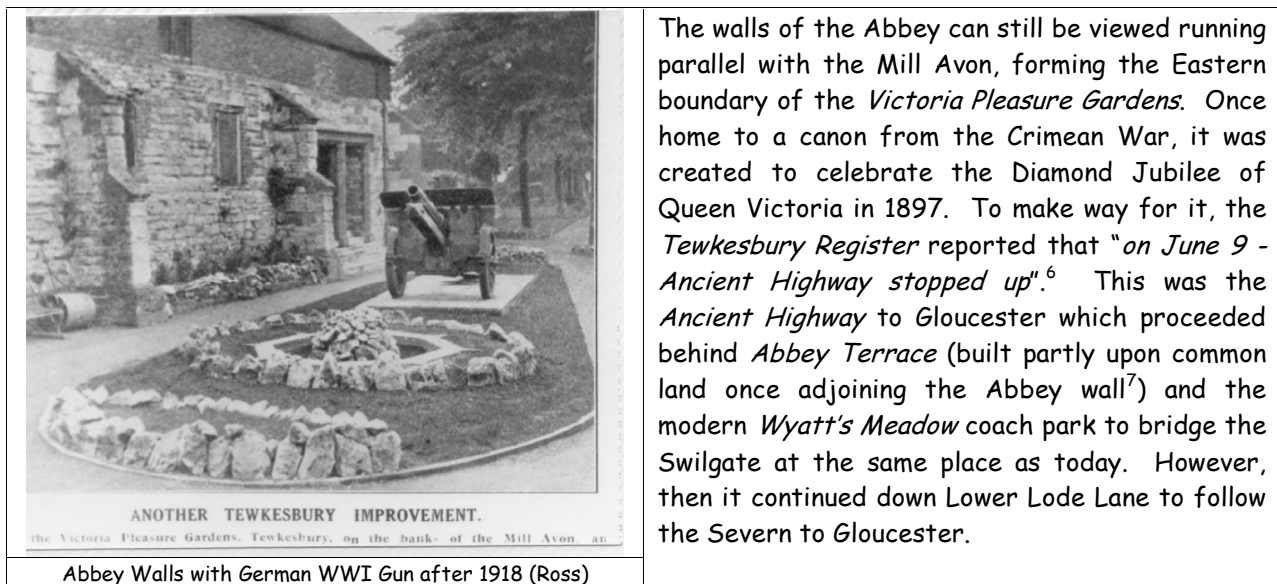
<sup>3</sup> Known as *Holme Bridge*.

<sup>4</sup> The modern front entrance is the medieval rear entrance!



In the Middle Ages, *Church Street* ran from the Cross (which has been widened and had the *War Memorial* added in 1922) to the *Bell Hotel*. This public house originally belonged to the Monastery as a lodging house for pilgrims. After the *Dissolution of the Monastery* in 1540, the Hotel has been known also as the '*Angel*' and the '*Ring o'Bells*', in 1770 it was simply the *Bell*.<sup>5</sup> The road then ran down *Mill Street* to the *Abbey Mill*.

We must remember that the *Mill Avon* is not a river but a *mill leat* - the Monks had it dug in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to power their own water mill. It may well be that the road known as *Mill Bank* continued north through the building recently known as the *Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association* to join up with the modern *Back of Avon*.



In 1884) W. H. Spurrier<sup>8</sup> delivered a lecture On "*Old Tewkesbury*" claimed that the old road was "*a poor, narrow dirty lane or trackway compared to the beautiful road*".<sup>9</sup> This, according to Linnell, was cut to the left of the *Bell* in 1796. We know that the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century witnessed the cutting of a great many turnpike roads and in 1786 Tewkesbury acquired a *Paving Act* which led to the improvement

<sup>5</sup> B. Linnell, *Tewkesbury Pubs*, 1996 Edition, pp36-9

of the three main streets which we recognise today. It is likely that the new road was built in time for the visit of King George III in 1788. The splendid Abbey gates, which suggest great antiquity, were in fact presented to the Abbey by M.P. Hon. Thomas, Lord Viscount Gage, elected M P in 1721 and who died in 1754. These gates were initially placed at the top of the steps in the porch but were moved to its present imposing position in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



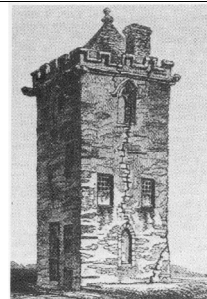
Abbey House School in front of the new Grammar School (Burd)

The Bell car park was once the site of *Abbey House School* where Sir Raymond Priestley was educated whilst the presented red brick building, the *Boys' Grammar School* from 1910 to 1952 was built in its garden. The new houses between this building and *Abbey Terrace* were built by 1984 on the *Bell Bowling Green* which had lost popularity by 1973.<sup>10</sup> It is believed (but not proven) that the monks played upon this green.

Moving back from the Bell to the *Crescent*, Linnell believes that medieval cottages, similar to those which have been restored, were demolished to make way for the new *Gloucester Road*. The Abbey Parish Rooms possess the sign which remind us that one of the few stone buildings was once a Church of England *National School* from 1817-1941.

Before that, there stood the Abbey **Belfry**. Kathleen Ross reminds us that, in the Middle Ages, bells were often housed in a separate campanile from the tower. In 1582, the Queen's Justices ordered the Bailiffs to take possession of the Bell tower and convert it to a Gaol which would serve half of the County.

It was replaced by a more modern gaol in 1817 in the Bredon Road.<sup>11</sup>



The Abbey Belfry - then Gaol (Ross)

<sup>6</sup> 17 July 1897 p1/6. See also 26/06/1897: "The principal gateway at end Gloucester Row now renamed Abbey Terrace. Mr. T. Collins, Builder, first gave thought to the idea. Mr Gray (the Borough Surveyor) supervised the work. A Mrs Thomas surrendered her rights to the area to the town."

<sup>7</sup> Register, 3/1/1931, p1/6-7. When built before 1830, it was called 'Gloucester Row' and was renamed in 1897.

<sup>8</sup> A watch-maker and Jeweller by day. (W/L)

<sup>9</sup> TREG: 29/11/1884 p1/6. The reporter warned of "poetic licence".

<sup>10</sup> Linnell, pp36-39

<sup>11</sup> David Willavoys quoting Bennett p307. It later became the Police Station and after that a dental practice. It is now a private home.



The Restored Abbey Lawn Cottages between 1967-71 (with remnants of *Abbey Lawn House* (Butwell))

Between this "*elegant stone structure*"<sup>12</sup>, today the Parish Rooms, and the *Crescent* are the medieval cottages restored by the *Abbey Lawn Trust* between 1967 and 1971. One of them is the *Little Museum* to remind us of how the house would have appeared when they were first built. It seems that this row of cottages, built either inside or just outside the Abbey walls, was an example of monastic enterprise to raise money from rents from traders selling goods to the people of Tewkesbury. At the time of restoration, a service road was built behind these cottages, which leads to a gate through the modern Abbey walls.

This brings us to the *Crescent*.

### **The Crescent: 31-33 Church Street**



The Crescent in 2006 (Dixon)

We are not sure of the original plan, but ours was never a fully fledged crescent on the Bath scale. The three *Georgian* houses were built in c 1813 by a group known as the '*feoffees*'. These were, in fact, trustees of the will of **Giles Geast** (sometimes Guest) who died in 1558. He was a mercer/clothier who had bought land and houses from the dissolved monastery after 1540.

His will is very useful for this investigation<sup>13</sup>:

<p><b>HISTORY OF TEWKESBURY. 197</b></p> <p>Near the middle of the Church-street, there is a broad space, which, from being called the Bull-Ring, is supposed to have been the spot anciently appropriated to the barbarous and almost obsolete diversion of bull-baiting.</p>
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When the many private charities were investigated in 1821<sup>14</sup> and subsequently formed into *Tewkesbury Consolidated Charities*, it was stated that he owned the eleven cottages which now make up the restored Abbey Cottages in a portfolio of 48 properties. More importantly, it was noted that there were three houses built on the site, "*Bull Ring, now called the Crescent*".

<sup>12</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1818 quoted in Anthea Jones, *Tewkesbury*, (1987), p133

<sup>13</sup> J Bennett, *History* (!830), p167

<sup>14</sup> Report of the Committee..... (printed by James Smith, 1821)



So what do we know about this *Bull-Ring*?

It would seem that the location for a present Farmer's Market has a historical precedent since, during the Middle Ages, a market was held in this area just outside the Monastery's *Warkhey Gate*.<sup>15</sup>

We can assume that in Monastic days it was the site of the main market, just outside the Abbey *Warkhey Gate*. B. C. Gray, who made a model of the Monastery for the 1931 Pageant recalled that

*"after the dissolution of the Monastery at Tewkesbury it was no longer necessary for the markets to be held near the "Great (Abbey) Gate" ..... and it was therefore enacted on April 23rd 1574, by the newly incorporated council that the market for cattle be held in the High or Oldbury Street. The market rights at that time of day belonged to the Abbey, the officials of which secured their tolls in kind for the upkeep of the great establishment. If a person paying toll produced a beast or animal upon which suspicions of inferiority were entertained, his conscience was brought to the test by being asked by a monastery official to swear on the Cross as to the quality of the animal."*<sup>16</sup>

Another disadvantage of this as the market site was its vulnerability to flooding - as Bennett recorded:

1673.—On Dec. 22, there was so high a flood, that the water came into the channel of the Church-street, at the Bull Ring.

It was, however a significant place in the town since, as we shall learn, *Gander Lane* originally was the main highway to Tredington and beyond. It was still used for public events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century since in 1918 the local newspaper reported "*German guns at Tewkesbury: a field piece and howitzer on view at the Crescent*".<sup>17</sup> Indeed in 1920 during the Tewkesbury Fair, "*Messrs Hill's Roundabout was erected in the Crescent*".<sup>18</sup>

To learn more about the *Bull Ring's* metamorphosis into the *Crescent*, we must return to Geest's will.

*Charities under the management of Giles Geest's Feoffees.*

Mr. Giles Geest, by will, in 1588, devised to trustees four houses near the Bull-Ring in the Church-street, (which have been recently pulled down, and three new ones erected in their room); eleven houses and gardens in the same street; a house opposite the church; two houses in the Mill-street; one on the Mill-bank; three in Carr's-lane, and one in Walker's-lane.

It is evident, therefore, that four cottages were demolished for this speculative development.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Workhey Gate SEE THS Bulletin, Vol. 3 p44

<sup>16</sup> As recalled by Almeric Page as transcribed by David Page, letter 12 January 2004 (copied by John Pocock). Now a nonagenarian, Almeric was involved with the Pageant. There is a slight problem here because the Cross was originally located where now stands the War Memorial.

<sup>17</sup> TREG 14.12.1918 p5/5

<sup>18</sup> 16/10/1920 p5/6

<sup>19</sup> Bennett, History, p233

The houses, still owned by the '*feofees*' in 1913, were occupied by reasonably wealthy professional people. From the left, **No. 1**. in 1841, there was Joshua Thomas who moved up in the world to *Abbey Lawn House* when he was elevated to the post of Town Clerk. As late as World War I, occupiers were advertising for general servants. At **No. 2** (now the Vet's) in 1871, the occupier was 34-year-old Charles Robert Creese, then a Bank Cashier with his family and two servants who, in 1899, retired as a Bank Manager. During World War I it was occupied by the mother of Military Medal winner, Sgt. George Watson Chandler,<sup>20</sup> who later married the daughter of Alderman & Mrs Baker, of Old Bank House; himself five times mayor of Tewkesbury. **No. 3** (now a Solicitor's) attracted a surgeon in 1841 and, in 1891, as a mere boarder, Ernest A. Healing of the well-known local milling family.

The *Crescent* was broken up by **Gander Lane**, formerly an important route out of Tewkesbury which emphasises the former central position of the *Bull Ring*. **Gander Lane**, was once a main thoroughfare over the Swilgate and up *Perry Hill*, via modern *Prior's Park*: in "*ancient times [it was] the road out to Cheltenham [via Tredington]; ..... a long length of road beyond the bridge which has been stopped but I hope the Town Council will order it to be opened again soon*". So wrote John Rogers in 1905<sup>21</sup> and his wish has not been fulfilled. It is reported that by 1560 *Priests Bridge* had been built and subsequently improved until it was last widened in 1971.<sup>22</sup>

In this Lane, Edward Richardson built a row of seven almshouses in 1651, for the poor of the town. They were repaired in 1739, but at the time of this picture in 1965 they were to be demolished and replaced by four modern cottages.<sup>23</sup> This and the demolition of the Abbey Wall to open up the Abbey car park where the Farmers' Markets are currently held have made Gander Lane a much broader road - to a caravan park.



The Almshouses located behind 3 the Crescent, with the old Abbey wall opposite, now opened out into the Abbey car park (Butwell)

We do not know whether the *feofees* intended to develop the other side of Gander Lane but it did not happen and the crescent shape was interrupted by the building, sometime before 1841 of *Abbey Lawn House*. It would have been possible in 1821 since, referring once again to Geast's will the 1821 report confirms that there were three occupied buildings "*against the Warkey Wall, at the Gander Lane*". This was partly the site of our beloved bus shelter.

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<sup>20</sup> 09.09.1916 P5/3 & 21.07.1917 p4/6

<sup>21</sup> John Rogers, *Short History of the Alleys* (Collections) no. 93

<sup>22</sup> B. Linnell, *Theot, Guppy and Wulf* (Theoc Press), p34

<sup>23</sup> C. Burd, *Around Tewkesbury*, (Tempus, 2001) p38.



### Abbey Lawn House

After the Dissolution in 1540, when the market changed into a **Bull Ring**, it possessed its own **Bull Inn**, demolished in 1697.<sup>24</sup> Linnell, however, suggests another more theological reason for the name of the pub. He claims that the house on this site may have been a rival to the *Bell* for accommodating visitors to the Monastery because of its close proximity to the main gate. He added: *"to mark the fact that it was under the control of the church, the exterior wall bore a large Papal seal, cast in plaster: a bulla"*<sup>25</sup>

It may well be that this hostelry was one of three properties owned by Geast and located "against the *Warkey Gate*, near the *Gander Lane*." For whatever reason, these houses were not redeveloped as more of the crescent but devoted to just one building, **Abbey Lawn House**.



The Crescent today showing the site of the former house  
(Dixon)



Abbey Lawn House just before demolition in the 1960s  
(Butwell)

We do not as yet know the precise date of its being built, but its architectural style suggests the 1830s-40s. It may be that the extension to the left which destroys its symmetry was a later addition. The first census in 1841 suggests that it was built and occupied by a solicitor, Mr. Winterhill, along with a family of four and three servants. However, its name as the **Town Clerk's House** may have been due to the occupation from at the latest 1851 to 1856 of the controversial Joshua Thomas. He was so unpopular because of accusations of fraud that he was used as a guy in the November 5<sup>th</sup> celebrations of 1856:

*"Starting at 7p.m., small children let off squibs and crackers. They were joined by grown up men and boys who discharged cannons and pistols in the street. The police abstained from laying hands on offenders, but did their duty by putting a black mark against them in their note books. A large crowd assembled at the top of the high street and marched through the town with an effigy of the late Town Clerk, Mr Joshua Thomas. On arriving at his late residence, the crowd stopped and hooted, then marched with 'victim', which was charged with gunpowder, to the Swilgate Meadow where they placed him on a fire. He was soon in flames and when the powder ignited was sent up into the air, amid loud hurrahs. The town resumed quietness at about 10p.m."*<sup>25</sup>

By this time there had already been an auction of *"the neat and genteel household furniture....upon premises situated in the Church Street, late in the occupation of Joshua Thomas Esq."* In the (evidently

<sup>24</sup> A *Papal Bull* was a document issued by the Pope which must be obeyed.. Linnell: Tewkesbury Pubs 1996 Edition P45 Ref.No. 18 & Theot p15. After dissolution commercial use. 1608 landlord may have been William Blisse. This is not to be confused with a later Bull Inn, which is now incorporated into the *Hop Pole Hotel* along with *Bull Passage*.

<sup>25</sup> Tewkesbury Record, 05/11/1856

spacious) grounds and stable was a "prime young dairy cow", a "yearling heifer" and a "very superior 5yr old pony gelding" with a "rick of hay".<sup>26</sup> The garden will interest us again.

It is perhaps thanks to 'Mrs. Craik', author of *John Halifax, Gentleman*, that its name was confirmed to posterity. The *Register* recorded some notes from 1852 made by Clarence Dobell's her host in Charlton Kings during her fleeting but hugely significant visit to Tewkesbury: "like a true artist, she fell to work making mental sketches on the spot. .... **A shower drove her into a covered alley opposite the House of the Town Clerk - the exact scene of bright ragged boy with little girl. She had lunch at the Bell Hotel, explored the bowling green; the landlord spoke of occupation by a tanner. She revisited the Bell in 1886**".<sup>27</sup>

The House then lived up to its unofficial name with a succession of Town Clerks<sup>28</sup> and lawyers who occupied it and later owned it. There was the Winterbotham family, followed by the Brown Legal dynasty. Frederick J Brown lived here from 1876-1905 when he was succeeded by his son H.W. Brown.

We are fortunate that it was subject to the very detailed tax survey between 1909-13: this returns us to our interest in the garden. The survey reveals that it comprised, amongst other things a "good cellar" and "Excellent Garden & Lawn, 1 **Very Fine Copper Beech & Several Ornamental Trees**".<sup>29</sup> In addition, there was "1 acre of apple orchard at foot of garden. 2 small greenhouses, old stabling, 2 stalls & loose box, harness room & yard. condition: bottom part flooded".

This is interesting as the 1883 O.S. Map suggests that the house stood on very little land whereas the detail suggests that it probably owned the land behind which is now part of the Abbey grounds; the flooded part being very close to the Swilgate. The Copper beech is still there to delight us - but it is located within the Abbey.



The Copper Beech tree in the 1960s from the new gateway from the Abbey car park (Butwell)

Herbert William Brown owned Abbey Lawn until his death in 1931; his estate seems a modest £335,557 in modern values.<sup>30</sup>

It would seem that after that decline set in since it was a target for requisition in World War II. In 1940 it was reported that "The Abbey Lawn, the Crescent has become a hostel for evacuees from Essex."<sup>31</sup> In that same year a photo was taken there of soldiers, based at Ashchurch Camp.<sup>32</sup>

The estate, if not the house, was saved in 1941. Its saviour was the daughter of an American settler in Bredon's Norton. The *Register* for 1941 recorded:

<sup>26</sup> Moore & Sons Notebooks : GRO D2080/797/7/118/3 & Tewkesbury Record 23/10/1856 The total raised was total £54/5/6d: £2,120 in modern values.

<sup>27</sup> 19/11/1887 p1/6-7. These notes suggest that those who site Sally Watkins' Cottage in *Bedfords Court*, High Street may be in error!

<sup>28</sup> Brown, father and son, were in fact: *Clerks of the Peace*:


<sup>29</sup> 1910 Tax: IR58/33078 Particulars and Notes on Inspection **864**. Transcribed by Wendy Snarey.

<sup>30</sup> Tewkreg 13/06/1931 p1/1: Estate Of Herbert William Brown of Abbey Lawn who died 13/03/1931 aged 57; gross value £10,373/19/2d (£10,373.96p\*); left to wife, Annie Beatrice Brown.


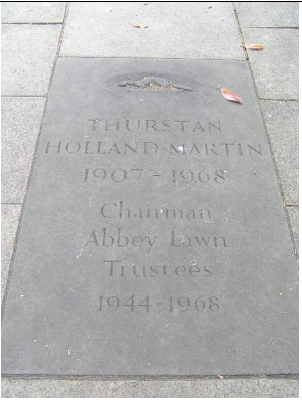
<sup>31</sup> TewkReg 22/06/1940 p5/2

<sup>32</sup> C. Burd, *Tewkesbury Revisited* (Tempus, 2005) p104

*Abbey Lawn: [A] Donation of money to the Abbey by Miss Zula Woodhull to commemorate her mother, Mrs Victoria Woodhull Martin. The intention [was] to open the view of Abbey from Gander Lane. A condition was imposed that a memorial tablet be placed in Abbey to Mrs Victoria Woodhull Martin.<sup>33</sup>*

 <p>Mrs. Victoria Woodhull-Martin when lady of the manor of Bredon's Norton (THS)</p>	<p><b>Victoria Claflin Woodhull</b>, an American citizen with a very colourful history (that may yet feature in a film starring Nicole Kidman!), married John Biddulph Martin, a member of the banking family from Overbury, in 1882. After his death in 1897, she then settled down as a philanthropic lady of the manor.</p>
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By June 1941 that promise had been fulfilled and the "*Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey purchased: Abbey Lawn thanks to a promise given by Miss E M Woodhull of Bredon's Norton*".<sup>34</sup> Her daughter, Zula, encouraged by Robert Holland-Martin, purchased the house and two acres of land for £5,000.<sup>35</sup>

	
<p>These plaques, still to be seen in the Abbey grounds, commemorate the role played by the Martin family, rather than their American in-laws. (Dixon)</p>	

The plaque was placed in the Abbey in 1943 but it is interesting to note that there was a newspaper report in 1944 of a "*Proposed improvement to Abbey Surroundings: take down the wall of Abbey Lawn and some properties in Gander lane; there was talk of a "road diversion" on A38 east side to reduce Church Street bottleneck*".<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Register 04/01/1941 p1/2

<sup>34</sup> 28/06/1941 p1/4

<sup>35</sup> John Dixon, When Hollywood – possibly – collides with Tewkesbury!, (T.H.S. Bulletin Vol. 10 pp40-1) The plaque reads: "Erected to the memory of Victoria Woodhull Martin; an American citizen, long resident in this neighbourhood, who devoted herself unsparingly to all that could promote the great cause of Anglo-American friendship; born 23.9.1838 died 9th June 1927."

<sup>36</sup> 23/12/1944 p1/7:



There is local talk of the house being occupied by the Americans in the War but one can surmise that, despite the gift, the house never recovered any of its former glory so that twenty years later it was a natural candidate for demolition.



An Edwardian photograph showing the house and former Abbey Wall. (Burd)



The House being demolished in the 1960s (Butwell)

Historians have a tendency to mourn the demolition of old buildings and it could be argued that it had some historical merit but when you stand and gaze at its site - along with its extensive garden which now forms the Abbey grounds once again - perhaps even the historian would agree with the house is best consigned to nostalgic photographs of old Tewkesbury?

Behind the copper beech tree is *St. Mary's Cottage*.



The site of the former Abbey Lawn House in June 2006 (Dixon)

Perhaps the high point for the Crescent came in 1971 when "*the Queen met those involved in the massive restoration programme, in which the long row of Abbey Cottages, which were originally medieval shops and merchant's properties, were undergoing at the time. The Abbey Lawn Trust undertook the restoration and the architect was Jeremy Benson.*" Cliff Burd also recalls that "*a ball was held on the Abbey Lawn .... Acker Bilk was the great attraction, playing with his Paramount Jazz Band to a sell-out audience of some 700 people. There was a turkey buffet dinner.*"<sup>37</sup>

### Conclusion

**Progress?** From this account, it can be seen that the area we now call the *Crescent* has changed frequently and out of all recognition from the busy market it must have been in the Middle Ages. Today many people seem passionately caring about this area. However, history teaches us that change is perhaps inevitable and even desirable. As custodians of our past, it is our duty to ensure that the context of the area is not inexorably obliterated without due do deference to its illustrious history.

<sup>37</sup> C. Burd, *Tewkesbury Revisited* (Tempus, 2005) pp114-6