

## BERKELEY BUTTRESS

FEBRUARY 2016

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

### From our President



Charles Berkeley with the  
Countess of Wessex at the Castle

As we welcome 2016, I hope you all had a very good Christmas and New Year, and we always look to the coming year with excitement and hope.

This is an important time as we celebrate 60 years since we first opened the Castle on Easter Day 1956 and my father remembers the

excitement that the small Castle team showed when those first visitors came through the gates. My father remembers getting advice from one

or two furniture experts such as the Matley-Moore family from Worcestershire who had advised other open properties on the layout, style and look. He also remembers having 2 or 3 guides helping him in all aspects of the opening from taking the money to making tea and cakes and security. The first year saw over 100,000 visitors and this continued for 3 or 4 years into the 1960s! One can imagine the numbers entering the Castle from the town and the queues which must have tested the Castle staff and visitors.

My father had been to Chatsworth for a work placement to see how they were reorganising the Estate and plans for house opening. This was vital for an owner at that time, it allowed my father the chance to question other owners, guides, custodians and hopefully gain an insight into what has gone well and not so well. Longleat was among the first to open to visitors and to see how that has expanded as a business with its other enterprises is quite something.

We can also look at how the Castle business has grown in the last 60 years and how it is constantly changing to keep up with the demand from visitors and

compete with other attractions. We now have a butterfly house, Yurt restaurant, garden and house trails and special family event days that keep attracting new visitors and bring back those who love the Castle and its grounds, and indeed the town of Berkeley. We have over 60 weddings per year and various charity and corporate events, as well as more filming than we have had before.

This brings me back to the Friends of Berkeley Castle. The steady growth in the number of members and events organised by Friends in our 10<sup>th</sup> year since we started FoBC is a sign of growth and interest in this wonderful Castle and grounds. Everyone can be proud of the part they have played in letting people know about the Castle and restoring various treasures in their historic setting.

I hope you all have a good year and I look forward to seeing you all through 2016.

*Charles Berkeley*

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## Friends of Berkeley Castle Benefits of Membership

- Free admission to the Castle, Gardens and Butterfly House during normal opening hours, excluding special events
- Advance booking for a programme of FoBC events such as tours, lectures, quiz nights and concerts, including the annual Friends' Summer Party
- The opportunity to attend Friends-only events, usually with members of the Berkeley family
- A Friends' newsletter *The Berkeley Buttre*s and occasional emails with news of events and activities
- Email notification of Castle events, some of which are made available at a special Friends' discount
- Complimentary ticket to Spetchley Park Gardens, Worcestershire
- Complimentary ticket to Dr Jenner's House, Berkeley
- A 10% discount on most items purchased from the Castle Gift Shop
- A 20% discount on home-made items in the Yurt Tea Rooms.

## From the Chairman



Welcome to the latest edition of the Buttres, I hope you enjoy the content.

The recent Friends evening 'The Berkeley Poaching Affray' was deemed a great success. The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this shocking event was the inspiration to take a closer look at the events, and Eleanor left no stone unturned during her research. Knowing

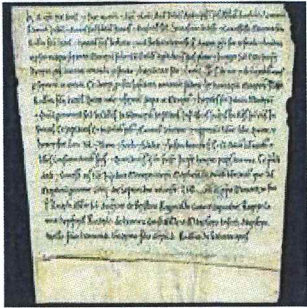
friends who are specialists in Game Cooking, I thought this would complement the evening nicely. So bringing everything together for the actual date of 18 January worked in well. The evening started with Eleanor Garratt-Taylor's talk which enlightened us regarding the events of that evening 200 years ago and the devastating fallout following the death of William Ingram and injuries to other gamekeepers. A painting was commissioned to commemorate this event, which has been recently cleaned and had its frame restored; this was undertaken from the Friends' funds. It took centre stage during the evening and created much interest. Eleanor had also produced maps and copies of various images which supported her talk. The caterers Robin and Pam Marshall Ball of Rookmarsh Field Catering produced the four course meal which was excellent. All in all it was an excellent sell out evening.

We have an exciting calendar of events this year and details are in the centrefold of this newsletter.

It has recently been agreed that all five tapestries in the Great Hall will be transported to Belgium for washing, and on their return some further conservation work will take place at the Castle, so visitors and Friends can see this all important work being undertaken. This is an exciting and expensive operation being fully funded by the Friends, so thank you all for your continued support.

*Paul Walkden*

## Magna Carta



Magna Carta was sealed by King John at Runnymede by the River Thames near Windsor on 15 June 1215. It was the first attempt to make the sovereign subject to law, and though it was not successful straightaway, it was re-issued by successive monarchs. Although several of its provisions soon became obsolete, it came to have a great influence on political thought right up to the present day and in many other parts of the world.

The second Robert Lord Berkeley (1190-1220), a direct ancestor of the present Mr Berkeley, was among the barons who drew up Magna Carta and made King John agree to be bound by its conditions. Although he is not named on the charter as one of the top 25 barons charged with overseeing its implementation, he would certainly have been present at Runnymede because he was named in the 'Articles of the Barons' which set out their initial demands. The present Mr Berkeley is not only directly descended from Robert, but also from King John himself.

Magna Carta continued to be important centuries after it was drawn up. By the late 16th century lawyers and historians had come to believe that there had been an ancient Anglo-Saxon constitution which had been overthrown by the Normans in 1066, and which had been reinstated by Magna Carta as a renewal of the legal protection of English liberties. Although this was not true, it was a very influential idea. In the early 17th century an eminent lawyer called Sir Edward Coke published a detailed commentary on the charter, and held it up as an example of ideal government, arguing against the divine right of kings to be absolute rulers, in effect dictators. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this did not please the Stuart monarchs James I and Charles I. However, Coke's work meant that Magna Carta's aim of making the monarch subject to the law influenced Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth government and all subsequent British governments.

*David Smith, Castle Archivist*

## The Battle of Agincourt Report of talk by Neil Eddiford 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

We were delighted to welcome back to Berkeley Castle Neil Eddiford, to talk about the Battle of Agincourt almost exactly 600 years after this historic event.

Setting the scene, Neil explained that Henry V, who became King of England in 1413, commenced negotiations with the major French factions the Orleanians and Burgundians for the recovery of lands in France previously held by England. In parallel, English preparations for battle including the raising of funds and the requisitioning of ships, were under way.

The English forces, comprising some 12,000 fully-armed fighting men plus around 8,000 supporters (labourers, stonemasons etc.) arrived in France in August 1415. They laid siege to Harfleur in Normandy. After 5 weeks the town surrendered but Henry had lost half his men to dysentery and battle. Communication between the English and French armies was taking place – Henry offered the Dauphin a duel, which was declined!

Henry decided to march to Calais and his army set out on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Having crossed the Somme, their way was blocked by French forces and defeat seemed inevitable as Henry's army was vastly outnumbered. However, the following points were in Henry's favour:

- The French forces did not have a clear leader: neither the Dauphin, King Charles nor the Duke of Burgundy were present and the French were commanded by a number of generals with no overall authority. Henry, however, was a strong charismatic leader and excellent battle tactician.
- The English had the advantage of the innovative longbow with a range of 250 yards.
- The battlefield was only 1,000 yards wide with woodland on either side – this hampered large-scale manoeuvres and therefore suited the smaller English army. Henry ordered his archers to fire their longbows from the shelter of the woods. Given the confined space and the strength of the English arms, the French could not marshal an effective attack and were defeated with a loss of some 6,000 men – English losses were only around 400.

This was a major victory in the Hundred Years' War. Henry was subsequently recognised as heir to the French throne and married Katherine, daughter of King Charles.

Neil, an expert in medieval weaponry and battle re-enactment, brought along a wide selection of weapons including spears, poleaxes, daggers, crossbows, broadswords, and a variety of arrows. The "Berkeley longbow" – made at the request of the Friends especially for Berkeley Castle by Neil – was also on display. We were all fascinated by these terrifying weapons which perfectly complemented Neil's informative and entertaining talk.

## *Sue Walker*



Ice Pail with the Berkeley motto: **Dieu Avec Nous**

## The Poaching Affray

The Poaching Affray in Catgrove Wood in the parish of Hill took place in January 1816. Events leading up to this had begun in November 1815, when Thomas Till, a farmer's son from Thornbury, was found dead clutching his shotgun, having been killed by a spring gun set by gamekeepers on Lord Ducie's Tortworth Estate. A verdict of accidental death had been returned. This was considered an injustice by many young men in the area, and they resolved on revenge. There was hatred between the gentry and ordinary folk.

At that time, Colonel William Fitzhardinge Berkeley was head of the Berkeley family, and was the largest landowner in this part of Gloucestershire. He had forced a new regime onto his tenants, undoing the amicable relationship between them and the Castle, which his mother Mary Cole, Countess of Berkeley had established.



**Poachers and Keepers**

A poaching raid in retaliation was proposed by one John Allen, who convened a meeting of friends and supporters at his home near Thornbury. They proposed poaching pheasants from nearby estates around the manor of Hill on the night of January 18<sup>th</sup>. On that evening, sixteen men blackened their faces and chalk-marked their hats for identification and then a more sinister aspect of these preparations crept in when Thomas Brodribb held out a book and all had to swear an oath 'not to peach upon each other'.

Powder, shot and flints were issued, with instructions not to shoot at gamekeepers.

John Allen led the party to Catgrove Wood, on the Berkeley estate, shooting roosting pheasants along the way. Patrolling keepers were alerted to their presence and on entering the wood were guided by gun fire when they came face to face with their opponents. These keepers, belonging to the Berkeley and Tortworth Estates and led by Thomas Clarke, had been given orders by Colonel Berkeley to arm themselves only with short stout sticks, so were at somewhat of a disadvantage. Poachers and keepers slowly approached each other, trading insults and exhortations. Behind Clarke followed William Ingram, a Berkeley keeper, and as the poachers approached crying 'glory, glory', Clarke brandished his stick shouting: 'fight like men my boys!' Panic set

in and two shots were fired, the second striking Ingram who was instantly killed. Poacher John Penny, who had been with Thomas Till on that fateful November night, was heard to call out, "Tom Till's debts be paid!"

A third shot then rang out catching Thomas Clarke in the thigh. Amidst much shouting the poachers charged through the keepers, attacking them with shot, sticks and gun butts and fled the scene making for their homes.

Retribution was swift. Footprints, clearly visible on the frosted ground, led Colonel Berkeley to Allen's home, and he and his fellow poachers were quickly arrested, some being held in the Castle before being transferred to Gloucester Gaol.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1816 eleven of the twelve captured poachers (one turned King's Evidence) stood trial at Gloucester Assizes. All were found guilty of murder. John Allen and John Penny were judged to have fired the fatal shots and were sentenced to death they endured a public hanging on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Brodribb, who had administered the illegal oath, was transported to Botany Bay for seven years. The other poachers had their death sentences deferred and were eventually reprieved, but were ultimately shipped to Australia.

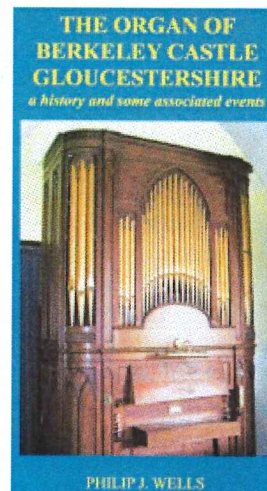
This eventful act of revenge left a legacy of bitterness between the Berkeley and Tortworth Estates for many years.

*Diana Merrett*



## The Organ of Berkeley Castle A History and some Associated Events

The Berkeley Castle chamber organ was built in 1804 by William Gray, a leading London organ builder, for Frederick Augustus, 5th Earl of Berkeley and Mary Cole, Countess of Berkeley. It stood in the Castle 'Musick Room' which new research has shown is now part of the Private Apartments. It was played by Charles Wesley Jnr, in Gray's London workshop, and William Mutlow, organist of Gloucester Cathedral, in Berkeley Castle in 1807 for a visit by the Prince of Wales.



Associated events touched on in the booklet include concerts in the Great Hall together with musicians taking part e.g. Mr C Harford Lloyd and Mr C. Hubert H. Parry. This is believed to be the first such attempt to document the history of an instrument that remained within the Castle for nearly 120 years, before it became unfashionable, and was moved, 'improved' and finally disposed of to Liddiatt and Sons, the local organ builders. It is now in St Anne's Church, Cwmffrwd, Carmarthenshire.

**Booklet format: A5, 40 pages, fully illustrated. Price: £5.00** (in person from Berkeley Castle gift shop).

Available also by post from: Philip J. Wells, 80 Lantern Close, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9DE.

Please add appropriate postage: UK £1.00, Europe £3.90, World Zone 1 (USA) £4.95, World Zone 2 (AU/NZ) £5.25

Proceeds from sales will directly support the work of the Friends of Berkeley Castle (FoBC), part of the Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust.

*Philip J. Wells*

## FoBC Events during 2016

Prices for non-members, adult/child, in brackets.

Events order form is enclosed with this edition of The Buttress.

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April – the Annual General Meeting 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

The AGM is your opportunity to hear what the Committee has undertaken on your behalf during the last 12 months, and has planned for the future.

After the AGM, FoBC President Charles Berkeley will deliver a talk to us which as ever, promises to be most interesting and entertaining.

Gates open from 6.45 pm. A cash bar will be available.

AGM attendance is FOC; **price for the talk by Charles is £9 for members; £12 non-members.**

### Bank Holiday Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May: An Audience with King Henry VIII 6.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

The King\*, in full regalia, will deliver an "historical and hysterical" talk about his life – and wives! There will be photo opportunities with the King and an interval when a finger buffet will be served. King Henry will then return for a fun "Q&A" session, peppered with anecdotes about playing this infamous monarch.

Gates open at 6pm; the event will finish at approximately 9pm.

A cash bar will be available.

**£12 (£14/£5) including finger buffet.**

*\*Aka Tony Strange, an actor specialising in playing Henry VIII. His audiences have included members of the Royal family, a US President's wife, comedienne Joan Rivers and the historian David Starkey. He appears regularly (as the King!) at Berkeley Castle.*

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Tour of the Berkeley Archaeological dig sites led by Dr Stuart Prior

**1.45 for 2pm, meet in the Castle Car Park.**

Dr Stuart Prior will give us an update on the progress of the dig combined with a tour of the major dig sites. We will then go to the craft room to meet some of the archaeological students and view findings from this important archaeological project. Tea and biscuits will be served.

**£4 (£6) including tea and biscuits.**

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June: Visit to Badminton House (GL9 1DB)

Arrive at Badminton House no later than 2.00pm for guided tour at 2.15pm.

We are delighted that the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort have kindly agreed to our private tour of Badminton House, which is not normally open to the public.

Badminton House is a Grade I listed building and has been the principal seat of the Dukes of Beaufort since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is set in a beautiful garden and deer park and of course is well known as the venue for the Badminton Horse Trials.

**FoBC only (30 people maximum) - £25 (tour only).**

### Summer Picnic – Sunday in July or August: Picnic/BBQ in the Castle Grove and meeting the Berkeley Hounds

**5.30pm**

Please watch your emails! This will be a fun event for families, and **we will confirm the date when there is a favourable weather forecast.** There will be no charge for admission; you are invited to bring your own picnic and games of your choice. There will be a barbecue with food for sale plus a cash bar.

Henry Berkeley has kindly agreed that as part of this event the Berkeley Hounds will be on parade in the Castle Meadow, giving you the opportunity to meet these friendly working hounds.

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August: FoBC Summer Party hosted by Charles & Daisy Berkeley - 6pm

Come and enjoy Pimms and canapés served in the stunning setting of the Castle grounds (or inside if wet). Members may purchase additional tickets for the Party as a means of introducing potential new Friends.

Gates open at 5.45pm.

**£14 (£16) including drinks and canapés.**

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November - talk by David Smith on the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley 3 for 3.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

This year David's topic will be the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley: 2016 is the hundredth anniversary of his inheriting the Castle. This promises to be a fascinating talk as the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl carried out a huge amount of work at and for the Castle, introducing some of the Castle's most striking and interesting features and contents. He was also very successful in other walks of life, notably sport and science.

After the talk, Afternoon Tea will be served in the Long Drawing Room.

Gates open at 2.45pm, documents on display in the Great Hall from 3pm.

**£12 (£15) including Afternoon Tea.**

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Friends of Berkeley Castle 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

We could not let our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary pass without recognition so we are planning a suitable seasonal celebration! Details will be provided in the August edition of the Buttress.

# George Lord Berkeley, 1601-1658

Annual talk by David Smith, Castle Archivist, 22 November 2015

## His birth and minority

His parents were Thomas Berkeley, son of Henry Lord Berkeley, and Elizabeth Carey, grand-daughter of Henry Baron Hunsdon. George was born on 7 October 1601.

Sir Thomas Berkeley died in 1611 at the age of 36 so when George's grandfather Henry Lord Berkeley died in November 1613 George inherited the family estates. As he was under 21 his mother managed the family property until he came of age. In 1617 she acquired Durdans for Theophila. Sadly Theophila and her husband had no children so when Sir Robert died in 1653, ten years after his wife, the house was left to George. He lived there for most of his last years. Elizabeth Lady Berkeley's other purchase, in 1619, was the manor of Cranford which became the dower house and stayed in the family for more than 300 years.

When he was 13½ George was married to Elizabeth Stanhope aged 9, a good marriage because more property came to him from her marriage settlement.

## His travels and correspondence

He took his MA in 1623 and was entered at Gray's Inn. But in 1626 he began a long grand tour through France and Italy, staying abroad for nearly a year despite pitiful letters from his wife begging him to come home. George had at least four children. The oldest was Charles, named after the new King. The second was George, later 1<sup>st</sup> Earl, born 10 March 1627. There was a daughter, Elizabeth, but of her nothing is known. Tragedy struck the family in 1641 when Charles died crossing the English Channel, making little George the heir apparent. And in 1642 little George was dangerously ill so when another son was born in that year he was also named George in case the first George should die. This second George went into the church and died in 1678.

## The Civil Wars 1642-46

This was a troubled time for the Castle which changed hands five times. Though apparently an insignificant and obsolete stronghold, its strategic position made its possession important to both sides. Shortly after the first Civil War began the Castle was seized for Parliament, towards the end of 1642. But when the King's forces captured Cirencester on 2 February 1643 the governor of the Castle, Captain Yate, abandoned it leaving it in the care of a boy. John Smyth, son of the steward and antiquary, made arrangements for its safe keeping but when Parliamentary forces arrived on 11 February it had to be surrendered to Colonel Forbes, a Scottish freebooter. He

stole much of the best furniture and sent it to Scotland. The King's forces held the Castle from August 1643. During the second Civil War the Castle was attacked by a Parliamentary force. After a fierce battle the churchyard was captured following a cavalry charge up the slope from the High Street. Once artillery had been brought into the churchyard the Castle was forced to surrender. However the Parliamentary troops were urgently needed elsewhere so the officers commandeered the chattels and sold them to pay each man five shillings in lieu of plunder. In August 1646 Parliament ordered that the Castle be slighted, resulting in the gap in the Keep wall still visible today.

## His last years and his patronage of scholarship

George had saved the Castle from demolition but it was in a bad state of repair and all its furniture and some of the fabric had been stolen including lead from the roofs. So it is not surprising that he did not go there often in his last years, preferring to live at Cranford, Durdans or his London house.

Throughout his life he had shown himself to be a man of culture and was patron to two of the foremost scholars of the age. He gave Robert Burton his living of Segrave in Leicestershire which enabled Burton to live at Christ Church, George's old college, and compile his monumental *Anatomy of Melancholy*, first published in 1630. The other scholar who benefited from George's generosity is Thomas Fuller, of whom there is a portrait in the Castle. George gave him the living of Cranford and made him his personal chaplain. Fuller's major work was the *Worthies*, a description of the most eminent persons in each English county. Of George lord Berkeley he writes:

"At this day there flourisheth many Noble stems [of the Berkeley family] though George lord Berkeley... be the Top Branch...One who hath been so signally bountiful in promoting these (and all other) my weak endeavours that I deserve to be dumb if ever I forget to return him public thanks for the same". Sadly both the author and his patron died in 1658 before the book was printed.

*David Smith, Castle Archivist*

## Situation Vacant

Volunteer help required for the Friends' admin office:

Must have computer skills

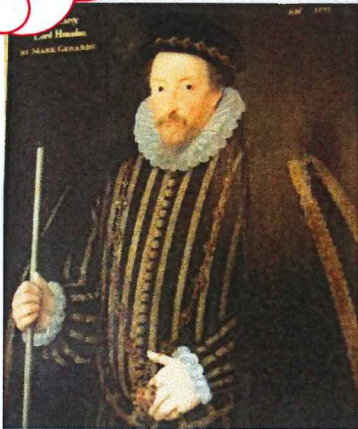
Hours to be negotiated

Work in a fabulous building with a great team for a smashing family

Endless coffee or tea supplied

Bring your own cakes!

apply to [Friends@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:Friends@berkeley-castle.com)



Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon and one of the jewels

## Henry Carey, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hunsdon The Midsummer Night's Dream Connection

You can find the portrait of Henry Carey, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hunsdon, in the Great Hall, hanging on the screen to the left of the doors which lead into the Screens Passage. Who was he, and what is his connection with the Berkeley family and with one of Shakespeare's favourite comedies?

Henry Carey was the son of Mary Boleyn, sister of the more famous Anne – the 'other Boleyn girl'. Mary Boleyn was mistress to King Henry VIII before his marriage to Anne, while she was already married to Sir William Carey. Many historians believe that Henry was the illegitimate son of the King, although King Henry never acknowledged this. Henry's legal father, William Carey, died when Henry was only 2 years old, and Henry and his sister Catherine came under the wardship of their maternal aunt, Anne Boleyn, who was engaged to Henry VIII at the time. Anne Boleyn acted as Henry's patron and provided him with an excellent education. Once Anne and Henry VIII were married, young Henry grew up in the royal household, and he became very close to his cousin/half-sister Elizabeth.

This continued when Elizabeth came to the throne - Henry Carey was created Baron Hunsdon and his sister Catherine was one of Elizabeth's favourite ladies in waiting. In 1585 Henry became Lord Chamberlain of the Household, a position he held until his death in 1596.

As Lord Chamberlain Henry became the first patron of a troupe of actors at the Globe Theatre in London, one of whose founders and foremost members was one William Shakespeare. This troupe of actors was known as the Chamberlain's Men (later the King's Men under James I).

Henry Carey's granddaughter, Elizabeth, married Thomas the son of Lord Berkeley at the Blackfriars' house of the bride's father, Sir George Carey, in 1596. It is generally agreed that the play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was written to celebrate a wedding in a noble household, and it is most likely that the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hunsdon used his influence with William Shakespeare to provide an entertainment on the occasion of his granddaughter's marriage into the Berkeley family. We also know that Shakespeare was familiar with Berkeley Castle as it receives a mention in his play Richard II.

The small but exquisite collection of jewellery, known as the Hunsdon Jewels, on loan to the V&A museum, was bequeathed to Elizabeth Carey/Berkeley by her father, George, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Hunsdon, on his death in 1603. She in turn left



them to her daughter and they have remained in the family ever since. The nation, as well as the Berkeley family, has much to thank this illustrious gentleman for!

\* \* \* \* \*

Pictures of the Wolf Hall Exhibition at the Castle, following filming at the Castle of the hugely popular television series:



## 'Belgian Tables'

A few years ago an enquiry came into the Castle Office about a table. It seemed the table had been found with a label that linked it to World War I and Berkeley Castle. Eleanor Taylor told me about this enquiry, we didn't think we would get very far with this. However, gradually a story has built up.

I knew I had a table that had come down through my family, from my grandmother I think, and it had something to do with WWI.



I also knew that Ruth Harris had a similar table. I contacted Chris Harris in London who talked to his mother about the table and back came:

### **Louis Lepage and family**

*Refugees from Belgium (Brussels?) in WWI.*

*Husband, wife and daughter. Husband and wife lived with Bertha Cook in Salter Street for part of their stay. Daughter (known as Rita) lived with Mr (Walter) and Mrs Shore.*

*Louis was a cabinet maker and had no money in UK – all tied up in Belgium so made furniture (mostly carved tables) to sell. Many people in Berkeley bought tables including the Cook family (Norman and Ada Cook) and the Shearns of Midsomer Norton.*

*Mr and Mrs Shandre had no children and wanted to adopt Rita. M & Mme Lepage agreed, on condition that she visited them in Belgium once a year. Rita married Bob Young and had two boys? Ruth Harris (née Cook) remembers Rita.*

*There were other Belgian refugees in Berkeley at the time and were teased by the local boys because of the way they spoke.*

*Fred and Lil Shearn visited the Lepage's in Belgium in the late 1930s where they had resumed their cabinet making business. The business and premises were, remarkably, untouched & intact on their return after WWI.*

*(As remembered by Ruth Harris)*



Recently I was looking at the Berkeley Castle account books which cover the period of WWI and I noticed the following entries.

In the 'Payments on account of Benefactions' in the accounts for 1915-1916 we have:

1915	Jan 23	Various Rev. H.C.	Old Peoples Presents	11	
		Pensioner + 2-0-0		16	15
		Middell Miss	Gratuity	2	
	11	Weston super Mare Cemetery		5	5
		Gloucester Infirmary		5	5
		Gloucester Com. Club		1	1
		Perbury Reading Room		1	1
	10	Gas for house occupied rent free by Louis le Page & family	Refugees from Malines in Belgium, in consequence of the War	17	2
		Pay H. H. October		1	10

© Berkeley Castle Muniments

1915 Jan 14: Gas for house occupied rent free by Louis le Page & family Refugees from Malines in Belgium, in consequence of the War

In the Alterations to the Rental Ladyday [6 April] 1919:

Smith	Archibald James	Takes cottage at Ham late le Page Belgian Refugee. (10/- to pay H. H. October.)	5	10
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© Berkeley Castle Muniments

This entry tells us Archibald James Smith 'Takes cottage at Ham late le Page Belgian Refugee'. The use of 'late' in this context means 'previously occupied by'. All the indications are that Louis was living rent free in the cottage in Ham. The annual increase in rent to the Estate was £5-10-00 [£5.50]. Archibald must have moved in to the cottage later than Ladyday as he only paid 10/- [50p] at Michaelmas 1919.

A couple of years ago I was looking at planning applications for Berkeley, there was an interior photo for one house and in the picture was one of Louis' tables. I know that table has left Berkeley, but there may still be other tables around.

*Peter Yardley*

## The Battle of Bannockburn, 24 June 1314

The Battle of Bannockburn was the greatest ever defeat of English forces by the Scots. It cemented the rule of Robert Bruce and guaranteed the independence of Scotland as a sovereign nation for ever, able to unite with England on equal terms in 1707.

After years of indecision on the part of Edward II he was eventually brought to battle by Robert Bruce's threat to capture Stirling Castle. The English army was the largest ever seen in this country and greatly outnumbered the Scots. But Edward chose a weak position from which to attack, with the marsh and the stream behind his troops, and rashly began the fight before his men had time to get into battle order. So when the Scots started to gain the upper hand the English had no safe route for retreat and were captured or killed in their thousands in the bog around the Bannock burn (stream).

The consequences of the defeat were immense. Large numbers of the English nobility and knighthood were captured and it was many years before all their ransoms could be paid. The border country was now undefended and suffered repeated savage raids from the Scots. The prestige and authority of Edward II were irreparably damaged.

In the longer term the strategy of English armies changed radically. This was the last battle in which English knights fought on horseback; thereafter they always fought on foot and the archers were given a more important role. So one unexpected consequence of Bannockburn was to create a new battle formation which would eventually result in the great victories of the Hundred Years War, such as Crécy in 1346 and Poitiers in 1356.

### The Berkeleys at Bannockburn

As usual the Berkeleys were well represented among the King's troops. Thomas II lord Berkeley at the age of 68 was in the battle, as were his son and heir Maurice and younger son Thomas. Lord Berkeley and Thomas were captured but Maurice managed to escape from the Scots' pursuit and led a group of Welsh foot soldiers to safety in England. In the following year he arranged for his father to be ransomed and for his bravery was made governor of Berwick. However the knights owing allegiance to Lord Berkeley were still in custody several years later while funds were gradually being raised for their ransoms.

## **BERKELEY CASTLE OPEN DAYS AND PRICES FOR 2016**

**Easter Weekend from Friday 25th March to Monday 28th March  
inclusive**

**29th March to 26th October:** Sunday to Wednesday inclusive

**Opening Times:** 11:00am - 5:00pm (last admission 4pm)

Always closed on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Butterfly House is open May – September  
Sunday to Wednesday inclusive

### **Castle, Gardens and Butterfly House Admission Prices:**

Adult: £11.00 Junior (age 3 - 16): £6.00

Children under 3 are free

Concession (aged 60+) and full-time Student with valid student card:

£9.00

Family (2 adults and 2 children): £30.00

Tel: 01453 810303

E: [info@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:info@berkeley-castle.com)

W: [www.berkeley-castle.com](http://www.berkeley-castle.com)

We regret no dogs, except service dogs, are allowed anywhere on  
the premises

### **Friends of Berkeley Castle**

c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9BQ

T: 01453 810303 E: [friends@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:friends@berkeley-castle.com)

[www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html](http://www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html)

### **FoBC Officers for 2015 - 2016**

Chairman - Paul Walkden

Deputy Chairman - Diana Merrett

Secretary - Jane Handoll