From dawn on New Year's Day,

at Upton St Leonards. Gotherington and Woolstone,

children went from house to house singing this rhyme and were rewarded with apples and cakes. This was known as 'bud-welling' or 'buff blowing'.

FEBRUARY

2 February fills the dyke Whether with black or white



St. Valentine's Day -14th February On St Valentine's Day/Cast Beans in

(old saying from 1620 Berkeley Vale)

3 When you can put your foot on ten

laisies, spring is here

LENT CUSTOMS

Collop Monday is the day before Shrove Tuesday.

was when the last meat of the season was eaten, in the form of collops of bacon or mutton. The fat was used to fry pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

On **Ash Wednesday** the traditional dish at Minchinhampton was pease pudding.

4 When April blows his horn Tis good for hay and corn



Mothering Sunday -Fourth Sunday of The modern 'Mother's Day' is an American invention dating from 1906. Mothering

Randwick cheese rolling and Randwick Wap First Sunday and second Saturday in May

Randwick is one of the two places in Gloucestershire that still practices cheese-rolling. O the first Sunday in May cheeses are



garlands that

procession and

centrepiece of

the ceremony

the letters A.D.

These consist of

head the

form the

around the church. This is followed by the Wap on the second Saturday. The custom probably dates back to the Middle Ages but was suppressed in 1892. Revived in 1972, a colourful procession of villagers goes from the War Memorial to the Mayor's Pool led by the Mop Man who swishes his wet mop to clear

Bisley Well Dressing - Ascension Day

First held in 1863. A short Church Service is followed by a procession to Bisley's seven wells. The twentytwo eldest children in the Bluecoat village school carry the wreaths and



Bisley Well Dressing. Photo: © Clare and the year, letters spelling out the word 'Ascension' and five hoops. Similar ceremonies are observed in the Peak District.

St Briavels Bread and Cheese Dole - Whit Sunday This custom is said to date back to the 12th century, but the earliest account comes from 1779. Small pieces of bread and cheese are thrown to local 'dole claimers' who nowadays dress up in medieval





costume. 'Dole Claimers' used to be anyone who paid a penny to the Earl of Hereford for the right to gather firewood. The ceremony was held in the church for many years, the bread and cheese being thrown from the west gallery, but rowdiness led to its being moved to Pound Hill. Some claimants used to pelt the rector with the food, but others – particularly miners – used

Dover's Games and Scuttlebrook Wake, Chipping Campden - Friday and Saturday after Spring Bank

The 'Cotswold Olimpicks' or 'Cotswold Games' were instituted around 1612 by Robert Dover. They mixed traditional games such as backsword fighting and shin-kicking with field sports and contests in music



and dancing, and were held on what is now Dover's Hill above Chipping Campden. Robert Dover probably instituted the Games to support King James I's anti-Puritan 'Book of Sports' and initially enjoyed aristocratic patronage, hailed in Annalia Dubrensia (1636), a collection of poems. They soon became a purely rustic occasion, and continued for well over two hundred years until the early 1850s, when they were

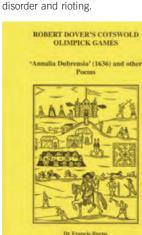


Photo: frontispiece of Annalia Dubrensia

centre of the celebrations is a mock

1951 as part of the Festival of

suppressed because of alleged



NEWENT

September blow soft Till fruit be in the loft children are given a currant bun Newent Onion Fayre - Second Saturday in

CIRENCESTER

Newent Onion Fayre is thought to be the only British celebration of onions. It is said to have ancient origins but was revived in 1996. It now attracts crowds of many thousands. The highlight is an onion-eating contest in the Market

TEWKESBURY



CHELTENHAM

young people join hands to form a circle around the parish church and the service begins. Joining hands. they take two steps towards the church, and two back, while singing the 'Clypping Hymn'. Afterwards, all the

MORETON.

ON THE 10

WOLD

Next day, Sunday, is Feast Day and associated with Bow-Wow Pie. It was customary to bake a meat or fruit pie in which the china figure of a dog had been placed. Sometimes there were smaller dogs within the pie, one for each person round the table. There are several stories which tell how the custom originated. Painswickers used to be very sensitive about this, and when Stroud lads met their fellows from Painswick they only had to say 'Here come the bow-wows' for fighting to break out. Barks and catcalls can still be heard at rugby matches in the area.

about!' and they routed the French in hand-to-hand fighting. For this feat the Gloucestershires were allowed to wear two hat or cap badges – the only regiment to do so. The Back Badge carries an image of the Sphinx and the word 'Egypt'. The Regiment is now part of The Rifles. Rear badge. Photo: Soldiers of

Stow Horse Fair - nearest Thursday to 24th October and 12th May



for two fairs, the first in May and the second in October was granted. These were held on 12th May, the feast of Saints Philip and

James and the 24th October the feast of St. Edward the Confesso Today these fairs are a major event in the gypsy calendar providing important opportunities to gather

In Stroud there are early 19th century records of fire and fireworks at the Cross on Bonfire Night (5th November) and of flaming pitch and tar barrels but these activities were stopped in 1824.

DECEMBER

19 St Thomas's Day – 21st December

Please to remember St Thomas's Day,

St Thomas's Day is the shortest day. 'Thomasing' was an annual visiting custom known throughout England, On St Thomas's day poor people visited the houses of better-off neighbours requesting

food or provisions to help them through the winter. Also known as 'gooding' or 'mumping', the earliest reference to the custom is John Stow's Survey of London (1560). Many 19th century Gloucestershire wills refer to St. Thomas Day gifts.



period, the City of Gloucester, in token o their loyalty to the royal family, presented a pie made from lampreys

> 1557 Stationers' Company begins to keep register of ballads printed in London.

Mary Tudor queen. Loss of English colony at Calais. 1624 'John Barlevcorn' first registered.

Civil Wars 1642-1651. Execution of Charles I. 1660s-70s Samuel Pepys makes private ballad collection. Restoration places Charles II on throne.

1720s First records of morris dancing in Gloucestershire 1765 Reliques of Ancient English Poetry published by Thomas Percy. First printed ballad collection. Mozart in Londo

1780s Robert Burns collects songs for Scots Musical Museum 1780s-1830s Romantic Movement in literature and music. 1787-1803 Scots Musical Museum published.

French Revolution begins, Revolutionary & Napoleonic Wars 1802-3 Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border published by Sir Battle of Waterloo

1839 John, James, and Henry Broadwood collecting songs in Surrey and Sussex. Folk song collecting begins in Russia and

1843 Old English Songs published by John Broadwood. Queen Victoria on throne. Nationalist Movement in music. 1852-3 Cotswold Games abandoned. Morris dancing declines. 1878 Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs published by M.H.

1888-91 Songs of the West published by Sabine Baring-Gould, Sussex Songs by Lucy Broadwood (son of Henry)

Traditional Tunes by Frank Kidson, English Folk Songs by

1928-35 James Carpenter collects ballads and mummers'

World War II

The Gloucestershire Folk Map is one of a series of folk maps current

gratefully acknowledge the help of Andrew Bathe. Paul Burgess. Gwilym Davies and Chris Wildridge, in sharing their research and Christopher Morris and Nigel Cox.

Additional photo research by Louise Perrin

Extensive effort has been made to contact all copyright holders for permission to use photos on this map. Society of Authors for permission to use the Alfred Noves quote

provision of photos from the Cecil Sharp Archive in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library,

We have found Roy Palmer's book on 'The Folklore of Gloucestershire

this map. Malcolm Taylor, EFDSS librarian for permission to use and

nsible especially for the old sayings that we have reproduced or

ISBN 978-1-85899-274-7 Design Andrew Crane http://andrewcrane.posterous.com/

















Sunday is a much older tradition, observed on the

fourth Sunday of Lent. Sons and daughters visited their mothers and gave them presents, also cakes and **Dymock** daffodils. It was traditional to eat frumenty (hulled wheat boiled in milk, seasoned with cinnamon, and sweetened with sugar) 5 Dew gathered on a May morning is traditionally elieved to be good for the complexion. I wash my face in water which has never I wipe my face with a napkin which was never 1st MAY - MAY DAY REVELS

Paganhill Maypole is painted larch decorated with streamers. Every year it is repainted and fresh streamers are fitted. May Day revels in Cheltenham were conducted by the chimney sweeps and included

For the chimney-sweeps of Cheltenham town, Sooty of face as a swallow of wing, Come whistling, fiddling, dancing down, With white teeth flashing as they sing.

a processional dance and a Jack-in-the-Green. As the

was revived in

end of May,

Whitsuntide was a

days after Easter.

moveable feast forty

Moist in May, heat

Makes the harvest

come right soon

Winchcombe in 2009

Before the Spring Bank

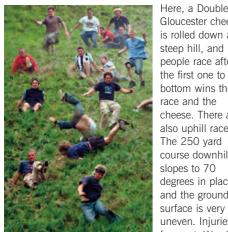
Holiday was fixed at the



poet Alfred Noyes wrote:

Paganhill Maypole, Photo: © bazzadarambler

Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling, Brockworth, Gloucestershire - last Monday of May



Gloucester cheese s rolled down a steep hill, and people race after it he first one to the bottom wins the race and the cheese. There are also uphill races The 250 yard course downhil slopes to 70 rees in place and the ground surface is very uneven. Injuries are

requent. Wooden

'cheeses' were used during the period of rationing from 1941-1954 and can be seen on display at Gloucester Folk Museum. The custom is at least 200 vears old and is proudly maintained by local Brockworth families.

Tetbury Woolsack Races -Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday

The Woolsack Races in **Tetbury** reflect the importance of wool production and weaving in the Cotswolds. Male competitors race down and up Gumstool Hill carrying a 65lb woolsack, women carry 35lbs. The race organisers suggest that the races were started in the

Guinness Book of Records

17th Century by young Tetbury Woolsack Race. drovers showing off to local Photo: © Rachel Cotterill women by running up the hill carrying a woolsack.

Today world record finishing times are recorded in the

castle, and a cannon is fired to begin the Games. After the competitions there is a torchlight procession to Chipping Campden's town square. Scuttlebrook Wake, next day, is the modern incarnation of Chipping Campden's 'Club' day. The crowning of the May Queen is followed by a fancy dress parade, maypole dancing, and morris dancing.

Britain, and have been held annually since the early

1960s. As in the Annalia Dubrensia frontispiece, the

7 St Margaret's Day -20th July At Nympsfield, the traditional dish consumed on this day was dumplings with wild

the villagers their nickname.

8 Dry August and warm Doth harvest no harm

Cranham Feast – Second Monday in August

The earliest date recorded for the Feast is 1680. It is held on the feast day of St. James the Great, to whom the church is dedicated. St. James's Day used to be 25th July, but changing the calendar in

1752 placed it in August. It may originally have been an assertion of villagers' rights over access to common land. Nowadays, there is a Feast Favre and deer-carving on the Saturday. A processional service is held on the Sunday afternoon, followed by tea, children's sports and a tug-of-war.

The Water Game, Bourton-on-the-Water - August

This game is played on the day of the local fete. Some say it began to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII but it bears a strong resemblance to other forms of



Photo: © Tom Cole Photography

the goals might be half a mile apart and contested by hundreds of players. At **Bourton** it is a five-a-side football match played in the stream of the River Windrush.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER The Severn Bore

Late August to late September is a good time to witness the Severn Bore when the tides are at their highest. Traditionally many people try to 'ride' the bore in a variety of craft including, today, surfboards.



the builders a feast of boar's head, thus giving rise to the custom and its graphic name. Today a feast is held in the village hall after evensong at the Church of the Holy Cross. Celebrations are perhaps more muted now than in past times – at the end of the 17th

Square, but there is also a prize onion show, stalls

selling local produce, music, entertainment, and rides

Avening Feast and Queen Matilda's Pageant - first

Known locally as 'Pig-Face Day', this event is said to

commemorate the consecration of the church, in

Conquerer. They stayed at **Avening Court** and gave

1080, by Queen Matilda, wife of William the

Sunday after 14th September

event as it led to abuses and excesses in the village. Traditionally 'pig-face' sandwiches are served at the gathering, and the same delicacy will also be found in the pubs in the district. Clypping the Church, Feast Day, and Bow-Wow Pie, Painswick – Saturday and Sunday on or after 19th



Bow Wow Pie.

'Clypping' is an ancient word meaning to embrace or encircle. The church's dedication is the Virgin Mary and in the past the ceremony appears to have been held on 8 September – the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When, in 1752, the calendar lost eleven days, the custom got its present date. At 3pm,

Customs, traditions and glorious folk song, all the year round

Good October, a good blast $To \ blow \ the \ hogs \ acorn \ and \ waste$

Michaelmas Mop Fairs Farm workers were originally hired by the year and 'lived in' on their employer's premises and the annual

Michaelmas Hiring Fairs were important events. Those

mployment symbol of their trade their hat – a hepherd's crook, for

example. bury Mop Fair. Photo: © Craig Fletcher Those who had no trade would carry a mon hence the name of 'Mop Fair'. Nowadays, the fairs are purely pleasure events. They are held at Chipping Sodbury,

The Gloucestershire Regiment – the Back Badge The Gloucestershire Regiment was formed in 1881 from the 28th and 61st Foot. It was one of the oldest regiments in the British Army, had the most battle

Cirencester, Stow-on-the-Wold, Tewkesbury and

honours, and a number of nicknames including 'The slashers' and 'The Old Braggs'. In 1801 the 28th was in action at the Battle of Alexandria when French cavalry attacked from both front and rear while in a two-deep line. The

Winchcombe

Front badge of the Colonel ordered 'Rear Photo: Soldiers of rank only – face

custom ceased in the 19th century. It was last revived for Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 and her Jubilee Mummers - Marshfield Paper Boys Boxing Day 26th December

caught in the Severn annually at Christmas to the

of lamprevs that he died of a surfeit of them. The

sovereign. Lampreys are eel shaped and are parasites

on other fish. King Henry I was reputed to be so fond

The mummers play at Marshfield had ceased to be performed there in about 1880, but was revived by folklorist Violet Alford, the sister of the vicar in the village in 1931. She 'improved' the play, changing things a little from what elderly residents recalled very well about the original script and characters. The traditional St George became King William in her adaptation, for example, and Father Christmas was



Photo: © Derek Schofie

character kills another and the dead man is brought back to life by a quack doctor). The players wear costumes with strips of coloured paper or wallpaper hanging from their clothes and these costumes give the troupe its alternative name: the Marshfield Paper Boys. The antiquity of the Marshfield play itself is claimed by some to date to the twelfth century. It is a local custom, kept local, with roles passed to family members of those already in the troupe, and includes a requirement that players have a genuine Marshfield

ustoms, traditions glorious folk son Cover image: William Hathaway, fidler from Lower Swell. Photo by Cecil Sharp © EFDSS 1893 English County Songs published by Lucy Broadwood and John Fuller Maitland. First attempt at a national folk song

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

1898 Folk Song Society founded by Kate Lee and A.P. 1899 Folk Song Society publishes first Journal. Kate Lee

collects from Copper family. Queen Victoria dies. Edward VII on throne 1903 Cecil Sharp and Ralph Vaughan Williams begin

1904 First volume of Folk Songs from Somerset published b Cecil Sharp. Kate Lee dies. Folk Song Society re-founded by

Lucy Broadwood 1905-6 Percy Grainger begins collecting in Lincolnshire. Somerset Rhapsody by Gustav Holst, Norfolk Rhapsodies by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Green Bushes by Percy Grainger.

Mary Neal's Esperance Guild begins to give public performances of folk songs and morris dances. 1907 English Folk Song: Some Conclusions published by Cecil Sharp. First theoretical book on English folk song. First volume of Morris Book published by Cecil Sharp and Herbert MacIlwaine. First book to give detailed instructions on morris dancing.

1909 Last volume of Folk Songs from Somerset published b

Cecil Sharp. 1911 English Folk Dance Society founded by Cecil Sharp. Sharp's morris team. Reginald Tiddy collects mummers' plays. World War I. George Butterworth and Reginald Tiddy killed. **1914-16** Alfred Williams collects in Upper Thames valley.

1932 Folk Song Society and English Folk Dance Society

1938 End of Harry Albino's work in Gloucestershire.

${f ACKNOWLEDGMENT}$

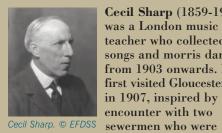
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Cecil Sharp (1859-1924) was a London music teacher who collected folk songs and morris dances from 1903 onwards. He first visited Gloucestershire in 1907, inspired by an encounter with two

street, and between then and 1921 collected from fifty-four Gloucestershire people. Sharp collected and published morris dances from Bledington, Longborough, and Sherborne. He also collected country dance tunes and songs, beginning in the Chipping Sodbury area and moving on to the uplands around Ford, Naunton, Temple Guiting, Winchcombe, and Chipping Campden. Gloucestershire introduced Sharp to many folk carols, such as 'The Cherry Tree Carol', 'The Twelve Joys of Mary', and 'A Virgin Unspotted', while Mary Ann Clayton of Chipping Campden provided the wellknown tune for 'The Holly and the Ivy'.

whistling morris dance tunes in a London

Percy Grainger (1882-1961) was an Australian pianist and composer who began collecting English folk songs in 1905. He began working in Gloucestershire in 1907, inspired by stays at Stanway, home of Lady Elcho. In 1908 perhaps the most



extraordinary event in the history of folk music collecting happened when Lady Elcho's house-party descended on Winchcombe Workhouse to hear its inmates sing. Percy Grainger was accompanied by Lady Elcho, Lady Wemyss, the former Prime Minister Arthur Balfour, the former Colonial Secretary Edward Lyttelton, and John Singer Sargeant, the leading portrait painter of the day. Grainger recorded the singing with an Edison cylinder phonograph and wrote to his girlfriend Karen Holten that it was fun to see an amusing farm labourer sing into the phonograph, while the notabilities listened. These recordings are now in the Library of Congress, Washington. Grainger collected from fourteen Gloucestershire people before his interest waned in 1909.

Alfred Williams (1877-1930) was born into a carpenter's family. He was a part-time ourer at the age of eight and left school at eleven. At fifteen he went to work

in the Great Western Railway company's works at Swindon. Humble origins concealed an enormous ntellectual appetite and ability. He learned Latin, Greek, and

French, besides pecoming a painter and writing his own poetry. His best known book, Life in a Railway Factory (1915) expressed his dissatisfaction with the GWR and could only be published after a breakdown in health forced Williams to leave. He then became a market gardener and folk song collector, reporting his discoveries in the weekly issues of the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard. Over the two years 1914-16, Williams collected from about 230 people in the upper Thames

valley, where the three counties of

Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, and

Wiltshire meet, a remarkable achievement

for a man not in robust health, whose only

transport was his bicycle. In 1916 Williams decided that the war effort needed him and enlisted. In 1923 he brought his collecting material together in Folk Songs of the Upper Thames.

James Madison Carpenter (1888-1984) came from Booneville, Mississippi, and after graduating MA from the state university gained a PhD from Harvard, in 1929. He made his first collecting trip to Britain in 1928, then stayed from 1929 to 1935, investigating sea shanties, traditional ballads, and mummer's plays. Research



advancing technology enabled him to use

motor-car travel and a mechanical recording device, the Dictaphone. Carpenter collected about 150 mummers play texts in Britain, twenty-seven of them n Gloucestershire. Only Oxfordshire (with thirty) produced a higher number. He also collected from several ballad singers, including Frederick Newman, previously encountered by Percy Grainger. Back in America, Carpenter moved to Duke University, North Carolina, but became a virtual recluse after retiring from academic life, his work unknown until he was tracked down in 1972 and his collection purchased for the Library of Congress. It is only recently that it has become widely known in this country.

F. Scarlett Potter collected 'The Shepherd's Song' from Thomas Coldicote of Ebrington and sent it to Lucy Broadwood (1858-1929), who published it in English County Songs (1893). The brothers Henry (1866-1910) and Robert Hammond (1868-?) collected from a single Gloucestershire singer, but did not identify

Tiddy (1880-1916) preparation for a

Gloucestershire in book, but was killed in the First World Reginald Tiddy. © EFDSS

War. So was the composer George Butterworth (1885-1916) who investigated morris dances in collaboration with Cecil Sharp. Clive Carey (1885-1964) also collected morris dances on behalf of Sharp's rival Mary Neal (1860-1944) After the First World War he made a career as singer and opera producer. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), arguably Britain's greatest composer of modern times, was born at Down Ampney, in Gloucestershire, but despite being an active collector, met only one singer in the county, as did Cecil Sharp's amanuensis Maud Karpeles (1885-1977). Janet Blunt (1859-1950), who lived at Adderbury, Oxfordshire, collected two Gloucestershire songs. Harry Hurlbutt Albino (1889-1957) was a gentleman amateur who collected sporadically from around 1913 until 1938, and was also a skilled photographer. Much of his work was done to facilitate his

CLASSICAL GLOUCESTERSHIRI

articles in the Gloucestershire Countryside

Gloucestershire's most famous musical sons of recent times are Gerard Finzi, Gustav Holst, Herbert Howells, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Vaughan Williams honoured his native county with his arrangement of 'The Wassail Song of Gloucestershire'. Of the others, only Holst played a direct part in the folk music revival. He did editing work on behalf of the Folk Song Society and published arrangements of morris dance tunes collected by Cecil Sharp. His one-act opera At the Boar's Head (based on Shakespeare's Henry IV plays) contains many arrangements of Hampshire tunes

collected by George Gardiner.

Gloucestershire Folk Song



William Baylis

William Baylis (1847-

1926) was an agricultural

labourer born at Stanton

when Cecil Sharp met him

in 1909. He worked for

the vicar, grew asparagus,

did land draining, and was

a great man for the church

Like many Gloucestershire

Christmas Time', and a

wassail or 'wavsail' song.

ringer. Buckland at this time had a great musical

which could combine as full orchestra

Henry Thomas

tradition - a string orchestra and a temperance band,

Henry Thomas (1830-?)

Workhouse when Cecil

Sharp collected from him

April 1907, but his

appearance and the key

ne is holding seems to

ake that unlikely. He

ad one of the largest

epertoires of any singer

loucestershire - elever

narp found in

words, including the carols 'The Virgin Unspotted' and

'Come All You True Good Christians'

3 William Hedges

Very little is known

about William Hedges

(1831-?) who was a

Westington, Chipping

Campden, when Cecil

September 1909. Like

Henry Thomas, he had

and a version of 'Georg

Ridler's Oven', a song

4 Herbert Gascoigne

Herbert Gascoigne (1870-1925) was a blacksmith and

Born near Bath, he

noved to Tetbury

nd later settled in

emble. He is said

e finest cricketers

ever to play for the

Alfred Williams one

item, 'Turpin and the

awyer', a version of

illage. He gave

he well-known

Turpin Hero'.

member of the National Master Farriers' Association.

peculiar to

Gloucestershire

Sharp collected from

him in August-

a large repertoire

retired shepherd living in

tunes and six sets of

may have been in

Chipping Sodbury

He was also a handbell

singers, he knew folk

carols including 'On

but living in Buckland

collectors between the 1890s and the end of the 1930s. This is a high total, in view of the fact that Gloucestershire never had a single collector who devotedly worked through the county, as others did in Devon, Dorset. Hampshire, and Somerset. Most of the material collected was common all over southern England. There were classic ballads such as 'The Outlandish Knight' and 'The Broomfield Hill', and songs of farming life and convivialit like 'We Shepherds are the Best of Men', and 'All Jolly Fellows that Follow the Plough'. There were even sea shanties through the maritime connections of Bristol and Gloucester Docks. Singing in Gloucestershire also had some unusual or peculiar features. Among them were the songs 'George Ridler's Oven' and 'The Jovial Foresters'. The former was long believed to be a satire on Oliver Cromwell: the latter concerns mining in the Forest of Dean and is still sung by local choirs. The county introduced

collectors such as Cecil Sharp to folk carols like 'The Cherry Tree Carol', 'The Twelve Joys of Mary', and 'A Virgin Unspotted', referred to by Ivor Gurney as the 'Gloucester Carol'. Gloucestershire's form of wassailing differed from the more usual celebration of apple trees as in other counties from Sussex to Somerset. The word was usually pronounced 'waysail, and the Gloucestershire waysail consisted of groups travelling from farm to farm, displaying their decorated wooden waysail bowl, singing their song and collecting money. They were sometimes accompanied by the 'Broad' which was a representation of a cow. Almost every village had its own version of the waysail song.

Robet). She was a great reader, a good talker, and an



excellent gardener. Elizabeth and Walter Field are interesting for the evidence they provide of social mobility. They acquired a car, and their sons Dick and Peter won scholarships to Rendcomb College, established in 1920 to offer public school style education to promising village boys.

Williams named as Edward Griffin was probably Edwin Griffin the younger (1878-1952). The 1901 census describes him as a cattleman, but it seems he later worked in the gardens at Hatherop Castle and was caretaker of the school. He was a bellringer and gave Appleby'.



Eli Price

Eli Price (Alfred Williams called him Jasper) was born



5 Elizabeth Field

Morris dancers (bottom right) at Dixton Manor c.1720. Photo: © Cheltenham Art

8 Albert Spiers

Albert Spiers (1844-1928)

Worcestershire, but came to

Lechlade around 1876 to

work as an agent for the

Great Western Railway. He

was also landlord first of the

Swan pub, then the Crown.

In politics he was a staunch

Conservative. He retired after

suffering the loss of his wife

and daughter in 1909 and

lived at Southrop, where

Alfred Williams met him.

9 Sarah Timbrell

John Ockwell

Robert John Ockwell (1871-1944) was the son of a

both professions. Alfred Williams collected only one

farmer and noted local singer and followed his father in

Albert Spiers. Photo courtes

Sarah Timbrell (1865-1950)

was born at Eastleach Martin

narrying John, a carter, of

uenington. They lived at

o Quenington by 1901.

Alfred Williams noted the

song 'Isle of Wight' and a

Hood and Little John'.

fragment of the ballad 'Robin

Sarah Timbrell. Photo courtesy

song from him, 'The Bunch 🤇

of Nuts', but it appears that

heets were TEWKESBURY

CHELTENHAM

South Cerney

Soomerford Keynes

he was known both for

singing at home and in the

local pub, and when his

daughter died a numbe

GLOUCESTER

of printed song

Brize Norton before returning

came from Defford.

Alfred Williams collected from Elizabeth or 'Lily' Field (1880-1951), who was postmistress at Winson for more than thirty years. She gave him three songs, among them the ballads 'Lord Thomas and Fair Eleanor' and the mysterious 'Cutty Wren' (Richat to



6 Edwin Griffin

The singer Alfred Williams one song, 'John Edwin Griffin. Photo courtes



at South Cerney and spent all his life there, dying in 1952. He was an agricultural labourer. Williams only collected one song from him, 'The Bold Champions'



Gloucestershire Morris Dancing

The historian Keith Chandler has identified 124 Gloucestershire morris dancers and musicians who performed between the 1750s and the 1930s. The county was home to two sorts of morris dancing. the 'Cotswold' style in the east and the 'Forest of Dean' or 'Border Morris' style in the west. References to morris dancing begin in the fifteenth century, but the first depiction of men performing what looks like the 'Cotswold' style is the painting 'Harvesters at Dixton Manor', dated to around 1720. About the same time a lady wrote in her diary that she was 'almost stunned with morris dancing'. Unlike 'country' or 'social' dancing, the morris dance was reserved for special occasions and performed by 'sides' of trained dancers who were almost always men and usually from the same families. By the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the main motive was collecting money at Whitsuntide (now Spring Bank Holiday). 'Sides' of men performed at village 'club days', outside great houses, and even travelled to London to dance in the streets. They called this 'taking an annual circuit', but were sometimes harassed by the law because their bells and ribbons, inevitably,

There is known to have been 'Cotswold' style dancing at nearly thirty places in Gloucestershire, but after the 1850s the custom declined. Morris dancers sometimes had bad reputations for drinking and violence and Victorian 'respectability' frowned on them. A particular turning point in this decline appears to have been the ending of the Cotswold Games in 1852-3. By the time collecting began in 1907 very little was left. Only one 'side' at Chipping Campden has an almost continuou tradition going back into the nineteenth century. Another 'side' at Bledington had several revivals between the 1880s and the 1930s, but the dances of Longborough, Oddington, and Sherborne had to be reconstructed from the memories of one or two old dancers and musicians. Memories of the 'Forest of Dean' style were even more fragmentary. It was known at Bromsberrow Heath, Clifford's Mesne, and Raurden, but only the Bromsberrow Heath dance has been reconstructed.

From 1924 onwards the 'Travelling Morris' group (composed of undergraduates from Cambridge University) began to bring the dances back to the countryside and try to glean what they could of the

111 George Simpson

Sherborne was known as 'a desperate morris place', and its dances are among the most beautiful and intricate of all. George Simpson (1850-1915) was



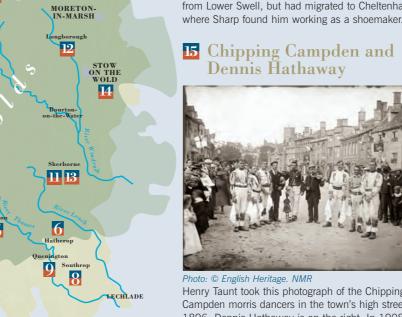
George Simpson (standing, on the right) with his 'children

born there and danced in the morris 'side' until it disbanded, around 1875. He then migrated to work on a farm at Upton, near Didcot, Berkshire, but did not forget his artistry. Cecil Sharp met him in 1908 and wrote that "he proved to be one of the best and cleverest dancers" he had ever met, and so keen that he taught them to the boys of his adopted village.

12 Harry Taylor

Cecil Sharp first collected from Henry Taylor (1843-1931) in a field in May 1910. He later wrote that Taylor "sang to me the tunes,





Henry Taunt took this photograph of the Chipping Campden morris dancers in the town's high street in 1896. Dennis Hathaway is on the right. In 1908 Charles Ashbee brought his Guild of Arts and Crafts to Chipping Campden and the revival of traditional culture inspired Hathaway to form his own side from

Wassail! wassail! all over the town Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee

13 Thomas Pitts

Thomas Pitts (1855-1940) was pipe and tabor player for the Sherborne side. The pipe was three-holed and played with one hand while the other beat the tabor. Most morris dancers preferred pipe and tabor because of the strong rhythmic support it provided. This fine photograph was taken by Harry

14 John Mason and William Hathaway

Most morris musicians, however, played the fiddle. John Mason (1835-1912) and William Hathaway



encountered by Cecil Sharp. Mason came from Stowon-the-Wold and played for a number of morris dance 'sides', including Lower Swell and Longborough 'sides' largely composed from the Hathaway family. The cover

15 Chipping Campden and



Chipping Campde Aldsworth Quenington Mitcheldean Quenington Little Sodbury Lower Slaughte

Ebrington

Ampney Cru
Tormarton
Oakridge
Kemble
Stroud
Bristol
Southrop
Southrop
Lechlade
Hatherop
Ewen
Winchcombe
Culkerton
Snowshill
Willersley

Quenington Lower Swell Broad Campden

Chipping Campden Poulton

Avening

Cold Ashton Stanton

Ebrington Avening Avening Eastleach South Cerney

Lechlade Lechlade Tetbury

Winchcombe Lechlade Lechlade Fairford Coates Brookthorpe Bibury Tewkesbury Kemble Southrop Cheltenham Bibury Lower Guiting Winchcombe Cherington Poulton

Winchcombe

Winchcombe
Barnsley
Chipping Sodbury
Quenington
Buckland
Fairford
Minchinhampton
Ampney St Mary
Brietal

Lane, George 'Daddy'

Mackie, Mrs

Nightingale, Ann

Packer, Jane Parnell, Albert

Puffett, John Pillinger, John

Russell, James Russell, Jane Sellars, Charles Shephen James

Smith, Charles Smith, Eli Smith, Raymond

Smith, Raymond Smithered, Elizabeth Sparrow, William Spiers, Alfred Such, Mr

Sutton, John Swallow, Thomas

Tandy, George Tanner, Tom Taylor, John

Teale, Elizabeth?

Temple, Henry Thomas, Henry Timbrell, Sarah

Toms, Richard Tranter, T.J. Trueman, James

Tucker, James Wakefield, Robert

Wall, Jane Watts, William Henry Webley, John

West, James Quenington
Wiggett, Mrs. P Ford
Wilkins, Robert John
Williams, Kathleen Wigpool Cor
Wixey, Elizabeth. (Ann?)
Buckland

Phelps, Charles Phelps, Sarah

Ockwell, Robert John

Stow on the Wold Arlington Kempsford Kempsford Snowshill

enter, Robert

Gascoigne, Herbert Gill, Peter Gosling, Mrs Mary

(1842-1910) were the first Gloucestershire musicians



of this map shows William Hathaway, who came from Lower Swell, but had migrated to Cheltenham

Dennis Hathaway



White, Albert Belcher Williams Aldsworth Winter, Thomas William Bledington Wood, Havelock Wight, William Bledington

Franklin, Charles Edward Bledington
Joseph Garlick Little Barrington

Court, James Edward

Cook/Gibbs, Edward

Chipping Campder Chipping Campden

Webb, George John Webb, Joseph Webb, Oliver Budd Webb, Robert Brank

A LIVING

TRADITION INCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, the work of Cecil Sharp, Percy Grainger, Alfred Williams and their fellow collectors, has been continued by Peter Kennedy, Mike Yates. Peter Sheppard and Gwilym Davies. The organisation Glosfolk has been founded to support folk music in the county. www.glosfolk.org.uk Paul Burgess researches singers and dancers

and the folklorist and historian Roy Palmer has published an authoritative survey of Gloucestershire's folklore.