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## **Eight Gloucestershire Pipemakers**

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# Notes on Eight Gloucestershire Pipemakers

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A GLOUCESTERSHIRE pipemaker who does not appear among the some 3,400 English pipemakers listed by Oswald in 1960<sup>1</sup> is Roger Grant of Westbury-on-Trym, whose licence dated 7 April 1694 to marry Ann Sanders of Westbury at the parish church there is noted among the marriage bonds for the diocese of Bristol in the 17th century.<sup>2</sup>

As Westbury-on-Trym lay well outside Bristol city limits in the 17th and 18th centuries it is not surprising that no mention of Roger Grant occurs in the city's apprentice and freedom rolls; however, the apprentice rolls do include an incidental reference to another Grant pipemaker—again not hitherto recorded—at Westbury-on-Trym and two other Bristol pipemaker Grants do appear subsequently in the city records, so it is possible the latter were related to the Westbury Grants.

The second Westbury Grant is Thomas Grant, who is noted as a pipemaker there when his son, also Thomas, was apprenticed to Thomas Stockman of Bristol, carpenter, and his wife Ann on 17 September 1672.<sup>3</sup> The Bristol apprentice rolls often indicate when the father of the apprentice was dead, but whether they do so consistently enough to allow one to assume that no reference to his being dead indicates he is still alive is uncertain; it is therefore not certain whether Thomas Grant senior was still alive and working when his son was apprenticed, but it is likely he was. Chronologically, therefore, he could be the father of the Roger Grant noted above.

One of the Bristol Grants, John Grant (also unlisted by Oswald), took his freedom 3 May 1736 as a pipemaker for the not-very-strong reason that he had married Jane, daughter of a deceased hooper, Samuel Packer. No further reference to him has been found. Like a

<sup>1</sup> A. Oswald, 'The Archaeology and Economic History of English Clay Tobacco Pipes', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, xxiii (3rd ser.) (1960), 40-102.

<sup>2</sup> D. Hollis (transcriber) and Elizabeth Ralph (editor), *Marriage Bonds of the Diocese of Bristol excluding the Archdeaconry of Dorset*, 1, 1637-1700 (Publications of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Records Section, no. 1, 1952) 252.

<sup>3</sup> Bristol Apprenticeship Rolls, volume for 1670-84, f. 65v. I am very grateful to Miss M. E. Williams, Bristol City Archives, for much help with these records.

number of 18th century Bristol pipemaker-freemen who never took apprentices, Grant could have become a journeyman with one of the master-craftsman family pipemaking businesses which were evolving in the 18th century from the earlier essentially cottage industries; however, such journeymen usually continue to appear in the poll-books and Grant does not, suggesting he may have died soon after becoming free.

Equally little is known about the other Bristol Grant pipemaker, Thomas. On 27 January 1748/9 Israel Carey, who had been apprenticed as a pipemaker 11 August 1748 to James and Susannah Carter for seven years, was transferred 'with the consent of all parties and the Mayor' to Thomas and Elizabeth Grant. On 15[?] April 1751, Grant being dead, Carey was once again transferred, this time to George and Elizabeth Ebbery.<sup>4</sup> This indicates Grant had died between January 1748/9 and April 1751, probably immediately before the latter date (when Carey became free 19 February 1756 it was noted he had been apprenticed first to Grant—which is incorrect, as Grant was his second master—and later to Ebbery). On 29 March 1754 Samuel Tuckey took his freedom as a pipemaker on the grounds he had been apprenticed to Thomas Grant. As there is no evidence Tuckey finished his apprenticeship with another master one assumes he had finished it before Grant died or at least was almost finished it when Grant died (by the 18th century taking of freedom was laxly enforced, and it was common for years to pass between the expiry of the apprentice's seven-year term and his taking his freedom, there being great round-ups of potential freemen before every election by candidates who hoped to obtain their votes). Grant must therefore have been active in the mid-1740s, but unfortunately Tuckey's apprenticeship entry has not been found, and Grant's freedom entry also appears to be missing.<sup>5</sup> Both these occurrences are uncommon, for the Bristol apprentice and freedom rolls are unusually comprehensive; a Thomas Grant does take his freedom 21 May 1744 because he had married the daughter of a John Hodges deceased and the daughter's name is Elizabeth, but Grant is described in this entry as being a yeoman.

If, as seems possible, these three Grants are related, research in the surviving Westbury-on-Trym church and other records may produce the necessary evidence; perhaps some local historians may be of help here.

<sup>4</sup> *op. cit.*, volume for 1740-60, f. 114<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Oswald *op. cit.* 72 erroneously gives Grant's freedom-date as 1754, presumably a confusion with the date Tuckey became free.

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Another Gloucestershire maker not noted by Oswald is a Nicholas Matthews of Gloucester, who is referred to as a 'pipemaker deceased' when a son Richard is apprenticed in April 1719 to John Baker, a Bristol glassmaker.<sup>6</sup> Perversely, the same Nicholas Matthews is referred to, again as a pipemaker deceased, as of Bristol in April 1716 when another son, John, is apprenticed to the same glassmaker;<sup>7</sup> but there is no other reference known to a Nicholas Matthews pipe-maker in Bristol and the Gloucester reference is almost certainly correct.<sup>8</sup>

No pipes attributable to Nicholas Matthews are known to this writer, but at Stroud Museum there are a number of stem-fragments bearing the mark RICH/MATH/EWS/GLOS in a typical Broseley-style rectangular mark. Rather surprisingly, none was noted in the collections of the City Museum and Art Gallery at Gloucester, but even excluding fragments too small to show the entire description (and which therefore might possibly not have had the last line indicating 'Gloucester') at least seven definite examples are at Stroud (from Slad, Frocester, Selsley, and Stanley Downton, and three from Leonard Stanley). Oswald<sup>9</sup> notes a stem marked RICH/MAT/HEWS from Nailsworth, only four miles south of Stroud. According to Gloucester Public Libraries, to whom I am grateful for this information, none of their available 19th century sources lists a Mat(t)hews pipe maker in Gloucester during that period; no Mat(t)hews pipemakers are so far known from Broseley.

The appearance of Broseley-style marks as far down the Severn as Gloucestershire is not confined to these Richard Mathews stems. George Ebbery of Bristol who became free 1721 and was still alive 1781 when he must have been *c.* 80 used the same style of mark, two stem-fragments in the City Museum and Art Gallery at Bristol reading EB/BERY/BRIS/T[OL]. If Ebbery is the maker of bowls covering typologically much of the 18th century with GE in a cartouche on the right side then he was producing pipes of forms typical enough of Bristol makers over the period and nothing like Broseley bowls; and

<sup>6</sup> Bristol Apprentice Rolls, volume for 1711-24, f. 179.

<sup>7</sup> *op. cit.* f. 111.

<sup>8</sup> A James Mathews, pipemaker, is known in Bristol, becoming free 1723 and voting in Bristol in 1734 and 1739. He was, however, apparently a native Bristolian, for when he was apprenticed—as James 'Matthew'—in March 1713/4 to John and Mary Hunt he was described as the son of George 'Matthew' of Bristol, a victualler (Bristol Apprentice Rolls vol. for 1711-24 f. 61v). The Mathews family continued in Bristol, for two of James's daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah, married respectively Samuel Pearce senior and John Andrews, both of whom took their freedom as pipe-makers by virtue of their marriages, Pearce becoming free 1754, Andrews in 1780. Assuming Nicholas Matthews's sons were in their early teens when apprenticed, Matthews must have been married and in business by *c.* 1700.

<sup>9</sup> *in litt.* 4 October 1972.

that this Broseley form of mark could be combined with the Wiltshire-West Country type 9 bowl form is shown by a typical bowl of this shape with the stem marked BEN/ABB/OTT noted by this writer at the Filkins and Broughton Poggs Museum, Filkins, Oxfordshire. An identically-marked stem fragment comes from Oxford;<sup>10</sup> Benjamin Abbott was working at Ramsden in western Oxfordshire in 1758,<sup>11</sup> though the Filkins pipe is appreciably earlier to judge by its bowl-shape—probably first third of the 18th century. Unfortunately, Ebbery's apprenticeship entry has not been found, so it is not known whence he originally came.<sup>11a</sup>

Yet another bowl of this shape, this with the stem marked IOHN/BOW/LDS comes from Hailes Abbey near Winchcombe.<sup>12</sup> Bowlds is otherwise unknown at present, but could easily be a Gloucester maker; no work has yet been published on the pipemaking industry there. (A J. Bold was apprenticed 1723 at Maidstone,<sup>13</sup> a date which would fit the typological dating of the Hailes Abbey bowl but one would have to assume Bold crossed to Gloucestershire on finishing his apprenticeship and there adopted local bowl forms.)<sup>13a</sup>

That Broseley pipemakers actually migrated down the Severn to work at Gloucester is strongly suggested by another stem fragment at Stroud (from the town itself) marked in Broseley fashion SACTO/GLOSTR/FROM/BROSL, indicating a maker, whose name is unfortunately not clear, had come 'to Gloucester from Broseley'. This movement of Broseley influence down the Severn agrees with other pipe evidence. In the earlier and middle 17th century Bristol pipes were traded widely into the lower Severn basin and South Wales, but as Bristol pipemakers concentrated more and more from the 1660s and 1670s on their lucrative New World colonial markets the rising Herefordshire and Broseley industries took over the home markets hitherto supplied by Bristol makers.<sup>14</sup> The Herefordshire

<sup>10</sup> A. Oswald, 'The Clay Pipe: Its Place in English Ceramics', *English Ceramic Circle Transactions* vol. 7, pt. 3 (1970) 244, pl. 213.

<sup>11</sup> Oswald, 'The Archaeology and Economic History of English Clay Tobacco Pipes', 55.

<sup>11a</sup> Subsequent to the writing of this article a stem marked VI/NER/BRIS/TOL in typical Broseley fashion was recovered from Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, in a c. 1758-68 context. Products of both George Viner (free 1747, fl. 1757) and his widow Anna (fl. 1775-1805) are known from North America so that this fragment, with no indication as to first name, could belong to either. The appearance of a second Bristol maker using this form of marking, however, reinforces the observations made above about Broseley influence spreading widely down the Severn basin.

<sup>12</sup> Oswald *in litt.* 28 May 1969.

<sup>13</sup> Oswald *in litt.* 16 June 1972.

<sup>13a</sup> A similar bowl with Bowlds-marked stem and two further marked stem fragments are at the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry, reinforcing the view that Bowlds must have been active somewhere in the Severn basin.

<sup>14</sup> This aspect is exhaustively dealt with in part of the writer's Ph.D. thesis for the University of Bath at present nearing completion.

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aspect of this has already been briefly touched on by this writer,<sup>15</sup> and D. R. Atkinson's study of the Broseley industry at present delayed at the printers is eagerly awaited; however, it is clear that Herefordshire and Herefordshire-style pipes in the later 17th century and earlier 18th century spread south and east into Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire and have been noted as far apart as St Fagans and Nuneaton, while Broseley and Broseley-style pipes in the same period spread even farther, reaching Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire and as far south as Bristol, Somerset, Wiltshire, and possibly Dorset.

Among the 19th century material at Gloucester is a pipe of typical 19th century form with P. LEGGE and GLOSTER on its stem: the Leggs were a famous family of Broseley pipemakers in the 17th century and early 18th century at least, and it would not be surprising if descendants had migrated to Gloucester with a slight change in the form of their name. Another 19th century pipe at Gloucester, apparently imitating in shape a late Dutch pipe and one of an un-smoked collection of pipes, bore an illegible mark of small fine letters in two lines stamped on the top of the stem and reading H. ———  
GL ———.

This small fine-lettered stamping is otherwise virtually entirely restricted to the products of the various 19th and 20th century Broseley Southorn and Smitheman firms, another indication that Broseley influence continued at Gloucester for a long time.

While on 19th century Gloucester makers, two not noted by Oswald and additional information on a third who is noted by Oswald may be mentioned here. Scammell and Co's *Gloucester, Bristol and South Wales Directory* for 1853 notes three Gloucester makers: R. Williams of Worcester Street, Daniel George of Newtown, and George Priest of Columbia Street. Priest is noted by Oswald<sup>16</sup> as working in Gloucester in 1856 on the evidence of Pigot's *Directory* for that year. It is much to be hoped that a study of the Gloucester pipe-industry will be undertaken in the near future.

Another Gloucestershire pipemaker not noted by Oswald is George Bence of Slimbridge. His son Shadrack appears in the Bristol Apprentice Rolls on 12 June 1677 when he was apprenticed to William Window of Bristol, a sailor, and his wife Margaret.<sup>17</sup> Again it is likely George Bence was making pipes at that time and had been in business by the early 1650s.

<sup>15</sup> Note in forthcoming issue of the *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*.

<sup>16</sup> Oswald, 'The Archaeology and Economic History of English Clay Tobacco Pipes', 85.

<sup>17</sup> Bristol Apprentice Rolls, volume for 1670-84, f. 178v.

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The last Gloucestershire maker noted here, William Dower of Stroudwater, is noted by Oswald as working there in 1644,<sup>18</sup> but his information, supplied by the notoriously inaccurate J. F. Chalkley, is incomplete. Chalkley in fact appears to have been quoting from an unpublished partial list of Bristol pipemaker-apprentices compiled by W. J. Pountney, the author of *Old Bristol Potteries*: this list itself contains many inaccuracies, and to judge by other quotations by Chalkley the latter added errors of his own to his readings. The reference, actually dated 6 February 1644/5, refers to a John Dower son of William Dower of 'Strodewater', Gloucestershire, apprenticed to a Bristol narrow-weaver, James Middleton.<sup>19</sup> Assuming the son was in his early teens when apprenticed, William Dower was presumably married and making pipes by c. 1630. Again, it is not certain whether William Dower was still alive in 1644/5, though it seems likely; whether he was or not, the fact that there was a pipemaker in rural Gloucestershire as early as the second quarter of the 17th century, perhaps as early as c. 1630, is interesting, for the first reference to a Bristol pipemaker, Richard Berryman, only occurs in 1619.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Oswald, op. cit. 68.

<sup>19</sup> Bristol Apprentice Rolls, volume for 1640-58, f. 186v.

<sup>20</sup> I. C. Walker, *The Bristol Clay Tobacco-Pipe Industry* (City Museum, Bristol, 1972) 3.