

Cirencester People – Exhibition Catalogue



Mr Hawkins, Cricklade Street grocer, 1865-7

William Hawkins was born in Stroud about 1830. By 1861 he is a grocer and tea dealer living in Gosditch Street with his wife, Mary, age 29, and three children, Mary Elizabeth (aged two), William (a year old) and a baby, Emily. William's sister-in-law Susan Mortimer, age 17, who was also a governess, lived with them together with an apprentice and two servants. His son William L Hawkins later took over the business.

The photographs from this collection are often full-length providing a more formal image and giving the sitter the opportunity to show off the full details of what was usually their best clothing. Half-length as in this photograph is less common and creates a more informal image. In this photograph it also suggests William Hawkins close relationship with his dog that becomes as much the subject of the image as its owner.



Miss Chatterton, harpist, about 1865

There are no records of a Miss Chatterton living in Cirencester in the 1860s and it is likely that she and Mr Chatterton who also appears in the photograph collection were musicians visiting the town.

The photograph is unusual as it is the only one in this selection that shows the person photographed from the side towards the back. This shows what Miss Chatterton may have considered her finest feature, her narrow waist, emphasised by the nipped in waist of the dress and very full skirt with its main emphasis at the back. A crinoline, a cotton underskirt supported on a hooped metal cage, would have supported the dress. The angle of the photograph shows the harpist's profile and the distinctive ringlets of her fashionable hairstyle.



Captain J D Sherston, 1861-70

Captain Sherston was born in Wells in Somerset and may have lived in Northamptonshire before coming to Cirencester where he is recorded in the census in 1861 living in Golden Lodge (now the Golden Farm pub). Here he was living with his wife Innes, who had been born in Calcutta, and four young children. The family have seven servants. These are Charles Chapman, groom; Matilda Webb, nurse; Ann Hill, cook; Ann Chappell, Elizabeth Walton, and Fanny Burroughs, housemaids; and Charlotte Holton, kitchen maid. Ten years later he has moved to Hampshire and later he lives in Somerset.

This photograph is un-usual as it has been taken outside. The photographer has created a makeshift studio possibly at an outdoor event; grass can be seen in the foreground. He has brought some props including the little table with books and a posy of flowers. Captain Sherston poses semi-formally with his stick and his hand in his pocket revealing his watch-chain.



Betty Arkell, about 1865-70

This is an un-usual photograph as unlike many of the other photographs in the collection Betty (probably Elizabeth) is not in her Sunday best. But who is she? There are several possibilities and probably our best clue to the answer is how old she looks in this image. The photograph was probably taken between 1860 and 1870. Four Elizabeth Arkells were known to be living in Cirencester at the time but if the Betty shown is aged between 45 to 50 she is likely to be the sister of Emma Witts (a widow and charwoman) who in 1871 is living in Castle Street with her three children and unmarried sister Elizabeth Arkell, who is 50.

Betty's photograph is un-usual as she is shown in her working dress (note her apron and cotton cap). She may have worked as a barmaid as she holds a jug and a very fine drinking glass with a wrythen stem.



Henry Gaydon's wedding to Jesse Clarke, 29 April 1869

This photograph is of the marriage between George Henry Gaydon (28) an accountant living in Birmingham and Jesse (Hephzibah Sophia Hollinshead) Clarke (spinster, age 19, living at The Nursery, Cirencester).

The Gaydon's originally came from Devon and Jesse was born in Horsley (Gloucestershire). Henry and Jesse went on to live in Kings Norton, Warwickshire and had 13 children (3 of who had died by 1911).

Although some of the family were living in Birmingham and Warwickshire others were local. The caption written some time after the wedding notes:

Back row

- 01 William Price (157 Bromsgrove St., Birmingham, chemist)
- 02 Ellen Clarke, now wife of Jno. Millington, Ciren.
- 03 Mrs Hill (nee Rose Herbert), Swindon

Middle row

- 04 Maria Herbert
- 05 Henry Gaydon, Old Bank, Warwick
- 06 Mrs H. Gaydon (nee Jesse Clarke)
- 07 Richard Clarke, Stratton

Front row

- 08 Jas. Lediard in America
- 09 William Gaydon, brother of Hy.

Richard Clarke was possibly Jesse's brother – there was a Richard Clarke who was a grocer and shopkeeper in Gloucester St in 1861.

The wedding photograph is surprisingly informal with only the bridesmaids standing and the two men in the foreground lounging on the ground. It is taken against a rustic fence, a style particularly popular at this period in Victorian England.



Servants at The Beeches, Cirencester, 1880-90

The Beeches (now Ingleside House, opposite the Beeches car park) was owned in the 1880s by Joseph Sewell.

The servants are left to right:

Alice Souse, Mr Webb, Emily Harrison, Hy (Henry) Parsons, Susan, Elizabeth Randle. There were a number of Parsons and Webbs in Cirencester but there is not enough information on the servants to link them with specific families. Please do get in touch if you have information about any of them.

The style of the clothing, particularly the woman's straight fronted bustle style dresses with tight sleeves, suggest the photograph was taken in the 1880s. As in most of the photographs no-one is smiling, the photographer would have advised keeping a straight-face as this was easier to hold for the two minutes it took for the photograph to be taken. The servants also look very nervous, as they were among the less well off this was probably for some of them the first time they had ever had their photograph taken. The photographer may have suggested the back row should hold hands to keep their nerves.

Revd. Mr Haygarth 1851-59

The Revd. John Sayer Haygarth was Principal of the Royal Agricultural College from 1851 until his early death in 1859 (aged 48). He had studied at Trinity College, Cambridge and subsequently became a curate at Rodmarton. He played an important role at the College which had been in financial crisis with staff being laid off. He put the finances back on a sound footing and he re-appointed the notable academic staff. It is noted that he also knew 'how to handle young male students'. He married Eleanor Cripps, daughter of Henry Cripps, Vicar of All Saints Preston and Stonehouse and they had seven children, the youngest of whom was to become Chair of Cirencester Urban District Council.

Of all the photographs in the exhibition this is perhaps the plainest and the most modern. There are no details of background or props and its half-length format focuses our attention on the Revd. Haygarth's kindly face with its expression of humility.



Dr Adamson and his family, about 1864

This shows Doctor Alexander Adamson and his wife Mary in their mid 30s. Their oldest daughter Agnes Jane was born in 1860. The 1861 census tells us they were living in Dollar Street and Dr Adamson has studied medicine at St Andrews in Scotland where he gained an MA. The happy scene becomes more poignant when we know that Agnes their daughter dies soon after this photograph in 1865 and Dr Adamson and his wife were to die in 1870 within 3 months of each other. An Alexander Adamson born in Cirencester, probably their orphaned son, was recorded as living as scholar at Christ Hospital & Educational Institution, St John, All Saints, Hertford in 1871.

The portrait shows the Adamsons with their children at the heart of the family, creating an image of a close and happy family life. Dr Adamson's crouching pose is un-usual for the head of the family who was often portrayed standing at the centre of the image. He may be posed like this because of the difficulty of keeping children still for the long time, one to two minutes, it took for the photographer to take (expose) the image. His daughter Agnes looks as if she does not want to remain still any longer while her brother Alexander has put his finger to his mouth (which his mother may not have been pleased about). John wears a

dress which was normal for young boys before they were britched (put into trousers) aged around two. The dress has a tartan ribbon reminding us of his father's Scottish origins.



Henry and Catherine Alexander, 1860-65

Henry and Catherine Alexander were Quakers and important in the Temperance Movement in Cirencester. This sought to discourage drunkenness and support the living of a sober life. Catherine was from Calne in Wiltshire where they married in 1835. By 1841 they are recorded in the census living in Cirencester. In 1861 Henry is employing 15 men and 4 boys with premises in Market Place and his iron foundry in Cricklade Street. Directories list his occupation as an ironmonger, brazier, tinman, iron and brass founder. By 1871 he is employing 38 men. The firm is later known as Alexander and Pumphrey, then Alexander and Thompson.

The Alexander's photograph suggests they are serious and industrious. Catherine is shown with her crochet while Henry looks as if he has just put his book aside on the table while he is photographed; the table cutting uncomfortably into the composition.



Emily and Elizabeth Alexander, 1860-65

Emily and Elizabeth were the daughters of Henry and Catherine. In 1861 they were living in Dyer Street, Emily aged 17 and Elizabeth 15. They were the middle children of seven with three older sisters and two younger brothers. Also in the house were their paternal grandmother and aunt, together with servants including a governess, cook, housemaid and nursemaid. The girls never marry and live with their parents; in 1891 recorded as living with their then widowed father in Lewis Lane.

The sisters are shown in matching checked dresses emphasising their sisterhood and youth. The older sister Emily carries a book (possibly a prayer book or bible) suggesting her serious nature.



Emily Lait, 1865-70

Emily is the wife or daughter of Richard Lait a baker who lived in Dollar Street. The photograph was probably taken around 1865 to 70 as she is wearing the fashionable dress of the 1860s, a full crinoline skirt with tightly fitted bodice. At this date she could be Lait's wife who would be about 40 in 1865 or his daughter Emily who died aged 20 or 21 in 1868.

Emily looks both young and nervous so she is probably Richard Lait's daughter. She has come in her Sunday best with her hat. However the photographer would not have wanted her to wear her hat as it would obscure her face so cleverly he has asked her to hold it (and the back of a chair) which may have made her less nervous.



Harriet Fisher and baby Frances, about 1860

Harriet Fisher married William Fisher, a tailor, and by 1861 they were living in Black Jack Street with their one-year-old daughter Frances. Harriet died in 1865 when her daughter was five. Frances went to live with her paternal grandparents in Tetbury, her father later re-married.

Harriet holds her baby as tightly as she can to prevent the blurring of the baby's photograph if she moved in the one to two minutes it took to capture the image.



John Jefferies, about 1860

John Jefferies (1818-1894) was born in Somerford Keynes, Wiltshire. By 1851 he is living in Cirencester and is listed in the Keyworth Directory in 1861 as 'seed and hop merchant, Market Place'. He becomes a very successful businessman. In 1887 his company is described: 'Messrs J. Jefferies and Son, in their well-known "Cirencester Nurseries", in the town and at Siddington, cultivate a stock of plants surpassed by few nurseries in the kingdom. In the season, about 30,000 rose trees may be seen in full bloom at the Siddington Nursery, and for these prizes have been obtained at the Crystal Palace and other leading exhibitions.'

Cleverly the photographer chooses to show John Jefferies with the tools of his trade, a potted fuchsia, which he holds showing us the fine flowers.



Jos'h Tovey, 1871-85

Joseph Tovey was first recorded in the census as being in Cirencester in 1871 when he is aged 33 living in Dyer Street. He is described as an ironmonger & manufacturer, employing 12 men and 7 boys. He was born about 1838 in Tewkesbury and in 1861 is in Tetbury working as an ironmonger. By 1876 he and his younger brother Henry Tovey have a business as 'furnishing ironmongers and implement makers' in Market Place. He married late in life aged 40 to Marianne Barton aged 22; sadly she dies 2 years later.

Joseph Tovey poses wearing his very best, his gloves and walking cane suggesting a gentleman about town (although he does not show us his hat). The photographer has used the tools of his trade, a painted backdrop with architectural detail and a fine button-back chair to emphasise Joseph's status. The interesting feature is the dog, almost certainly Joseph's own, which adds a very personal note to his image. It is hard to tell how old he is, his distinctive (slightly grizzled) beard and hair suggest he may be in his 40s or 50s but his face looks young. As he poses alone with his dog for company is he already a widower (aged 42).



G. Townsend, Charles Boulton & Wm. Brindle, probably 1865-75

The photographer captures a group of confident young men but who are they?

The census records a Charles Boulton who was a barman aged 21 in 1861 and who by 1871 has become a clerk. G. Townsend was probably from one of the several Townsends in Cirencester in the 1860s, who were running inns and shops. The census shows a Brindle family in Cirencester in the 1870s but their son William is probably too young to be the Wm (William) Brindle shown here.

The photographer has captured the young men in half-sitting/standing poses and creates a strong sense of perspective by placing Charles in front of the others, all of which suggest the three are successful, dynamic young men probably in business, an image which their smart clothes also creates.



W'm Holland, about 1860

William Holland is probably the son of David Holland (gun maker) of Dollar Street. In 1861 he is aged 19 and described as a land surveyor. He is clearly also a keen cricketer. He was to go on to have a successful career becoming the Town Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. By 1881 he is living in Lewis Lane with his wife and three children, and their private governess and also has a general servant.

William poses in the formal setting of the photographer's studio but with his cricket bat and gloves and sleeves rolled up as if he is outside on the cricket pitch.



Miss Sarah Baker, Manager, King's Head, 1871-81

With the re-opening of the King's Head this photograph of the manager nearly 150 years ago is particularly topical. It is one of three photographs described as being of lady managers there (Nichols, Baker and Banks) although only this one, Sarah Baker, can be pinned down. Sarah was born in Newport, Wales but by 1861 was living in Swansea working as a barmaid for her sister and brother-in-law who were licensed victuallers probably running a pub. By 1871 (aged 36) she was working as manager of the King's Head. In the census that year she is shown along with the other living-in staff: Mary Lowe, 30, assistant barmaid; Harriet Baylies, 33, cook; Elizabeth Johnson, 32, waitress; Elizabeth Atkinson, 24, kitchen maid; Sarah Jones, 25, housemaid; Sarah Townsend, 17, housemaid; Richard Parry, boots; Frederick Gibbs, 16, billiard marker.

The photograph is interesting as the photographer has created a bleached out effect in the processing so the focus is on the face and chest of the sitter (creating the form of a classical bust).



George Winstone, about 1860

George Winstone (c.1784-1863) who is in his late seventies in this photograph is a shoemaker living in Dollar Street. In the 1851 census he is recorded as living with his wife Martha who is thirty years his junior and is described as a shoe binder. With them are their children some of whom are already involved in the business. These are: Ann, 15, dressmaker; Edward, 14, shoemaker; Charles, 11, errand boy; Martha, 9; Emma, 7; Jane, 5; Ellen, 4; and [Lorenza] Louisa, 2. George's son Edward continues the business. By 1871 Edward is employing 3 men and a boy, and he is succeeded by his son George who died in 1955.

George is shown seated as befits his age (in his late seventies the oldest person shown in this selection of Cox photographs). He appears a kindly old man. He clutches something in his hands, are these the tools of his trade, it is difficult to see. Unfortunately we are not shown his shoes.



Edwin Riddiford, about 1860

Edwin Riddiford (1805-1876) is first recorded as living in Cirencester in the 1861 census, aged 56, when he is Superintendent of Police. He is living at the Police Station in Castle Street with his second wife Harriet and three of his thirteen children. This was the new Police Station built at the corner of Castle Street and Park Lane in 1858-9 by James Medland. By 1871 he is retired and has returned to live in Barton St. Michael, Gloucester, where he was earlier Superintendent of Police.

It is interesting to compare this image with that of John Jefferies the gardener. As we might expect (although in a similar pose) Edwin the Police Superintendent is made to look large and powerful. This is partly because he is facing straight on to the camera whereas John turns slightly to the side to touch the plant. Edwin's hand strongly gripping the back of the chair also contributes to the sense of a powerful man.



John Beecham, 1860-70

John Beecham (1813-1882) moved to Cirencester in 1830. He was born in London but knew the town well as his mother was from here. He became a successful artist specialising in 'history' painting, some of his work can be seen on the walls here.

The photographer has chosen to show the artist in a relaxed pose, seated on a chair. The object he holds in his hand (which is not clear) is possibly related to the tools of his trade as an artist.

Portrait of Seymour Henry Bathurst, 1909

Jan Veth

Oil on canvas

This portrait shows the 7th Earl Bathurst (1864-1943) aged 45. He is the current Earl's great grandfather. He loved hunting and is shown as Master of the Hunt. He had commanded the 5th battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment in the Boer War. The military connection was continued via a long loan of this painting to the Officers Mess at RAF South Cerney until 1986 (now Duke of Gloucester Barracks).

It is interesting to compare this portrait with that of Daniel George Bingham which is by the same artist. Earl Bathurst is shown as a landowner wearing the bold red of Master of the Hunt and with a view of his estate behind. He looks directly at the artist revealing a bit of his vulnerability; he is not confident in having his portrait painted. In contrast Bingham has been posed looking away, his pose and the plain dark background conveying gravitas.

Portrait of Daniel George Bingham, 1909

Jan Veth

Oil on canvas

This shows Daniel George Bingham the Cirencester-born philanthropist who funded the development of the library and Bingham Hall. In May 1909 the *Wilts and Glos. Standard* proposed the presentation of a portrait of Daniel Bingham 'to recognize and commemorate the munificence'. A subscription was to be organised and the artist chosen was Mr Cope ARA. In the end the portrait was commissioned by Daniel Bingham himself together with one of Earl Bathurst and Bingham chose the Dutch artist Jan Veth known for his portraits. The paintings were completed 1910 and both presented to the Bingham Library in February 1911. In 1922-23 Bingham's portrait is described as hanging in the lecture room (the room directly above this one).

Allen Bathurst, about 1709

C. Bestland

Engraving

This shows Allen Bathurst (1684-1775) aged 25. He was Member of Parliament for Cirencester from 1705-11, and became a Privy Councillor. In 1772 he was created Earl Bathurst, he was the first Earl. He was a literary man, friend of the poets Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift. He is buried in Cirencester Parish Church.

Allen looks distinguished and aristocratic in his fashionable wig and long stock (neck tie). The print was engraved from a portrait in enamel. The advantage of having a print made was that multiple copies could be produced. This idea was probably attractive to Allen as MP who would have wanted to thank his friends and supporters and also keep him in their minds.

Daniel Bingham, 1822

Artist unknown

Oil on canvas

This Daniel Bingham (1793-1834) was most probably the father of Daniel George Bingham. He married Anne Simpson in Cirencester in May 1825 and was a Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer in Black Jack Street. Daniel George (1830-1913) was the third of their five children.

Two hundred years ago it would have been un-usual for a cabinetmaker and upholsterer to have a portrait of themselves and the portrait suggests Daniel was doing well for himself. This is also suggested by his fine clothes which the artist has chosen to show in detail, from the jacket with gold buttons to his cream wool waistcoat and white stock. This is one of the earliest oil portraits in the collection.

Pupils of the Blue and Yellow Schools, Gloucester Street, about 1920
Photograph enlarged and coloured by W Dennis Moss

This photograph has been taken to show the costume of the pupils of the school in the early 20th century. The Blue School was begun 1714 by subscriptions and the Yellow School in 1722 (in pursuance of Rebecca Powell's will). The image is framed together with specimens of Medallions handed on by the children to their successors.

Presented by Edward C Sewell, High Steward of Cirencester, 1920

Portrait of W. I. Croome, 1967

H. Andrew Freeth RA

Watercolour

William Iveson Croome (1891-1967) was a notable local figure. He was a distinguished and long-serving member of Cirencester Magistrates Bench (1928-66) and its Chairman for twenty years. He was a devout churchman and his knowledge of ecclesiastical buildings led to his appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Central Council for the Care of Churches. He served on other similar bodies and in 1953 was made Chairman of the Cathedrals Advisory Committee for England. His involvement in local societies led to the creation of an annual Croome lecture to celebrate the work of Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society and Cirencester Civic Society.

The portrait is in watercolour. The artist concentrates on the details of the sitter's face with lively cross-hatching and the use of white highlights with Croome's jacket tie and shirt sketchily added. Croome looks serious but with a lively intelligence as he looks into the distance. He looks younger than his years, he would have been nearly 80.

Donated following the closure of Cirencester Magistrates Court, 2013, with especial thanks to Deirdre Waddell

Cirencester Tradesmen's Society 1897

Photograph by F. Mortimer Savory

This includes images of many of the leading figures in the town.

