

Supporting data in respect of the paper

Science In A Somerset Quaker Community: Alfred Gillett (1814-1904), Fossil Collecting And Kinship Networks In And Around Street

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Supporting data in respect of the paper

These notes are presented in the same sequence as the relevant parts of main paper. Some of those conclusions are only provisional and users are urged to check them independently.

Abbreviation: AG = Alfred Gillett (1814–1904)

INTRODUCTION

Fig. 1: Street view by R. Griffin

‘R. Griffin’ was almost certainly the shoemaker Robert Griffin who was living in Yeovil in the 1861 census but had moved to Street some time before by the 1871 census, and had a daughter born in Street c. 1867.

The 1854 date on this interesting sketch is problematical. The viewpoint and dating suggest that it was made from the roof or scaffolding of the Congregational Chapel (later United Reform Church) during construction in 1854–55. Yet the British School shown front left, clearly identified by the playground and ornamental scroll on the facade, did not open till 1859. However, the chapel was extended in 1866. Possibly Griffin drew the sketch in 1866 but added the date later, muddling the building campaigns.¹

THE GILLETT FAMILY AND THE QUAKER KINSHIP NETWORK IN SOMERSET AND BEYOND

Obituary in Central Somerset Gazette: The author is unknown but it was undoubtedly written or co-written by a Street Quaker rather than an outsider or geologist. This author could well have been one of the Clarks (etc.) family.

There exists a brief summary of AG’s life written by L. H. Barber, a retired solicitor and sometime archivist for C. & J. Clark, in an undated manuscript, *Notes made by LHB from a scrapbook compiled by Miss Mary Ann Ansell and owned by J. A. Clark in 1951*. Mary Ann Ansell (c. 1826–1919) lived in Street for many years and was sometime Treasurer of the Friends’ Meeting.² We were unable to locate the scrapbook at AGT, which may never have had the scrapbook. We could not check Barber’s original notes in AGT because of the Covid-19 lockdown but used two more recent copies of Barber’s summary, one at AGT and one made by MAT ca. 1980, both from an interim copy made by Petronella Clark (then in “LHB’s notes and correspondence

¹ Anonymous, ‘Street. New Independent Chapel’, *Wells Journal* (12 August 1854), 8; ‘Street. New Congregational Chapel’, *Wells Journal* (2 June 1855), 8; 1859 ‘Celebration of the opening of the new British Schools at Street’, *Wells Journal* (17 September 1859), 4; M. McGarvie, *Guide to historic Street* (Street, 1986), 23, and refs in main text. Compare the 1855 drawing of the Chapel, perhaps also by Griffin, in M. V. Mudie, *Street through time* (Street, 2013), 12.

² Anonymous, ‘The late Miss Ansell. A great loss to Street’, *Central Somerset Gazette* (23 May 1919), 4; R. Clark, *Somerset anthology: twenty-four pieces* (York: William Sessions Ltd., 1975), 84-89.

up to 1964”). They vary slightly but are substantially the same. They contain the same error for the year of death, as 1908. Most probably the scrapbook Barber was using had a cutting from the *Central Somerset Gazette* with the year added wrongly or misread. However we cannot rule out the possibility that Barber was working from a copy of the original MS. for the obituary.

Date of AG's birth: familysearch.org has 20 February. However, the original register for the Monthly Meeting of South Somerset and Mid-Somerset clearly has an AG born on 12 February 1814. The Quarterly Meeting of Bristol and Somerset record confirms this though it can be easily be misread as the 20th, whence presumably familysearch.org's figure. A year of birth of 1818 for AG appears in previous publications,³ apparently by back calculation from the erroneous 1908 date given in Barber's notes above. The age at death is known from AG's obituary and in the FreeBMD index for the first quarter of 1904. This gives an 1814 date of birth. There is no evidence for an 1814 birth of a prior and predeceasing sibling of the same given the same name as an AG born in 1818. No Somerset hits for an 1818 birth of AG could be found, Quaker or not.

AG's siblings: assuming that Alfred's parents were the only couple of that name amongst the local Friends, then this is a list of his siblings (details of their children are only partial/incomplete; but see discussion of his will below):⁴

Joseph, 1812–1888: must be the Langport born chemist and druggist of the right age who married Anne, surname unidentified, and who lived in Manchester and North Meols. The 1841 census has a Joseph Gillett of about the right age and the right trade and right wife's Christian name living in Ardwick. The later census identifications are much more positive. Died worth about £5K. One executor was an Alfred Palmer, biscuit manufacturer (probably his Reading greatnephew).

Maria, 1816–1909: married Lancashire industrialist Thomas Simpson 1812–1885, see text and below. Their son Albert Simpson 1838–1924 was one of AG's two executors.

Sarah Dawe, 1818–1852: visiting her sister Maria in Lancashire in 1851 census. Died 20.3.1852 at Street aged 33.⁵ No probate, but she might not have had any capital of her own, or only an annuity.

Ellen, 1820–??1841: born Langport 3.4.1820. *Possibly* m. a William Simpson, 3rd quarter 1839 in Wells Registration District. So ?= the Quaker Ellen Simpson who died at Ardwick, Manchester, on 11.5.1841, the wife of William Simpson, letterpress printer.⁶ Note moreover (a) that this might be her sister Maria's husband Thomas

³ M. McGarvie, *Guide to historic Street* (Street, 1986); M. A. Taylor, 'Joseph Clark III's reminiscences about the Somerset fossil reptile collector Thomas Hawkins (1810–1889) [...]', *SANH* 146 (2003), 1-10.

⁴ Bristol & Somerset Quarterly Meeting digest registers of births, marriages and burials, LRSF, Tabitha Driver, pers. comm. 2010; usual genealogical sources.

⁵ *Annual Monitor* for 1852, new series 11, 135.

⁶ J. J. Green, *Quaker records: being an index to 'The Annual Monitor', 1813–1892 [...]* (London, 1894), 363.

Simpson's brother William 1814–1871 and (b) that Ellen's brother Joseph was also (probably) living in Ardwick at the time (see above).

John, 1821–1890: see elsewhere in this document.

Mary Dawe, 1823–1840: died in the Wells RD in 3rd quarter 1840. Buried Street Meeting. A Mary Gillett (only) aged 17 and a Quaker died at Street in 1840.⁷

William, 1825–?: Married Maria Whiting (1828–1858), see below; not traced after his 1861 failure.

Francis, 1827–1896: in 1851 census, assistant to Hannam & AG at Yeovil. 1861 census, ironmonger in Coventry, unmarried. Failed in Coventry in 1867 as fancy stationer, see text. Still living and presumably trading there in 1871. Died there in 1896.⁸

George Gillett 1829–1908: Apprenticed (?) as grocer in Cirencester; took over his previous employer's business in 1852.⁹ Married Lucy, surname unknown, born Chipping Norton c. 1826. Died Cirencester worth £14K, as retired grocer. Known children: John Alfred (1856–1947) (later grocer in Swindon High Street; press reports confirm he was there in 1906 and 1908, which confirms his identity as AG's executor); Maria born about 1864; Ella M. born about 1868.

The above is reasonably consistent with AG's will (see discussion below).

AG's father John: AG's parents were married at Long Sutton on 11 September 1811. Some sources give 1852 for John Gillett's death but in fact he died at Street on 27 November 1861, as is clear from the National Probate Calendar (probate granted at the Principal Registry on 5 March 1862, identifying AG unambiguously as a son and an executor). John's death was evidently unexpected, as there was an inquest, though apparently only a nominal one, and the death was ascribed to 'Disease of the Heart'.¹⁰

AG's paternal grandparents were Joseph Gillett (c. 1753–5.6.1824) of Somerton and Sarah Dawe (?1746–?1.5.1828) of Glastonbury who married at the Glastonbury Meeting on 21.1.1782; Clark, Clothier, Isaac, Mitford and Palmer were surnames of some of the many witnesses.¹¹ Joseph Gillett's parents appear to be John Gillett, hosier of Somerton (d. 17.12.1772), and Ann Gillett (d. before 1782, ?17.10.1762), inferred to be the John Gillett then of Long Sutton and Ann Smith of Crewkerne who married on 17.8.1748 at the South Somerset Meeting. This John *may* have been the one born on 10.3.1723 to William and Hannah Gillett, but there is too little detail in the entry to be sure. Sarah Dawe's parents were the late Thomas Dawe, serge maker, and Sarah Dawe of Wilton near Taunton, and she may have been the child baptised in the Church of England parish church of St George's, Hanover Square, London, in 1746. It is possible that these Dawes were related to the Ann Dawe who was the first

⁷ J. J. Green, *op. cit.* note 6.

⁸ *Annual Monitor* for 1898, 50.

⁹ Anonymous, 'George Gillett, in taking to the business' [...], *Wilts and Glo'stershire Standard* (22 May 1852), 1.

¹⁰ Death certificate; Anonymous, 'Glastonbury' *Wells Journal* (30 November 1861), 2.

¹¹ The Bristol Meeting summary listing on ancestry.co.uk has pages transposed, confusing this entry.

wife of William Stephens (ie James Clark's father in law), as indicated by a private family tree on ancestry.co.uk, but this has not been investigated.

AG's maternal grandparents were William Isaac, tanner, and Elizabeth Clark. William was living at San[d]ford Orcas near Yeovil when he married Elizabeth in 1774. His parents were Samuel Isaac and Martha Awoke (?) of Montacute also near Yeovil.

AG's great-uncle William Gillett: The 1841 census has a William Gillett 'druggist' aged 85 and Martha Gillett aged 60 evidently living in the area of Hindhayes, Street, and both Somerset-born. The 1841-43 tithe map has him occupying a house whose site today is on Leigh Road, a little south of the tennis court and opposite Hindhayes Infant School. The census gives Martha's (rounded) date of birth as 1781, matching Martha Clothier in the family tree by Roger Clark.¹² Clark has 1775 as William's date of birth whereas the census has it (rounded) as 1756. Clark's 1775 is probably a slip for 1755 as there is no obvious candidate for a William born in 1775 and there was a William born to John and Ann Gillett on 1 September 1755 in the South Somerset Meeting area. With those parents, he was very probably the younger brother of Joseph Gillett, and therefore AG's great-uncle. Clark has William and Martha marrying in 1803. We have not been able to identify this in Quaker records, and in fact this might be a piece of tactful editing somewhere along the line. The couple are almost certainly the William Gillett, 'druggist' of Yeovil, and Martha Clothier of Frampton Cotterell in south Gloucestershire who were married at Frampton Cotterell on 9 May 1804 (unlike the Society of Friends, the Church of England did not record details of parentage in its marriage registers). The anomalous (for Somerset Quakers) Church and place are explained by a premarital 'seduction' and the ensuing birth of their daughter, and their expulsion from the Society of Friends for some years, despite his being a 'leading Yeovil Friend'.¹³ Further corroboration that this identification is correct is that a married Quaker couple in Yeovil, William Gillett, druggist, and his wife Mary (d. ?1798), had children born there in the 1780s. So Martha must have been William's second wife.

Samuel Clothier. In 1806, Samuel Clothier of Street, son of James Clothier deceased and Hannah his wife, married Jane Gillett daughter of Joseph Gillett of Langport and Sarah his deceased wife. The witnesses were William Palmer, yeoman of Long Sutton, and James Isaac, yeoman of Montacute (so probably one of AG's maternal relatives). Samuel Clothier is presumably the one born to those parents at Street on 12.1.1782, and the one aged 27 who died at Street 24.3.1809. Jane Gillett appears to be AG's father John's sister, born 8 November 1783 at Somerton.

The move to Street of AG's parents is dated to 1829 in one source.¹⁴ This is presumably based on an annotation on a photograph of John Gillett which says that the family moved to Street in 1829 and settled at Overleigh House which he built: AGT WN 121/08. Contemporary Meeting records have their sons Francis and George

¹² R. Clark, *op. cit.* note 2, and family tree at end.

¹³ S. C. Morland, 'Mid-Somerset Friends in the 18th century: a study in the administration of discipline', *J. Friends' Hist. Soc.* 52 (1971), 249-76, 268-9.

¹⁴ M. McGarvie, *The book of Street. A history from the earliest times to 1925* (Buckingham: C. & J. Clark, 1987), 118.

born at Langport Eastover in 1827 and August 1829 respectively: LRSF. Roger Clark gives the date of rebuilding of Overleigh House as 1830,¹⁵ so perhaps John Gillett simply bought the land in 1829, rebuilt his house in 1830, and moved in 1831, which is consistent with the sale notice for the Langport business.

Milligan states that John's son William took over the Langport business, apparently on his retirement.¹⁶ This is plainly impossible as William was born in 1825. Milligan gives 1840s for John's retirement, but it is not clear whence this comes – possibly a back-calculation on the assumption that the business was in continuous operation. However, it seems more likely that the business closed completely, certainly under the 'Gillett' name, either in 1831 or a few years of operation, perhaps under a resident manager; the business is mentioned in newspaper advertisements for drugs till 1834, but those need not have been kept up to date.

In the 1851 census, William is working as an assistant in a Saffron Walden business. He appears to have moved to Langport around 1854 to set up his own business (or take over his father's old one??) as he first appears in the newspapers, especially in lists of retailers in patent food advertising, in early 1855. He was 'of Langport' when he married Maria Whiting in 1856. He was still a draper and grocer in Langport in the 1861 census but was bankrupt later that year, possibly as an indirect consequence of his wife's death in 1858; he had evidently operated from substantial premises in Bow Street described in the 1864 advertisement for their sale (not necessarily by him or his creditors). He had certainly left the premises by 1864. It is assumed that his business promptly closed in 1861; the stock was put up for sale soon, and although there was some continuing mention in patent food advertisements after the bankruptcy, this is assumed to be a failure to update the ads.¹⁷

Thomas and Maria Simpson: Thomas Simpson died in Clevedon on 19 January 1885, and his probate was granted at the Principal Registry on 30 April 1885, AG being one executor. This information identifies the Godalming gravestone of his widow Maria, which has more details: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/200137678/maria-simpson> [accessed: October 2020].

Their son Albert Simpson (1838–1924) was a Lancashire industrialist who retired to Burghill Grange in Herefordshire.¹⁸ AG's will clearly identifies him as one of his two executors.

¹⁵ R. Clark, *op. cit.* note 2, 43.

¹⁶ E. H. Milligan, *Biographical dictionary of British Quakers in commerce and industry* (York: Sessions Book Trust, 2007); Anonymous, 'Mr William Gillett's Assignment' *Sherborne Mercury* (24 September 1861), 4.

¹⁷ Anonymous, 'Marriages', *Wells Journal* (13 September 1856); 'Deaths', *Sherborne Mercury* (26 January 1858), 5; 'Langport, Somerset. To drapers and grocers', *Bristol Mercury* (14 September 1861), 1; 'Mr William Gillett's Assignment' *Sherborne Mercury* (24 September 1861), 4; 'Somerset. Important sale by auction of first-class business premises. To drapers, grocers, and others', *Somerset County Gazette* (1 October 1864), 1; 'Langport – Somerset. Important sale by auction of first-class business property', *Western Times* (4 October 1864), 1.

¹⁸ Censuses. E. Walford, *The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland*, 59th edition

Banking Gilletts. Even after AG's death his link to the bankers was only through the Clarks. Sarah Bancroft Clark's sister Lucy married Henry Tregelles Gillett (1870–1955), medical man and one of the Oxfordshire banking family, in 1907. Her husband Roger's sister Margaret Clark (1878–1962) married Henry's cousin Arthur Bevington Gillett (1875–1954), one of the Gillett bankers of Oxford.¹⁹

ALFRED GILLETT'S UPBRINGING AND WORKING LIFE

Langport free grammar school: Founded by one Thomas Gillett, in his will of 1675. However, there is no indication that AG attended it. Interestingly, its master, William Quekett (d. 1842), encouraged his own sons to make natural history collections. One was John Quekett (1815–1861), later F. L. S., F. R. S. and Professor of Histology and Conservator, i. e. museum curator, at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. His surviving microscopic preparations, from later life, include thin sections of ichthyosaurian and plesiosaurian material from Street and the area.²⁰ But there is no evidence that he knew Gillett.

Farming. It is not clear whether AG even completed his training as a farmer, let alone went into the business on his own account.

AG's possible ironmonger's apprenticeship/training: another possibility is with the biscuit-manufacturer Joseph Huntley's son Joseph Huntley (1807–1895), a Reading ironmonger from 1831.²¹

AG's Yeovil ironmonger partner Josiah Hannam: Hannam's 1871 will appoints William Stephens flax spinner of Bristol as Executor, sets up an annuity for his widow, and leaves his estate otherwise to William Stephens and his brothers and sisters Hannam Stephens, Frederick Stephens, Elizabeth Stephens and Anna Rachel Stephens to be shared out. Those are clearly Josiah Hannam's nephews and nieces, children of his sister Martha (1804–1878) and Isaac Stephens (1806–1895), sailcloth manufacturer of Bradpole (where some of those children were born 1833–1837) but latterly moving to Bristol (certainly before the 1861 census). This Isaac Stephens' parents were William and Amy Stephens of Bridport – who must be William Stephens (1756–1837) and his second wife Amy Metford (1773–1847).

Hannam and Gillett. The June 1841 census has AG 'ironmonger' purportedly living with his parents at Street – but presumably he was just visiting.

(London, 1919), 1222; Anonymous, 'Death of Mr A. Simpson. A former Preston cotton manufacturer [...]', *Lancashire Evening Post* (21 January 1924).

¹⁹ AGT fonds description, undated, *Papers of Margaret Clark Gillett and Arthur Bevington Gillett 1774–1983*; A. M. Taylor, *Gilletts: bankers at Banbury and Oxford* (Oxford, 1964), 197, 221.

²⁰ J. Lubbock, 'On some points in the anatomy of ants', *Monthly Microscopical J.* 18 (1877), 120-42; E. Bocaege, 'Fossil "saurians" in the Quekett cabinets at the Royal College of Surgeons of England', *Archives Nat. Hist.* 43 (2016), 152-8.

²¹ T. A. B. Corley, *Huntley and Palmers of Reading, 1822–1972* (London: Hutchinson, 1972), xiv-xv, 19.

It is possible that AG's great-uncle William Gillett had something to do with arranging the partnership, as he was a former chemist of Yeovil.

Who is presumably the same Josiah Hannam appears together with Cyrus and James Clark and a Robert Palmer as a trustee for the Godwin's Charity, a Quaker charity which held land in (at least) the Street area.²² Also, Alfred's father John Gillett appears as a trustee, together with Joseph Motley of Street, for John Jeans' or Jeanes' Charity at Yeovil, for which neither a Quaker link nor Quakerly qualification for beneficiaries is mentioned. Motley was almost certainly the Street Quaker land agent and surveyor.²³ Members of an Isaac family were also involved, but have not been investigated.²⁴ After the dissolution of Hannam & Gillett, Hannam moved back to Gillingham in Dorset where he carried on his existing business as a silk throwster and miller. In the 1871 census, he is resident at Town Mills in Gillingham and described as a silk throwster and miller with 65 employees. He married Jane Hannam Neave (1818–1914), unmarried daughter of a 'gentleman', under the rites of the Church of England, at Athelhampton and Burleston on 29 May 1867. He died on 19 November 1874, with probate granted on 24 December 1874.²⁵

RETIREMENT TO OVERLEIGH, STREET

AG's parents' wills and probates: No probate has been found for Martha, probably because there was no need to seek it; she only held the main property for life and it reverted to her husband John's estate to be dealt with under his will.

AG's brother John was perhaps somehow incapacitated, as the special provision for him in their father's will suggests. Certainly he has no occupation in the censuses for 1851 and 1861 (still living with his parents, relevant column blank), 1871 (probably lodging with a James Hayward, master gardener of Bridgwater, and 'living on interest') and 1881 ('annuitant', visiting the Street-born farmer William Kingstone (?) and his Herefordshire-born wife Mary in Yatton near Much Marcle, Herefordshire). However, the 1881 census has no tick in the 'Deaf and Dumb/ Blind/ Imbecile/ Idiot/ Lunatic' box. A John Gillett aged 70, and evidently a Quaker, died in 1890, either dying or resident at 'Rockhampton near Ross [on Wye] Herefordshire'.²⁶ This must be an error for Brockhampton near Yatton. His actual place of death and death certificate have not been found.

1868 auctions and advertisements: AG's purchase was possibly to speed up the administration of his father's estate and release funds to support his brother John (and Martha if bought before her death). The subsequent advertisements could have been to downsize the estate and/or to determine the true market value prior to settling up with his siblings.

²² Anonymous, 'In pursuance of an act of Parliament [...] Godwin's Charity [...]', *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* (28 February 1839), 1.

²³ R. Clark, *op. cit.* note 2, 84-89, 85.

²⁴ Anonymous, 'The Yeovil charities. Important Vestry meeting', *Sherborne Mercury* (26 July 1859), 5; <http://www.yeovilhistory.info/charities.htm> [accessed: October 2020].

²⁵ See also <http://www.yeovilhistory.info/hannam.htm> [accessed: October 2020].

²⁶ *Annual Monitor* 1891, 47.

The Overleigh House auction was at the same time as and advertised with the sale of a house in the neighbouring village of Walton. This was also auctioned at Overleigh, raising the question of whether it was also owned by the family.²⁷

Land owned by the family. The 1841–3 tithe map and listing²⁸ show that AG’s father John Gillett owned a total of 9.6 acres of land within the Overleigh island of which some (about one acre) was house and gardens, the latter not as extensive as in the 1880 Ordnance Survey mapping (from which the areal data are taken). John did not own the northernmost field within the island (705 in the tithe map, equivalent to plot 466 and the adjacent small plot in the 1880s mapping). He however also owned the field to the west on the other side of the road, of some 5.6 acres, split in two in 1880 with the southern moiety being quarried (plots 464 and 490 in OS). He also had two lots of land on the turf moors on the levels around Street.

John Gillett was the contact for the 1845 sale of land in Drayton, Somerset, owned by ‘Mary Daw, deceased’: presumably Mary Daw or Dawe of Taunton (c. 1766–1845) and also presumably one of his mother’s Dawe relatives.²⁹

After John’s widow Martha’s death in July 1868, Overleigh House and its “tastefully laid out grounds”, with timber trees and a cottage, were advertised as for sale by auction on 31 August. The land “which for the most part surrounds the residence” included orchard, arable and pasture land, and much of the property was underlain by “Valuable beds of Blue Lias Paving and Building Stone”.³⁰ “Good roads” were said to “surround the property”, which was about 27 acres in area. The property was readvertised for sale by private treaty in October, this time with nine acres of land beyond the house and garden to which another eight could be added.³¹ A further attempt to sell, or this time let, the house was made in February 1869, now offering only house and garden and the nine acres with the option of taking only the garden ground.³²

The 1868–1869 sale notices do not specify the land involved. However, this seemingly comprised a discrete tranche of 9 acres next to the house and garden which themselves covered about 1 or 1.5 acres depending on how they were defined, and two other tranches of 8 and (by subtraction) 9 acres. Those figures suggest that the first 9 acres comprised the land, or most of it, within the island, so to speak, formed by the road loop around Overleigh House. John indeed owned most of this land in the tithe survey of 1841–43, a total of some 9.6 acres, *including* the house and garden of (probably) an acre or so. Given rounding errors and approximations, it is not a bad fit, but an even better fit would be obtained if John next purchased plot 705 on the tithe map, owned possibly by one of the Kings who had developed the adjacent area named Kingtown in an intensely subdivided manner. This plot comprised the northernmost

²⁷ Anonymous, ‘Walton, Somerset’, *Western Gazette and Flying Post* (4 September 1868), 5.

²⁸ Copy held in AGT.

²⁹ Anonymous, ‘Died’, *Sherborne Mercury* (15 March 1845) 4; ‘Drayton, Somerset’, *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* (28 May 1845), 1.

³⁰ Anon. 1868. ‘Street, Somerset. A most desirable freehold residence [...]’, *Bath Chronicle* (August 27), 4.

³¹ Anon. 1868. ‘Street, Somerset’, *Western Gazette and Flying Post* (October 23), 4.

³² Anon. 1869. ‘To be sold, or let, a comfortable family residence [...]’, *Western Gazette and Flying Post* (February 12), 4.

1.9 acres of the Overleigh island. In the 1840s this included a house and garden; but the house had gone by the 1880s OS map (which does show some Kingtown-style fragmentation at the east end). One could imagine that John or AG bought most of this field, for instance to preserve the amenity of the now expanded garden next door. This would also give a better fit to the data in a national survey of 1873 recording Gillett (as ‘Gillet’) owning 11 acres and one perch at Street – i.e. 11.01 acres.³³ In the 1881 census, in any case, Gillett is farming nine acres (not counting, presumably, the house and gardens).

It is not possible to identify the second and third tranches of 8 acres and 9 acres in the 1868–69 sale. Plainly John Gillett (and/or his family after he died) acquired (and possibly also sold) land since the Tithe Map enumeration. There was notably a sale of land in 1845 of much of the land around Overleigh Farm (latterly Whitenights).³⁴ The land plots involved are numbered following the tithe map plot, corresponding to almost all the land in an arc north, then east and southeast of Overleigh House (from approximately the location of 411 to that of 454 in the 1880 map). This land was owned in the tithe survey, and probably still in 1845, by a Joseph Thompson. He was presumably the Bridgwater ironmonger and son in law of Thomas Clark senior (Clark himself had moved out of Overleigh Farm in 1837). John Gillett is mentioned in the advertisement for sale as the person to ask if one wanted to be shown around, but this doesn’t mean he owned the land – it is likely that he was simply helping his relative in Bridgwater. It may well be that the second and third tranches of land in the 1860s advertisements were bought by John in this sale. Also, it might not be coincidence that Leigholt House was built by the Clothier family here in 1870–1, as if on land acquired in the 1868–69 sales.

But all this discussion is only speculative and is simply suggested as a basis for any future research. For now, the provisional conclusion is that when the dust settled c. 1870, AG probably owned most or all of the land within the Overleigh island but little, if any, land outside it. It is not at all clear where the other family land disposed of in 1868–69 was. Further research would be needed to confirm this. There are other uncertainties. It’s not clear whether the two allotments on the turf moor are part of the 1868–69 sale (but probably not), and when the quarry was bitten off the field to the west. Also, we do not know if the executors or AG sold any land before the original September 1869 auction (i.e. land outside the original 27 acres).

AG’s move from Yeovil to Overleigh. His obituary dates this to 1866 but McGarvie has 1870 – their reasons are unclear.³⁵ Also, the original advertisements of August and September 1868 identify AG as the owner of the real estate but not of the effects (held by the executors). This might be an error caused by his being the executor dealing with the house. But it raises the possibility that he bought out his co-beneficiaries earlier on, maybe even before his mother’s death. This might be to release funds for her upkeep and/or that of his brother John (with any over- or under-payments adjusted later?). There exists a reminiscence of visiting AG in “his” orchard

³³ As ‘Gillet’, in Anonymous, *England and Wales (exclusive of the Metropolis). Return of owners of land, 1873* (London, 1875), volume 2, 35.

³⁴ Anonymous, ‘Street, Somerset. Freehold messuage and lands for sale’, *Western Flying Post, Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury* (28 June 1845), 1.

³⁵ Anonymous, ‘Death of Mr A. Gillett’, *Central Somerset Gazette* (30 January 1904), 5; M. McGarvie, *op. cit.* note 14, 118.

at Overleigh in 1868 (with the apples edible, so summer/early autumn) but this does not resolve the point, as he could have been there temporarily to sort out family matters, or meet the geologists.³⁶ The 1871 census is unhelpful as AG was visiting his younger brother George Gillett in Black Jack Street, Cirencester. Overleigh House was clearly empty that night, as shown by following the enumerator's tracks by comparison with the 1861 census, and using the residences of James Clothier, farmer, and James Nichols as landmarks.

Household: the 1881 census has AG farming nine acres (not counting, presumably, the house and gardens) and employing a resident housekeeper and maidservant. In 1891 just AG and the servant were present, with the housekeeper presumably out for the night, as the household returned to housekeeper plus maid in 1901. AG's will however shows an establishment of three staff including a Glasgow-born gardener/manservant, William Cornish, who was resident in a separate house in the Overleigh area with his family in the 1901 census.

AG's probate and wealth: he is not noted as a major lender to C. & J. Clark in the 1863 crisis.³⁷ From the NPC and will his executors are his nephews Albert Simpson of Burghill Grange, Burghill, Herefordshire, and John Alfred Gillett grocer of Swindon. Modern value: different inflation calculators give acceptably close modern equivalents of about £3.5m and £2.3m (the latter for 1905–2017): <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>, accessed 12 October 2020, and <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>, accessed 21 December 2020. The legacies are discussed above, in connection with his siblings.

His asset and property holdings are not known to us, and we have not made a systematic search, though he is known to have owned property in Thornton Heath, Croydon, in 1868–70, at Pridham Road and Gillett Road, near Collier's Water Lane.³⁸

AG's will: AG's will signed 1903 has Albert Simpson and John Alfred Gillett as executors. All assets to be liquidated, all bequests are cash. Siblings Maria and George are the main beneficiaries (£7K each). There are various fixed sums to various nephews and nieces and (though he calls them nephews and nieces) grand-nephews and grand-nieces; all appear to be children/grandchildren of Joseph, Maria, and George. There are also small gifts to Edith Hinde and Eleanor Morland and bequests to his servants. No gifts to charities or institutions. Residue to the two executors. All this is broadly consistent with our (incomplete) knowledge of his siblings and their children.

AG as joker: Aubrey Clark was a shoemaker, surveyor and keen amateur photographer. Joseph III's memoir recalls another humorous outing, on which AG came, but it is not clear that it was AG who perpetrated the practical joke described.

³⁶ H. H. Winwood and H. B. Woodward, 'Excursion to the Mendip Hills. August 4th to 9th, 1890', *Proc. Geol. Assoc.* 11 (1891), clxxi–ccxvi, cciv–ccv.

³⁷ G. B. Sutton, *A history of shoe making in Street, Somerset: C. & J. Clark 1833–1903* (York: Sessions Book Trust, 1979).

³⁸ Electoral registers, 1868–70.

There is also an incident in the same memoir (p. 65) involving AG getting a very short-statured man to pick cherries, with absurd results, but this is hard to assess without knowing the personalities involved.

ALFRED GILLETT AS GEOLOGIST

Dr Henry Woodward: He was born in Norwich in 1832 and originally worked as a clerk in the Quaker-owned Gurney's Bank. However there is no obvious evidence of Quaker affiliation. He was baptised on 5 December 1832 in the parish church and was 24 when on 3 September 1857, again in the parish church, he married Ellen Sophia Page who was Chelmsford-born but whose family had moved to Norwich by 1841.³⁹

ALFRED GILLETT THE QUAKER

George Jennings Hinde as Quaker: Hinde's background as the 'and son' of Ephraim Hinde and son, parramatta cloth manufacturers of Norwich, his early life as a farmer and rancher, and his devoting his life to geology after he became wealthy enough, are all potentially Quakerly. However, he is not recorded in membership of the Society of Friends at his marriage, and his birth and death are not recorded in the Digest registers, suggesting that he was neither a "birthright" Friend nor one on his death at Croydon in 1918. The printed list of members of London & Middlesex Quarterly Meeting for 1917 includes his wife Edith (one of the children of James and Eleanor Clark) and various children living at their Croydon home, but not himself.⁴⁰ Hinde did have an obituary in the *Annual Monitor* and an announcement of his death in *The Friend* (the Quaker weekly journal), but it is hard to say whether this was because he was ever a member or attender, rather than his marriage into a notable Quaker family, or his distinction as a geologist: Tabitha Driver, LRSF, pers. comm. 2004.

Two of George and Octavia Hinde's sons, Karl A. Hinde (b. 1882) and Wilfrid G. Hinde (1886–1973), worked for C. & J. Clark, Wilfrid becoming a director.⁴¹

Quakers and financial failure: John Gillett's will was written, perhaps not coincidentally, shortly after his son William's failure. Essentially, AG and three siblings were to share the proceeds, after certain lump sum payments, and after the widow and the younger John had been provided for. As an afterthought, William was left a token £5, perhaps not in contempt but rather to demonstrate that he had been considered as a beneficiary, protecting the executors from any attempt by William or his creditors to overturn the will. Presumably William's prospective legacy had been paid into the liquidation, or John thought it pointless to leave him money for creditors to seize.

³⁹ [Woodward, A. Smith] 'Henry Woodward – 1832–1921', *Proc. Royal Soc. London series B*, 98 (1921), xxiii–xxv; A. La Rocque, *Contributions to the History of Geology: Biographies of geologists* (Columbus, 1964).

⁴⁰ LRSF, and unpublished *Dictionary of Quaker Biography* entry, Tabitha Driver, pers. comm. 2004; Shoe Museum, *The descendants of Joseph and Fanny Clark* (Street, 1981).

⁴¹ [L. H. Barber], *Clarks of Street 1825–1950* (Street, 1950), 20, 35, 52.