

Chapter 4

1773-1776 Owned by Charles Dalbiac (also known as Charles Dalbyae and Charles Dalbiae in some records - presumably because of poor handwriting ¹)

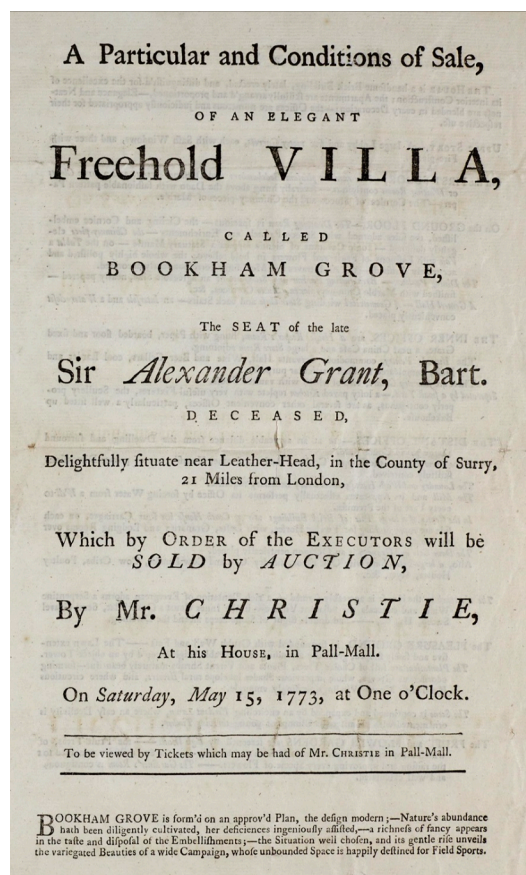
In which we learn about a baby smuggled from France in a hamper; the original rooms of the house; living like princes; and discover a 14 year old girls' diary written at the house

Charles Dalbiac shielded the warm May sun from his eyes with the paper that he was holding as he glanced around the lawn and noted who was there; it did not look as if he would have serious competition in this auction. It was supposed to have been auctioned 2 days earlier at Mr Christie's premises in Pall Mall, but it had been decided to delay until the 17th and gather everyone at the estate for the auction.

This had been convenient for him as he had only had to come across from his current estate, Durdans, near Epsom, purchased 9 years previous as a burnt out building site and which he had had rebuilt by the famous British architect, William Newton. This had only been completed 5 years ago in 1768 ². It had been his first move out of London, and Surrey had been convenient to journey up to London and back every 3 days or so ³.

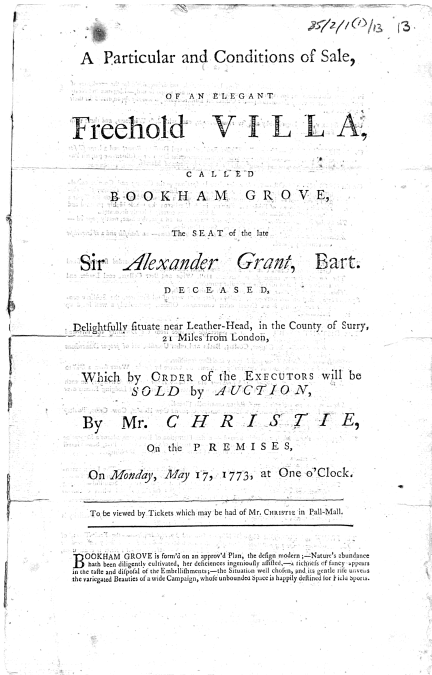


Durdans, John Hassell, 1816



Sales booklet from cover, 15th May 1773 ⁴

Mr Christie was doing a good job of it, selling the obvious delights of this estate, working his way through the sales particulars and describing this elegant freehold villa...



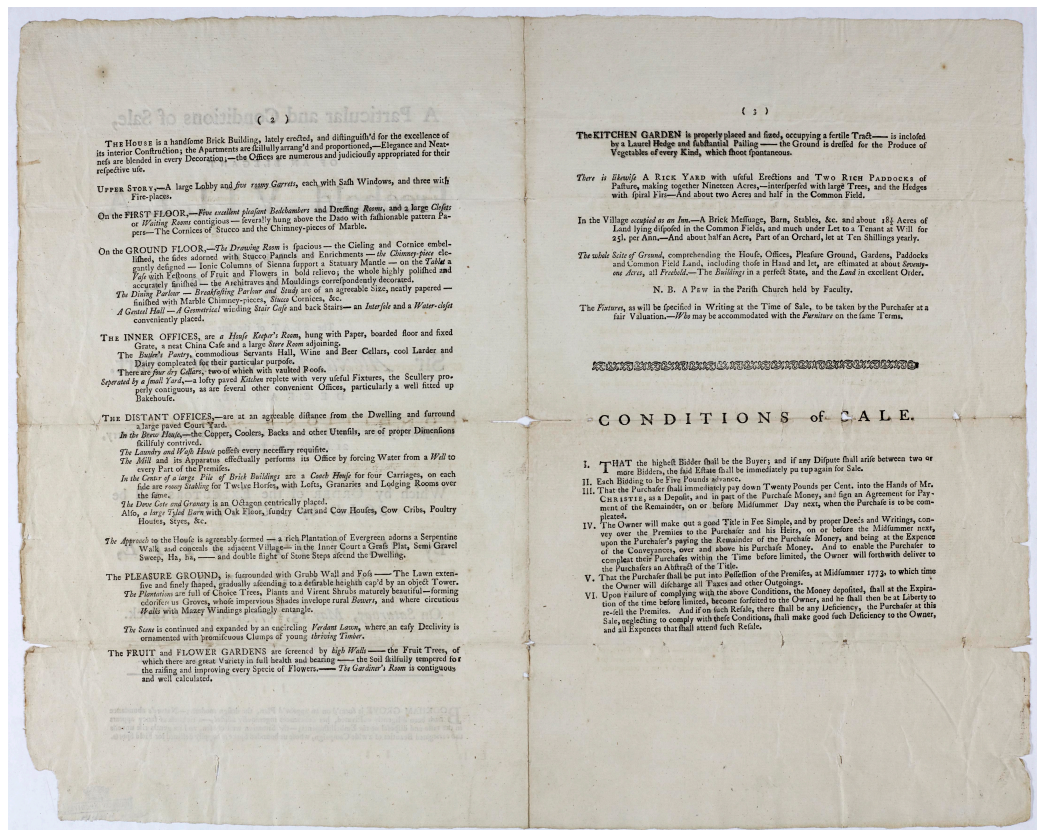
Sales booklet front cover 17th May 1773

'Bookham Grove is formed on an approved plan, the design modern; Natures abundance hath been diligently cultivated, her deficiencies ingeniously assisted, a richness of fancy appears in the taste and disposal of the embellishments; the situation well chosen and its gentle rise unveils the variegated beauties of a wide campaign, whole unbounded space is happily destined for field sports.

The house is a handsome brick building, lately erected, and distinguished for the excellence of its interior construction; the apartments are skilfully arranged and proportioned, elegance and neatness are blended in every decoration; the offices are numerous and judiciously appropriated for their respective use'.

Mr Christie finished his sales pitch and invited everyone assembled to wander through the property to take a look for themselves at the rooms, offices and gardens, before they reassembled for the auction.

Charles lowered his arm and opened the sales particulars pamphlet that he held, He already knew that he wanted this estate, but stood anyway and began to wander towards the house.



Sales booklet details, 1773 4

He entered the ground floor of the house through the main doorway and read in the pamphlet:

'A Genteel Hall - a geometrical winding stair case and back stairs - an intersole and a water closet conveniently placed'.

Yes there was a pleasing proportion to this hall, not too large but large enough. He could not see the back stairs, so presumably these must be along the corridor to his left, along with the water closet.

An intersole is a mezzanine ie the upper landing overlooking the entrance hall. The word is an obsolete version of entresole, (French, from the Spanish entresuelo (between + ground, floor) ^{5,6}.

He decided to start at the top of the house, so ascended the winding staircase with its mahogany banister. Ahh here was the intersole. Charles could see 3 doors and a corridor to his left; wandering along the corridor he found the back stairs (no grand geometrical winding to these - just a straightforward staircase) and climbed them to the upper storey.

He was pleasantly surprised at the spacious arrangement up here, pausing in the large lobby to read in the pamphlet:

'UPPER STORY -

a large lobby and 5 roomy garrets, each with sash windows and 3 with fireplaces'.

He peered in to each of the rooms under the roof; good spaces which would be suitable for house staff. Descending back down the same staircase he found 2 doors which opened into pleasant bed chambers, and also a couple of large closets. Then, wandering back to the intersole, he opened each of the 3 doors in turn there and found yet more excellent bed chambers and dressing rooms. Glancing back at the pamphlet:

'On the FIRST FLOOR -

5 excellent pleasant bed chambers and dressing rooms, and 2 large closets or waiting rooms contiguous - severally hung above the dado with fashionable pattern papers. The cornices of stucco and the chimney pieces of marble'.

Yes, ample space for himself and his family. He could not decide yet whether his bed chamber would be the corner room or the central room, but for sure it was going to be at the back of the house to catch the morning sun.

His beloved first wife (known as Miss Susanna De Visme of Clapham, whom he had married in 1759 ⁷) had died in 1768, just as the building at Durdans was completed. He had stayed there but it did not feel right and now that he was with Ann Le Bas, whom he intended to marry soon, this new estate could be a new start ³ - if he was successful at auction.

Charles and his elder brother James had married 2 sisters, the daughters of Mr Peter Devisme of Hamburg, a merchant ³

With these musings in mind he descended the staircase into the entrance hall and chose to open the middle door directly opposite the entrance door, to enter the Drawing room. Good proportions here and a nice fireplace. He read in the sales particulars pamphlet:

'On the GROUND FLOOR -

The Drawing Room is spacious - the ceiling and cornice embellished, the sides adorned with stucco panels and enrichments - the chimney piece elegantly designed - ionic columns of sienna support a statuary mantle. On the tablet a vase with festoons of fruit and flowers in bold relievo; the whole highly polished and accurately finished. The architraves and mouldings correspondingly decorated.'

Leaving that room he turned left and opened the door to a lovely sunny room with double aspect windows. The pamphlet told him that this was the Breakfasting parlour.

Then moving onto the final door from the entrance hall, his study, as described in the pamphlet:

'of an agreeable size, neatly papered - finished with marble chimney pieces, stucco, cornices etc.'

Just as the breakfasting parlour had been. He would be able to keep an eye out for visitors from this study; ideally placed.

Wandering now into the corridor next to the Drawing Room, Charles poked his head into the room on his left, the Dining Parlour. Well situated for the kitchens downstairs. Just as with the other rooms:

'of an agreeable size, neatly papered - finished with marble chimney pieces, stucco, cornices etc.'

It was all very tastefully done and well kept. Ann would love it. He wondered what his daughters, 12 year old Louise, whom they all called 'Lucy', and her beloved sister 11 year old Susannah, would make of it. It had been hard for them after their mother, Susanna, had died during childbirth when Susannah was only 6. This place would be a revitalising of their lives 3.

Susannah
was born on
the 14th May
1762 3

He trod heavily down the staircase into the bottom of the house, noting the door into the back garden in front of him. Turning left he quickly found himself in the kitchen, flagstone paved floor and high ceiling. This would do nicely. He looked at the pamphlet to satisfy himself of the details:

'The INNER OFFICES -

Are a House Keepers Room, hung with paper, boarded floor and fixed grate, a neat China Cafe and a large Store Room adjoining.

The Butler's Pantry, commodious Servants Hall, Wine and Beer Cellars, cool Larder and Dairy completed for their particular purpose.

There are 4 Dry Cellars, 2 of which with vaulted roofs.

Separated by a small yard - a lofty paved Kitchen replete with very useful fixtures, the Scullery properly contiguous, as are several other convenient Offices, particularly a well fitted up Bakehouse.'

Charles wandered back along the corridor and confirmed his deductions that the House Keepers room and the Butler's Pantry were past the cellars, and under the Drawing room and the Study. He noted the large Servants Hall, next to the Butler's Pantry - a well placed location for that he thought.

Leaving the house through the door next to the Butler's Pantry, he ascended the steps and gazed to his left up the garden. He still had time, so wound his way around the front of the main house towards the stable yard. The pamphlet told him what he would find there:

'The DISTANT OFFICES - are at an agreeable distance from the dwelling and surround a large paved Court Yard:

In the Brew House, the copper, coolers, backs and other utensils are of proper dimensions skilfully contrived

The Laundry and Wash House possess every necessary requisite

The Mill and its apparatus effectually performs its office by forcing water from a well to every part of the premises

In the centre of a large pile of brick buildings are a Coach House for 4 carriages, on each side are roomy Stabling for 12 horses, with Lofts, Granaries and Lodging Rooms over the same

The Dove Cote and Granary is an octagon centrically placed. Also a large tiled Barn with oak floor, sundry cart and cow houses, cow cribs, poultry houses, styles etc.'

He noted the large dovecote in the centre of the outbuildings and the stabling block. He poked around the various buildings for a while, enjoying the earthy smells. Almost time to go back for the auction, but just enough time to have a quick stroll around the gardens. He walked through to what the pamphlet described as fruit, flower and kitchen gardens. They all looked good to him:

'The FRUIT and FLOWER GARDENS are screened by high walls. The fruit trees, of which there are great variety in full health and bearing. The soil skilfully tempered for the raising and improving every species of flowers. The Gardeners Room is contiguous and well calculated.

The KITCHEN GARDEN is properly placed and sized, occupying a fertile tract, is enclosed by a laurel hedge and substantial palings. The ground is dressed for the produce of vegetables of every kind which shoot spontaneous.'

As he sat back down at the auction on the lawn he scanned through the remainder of the pamphlet:

A plat is a 'small piece of ground'

'The APPROACH to the House is agreeably formed - a rich plantation of evergreen adorns a serpentine walk and conceals the adjacent village; in the Inner Court a grass plat, semi gravel sweep, Ha ha - and double flight of stone steps ascending the dwelling.

The PLEASURE GROUND, is surrounded with grubb wall and foss. The lawn extensive and finely shaped, gradually ascending to a desirable height cap'd by an object Tower.

'Grubb wall and Foss' probably means a low wall and moat

'Virent' meaning 'green and not withered'


The Plantations are full of choice trees, plants and virent shrubs maturely beautiful, forming odoriferous Groves, whose impervious shades envelope rural Bowers, and where circuitous walks with mazy windings pleasingly entangle. The Scene is continued and expanded by an encircling verdant lawn, where an easy declivity is ornamented with promiscuous clumps of young thriving timber.

There is likewise a RICK YARD with useful erections and TWO RICH PADDOCKS of pasture, making together 19 acres, interspersed with large trees and the hedges with spiral firs, and about 2 acres and half in the common field.

In the village occupied as an INN - a brick messuage, barn, stables etc. About 50 acres of land lying disposed in the common fields and much under let to a tenant at will for 25l.per annum. And about half an acre, part of an ORCHARD, let at 10 shillings yearly.

The whole site of ground, comprehending the House, Offices, Pleasure Ground, Gardens, Paddocks and Common Field Land, including those in hand and let, are estimated at about 71 acres, all freehold. The buildings in a perfect state and the land in excellent order.'

Yes he wanted this place and felt sure that Ann and the children would like it too. At 47 years of age he had done well for himself and felt pleased that he could entertain such a purchase, permanently move out of London into the countryside, and further cement his progress as an English gentleman ³.



Charles
was born
on the 1st
March
1726 ³

Charles's property purchases and his building of smart new houses show an enthusiasm to move into the world of the English country gentry, but also, subsequent to riots in Spitalfields around this time – the result of a slump in the weaving industry – the area around Spitalfields may have seemed unsuitable for bringing up a young family ³.

As he waited for Mr Christie to start the bidding he thought back on his life:

His papa, James, had been a Huguenot refugee who had set up the family firm of silk and velvet manufacturing in Spitalfields, located at 20 Spital Square in East London, where they had been for 40 odd years since it was first built in 1732^{2,8}. They had been very successful and were, as a result, very wealthy^{3,9}.



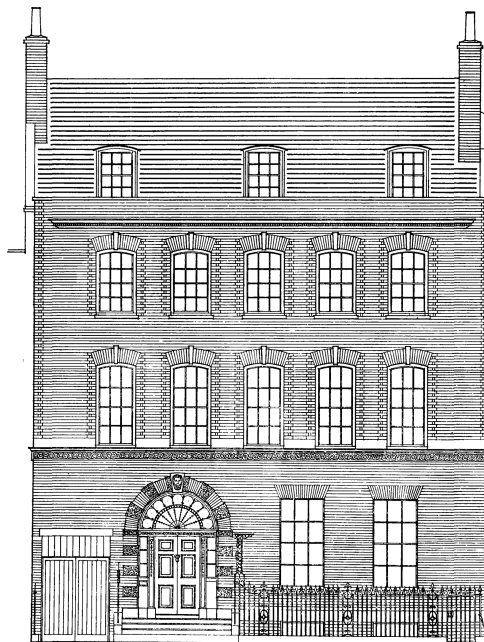
20 Spital Square, London. Demolished c.1964.



20 Spital Square¹⁰

The master weavers' immense wealth allowed them to own coaches, country seats and liveried servants. The general weaving industry may have been in depression in the 1760s, but the Dalbiacs were in this world of master weavers, who were said to "live more like princes"^{3,9}

Charles's brother, also called James, continued to live at number 20, and the family also owned numbers 7, 8 and 9 (lived in by his mother, Lucy), in some of the grandest of the silk weavers' houses which were built in the early 18th century³.



175 12 0 13 ft

No. 20 Spital Square, 1732, front elevation⁸



No. 20 Spital Square, 1732, cross section⁸

His brother, who was 6 years older, was his business partner. Papa had specialised in black silk for funerals and they had continued in this speciality 3.

In 1769, James and Charles signed the earliest surviving trades union agreement in the industry in the Black Branch (ie funeral silks) 3

He was descended from the ancient French Marquis d'Albiac who had large possessions in the South of France. The family name of D'Albiac (anglicised to Dalbiac) is said to be derived from Albi, the capital of the country of the Albigenses, which was destroyed in the religious crusade against that people in the 13th century. The Dalbiacs fled from there to Nismes.

Charles' father was a colonel in the 12th French army but the family were Huguenots and forced to leave France following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The D'Albiacs of Nismes were almost exterminated by the fury of the Roman Catholics; the father, mother, four sons & three daughters were murdered. Two sons were saved, one of whom abjured Protestantism to retain the family estate. The other, named Scipion, sent his two sons to England, concealing them in hampers. They arrived safely, and founded two families who wrote their name "Dalbiac". One of these 'hamper sons' had been his father, called Jacques in France, but James here in England 3, 7.

They advertised their business with their address in Spital Square between 1749-1778, and in Mortimer's Directory of 1763 they were noted as weavers of silk and velvet 3

the D'Albiacs flew to Nismes in the 13th century. At the Revocation, the D'Albiacs of Nismes were almost exterminated by the fury of the Roman Catholics; the father, mother, four sons, & three daughters were murdered. Two sons were saved, one of whom abjured Protestantism to retain the family estate. - The other sent his two sons to England, concealing them in hampers! - They arrived safely, & founded two families who wrote their name Dalbiac: - One family was represented by two Directors of the French Hospital, Simon Dalbiac elected 9th April 1755.



Jaques (James) Dalbiac Snr with James and Charles Dalbiac, perhaps dressed in their own silk velvet

Account of the Dalbiac family fleeing Huguenot oppression in France in the 1680s, following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Photo: M Nairne 3.

Charles Phillips was "a successful portrait painter who was popular with the nobility" and their employment of Phillips is therefore symbolic of the Dalbiac's climb to success and social integration in the English capital ^{3,11}.



From left to right: Louise, Marianne, Louise (mother), Martha, Charles, James, James (father)
 "Portrait of a family all standing in a garden", Charles Phillips, 1730s ³.

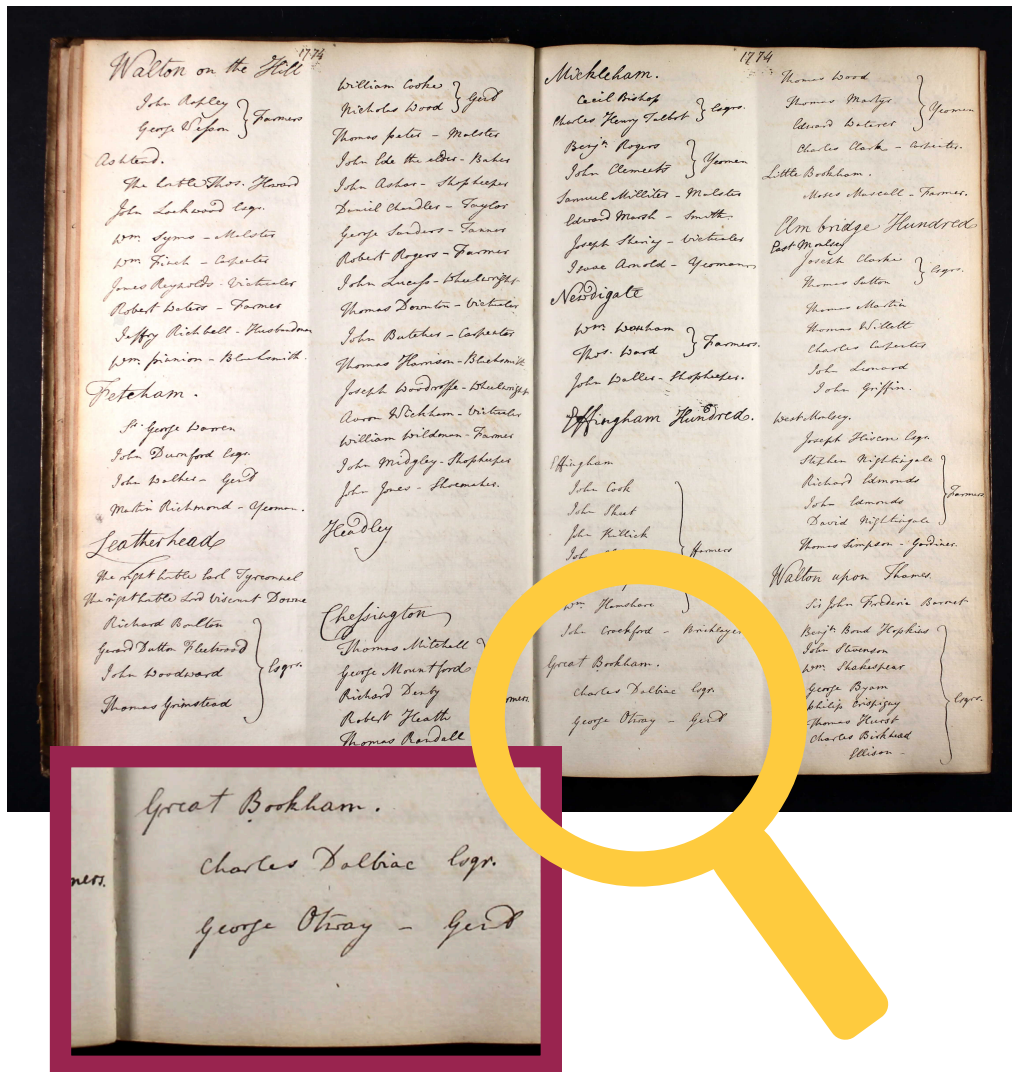
The years passed, and in the autumn of 1775 Charles had just put up the Bookham estate for sale. As he walked through the gardens, off up to see Mr Geary at Polesden Lacey, he considered that his life here had been good. He had been successful in his auction bid back in the early summer of 1773 and had moved in soon afterwards with Ann, Lucy and Susannah.

The following year, on the 21st May he had married Ann at St Nicholas's Church, in the village ¹.

Charles was in residence at Bookham Grove at this time, and so was Ann, according to the marriage notice:

"The fame day (Saturday 21st May), Mr Charles Dalbiac, of Bookham Grove, to Mifs Anne Lebas, of the fame place" ¹²

She had fallen pregnant with their first child, Harriet, soon afterwards, and 9 months later on the 23rd February 1775 she had been born ^{2,13}.



Electoral Role, 1774, showing Charles Dalbiac in residence ¹

Lucy and Susannah had greatly enjoyed the freedoms afforded by the gardens, and were now turning into young ladies, 15 and 14 years old respectively.

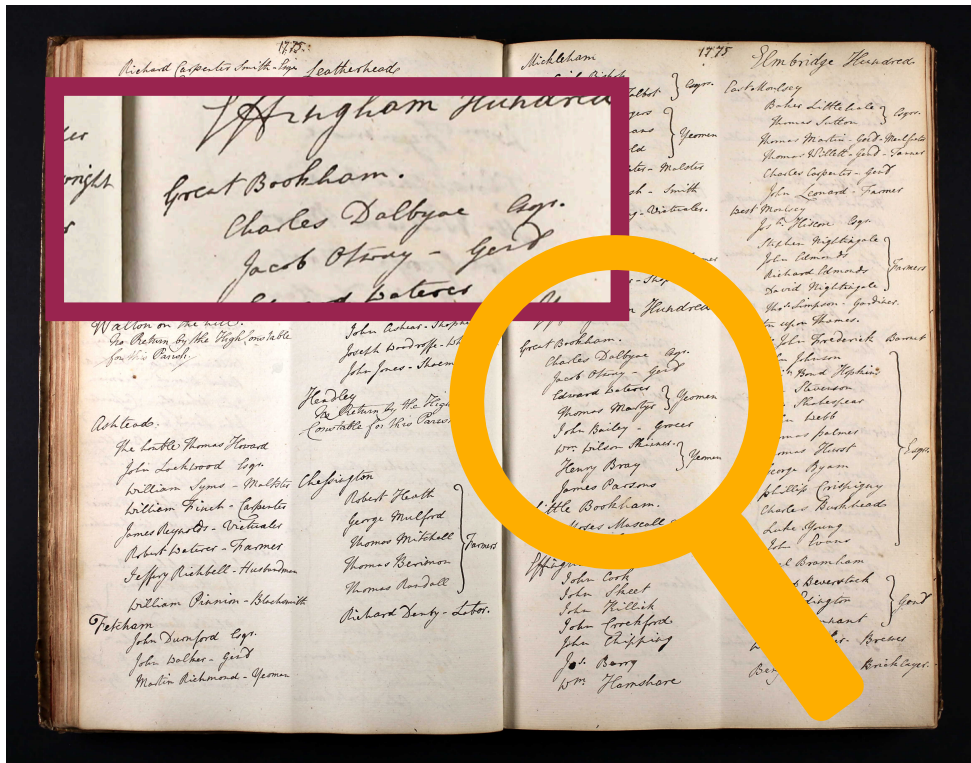
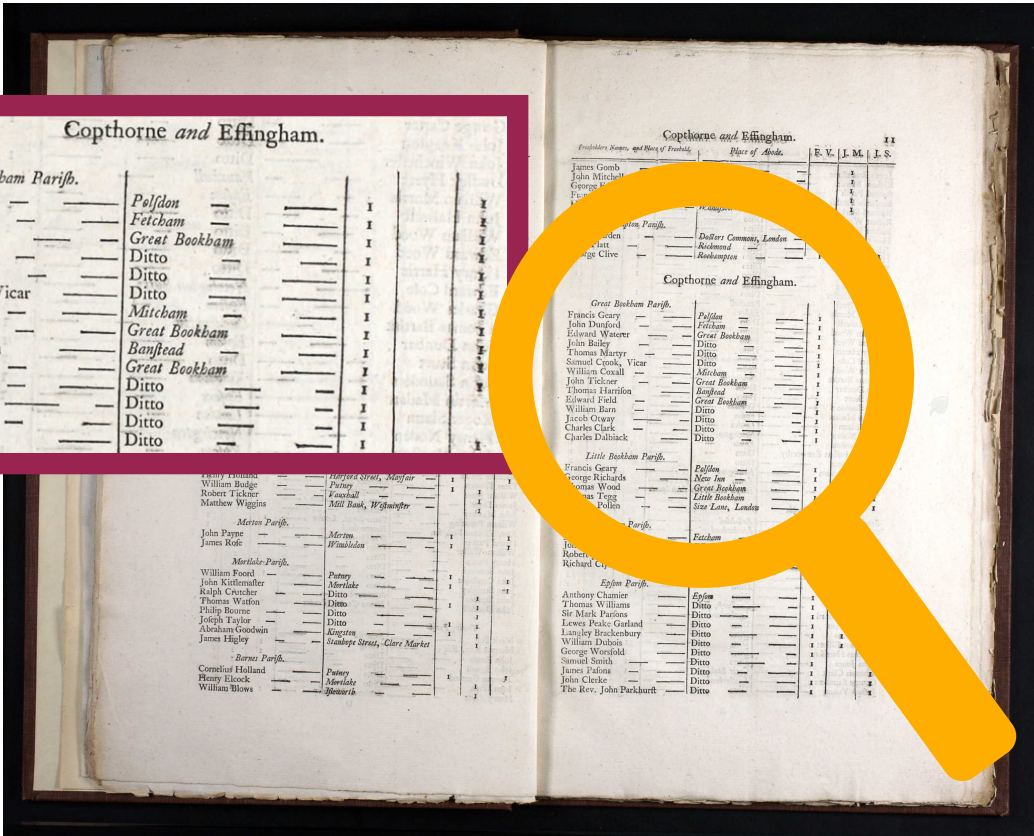
All in all, it was time to move on. The family was expanding yet again; Ann was pregnant with, what would be his 4th child. He hoped for a boy this time. Bookham was becoming somewhat less commodious for their needs. He enjoyed living in the countryside as a gentleman though and would look out for another suitable estate. But in the meantime he would move back to Wantage in North London and had a trip back to France planned ³, 14.

The business was still going strong up in town, with brother James and his son mainly running it and the money was still coming in; he could consider taking his share and retiring from it at some point soon ³.

In 1779 the house in Spital Square passed to another owner, presumably signalling the moment when the Dalbiacs finally moved up and away from their original place of refuge ³.

Copthorne and Effingham.

Great Bookham Parish.					
Francis Geary	Polfdon			I	I
John Dunford	Feitcham			I	I
Edward Waterer	Great Bookham			I	I
John Bailey	Ditto			I	I
Thomas Martyr	Ditto			I	I
Samuel Crook, Vicar	Ditto			I	I
William Coxall	Mitcbam			I	I
John Tickner	Great Bookham			I	I
Thomas Harrison	Banthead			I	I
Edward Field	Great Bookham			I	I
William Barn	Ditto			I	I
Jacob Otway	Ditto			I	I
Charles Clark	Ditto			I	I
Charles Dalbiack	Ditto			I	I



Electoral Role, 1775, showing Charles still in residence ¹

CRICKLADE to	
CIRENCESTER.	
To Latten	1
South Cerney, <i>Glac.</i>	2
<i>Cirencester</i>	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	6 $\frac{3}{4}$

CROYDON to GUILFORD.	
To Beddington, <i>Sur.</i>	2
Carshalton	1
Cheam	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
<i>Ewell</i>	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Epsom	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Leatherhead	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fetcham	1
Great Bookham	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Little Bookham	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Effingham	1
East Horsley	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
West Horsley	1
East Clandon	1
West Clandon	1
Merroe	1
<i>Guilford</i>	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
	25

At Beddington is the Seat of the ancient Family of Carew.

Beyond Leatherhead on R. in a Bottom, is Lord Tyrconnell.

At Fetcham rising the Hill from Leatherhead, Sir George Warren, who married Mr. Revel's Daughter and Heir.

See on R. the Earl of Lincoln, now Duke of Newcastle's, Plantations on St. George's Hill by Cobham; and the Tower and Buildings in the Garden of Pains Hill at Cobham.

To the R. of the Tower, see Mr. Paine's at Weybridge; to the Left, Sir Thomas Sewell's, by Chobham.

At Great Bookham on R. Eastwick Park, Earl of Effingham's, and on the L. a House built by Admiral Broderick, at whose Death it was sold to Sir Alexander Grant, and on his Death sold to Mr. Dalbiac.

At Little Bookham on Right, a new Brick House, Mr. Pollens.

At East Horsley on R. James Fox, Esq; late Lord Bingley's.

At West Horsley on R. Henry Perkins Weston, Esq; formerly the Nicholas's.

At East Clandon on R. Mr. Sumner's, built by Admiral Boscawen; formerly the Heath's.

At West Clandon, Lord Onslow, Clandon Park.

Before Guilford, see Stoke, on R. Jeremiah Dyson, Esq.

About 2 Miles beyond Guilford on L. is Lofely, Thomas More Molyneux, Esq.

DARTFORD to SEVENOAKS.

To Darent, <i>Kent.</i>	2
Sutton Street	1
Farningham	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Aynesford	1
Shorham	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Otford	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Sevenoaks</i>	3
	13 $\frac{1}{4}$

A little beyond Aynesford, on the Right, is Lullingstone Place and Park, the Seat of Sir John Dixon Dyke, Bart.

DERBY to NOTTINGHAM and LINCOLN.

To Borrow's Ash	4
Shackle Cross	1
Risley	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sandy Acre	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Nottingham</i>	7
Over Sherwood Forest to Southwell	14
Kelham Bridge	6
<i>Newark</i>	2
	38

Susannah Dalbiac's diary, 1776

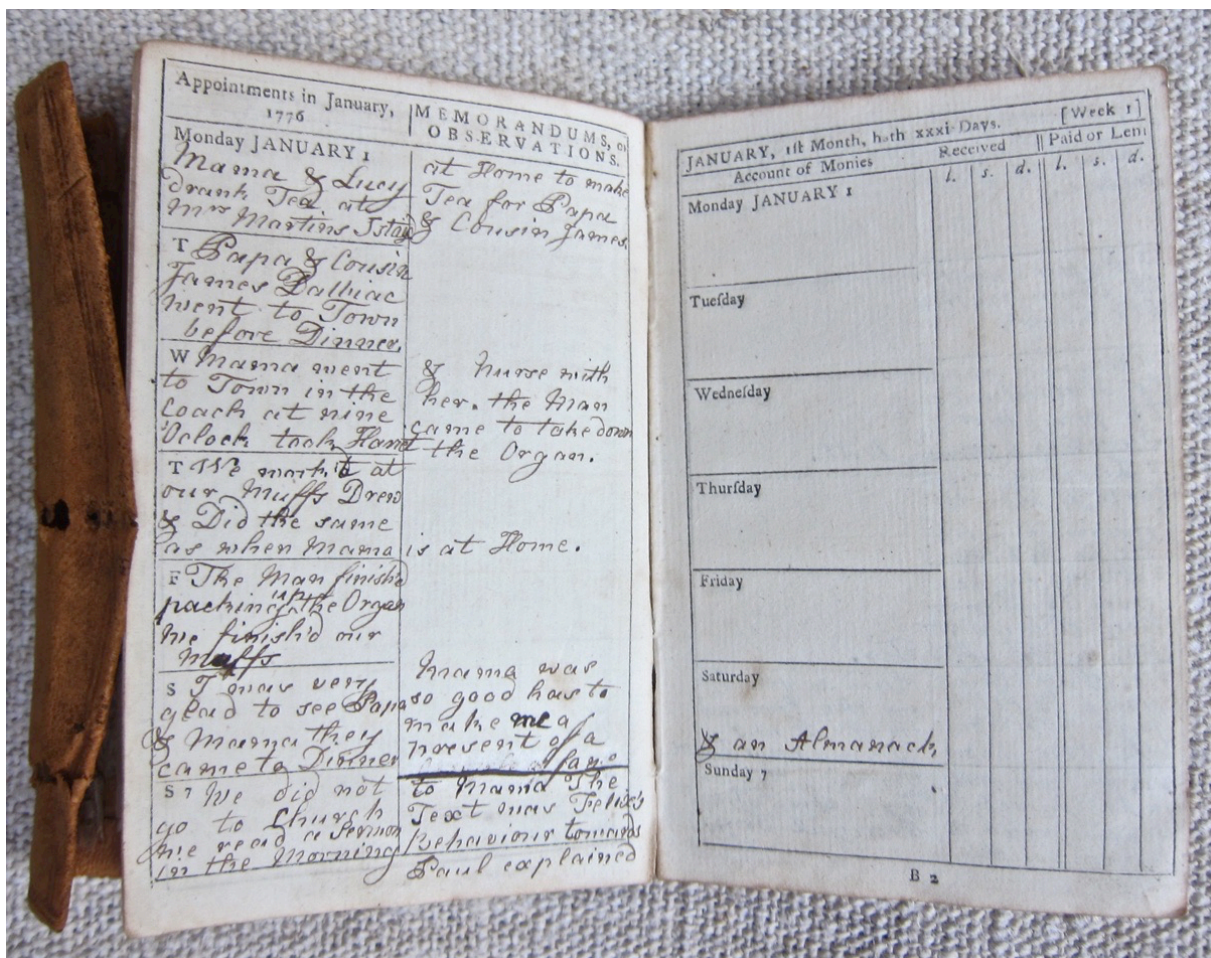
Susannah, Charles's second daughter from his first marriage to Susanna De Visme, was 14 years old in 1775 when her father put the house up for sale. She was given an almanac/diary for the year 1776 by her 'mama' (Ann, her stepmother), on the 6th January and fortunately wrote in it daily during the year, including from memory from 1st January 1776.

Imagine Susannah sitting in the Drawing Room, or possibly her bedroom of Bookham Grove, writing in her diary about the last two months of their residence at this house.



Susannah's diary, 1776 ³

The diary is owned by Susannah's great-great-great-niece. Some of the entries can be read on her website ³.



The first week of the diary, January 1-7th 1776 ³

At the opening of the diary in January 1776, London was suffering a Great Frost with temperatures as low as minus eighteen degrees ¹⁴.

JANUARY 1776

Monday 1st

Mama & Lucy drank tea at Mrs Martin's. I stayed at home to make tea for Papa and Cousin James

Tuesday 2nd

Papa & Cousin James Dalbiac went to Town before Dinner.

Wednesday 3rd

Mama went to Town in the Coach at nine o'clock, took Harriet & Nurse with her. The man came to take down the Organ.

Thursday 4th

We worked at our muffs, drew and did the same as when Mama is at home.

Friday 5th

The man finished packing up the organ. We finished our muffs.

Saturday 6th

I was very glad to see Papa and Mama. They came to dinner. Mama was so good as to make a present of a fan and an Almanack.

Sunday 7th

We did not go to Church. We read a sermon in the morning... The text was Felix's behaviours towards Paul explained.

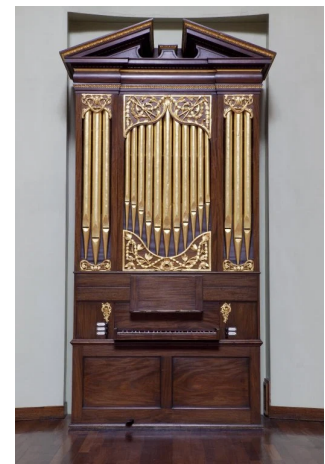
The entries on the 3rd and 5th about the man coming to 'take down' and 'packing up the organ' is surely related to the impending move.



A chamber organ from the late 18th century ³

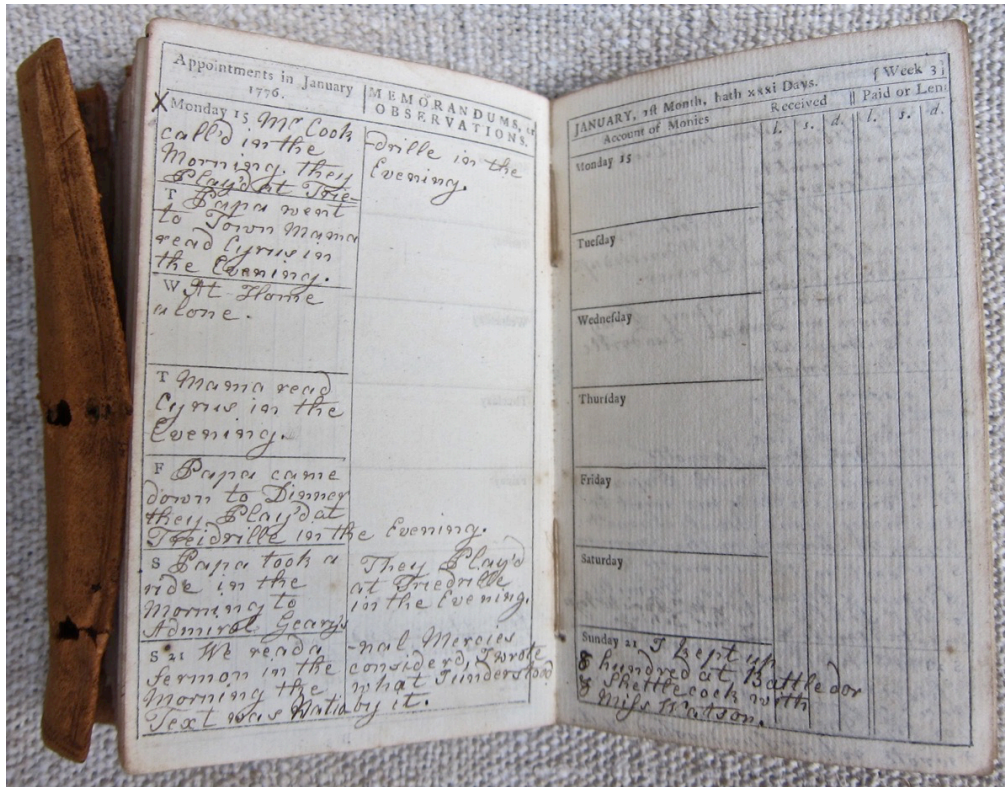
Chamber organs were popular in the 18th century as domestic instruments ³.

A little later on, on Thursday 5th February, Susannah wrote, "The piano came down". Perhaps this refers to the same instrument arriving at their new home!



A chamber organ from the late 18th century ³

In the weeks before they move there were visits to be made: on 10th January, her stepmother paid a morning visit to Mrs Sumner at Hatchlands Park, and on Saturday 20th January, Susannah wrote, "Papa took a ride in the morning to Admiral Geary's". Mrs Sumner lived at Hatchlands and Admiral Geary lived at Polesden Lacey – both now National Trust houses – so Susannah's parents were clearly on easy visiting terms with their grand neighbours ³.



The third week of the diary, January 15-21st 1776 ³

Monday 15th

Mr Cooke call'd in the morning. They play'd at Quadrille in the evening.

Tuesday 16th

Papa went to town. Mama read Cyrus in the evening.

Wednesday 17th

At Home alone.

Thursday 18th

Mama read Cyrus in the evening.

Friday 19th

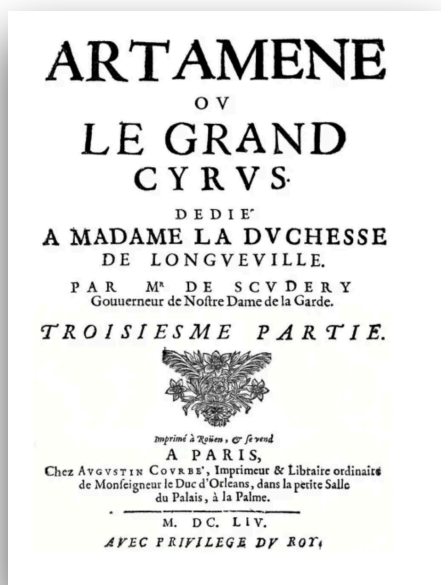
Papa came down to dinner. They play'd at Quadrille in the evening.

Saturday 20th

Papa took a ride in the morning to Admiral Geary's. They play's at Quadrille in the evening.

Sunday 21st

We read a sermon in the morning, the text was National Mercies considered. I wrote what I understood by it. I kept up a hundred at Battledore Shuttlecock with Miss Watson.



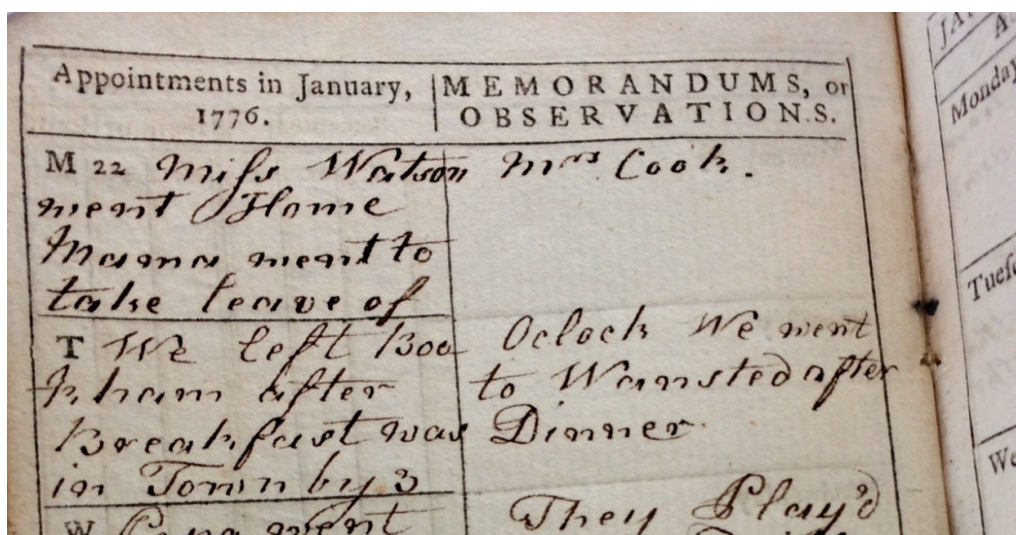
'Cyrus' (entry for 18th January) refers to a hugely popular French novel published in 10 volumes at the end of the 17th century as Artamène ou le Grand Cyrus written by Mademoiselle de Scudéry.

The book is loosely based on classical figures and classical tales. The 10 volumes amounted to around 1,954,300 words but presumably they just dipped into it! ³

The family moved out of Bookham on January 23rd, after breakfast ³:

Monday 22nd
Miss Watson went home. Mama went to take leave of Mrs Cook.

Tuesday 23rd
We left Bookham after breakfast. Was in Town by 3 o'clock. We went to Wansted after Dinner.



From late January to July 1776, the family lived in Wanstead, north-east London, perhaps renting a house, very near their cousins, the Lamottes ³.



MARCH

Monday 18th

Went to Town. Took CM. Din'd at GM's. Came back to tea. Mama drank tea at Mr Seby's. We at home with CM. Papa went to Bookham.

Tuesday 19th

CKL & CM drank tea here. DK slept here.

Wednesday 20th

Papa came to tea. Sally & Frank came to dinner from Bookham.

Thursday 21st

Papa went to Town. We took a ride with Mama & Aunt L to Hackney. Papa came to Dinner.

Friday 22nd

Mama took a ride in the Phaeton with Papa.

Saturday 23rd

Papa went to Town. Came back to dinner, Papa went to Mr Paris's. At home with Mama, Lucy and CM.

Sunday 24th

Went to church with CL & we din'd here Papa & Mama drank tea at Uncle Lamotte's.

Epilogue - after the family had left the house

James Charles was born on 14th April in 1776, and then John George, probably in 1777 ^{2,13}.

Because of the extended family still living in Spitalfields, they had had all 3 children baptised at The Artillery (a Spitalfields Huguenot church) ¹³.

The family travelled to France at the start of July 1776, and Susannah then wrote her entries in French, 90 years on from her Great Grandfather's arrival in London, their French heritage must still have been of great importance to this Huguenot family ^{3, 14}.

When he was 54 years old, Charles, and his brother James, dissolved their company in 1780 with James (now aged 60) continuing with his son, also called James. The printed leaflet announcing this says:

'The Partnership between James Dalbiac and Sons, of Spital-square, Merchants, being dissolved by mutual consent, Notice is hereby given, that the Business will in future be carried on by the said James Dalbiac and James Dalbiac, jun. who are to receive and discharge all Debts owing to and due from the said late Partnership' ³.

In 1782 Charles purchased Hungerford Park, Berkshire, the same year he was nominated for appointment as Sheriff of Berkshire ¹³. He had embraced his role as country gentleman.

He was noted as High Sheriff of Berkshire in 1784 ².

He demolished the old mansion at Hungerford Park, a large estate in Berkshire, and, according to The Berkshire Directory of 1796, rebuilt on the same site:

'An elegant villa in the Italian style on the spot where the old house stood' ¹².

Hungerford was formerly the residence of the Barons Of Hungerford. The mansion was of Italian style and built by Queen Elizabeth for Robert Devereux, Earl Of Essex ⁷.

He sold this property in 1796 ².

Charles died on the 23rd December 1808 and is buried in Christchurch, Spitalfields ³.

Susannah never married or had children but, living with her sister Louisa, she died at her brother-in-law Peter Luard's house, Blyborough Hall, Lincolnshire in 1842, aged eighty ¹⁴.



Charles Dalbiac's mourning pin, probably made for his wife or daughter. The centre swivels to reveal pearls surrounding a piece of his hair ⁷.

Inventory of Household Furniture of Charles Dalbiac esq. at his seat at Bookham, Surrey. Taken 28th December 1775

No 1 Maids Garret

2 Field? bedsteads with check furnitures
 2 feather beds
 2 bolsters
 2 pillows
 6 blankets
 2 quilts
 A glass in swing frame
 A wainscot table with drawer
 4 wood chairs
 A Turkey bedside carpet
 And a grate f?

No 2 Second Room

A 4 post bedstead with check furniture
 Feather bed
 Bolster
 1 pillow
 A mattress
 3 blankets
 2 wainscot tables
 5 stained chairs
 A Scotch carpet

No 3 Third Room

A field? bedstead
 A feather bed
 Bolster
 3 blankets
 1 pillow, A wainscot table, 3 matted chairs

No 4 Men's Room

2 Feild? Bedsteads, blue Sincey? Furniture
 2 feather beds
 2 bolsters
 6 blankets
 2 Goosed?
 A dial table
 Wood chair, And 1 bar to chimney

No 5 Spare Room

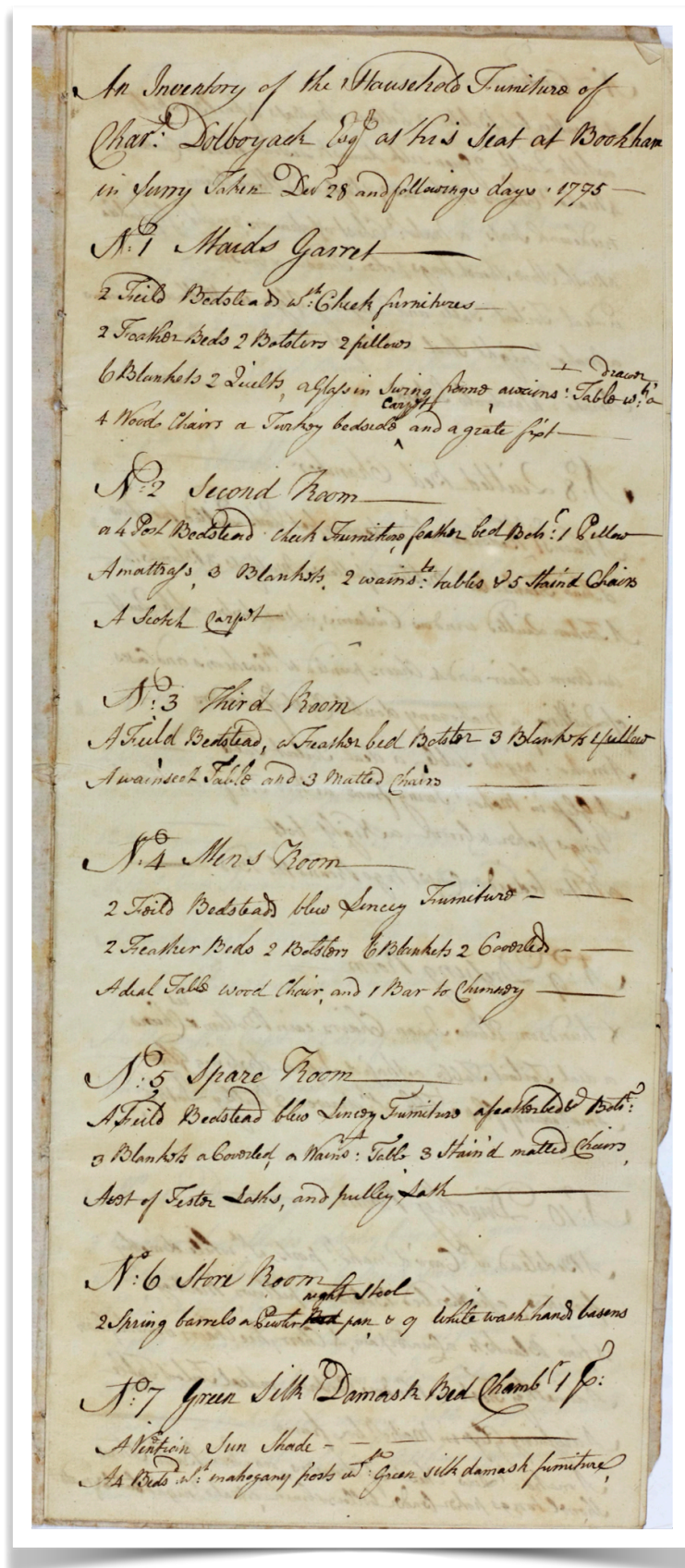
A Feild? Bedstead, blue sincey? Furniture
 A feather bed
 Bolster
 3 blankets
 A coverdel?, A wainscot table, 3 stained matted chairs
 A set of festor? sashes and pulley sash

No 6 Store Room

2 spring barrels
 A pewter night stool pan (bedpan)
 9 white wash hand basins

No. 7 Green silk Damask Bed Chamber:

A Venetian sun shade
 A 4 (presumably post) bedstead with mahogany posts and green silk damask furniture



No. 7 Continued

- A feather bed bolster
- 2 pillows
- A mattress
- 3 fine blankets
- Silk quilt
- 2 green silk damask Treston? Window curtains
- 4 mahogany chairs with cases
- 2 box wood elbow chairs
- Needlework seats
- A mahogany chest of drawers
- 2 mahogany fly tables
- A bath, stove, shovel, tongs, poker, fender and brush
- A Deal toilet table and dressing glass in Walnut tree frame
- A mahogany night stool and carpet broom
- A mahogany wardrobe inlaid

No. 8 Quilted Bed Chamber:

- A wainscot And 4 post bedstead with mahogany feet, posts, quilted furniture
- A fine feather bed
- Bolster
- 1 pillow and mattress
- 3 blankets
- A Treston? Quilted window curtains
- A Manchester white quilt
- An arm chair and 4 chairs painted, with cushions and cases of quilting
- A mahogany double chest of drawers
- A mahogany night table
- A deal toilet table
- A glass in mahogany, swing frame
- A stove, Tin, fender, shovel, tongs, poker and broom
- A night bolt
- A Wilton bedside carpet to go round the bed

No. 9 Dressing Room:

- 8 handsome elbow Japan chairs cane bottom us chairs?
- A deal toilet table a shaped? Japan
- Dressing glass
- A mahogany flap table with drawer
- 2 pulley sashes?

No. 10 Dunothly? Room:

- A bedstead with carved mahogany posts with white dunothly? Furniture
- A feather bed
- Bolster
- 2 pillows
- Mattress?
- 4 fine blankets
- A counterpane
- 4 cherry tree chairs dimothy? cases
- A dimothy? Festoon window curtain
- A deal toilet table
- A dressing glass in mahogany, box frame
- A mahogany bow chest of drawers
- An iron bath, stove, shovel, tongs, poker, fender, bellows and brush
- A mahogany night table and mats?

N:7 Contd:
 A Feather bed Bolster 2 Pillows a Mattress 3 fine Blankets
 a Silk Quilt 2 green silk damask Treston Window Curtains
 A Maho: 4 Chairs with cases, 2 Box wood Elbow Chairs
 Needlework Seats, a Maho: Chest of drawers, 2 Maho: fly tables
 a Bath, Wood Shovel tongs poker Fender & brush
 a Deal Toilet Table and Dressing Glass in Walnut tree frame
 a Maho: Night Stool and Carpet Broom
 A Maho: Wardrobe Inlaid

N:8 Quilted Bed Chamber
 A Wainscot ^{2 post} Bedstead w: mahogany feet 4 post Quilted furniture
 A fine feather bed Bolster 1 pillow a Mattress 3 Blankets
 A Treston Quilted window Curtains, a Manchester white Quilt
 an Arm Chair and 4 Chairs painted w: cushions and cases
 of Quilting a Mahogany double Chest of drawers
 A Maho: night Table, a deal Toilet Table
 A Glass in Maho: swing frame a Stove Tin fender Shovel
 tongs poker & broom a Night bolt
 a Wilton bedside Carpet to go round the Bed

N:9 Dressing Room
 8 handsome Elbow Japan Chairs cane Bottom ^{us} chairs
 a deal Toilet Table a shaped Japan dressing Glass
 a Mahogany flap Table w: drawer 2 pulley Sashes

N:10 Dimothy Room
 A Bedstead w: Carved Maho: posts w: white Dimothy
 furniture, a feather bed Bolster 2 pillows Mattress
 4 fine Blankets a Counterpane, 4 Cherry tree Chairs Dimothy cases
 A Dimothy Treston Window Curtain a deal Toilet Table
 A dressing Glass in Maho: box frame
 A Maho: Low Chest of drawers, an Iron Bath Stove
 Shovel tongs poker fender bellows & brush, a Maho: night table & mats

No. 11 Cotton Bed Chamber:

- A 4 post bedstead, mahogany posts, printed cotton furniture
- A feather bed
- Bolster
- 1 pillow
- A mattress
- 3 blankets and a quilt
- A mahogany chest of drawers
- A deal table
- A printed cotton festoon window curtain
- 2 mats
- 2 matted Chairs with 2 cherry tree and Cotton cases
- A wood chair
- A carpet broom
- 2 stained chairs

No. 12 Hall:

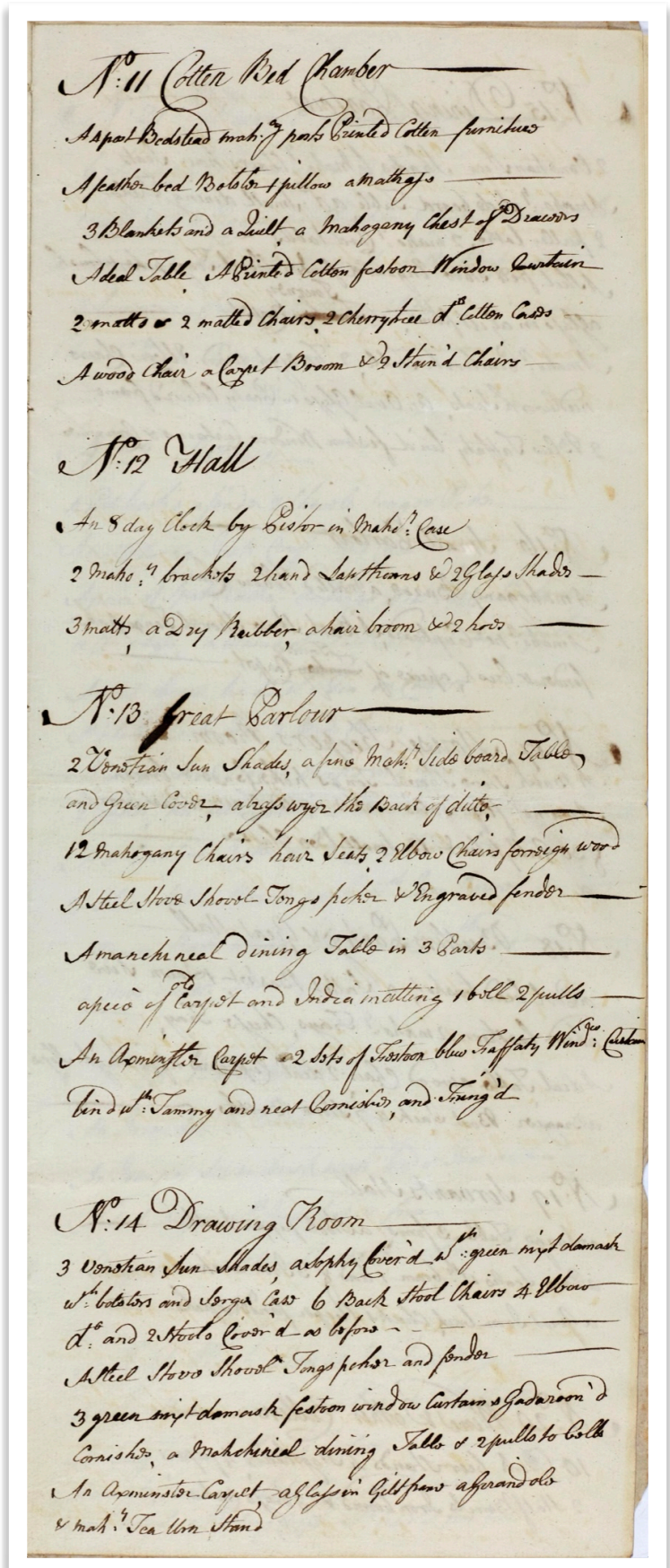
- An 8 day clock by Lister? In mahogany case
- 2 mahogany brackets
- 2 hand lanterns and 2 glass shades
- 3 mats
- A dry rubber?
- A chair broom and 2 hods?

No. 13 Great Parlour:

- 2 Venetian sun shades
- A fine mahogany side board table and green cover
- A brass wire the back of ditto
- 12 mahogany chairs, hair seats
- 2 elbow chairs, foreign wood
- A steel stove, shovel, tongs, poker and engraved fender
- A manchineal? Dining table in 3 parts
- A piece of carpet and India matting
- 1 bolt
- 2 pulls
- An Axminster carpet
- 2 sets of festoon blue taffeta window, bind with Tammy? And neat cornishes and fringed

No. 14 Drawing Room:

- 3 Venetian sun shades
- A Sophy? (Sofa) Covered with green import? Damask, with bolsters and large case
- 6 back stool chairs
- 4 elbow chairs
- And 2 stools covered as before
- A steel stove, shovel, tongs, poker and fender
- 3 green import? Damask festoon window curtain and gadarooned? Cornishes
- A manchineal dinging table
- 2 pulls
- ? Bolts
- An Axminster carpet
- A glass in gilt frame
- A grand old and mahogany tea urn stand



No. 15 Dining Parlour:

2 Venetian sun shades
 6 mahogany chairs with hair seats
 A mahogany side board table
 A mahogany small dining table
 2 pulley sashes?
 2 mahogany card tables
 A steel fret? Stove, engraved fender, shovel, tongs, poker and brush
 A glass in a gilt frame
 A journey? carpet
 A mahogany gembrook? Table
 2 foreign wood elbow chairs
 Needlework seats
 An oval glass in party? Coloured frame
 2 blue taffaty lined festoon window curtains and cornishes

No. 16 Small Parlour:

A mahogany bureau?
 A matted elbow chair
 A mahogany pot cupboard
 A bath, stove, shovel, tongs, poker, fender and brush
 A piece of Tourney? Carpet

No. 17 House Keepers Room:

A bath, stove, shovel, tongs, poker, fender and a brush
 A wainscot flap table
 2 matted chairs
 A Past board?
 30 Gally tiles
 13 small / 300 glasses?

No. 18 Butlers Pantry and Great Hall:

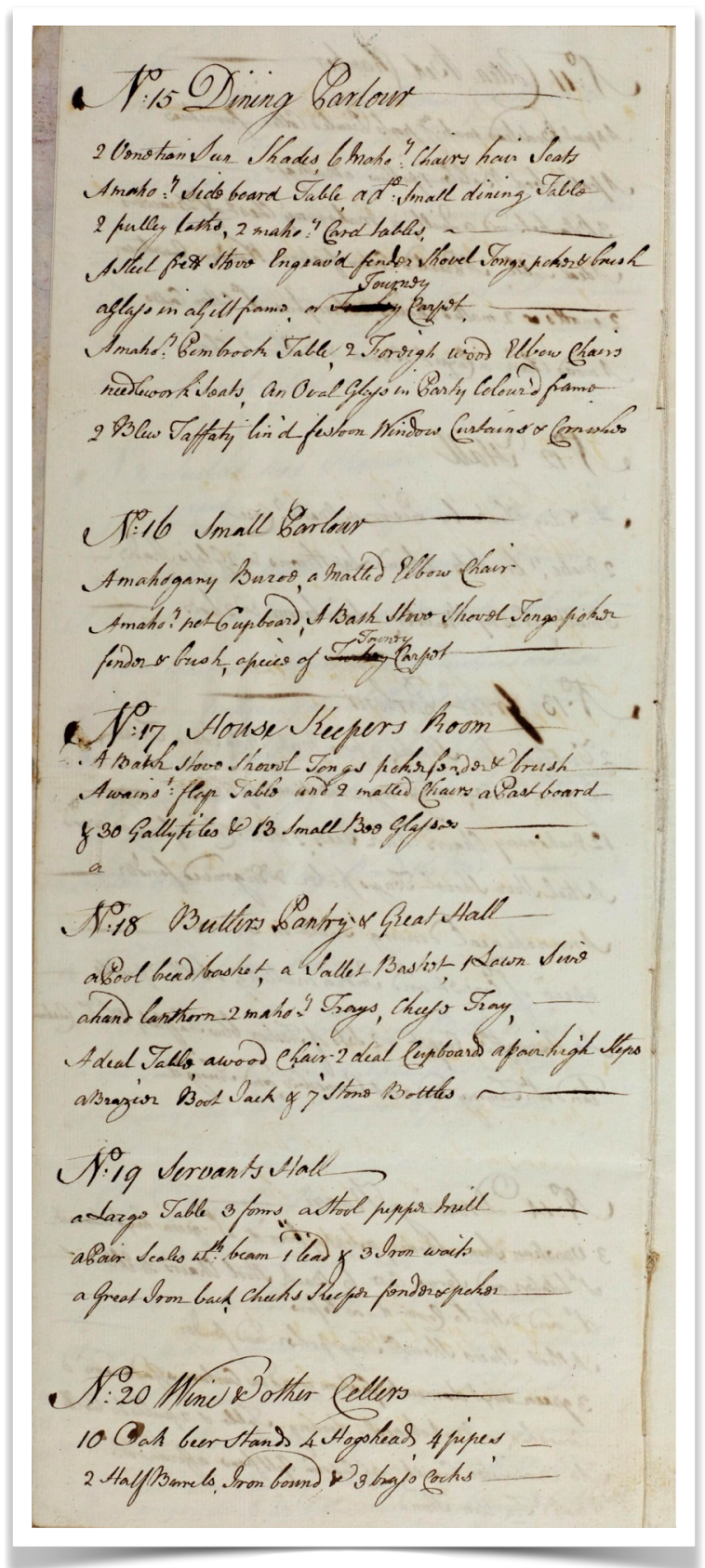
A pool bead basket
 A Sallet? Basket
 1 lawn sure?
 A hand lantern
 2 mahogany trays, Chefs tray
 A deal table, A wood chair, 2 deal cupboards
 A pair of high steps, A brazier, Boot jack
 7 stone bottles

No. 19 Servants Hall:

A large table
 3 forms
 A stool
 Pepper mill
 A pair of scales with beam, 1 lead and 3 iron weights
 A great iron back chuk? And keeper, fender and poker

No. 20 Wine and Other Cellars:

10 oak beer stands
 4 hogsheads
 4 pipers
 2 half barrels, iron bound
 3 brass cocks



1775 Inventory 15-20 16

No. 21 Dairy and Larder:

6 large white stone milk bans?
 3 churns
 1 milk pail
 A ligger?
 A salting pan and coudr?
 2 meat hooks
 A pair wood seats
 2 butter prints
 Butter knife
 3 summers?
 A sieve
 4 ladles or platters
 And 6 red milk pans

No. 22 Kitchen:

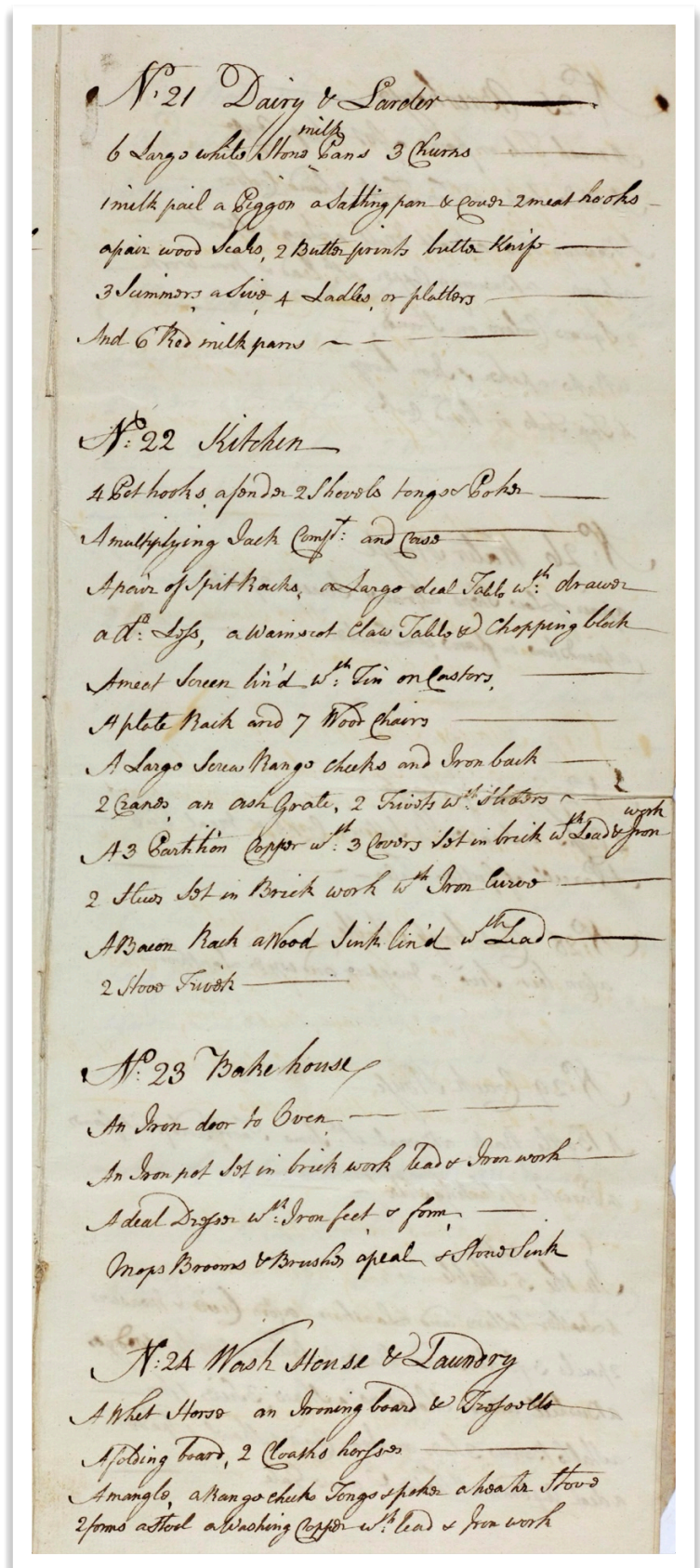
4 pot hooks
 A fender, 2 shovels, tongs and poker
 A multiplying jack? Compt? And case
 A pair of spit racks
 A large deal table with drawer
 A large deal table loss?
 A wainscot claw table
 Chopping block
 A meat screen lined with tin, on castors
 A plate rack
 7 wood chairs
 A large screw? Range, cheeks? And iron back
 2 brands?
 An ash grate
 2 trivots with sh??
 A 3 partition copper with 3 covers set in brick with lead
 and iron work
 2 stoves? Set in brick work with iron cover
 A bacon rack
 A wood sink lined with lead
 2 stove hook?

No. 23 Bake House:

An iron door to oven
 An iron pot set in brick work, lead and iron work
 A deal dresser? with iron feet and form?
 Mops, brooms and brushes
 A pe?
 Stand sink

No. 24 Wash House and Laundry:

A whet horse
 An ironing board and tresools?
 A folding board
 2 clothes horses
 A mangle
 A range Chuk's? Tongs and poker
 A hearth? stove
 2 forms
 A stool
 A washing copper with lead and iron work



No. 25 Brewhouse:

- A mash tub on parnd?
- A jet?
- A hop Ouse?
- An under beck?
- A tun tub
- 2 hand coolers
- A bearing ? Tub
- A malt mill
- A large spout
- A scoop
- A brewing copper with lead and iron work
- 2 square coolers on stands
- A rake, a poker and iron hoops
- 4 tap tubs or hand coolers

No. 26 Water House:

- A pair of low steps
- A gravel screen
- 3 posts
- A grindstone in farms?
- Lumber

No. 27 Hen House:

- 2 coops
- A scraper
- 4 sitting coops
- A meal tub, A parcel of gutter tiles

No. 28 Cart House and Stable:

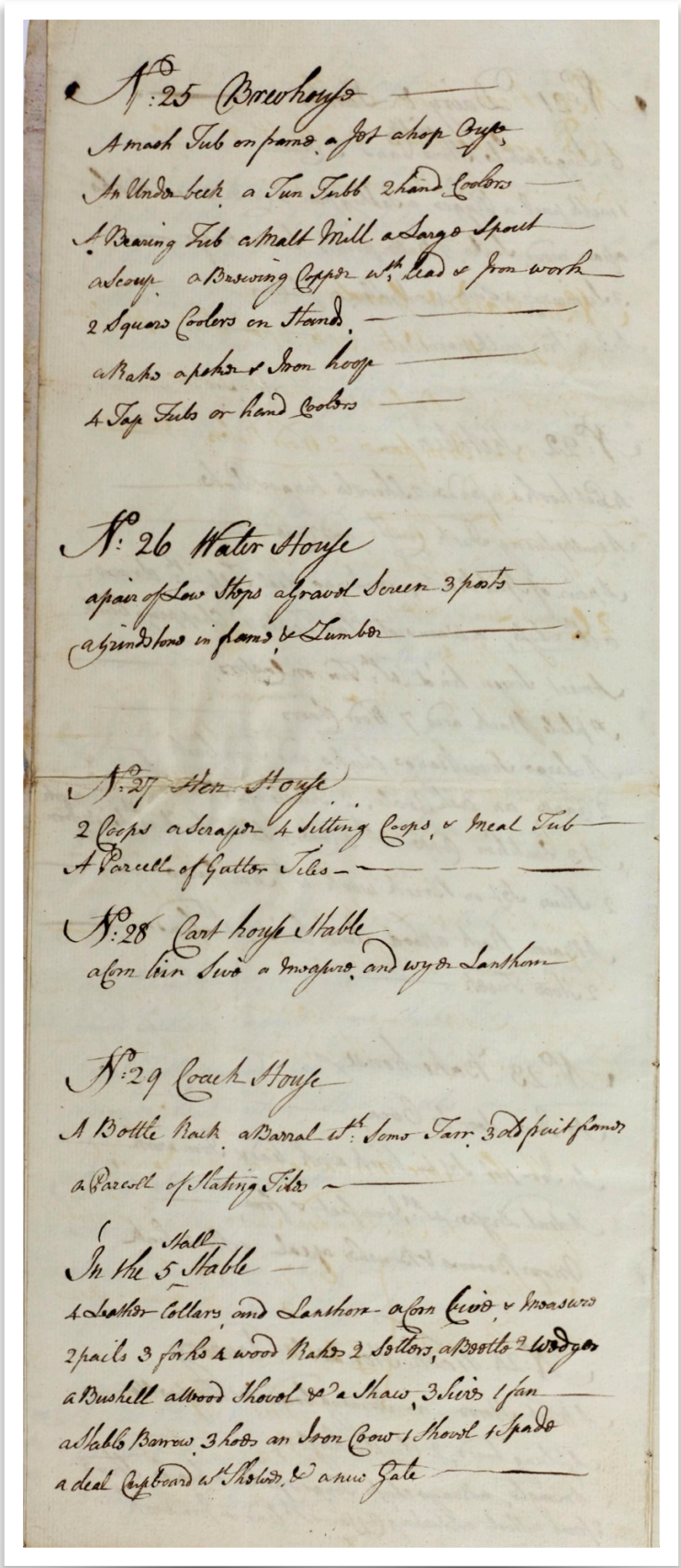
- Acorn bin?
- Hive?, A moapuro? And wire Lantham

No. 29 Coach House:

- A bottle rack
- A barrel with lome? And Tarr
- 3 old pait? Fronds?
- A parcel of slating tiles

In the 5 stall stable:

- 4 leather collars
- And Lanthon? Acorn ??? And measures
- 2 pails
- 3 forks
- 4 wood racks?
- 2 setters
- A bootle?
- 2 wedges
- A Bushell wood
- Shovel and a shaw, 3 surs? , 1 fan ?
- A stable barrow, 3 hods, An iron crow? And shovel and spade, A deal cupboard with shelves
- And a new gate



No. 30 Room over Stable:

- A bed ??
- Bed bolster
- 3 blankets and a ring?
- A square wainscot table
- A matted chair

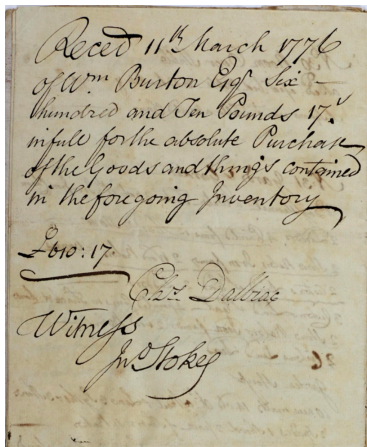
No. 31 Yards and Garden:

- A dog kennel
- A water tub
- 3 posts with iron from? chains
- 2 ladders
- 4 painted forms in thatched house
- 2 stone balors? Iron forms?
- 2 wood balors? Avances?
- 2 cisterns lined with lead
- 2 ladders
- 3 cisterns lined with lead
- 4 painted forms in thatched house
- 2 stone balors iron forms?
- 2 wood balors?
- 2 cisterns lined with lead

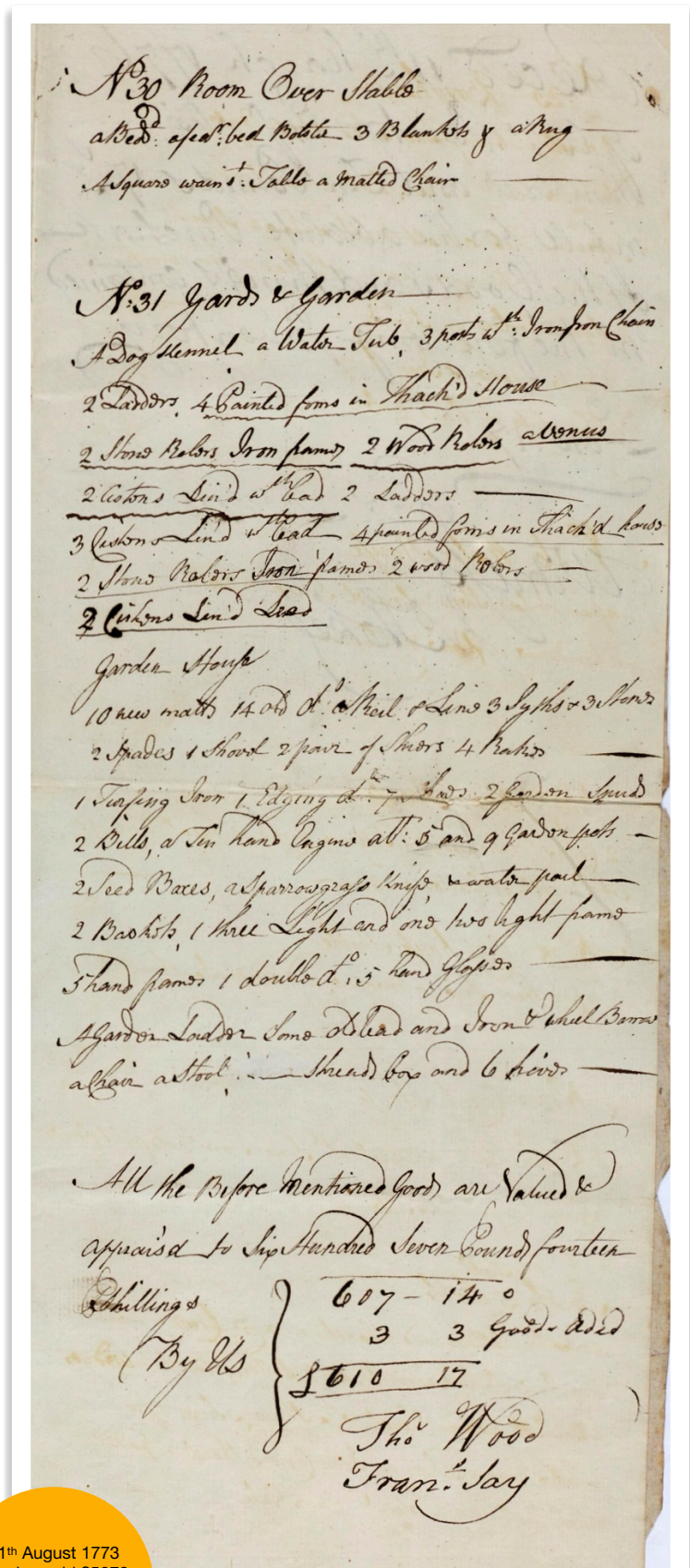
Garden House:

- 10 new mats
- 14 old mats
- Beil and Lino?
- 3 scythes
- 3 stones
- 2 spades and shovel
- 2 pairs of shors?
- 4 barks?
- 1 tamping iron
- 1 edging iron
- 2 garden spades?
- 2 bills
- A tin hand engine ??, 9 garden pots, 2 seed boxes
- A sparrowgraze? Knife, A water pail, 2 baskets
- 1 three light and one two light frames
- 5 hand frames, 1 double frame, 5 hand glasses
- A garden ladder, Some old lead and iron
- A wheel barrow, A chair, A stool
- Sheard ? Box, And 6 hives?

All the before mentioned goods are valued and appraised to £607 14 shillings by us Thomas Wood Francis Jay.



Receipt of payment for inventory items 1775 16



11th August 1773
 Charles paid £5070
 for the property
 worth some £9-10
 million at 2019 values

1775 Inventory 30-31 16

References and Notes

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16. Inventory of household furniture of Charles Dalbiac Esq at his seat at Bookham, Surrey, taken 28th December 1775. www.northyorks.gov.uk/archives Image used with permission from the North Yorkshire County Records Office
17. <https://www.measuringworth.com>