



Camdens Worldwide

Compiled by David A Hayes
London, England

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**CAMDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Camdens Worldwide

Marking the 400th anniversary of the death of William Camden,
and charting the spread of Camden place names across the globe.
With contributions from local historians and others across several continents.

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Chronology

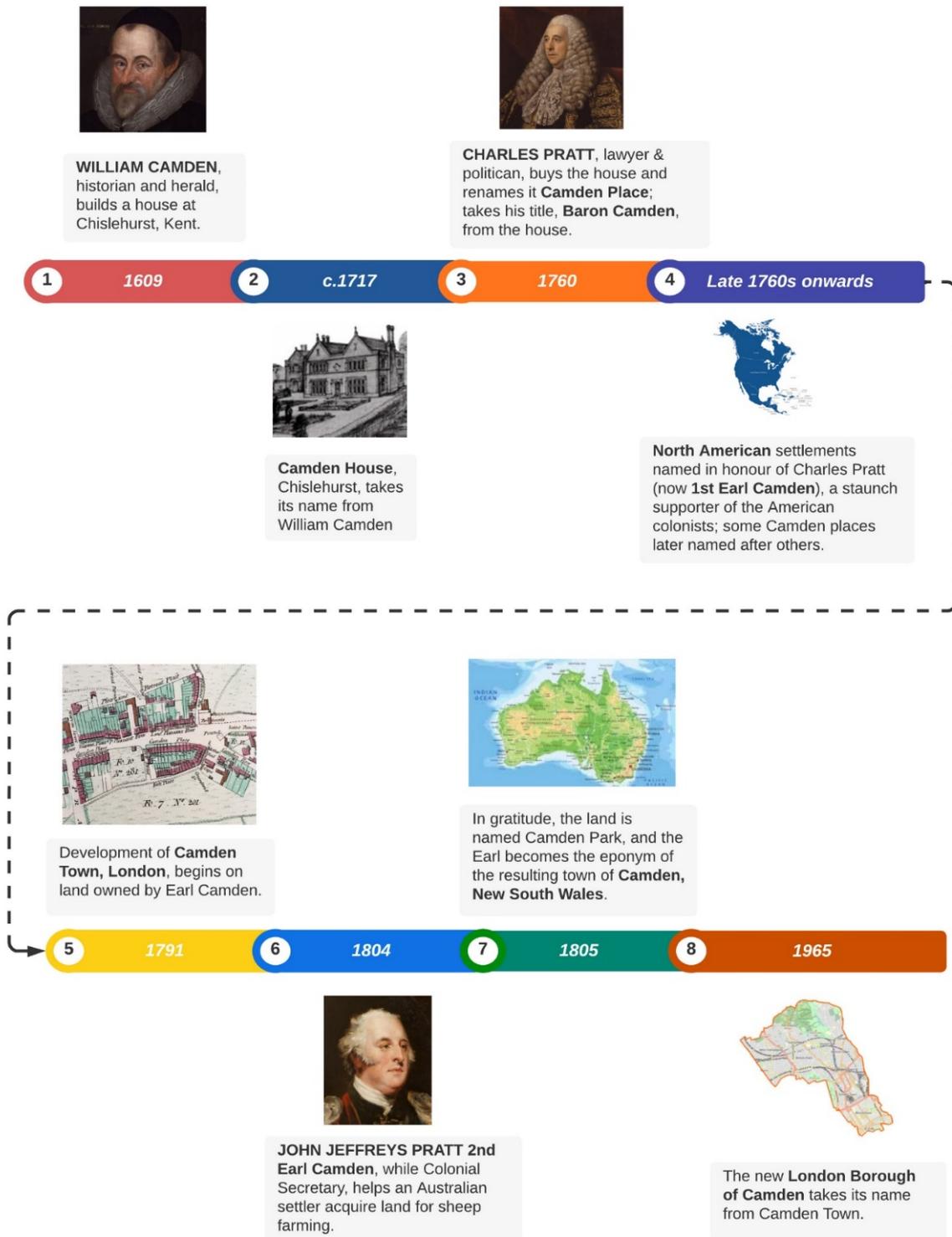
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How did the surname of a childless Elizabethan scholar come to be assigned to some fifty places across the world from Alaska to New Zealand and Tierra del Fuego?

The main chain of events is summarised very briefly in this timeline by John Cottrell:



Chronology of place namings

- 1717 Camden House, Chislehurst (3.1)
→ Camden Place 1760
- c.1767 Streets in north and east London (4.1)
- 1768 Camden, South Carolina (5.27)
- 1773 Camden, New Jersey (5.22)
- 1777 Camden County, Georgia (5.8)
- 1777 Camden County, North Carolina (5.24)
- 1785 Camden, Virginia (5.31)
- 1787 Camden Place/Crescent, Bath (4.2)
- 1787 East Camden, Ontario (5.37)
- 1788 Camden, Delaware (5.7)
- 1790 Camden Town, London (4.3)
- 1791 Camden, Maine (5.11) ← Cambden Plantation
- 1794 Camden Township, Ontario (5.36)
- 1794 Port Camden, Alaska (5.2)
- 1795 Fort Camden, Co. Cork, Ireland (4.6)
- 1799 Camden, New York (5.23)
- 1818 Camden Haven, New South Wales (7.2)
- 1821 Camden Bay, Western Australia (7.3)
- 1826 Camden Bay, Alaska (5.3)
- 1830 Camden, Indiana (5.10)
- c.1830 Islas Camden, Tierra del Fuego (6.4)
- By 1830s Camden, Tennessee (5.28)
- 1831 Camden, Illinois (5.9)
- 1835 Camden, Ohio (5.25)
- 1837 Camden Point, Missouri (5.20)
- 1838 Camden, Ray County, Missouri (5.18)
- 1840 Camden, Michigan (5.14)
- 1840 Camden, New South Wales (7.1)
← Camden Park 1805
- 1841 Camden, Alabama (5.1)
- 1842 Camden, Arkansas (5.4)
- 1843 Camden County, Missouri (5.19)
- 1844 Camden County, New Jersey (5.22)
- 1844 Camden, Camberwell, London (4.5)
- 1852 Camden (Place), Minneapolis (5.16)
- 1856 Camden Station, Baltimore (5.13)
- 1859 Camden, Carver Co., Minnesota (5.15)
- 1862 Camden, Nebraska (5.21)
- 1862 Camden, S. Island, New Zealand (7.4)
- c.1898 Camden, Polk County, Texas (5.30)
- 1931 Camdenton, Missouri (5.19)
- 1949 Camden Park, Singapore (6.6)
- 1965 London Borough of Camden (4.4)

Let's meet our ultimate eponym.

1 – WILLIAM CAMDEN (1551-1623)

His life in brief

Edited excerpt from John Winter-Lotimer, 'The Chislehurst connection: Camden Town & Camden Place', Camden History Review 23 (1999).

Born in London on 1 May 1551, William Camden was educated at Christ's Hospital and St Paul's School, and then at Magdalen College, Oxford. At the age of 24 he was appointed second master at Westminster School, and concurrently with his teaching duties he began ten years' work on a county-by-county topographical and historical survey of the British Isles. *Britannia*, in Latin, was published in 1586, dedicated to Burghley, the Lord Treasurer; it was first translated into English in 1610.

William Camden succeeded in 1593 to the position of headmaster of Westminster. The statutes of the school laid down that the headmaster should be a Master of Arts and in holy orders, but it is doubtful whether Camden took a degree at Oxford, and certainly he was a layman all his life; however, through the intervention of Elizabeth I the rules were disregarded. He had acquired a reputation as a historian and traveller; he had learnt Welsh and Anglo-Saxon, and he published a Greek grammar. He was also Librarian of Westminster Abbey (1587-97) and had sung in the Choir there (1584-85).



*Portrait by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger. 1609
(National Portrait Gallery, London)*



Arms of William Camden

Elizabeth appointed a commission to reform the College of Heralds, and one of their first steps was to choose Camden to be Clarenceux King of Arms; that was in 1597 and caused some resentment among those passed over. At this period and for a long time afterwards there were disputes between the College of Heralds and the Worshipful Company of Painters-Stainers as to the right to execute armorial paintings, the Heralds contending that the monopoly granted in the Painters' charter referred to house painting, not coats of arms. William, like his father Sampson Camden, was a member of the Painters' Company and was instrumental in settling these disputes. William Camden left the Company a

legacy for the purchase of a silver cup, which is still in their possession, as is a portrait of him dating from 1676.



Monument to Camden on the west wall of the South transept of Westminster Abbey.

William Camden had caught the plague when a boy, and his health was never very good. Partly to escape the threat of further infection, he left London in 1609 to live at Chislehurst in Kent [2.1]. It was there that he wrote *The Annals of Queen Elizabeth*, the first part published in 1615; this was also in Latin and later translated into English. He was a sincere Protestant, and most of his books were censured by the Roman church, including his account of the Gunpowder Plot, again in Latin and published in 1607 by order of James I. In 1622 Camden founded a history lectureship at Oxford, and endowed it with Manor of Bexley, Kent [2.2], which he had purchased with money he'd earned as a schoolmaster. The chair still exists as the Camden Professorship of Ancient History. Camden's academic activities were not always beyond reproach: there was a medieval tradition that Oxford University was founded by Alfred the Great, and Camden corroborated this with a forgery.

William Camden died at Chislehurst on 9 November 1623 and was buried in the south transept of Westminster Abbey.

2 – CHISLEHURST, Kent

Now in the London Borough of Bromley

2.1 – Camden Place, Chislehurst

The first links in the Camden chain

Contribution from the Camden Place tour team

By Angela Hatton



Camden Place today

The Camden story is at least unusual and possibly unique. It explains how a man, a very talented man but without wife or heirs, came to have his name passed down over 400 years and spread across the globe. This Camden network took root, not in Westminster where antiquarian and herald William Camden was headmaster of the school and librarian for the Abbey, but in a small village in Kent, Chislehurst.

Pratt bought Camden House in 1760 and expanded the estate through the purchase of Red Wood, much of which he felled, naming the residue Camden Wood, and by enclosing common land. The site was now over 127 acres. He appointed architect George Dance the Younger and designer James 'Athenian' Stuart to start on a 20-year building project to convert the country house into a Georgian mansion. He renamed his property Camden Place. The name it has kept to this day.

Ennobled in 1765. Pratt took the title Baron Camden of Camden Place. This decision did not pass without comment because it seems that no-one before had ever taken someone else's name. In the words of Sir Gerald Wollaston, sometime Garter King of Arms, *"It is an astonishing thing and without precedent that a man should be allowed to take another man's surname as his title, but that is what happened."*

Lord Camden's support for American settlers' right not to be taxed without representation led to over thirty places in America being named after him [5]. His property in north London became known as Camden Town [4.3]. His son John, the second Earl Camden [3.2], who sold Camden Place in 1806, would give his title to places in Australia [6] and Alaska [5.3].

In Chislehurst, Camden Place, the hub of this expanded network of Camden associations continued its own remarkable story. In 1823 owners Ann and Thompson Bonar were brutally murdered by their footman. In 1859 the grounds were 'invaded' by 5,000 troops and hundreds of spectators as the estate was the scene of a sham fight.

In 1860 the Camden estate changed hands again. This time it was sold to a Nathaniel Strode, trustee to one of Napoleon III's early mistresses. He set about a radical transformation of Camden's Georgian mansion into a French château. Windows were lowered and shutters, balustrades, urns, balconies, clocks and a coat of arms were added to the house. Magnificent gates from the French Exposition of 1866 were acquired and a new dining wing was decorated with wooden panelling purchased from the Château de Bercy. Today this room is described as the best French interior in England.

Strode's motives for this significant transformation are unclear but there is much circumstantial evidence to suggest that the purchase and work were orchestrated by Napoleon III himself, in case a bolt hole in England was ever needed. Not really paranoia for a man who had already been deported once, exiled twice and -imprisoned twice, all whilst pursuing his destiny to lead France.

By 1870 Camden Place did indeed have a French flag flying and became the centre of the French court in exile. Queen Victoria and Tsar Alexander II were amongst the many dignitaries and politicians to visit the house.

It was here that Napoleon, France's first President and last Emperor, died in 1873, following unsuccessful surgery for bladder stones. The picture gallery became a Chapelle Ardente and tens of thousands from France and England paid their respects. Tragically, only six years later the young Prince Imperial was killed in British uniform whilst observing the Zulu Wars. His funeral also left from Camden Place as he joined his father at rest in the small Catholic church of St Mary's in Chislehurst. In 1888 both remains were moved to Farnborough, Hampshire, where the Empress Eugénie had an Abbey built for the Imperial family.

After Nathaniel Strode's death, his house was sold to the Willetts, local property developers. The Chairman of the Common's Conservators, Alexander Travers Hawes, was determined to keep Chislehurst as green as possible. He used a ransom strip, held when Robert Weston had taken a 500-year lease out on part of the common, to allow him to create a stunning lime tree avenue at the entrance of the property. The ransom strip prevented the builders' moving materials onto the site or providing access for any new households. Access was limited to those living and using Camden Place.

Negotiation between Travers Hawes and the Willetts led to a compromise. They could build on half of the land as long as half was kept for recreation. It was 1894, the year when the most golf courses were started in England. William Willett the younger - *best known for his proposals for Daylight Saving Time (introduced after his death during World War I)* - built himself a house, the Cedars, opposite Camden Park gates. He set about creating a 9-hole golf course, with a smaller 9-hole course for the ladies. Camden Place became the clubhouse and Willett the proprietor. Travers Hawes was still not totally content. Concerned that, whilst the Willetts owned the land, there would always be a risk they would find a way to develop the site, he set about developing a scheme to raise the money to purchase the club. Bought in 1889 by members and local residents, it has been Chislehurst Golf Members Owned Club ever since.

Soon after the purchase, the course was extended to 18 holes. It is one of the shortest, most challenging parkland courses – a real test of golf skill. At a luncheon preceding the opening of the club in 1894, Mr A.J. Balfour declared, 'You have undoubtedly – it must be evident to everyone who hears me – the best golf club house in existence. I do not suppose that any other club, however ancient or famous, however large the number of its members, has ever been housed in a palace before.'

The house has remained largely unchanged architecturally since the Empress Eugénie left Camden Place. It has a wealth of architectural as well as historical heritage that we like to share with visiting golfers and visitors to the house. But there is one feature of the house that lets us return to William Camden. The Jacobean entrance hall, complete with two secret doors and twenty gargoyles, dates from the very early 1600's, when William was building his house on the site. The panelling was recycled into its current position in the 1760 makeover by Lord Camden, and a new ceiling added. Screws from the panels confirm this timing. Though it may be fanciful and impossible to establish, it is possible the panelling was moved twice, once by Weston from the original house, perhaps to create his main gallery, and later by George Dance to create what was then the back entrance to the extended Camden Place. It isn't hard to imagine William Camden sitting by these panels working on the *Annals of Queen Elizabeth*.



More information about Camden Place and visits

to see it can be found at

www.camden-place.co.uk

2.2 – William Camden’s Chislehurst Legacy

Contribution from The Chislehurst Society

By Joanna Friel

Painted on the wall over the arches in the Scadbury Chapel, inside St Nicholas Parish Church, are the Royal badges of King Henry VI and King Edward IV. These have been ascribed to William Camden, described by historians in 1899 as his ‘antiquarian enthusiasm leaving its mark on the church walls’. The badges are facing the tomb of Sir Thomas Walsingham IV, who in 1611, purchased a Manor of Chislehurst and it would appear as if the badges were placed there to commemorate the fact that the Chislehurst manor, which had previously belonged to Lancastrians, subsequently to Yorkists and finally to the Tudors, was united under the same ownership, as Scadbury Manor, by Sir Thomas Walsingham. An event that occurred during Camden’s time here.



*The badge of Edward IV in the Scadbury Chapel
ChapelVjapel*

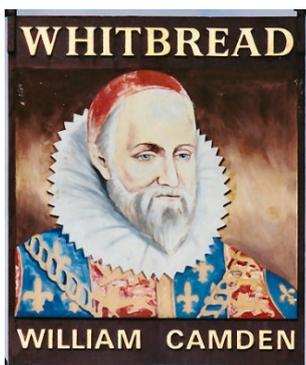
William Camden left £8 to the poor of Chislehurst in his will and £7 to Mr Richard Harvey, Rector at the time. He also performed the useful service of transcribing all the earlier parish registers and an account of his literary works is given in the Dictionary of National Biography.

In the frieze of the drawing room of Camden House today, is a painting of a long, rather low, building said to represent the house in Camden’s time, but locals will perhaps remember him more in several of our street names, Camden Close, Camden Grove, Camden Park Road, Camden Way and Lower Camden.

Of course, there is also a pub in Bexleyheath, named William Camden. It was the sale of the assets from the manor of Bexley that Camden used to endow the Oxford Chair of Ancient History – something we can all raise a glass to! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camden_Professor_of_Ancient_History

2.3 – William Camden pub, Bexleyheath

Now in the London Borough of Bexley



Recalling William’s 17th-century land purchase, the public house in Avenue Road was built by the brewers Whitbread in 1956; it is now owned by Greene King.

*Inn sign photo, 1991: Brian Curtis,
<http://www.innsignsociety.com/>*

3 – TWO LORDS CAMDEN

Contributions from Camden History Society, London — <http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org/>

3.1 – Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden (1713-1794)

Eponym of place names in England and North America

Charles Pratt was born in 1713, the fifth son of Lord Chief Justice Sir John Pratt. He was only eleven when his father died at their house in Great Ormond Street, Bloomsbury. Charles was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, then destined for a legal career, entered the Inner Temple in 1728. Called to the Bar ten years later, he became a barrister in the Middle Temple.

In 1749 he followed his brother in marrying into the Jeffreys family, and with Elizabeth Jeffreys had four daughters and one son, whom he named John Jeffreys Pratt.

Charles Pratt became a King's Counsel in 1755. Two years later, with the support of Lord Henley, later Lord Chancellor, and his Eton school*-friend William Pitt (the Elder), shortly to be Prime Minister, he entered Parliament as Whig MP for Downton, Wiltshire. In July 1757 he was made Attorney-General and from 1759 he also followed Lord Henley as Recorder of the City of Bath [4.2]. In 1762, the new King George III sought to remove Pratt from the political field by promoting him to Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and appointing him to the Privy Council.

In 1763, as Chief Justice, Pratt freed John Wilkes, a radical journalist and MP who had been arrested for seditious libel, over an article he had written criticising a speech made by George III. He also supported the awarding of damages to victims of unlawful arrest and condemned the increased use of search warrants. As a result, he was very popular both in radical circles and among the wider public, regarded as a champion of civil liberties and idolised almost as much as



Sir Charles Pratt, William Hoare (1765), Victoria Art Gallery, Bath & North East Somerset Council

Wilkes. Pratt received the Freedom of the City of London, and Joshua Reynolds was commissioned to paint his portrait, which was hung in the Guildhall; similarly, William Hoare painted his full-length portrait for the Guildhall in Bath, on his being granted the Freedom of that City.

Pratt's town house from 1758 to 1775 was at No.34 Lincoln's Inn Fields, which, but for demolition and a 1900 boundary change, would now lie in the modern borough of Camden. The Pratt family owned two properties in Kent that had been purchased by his father, Bayham Abbey near Lamberhurst, and Wildernesse at Seal near Sevenoaks. In 1760 Charles acquired Camden Place at Chislehurst [3.1] of which he became very fond, and when ennobled in 1765 he took as his title 'Baron Camden of Camden Place in the county of Kent'.

The champion of civil liberties was not so respectful of the rights of his Chislehurst neighbours, causing resentment by his enclosure of common land. A local folk tale is believed to allude to his lordship's actions: *"Tis bad enough in man or woman / To steal a goose from off the common / But surely he's without excuse / Who steals the common from the goose?"*

As a politician both in government and opposition, Lord Camden was a constant critic of Britain's North American colonial policy of taxation without parliamentary representation, making him popular with the colonists and resulting in the naming after him of some thirty places in America – see [5]. Appointed Lord Chancellor within Pitt's administration in 1766, he was Speaker of the House of Lords until 1770, resigning after Pitt's ministry had fallen. Following a speech to Parliament, that he published in the *London Magazine* in 1768, under the title 'No taxation without representation', Lord Camden was a constant critic of Britain's North American policies, including military intervention, although he did not support full independence. It increased his reputation, gained in the Wilkes judgement, for individual rights, and made him popular with the colonists, resulting in the naming after him, directly or indirectly, of some thirty places in America – see [5].

In 1782, aged almost 70, Lord Camden returned to the cabinet, now under William Pitt the Younger, as President of the Council. Then in 1786 he was granted an earldom, an honour he accepted, he said, to please his children. He was also granted a further peerage as Viscount Bayham (after Bayham Abbey), for use as a courtesy title by his son.

Through his marriage to Elizabeth Jeffreys, Pratt had inherited property farmland, the demesne of Cantlowes near Kentish Town, just north of London, and in 1788 he obtained an Act of Parliament allowing him to grant leases for house building on the land. Building work began from 1790 on the new suburb that would soon be known as Camden Town [4.3].

Earl Camden has been described as short but handsome, with fine grey eyes and a genial smile. He was fond of the theatre, and enjoyed and played music, and was an avid reader of romantic novels. His social circle included David Garrick, Joshua Reynolds and Samuel Johnson, but he was blackballed when he tried to be elected to the Literary Club.

He died in London on 18 April 1794, at his town house in Mayfair, and was buried in Kent, in Seal Church near Wildernesse. He was succeeded by his son, John Jeffreys Pratt.

See for interest *Lives of the Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal* by John Lord Campbell.

3.2 – John Jeffreys Pratt, 2nd Earl Camden and 1st Marquess (1759-1840)

Eponym of places in Ireland, Alaska and Australia



Portrait by John Hoppner, c.1825

John Jeffreys Pratt was born on 11 February 1759 at 34 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, the fourth of five children and only son of the Charles and Elizabeth Pratt. Educated, like his father, at Eton and Cambridge University, in 1780 he was elected Member of Parliament for Bath [4.2] under the organisation of his father. Between 1782 and 1792 he held junior ministerial positions in the government of William Pitt, his father's childhood friend.

In 1785 he married Frances Molesworth, an orphan heiress of Wembury, Devon, and they were given the Pratt family house at Wildernesse in Kent by Lord Camden's elder brother John. In 1786 when his father was granted an earldom, John Jeffreys was styled Viscount Bayham. When his father died in 1794, he succeeded as 2nd Earl Camden. In 1806 he inherited Bayham Abbey near Tunbridge Wells, and sold his father's house, Camden Place [2.1] and his wife's manor at Wembury. He and his wife Frances also leased a grand town house in London at 22 Arlington Street, St James's.

In 1795 he was appointed by William Pitt as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. His term of office came at a very turbulent time. He was politically unsuccessful because of his government's opposition to Roman Catholic emancipation and the policies adopted to quell the unrest, including the suspension of *habeas corpus* and the imposition of martial law, culminating in the Irish Rebellion. He was withdrawn in 1798 and was followed by the ex-military Lord Cornwallis.

Returning to England, he was made Knight of the Garter in 1799 and was briefly, again under Pitt, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies. His War work consisted mainly of managing home defence volunteers, while in his colonial role he assisted an Australian settler, John Macarthur, in gaining land for sheep farming – which resulted in the naming of Camden, New South Wales [6.2].

John Jeffreys remained in Pitt's cabinet until 1812, with two spells as Lord President of the Council. That year he was granted two further peerages, as Earl of Brecknock (after his mother's ancestral inheritance) and Marquess Camden. Through his father, in 1780, he had obtained the Tellership of the Exchequer, a lucrative position for life involving no work and worth £2,500 annually. Parliament had capped payment for new sinecures in 1783, but high taxes and expenditure during the Napoleonic War raised the uncapped Exchequer Tellership's payment tenfold and it was not until 1817 that the

Marquess, under public criticism, volunteered to limit himself to the basic sum. Over the sixty years he received more than £1m of public money, much of which he put into buying farms and land around the two properties in Kent.

In later life John Jeffreys held positions as Lord Lieutenant of Kent and Chancellor of Cambridge University. He died at Wildernesse on 8 October 1840 and was buried like his father, in nearby Seal Church. He was succeeded by his son George Charles Pratt, the 2nd Marquess, who married Harriet Murray, daughter of the Bishop of Rochester (and coincidentally a younger sister of the Rector of Chislehurst.)

4 – BRITISH and IRISH CAMDENS

Also British Overseas Territories

ENGLAND

4.1 – Early London street and pub names

Two courtyards called Camden Court existed by 1747, one in Clerkenwell and another off Grub Street, Cripplegate, both clearly named before Charles Pratt was ennobled and so not deriving their names from him.

Streets named from later in the decade clearly were. On Bethnal Green Road in east London, the Camden Head (originally Lord Camden) public house was established around **1766**, adjacent to a range of houses called Camden Row. The pub is still in business, although known since 2006 as the Misty Moon.

In Islington (north London), Camden Street was built off the High Street (now Upper Street) between 1760 and 1768. Another Camden Head pub, on the corner of what is now Camden Walk, is still in business today. An adjacent passageway, built behind the High Street from **1767**, was very soon named Camden Passage. Having become a squalid alleyway, it was revitalised in the 1960s as an antiques market, which today is filled with antique, vintage and contemporary shops and stalls, eateries and bars.

In south London, a Camden Street in Walworth, now called Morecambe Street, existed by 1810, with a Lord Camden pub from at least 1825 that survived into the 1970s. In nearby Camberwell, by 1796, there was another Camden Row **[4.5]**.

4.2 Camden, Bath, UK

Neighbourhood in Walcot Ward, Bath & North East Somerset.

Contribution from History of Bath Research Group - <https://historyofbath.org/> and Camden Residents' Association – <https://camdenresidentsbath.org>

By Nigel Pollard

Until the latter part of the 18th century the area of Bath, now known as Camden, remained largely open countryside with various orchards and market gardens now supplying the growing city. However, it was no less a man than John Wood, the architect of the Circus and the Royal Crescent, who fixed “preliminary articles” with Robert Gay the local landowner

in 1725, to develop further his ideas for the north of the city. Nevertheless, it took over fifty years until his fellow architect John Eveleigh built Camden Crescent (1787-1794) at what is now the western end of Camden Road. It was named after Charles Pratt, the first Earl Camden, who had become the ‘Recorder of Bath’ in 1759.



Camden Crescent, built 1787-88



Camden Place, Bath, John Britton (1829), Private Collection

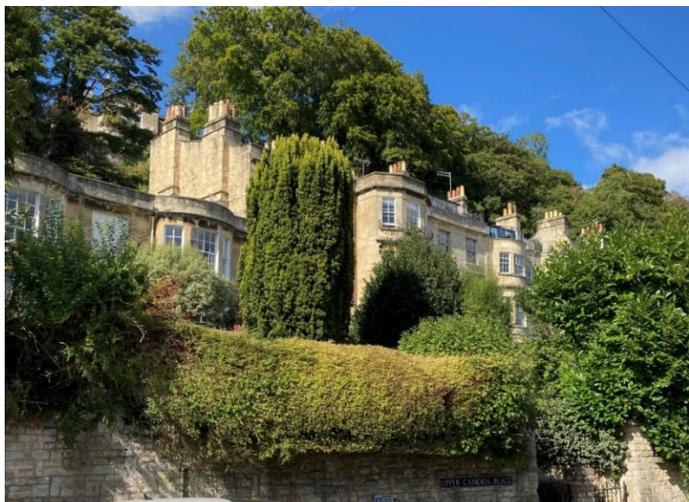
The original ‘Upper Camden Place’, i.e. Camden Crescent, was initially planned to be much grander than it ended up and was to have included a sloping garden running down to a terrace called ‘Lower Camden Place’. It was planned as a crescent of 22 houses with terraces of five houses at either end. The reasons why this grand development of the Upper and Lower Camden Places did not happen was due to the ground conditions at the eastern end which led to a series of landslips during construction which was immediately halted, and to this day remains quite noticeably truncated with only 18 houses together with the south west wing. What was

intended as the centre is pedimented and bears the arms of Charles Pratt, first Earl Camden, while the keystones of each house bear his crest, an elephant’s head [10].

The original ‘Upper Camden Place’ was then called simply ‘Camden Place’ and later renamed ‘Camden Crescent’ and the names Upper and Lower Camden Place transferred to terraces built further east, along the Camden Road.

In its time as 'Camden Place' it gained, in 1817, literary fame as the home of Sir Walter Elliot in Jane Austen's last novel *Persuasion*:

'Sir Walter had taken a very good house in Camden Place, a lofty, dignified situation, such as becomes a man of consequence; and both he and Elizabeth were settled there, much to their satisfaction. Anne entered it with a sinking heart, anticipating an imprisonment of many months...'



Travelling east down the Camden Road on the north side, set back from the road, is the new **Upper Camden Place**, an assortment of large late 18th and early 19th century houses, some by the architect John Eveleigh for the local attorney John Jelly.

On the southern side are the mid-Victorian terraces of City View and Berkeley Place. These are followed by the re-sited **Lower Camden Place**, a picturesque terrace of early 19th century houses, possibly by John Pinch the Elder.

These, similar to Berkeley Place, have banded ground floor rustication as seen in the adjacent photo.

Further on and set back high above the road on the north side is **Camden Terrace**, a row of six elegant early 19th century houses again, possibly by Pinch the Elder. They are of single window width with thin reeded porches. The two in the centre project slightly and have ground floor banded rustication and a further pediment with the arms of the first Earl Camden.



Further along still on the north side is Prospect Place, a long terrace of pretty cottages, mostly built in 1810 by Abraham Chubb. Prospect Place seems to have been built on what had been a botanic garden set up in 1793 by the previously mentioned attorney and amateur botanist John Jelly. Some distance further on still is Claremont Place, four pairs of elegant regency villas, built in 1817, probably by Pinch the Elder. Opposite is Frankley Buildings, the steep row of Georgian houses at right angles to Camden Road.

On the south side of the road are the late Victorian houses of Belgrave Place and Belgrave Terrace and Belgrave Crescent, and back on the north side, Stanley Villas and Coburg Villas.

The **Camden Road** ends with the few shops of Claremont Buildings, once a vibrant community centre, but still providing a hairdresser, a couple of estate agents and a pub. It was here that the **Camden**

Residents' Association held a Street party on the occasion of our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

Returning to the western end of Camden Road, the piece of land in front of the Crescent directly above Hedgemoor Park, has been recently cleared and renamed '**Camden Meadow**' an initiative by a sub-group of the **Camden Residents' Association**. Together with the help of the occasional visits by both pigs and goats to help keep the vegetation under control, this year (2022) has also seen the result of some busy bees whose hives have also been erected on the site.



As a postscript to this story should be added 'Camden Mill', down on the Bath riverside and part of the new 'Bath Quays South' redevelopment.

A former steam-powered flour mill built in 1879-80, by Henry Williams, it was extended by F.W. Gardiner in 1892. It is a large rectangular block with similar frontages to river and road, intended for shipment of grain in and onward distribution of flour.

The building is constructed from coursed squared limestone, tightly jointed, under a Welsh slate roof with overhanging timber hoists. The interior structure has timber beams supported on cast iron columns with some brick fireproofing. It was originally converted to office use in 1974-5 and later in 2021 renovated by the TCN Group into a state-of-the-art commercial development within the new Bath Quays Development.

It has been listed by *Historic England* as Grade II as a good example of an increasingly rare survival, a large-scale Victorian flour mill designed by a recognised regional architect together being one of the few remaining buildings which demonstrate the importance that river traffic had for Bath, beginning with the opening of the Avon Improvement in 1727. It is a valuable reminder of Bath's former importance as the centre of an agricultural area, although any links to Earl Camden remain unknown.

4.3 – Camden Town, NORTH LONDON

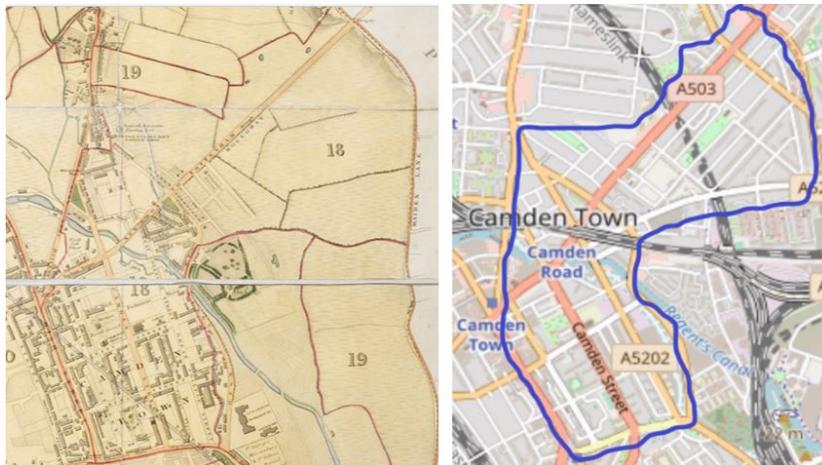
Population 28,200 (Camden Town with Primrose Hill and Cantelowes wards)

Contribution from Camden History Society — <http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org/>

The land that became known as Camden Town formed part of the large parish of St Pancras, Middlesex, whose ancient church, of 6th-century origin, was nearby. Before the late 18th century, the area was open country, with a few scattered dwellings and a tavern wayside taverns. Farms in the area supplied milk for the metropolis and hay for its horses. Begun in the 1780s, the earliest development was along the west side of the road to Highgate, later to become Camden High Street, on land owned by Charles FitzRoy, Lord Southampton.

East of the road to Highgate lay the lands of Cantlowes manor. In 1681, the 210 acres of Cantlowes demesne were acquired by John Jeffreys, a City of London tobacco merchant and Transatlantic slave-trade financier originally from Brecon in Wales. The land was leased from the canons of St Paul's and passed to Lord Camden through his wife Elizabeth Jeffreys. He came into full possession of the property in 1785. For the full story see <http://www.camdentownhistory.info/wp-content/uploads/JeffreysInheritance.pdf>

Three years later, intent on developing a 'new town' on the land, he obtained a Private Act of Parliament enabling him to do so. An ambitious plan for the whole estate, by the architect George Dance the Younger, was abandoned and a simple grid of five roads was set out, initially east of the High Street. Building leases were granted to builders from **1790**. <http://www.camdentownhistory.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Building-1Opening.pdf>



Camden Town, lower left, on a map of 1835, and the boundary of Lord Camden's estate superimposed on a modern map (courtesy Mark McCarthy)

At first the development was indeed a self-contained new town, separated from London by acres of open land. The name 'Camden Town' quickly came into general usage to describe development on both Earl Camden's estate and on land west of the High Street owned by Lord Southampton. The neo-classical Camden Chapel (now All Saints' Cathedral) was erected in 1822-24 to serve its respectable inhabitants.



Camden Lock (photo natasssa)

The Regent's Canal was constructed through the area from 1814, between Paddington canal basin and the docks at Limehouse, and opened to traffic in 1820; wharves and warehouses quickly sprang up along it. The canal was never as profitable as expected and was soon eclipsed by competition from the railways. The London & Birmingham Railway was opened to Euston in 1837 across Lord Southampton's property. Charles Dickens, a childhood inhabitant of Camden Town, wrote graphically in *Dombey and Son* of the upheaval caused by the construction of railways, likening it to an earthquake.

Vast tracts of land were needed for the Birmingham railway's freight depot, which although on Southampton land was named Camden (Goods) Station. There would be further disruption when the suburban North London Railway, opened in 1850, sliced through the area on a viaduct.

Early Camden Town housed a mix of professional and working-class families. The neo-classical Church of England Camden Chapel (now All Saints' Greek Orthodox Cathedral) was erected in 1822-24 to serve its inhabitants.

Eastward, a new turnpike road, from 'Marylebone to Holloway' was authorised by Parliament in 1824 and later named Camden Road. On either side of this new road George Pratt, 3rd Lord Camden, continued the development of a spacious new suburb known as 'Camden New Town'. Laid out with villa houses and containing two squares, it was finished by 1871, so completing the residential development of the area.

Canal and rail links encouraged the development of industry in Camden Town, which became famous for the manufacture of pianos, then an important part of everyday life. Collard & Collard and Herrburger & Brooks mass-produced complete instruments, while at the other end of the scale there were small assembly shops, and makers of small parts. The renowned organ builder Henry Willis had circular factory in the area. Other concerns, and (besides the railways) major employers of labour, included Gilbey's, wine importer and spirit distiller, the Aerated Bread Company, Charles Goodall & Son, once the world's largest makers of playing cards, Hilgers, making optical instruments, the printers and publishers Dalziel Brothers, and Idris, mineral water manufacturers.

Throughout its existence Camden Town has attracted many artists and engravers, often congregated in communal studios, and some working in stained glass. In 1911, the Camden Town Group of artists, of which Walter Sickert was a member, took its name from the district.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the area was prosperous and busy. There were professional people in the larger Georgian houses, lower-middle-class tenants in the terrace house, and shopkeepers in the main streets, while churches and chapels were established, in new or adapted buildings, by the Church of England and by nonconformists.

Camden Town was by then fully a part of inner London, connected to the centre by numerous transport links. Tracks had been laid along the main roads, initially to carry horse trams: the first route opening in 1871. Electric trams were introduced in 1909, two years after the arrival of the Underground (subway) in the shape of the Hampstead Tube; now part of the Northern Line. The 1930s saw the introduction of trolleybuses, whose network of overhead wires was removed in the early 1960s.



Underground station signage

After World War I some large businesses closed. New smaller businesses included electrical instrument manufacture, and car bodywork; one business tried to sell aeroplanes! Carreras' Black Cat cigarette factory was a new major source of employment. The piano industry declined because of foreign competition and with the advent of the gramophone and wireless for home entertainment. Although housing deteriorated, with inadequate cooking and washing facilities, many houses were rented by private landlords to middle-class tenants.

Shortly after WWI, the Pratts sold off their land in two big public sales, creating many individual rentier landlords, while the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (as successors as to St Paul's) kept their terraces.



© Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre. A 193

View of Britannia Junction, at the heart of Camden Town - named, not for William Camden's work, but after a former patriotically named public house and hotel out of sight to the left.

Camden Town was not much damaged by bombing during World War II. In the 1950s, the then St Pancras Borough Council bought the failing Church of England-owned terraces, and choosing not to refurbish them, replaced them in the 1960s with blocks of flats surrounded by communal grass and play areas. Communities arriving from abroad, including Greek Cypriot and Portuguese, lived in private-rented housing, opened restaurants and engaged in trades such as dressmaking. Industry declined in the area, but mews properties became attractive for architects and craftsmen. A change in the law for leaseholders allowed privately-owned house to be sold and improved. Conservation Areas helped preserve the character of Camden Town's surviving Georgian streets. On the western side of the High Street, the 19th-century terraces were retained in private ownership and became homes for professional and literary people.

Television and film companies were attracted to the area around the Regent's Canal, while around the North London Railway line, the old streets have been demolished for blocks of private housing, and shopping/restaurant malls beside the canal at Hawley Wharf. Nearby, in the 1970s, small workshops for arts and crafts opened in the disused railway properties beside the canal, and at night-time there were small music and comedy clubs. A larger second-hand market developed on the former railway sidings and horse stables. Shops lining the road from the Underground station to the market became psychedelically decorated and given over to selling leather jackets, boots, jewellery and posters.



One of many brightly painted façades in Camden High Street, this one featuring an elephant's head [10]

'Camden Market' today is a lucrative complex of markets with over 1,000 stalls and shops, where traders from all over the world sell goods from all over the world to tourists from around the globe.

At the foot of the High Street is a statue, unveiled in 1868, to the radical MP Richard Cobden/ The plinth relates that it was part-funded by the Emperor Napoleon III, who lived and died Camden Place, Chislehurst [2.1], in gratitude for his having negotiated a trade treaty between Britain and France.

Street and pub names in Camden Town, London

More than thirty present-day Camden Town streets bear names or titles related to Lord Camden's ownership. Of family members or their in-laws: **Camden** Street, Road, Square, Terrace, Mews, High Street, Park Road and Gardens; **Pratt** Street and Mews; **Bayham** Street and Place; **Brecknock** Road and **Brecon** Mews; **Jeffreys** Street and Mews; **Murray** Street and Mews (after Harriet Murray, wife of the 2nd Marquess); **Rochester** Road, Mews, Terrace, Place and Square (after her father, the Bishop of Rochester); **Georgiana** and **Carol** (once Caroline) for daughters of the 1st Marquess; and **Marquis** Road (historic spelling of the title); **Greenland** Road, Street and Place recall the 1st Earl's agent, **Canteloves** Road the old manor, and **Randolph** Street, **St Augustine's** Road and **St Paul's** Crescent the Cathedral lease. Once, Molesworth Terrace and Place in north Camden Town were named after the wife of the 2nd Earl.

A public house called the Marquis of Camden no longer exists, and the Camden Arms has been renamed; but a Camden Head pub, claiming to date from as early as 1787, still trades in the High Street with its original name (having been known as 'Liberties' for some time).

Camden Town, the musical heart of London

Camden Town is internationally associated with live music and has nurtured an un-paralleled concentration of era-defining bands that includes The Clash, The Damned, Blur, Oasis, Coldplay, Amy Winehouse, Madness, Motörhead and the Pogues - many of whom lived in Camden. Camden's music scene grew from the many packed late-night folk music sessions that entertained Irish labourers in the mid 20th Century.

Ground-breaking events in the 1960s at the Roundhouse, (a circular building originally for rotating steam engines), made Camden a focus for cutting-edge culture by hosting challenging film, philosophy and theatre along with legendary music acts such as Hendrix and Pink Floyd. Cheap residential and business rents in the 1970s brought creative people, music businesses, artists and artisans to Camden and saw the launch of pioneering record labels and iconic music venues.



Camden Town's creative culture has combined with the proximity of record companies and accommodating venues and pubs to continue to create new artists and catalyse new music scenes for more than six decades. It is most famously responsible for the birth of UK Punk, and 90s Britpop, but also movements like Two-Tone and New Romantic. Camden was the chosen location for special moments in music history, such as an early debut from Madonna and secret gigs from Prince. In 1993 Bob Dylan went walkabout in Camden Town

when making the promotional **video** for the track *Blood in My Eyes*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz542iQchN4>. The music industry continues to thrive and Camden's many live venues fill with people from all over London and the world.

4.4 – London Borough of Camden

In north London; population 210,100

Contribution from Camden History Society — <http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org/>



A heterogeneous borough, socially and ethnically diverse, Camden stretches some four miles north to south, from the leafy heights of Hampstead and Highgate, through largely residential areas with a mix of private and social housing, and into central London. Not to be confused with Camden Town, the London Borough of Camden is a modern creation. In local government reorganisation in **1964-65**, the three Metropolitan Boroughs of Hampstead, Holborn and St Pancras (dating from 1900) were combined. The new, larger borough needed a name. Soon rejected was a suggestion it be named Borough of Fleet, after 'lost' rivers that flows culverted beneath it, and is essentially a sewer. Various

portmanteau names were suggested, combining syllables from the names of the former authorities, such as Holstead, Panborn and Hamcras, and, clumsier still. Penhamborn and Bornhamcras.

Eventually 'Camden' was chosen, reflecting the central position of Camden Town within the new borough. The idea had reportedly occurred to the Town Clerk and Leader of the Council while riding together in a taxi through Camden Town. The logo designed for the new Council, and still in use today, comprises four pairs of hands clasped in friendship and co-operation.



The area that is now Camden has a long history. Holborn, the City of London's first suburb, developed in medieval times beside the old Roman road to the west. The Knights Templar had a temple there, and provincial bishops their London 'palaces'. By the 15th century, two Inns of Court, Gray's Inn and Lincoln's Inn, had been established to accommodate a fledgling legal profession (both Inns still centres of legal education). In the 17th century development began in St Giles-in-the-Fields, earlier the site of a 12th-century leper hospital and later to become, in part, a notorious 'rookery'. The 1660s saw the creation of London's first true Square and the beginnings of Bloomsbury, where house building, on land mostly owned by the Duke of Bedford, was completed only around 1840. Institutions founded in the Georgian period include the Foundling Hospital (an orphanage, 1739), British Museum (1753), Royal Free Hospital (1828) and 'University of London' (1826, now UCL).

Constructed as a bypass in the 1750s was the New Road (now Euston Road), under which now runs the world's first underground railway, the Metropolitan line opened in 1863. North of the road a new suburb, Somers Town, was begun in the 1790s. The district now known as Fitzrovia, fully developed by 1800, was built partly on land owned by the FitzRoy family.

The built-up area expanded ever northwards, and in the course of the 19th century joined with Camden Town [4.3], the historic village of Kentish Town, and the hilltop villages of Highgate and Hampstead whose suburban villas were populated by the better-off.

The inner districts to the south, typically with terrace housing and a more working-class populace, were a hive of industry in the Victorian era. Industries of many kinds developed over time, whether in small workshops or purpose-built factories, and engaged in everything from brewing, gin distilling and coachbuilding, to the manufacture of instruments both scientific and musical, jewellery, furniture and false teeth, and all manner of other specialist trades. Some surviving into the 20th century. In the commercial area of Holborn, grand headquarters buildings were erected for major insurance companies.

Three major rail termini, Euston (1837), King's Cross (1852) and St Pancras (1868), were built along the Euston Road, behind which the railways took vast swathes of land for their goods and coal depots and sidings. Local transport was provided by horse-buses and later horse-trams. Many new churches and chapels were built, and new parishes established. Small private schools, often run in the homes of their proprietors, educated the children of affluent parents; others were taught in National (Anglican) or British (Nonconformist) schools. After the 1870 Education Act, these were complemented by the new elementary schools built by the London School Board.



St Pancras International Station and Renaissance Hotel, saved from demolition in the 1960s and spectacularly restored and repurposed in the 2000s as the terminus for Eurostar trains (photo: Colin, 2012)

Bomb damage during World War II was most severe in Holborn, which suffered the highest *per capita* casualty rate in London. Post-war Council-built social housing estates helped compensate for the lost homes.

Over more than two centuries, non-English incomers have settled locally: French émigrés fleeing the Revolution, and later Spanish refugees, found a haven in early Somers Town; Irish navvies came to build the canal and railways; from the 1840s poor Italian migrants found a home in Holborn's 'Little Italy'; and in the interwar period refugees from Europe (many of them Jewish) settled in Hampstead and West Hampstead. The post-war era has seen the arrival of many people from the Indian subcontinent and various parts of Africa. In 2011, 61.9% of Camden primary school pupils

had a first language other than English. Today, Hampstead and Primrose Hill are highly sought-after areas with some high-profile celebrity residents.

In recent decades disused railway lands north of King's Cross have been comprehensively redeveloped, retaining some of the old railway buildings, with housing, shops, and offices including a new UK headquarters for Google. Bloomsbury, with its famous Squares, contains a host of hotels for tourists, and is otherwise dominated by educational and medical institutions – the still thriving British Museum,

University College, Senate House and other parts of the University of London, along with their student halls – all part of a wider area dubbed the ‘Knowledge Quarter’. Its several hospitals include University College Hospital and the world-renowned Great Ormond Street Hospital (for Children). In nearby Fitzrovia, once noted for its Bohemian lifestyle, the most prominent landmark is the 1964 BT (Telecom) Tower, 620 ft (189 m) tall and topped by a currently non-functioning revolving restaurant. Many films and TV dramas are filmed in the borough.

Hampstead Heath, at 790 acres, is Camden’s largest green space, saved from house building and preserved for public use by an 1871 Act of Parliament. Regent’s Park and Primrose Hill also lie partly within the borough.

The notable people who have lived in the present borough over time are far too many to enumerate here. Celebrated residents have included four prime ministers; naturalist Charles Darwin and psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud; railway engineer Robert Stephenson; Edward Jenner, promoter of vaccination; William Friese-Greene, cinematography pioneer; feminists Mary

Wollstonecraft and Emmeline Pankhurst; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, pioneer of women’s medicine; Italian patriot Giuseppe Mazzini; anti-slavery campaigner Olaudah Equiano; Marx and Engels; artists from Constable to Whistler and Sickert; architects George Gilbert Scott, Richard Norman Shaw; Edwin Lutyens and Ernö Goldfinger; poets from Milton, Shelley, Keats, Coleridge and Wordsworth, to Yeats and Auden, Dylan Thomas, John Betjeman and Ted Hughes; novelists from Fanny Burney and Mary Shelley via Dickens and H.G. Wells to D.H. Lawrence, Graham Greene, George Orwell and Agatha Christie; Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Set; playwright George Bernard Shaw; actors Sarah Siddons, Charles Kean and Ellen Terry; composers Joseph Haydn and Edward Elgar; and popular musicians Elton John; the Sex Pistols and Amy Winehouse. Among American residents have been Benjamin Franklin, Edgar Allan Poe, Paul Robeson and Sylvia Plath. Highgate Cemetery contains the graves of such celebrities as Karl Marx and George Eliot.

Founded in 1970, Camden History Society has – perhaps uniquely – researched the history of all 1,300 streets in its borough, publishing the results in a series of 15 books –

<http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org/publications> – drawing on the excellent resources of the Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre – <https://www.camden.gov.uk/about-the-local-studies-archives-centre>.



*View across London from Parliament Hill, Hampstead Heath
(photo: Darsheni, 2017)*

4.5 – Parish of Camden, Camberwell, SOUTH LONDON



In 1796, a group of Camberwell worshippers broke away from the parish church of St Giles, disliking the doctrine of the new vicar. At their own expense they built a new place of worship in Peckham Road, on land called Camden Row Field, and named it Camden Chapel. When the Bishop refused to license it, they registered it as a Dissenting chapel and it opened in 1797 as part of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion. In 1829 it was belatedly licensed as an Episcopal (Anglican) chapel.

As a District Church from **1844**, it attracted some eminent preachers to its pulpit. A new apse, added to the church by Sir George Gilbert Scott. The full name of its territory, the Parish of Camden Church, was routinely shortened to 'Parish of Camden'. Badly damaged by bombing during World War II but continuing to function, the church was demolished in 1956. Nearby roads named Camden Avenue, Grove and Street, gave way to the social housing of Southwark Council's Camden Estate, completed in 1976. The short-lived estate was swept away, along with four others, as part of a huge regeneration scheme initiated by the Council in the mid-1990s, so that the Camden name has now vanished from Camberwell.

IRELAND

4.6 – Camden Fort Meagher, County Cork, IRELAND

British coastal defence fortification near Crosshaven; now in the Republic of Ireland

Though its current structures date only from the 1860s, the fort was originally built in the 16th century to defend the mouth of Cork Harbour. By 1779, when they were remodelled, the defences were known as the **Ram's Head Battery**. In **1795** they were renamed Fort Camden in honour of **John Jeffreys Pratt, 2nd Earl Camden**, the newly appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1880s and '90s, the guns were upgraded and a launching position was added for the Brennan Torpedo, 'the world's first *practical* guided weapon'.

Handed over to the Irish Defence Forces in 1938, the site was renamed named **Fort Meagher** in honour of Thomas Francis Meagher, a 19th-century Irish nationalist. In 1989 the Irish Army handed the fort over to Cork County Council. It remained largely overgrown until 2010 when a group of local volunteers began restoration and development of the site for heritage and tourism purposes. Again renamed, as Camden Fort Meagher, it is now open seasonally to visitors.



4.7 - *Sráid* Camden, Dublin

The well-known **Camden Street** (or *Sráid Camden*) in the Irish capital **Dublin**, formerly called St Kevin's Port, was so renamed by 1778, long before the 2nd Earl Camden's ennoblement, and so probably took its name from his father.

British Overseas Territory

4.8 – Camden, Paget, BERMUDA

Locality in Paget Parish, Main Island



'Camden' (photo: Malcom Manners, flickr, 2016)

Standing in the grounds of Bermuda Botanical Gardens, the house named Camden (for reasons unknown) is believed to date back to about 1714. It was then bought by Francis Jones, a colonel's son, who lived there until his death in 1796 from yellow fever. The house and 50 acres were sold in 1811 to merchant William Durham, who made major alterations, and Camden as it now stands dates to his ownership. In 1822 the financial collapse of his business forced Durham to sell 'Camden Park' with its 34½ acres. The property was bought

by James Henry Tucker, a Hamilton merchant and the city's mayor for 21 years. Also an agriculturalist, he excelled in the production of arrowroot, which became a lucrative export business. Behind the house he built an arrowroot factory (today an art gallery). Camden remained in the Tucker family for almost 150 years. Since 1979 it has been the official residence of Bermuda's prime minister, though no Premier has ever lived there; it is used instead for occasional Government functions.

5 – NORTH AMERICAN CAMDENS

Lord Camden and America

“No taxation without representation.”

As a member of the House of Lords, Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden, was an outspoken supporter of the American colonists. Deep in debt in the 1760s, Britain imposed a series of taxes on the colonists. Designed to fund the colonial administration in America and to pay for the large number of British troops stationed there, in America, the Stamp Act of 1765 imposed a tax on all legal and official papers, and publications and playing cards in the colonies; it was so unpopular among the colonists that it was quickly repealed. In his maiden Lords speech in 1766, Camden argued that taxation was founded on consent: there should be no taxation without representation. He was one of only five Peers to vote against the Declaratory Act, a resolution confirming Britain’s absolute right to impose taxes on the colonies. Also opposed by Lord Camden was another raft of taxes, on such imported essentials as paint, paper, glass, lead and tea, which had caused further resentment in America and led to violence.

In the 1770s, with the Whigs in opposition to Lord North’s Tory government, unrest increased. In the Boston Tea Party in 1773, the ‘Sons of Liberty’, some disguised as Native Americans, boarded East India Company ships and tipped a whole consignment of imported tea into the harbour. In retribution, Parliament passed a number of Coercive Acts, which *inter alia* closed Boston harbour until the lost tea was paid for, forced colonists to quarter British troops on demand, and ended the free election of town officials. Lord Camden, who naturally opposed the measures, as ever condemning the taxes that had caused the unrest, was embarrassingly reminded that he had been Lord Chancellor when they were imposed. Though the punitive Coercive Acts were meant to quell rebellion, they had the opposite effect, and 1775 saw the outbreak of the American War of Independence, to the dismay of Lord Camden who favoured conciliation and negotiation. In his Lords speech on the crisis, thought to have been written in collaboration with Benjamin Franklin, he had said:

“My lords, it is evident that England must one day lose the dominion of America. It is impossible that this petty island can continue in dependence on that mighty continent ... To protract the time of separation to a distant day is all that can be hoped.”

While strongly opposing the use of force to subdue the colonists, Camden did not favour independence and was unhappy when it occurred. Though he never visited America, his reputation there as a champion of colonists’ rights led to many places, scattered across the country, being named or renamed Camden, directly or indirectly in his honour. We are about to begin a tour of them.

US places are arranged alphabetically by State. Population figures are the latest available. Place name derivations and dates of naming are highlighted in red, and settlements’ previous names in green. Information about places without a contributing historical society has been drawn, sometimes verbatim, from various online sources, principally Wikipedia. Notification of any resulting errors will be gratefully received by the compiler — <http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org/contact-our-publications-editor>

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

5.1 – Camden, ALABAMA

City in and county seat of Wilcox County; population 1,900 (est.) elevation 63 m/206 ft

Contribution from Wilcox Historical Society — <https://wilcoxhistoricalsociety.org/>

By Daniel Fate Brooks

Thumbing the pages of Alabama history, one soon learns that the Wilcox County seat of Camden is greatly enriched by the Alabama River and other natural resources. The town, located in a bend of the river, lies on the edge of a distinct prehistoric and geological sub-region which gives rise to the twelve-county fertile crescent known as the Alabama Black Belt. From the many examples of antebellum architecture in the area, this land of rich soil brings to mind mid-nineteenth-century wealth and greatness, and also a culture and civilization that continue to shape state and national politics, history, art, tradition and lore.



Wilcox County Courthouse

Wilcox County, founded in 1819, and one day older than the state of Alabama, is the southernmost county within the Black Belt region. From its first year of existence the county attracted aristocratic settlers from Virginia, the Carolinas and beyond. These immigrants brought with them enslaved labor but created a sense of culture and high-level gentility which rapidly transformed a frontier wilderness into settlements reminiscent of their previous home states.



Dale Lodge

Along the banks of the Alabama River, ports and towns sprung up under the names of Black's Bluff, Lower Peach Tree, Prairie Bluff and Canton. Inhabitants revealed in their connection to Mobile, but from the onset, suffered from the perils of disease plaguing their communities. In 1830 Wilcox Countians, including the populace of Canton, the first county seat, joined the citizens from eastern villages in their cravings for a center of government that was not only more healthy but also more centrally located.

By the fall of 1832 Thomas Dunn and his wife, Martha Hobbs, had donated twelve acres of wooded land in the center of the county for a new seat of government. The spot, four miles from the river, was rich with springs, providing an ideal

location for its designated purpose. In swift succession the community, first called **Wilcox Courthouse**, grew and was soon established and renamed **Barboursville**. Influential Virginia immigrants selected the name to honor Philip Pendleton Barbour, Virginia native and tenth Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The little town quickly swelled, attracting more settlers from the south Atlantic seaboard. In time an unusually large influx of small farmers and a powerful and wealthy planter elite from South Carolina filtered in to create a small version of the Palmetto State. This mix of inhabitants, combined with slave labor, produced a prosperous though highly imperfect plantation society.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Among these newcomers was Dr. John Daniel Caldwell, a cousin of John Caldwell Calhoun, the forceful South Carolina Senator and U.S. Vice President. In **1841**, Dr. Caldwell, a physician and politician, proposed incorporation and the idea of renaming the town for **Camden, South Carolina [5.27]**. Caldwell's suggestions were overwhelmingly approved by the citizens who admired his brilliant and passionate cousin.

Camden, Alabama adopted a South Carolina form of government, with the chief magistrate of the town serving as Intendant instead of mayor. The title of Intendant, derived from the French, was used by the city of Charleston and other South Carolina towns where the office was assisted by wardens.

A wide thoroughfare in Camden was named for Calhoun. Picket fences flowed in front of vernacular and classical styled homes spaced at intervals and surrounded by trees. Camdenians were proud to live in the new county seat, but they were equally proud of binding ties to the state of South Carolina.

Besides the immigrants from the south Atlantic seaboard, others came as well: English, Scotch, Irish, German, French and a young saddler who migrated from the Italian Alps. Jewish merchants owned businesses alongside their Christian counterparts, and all contributed to the polyglot blend of cultures, giving Camden a remarkable and cosmopolitan identity.

From the 1830s to the outbreak of the Civil War, hundreds of enslaved Africans were delivered by traders from the markets in Montgomery. In 1860 the Black population of Wilcox County numbered almost 18,000 to a White populace of less than 7,000. The census that year listed over 800 individuals as "mullatto" and recorded 26 as "free colored."



The Wilcox Female Institute

As wealth increased, the town's economic success resulted in a zeal for academic and religious pursuits. Classical education molded the minds of many Camden children, yet few schools had the influence of the Wilcox Female Institute. The school's catalog boasted not only the advantages of Camden's location, but it also touted an extensive curriculum in both the arts and more practical education. For many patrons, the beloved Institute was forever an academy of the "first rank."

The brick Greek Revival building housing the Institute remains one of the town's most significant landmarks, along with two church buildings, the monumental Greek Revival Courthouse and Dale Lodge, home to one of Alabama's oldest Masonic orders. These structures have witnessed not only the days of cotton but also Civil War, slave emancipation, radical Reconstruction and other difficult times and events.

It goes without saying that Camden is a historic town. Yet underlying the enduring nature and success of the community have been an unfaltering pride, self-respect and an evolving belief that despite differences, its history, both positive and negative, is as defining as the rich soil, the wealth of natural resources and a close proximity to the river.

In an era in which large cities and more complex metropolitan areas dominate, it speaks well that Camden, Alabama, a town with a population with fewer than 2,000 in 2022, can take pride in claiming a history of notable sons and daughters, both African American and White. The list is long, but it is important to recognize Hank Aaron, the great American baseball player; Kay Ivey, current Governor of Alabama; Emmett Kilpatrick, an interpreter at the Versailles Peace Conference and a prisoner of the Bolsheviks; and Jeff Sessions, the 84th U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Senator.

Today people from all walks of life are drawn to the microcosm of Camden and Wilcox County, Alabama. Many come to hunt, fish and enjoy the river. Others tour and view the historic architecture and marvel at a recent resurgence of business and renovation. Most visitors quickly develop a genuine respect for this small and intriguing Black Belt town.

5.2 – Port Camden, ALASKA

In south-eastern Alaska, 35 miles west of Petersburg

Port Camden is a body of water 16 miles long on the east coast of Kuiu Island. It was named on 4 August **1794**, 'probably' in honor of Charles Pratt, Earl Camden', by Captain George Vancouver, RN. It happened towards the end of a five-year expedition during which he had both circumnavigated the globe and charted North America's north-western Pacific Coast as far north as Alaska.

5.3 – Camden Bay, ALASKA

**In northern Alaska on the Beaufort Sea coast between Barter Island and Point Brownlow;
50 miles wide**

The bay was named on 4 August **1826**, by Captain John Franklin, who had travelled to the region overland from Canada. He wrote: 'we embarked ... to cross the bay, which has been named in honour of the Marquess Camden'.

Knighted in 1829, Franklin was to serve for six years from 1837 as Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). He is, however, now chiefly remembered for his ill-fated final naval expedition to the Arctic in 1845, to complete the charting of the Northwest Passage. His two ships became icebound in

what is now Nunavut, and over ten months he and his entire crew perished, whether from starvation, hypothermia, scurvy, or botulism caused by badly canned food. Eventually, more men and ships were lost in searching for Franklin than in the expedition itself.

Though he had no personal connection with Camden (London), his wife Lady Jane Franklin was born within the modern borough in Bloomsbury. A cul-de-sac in Kentish Town was named Franklin Street in his honour, but later renamed Arctic Street. Back in 1801, as a young midshipman, John Franklin had sailed to Australia under his cousin (by marriage) Matthew Flinders – coincidentally the mentor of Phillip Parker King, the namer of Camden Bay in Western Australia [7.3]; and in 1804, by another coincidence, he was midshipman aboard a ship named *Earl Camden* [9].

5.4 – Camden, ARKANSAS

City in and county seat of Ouachita County; population 10,369, elevation 62 m / 203 ft



Downtown Camden, AR

The city is situated about 100 miles south of Little Rock, on bluffs overlooking the Ouachita River. In 1782 a Spanish military post was established on the site of an old French trading post called *Écore à Fabri*, or Fabri's Bluff. By the time Arkansas attained statehood in 1836, indigenous peoples such as the Quapaw and the Caddo had been driven westwards into the future state of Oklahoma.

When in **1842** Ouachita County was carved out of part of Union County, *Écore à Fabri* was chosen as the county seat, and its name was changed to Camden at the suggestion of Thomas Woodward,

one of the commissioners. Soon to be the second largest city in Arkansas and known as the 'Queen City' of the Ouachita, Camden became a bustling river port served by frequent scheduled steamboats carrying passengers and freight.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the 'Camden Expedition' was the last phase of the US Army's Red River Campaign. Camden was occupied by Union troops but then retaken by the Confederates. Having also become a railroad town, served by three lines, the town remained an important cotton shipping depot through the early decades of the 20th century. During the South Arkansas oil boom of the 1920s, its economy thrived, and in 1927 the International Paper Company built a processing mill at Camden.

During World War II, Camden was home to a training field for US Army Air Forces pilots, which in 1944 became a naval ammunition depot. The site later became an industrial area housing some major defense establishments and creating many jobs. The 1990s, post-Cold War downsizing of the defense industry, and the closure of the paper mill a few years later, resulted in job losses and population decline; but the development of diverse small business and professional activity have since stabilized the town's economy.

L C ('Buckshot') Smith, a Black police officer in Camden, was celebrated in 2022 as America's oldest active-duty officer, at the age of 93. *Source: Wikipedia. The website of Ouachita County Historical Society is at <https://www.ouachitacountyhistoricalsociety.org/index.html>*

5.5.1 – Camden, Fresno County, CALIFORNIA

Unincorporated community in Fresno County; elevation 72 m / 236 ft

Located in central California, 3½ miles east of Riverdale. A post office operated there from 1903 to 1904. Riverdale was originally called Liberty Settlement but was renamed owing to its proximity to the Kings River.

5.5.2 – Camden Park & Camden Passage, Sacramento County, CALIFORNIA

Two modern residential neighbourhoods in Elk Grove, just south of Sacramento, the state capital.

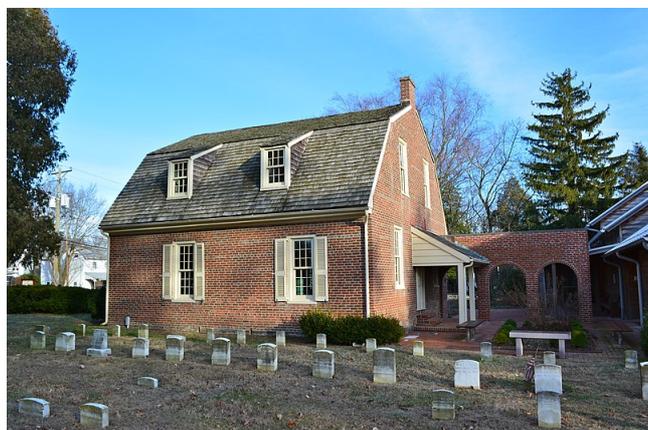
5.6 – Camden, COLORADO

Populated place in Morgan County; elevation 1,277 m / 4,193 ft

Approximately ¾ mile (1¼ km) above sea level, Camden lies on the Grand Army of the Republic Highway (US Route 6).

5.7 – Camden, DELAWARE

Town in Kent County; population 3,529; elevation 12 m / 39 ft



Camden Friends Meeting House of 1805 (photo: smallbones 2014)

The history of the community can be traced to the 1780s, when members of the Quaker Mifflin family began dividing their lands into lots. Much of this land was originally a part of a 600-acre tract that was granted to (Welshman?) Alexander Humphreys in 1680. He named it **Brecknock**, presumably after the Welsh county. (This was a strange coincidence: over 130 years would elapse before John Jeffreys Pratt [3.2] adopted Earl of Brecknock as a subsidiary title.)

A milling operation was established here in the 1740s, located at the intersection of two important thoroughfares, and a number of homes and businesses were soon established. Though Daniel Mifflin named the settlement **Piccadilly**, it was commonly referred to as **Mifflin's Crossroads**. The name 'Camden' first appeared in **1788**, but probably did not replace 'Mifflin's Crossroads' in common usage until the end of the century. The town of Camden was firmly established by the 1790s. It became a commercial centre, sending most of its products to market by way of Port of Lebanon, and later by rail with the coming of the railroad in the 1850s. Camden was first officially incorporated in 1852.

Source: <https://camden.delaware.gov/town-history/>

5.8 – Camden County, GEORGIA

Population 54,7689, area 2,025 / 782 sq mi

Camden County lies in the southeastern corner of the state of Georgia. Woodbine is the count seat and St Marys the largest city. It is one of the original counties of Georgia, created on 5 February **1777** and named after **Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden**.

The first recorded European to visit what is today Camden County was Captain Jean Ribault in 1562, sent out by French Huguenots to find a suitable place for a settlement. The rivers he saw – known today as the St Marys and Satilla Rivers – he named the Seine and the Some. He described the area as the *“fairest, fruitfulest and pleasantest of all the world”*.

In 1565, Spain sent out a large force to take over and settle the area. At least two Spanish missions operated on Cumberland Island (off the Camden County coast). attempting to convert to Catholicism the Timucuan people, who had lived on the island for at least 4000 years. Competing British and Spanish claims to the territory between their respective colonies of South Carolina and Florida was a source of international tension, and the colony of Georgia was founded in 1733, in part to protect the British interests. In 1765, four parishes were laid out between the Altamaha and St Marys Rivers. Two of the parishes, St Marys and St Thomas, were formed into Camden County in the Georgia Constitution of 1777.

The main economic enterprise of the county was rice planting, particularly along the Satilla River. Sea Island cotton was grown on Cumberland Island, and short-staple cotton on the mainland along with sugar cane. Various forest products including timber and turpentine were produced, and a shipyard and shipping center developed around the town of St Marys. The land in Camden County was owned by fewer than 300 people. Most of the White population worked in trades or as tenant farmers, while nearly all Black residents were enslaved. The county was the site of many trading posts with the Native



Camden County Courthouse, Woodbine (photo: Ebyabe, 2011)

Americans, who by the late 18th century were mainly of the Creek Nation. There was significant conflict between settlers and indigenous peoples, leading to a small series of local wars.

In January 1815, British troops led by Sir George Cockburn landed on Cumberland Island. Quickly overwhelming the small American forces, they occupied the county through February. The British occupation of Camden County led to the liberation of an estimated 1,485 enslaved people from Georgia and Florida.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the population was 5,482 of which 1,721 were White. During the war, many of the county's civilians moved farther inland. The inhabitants' fears were realized when the town of St Marys was attacked by the United States Navy. At least one federal party to 'carry off' enslaved people was met by armed resistance on White Oak Creek off the Satilla River.

The first railway in the area was the Savannah-Jacksonville line constructed through Camden County in 189 by the Florida Central & Peninsular Railroad. In 1923 the county seat was moved from St Marys to Woodbine, a reflection of the shift from water transportation to railways. In 1927 US Route 17 was constructed through Woodbine and Kingsland.

From 1917 to 1937 a poggy plant, producing oil and fertilizer from a species of fish, was one of the major economic activities of the area. The layoffs from the plant found relief when the Gilman Paper Company came to the county, opening a paper mill at St Marys in 1941. By the 1970s, it produced 900 tons of paper a day and employed up to half of the city's inhabitants. The company was sold to Durango Paper Co. in 1999, which went out of business in 2002 with the loss of 900 jobs. In 1954 the US Army began to acquire land south of Crooked River to build a military ocean terminal to ship ammunition in case of a national emergency and in 1976 the Kings Bay was selected for a naval submarine base. Camden County's population grew enormously after the military took an interest in the area, and during the 1980s was the fourth fastest growing county in the United States.

Cumberland Island National Seashore was established in 1970 to protect and preserve the natural and historic resources of the island, followed by the Crooked Rover State Park in 1985.

In 2012, the Camden County Joint Development Authority began considering developing a spaceport for both horizontal and vertical spacecraft operations, A decade later the Spaceport Camden project was described as still 'mired in controversy'.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camden_County,_Georgia

5.9 – Camden, ILLINOIS

Village in Schuyler County; population 62; elevation 183 m / 600 ft

Written in 1908:

*"Camden Township, traversed from north to south by **Crooked Creek** and intersected by the minor streams of Cedar, Brushy, and Missouri, has a varied topography that includes low alluvial bottoms, upland plains and heavily timbered sections, but withal it is one of the most prosperous communities in*

the country, and its romantic history dates back to the year 1829, when the first permanent settlement was made within its border.

In the fall of that year John and Robert Brown and their brother-in-law, Luke Allphin, of Morgan County, made their first trip to Schuyler County, crossing the Illinois River at Beard's Ferry, now Beardstown, and pushing on westward past the settlements in Rushville and Buena Vista Township, to what is now Camden Township, where they settled on Sections 17 and 20. Here they made rude improvements in the wilderness, and the following spring the families of the three men were removed from Morgan County, where they had made their home since leaving Kentucky. ...

The village of Camden, which is situated on the southwest quarter of Section 17, was laid out by Robert Brown and Joseph N. Ward, January 28, 1831, and was surveyed and platted by Samuel McHatton, Deputy County Surveyor. The first store was established in the village in 1838 by John and Joseph N. Ward, and the following year Camden was made a government post office, and Alexander McHatton was named as the first government official. David Campbell built a flouring mill in the village in 1856, and it was operated until recent years. Today [1908] Camden is a flourishing inland village, with good schools, churches and mercantile houses, and her citizens are looking forward to the time when they can be put into closer touch with the outside world through the agency of an electric railroad. The population of Camden Township, according to the census of 1900, was 1,278."

Excerpted from 'Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Schuyler County', 1908, edited by Howard F. Dyson; transcribed by Karl A. Petersen for Schuyler County IL GenWeb

<https://schuyler-ilgw.genealogyvillage.com/schuylernewhome/Towns/CamdenIndex.html>

<https://schuyler-ilgw.genealogyvillage.com/schuylernewhome/Towns/Camden1908.html>

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5.10 – Camden, INDIANA

Town in Carroll County; population 589; elevation 205 m / 673 ft

Contribution from Carroll County Historical Society http://www.carrollcountymuseum.org/historical_society.php Excerpt from the booklet 'Town of Camden'



Jackson Township Public Library and Museum

“Located in Jackson Township, which was sold in 1830 for \$1,500. Sixteen acres were reserved for laying out a town plat. Early on, John Snoeberger ran a post office in his home a mile west of what is now the town. He named the post office "Camden." At that time, the postal service was responsible for naming the town.

Camden was originally laid out as a row of buildings on either side of a dirt road. By 1832 it had five buildings. The nickname of "Stringtown" came about in 1837

because it had only one street. Since then, there has been growth and more streets have been created. Camden has remained small and at its peak had just a little over 800 residents. Many of the larger businesses that once were in Camden have closed down as their owners passed on with no one to take over.

It is still a quiet place to live. People know one another and take care of each other. Many of the families have long genealogical roots in the area. Settlers came here from Pennsylvania and Ohio in the late 1820's and early 1830's, and old family cemeteries attest to them being the first non-Indian owners of the land."

5.11 – Camden, MAINE

Resort town in Knox County; population 5,232 (tripled in summer), elevation 63 m / 207 ft

The Penobscot Nation, who have lived in the area for thousands of years, called it **Megunticook**, meaning "the swelling ocean". Settlers were here as early as 1768, squatting on Penobscot land and attempting to farm the inhospitable terrain. The first home in the area, a Cape Cod-style house, was built in 1770.

The settled area was variously known as the Megunticook or **Cambden** (*sic*) Plantation, the latter name in honor of **Charles Pratt, Lord Camden**. On 17 February **1791**, the General Court of Massachusetts approved "an act to incorporate the Plantation of Cambden, [then] in the county of Hancock into a town by the name of Cambden"; the intrusive 'b' was soon dropped.



Aerial view of Camden, ME (photo: King of Hearts, 2021)

During Camden's first century, the town's population grew steadily (to 4,512 in 1870) and its economy prospered. The Megunticook River provided water power for sawmills and gristmills. By 1858 the town had carriage factories, sash and blind factories and blacksmith shops. There were six shipyards, launching up twelve vessels annually. By 1886, Camden also made foundry products, railroad cars, woolens and paper-mill feltings, anchors, wedges, plugs and treenails, planking, powder, powder kegs, mattresses, tinware, oakum, wool rolls boots and shoes, leather, flour and meal, corn brooms and barrels.

Camden had initially embraced Goose River Village on the opposite side of the river, noted for its ice harvesting and manufacture of lime. In 1852, Goose River citizens voted to change their village's name to Rockport (for its rocky terrain); and in 1891 Rockport officially separated from Camden as the result of a dispute over the cost of building a bridge.

In November 1892, a fire burned Camden's business district to the ground. Local businessmen quickly rallied to make the investment required to build 12 large brick buildings, including the Camden Opera House (1894) and, controversially, the Masonic Temple (1893, now the Lord Camden Inn hotel).

In the 1880s, sportsmen and "rusticators" had begun to discover the natural beauty of Camden, becoming seasonal residents in the summer and fall. In 1897 a road was built to the top of Mount Battie, one of the two mountains rising above the town, and an inn was erected at the summit. Thereafter, the summer colony at Camden quickly grew to include some of the wealthiest families in the USA, who built large, rambling Shingle-style "cottages". In 1897 a road was built to the top of Mount Battie, one of the two mountains rising above the town, and an inn was erected at the summit. The next year, a group of wealthy summer residents from Philadelphia established the Megunticook Golf Club. The incomers were generous towards the town itself, contributing much to its further development. Land for the Camden Public Library, opened in 1924, the Harbor Park and the Amphitheater beside the library (both 1931), were gifted by Mary Louise Curtis Bok Zimbalist, a local philanthropist.

Still active today is the Camden Yacht Club, founded in 1906. The town also has a large fleet of tall-masted schooners called Windjammers, a legacy of Captain Frank Swift who started his leisure cruise schooner business in the 1940s.

Music and cultural interests have long flourished in Camden. Edna St Vincent Millay (1892-1950), the poet and playwright and future Pulitzer Prize winner, grew up in Camden. In 1929 the French harpist Carlos Salzedo founded the internationally renowned Salzedo Summer Harp Colony of America, and each summer held a Harp Festival in the Amphitheater. In the 1950s, artists and writers of significant reputation began moving to Camden and Rockport, where Maine Coast Artists was organized. The movies *Carousel* (1956) and *Peyton Place* (1957) were filmed in Camden, which has since served as the locale for many other films.

In 1965 a road was built through Camden Hills State Park (established in 1947) to the top of Mount Battie, enabling expansive views of Penobscot Bay.

Camden's economy boomed in the 1990s when the world's largest independent issuer of credit cards, the since defunct MBNA, located their offices in the former Knox Woollen Mill building, restoring it and generating hundreds of jobs.

Through the 20th century Camden had gradually developed into a summer vacation destination, tourist hotspot (and retirement community) that it remains today. Each year the town hosts some internationally renowned annual events: the Camden International Film Festival, founded in 2005 and focusing on documentary film; the Camden Shakespeare Festival; and the Camden Conference, fostering discourse on global issues. While in February the US National Toboggan Championships are held in the town-owned Camden Snow Bowl. 21st-century, Camden has a strong economy, provides diverse educational and cultural opportunities and fosters a strong sense of community.

Main source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camden,_Maine. Founded in 1938, the Camden-Rockport Historical Society maintains the Conway Homestead Museum, comprising six refurbished or reconstructed historic buildings. <https://camdenrockporthistoricalociety.org/>

5.12 – Camden, Salisbury, MARYLAND

Neighbourhood in the city of Salisbury, Wicomico County; elevation 7 m / 23 ft

The Camden Historic District is centered around Camden Avenue and is roughly bounded by the Wicomico River to the north.

5.13 – Camden Station and Yards, Baltimore, MARYLAND



Camden Station, at the intersection of South Howard and West Camden Streets. was originally built beginning in 1856, continuing until 1865, by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad as its main passenger terminal and early headquarters. In February 1861, Abraham Lincoln transferred from the President Street station to the Camden Station on his way to Washington DC to be inaugurated as President; and on 18 November 1862 he changed trains at Camden Station, en route to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to deliver his famous

Address. Lincoln also used Camden Station on 18 April 1864 when he made an overnight visit to Baltimore for a speaking engagement. A year later, at 10 am on 21 April 1865, the assassinated president's nine-car funeral train arrived at Camden Station, the first stop on its slow journey from Washington to Springfield, Illinois.

In July 1877, Camden Station was the site of riots and clashes between the Maryland National Guard and strikers during the Great Railroad Strike of that year. Some in the crowd attempted to set fire to the station and nearby buildings. but were largely unsuccessful.

Only the station's platforms remain in use today, by both local Light Rail trains and the MARC commuter service to Washington. The original building (pictured) has in recent times housed museums of sport and of entertainment. Occupying the railroad's former freight yard is the baseball stadium named Oriol Park at **Camden Yards**, the home field of the Major League Baltimore Orioles.

Pratt Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares, was named after **Charles Pratt, Earl Camden**. It was the scene of the Pratt Street Riots of 18/19 April 1861, when anti-war 'Copperhead' Democrats and other Confederate sympathizers confronted members of Massachusetts and Pennsylvanian state militiamen en route to Washington. Also known as the 'Pratt Street Massacre', the riot caused the 'first bloodshed of the Civil War'. The name of **Camden Street**, Baltimore, probably had the same derivation, although some have suggested the Revolutionary battle of Camden, South Carolina [5.25], in which Maryland men fought and died.

Main source: Wikipedia. The website of the Baltimore City Historical Society is at

<https://www.baltimorecityhistoricalsociety.org/>

5.14 – Camden, MICHIGAN

Hillsdale County: township (population 2,088); and village (pop. 512, elevation 1020 ft 311 m)

Contribution from Hillsdale Historical Society - <https://www.hillsdalehistoricalsociety.org>

Camden was founded as early as 1837 by landowner Easton Chester and his sons Orson and Nathan. The community developed around several sawmills, and a post office named **Cranbrook** opened on 10 August that year. The office name was changed to Camden on 7 September **1840**. The name, chosen at random by drawing suggestions from a hat, was proposed by sawmill owner Easton Chester after his hometown of **Camden, New York**. The community was officially platted in 1867 and incorporated as a village in 1899. *Wikipedia*



James Seely with his team of horses hauling a log in Camden in 1908. Photo Hillsdale County Historical Society

Organized in 1835, Hillsdale County is named for its rolling terrain. Its early settlers, coming from the northern coastal colonies, were descended from the English Puritans who emigrated from the Old World in the 1600s. There was a wave of such settlers in the early 1800s, many traveling on the newly completed Erie Canal, and made safe by the conclusion of the Black Hawk War. They brought with them a passion for education, establishing many schools. Many were abolitionists.

Previous to 1835, this part of the country was a wilderness, covered by a dense growth of trees. Roads were non-existent. Camden was originally located on the St. Joseph River at the northern edge of the present village, until a Mansfield, Ohio to Allegan, Mich. railroad organization began buying land on higher ground to the south. By 1872, with active support from its citizenry, Camden had literally picked up and moved its village up the hill to the south. The panic of 1873 resulted in the railroad never being completed through Camden, although its proposed route continued to show on local maps for many years. More historic Camden photos viewable at: <https://www.hillsdalehistoricalsociety.org/camden-mi>

5.15 – Camden, Carver County, MINNESOTA

Rural township; population 959, elevation 286 m / 938ft

Camden Township, west of Minneapolis near New Germany, was organized in **1859** and probably named after **Camden, New Jersey**.

5.16 – Camden, Minneapolis, MINNESOTA

Community in Minneapolis, Hennepin County; population 31,432

Camden lies in North Minneapolis, bounded to the east by the Mississippi River. It comprises seven smaller neighborhoods: Cleveland, Folwell, Lind-Bohanon, McKinley, Shingle Creek, Victory and Webber-Camden (known simply as Camden until 1995). It also contains the Camden Industrial Area and the Humboldt Industrial Area. Two road bridges connect Camden to Northeast Minneapolis

John Campbell Bohanon, a logger from Maine, who arrived locally in 1852, made a government land claim on a heavily wooded area of 160 acres by the river. Clearing the land to grow corn, he built a pioneer home for his family and mother-in-law. Running through his property, known as Camden Place, was a creek, at the mouth of which one Rufus Farnham, who arrived in 1853, built a shingle mill; thereafter it was known as Shingle Mill Creek.

In 1887 Bohanon's farm was taken into the City of Minneapolis, and residential and commercial development ensued. Streetcars ran to Camden from 1890 to 1954. The Camden Place Rail Bridge was built in 1905 by the Minneapolis, St Paul & Sault Ste Marie Railroad (the Soo Line), and rebuilt in 1936; it now carries Canadian Pacific trains across the river on a single track.

Camden Community today is a mix of residential and commercial spaces. It is ethnically diverse, 47% of inhabitants being Caucasian, 33.4% African-American, 11.5% Asian, 9% Hispanic, and 2.6% Native American. The area is currently undergoing a grassroots rebranding as "Camdentown". Proposed by Houston White, a Black barbershop owner, the renaming is part of a "people-based, placemaking strategy" in which "Black joy, Black culture, Black excellence and Black ownership come together to create vibrant Black futures". The naming of "Camdentown" was described in the local press as "a nod to both the area's history and to a quirky, artistic and diverse neighborhood across the world in London with the same name".

5.17 – Camden, MISSISSIPPI

Unincorporated community in Madison County; population 1,445; elevation 103 m / 338 ft



Sacred Heart Church, Camden, MS

Located twelve miles northeast of Sharon on Mississippi Highway 17, the community was named for **Camden, South Carolina** by Mississippi Governor William McWillie, who was raised there and had been in the South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate. He moved to Mississippi in 1845, where he was elected to Congress, and then, in 1858, as the 22nd Governor of Mississippi. He is buried in Kirkwood Cemetery, outside of Camden.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camden,_Mississippi

5.18 – Camden, Ray County, MISSOURI

Community in southern Ray County, Missouri; population 174

Platted in 1838, Camden is said to have probably been named after **a family of early settlers**. Camden Township was organized in 1841, taking its name from the community. Camden was a Missouri riverboat stop until the early 1900s, when the river's Camden bend was cut off after major river flooding, and a new channel was created to the south. A post office called Camden, opened in 1838, was closed in the early 2000s.

5.19 – Camdenton, Camden County, MISSOURI

City (population 4084, elevation 318m / 1043 ft);

County (population 42,745, area 1836 km² / 709 sq mi)



Camden County Courthouse, MO (photo: Kbh3rd, 2016)

Before White settlement, **Camden County** was the territory of the Osage and Delaware Native American tribes. The area was host to many French and Spanish explorers and traders. After the Louisiana Purchase, the first permanent white settlers were Reuben Berry and William Pogue, who came from Kentucky in 1827.

The county was organized on 29 January 1841, named Kinderhook County after the residence of President Van Buren's residence. On 23 February **1843** it was renamed Camden County after **Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden**. The population grew steadily: in 1850 the population was over

2,300 people; by 1860 there were almost 5,000 people, 136 of them enslaved.

During- the Civil War, most Camden County residents were loyal to the Union, though about 100 men from Camden County joined the Confederacy.

The huge reservoir known as the Lake of the Ozarks was created by impounding the Osage River in the northern part of the Ozarks in central Missouri. Construction of the Bagnell Dam began in 1929. During construction, the lake was referred to as Osage Reservoir or Lake Osage, and the Missouri General Assembly officially named it Lake Benton, but none of these names stuck. The lake has a surface area of 54,000 acres (220 km²) and 1,150 miles (1,850 km) of shoreline. The main channel of the Osage Arm stretches for 92 miles (148 km). The reservoir's serpentine shape has earned it the nickname "The Missouri Dragon".

Camden County is the primary setting of the Netflix show *Ozark*. Among the several towns and villages permanently flooded to create the lake was the then county seat of Linn Creek, which was relocated. A new county seat was established, enveloped by the Lower Niangua arm of Lake of the Ozarks. Named

Camdenton, it had its beginnings in 1931. The Camdenton Memorial Airport hosts an annual air show. The nearby Ha Ha Tonka State Park is described as a geologic wonderland featuring sinkholes, caves and a huge natural bridge. It is overlooked by the ruins of Ha Ha Tonka Castle, started in 1905 by a Kansas City businessman and burned down in 1942. The name alluded to the natural springs on the property and was said to mean "big laugh" or "smiling waters".

VIDEO for those with a Facebook login: *'Missouri Untold: the Camdenton Counterfeits'*

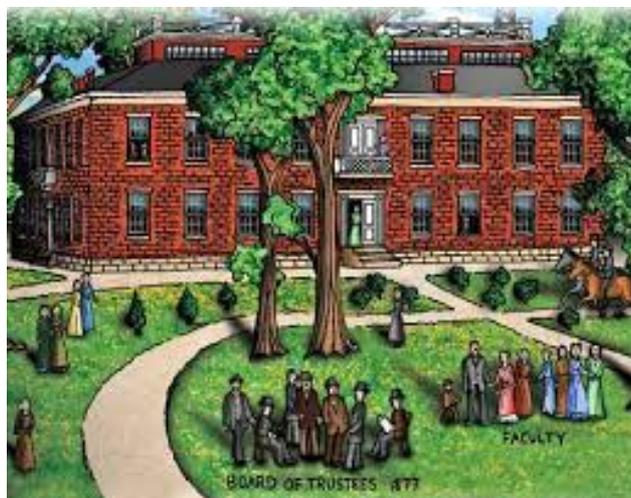
<https://www.facebook.com/mostateparks/videos/missouri-untold-the-camdenton-counterfeits/176708287906860/>

5.20 – Camden Point, MISSOURI

Town in Platte County; population 462, elevation 281 m / 922 ft

Seven miles northeast of Platte City, the county seat, the town was founded by William Moore Kincaid, who moved from Kentucky in 1830. The town was initially called Camden, but the name was changed to Camden Point when Kincaid opened a post office in his home in 1837/38. According to the State Historical Society of Missouri, the name Camden was "most likely a transfer from England, perhaps via another town in the USA".

Kincaid donated \$200 and 5 acres of land to help found the Camden Point Female Academy in 1848. Housed in a "large and elegant building capable of accommodating 125 boarders, it became co-educational. Surviving the Civil War, when federal troops bivouacked on its campus, it was sold to the Christian Church of Missouri and turned into a school for local children and orphans. After a fire in 1889, it relocated to Fulton, Missouri.



Camden Point Orphan School, 1877

The **Battle of Camden Point** took place in 1864. A Confederate cavalry force about 200-300 strong under Colonel J C Thornton was organizing locally. On 13 July, his men held a picnic with sympathetic town residents in an open pasture near the town. Two Federal cavalry detachments commanded by Colonel Jim Ford and totaling 700-1,000 soldiers, ambushed Thornton's picnicking force, routing it and killing two and wounding around 25 Confederates. Four additional Confederates were captured and executed by Federals after the battle ended. Ammunition, weapons, and gunpowder were captured and Camden Point was burned. In 1871, a memorial to the Confederates killed in the engagement was erected at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery near the town.

5.21 – Camden, NEBRASKA

Ghost town in Seward County; elevation 408 m / 1340 ft

Camden served many pioneers using the Oregon Trail cut-off to Fort Kearney. The first bridge across the Blue River was in this area, and the first post office in the county opened here in 1862. Four years later, William T. Buchanan, from Ohio, opened a store at Camden, one of the first settlements in this vicinity and when it was learned that the main line of the Burlington railroad would miss Camden, and run through Crete, he moved his store there. While at Camden he engaged in trading with the Native Americans, exchanging merchandise for the furs and pelts brought in by them. A cemetery and stone marker are all that remain of the town today.

5.22 – Camden & Camden County, NEW JERSEY

City (population 73,742; elevation 5 m / 16 ft;

County (pop. 506,721, area 588.7 km² / 227 sq mi)

Contribution from Camden County Historical Society — <https://cchsnj.org/>

By Bonny Beth Elwell



The Camden-Philadelphia Bridge

Located along the Delaware River across from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the land that is now Camden County, New Jersey, was originally the home of the Lenape, the Native Americans who inhabited the Delaware Valley region. Dutch traders were the first Europeans to live in what is now Camden County, establishing the fur-trading post Fort Nassau along the Delaware River near today's Gloucester City in 1626. Dutch, Swedish, and English vied for control of the Delaware Valley

during the following decades. After the English finally gained control, they named the land "New Jersey" and members of the Religious Society of Friends in England began plans to create a Quaker community in West New Jersey for religious and economic opportunity. English and Irish Quakers arrived along the Delaware River beginning in 1675, and soon settled along Coopers Creek, Newton Creek, and Timber Creek, establishing the /beginnings of today's Camden County.

One of the most prominent of these Quakers was a London blacksmith named William Cooper, who settled at the mouth of Coopers Creek in 1681, a site which would later become the city of Camden. By

1682, settlers were ferrying across the Delaware River from Cooper's landing to Philadelphia, and soon the Cooper family became the primary ferry operators in this emerging transportation hub. By the early eighteenth century, most of the land that now comprises Camden City was farmed by large landowners, with the labor of indentured servants and enslaved Africans. Prominent towns in what was then Gloucester County included the county seat Gloucestertown at the mouth of Timber Creek and Haddonfield along Coopers Creek. The ferry landings provided for the exportation of goods such as timber, crops, and livestock to Philadelphia or international markets, as well as the importation of European goods. From 1727-1765, a few hundred enslaved Africans were offered for sale at the Cooper's Ferry landings, but a growing anti-slavery movement among the Quakers led to the end of the slave trade and the beginning of the abolition movement in West New Jersey.

In **1773**, Jacob Cooper (a great-grandson of William Cooper) laid out the first town streets and lots of Camden Town along Cooper Street leading to his brother Daniel **Cooper's Ferry** landing. He named the town after **Earl Camden, Charles Pratt**, who was sympathetic towards the American colonies' grievances at the eve of the American Revolution. With the outbreak of war, many residents joined the local militia. When the British army occupied Philadelphia from 1777 to 1778, war came to today's Camden County. Before and after the Battle of Red Bank at Fort Mercer, British and Hessian soldiers passed through Cooper's Ferry, Haddonfield, and Gloucestertown and skirmished with local militia. Later, the British occupied Cooper's Ferry, plundered Haddonfield, and foraged the countryside, passing through Cooper's Ferry one final time as they evacuated Philadelphia in June 1778.

After the American Revolution, the town of Camden expanded with the addition of more town lots in adjacent Cooper Village in 1793 and Camden Village in 1820. The town now included a post office, a state bank, and a weekly newspaper. Camden City officially incorporated on February 14, 1828. Steamboat ferries and the first railroad in 1835 expanded transportation between Camden, Philadelphia, New York City, and the entire region. Meanwhile, the Quakers of Haddonfield Meeting had ended slavery within their membership by 1792 and were actively seeking to free those still enslaved in Gloucester County. Formerly-enslaved people of color formed free Black communities, such as Snow Hill and Free Haven (today's Lawnside) and the neighborhoods of Fettersville, Kaighnsville, and Centreville (now within Camden City). These communities also attracted freedom-seekers from the neighboring states of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia through the Underground Railroad. German, British, and Irish immigrants also diversified Camden's population during the mid-nineteenth century.

In **1844**, Camden County was created from the portion of Gloucester County between Pennsauken Creek and Big Timber Creek, named for **Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden**; and in 1848, Camden City was voted the county seat. During the following century, the city expanded rapidly, from a population of less than 10,000 in 1850 to over 125,000 in 1950. As a transportation hub linked by ferry to Philadelphia and by turnpike and railroad to the rest of the state, Camden was ideally located for business and industry. Some of the businesses in Camden included lumber mills, woolen mills, sausage makers, carriage factories, tanneries, glass factories, blacksmiths, nickel works, cigar factories, canneries, and shipyards. After the Civil War, many Southern Blacks moved north to Camden, and some were appointed to Republican leadership positions such as freeholders and policemen. Polish, Jewish, and Italian immigrants poured into Camden City to pursue the economic opportunities available in the

industrialized city. Brick row homes housed the new arrivals, including Camden's most famous resident, the poet Walt Whitman. Also located along the Delaware River, nearby Gloucester City incorporated in 1868 and greatly expanded with industry as well.

By the twentieth century, several Camden businesses had expanded to international fame, such as Esterbrook Pen Company, J.B. Van Sciver Furniture Company, Campbell's Soup Company, and Victor Talking Machine Company (later RCA). The Delaware River Bridge (later renamed the Benjamin Franklin Bridge) opened in 1926, linking Camden to Philadelphia and greatly expanding transportation opportunities. New York Shipbuilding Company produced battleships during World War I and World War II. Southern Black and Puerto Rican people moved to Camden to work in the war industry, adding to the ethnic diversity of the city. Meanwhile, former farmland developed into suburban towns along the Camden and Atlantic Railroad, the Philadelphia and Atlantic City Railroad, and the White Horse Pike, and dozens of towns and boroughs incorporated. Easily accessible to the cities of Camden and Philadelphia by trolley, railroad, or automobile, these suburbs were attractive places to live. Once urban manufacturing jobs declined after World War II, many middle-class White families left the city for the suburbs.

By the 1970s, Camden City's overall population had decreased, while the percentage of Black and Hispanic residents had increased. Racial unrest led to sit-ins, violence, and finally riots in 1971. White residents and businesses continued to leave the city, and by 1980, over 75 percent of the city's population was non-White, including Black, Hispanic, and Vietnamese communities. Camden's population continued to drop, leaving behind poverty, pollution, drugs, and crime. Meanwhile, other areas of Camden County expanded with industry, commercial buildings, and shopping malls, including Cherry Hill, Pennsauken, Gloucester Township, and Voorhees. The suburbs now dominated Camden County, but Camden City continued to serve as the seat of government as well as a center for healthcare (including Cooper Hospital and Virtua Health) and higher education (such as Rutgers University). Various programs in the twenty-first century sought to revitalize Camden City, including developing the waterfront as an entertainment and business center. Camden City continues to strive for a fresh start, with a multicultural population and hopes for the future.

In 1975, the Mayor of Camden, NJ presented a symbolic golden key to the Mayor of the London Borough of Camden (*Camden Journal*, 28 Nov 1975).

5.23 – Camden, NEW YORK

Town in Oneida County (population 4,788), and village (pop. 2,169, elevation 153 m / 502 ft)

Information from: https://www.camdenny.gov/living_here/about_us/our_history

The Town of Camden was established as a political unit in **1799**, when it was formed from the Town of Mexico, Oswego County. Later, the Towns of Florence and Vienna, and part of Annsville, were created from Camden. The present boundaries were established in 1864.

Subsistence farming predominated until about the time of the Civil War, when dairying and cheese became important. Industry in Camden began with several sawmills, planing mills, grist mills, and other small factories along Mad River, Little River, and the West Branch of Fish Creek.

The first foundry was built in 1832 for the manufacturing of iron plows and farm tools. One of the chief articles of manufacture was turbine water wheels which were sold throughout the nation. The Camden Knitting Company was active about 1900 and employed some 200 people in the manufacture of women's and children's wear. The F.H. Conant chair works, once located on the site later occupied by Rochester Shoe Tree Company, made over 100 styles of furniture. Other industries include the Camden Wood Working Company and a pencil factory.



Frisbie House, Camden NY, c.1915

Many changes have taken place in the manufacturing in Camden during the twentieth and twenty first century. Textiles, lumbering, and canning have lost their former places of prominence in the local economy. These industries have been replaced by wire fabricating, various wood-related industries, and a collectable stamp company.

The town has only two stop lights, the second one installed in 1999.

Contained within the Town of Camden is the **Village of Camden** – also known as The Queen Village – which was incorporated on 2 May 1834. Its Carriage House Museum is run by the Queen Village Historical Society founded in 1970: <https://villageofcamdennyc.org/carriage-house-museum/>

5.24 – Camden & Camden County, NORTH CAROLINA

Contribution from Camden County Historical Society & Heritage Museum – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbviCIEU4VI>

Visit also <https://www.camdencountync.gov/about/history>

With a population in 2020 of 10,654, and an area 802.9 km² (231 sq. mi), Camden County lies in the North Carolina Coastal Plain between Currituck County and Pasquotank & Gates Counties. It is bordered by the State of Virginia to the north, and the Albemarle Sound to the south.

Prominent and prosperous families lived on productive plantations before 1700, and through the entire 18th century, in what is today Camden County. In 1704, four square miles of land were set aside by the Council of State as a reservation for the Yeopim Indian tribe. This site was located on the southwest side of the North River. The Mosley map of 1733 clearly indicated the Yeopim Village with a cluster of wigwams on the reservation, which included most of the present-day communities of Sandy Hook and

Indiantown. The Native Americans maintained peaceful relations with their neighbors until their departure in 1774 to join the Iroquois in New York.

Old Trap, a fertile and prosperous section of Camden County, derives its name from the grogshops located here in colonial days, when rum and other items were imported directly from the West Indies to nearby harbors. Because their menfolk sometimes tarried overlong at the grogshops, the women called the place "The Trap". Hence it came "Old Trap". The early name of this whole area was Down River.

Camden County was created on 9 May **1777**, by North Carolina's first General Assembly, out of part of Pasquotank County, with the town of Camden as its seat of government. It was named for **Charles Pratt, First Earl Camden**

One of the most dignified figures who played a part in Camden's history was Isaac Gregory. He is best remembered for his valiant stand at the 1780 Battle of Camden, South Carolina **[5.25]**. His services to his own state did not end with the war, He was elected once to the House of Commons and re-elected successively to the State Senate for the next eight years. In 1790, General Gregory was appointed by President George Washington to be the first collector of customs for the Port of Camden, or "Plank Bridge", a port of entry, on Sawyer's Creek, whose considerable maritime activity brought commercial benefits to the entire community. Joseph Jones attempted to establish a town here called Jonesboro, Wharves and warehouse dotted the banks of the creek to Muden's Landing on the Pasquotank River, Because of the shallowness of the creek and ships of heavier tonnage being built, the once flourishing trade vanished.

Camden County contains the southern terminus of the Great Dismal Swamp Canal, which runs for 22 miles up through Virginia, eventually connecting to an inlet running into the Atlantic Ocean. Its construction began in 1793. The "golden age" of the canal was from 1839 to 1860, when hundreds of shingle flatboats, picturesque passenger ships, and freighters plied its waters. The canal now serves as a scenic waterway for pleasure craft.

Born into slavery in about 1786 was Moses Grandy. In the course of his life he would witness beatings and sales of family members, including his first bride just eight months after their marriage. Becoming a skilled waterman, he was allowed to work on the canal on his own account, although a succession of abusive masters took a cut of his earnings. Two attempts to buy his freedom failed, when his owners kept the money but continued to hold him in slavery. After four decades of enslavement, Grandy was at last sold to an honorable man and, obtaining his freedom, moved north. In 1842 he traveled to London, where he dictated a harrowing narrative of his life, which was published in support of the abolitionist cause and to raise money to buy the freedom of his still enslaved second wife and children. See <https://www.camdencountync.gov/about/history/courthouse-township/moses-grandy>

Grandy's narrative was published in London in 1843 by Charles Gilpin, a Quaker and publisher of radical literature. Later a Member of Parliament, he lived and died in Bloomsbury, in today's London Borough of Camden.

On 19 April 1862, a Civil War engagement called the Battle of Sawyer's Lane was fought near South Mills, Camden County. Here, Confederate troops under the command of Colonel A.R. Wright fought Union troops attempting to blow up the Dismal Swamp Canal Locks. The Confederate commander had



Camden County Courthouse of 1847

selected his defensive position with such care that for three hours his force withstood all Federal assaults. After a brisk battle, the Federal troops withdrew.

In 2006 Camden County became the first and only consolidated city-county in the State of North Carolina, and its county seat is the Courthouse Township of Camden.. The County is divided into three townships: South Mills Township, Courthouse Township of Camden (also known as Camden Township), and Shiloh Township.

T h e
t o w n

of Camden lies on the eastern banks of the Pasquotank River, across from Elizabeth City. With a population of 620 in 2020, it boasts five schools and two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places – the Camden County Courthouse of 1847, replacing the original wooden building which burned down and Camden County Jail (1910), its second floor restored to display the iron cellblock, or “bullpen” surrounded by a narrow catwalk.



Camden County Jail 1910

PODCAST: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wkcyxc2JTn0>

5.25 – Camden, OHIO

Village in Preble County; population 2,046 (2010), elevation 255 m / 837 ft

Information from <https://camdenohio.org/>

Camden was originally called **Dover** when it was laid out in 1818, but became **Newcomb** in 1824 when it opened its first post office and learned there was already a Dover in Ohio. The new name never quite resonated with residents, though, so the village became Camden in **1835** and the name has remained. Camden is home to a Black Walnut Festival held annually in October.

BOOK: Richard O. Davies, *Main Street Blues*, Columbus: Ohio State UP, 1998. This “takes the reader through two hundred years of American history as reflected in the small Ohio farming village of Camden. Davies describes the development of the relatively self-sufficient community that emerged from the Ohio land rush of the early nineteenth century, a community that reached its apex during the 1920s and then entered into a period of slow decline caused by forces beyond its control. He details the roles of land speculation, the railroad era, the impact of the automobile, the emergence of a tightly knit community, and finally the post-World War II loss of business and population to the nearby cities of Dayton, Hamilton, and Cincinnati.”

5.26 – Camden, PENNSYLVANIA

Populated place in Allegheny County; elevation 261 m / 856 ft

Camden is located southeast of downtown Pittsburgh within the Borough of West Mifflin. We encountered a Quaker Mifflin family in Camden, Delaware [5.7]. West Mifflin was named after the politician Thomas Mifflin, who had served in the army under George Washington and been expelled from the Society of Friends for his involvement with the military.

5.27 – Camden, SOUTH CAROLINA

City and county seat of Kershaw County; population 7,185, elevation 187 ft (57 m)

Contribution from the Kershaw County Historical Society —

<https://kershawcountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

By Joan A. Inabinet



The Kershaw-Cornwallis House at Historic Camden with Revolutionary re-enactors

Viewing Camden, South Carolina

In the midlands of South Carolina, Camden is an attractive, friendly, and energetic city in which a rich historical past is visibly appreciated amid modern growth, diversity, and change.

Colonial development slowly followed King George II's approval of a 1730 trade plan to attract an influx of settlers into the wilderness of interior South Carolina to buffer the port city of Charles Town (Charleston) from attacks of the hostiles among indigenous peoples.

Under the plan, Fredericksburg Township was laid out in 1733 along the navigable Wateree River at the mouth of tributary Pine Tree Creek, intersecting the Catawba Indian footpath linked with native routes from the seacoast into the far

interior. No town formed here though, since proposed lots lay in uninhabitable swamplands.

About 1750 a group of Irish Quakers settled on scattered plantations in the area, peacefully interacting with Catawba Indians who seasonally returned for traditional purposes. Samuel Wyly, leading man among the Quakers, and Hagler, "King of the Catawbias", forged a strong, mutually protective bond of trust and friendship important to the settlers' early survival.

In 1758 30-year-old Joseph Kershaw, born and schooled in England, moved to Fredericksburg to establish a store at a site he called Pine Tree Hill. Having worked for several years as a mercantile clerk

in Charleston, he too placed confidence in King Hagler's friendship and protection. In 1762 Kershaw married Sarah Mathis, daughter of local Quaker settlers with ties to Philadelphia merchants, and they began a family.

With Kershaw's connections, his country store prospered along with his large property acquisitions and ambitious enterprises that processed local products, like fine milled wheat that he forwarded to Charleston markets. Certainly not the only useful individual to influence the early and following decades, Kershaw was nevertheless a long and strong thread throughout the area's colonial and revolutionary history.

For its first decade, Pine Tree Hill was a growing frontier village with Kershaw the leading citizen in local economy and defense, and in colonial politics and influence. Numerous accounts call him "the father of Camden."

The Naming of Camden

The renaming of **Pine Tree Hill** took place in an emotional and stressful period in the backcountry. In South Carolina, only one court could enforce the law, and that court was in distant Charleston. Here, in the richest city in mid-eighteenth-century America, coastal aristocratic men of wealth dominated representation in South Carolina's single elective body of legislature, the Commons House of Assembly.

Backcountry citizens, who had futilely begged for local courts and law enforcement, experienced in 1767 a reign of murder and criminal terror from bands of unchecked outlaws in the wake of Cherokee War violence. Desperate men banded together as Regulators and gathered to petition for redress of grievances, claiming themselves to be 4,000 in number who would march into the Charleston court if not heard. They got attention. In a few weeks the Assembly funded and sent out two companies of rangers for 90 days to hunt down outlaws and restore order, although other changes which had to be ratified in England took more time.

Meanwhile in Pine Tree Hill, the new name "Camden" was chosen in honor of **Charles Pratt, the first Lord Camden**, then popular in America as an English champion of colonial rights for representation. The name was said to have been proposed by Kershaw, a strong supporter of such principles and a rising political voice.

The Reverend Charles Woodmason, the only minister of the Church of England assigned to the backcountry, logged in his journal on July 3, **1768**: "*Officiated at Pine Tree Hill (now to be call'd Camden in Honor of Lord Cambden ... the Americans being very fond at present of all who declar'd in their favor against the Stamp Act).*"

The earliest official recognition of the name change had been recorded April 12, 1768, as part of the first legislative act calling for local courts, with one to be in Camden, "*lately called Pine Tree Hill.*" The act, forwarded to England, was rejected and had to be resubmitted. It would be late 1769 before the Circuit Court Act would be approved for seven district courts and courthouses, one of them in Camden, within a huge 'overarching' Camden District. Joseph Kershaw that year was elected to the Assembly, a position to which he would continue to be reelected.

A detailed plan shows that by 1774 an orderly plan influenced by Kershaw had been laid out for the Town of Camden. It included a central square through which “Broad Street” (on the old Catawba Path) ran north and south. Along that street the courthouse and the facing jail had been built (finished in 1771) beside “King Street,” with other facing spaces marked for a church and a market. Outside the eastern town limits, beside “Fair Street,” a large area was reserved for the Fair, established that year and requiring, in old English custom, its own “court of piepowder.”

On the eve of the American Revolution, Camden was transforming from backcountry pine-stump village origins into a promising, proper, law-respecting English-like town. During the Revolutionary War and afterwards, Camden underwent many changes, some destructive, but through which early vision and spirit echoed.

The Visible Past Today

The locations and names of the streets on the 1774 plat continue in use today, while the city has spread far outward from its early nucleus. An iconic weathervane image of King Hagler with drawn bow, an identical replica of its locally forged 1826 original, overlooks the extended Broad Street main business district from the spire of the old town clock tower. The original weathervane is displayed in the Camden Archives and Museum, where area history is researched and visited.



King Hagler atop the town clock tower, Camden's most familiar icon



Recreation on the Wateree River, an ancient travel route to Camden

The Wateree River west of Camden was a flowing travel route from prehistory

through nineteenth century, the town being an inland river port between the ocean and the interior. Since the twentieth century, dams have restricted the river's use to serviceable, scenic, and recreational purposes. Two environmental river parks offer access and walking trails for contact with the area's earliest natural asset. Behind a large dam further north of Camden, beautiful 13,000-acre Lake Wateree includes residential and recreational areas.

Long ago, after Quakerism waned, the burying ground of the old meetinghouse was expanded to include other community graves. Today burials continue at picturesque Quaker Cemetery and other historic burying grounds nearby, including Beth El Jewish Cemetery and Cedars Cemetery, the latter begun for antebellum African Americans.

Today entering Camden from the south and crossing Pine Tree Creek by a modern bridge, one observes on the right two significant interpretative facilities on the grounds of Joseph Kershaw's Pine Tree Hill beginnings.

First, the recently completed Revolutionary War Visitor Center welcomes all to the Public House, with the exterior appearance of an old local inn that in historic times was a gathering place for area information. Designed as ‘an interpretative gateway to South Carolina’s pivotal role in the American Revolution’, the Visitor Center inside maintains lively displays explaining ‘the real turning point in the Revolution—the Southern Campaign’. Its two additional structures, Liberty Hall and the Market Building, provide indoor and open-air spaces for speakers and programs.

Next, on more than 100 acres of the original town, Historic Camden Foundation’s Revolutionary War Site, affiliated with the National Park Service, fulfills the mission ‘to protect, educate and celebrate Camden’s extraordinary Colonial and Revolutionary War history’.

Historic Camden’s park has been developing since 1966 as an outdoor museum of backcountry life with seven preserved houses, fortification sites, miles of nature trails, and living history demonstrations of crafts, trades, and diverse lifestyles through the early federal period. The Kershaw County Historical Society lately donated a restored 1812 house built by an enslaved craftsman who by his labors purchased his own freedom.

Historic Camden also boasts a significant Revolutionary reconstruction on archaeologically excavated foundations and study of the house’s nineteenth-century images. In 1780 the home of Joseph Kershaw and family, a newly constructed Georgian manse on a hill overlooking the early town, was seized and fortified by the British commander in the south, General Charles, Lord Cornwallis. For almost a full 12 months, the house served as the primary British headquarters in the backcountry. The house was burned in 1865 when Union troops under General William T. Sherman invaded Camden during the American Civil War. The reconstruction, with appropriately elegant furnishings of period antiques, includes also meeting and interpretative areas.

Besides these assets, about eight miles northward, Historic Camden Foundation owns over 500 acres of the site of the 1780 Battle of Camden. Here HCF maintains a growing longleaf pine preserve and works closely with Kershaw County, the City of Camden, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, the American Battlefield Trust, and the Liberty Trail.

With approach of the 250th observation of the independence of the United States of America, many are the stories to be unfolded during its Sestercentennial so that the roots of the country’s founding and its participants can be better understood.

Revolutionary Beginnings

Although at a far distance from the firing of the first guns of the American Revolution in Massachusetts in April 1775, the South Carolina backcountry stirred with civil unrest, neighbor disputing neighbor over allegiances. Joseph Kershaw traveled through interior South Carolina explaining American (“patriot”) issues and listening to British (“loyalist”) sympathizers.

In 1776 British ships attempted to gain a foothold to prized Charleston, but were repelled June 28 at Sullivan’s Island, the first decisive patriot victory over the Royal Navy. On the Carolina frontier, the British-allied Cherokee Indians rose up again on 1 July, adding several months of additional concerns to patriot-loyalist tensions. Kershaw remained in contact with the Catawbas, who supported the patriots.

Again in 1780 Charleston was targeted as the British launched their Southern Campaign to bring about a quick and favorable end to the war. Already in control of Savannah, Georgia, the British believed that loyalist support in the Carolinas would sweep them to victory.

With a different plan to capture Charleston, troops of Cornwallis and Lieutenant General Henry Clinton, commander of North America, crossed swamps and rivers to cut off the peninsula and to besiege what was effectually the whole American army in the South, bottled up at Charleston. After six weeks of unsupplied resistance, March 29 to May 12, Major General Benjamin Lincoln was forced to surrender the battle-scarred city and army of over 5,000 defenders. It was a major British victory.

Too many men having been captured to imprison them all, many were sent home on parole upon signing pledges, on penalty of death, not to take up arms against the King again. Only days after the capture of Charleston, Cornwallis headed his men 130 miles inland to occupy Camden on 1 June and establish it as his main backcountry garrison and supply depot, fortifying it with redoubts and a palisade wall, and setting up headquarters in the Kershaw house.

Sarah Kershaw and their young children would soon have to move to the countryside. Faithful slaves were among those helping protect the family there. African Americans were choosing allegiances on both sides, for the British offered freedom from slavery to those allying with them.

Placed under arrest at the fall of Camden, Kershaw as a militia colonel and a legislator had value to the British as a potential swap in a prisoner exchange, but his influence close at hand was feared. He was shipped in exile with his brother Ely and others of influence on prison ships to British Honduras, then to Bermuda, his brother dying from fever on the way.

The initial successes of the British military in imposing their control in the south may have been effective, but they did not call forth the expected enthusiasm of appreciative loyalists eager to join the King's cause. In fact, the more people were pressured to join, the more they resisted.

The Battles of Camden

The resistance was such that over 200 battles, with additional skirmishes and engagements, were fought within South Carolina during the American Revolution, more than in any other state. Within 25 miles of Camden, some of the battles were Cary's Fort, Radcliffe's Bridge, Rugeley's Mill, Flat Rock, Beaver Creek, and Hanging Rock. The two battles most closely identified with the town's name itself were the 1780 Battle of Camden and the 1781 Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, sometimes called the Second Battle of Camden. That second battlefield lies inside the present city limits, on an elevation now noted for the well-preserved nineteenth-century homes that cover its ground.

For Americans the most devastating battle of the entire war, the Battle of Camden, resulted in a tremendous victory for the British. Fought early in the campaign, the battle on 16 August, 1780, engaged 3,700 Americans and 2,230 British, with estimated casualties being very one-sided: 1,900 Americans, 324 British.

In the heat of July, American Major General Horatio Gates had begun marching down from the north with an army of continental soldiers and militiamen collected along the way on the mission of freeing South Carolina. Upon hearing of the approach of the hero of the British defeat at Saratoga, New York,

which had prompted France to ally with America, Cornwallis acted quickly. He immediately left Charleston and set out for Camden, determined to meet Gates on the field. In the dark of early morning, 16 August, 1780, with neither army aware that the other was on the move, they came upon one another unexpectedly in the pine forest of Gum Swamp.

Briefly skirmishing, then forming for battle, Gates has been said to have erred in placing his men, putting his least experienced Virginia militiamen on the right, facing the most experienced of Cornwallis's veteran regiments. When the British advanced with fixed bayonets, the militiamen, in frontier-fighting reaction, turned and fled, carrying the rout to North Carolina militia at the middle of the line, which collapsed.

Maryland and Delaware Continental Regulars stood fighting on the field as Gates and others fled, pushed backward on a narrow road in the swarm of disorderly retreat. Among the casualties overwhelmed while fighting on the field was Major General Johann de Kalb, with 11 wounds. He died several days later in Camden. On the battlefield a marker stands where he fell, and in Camden a stately memorial was later erected, its cornerstone ceremoniously laid in 1825 by General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette.

After the Battle of Camden, Gates was replaced in command by Major General Nathanael Greene, who also approached Camden in 1781 with intent to end British control of South Carolina. The Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, or Second Battle of Camden, thus ensued. Finding the defenses of then commanding Colonel Francis, Lord Rawdon too strong to attack, Greene established his camp on a high ridge overlooking Camden and waited for Rawdon to approach him at that favorable site of his choosing.

Rawdon on 25 April made a side approach, however, and first engaged at another point. Despite some confusions, Greene was able to use and save his artillery, inflict injuries, and withdraw in orderly manner. Greene brought a force of 1,550 men whom Lord Rawdon faced with 900. Action concluded with 270 American casualties (19 killed) and 258 British casualties (38 killed).

Although he had driven Greene away, Rawdon two weeks later evacuated Camden on 9 May because the cutting of his supply lines and persistent attacks were severe threats to his ability to defend his position and his men. When the British left Camden, burning what they could behind them, they retreated to Charleston, accompanied by a long line of dismayed loyalists and families with their possessions, many taking slaves with them, all waiting to learn what lay ahead.

Patriots at war's end had similar uncertainties looking at its scars left behind, but many faced the challenges optimistically, ready to bind wounds. Exchanged from exile near war's end, Joseph Kershaw returned to Camden. In Bermuda he had on his own mortgaged his American properties to Bermuda merchants to aid the American cause.

Kershaw spent the rest of his life helping rebuild his community and selling off his holdings to pay debts to his creditors. In 1791 the newly formed county, of which Camden was the seat, was named Kershaw County in his honor. The name was in use when he died December 28 of that year at 64 years of age.

Continued Legacies

Over the passage of time, through common trials and aspirations, America and England have stood together as allies. In June 1941 Camden warmly welcomed the first 65 of 300 Royal Air Force cadets, who, needed as pilots in defense of their homeland, were sent to train to fly at the new Southern Aviation School at the Camden Airport. Soon American trainees too would join them in the skies of World War II.

When the aviation school closed at the end of the war, its buildings beside the airport were purchased in 1950 to open a private school for young men. Camden Military Academy, begun by Col. James F. Risher as president, was administered for 37 years by his son, the first headmaster, Col. Lanning P. Risher, both of them men of history and tradition. In awareness of the origin of the Camden name and of the buildings having schooled RAF pilots, permission was sought and received from the contemporary Lord Camden to use the Camden coat of arms for the academy's identification. Thus the first dress uniform caps, as well as those worn by present cadets of today's Camden Military Academy, prominently display the brass seal formed from that coat of arms.

Modern Camden and Kershaw County in many ways continue proud legacies of spirit and personality, where architecture and nature are appreciated, a variety of arts and equestrian sports are enjoyed, and community members pitch in to support worthwhile projects and respect the freedoms of their heritage.



Horses, early used for travel, enjoyed in Camden's Carolina Cup steeplechase

Links for more detail and views of Camden, South Carolina

Camden Archives & Museum

<https://www.classicallycarolina.com/what-do/museums/camden-archives-museum>

Visitor Guides to Camden and Kershaw County

<https://www.classicallycarolina.com/>

https://issuu.com/camdensc/docs/discover_complete

https://issuu.com/camdensc/docs/classically_carolina_complete_minus_ads

Revolutionary War Visitor Center at Camden

<https://simplyrevolutionary.com/>

Historic Camden Foundation

<http://www.historiccamden.org/>

The Kershaw County Historical Society

<https://kershawcountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

S.C. American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission

<https://www.southcarolina250.com/about-us/>

South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust

<https://www.scbattlegroundtrust.org/camden-burials>

American Battlefield Trust

<https://www.battlefields.org/>

The Liberty Trail

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/libertytrail>

African American Cultural Center of Camden

<https://www.classicallycarolina.com/camden-archives-museum/AACCC>

Native American Studies Center at Lancaster

<https://nativeamericanstudiescenter.godaddysites.com/>

Downtown Camden Cultural District

<https://www.cityofcamden.org/culturaldistrict>

The Arts Center of Kershaw County at Camden

<https://artscenterkc.org/>

The National Steeplechase Museum at Camden

<https://nationalsteeplechasemuseum.org/>

The Carolina Cup at Camden

<https://carolinacup.org/>

Kershaw County Government

<https://www.kershaw.sc.gov/>

Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce, with Vision 2030

<https://www.kershawcountychamber.org/>

Kershaw County School District

<https://www.kcsdschools.net/>

Camden Military Academy

<https://camdenmilitary.com/>

The Chronicle-Independent

<https://www.chronicle-independent.com/>

5.28 – Camden, TENNESSEE

City in and county seat of Benton County; population 3,674, elevation 137 m / 449 ft

Native Americans were living in the Camden area as early as 8000-1000 BC. A significant archaeological site has been excavated at nearby Eva (the actual site is now submerged under Kentucky Lake), uncovering evidence of semi-permanent habitation dating back 7,000 years.

The first European settlers arrived in the Benton County area around 1818, shortly after (and probably before) the county was purchased from the Chickasaw. Camden has its roots as a stopover along the stagecoach route between Nashville and Memphis. Initially known as **Tranquility**, the community was called Camden **by the 1830s**, a name influenced by the Revolutionary War-era **Battle of Camden [5.22]**. When Benton County was created in 1835, Camden was chosen as the county seat. The City of Camden was officially incorporated in 1838.

Agriculture is important to the economy of Camden and Benton County. Sorghum was once a key crop; the last sorghum processing facility closed in 2001. Jones Plastic and Engineering operates a large facility in Camden. The city is a bedroom community for employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the DuPont titanium dioxide production plant in nearby New Johnsonville.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camden,_Tennessee

5.29 – Camden, Gregg County, TEXAS

Ghost town in Gregg County

On the south bank of the Sabine River, Camden grew around a river crossing known as John Walling's Ferry. Mr Walling arrived in Texas in the early 1830s. During the early years, the names Camden and **Walling's Ferry** were used interchangeably: the postmaster would accept either address. An entrepreneur named Enoch Hays built an eight-room hotel, but by the 1860s the community was in decline. The river bottom harboured mosquitoes and the populace was under constant threat of malaria, and residents fled to higher ground. A veritable ghost town by the 1870s, Camden was erased from maps long before the end of the century. Fallen tombstones remain today in its former cemetery.

Source: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/camden-tx-gregg-county>

5.30 – Camden, Polk County, TEXAS

Unincorporated community; elevation 91m / 299 ft



Situated at the junction of Farm to Market Roads 942 and 62, eighty miles north-northwest of **Beaumont**, and tucked away amid pinewoods, Camden was one of the last sawmill towns in Texas. It was begun by W.T. Carter & Brother who, when their previous mill at nearby Barnum burned down in 1898, moved their operations to Camden. A 7-mile standard-gauge railroad was built, connecting the sawmill with the Union Pacific mainline at Moscow.

Camden was named either for **Camden, New Jersey**, the hometown of T.H. Woodson, the town's surveyor, or after **Camden, Maine**, with which the early Carters were thought to have connections. Camden, Texas, was a company town, and almost all the housing was built by the firm. The benevolent Carter family provided rented homes for its employees, a community school, a baseball field, gardens, electricity, water and a commissary store for all their household needs.

In 1968 the Carters sold their business to Champion Paper, who kept the sawmill going, as well as the railroad too (although passenger services ended in 1973). But the new owners had no interest at all in the company town. The 600 or so inhabitants were -relocated to 'better houses' a few miles away, and almost all the housing was demolished. After a few months, all that remained were a post office, the paper company offices and a few vacation homes. Camden had all but vanished.

Texas Archive of the Moving Image offers us a student **FILM**, made c.1968 and revolving around interviews with Camden residents: https://texasarchive.org/2017_03202

5.31 – Camden, VIRGINIA

Plantation and house in Caroline County; elevation 80m / 262ft

The plantation and house known as Camden are situated on the Rappahannock River just downstream of Port Royal. The property was bought in 1785 by a certain John Pratt. Though he may have named the property after his prominent namesake, there is no evidence that he was related to Earl Camden, several quite distinct English Pratt families having settled in America. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971, the present house was built on the basement of an earlier house dated to 1760.

Camden VA in 1980



William Carter Pratt demolished it around 1856 and engaged Baltimore architect Norris G. Starkweather to rebuild it in an Italianate style. Completed in 1859 with all mod cons, the house was equipped with central heating and cooling, gas lights and running water; a private gas works was installed to generate the gas. The house's tower was destroyed during the Civil War by a hit from a Union gunboat in 1862, and never restored.

The plantation contains the site of a 17th-century Native American community, where iron trade tools and silver medals have been found. The silver medals were minted by the British and given to the Powhatan chiefs as tokens of peace.

Earl Camden's uncle-in-law Edward Jeffreys did own land on the Rappahannock River in the 1720s, inherited from his tobacco-merchant great-uncle John Jeffreys, purchaser of the land on which Camden Town, London [4.3], was built.

5.32 – Camden, WASHINGTON

Populated place in Pend Oreille County; elevation 600 m / 1,968 ft

Situated in the scenic northeast corner of Washington State, between Elk and the Chain Lakes. Opened here in 2009, on a donated property, was the Camden Station of South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue –

Website: http://www.spofr.org/camden_station.htm

5.33 – Camden, WEST VIRGINIA

Unincorporated community in Lewis County; elevation 336 m / 1102 ft

Located on US Highway 33, 5½ miles (8.9 km) west-northwest of Weston, and with a post office. It was named after **Johnson Newlon Camden**, oilman, industrialist and twice a United States Senator from West Virginia between 1881 and 1895.

5.34 – Camden-on-Gauley, WEST VIRGINIA

Town in Webster County; population 126, elevation 615m / 2018 ft

The community likewise derives its name from Senator **Johnson Newlon Camden**, who was the proprietor of several businesses on the nearby Gauley River. The town was originally called **Lanes Bottom** but was renamed Camden-on-Gauley when incorporated in **1904**.

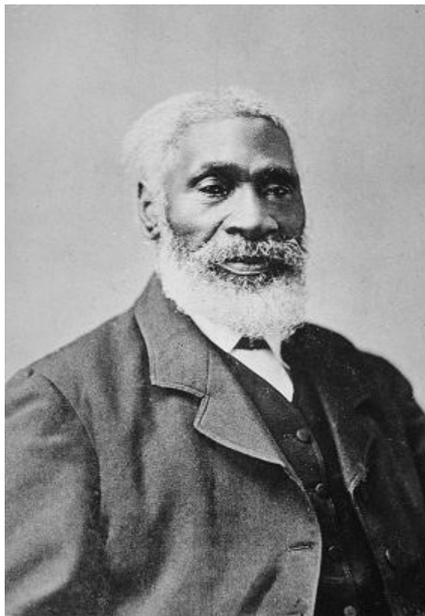
CANADA

5.35 – Camden, NOVA SCOTIA

Community in Colchester County, south of Harmony; elevation 182 m / 597 ft

5.36– Camden Township, ONTARIO

Historic township in Kent County; area 164 km² / 63 sq mi



Rev. Josiah Henson

Containing some of the best farmland in Ontario, the township was conceded by treaty in 1790, surveyed for settlement in **1794** and named for **Charles Pratt, Earl Camden**. When, in 1998, Kent County was superseded by the single-tier authority of Chatham-Kent, the township ceased to exist.

Near Dresden (population 2,800), in the former Camden Township and in a bend in the Sydenham River, is the open-air Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History, previously called Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. Born into slavery in 1789, in Maryland, Josiah Henson escaped from Kentucky in 1830 with his wife and four children, and after an arduous journey arrived in Ontario. In 1842, with Hiram Wilson, a White abolitionist, he established the British American Institute, a school providing education and training in practical skills Black Canadians at Dresden; and the Dawn Settlement, intended to be a self-sufficient community of fugitive formerly enslaved people, and exporting black walnut lumber to

the US and Britain. Becoming literate and ordained Methodist minister, Henson was the settlement's spiritual leader. He returned several times to the USA, acting as a 'conductor' on the 'Underground Railroad', the network of safe houses and clandestine routes used by escaping enslaved people, and of which Dresden was an important 'terminus'.

His autobiography is believed to have inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which after the Bible was the 19th century's best-selling book. Henson became known as the 'Original Uncle Tom'. In 1876, in his eighties, he visited England with his wife, speaking in chapels all over London, raising funds for Black communities in Canada, and meeting Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. His house at Dresden, where he died aged 93, has been restored as part of the open-air museum on the Dawn Settlement site.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah_Henson_Museum_of_African-Canadian_History



Josiah Henson House (photo: NearEMPTiness, 2014)

5.37 – Camden East, ONTARIO

Village in Lennox & Addington County; population 306, elevation 130 m / 427 ft

The community was originally called **Clark's Mills**. Samuel Clark had moved his sawmill here, adding a wool mill and a grist mill. In 1832, the post office was built. The place name changed to Camden East, after the township was organized in **1787**, and named in honour of **Charles Pratt, Earl Camden**. In its heyday the town of Camden contained four hotels and several stores, mills, a carriage factory, a cheese factory, carpenters, cabinet-makers, saddlers, tanners, shoemakers, tailors, bakers, tinsmiths and a fanning-mill maker. However, since the closure of the mills in the 1950s, the village's population has significantly decreased. The wider Township of Camden (East), named in 1805, was abolished in 1998 and is now in the municipality of Stone Mills.



The limestone building that housed a series of general stores (photo: kermitchemist, Creative Commons, 2019)

6 – CAMDENS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

There are occurrences of the Camden place name across Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean, though the reason for some of these is still to be established.

The CARIBBEAN

6.1 – Camden, Couva, TRINIDAD



Heliport at Camden Base, Couva, Trinidad

A sugar plantation at Couva was owned, with 210 enslaved people in 1813, by William Lushington, Alderman of, and Member of Parliament for, the City of London (1795-1802). He lived at the time at **Camden Place, Chislehurst [2.1]**, let to him by the 2nd Earl Camden **[3.2]** during his absence in Ireland as Lord Lieutenant. Lushington, who had made money in Asia, was to lose it in the Caribbean, where besides Camden he owned another plantation in Trinidad, and others in Mustique and in Grenada (for which he was the London agent). Stephen Lushington, William's nephew, was an active abolitionist and eventually a Privy Councillor under Queen Victoria.

The Camden Islands (*Islas Camden*), to the far left on the map, lie on Tierra del Fuego's Pacific coast off the Brecknock Peninsula and separated from it by the Brecknock Passage (*Paso Brecknock*). Earl of Brecknock (in Wales) was the subsidiary title of **John Jeffreys Pratt, 1st Marquess Camden** [3.2]. The largest island in the group is London Island (*Isla London*), on whose east side is a body of water called Pratt Passage (*Paso Pratt*). A peak on *Isla London*, called Mount San Paulo, took its name from St Paul's Cathedral in London, which it was said to resemble when viewed from a distance. Coincidentally, the land inherited by the 1st Earl Camden, on which he developed London's **Camden Town** [4.3], was leased from the cathedral.

The Camden Islands were very likely named around **1830** by the hydrographer and surveyor Robert FitzRoy, who explored Tierra del Fuego during both voyages of HMS *Beagle*, which he commanded. FitzRoy was a great-nephew of Marquess Camden, whose sister Frances was his maternal grandmother. Many Fuegian locations were chosen by Captain FitzRoy, some of them naval: e.g. Thetis Bay, named after his previous ship, and Sloggett Bay after its purser; the Beagle Channel for obvious reasons, and the Murray Narrows after the *Beagle's* bosun. Many other place names derived from the titles of FitzRoy's aristocratic relations: Londonderry Island his maternal grandfather, Stewart Island from his mother, Cape Castlereagh from an uncle, and O'Brien Island from the family of FitzRoy's wife. His paternal grandfather was Augustus FitzRoy, the 3rd Duke of Grafton (sometime British prime minister), hence the Grafton Islands, and Euston Bay (*Bahia Euston*) named after his Suffolk stately home. The FitzRoy family also owned a large estate in what is now the **London Borough of Camden** [4.4]; in Camden Town it adjoined the property of Marquess Camden. The names Fitzroy, Grafton and Euston are familiar in Camden as the eponyms of multiple streets and squares, and the district now known as Fitzrovia indirectly owes its name to the FitzRoy family. Euston Station is one of London's main railway termini.

The story of Yokcushlu, Elleparu, Boat Memory and Orundellico

For three weeks in early 1830, HMS *Beagle* (towards the end of its first voyage) was moored in Pratt Passage, in the Camden Islands, sheltering from a ferocious gale. FitzRoy sent a party of men eastward on a surveying expedition. As they camped overnight in a cove on a neighbouring island, their whaleboat was stolen by Alakaluf people. The Alakaluf (or Kkawésqar) were one of several distinct, Fuegian tribes. Nomadic canoe people, they paddled their canoes between islands, living in wigwams, subsisting mostly on sea-fish and shellfish, and sometimes hunting seals or penguins.

To return to the *Beagle*, the stranded sailors made a sort of coracle, using the branches of trees and fabric from their tent. FitzRoy disparagingly referred to it as a "basket", and the island where the whaleboat was lost is called *Isla Basket* to this day. The captain and other crewmen set out in search of their invaluable missing boat. Some of its gear was found but the culprits had vanished. Eleven Alakaluf, mostly women and children, were captured and taken aboard the *Beagle* as hostages, to be released if the boat was returned. Leaving Pratt Passage, the ship set sail south-eastward, weaving



Picture of a Fuegian, by Conrad Martens, artist on board *The Beagle*

among the Pacific-coast islands in pursuit of the thieves. By early March, most of the hostages had escaped or been released. The only Alagaluf left on board was a 9-year-old girl called **Yokcushlu**. Captain FitzRoy found her the most happy and healthy and wanted to teach her English. The crew renamed her Fuegia Basket.

Three more Fuegians were abducted by Captain Fitzroy so that they could act as intermediaries between the English and indigenous peoples. On 3 March 1830, while anchored off Waterman Island, the *Beagle* was approached by a canoe full of Alakaluf. Sensing an opportunity to take another hostage, Fitzroy lowered a boat and invited **Elleparu**, an adult male in his mid-twenties, to join him. Having initially boarded the *Beagle* voluntarily, the young man is reported as being sullen except when with Yokcushlu. Elleparu was renamed York Minster (or York for short), after a nearby headland so named earlier by Yorkshireman Captain Cook, as it resembled the twin towers of the cathedral.

Traces of a sounding-line from the missing boat were found on Whittlebury Island (named after a FitzRoy family property in Northamptonshire, as was an erstwhile street in London on the site of Euston Station). Found nearby and seized was an Alakaluf man, aged about 20 and described by FitzRoy as “the best-featured Fuegian” he had seen, “a very favourable specimen of the race”. His real name unknown, he was renamed Boat Memory.

Later, FitzRoy and his crew were exploring the 150-mile-long Beagle Channel, ‘discovered’ by the *Beagle* bosun, Matthew Murray. On 11 May, the explorers were approached by natives keen to barter beads and buttons for fish. FitzRoy recalled: *“I told one of the boys to come into our boat and gave the man who was with him [an uncle?] a large shining mother-of-pearl button. The boy got directly into my boat and sat down. Seeing him and his friends seem quite contented, I pulled onwards.”* The boy was **Orundellico**, aged 13 or 14 and one of the Yahgan (or Yámana) canoe people of southern Tierra del Fuego; he therefore spoke a different language to that of FitzRoy’s other captives. He was renamed James (or Jemmy) Button, after the button that had changed hands.



The lost boat was no longer an issue, and the captives were no longer hostages. They were now to be part of a social experiment dreamt up by FitzRoy. They would be taken to England to be educated and ‘civilised’, and then returned to their homeland to serve as role models for the Fuegians and interpreters for passing British ships. FitzRoy claimed they were happy with the arrangement.

The *Beagle* carried the foursome to England, well treated and dressed as sailors. During a stopover in Montevideo, they were vaccinated against smallpox. On reaching the Cornish coast, Yokcushlu was terrified at the sight of steamship in Falmouth Harbour. Landing in Plymouth, the Fuegians were placed in the naval hospital there for re-vaccination, whereupon Boat Memory, sadly, died.

The three surviving Fuegians were taken by stagecoach to London and on to Walthamstow (now a northeastern suburb), to be supervised by Rev. William Wilson, the local vicar. Enrolled in the parish’s pioneering infant school, and boarding with the schoolmaster and his wife, the trio were taught English, something of Christianity and practical skills such as gardening, husbandry and carpentry. The two younger Fuegians made good progress, but the adult Elleparu disliked being taught with the infants.

Orundellico (Jemmy Button) loved his European clothes, always wore gloves and became something of a 'dandy'. Popular with the locals, the Fuegians were taken by FitzRoy to visit both his aristocratic relatives and 'men of science'. Becoming minor celebrities, they were presented at St James's Palace to King William IV. Queen Adelaide gave Yokcushlu one of her bonnets, a ring, and some money to buy clothes for when she returned to her homeland.

After less than a year, FitzRoy decided to take the Fuegians home, whether having spent enough on them, or perhaps because Elleparu allegedly sexually abused Yokcushlu. FitzRoy was simultaneously appointed to command the *Beagle* on its second voyage, to Tierra del Fuego and on around the world. On 27 December 1831, the ship set sail, with the Fuegians on board, along with a young naturalist called Charles Darwin. On the voyage, Yokcushlu was betrothed to Elleparu. Yokcushlu had an aptitude for languages and learnt some Portuguese and Spanish during landfalls in Rio and Montevideo.

Back in Tierra del Fuego, FitzRoy reunited Orundellico with his mother, who had been distraught when he was kidnapped, and whose husband had died in his son's absence. A young missionary who had accompanied the returnees on the voyage, meaning to help them found a mission, could not cope with culture shock and was quickly returned to the *Beagle*. When, after 18 months, FitzRoy returned to check up on Orundellico, Jemmy, he found he had recovered his old lifestyle, living naked apart from a loincloth, now emaciated and with long hair. Orundellico had made presents for the *Beagle* crew and for his Walthamstow schoolmaster. Having almost forgotten his native language while away, he continued to speak English, and hung on to his Jemmy Button nickname. He declined an offer to take him back to England, perhaps, as Darwin put it, because of his "very nice wife". He was much later accused of leading a "massacre" of eight missionaries, but was judged to be innocent at a subsequent enquiry. Jemmy died during an epidemic in 1864. He had had two wives and three children, one of whom, called Mamashtagadagunges and renamed Threeboys, was taken by missionaries to England, spending a short time on a farm there with three other Yahgan boys.

Deposited by FitzRoy in Yahgan territory in 1831, Yokcushlu (Fuegia) and Elleparu (York) travelled west to their Alagaluf homeland. They had two children together before Elleparu was killed in retaliation for a man's murder. In 1883, a missionary landed on London Island, to learn that 'Fuegia Basket' was dying. Comforted by her daughter, Yokcushlu died, poor and frail and aged about 62, on *Ilsa London* in the Camden Islands, where the saga began.

Major source: Anne Chapman, *European encounters with the Yamana people of Cape Horn, before and after Darwin* (2010)

AFRICA

6.4 – Camden, Mpumalanga, SOUTH AFRICA

Suburb of Nucam, Gert Sibande; elevation 1,653 m / 5,423 ft

The province of Mpumalanga lies in eastern South Africa, bordering Eswatini and Mozambique. In the Swazi, Xhosa, Ndebele and Zulu languages, its name means 'The Place Where the Sun Rises' (i.e. the East). The coal-fired Camden Power Station, commissioned in 1967, was mothballed in 1990. South Africa's energy crisis in the early 21st century prompted its recommission from 2005. Its four chimneys are 152.4 m (500 ft) tall.



Camden Power Station, South Africa. Photo: JMK (Creative Commons, 2017)

6.5 - Camden, Zimbabwe

There is a farm called Camden in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe.

ASIA

6.6 – Camden Park, SINGAPORE

Upmarket residential neighbourhood in Novena, District 11

Numerous place names in the former Crown Colony derive are borrowed from British towns and cities. A local street-name expert states that Camden Park “was named in **1949** after Camden, a town in South East England”, presumably meaning the **Camden Town** istrict in London [4.3]. Source: Ng Yew Peng, *What’s in the Name?: how the streets and villages in Singapore got their names* (2017)

7 – AUSTRALASIAN CAMDENS

John Jeffreys Pratt, 2nd Earl Camden, while Secretary of State for War and the Colonies in 1804-05, was supportive of a certain **John Macarthur**. Born in England, near Plymouth (Devon), Macarthur was a soldier in the British Army, who in 1789 became a lieutenant in the New South Wales Corps, formed to serve the recently established convict outpost of Sydney.

In 1801 he was shipped back to England to face a court-martial, accused of wounding a fellow officer in a duel. When the ship was waylaid in Indonesia, he befriended Robert Farquhar, the local administrator for the East India Company. Farquhar was the son of Sir Walter Farquhar, physician to both the Prince of Wales and the British prime minister William Pitt the Younger, in whose government Earl Camden served. Arriving in England in 1802, Macarthur used his friendship with the doctor's son to gain favour in elite circles in London. The charges against him were quietly dropped and he resigned from the Army, now intent on establishing large-scale wool production in Australia. Earl Camden was especially helpful to Macarthur in this respect, granting him 5,000 acres of 'unoccupied' land in New South Wales and facilitating his purchase of nine prized Merino rams and one ewe from the Royal Flock at Kew. In 1805 Macarthur sailed back to Australia with his sheep, where on his newly acquired land – which he named **Camden Park** – his sheep-breeding enterprise thrived. Macarthur, and mainly his wife Elizabeth, ran their empire from Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta – see <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2017/04/14/elizabeth-farm-parramatta/>

A great self-publicist, Macarthur gained an overblown and unwarranted reputation as the pioneer of Australian wool production. Two dozen Merino sheep, brought from the Cape of Good Hope, had been landed at Sydney Cove by Henry Waterhouse back in 1797. Macarthur was nevertheless celebrated on a 1934 postage stamp and a later \$2 banknote.



AUSTRALIA

7.1 – Camden, NEW SOUTH WALES, Australia

Contribution from Camden Historical Society, NSW — <https://www.camdenhistory.org.au/>

By Ian Willis



The establishment of Camden, New South Wales, the town in 1840, was a private venture of James and William Macarthur, sons of colonial patriarch John Macarthur, at the Nepean River crossing on the northern edge of the family's pastoral property of Camden Park. The town's site was enclosed on three sides by a sweeping bend in the Nepean River and has regularly flooded the surrounding farmland and lower parts of the town.

John Macarthur

The site of Camden was within the 5000 acres granted to John Macarthur by the **2nd Earl Camden [3.2]**, the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, in 1805, while Macarthur was in England on charges for duelling. Macarthur was a fractious quarrelsome self-promoter who arrived in NSW with his wife Elizabeth and family in 1790 as paymaster of the New South Wales Corps. The Corps (sometimes called The Rum Corps) was formed in England in 1789 as a permanent regiment of the British Army to relieve the New South Wales Marine Corps, which had accompanied the First Fleet to Australia in 1788 to fortify the colony of NSW.

The town's site, as part of the Macarthur grants, was located on some of the finest farming country in the colony in the government **Cowpastures** reserve on the colonial frontier. The grants were part of the dispossession of traditional lands of the Dharawal people by the British settler colonial project and inevitably led to conflict and violence. Macarthur claimed that the town's establishment threatened the security of his landholdings at **Camden Park** and opposed it during his lifetime. On his death in 1834, his sons had a different worldview and moved to establish an English-style estate village dominated by a church.

The ridge-top location of St John's Church (1840) on the southern end of the town meant that it towered over the town centre and had a clear line of sight to the Macarthur family's Georgian mansion at Camden Park 2.6 miles to the southwest. The fine English Gothic-style church was funded mainly by the Macarthur family and has been the basis of the town's iconic imagery. There were a number of large gentry estates built on convict labour in the surrounding farmland, the largest being the Macarthur family's Camden Park of over 28,000 acres.



Camden Park House (Conrad Martens, 1843)

Many immigrant families came to the area under Governor Bourke's 1835 plan and settled on the gentry estates as tenant farmers, some establishing businesses in Camden. The first land sales in the village occurred in 1841, which stifled the growth of the existing European settlements in the area. The population of Camden grew from 242 in 1846, to 458 in 1856, although the gentry's estates still dominated the village. Camden Park, for example, had a population of 900 in 1850.

The English-style gentry practised philanthropy in Camden to maintain its moral tone. Elizabeth Macarthur Onslow, John Macarthur's granddaughter, encouraged the maintenance of the proprieties of life, moral order and good works, as well as memorialising her family by donating a clock and bells to St John's Church in 1897. She also marked the memory of her late husband, Captain Onslow, by providing a public park in 1882 named after her husband (Onslow Park), which is now the Camden showground.

Camden became the district's transport hub at the centre of the road network, primarily set by the pattern of land grants from the 1820s. The earliest villages in the district predated Camden and then

looked to Camden for cultural and economic leadership as the district's major centre. The arrival of the Camden tramway in 1882 meant that silver ore west of the district (1871) was shipped through the Camden railhead to the Main Southern Railway from Sydney.

Combined with rail access to markets, the town's prosperity was assured by a series of technical and institutional innovations that transformed the dairy industry in the 1890s. In the 1920s the Macarthur family set up the Camden Vale Milk Company and built a milk processing plant at the eastern end of the main street adjacent to the rail line. Whole milk was railed to Sydney and bottled under its label until the mid-1920s. Milk was delivered daily to the factory by horse and cart until the 1940s from local dairy farms.

Camden's progress saw the construction of a new bank (1878), the commencement of weekly stock sales (1883), the formation of the Camden Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society and the first Camden Show (1886), a new post and telegraph office (1898), the foundation of two weekly newspapers (*Camden Times*, 1879, *Camden News*, 1880), a new cottage hospital (1898), the formation of a fire brigade (1900), the opening of a telephone exchange (1910), the installation of reticulated gas (1912), electricity (1929), town water (1899) and the replacement of gas street lighting with electric lights (1932), and a sewerage scheme (1939). By 1933 the population of the town had grown to 2394.

The first attempt at local government in 1843 was unsuccessful. A meeting of local notables formed the municipality of Camden at a public meeting in 1883. Still, it was not until 1889 that the municipality was proclaimed, covering 7,000 acres and including Camden and the neighbouring village of Elderslie. Nine townsmen were elected aldermen at the first election that year, and the first meeting was held at the School of Arts. In 1993 the Camden Municipal Council eventually became the Council of Camden.

Camden's 1840 street grid is still intact today, with streets named after members of the Macarthur family – John Street, Elizabeth, Edward Street – and NSW colonial notables – Oxley Street, Broughton Street, Mitchell Street. The main highway between Sydney and Melbourne (the Hume Highway) passed along the main street (Argyle Street), until it was re-routed in 1976. The town's business centre still has several Victorian and Art Deco shopfronts.

Some charming Federation and Californian bungalows in the church ridge-top precinct were the homes of the Camden elite in the early 20th century. The precinct is the site of Macarthur Park (1905), which was dedicated to the townsfolk by Elizabeth Macarthur Onslow and contained the town's World War One cenotaph (donated by the Macarthur family).



John Street 1890s (John Kerry Studios, Sydney)

John Street runs north-south downhill to the floodplain from the commanding position of St John's church. Lower John Street is the location of the Italianate house Macaria (c1842), St Paul's Catholic church and the government buildings associated with the Camden police barracks (1878) and courthouse (1857), and Camden Public School (1851). This area also contains the oldest surviving Georgian cottage in the town area, Bransby's Cottage (1842). Lower John Street has the Camden

Temperance Hall (1867) which later served as Camden Fire Station (1916–1993), and the School of Arts (1866), which served as the Camden Town Hall, while the rear of the building was occupied for a time by Camden Municipal Council.

Community voluntary organisations have been part of Camden life from the town's foundation. In the late 1800s, they were male-dominated, usually led by the landed gentry, and held informal political power through patronage. James Macarthur sponsored the Camden School of Arts (1865) and Agricultural, Horticultural & Industrial Society (1886), later called the Camden Show Society, while the non-conformists sponsored various lodges and the temperance movement. A small clique of well-off local women established several conservative women's organisations after Federation. Their social position supported their husbands' political activities, and the influence of the Macarthur family was felt in these organisations, for example, the Camden Red Cross and Country Women's Association.

Many men and women from Camden and the district saw military service in the Boer War and later World War One and Two when residents set up local branches of national patriotic funds and civil defence organisations. On the outskirts of the town, there were active defence establishments during World War II, including an airbase, army infantry, and training camps.

Economic prosperity from coal mining in the district's western part challenged old hierarchies in the post-war years, replacing the old colonially-based rural hegemony. New community organisations like Rotary and later the Chamber of Commerce fostered business networks in the town. The Camden Historical Society (1957) promoted the town's past and later opened a local museum (1970).

The New South Wales state government decreed that the town would become part of a growth area in the form of 'new cities' under the Macarthur Growth Centre Plan (1973), modelled on the British Garden City concept. Increasing urbanisation threatened the town's identity and the number of community members formed by the Camden Residents' Action Group (1973).

In 2007 Camden was the administrative centre of the Camden Local Government Area, which had a population of over 51,000 (2006) and an area of 201 km². The Camden LGA became part of the state government's Sydney South West Growth Centre, planned to house 500,000 new residents, and is one of Australia's fastest-growing urban areas.

Increasing levels of Sydney's urbanisation have continued, threatened the loss of rural landscapes around the town, and awakened a wave of nostalgia. The NSW state government created the Camden Town Conservation Area (2008) based on the mid-20th century country town that aimed at preserving the town's integrity and material fabric.

The Camden Woollybutt, *Eucalyptus macarthurii*, commonly known as the Camden woollybutt (or Paddy's river box), is a species of tree native to a small area of New South Wales. It has rough, fibrous bark on the trunk and larger branches. Sir William Macarthur, the fifth son of John Macarthur, was a vigneron and amateur botanist; he is believed to have been the first to recognise this particular woollybutt as a distinct tree.



BOOK: Alan Atkinson, *Camden*, Melbourne: Oxford UP. 1988) describes the early years of Camden NSW, 1830s to 1870s, listing original Bounty arrivals.

In 1810 Governor Macquarie granted land near Camden to John Oxley (see below). Raising and breeding sheep there, he named the property Kirkham after his Yorkshire (England) birthplace. John Oxley Cottage at Elderslie, of the 1890s(?), now houses the Camden Visitor Information Centre.

Displayed in the Camden Museum is a plaque bearing the coat of arms of the London Borough of Camden [4.4] and inscribed “Florence Cayford, Mayor of Camden”. Dame Florence Cayford, a train driver’s daughter and a redoubtable councillor dubbed “the uncrowned queen of Kilburn”, was elected Mayor in 1968. How the plaque reached New South Wales is a mystery.

7.2 – Camden Haven, NEW SOUTH WALES, Australia

District in the Mid North Coast region; population 17,835



Laurieton as viewed from North Brother Mountain (photo: Rohan Stelling, 2005)

Camden Haven lies 365 km (228 mi) north of Sydney and 42 km (26 mi) south of Port Macquarie, where the Camden Haven River empties into the Pacific Ocean. The district consists of fertile, well-watered valleys punctuated by several large mountains, notably the Three Brothers – so named by Captain James Cook when he sailed by in 1770. The region’s economy is based on tourism, fisheries, forestry and oyster farming. The largest town, Laurieton (named after timber-mill owner Joseph Laurie), was long known alternatively as Camden Haven.

Long before European settlement the area was home to the Birpai

people. In 1818, John Oxley, Surveyor General of New South Wales, leading an expedition party returning to Sydney after four months in the outback, found their way blocked by a wide estuary. After an exploration of the area, a canoe was built to convey the 13 men and their luggage and horses across the water. Oxley’s journal entry for 15 October **1818** described “the haven, which we named after Lord Camden” – i.e. **John Jeffreys Pratt, 1st Marquess Camden**, who was Teller of the Exchequer at the time. Oxley also named the two lakes on the estuary as Queens Lake and Watson Taylors Lake, the latter after George Watson Taylor, who had been Lord Camden’s Private Secretary when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.



John Oxley

Main source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camden_Haven. The website of the Camden Haven Historical Society is at <https://www.camdenhavenhistoricalsociety.org/>

7.3 – Camden Sound, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A bay in the Kimberley region, with no road access and the nearest town, Kalumburu (of 412 souls), lying 268 km (167 mi) to the east. Aboriginal peoples lived and fished in the area for a long time before the colonisation of Western Australia. Today, native title claims have been registered in the area of the marine park by the Dambimangari, Uunguru and Mayala native title groups.

Camden Sound was 'discovered' by naval officer and hydrographer Phillip Parker King on HMS *Bathurst* on 15 August **1821**, while surveying Australia's west coast. He named the sound Camden Bay after **John Jeffreys Pratt, 1st Marquess Camden**. [Camden Sound, in the Kimberley Region of northwest Western Australia, is southwest of Augustus Island \(-15.40 124.63\) and west of Kuri Bay and Brecknock Harbour \("Camden Harbour"\)](#). Camden Harbour was a short-lived settlement within Camden Sound in 1864-65.

Captain King had reputedly been introduced to surveying by Matthew Flinders, and in 1817 been commissioned by the British government to survey the parts of the coastline that Flinders had not surveyed. Flinders, incidentally, was eventually buried in what is now Camden, London (England), though recently exhumed to make way for the planned high-speed railway HS2; there is a charming statue of him and his cat outside Euston Station. A son of Philip Gidley King, Governor of New South Wales (and an adversary of John Macarthur [7.1]), Philip Parker King acquired over 4,000 acres of land there, and served on the Australian Advisory Committee with Macarthur.

Nowadays, as part of the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park, the bay is rich in marine life, with seagrass meadows, coral reefs, tidally drained mudflats, and rich sponge gardens that are home to a myriad of invertebrates and finfish as well as turtles and crocodiles. Camden Sound is also a critical calving and nursery site for the world's largest population of humpback whales, totalling up to 30,000 individuals.

Other Australian locations are:

Camden Park, ADELAIDE

In the City of West Torrens, a suburb of Adelaide, South Australia; and

Camden, QUEENSLAND

A homestead near Meandu Creek.

NEW ZEALAND

7.4 – Camden and Mount Camden, South Island, NEW ZEALAND

Documents and image from Marlborough Historical Society & Museum

<https://www.marlboroughmuseum.org.nz/>

Camden is a sheep station lying thirty miles up the Awatare Valley (famed for its wine), in the high country of Marlborough, in the northeast of South Island. Crown land, it was licensed to in 1850 to Henry Godfrey, who named it the **Hodder Run** after a river on that borders it. In 1862, ownership passed to Philip McRae, one of a family hailing from Scotland, who had emigrated in 1842 and owned several sheep runs in Marlborough. McRae renamed the station 'Camden'. It is still a working farm of 7,674 hectares / 18,963 acres, running Merino sheep and Angus cattle. It has its own airstrip. Its campsite and chalet tourist accommodation are named Camden Cookshop.



Camden Homestead

The pastures of the Camden Run extend onto the slopes of several neighbouring mountains, including **Mount Camden** which, at 1379 m / 4,525 ft, must be the world's highest Camden. Evidence of how it came to be named is lacking. Two -of the watercourses flowing through the Camden Run, or bordering it, are the Isis Stream and the Cam River, with names suggestive of the rivers traversing the English university towns of Oxford and Cambridge. Philip McRae's father George, a pioneer settler, had named several Awatare Valley rivers including the Jordan and Medway. Were the Isis and Cam part of the same eclectic mix? Was 'Camden' simply a more euphonious and aristocratic extension of 'Cam'?

Or was the mountain indeed named after John Jeffrey's Pratt, Marquess Camden, as a possibly posthumous tribute to his support for antipodean sheep farming?

The Awatare Valley farm road leads eventually to the spectacular Molesworth Station, 120 km from Blenheim. Another Crown property, covering 185,000 hectares (almost ½ million acres), this supports the country's largest herd of cattle, while contributing to rabbit population control and government research into bovine TB and possums. Originally called Barefell Pass, the land was discovered by the pioneer of NZ pastoral farming, Frederick Weld. The names Molesworth Moor and Molesworth Creek, first appearing on a map of 1852, were probably assigned by Weld, a friend of Francis Alexander Molesworth, younger brother of Sir William Molesworth, said to have been a director or supporter of the New Zealand Company. The brothers were coincidentally great-nephews of Frances Molesworth, the wife of Marquess Camden.

8 – THE CAMDEN SOCIETY

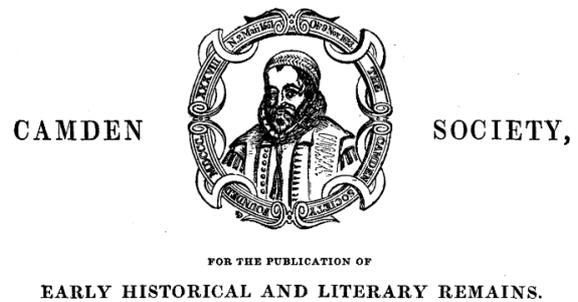
Contribution from the Royal Historical Society – <https://royalhistsoc.org/>

By Dr Philip Carter, Academic Director

Camden Society for the Publication of Historical and Literary Remains (1838-1897)

The Camden Society was founded on 15 March 1838, at the home of John Bowyer Nichols, parliamentary printer and proprietor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Those present at the founding meeting included Thomas Amyot, secretary of the Slave Compensation Commission, and Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries; Sir Frederick Madden, Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum; the genealogist Thomas Stapleton, Thomas Wright, editor of early texts, and the Revd Joseph Hunter, historian and assistant keeper at the newly established Public Record Office.

The meeting resolved to establish an association ‘for the publication of early historical and literary remains’, to be called the Camden Society: not to be confused with the Cambridge Camden Society, an association for the study of ecclesiastical architecture and antiquities, founded in the following year and known—from 1846—as the Ecclesiological Society. As noted in the Society’s first published volume, the Camden name was chosen ‘as a symbol of the importance and value of the subjects to which the attention of the Society will be directed, and a pledge that its designs will be prosecuted with zeal, learning, and judgment.’



From the first title page, 1838

The new Camden Society was governed by a President and a Council of twelve members, including a Treasurer and Secretary. Membership of the Society was by annual subscription of £1, and an annual meeting was held on 2 May to mark the birthday of William Camden (1551-1623). The Society’s purpose was publication of unedited manuscripts—and from 1839 the publication of editions in translation—as well as the republication of selected scarce printed books. By doing so the Society sought to ‘perpetuate, and render accessible, whatever is valuable, but at present little known, amongst the materials for the Civil, Ecclesiastical, or Literary History of the United Kingdom ... in the most convenient form, and at the least possible expense that is consistent with the production of useful volumes.’

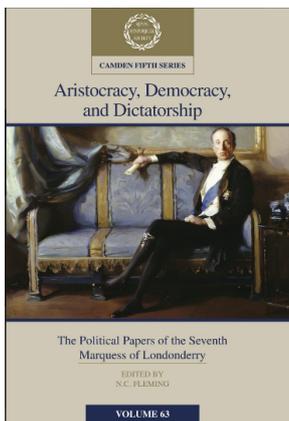
Copies of each new edition were sent to members of the Society with remaining volumes offered publicly. The twelve-man Council was originally responsible for oversight of the Society’s membership and the selection of works for publication. From May 1839 it resolved also to read the proofs of each work to ensure standards were being maintained by individual editors. The early years of the Camden Society saw rapid growth in membership. By Spring 1839, the subscription list neared 500 members each of whom received the first published editions of the *Historie of the Arrivall of Edward IV in*

England, edited by John Bruce, and John Payne Collier's edition of Bishop Bale's dramatic work, *Kynge Johan*.

The first General Meeting, held on 2 May 1839, raised the membership limit to 1000, which was increased again to 1250 in March of the following year. Prince Albert joined the Society in 1843 and remained a member until his death in 1861. A number of institutional subscribers were admitted as members of the Society and obtained a set of publications, the first being the London Library in 1842, followed by the Chetham Library, Manchester, in 1850, the Marylebone Public Library in 1854, and the Westminster Public Library in 1857.

The Camden Society's outstanding contribution is Albert Way's edition of *Promptorium parvulorum sive clericorum*, a multi-volume Latin-English dictionary dating from c.1440. One of the earliest works proposed by the Society, it was only completed in 1865. Other publications were undertaken jointly with the Early English Text Society (founded in 1864). In addition to its annual volumes, the Society's Council was active in promoting easier access to historical documents. Between 1848 and 1869, it sought to easier access to early wills in courts and district registries, and opposed the imposition of fees for literary searches among wills. In 1865, it successfully advocated the use of photography for making facsimile copies of wills.

Despite these achievements, the Society's viability as membership organisation soon became, and remained, a source for concern. Within a decade of its founding, the Society saw a decline in subscriptions and, by 1851, membership stood at between 300 and 400, with print runs limited to 750 copies per edition. This decline brought financial difficulties, exacerbated by the early 1880s, on account of a failed project to compile a general index to the Society's first 100 published volumes. Between the late 1880s and early 1890s membership wavered between 150 and 230, and by 1894 the Society was £95 in arrears from defaulting subscribers.

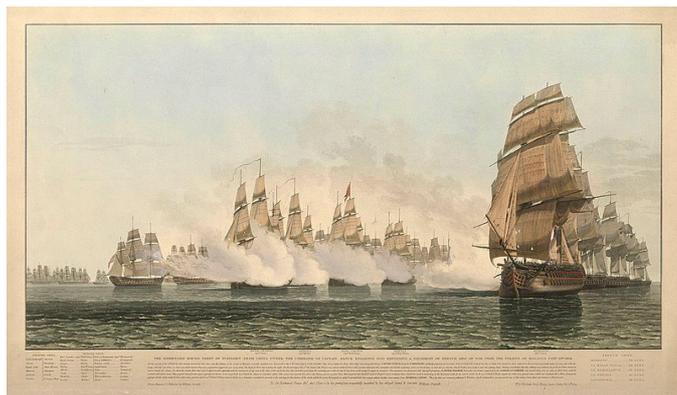


Cover of one of the two latest volumes published in 2022

In 1896 it was suggested that the Camden Society amalgamate with the [Royal Historical Society \(RHS\)](#), an international membership organisation established in 1868 to foster and promote research and the development of the discipline of historical scholarship. Royal Historical Society membership then stood at c.600. It was proposed that a united membership of the two societies would be sufficient to support the annual publication of two Camden volumes and one of the RHS's proceedings or *Transactions*. A joint commission reported favourably in 1896 and the Camden Society was absorbed within the Royal Historical Society from April 1897. The merger of the Camden Society with the RHS ensured the continuation of its work. Since 1897, two volumes of the Royal Historical Society's Camden Series of primary sources, have been published annually. In 2022, some [380 volumes of Camden texts are available](#), in print and online, from Cambridge University Press. These volumes—principally relating to British and Irish history, and British activities worldwide—offer scholarly editions of a wide range of sources, ranging from political papers and diplomatic correspondence to professional journals and personal diaries. The [archive of the Camden Society \(1838-1897\)](#), comprising papers relating principally to the management and accounts of the Society, is now part of the Royal Historical Society's archive at University College London.

9 – SHIPS

The name Camden was carried around the world, not only in place names but by a number of ships. The 1st Earl was a member of syndicates supporting trade with India and China. Four 'East Indiamen' bearing the Camden title were built for the East India Company (EIC). The first **Lord Camden** made its maiden voyage in 1766. The captain, Nathaniel Smith, was brother-in-law to the architect George Dance – who remodelled Camden Place at Chislehurst [2.1] and whose later plan for Camden Town [4.3] was abandoned. Nathaniel Dance, a nephew of George, became captain of a second **Lord Camden**, which made five voyages between 1783 and 1795.



During the Napoleonic Wars, Nathaniel Dance also commanded the **Earl Camden**, built in Bombay (Mumbai) and launched in 1802. In early 1804 it was the flagship of a large convoy of East Indiamen returning to England from China, heavily laden with valuable cargo. Coincidentally on board the *Earl Camden*, as a young midshipman, was John Franklin, the future namer of Camden Bay, Alaska [5.3]. On 15 February 1804, in the South China Sea, the flotilla was tailed by a French war squadron under Contre-Amiral Linois. Commodore Dance ordered four of his ships to run up the blue ensign of the Royal Navy to fool the French into thinking that his merchant ships were more heavily armed British warships. The ruse worked, and after a short, inconsequential exchange of gunfire, the French squadron withdrew, to be chased for two hours by the British merchantmen. On their eventual arrival in England, their commanders and crew were rewarded for having saved the EIC and their insurers from bankruptcy. Known as the Battle of Pulo Aura, the engagement was painted by the artist William Daniell, who was to die in 1837 in Camden Town (London). In 1810 the *Earl Camden* was destroyed by fire in Bombay harbour. A successor East Indiaman, the *Marquis Camden* built c.1812, was wrecked in the Philippines in 1839.

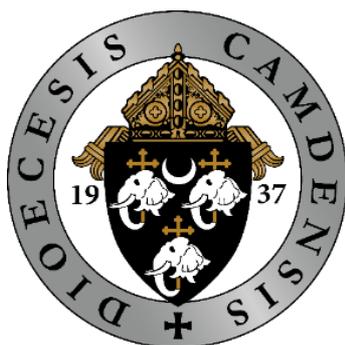
Smaller ships named **Camden** included a vessel built in Liverpool in 1760, which in its time brought 150 enslaved people from Africa to dig a canal and carried a total of 1,232 enslaved people from the Gold Coast (Ghana) to Jamaica. Another *Camden*, built on the Thames in 1799, transported convicts, and later emigrants, to Australia. Its first owner was William Lushington, sometime resident of Camden Place, Chislehurst [2.1] and owner of the Camden plantation in Trinidad [6.2]. The *Camden* built in 1813 in Whitby (Yorkshire, England) became a Greenland whaler, and a sealer of the same name was lost off Patagonia in 1826. The 'packet' *Camden*, built in Falmouth in 1819, carried mail for the British Post Office, and was reputedly named after the 2nd Earl Camden for his contribution to improving postal services. The ship later carried missionaries from England to the Pacific, where on arrival in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) in 1838, Rev. John Williams was promptly eaten by cannibals. For more detail see <http://www.camdentownhistory.info/wp-content/uploads/Camden-sails.pdf>

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An American ship was captured in 1777 off Cape Finisterre (Spain), by the future British Admiral Samuel Barrington, and named by him *Lord Camden*. More recently, two ships in the United States Navy have been *USS Camden* (AS-6, the former *Kiel*), a submarine tender from 1919 to 1931 and a barracks ship during World War II; and *USS Camden* (AOE-2), a fast combat support ship, 1967-2005.

10 – ELEPHANTS’ HEADS

In deference to William Camden, as Clarenceux King of Arms, we should not overlook Lord Camden’s heraldry which, like the Camden name, has travelled. Usually symbolising great strength, wit, longevity, happiness, good luck and ambition, the Pratt family emblem is an elephant’s head. Along with a black bar and three stars, three such heads appeared in the arms of the 1st Earl Camden (top left) and of his son, the 1st Marquess (top centre):



In 1900 the motif was included in the arms of the new Metropolitan Borough of St Pancras (top right), and today serves more strikingly as the crest in the little-used coat of arms of the London Borough of Camden (bottom centre) [4.4] (Latin motto meaning ‘not for oneself but for all’).

Elephants’ heads have also crossed the Atlantic, featuring both in the arms of Camden County, New Jersey [5.22] (bottom right), and in the badge of the local Roman Catholic diocese, (bottom left).

Back in England, in Camden Crescent, Bath [4.2], the doorcase keystones are embellished with elephants' heads in relief. Similarly adorned in Camden Town, London, is the doorway of 'Elephant House', the former bottling store of the erstwhile Camden Brewery (brewers of Elephant Ale). First opened in 1869, and still trading nearby in Camden High Street, is an Elephant's Head public house. In Kent, a namesake pub in Seal Road, Greatness, Sevenoaks, adjoining the Pratts' Wildernesse estate and dating from 1867, survived into the 21st century but now houses a veterinary practice; while another is still in business at Hook Green, Lamberhurst, near to Bayham House, the mansion built by the 3rd Marquess Camden in 1870.



*1990 inn sign of the
Sevenoaks pub*

<https://www.sevenoakssociety.co.uk/townscape/towns-and-buildings/our-town/308-elephants-heads-and-tales>

<http://www.dover-kent.com/2014-project/Elephants-Head-Sevenoaks.html>

Acknowledgements

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