

me for the six dreadful days I am going to pass [with Princess Amelia at Stowe]. Rosette is fast asleep in your chair, or I am sure she would write a postscript. I cannot say that she is either commanded or invited to be of this royal party, but have me, have my dog.'

A further letter from HW, 7th July, safely back at Strawberry Hill, entertainingly described the visit *'The party passed off much better than I expected.'* It is far too long to quote here. However, *'...the chief entertainment of the week, at least what was so to the Princess, is an arch which Lord Temple has erected in her honour in the most enchanting of all picturesque scenes.'* The arch is still there to delight Stowe's numerous visitors.

There are just three more letters in July whilst GM was at Adderbury. Their correspondence ceases entirely in October 1770. Then or shortly afterwards he must have left Adderbury, upon his sinecure appointment as Ranger of Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire.

Final years for the Cobb Mansion

Eventually Paul Cobb Methuen, son of Christian Cobb and Paul Methuen, in 1791 conveyed the Cobb Mansion to Richard Heydon, a local landowner.

On April 26th 1810 the property, near a ruin, was offered for sale at the Red Lion Hotel in Banbury. The sale particulars described the house as

'...pleasantly situate in the populous village of Adderbury East, and consists of the walls and roof of a very handsome mansion-house (formerly Sir George Cobb's) of about thirty yards in length and fifteen in depth, with a handsome entrance, and in the front there is a green court. Several of the stones and some of the timbers, wainscoting, doors, lead, iron, glass and the stone paving of the hall are on the premises. Also a building adjoining the mansion formerly used as a wash-house, but now occupied as a dwelling house by William Woodward, and a small piece of garden ground in front, and an ash tree growing thereon, and sundry buildings nearly adjoining, formerly as a brewhouse, coach-house and stable.

'Also a garden adjoining the mansion, now in sward (a lawn), containing about one acre and a quarter, planted with fruit trees, and a summer-house (now South House) therein, adjoining the Free School, and walled around. Also a close and meadow adjoining the said mansion and orchard, containing together with the orchard garden, yard and site of the mansion-house about 14 acres. On the close and meadow are standing 12 good oak trees and 5 small ones, 2 ash, &., &., and other trees. There is a dove house in the close, two fish ponds and a summer house surrounded by a shrubbery.... The gardens, close and meadow are in the occupation of Mr Walter Wilson.'