

OCTOBER 1998

H I S T O R Y O F:  
OLD MILL HOUSE, 41 UNION ROAD, BRIDGE  
AND THE LEMAR FAMILY

Notes written by Gwen Herbert (nee Lemar)

In the 18th Century some Huguenot families escaped from France during the French Revolution and came to settle in Kent.

One of those families was "US" - the leMar family - (later to be written as Lemar). Our Ancestors were Market Gardeners.

Two centuries later, our family, Mr. & Mrs. G.F. Lemar and daughters, Gladys, Margaret and Gwen, moved from Canterbury to Bridge. The reason for this was that Mr. H.E. Burniston, Coal Merchant in Canterbury, for whom my father worked, had asked my father to move to Bridge to expand the coal trade in Bridge and surrounding villages.

So, on 28th February 1933, we came to live in Old Mill House, Union Road, Bridge (later to be numbered No.41).

Old Mill House was built c.1730 and when we moved in, in 1933, there were very few houses in Union Road. There were none between Old Mill House and the Coal Yard (where my father worked) which was situated at the top of Union Road (where the Oil Distribution Depot is today). In the Coal Yard stood a Mill and in earlier times the Miller lived in Old Mill House. This is the reason why Old Mill House faces up Union Road; the Miller always kept an "eye" on his Mill! A Mill-stone is still in the front porch at Old Mill House. The Mill was demolished in 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hollands were the previous occupants of Old Mill House and they moved to No. 14 Union Road, Bridge.