

Daphne Argent (Mrs)  
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28 5 2004

Dear Mr Bishop

I understand that you are the chairman of the Bridge History Society and as such are interested in all information about the early years of Bridge. This is why I am writing to you as, during my own Family History research, I have found a will that includes some interesting items about the Parish Church etc. You may already know of this will but in case it is new to you some of the details are as follows.

Will from the ACC number PRC17 / 44 / 313 Bridge 1582/3

Peter Colsonsacke .

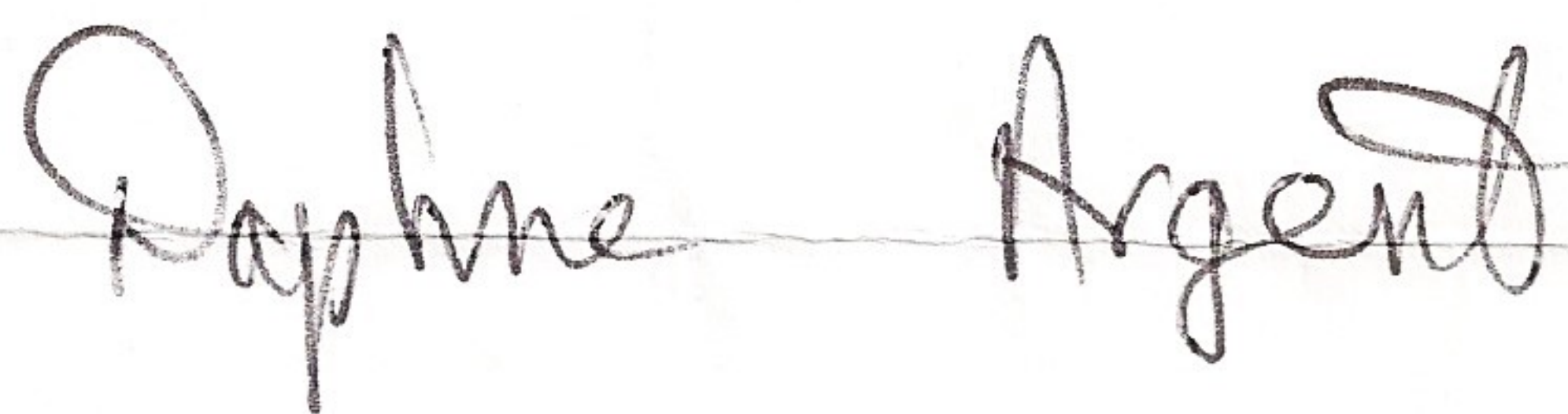
In his will he gave specific instructions as to his burial at 'Brydge' and mention is made of a sermon to given by 'Mr Fountayne'. He also makes bequests to the 'poor of Bridge' and also for the repair of the 'Brydge steeple'.

His name is appended to the B Ts for Bridge until 1582 and the family bequests link him to the Brabson family also in Bridge. He also owned land at Nether Hardres and Upper Hardres. Unfortunately the P Rs and B Ts for the year in which he died are missing so unless there is other evidence available it is not possible to know if his wishes were carried out.

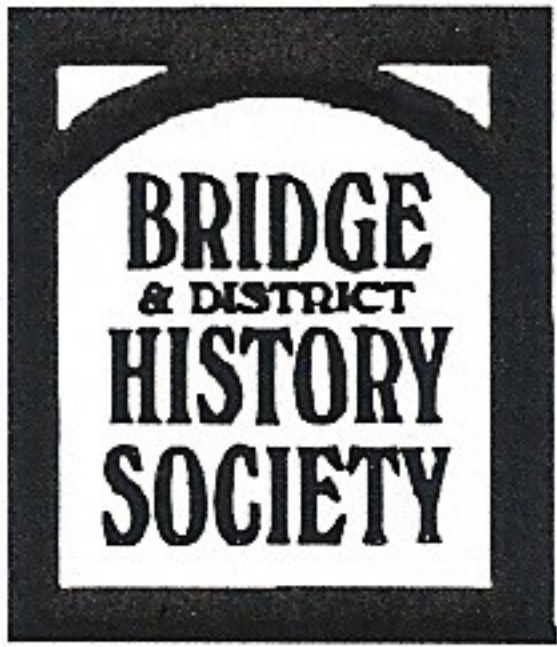
I am especially interested in this part of Bridge history as ongoing research is linking the 'Colsonsacke' family with the later Kent family of 'Goldsack'. The various religious differences at the time have led us to believe that he was a Protestant from the continent or a Catholic from another part of England. I know that the 'Braems' family were in Bridge later and that they came from Dover. A later Colsonsacke also rented property from a 'Hugesson' in Dover.

I have had Peter Colsonsacke's will transcribed and if you would like a copy of this or any further details of my own research I would be pleased to hear from you.

Yours sincerely



Daphne Argent



From the Honorary Treasurer: Dr MM Raraty.  
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Telephone (01227) 830508  
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August 3 2004

Dear Mrs Argent,

Your letter to Mr Bishop about your researches in Bridge history has (by a roundabout route and an undisturbed in-tray) reached me. I must apologise for the severe delay in replying, since what you have to say is of the utmost interest. The registers for Bridge begin only in 1579 (and then only partially) so names known to me from before then are sparse.

The name of Peter Colonsacke is wholly new to me, though I am inclined to believe that it is a corruption, if one may use the term at this date, of Goldsacke (or vice versa). Richard Fountaine was vicar of Patricbourne and Bridge from 22 November 1582 until his death on 2 July 1589, and was buried in Patricbourne. A son (Henry ffountaine) is recorded as being baptised on February 5<sup>th</sup> 1586.

The name Brabson is also unknown to me.

Sir Arnold Braems built Bridge Place, at the time the second largest property in East Kent (after Leeds Castle). Most of it was demolished on the death of his son Walter. What remains is now Bridge Country Club. Sir Arnold was Customer for Dover, following his father Jacob, who had inherited 'a quay, wharves, and herring houses' in Dover in 1611. The family originated in Flanders.

One George Brahm was baptised in Bridge 30 October 1580 – I can think of no good reason why Sir Arnold should have built his mansion in Bridge.

I should be delighted to have a copy of Peter Colonsacke's will, and any other information about Bridge in this era that you may have. It all helps to build the picture of the village!

Yours sincerely,

(part-time archivist of Bridge)

Daphne Argent (Mrs)  
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4 8 2004

Dear Dr Raraty

Thank you for your letter which arrived on a day of the week which I set aside for research. Hence the immediate reply before family commitments during the rest of August delay a response for several weeks.

I enclose a typed copy of Peter Colsonsacke's will of 1582/3 and also a photocopy of that of Henry Brabson of 1564, who also lived in Bridge. I have also drawn up 'tentative' charts based on the Will information and other research showing how the families linked together. Question marks show the entries that are not 'proven'.

As the relevant burial records seem to be missing we will probably never know if his burial was in Bridge as he requested. Can you tell me the style of 'churchmanship' that predominated at Bridge when Richard Fountaine was the vicar? Would he have been sympathetic to a 'Protestant', allowing Peter Colsonsacke to be a clerk if he was of that persuasion? Or is it likely that Peter was a follower of the traditional 'Catholic' line and was acceptable at Bridge as the vicar was of that persuasion? It has been suggested to me that the wording of Peter's will indicates a protestant interest but I do not know enough about these matters to form an opinion. (I believe the Archbishop of Canterbury of that date was sympathetic to the Protestant cause)..

There was a Robert Colsonsacke in Canterbury made a freeman in 1548 and a hackney man. He was obviously connected to the above mentioned Peter in some way but the links between these and other individuals we have found are still being investigated.

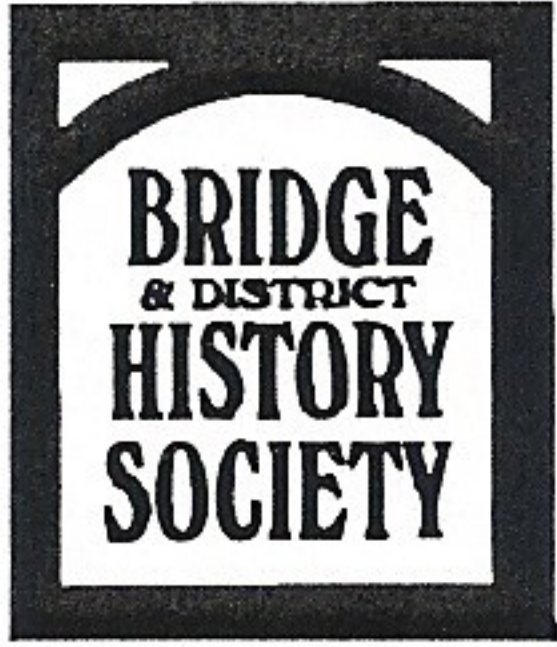
I have a published article about this family and the way in which it is linked with the Goldsacks, in the June 2004 edition of the Kent Family History Society Journal. My own original interest was in the Goldsacks as they are my ancestors but the searches have ranged worldwide with some intriguing results. The inclusion of 'Colsonne' has now introduced families from Lincolnshire and raised the possibility of 'Dutch engineers who came over to drain the marsh land'!!! All the Goldsacks today come from an original family from Dover in the 1660s. Solving all the puzzles has been a long process and so now we turn our thoughts to the even earlier families, be they Colsonne or Colsonsacke.

Would it ever be possible to identify the residence of Henry Brabson or Peter Colsonsacke in Bridge or Hardre? Are there any houses of such an early date in the village?

I hope the enclosed documents will add another slant to the history of your village.

Yours sincerely

*Daphne Argent*



From the Honorary Treasurer: Dr MM Raraty.  
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August 10 2004

Dear Mrs Argent,

Thank you for your reply. By the time you read this I hope you will have had a good holiday!

I have had a more detailed look at what I have here, and can offer the following (of course this may not be new to you).

In so far as Richard Fountaine records the birth of a son in 1586 (as I mentioned in my previous letter) I would suppose him to be of a Protestant persuasion. Peter C. as one of his Churchwardens (as appears from the will) would be the same.

I have also found the following births (baptisms):

Susan Brabson 30 April 1604 – father: Thomas (as in Henry Brabson's will)

Elizabeth Brabson July 1601 – father: Thomas

Henry Brabson 14 March 1595 – father: Thoas (named after his grandfather, firstborn?)

Affra Brabson 1 November 1598 – father: Richard

Mary Brabson 20 February 1603/4 – father: Richard

Also, Richard Brabyn, b. 15 April 1582, which may be my false reading of Brabson – I will have to return to the original to check. If so, he may just about be identical with Richard above.

Henry Brabson does mention the location of his lands (which would give an indication of where he lived) but I am not sufficiently attuned to the hand to decipher it immediately. There are several houses in the High Street of Bridge which certainly date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The (now sadly demolished) farm in the centre of Bridge dated from the early 15<sup>th</sup> – a fact only discovered as it was coming down (*Arch. Cant. 1964*). Something may be said of the people mentioned in PC's will. Mr Parteyge for instance may be not unconnected with William Partherich, (cf *Hasted*) who bought Blackmansbury (ie Bridge Place) from Henry Laurence in 1576 and whose grandson Sir Edward sold out to Arnold Braems in 1638. Goodman Bargrose may similarly be associated with the name Bargar: John Bargar was a ?tanner in Bridge, whose family (known then as Bargrave) later rose to build Bifrons in Patricbourne, making (and losing) money in Virginia. Isaac Bargrave, perhaps the best known, born in 1580, became Dean of Canterbury.

The names of Austen and Burton are also well attested at this time.

Good luck with your further researches.

Yours sincerely,

PS. I'm embarrassedly mystified by your references to B Ts and P Rs. What am I missing?