

A TOUR AROUND BRIDGE HISTORY; DESCRIPTION; .

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Bridge village is situated in the Nailbourne Valley in an attractive rural setting on the old Roman Watling Street, formerly the main road between London and Dover. The village is the main settlement in the Parish of Bridge and lies 2.5 miles south east of Canterbury and 12 miles from Dover.

It is likely that the parish took its name from "Bregge" a bridge which crossed the Little Stour, a tributary of the Stour itself. '

The village is linear in form having grown northwards and eastwards along Watling Street and away from the River Nailbourne which floods periodically. The older part of the village is built on fairly level alluvial and head deposits, the height of the land varying between 25m. and 50m. above sea level. In the early 1960's a significant amount of residential building took to the south of the centre of the village at Bridge Down. This development is situated on north west facing chalkland between 50m. and 75m. above sea level.

As a result of the 1986 parish boundary changes Bridge village now lies slightly offcentre in a parish reduced in size. Although land to the north west, north east and south east was gained from Patricbourne and Bishopsbourne, more to the south west was lost to Lower Hardres, Upper Hardres and Bishopsbourne.

Bridge, like other similar villages in the locality is a popular residential area for people working in Canterbury and other nearby towns. _

A SHORT HISTORY

The village of Bridge, straddling the main road from Dover to Canterbury has been an important village since the Roman occupation of England. .

There was probably a Roman bridge across the river (Cf. Bruges which has a similar site and V name) . The village is situated on the old coaching route from -Dover to London, known as ~ Wading Street. In the parish records. there are detailed many marriages between passing travellers and local villagers.

Near by on the Barham Downs the armies used to assemble for campaigns abroad such as "The Field of the Cloth of Gold", the Seven Years War and also India in the mid 19th Century.

The church in characteristic Kentishflirit was restored with money given by Mrs. Gregory in 1852. It is a feature of the village as you come down the hill from Canterbury and is even more exposed since the great storm in October, 1987.

A characteristic of Bridge are the largernanor houses near the village:

— Bridge Place was the home of the Braemes family (Sir Arnold Braemes was the first manager of the Dover Harbour Board),

- Higham House, now known as Highland Court was one of the largest country houses in East Kent in the 17th Century, Count Zebrovsky of Chitty, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang fame lived in the house earlier this century.

- Bridge Hill House was the former home of the grandson of the French philosopher Montesquieu,

- East Bridge House,

to mention but a few. A little further away is Bourne Park where Mozart stayed once to attend the horse races on the Barham Downs!

There are three pubs of great antiquity. In The White Horse a famous brawl took place

which is recorded in the Church Archives of Christopher Applegate, a contemporary of Marlowe.

The Post Office is a great centre of the village and was used by Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, then living at Broome Park, to send his first despatch in 1914.

One of the first work houses in Kent was built in 1837 in Union Road and the Record

Book gives the names of many inmates who, often forced by poverty, took up residence there.

There are not many villages that can boast such varied architecture from Tudor to Victorian. The centre of village is a Designated Conservation Area but constant vigilance is needed to see that a high standard is maintained.

Bridge which has survived two wars mercifully undamaged, has grown since the war and with this growth has come social change and mobility. The population of Bridge was 1,297 at the 1981 Census. New houses have been built at Bridge Down and Western

Avenue in the 1950's and 1960's. Riverside Close was developed in the 1970's and 1980's and the most recent addition is Mansfield Court.

One of the surgeons returning from the Battle of Waterloo, Dr. James wrote that "he was much impressed by the happiness and jollity of the inhabitants" of Bridge!

1. Description of the Parish

Triangular in shape; location of population; origin of the parish as offshoot of Patribourne; swine pastures in the weald [Arch Cam' 76, 1961 pp58-74: PH Reaney, Place-Names and Early Settlement in Kent] History of Burne

Domesday book does not mention Bridge, as at that time it was a part of Patribourne.

1 The name does however occur in the Domesday Monachorum, so there was at least a Saxon church (or chapel) pre-existing. Bridge Church itself built ca end of 12th century.

(like many others). Maybe this was the point at which Bridge Parish came into existence. Bridge Hundred does exist in Domesday. Was this a meeting point of the hundred, by the river?

"In Bridge Hundred Richard son of William holds Patrixbourne from the Bishop [Odo of Bayeux] It answers for 6 sulungs. Land for 8 ploughs. In lordship 3 ploughs. 44 villagers with 3 smallholders have 10 ploughs. A church; 1 slave; 4 mills at 16s 8d; a fishery at 6d; pasture, from which outsiders have ploughed 6 acres of land; woodland, 4 pigs. Value before 1066 £18; when acquired, £10; now £19."

A sulung defines the land worked by an eight-ox plough, including arable associated pastures, meadows, shaves etc. It approximated to the territory of a self-supporting hamlet, nominally 200 acres. (Arch Cant J09, 1991, pp 29-39: KP WITNEY: Kentish Land Measurements of the Thirteenth Century).

In 1914 the main road was not yet tarred through the village: a road of thick chalky dust. (Mrs Friend of the Red Lion) A hundred or two of London buses carrying troops.

They thought the Germans must have put something in the dust to make everyone cough and sneeze.

1. Description; origins (Romans and pre-Romans)

British Camps ("oppida") such as 'Old England's hole' in Bourne Park on the Dover Road, are in close proximity to... these old (pre-Roman) roads. Three roads lead NW from Patrixbourne Hill. . . The road on the left hand ascends the steep hill in the direction of Hardres, and passes through Whitehill Wood It leads to the ancient British camp in Iffin wood, where sunburnt pottery and other remains of clearly British origin have been found.. Caesar remarks that after defeating the Britons (on Barham Downs they retreated to one of their strongholds [perhaps in Iffin Wood?] This road is known as the Kingsbury Road [past Flint Cottage— Tithe Maps]. [According to Mrs Friend, Kingsley Lane — she also remarks of a 'mansion, in Gosley wood towards Kingston end.] What was the 'Kingsbury'? May not this be merely Saxon for the British and Roman entrenchments this road passed through? They were supposed by the Saxons to be the 'bury' of a great king... the Saxons' knowledge of the country they had conquered being notoriously weak. It is said to have terminated at Rutupiae and westward as far as Salisbury Plain It crossed the Dover Road on Bridge Hill, but., though it did not go direct to Canterbury It went to Bigbury [according to Detsicas: The Cantiaci Belgic Canterbury's predecessor] The central road is now the main road between Dover and Canterbury. It passes through Bridge, near by being the site of a British Camp known by the name of 'Old England's Hole', at which place tradition places the last fight the Britons made in opposing Julius Caesar's advance in BC 54. [Third road goes up Bekesbourne Hill to Longport. Also another road 'Pilgrim's way' which meets the last mentioned at St Martin's hill.

[Most of this based on Vine]: GP Walker: OLD ROADS IN EAST KENT & THANET, Arch Cant 38: 1926, pp77-78

Saxon Cemetery on Side Hill (in Patrixbourne): 18-20 graves. Bourne Cemetery ?top

of Star hill excavated by Bryan Faussett and Lord Londesborough [TG Faussett, MISCELLANEA, Arch Cam 6; 1864-5 pp 329-330]

Extended description of this excavation in Arch Cant 10; 1876 by TG Faussett. 'We examined about a hundred in all.'

G.C. Harper, *The Ingoldsby Country* (A & C Black, 1904) p. 64 notes: "(Old England's Hole) is seen beside the road, on the right hand, just where the cutting through the crest of the hill, made in 1829, to ease the pull-up for the coach-horses, begins. At that same time the course of the road was very slightly diverted, and, instead of actually impinging upon this ancient historic landmark, as before, was

made to run a few feet away. . . . The stronghold consists of a crater—like hollow, encircled by earthen banks, still high and steep."

2. Saxon Remains

Arch cam 46, 1934, Field Notes, p 58 On the Roman road up Bridge Hill a row of Saxon barrows just inside Bourne Park (*Inventorium Sepulchrale*, p. 95-100: "About twenty years since [ie ca 1835, but according to *The Archaeological Album* about 12 years ago, ie 1833] in digging the high road above Bourne Park a quantity of Romano-British sepulchral urns were found. More recently, while excavations were being made in the low ground for a sheet of water [ie Bourne Park lake] Mr Bell

discovered several Roman interments" These were both burials on coffins and urns of burned ashes.

Arch Cant, 73, 1959 p 62-74: PH Reaney *A Survey of Kent Place-Names*, suggests that Bekesbourne (Livingsbourne) was tenanted in 1066 by a surviving saxon family.

3 Bourne, earlier Hautbourne

Sir William Haute of Bishopsboume involved in Buckingham's rebellion of 1483 [pro Richard III] was the son of Sir William Haute of Bishopsboume who had married Joan Woodville, sister of the first Earl Rivers in 1429 He was, therefore, a first cousin to the queen and brother to Sir Richard Haute of Ightham Mote, who had been beheaded at Pomfret. [William Cheney of Sheppey also involved] [Lady Elizabeth Grey (1. of Lord Rivers of the Mote married Edward IV secretly in 1464] AE Conway: *THE MAIDSTONE SECTOR or BuCR1NGHAM's REBELLION. OCT. 18 1483 Arch Cam 3 7, 1925 pp 97-120. [Pedigree*

of Sir Richard Woodville of The Mote on p 120] Cheney, Haute & Guilford families all in it together.

Arch Cant 4], 1929, pp 181-185: WH Godfrey, *BOURNE PARK, NEAR CANTERBURY* : ref to

Book of Bourne. Sr Anthony Aucher was Marshall of Calais, Governor of Guisnes and Master of the Jewel House to Henry VIII, Edward VI and Queen Mary, and was killed at the taking of Calais in 1558. His descendant Sir Anthony was created Baronet in 1666. Two sons inherited, and when Sir Hewitt (for whom his mother had built the house in ca 1700, Westenhanger part demolished in 1701) died (1726) title became extinct. His eldest sister married Dr Corbett who had 5 daughters, eldest of whom married Stephen Beckingham. Matthew Bell snr bought from the widow of Rev J C Beckinghain, who had

died in 1807. Bourne tenanted in 1844 by Lord Londesborough, brother of Marquess Conyngham.

4 Bifrons, a brief history; Bargraves; Conynghams; Patribourne Road

[Arch Cam 4; 1861 pedigree of Bargrave:] Arch Cam' 14, 1882 p 173: suggestion that Bargrave or Bargar derives from Baracre or Beracre. Edward Taylor succeeded to Bifrons in 1767. Died 1792. Erected new Bifrons on site close to the old one. His

building is the present house, but its exterior has been cased, and it has been otherwise altered.

Illustrations of Bifrons in Arch Cant 107, 1989, pp327-332: - The first house, and in 1794 before 19th c remodelling. Demolished 1948. First built ca 1600. Painting by Jan Siberechts ca 1705/10. new building 1767 by Rev Edward Taylor. Minor alterations after Conynghams bought in 1830, by Thomas Hunt (d. 1831) and his pupil GH

Smith in 1835. Major rebuild in 1863/64. The early Georgian House was virtually demolished. Predominant bricks in rebuild were Faversham soft reds and LBC yellows.

Arch Cam I 08, 1990 p 270 (PH Blake) adds that Robert Bargar of Bridge, Yeoman, was a tanner, buried in Bridge chancel on 4/ 1/ 1600/01 Had his tanhouse in Bridge. His eldest son John was "of Patixbourne", but did not inherit the tanhouse, though his son was baptised in Bridge. John reputed to be the builder of Bifrons, ca 1607-1611. In 1611, too, John Bargrave alias Bargar of Patixbourne had a grant of arms from Camden, Garter. Family were of humdrum station in Willesborough. Wealth may have come through John's marriage to Jane, daughter of Giles Crouche of London, ca 1597.

Arch Cant 110, 1992: pp313- 329 : BM THOMAS: A History of Bifrons Manor House Built on site of a previous house, unknown. Sold by Bargraves to Sir Arthur Slingsby in 1662, Thomas Baker before 1673, Thomas Adrian 1680, John Taylor 1694, 29 September. Taylor born 1665, son of Nathaniel Taylor a Shropshire barrister. Rev. Edward Taylor died 1798: 4 sons. Eldest was Edward, who married Louisa Beckingham of Bourne in 1802. He became MP for Canterbury in 1807. They moved to Bourne in 1824. Her mother died in 1844 in Dover (Bourne then bought by Matthew Bell). First tenant of Bifrons was 2nd Marquess of Ely in 1825. In 1828 Lady Byron tenant. 1830 Bifrons sold to Henry, Marquess Conyngham, Lord Steward of the Household to George IV. Died 1832, widow died 1861 aged 91. Then Francis, 2nd Marquess C., died 1876. Lord Chamberlain 1835-39. Major changes to house 1863. Cost £12014 4s 9d. 3rd Marquess brother of 2nd, George Francis, 1876, d. 1882. House passed to 4th marquess Henry Francis, but house let: to Edward Weinholt, JA

Miller, Frank Penn, Col. The Hon. Milo Talbot, died 1932, but Mrs Talbot remained till 1939

Car Park

Gives us an opportunity to point to the most significant and influential site in all of Bridge — Bifrons.

Bifrons was built by John Bargar or Bargrave (an old Kentish family, with enterprises in Virginia) in 1634. (Dean Robert Bargrave of Canterbury Cathedral, and John Bargrave, traveller and collector of Curiosities). Family tombstones in Patixbourne Church. Grandson John Bargrave (?the collector) sold Bifrons in 1662 to Sir Arthur Slingsby, and his son Sir Charles Slingsby in 1677 alienated it to Thomas Baker, a London merchant, on whose death it came to William Whitton of London, and he in 1680 passed it to

Thomas Adrian. He alienated it in 1694 to John Taylor (1665-1729 son of Nathaniel

Taylor, Barrister-at-law), and his wife Olivia (d.1716) (portrait with his family, 1696, in NPG) who had four sons and four daughters (Olive b 1681 '??, married John Bowtell DD, vicar of Patricbourne (and Bridge)), Margaret (1683-1738, unmarried), Brook, DD (1685-1731) - a celebrated mathematician, the inventor of Taylor's Theorem, worked

with Kepler on the laws of planetary motion, FRS; worked with D'Alembert in Paris on the theory of refraction, Mary (1690-1771 - died aged 91? At Bridge Place), Upton (b 1696) (is this Herbert, second son, who succeeded to all the estates by his father's will, and died 1763?), Nathaniel (b 1687), Charles (merchant in Moscow), John (b 1687), Hannah, Bridges (1698-1754). (Something wrong, here. That makes eleven.)

Herbert (d 1763) had two sons, Herbert (d 1767 unmarried) and Edward (1763-1798) who succeeded him and who about 1770 demolished the old house and rebuilt it using some materials from Bridge Place (which had been partly demolished in 1704). In 1796 Jane Austen visited Bifrons. Edward had four sons: Edward (an Army Captain), Herbert (ditto), Brook (Private Secretary to Foreign Minister), Bridges (Naval lieutenant). Edward Taylor sold Bifrons in 1820 to the Marquess of Conyngham (d. 1832) who extended the house. Elizabeth (Marchioness, b ca 1770) continued to reside there until her death in 1861. She was responsible for opening a school for girls at the lower Lodge Gate (uniform like Little Red Riding-Hood), and supported the free schools of Patricbourne and Bridge. She helped towards the formation of a Volunteer Fire Brigade and the establishment of a small gasworks (1859) to supply the mansion and the villages. She was a favourite (but not necessarily mistress) of George IV, notorious for her elegant enbonpoint and large posterior: 'fat, handsome, kindly, shrewd and extremely fond of jewels.' A rhyme suggested that they spent their time

'Quaffing their claret, then mingling their lips,

Or tickling the fat about each other's hips'

Bifrons remained in the Conyngham Estate (1874 - Earl & Countess Mountcharles) and then let to tenants: 1893-97: John A Miller, Esq.; 1903-4, Frank Penn, Esq.; 1907-13, Robert Henry Bullock Marsham; 1915-18 Frank Penn & Mrs Penn; 1924-30 Col. Hon. Milo George Talbot (incl 230 acres of finely timbered park); 1934 Hon. Mrs Milo Talbot. 1940 Empty. Later used as a billet for Canadian servicemen and a home for displaced persons. Finally demolished in 'P1949/51.

Subsequent excavations have laid bare the cellars once more.

Arch Cant 120, 2000 pp 77-105 MG BRENNAN: The Exile of two Kentish Royalists during the English civil war deals with Bargrave cousins John (cl 610-1680) and Robert (1628-61) Robert was son of Isaac B (1586-1643) John son of John d. 1625 (who built Bifrons). Ref to "Mr Cooly of Trin Coll Cambs was secretarie to the Lord X"(31 May 1645) on p 86 (nobody of that name listed in the Trinity Alumni, but John

Cooly appears in the Churchwarden's records for 1673/5 as a tenant of Anthony Aucher of Bourne with 6 acres of land.)

5 The gas works

Built by Marchioness Conyngham to supply Bifrons and two villages. Some pipework still surviving in field?

Memorandum of Agreement

made the 7th Day of January 1896
between

The Bridge Gas Coke & Coal Compy Ltd.
and

Bridge Parish Council

The Gas Compy will keep in repair and light with a light of gin by 2.5 The Eleven existing Lamps for the sum of Five Pounds Ten Shillings for each Lamp per ann.

The Lamps to be lighted one hour after sunset and extinguished at 10.30 pm i months in the summer viz From the Middle of May to the Middle of August and for fi_v\$ nights of every full Moon at which periods the Lamps will not be required except also at any time when circumstances may arise over which the Company has no control in which latter case a proportionate reduction of the amount payable shall be made by the Company.

This agreement commences 1st January 1896 and may be terminated by six months previous notice in writing on either side.

Joshua Fairbrass Chairman of Matthew Bell
Parish Council Chairman of
Henry J Bird Parish Councillor Bridge Gas Compy
Richard Friend Parish Councillor Chas Wills Secretary Bridge Gas Coke & Coal Compy Ltd.

6 The school: people

The Old School. Built by Marchioness Conyngham in 1849
1859: Richard Wells, master, National School, Mrs Sophie Sayer, mistress
1871: Mr & Mrs R Wye, first government teachers
1874: Robert Wye, Mrs Mary Wye, Miss Ellen Wye

1878/90: Robert Wye, Master, Mrs Susan Emmeline Wye, Mistress, Miss Fanny Wye, Infants Mistress

1893: Robert Wye, master, assistant overseer (at the Union) and collector of tithes and Queen's taxes; Miss GF Wye, assistant, boys' school, Mrs Wye girls, Miss Wye, infants
1893: Robert Wye, Miss GF Wye, Mrs Wye, Miss Wye

1903: John George Andrews, Master (Robert Wye retired in 191 1)

1907-18: JG Andrews, Master, Miss F Wye, Infants

1918: JG Andrews Master, Miss CG Wye, infants

1924: WJ Billing, Master, Miss M Bell, infants (KCC control)

1940: Public Elementary School

Mrs Olive Knight (appointed 1948) retired as headmistress summer 1971 (1973?),

after two terms in the new school, and was replaced by Miss W Tomlin.

Interesting Presentation at Bridge: There was a pleasant gathering at the school on the 24th when Miss Wye was presented with a purse of gold, subscribed for by the managers, scholars (past and present), parents, and friends, as a token of esteem and appreciation of her 44 years work as headmistress of the infants' school. The presentation was made by the Vicar (Rev. H Knight), who spoke most highly of Miss Wye's work, as testified by the uniformly excellent reports of inspectors eulogising her skill as a teacher and her tact in the management of the little ones to whom she had been a second mother. (Kentish Gazette, January 1 1916) (Williamson 435)

Diamond Wedding: Mr [b 1847] & Mrs [b 1844] R Wye, retired head teachers, who celebrated their diamond wedding on Tuesday, have resided in Bridge for 58 years. Mr

'Wye, after serving as a pupil teacher at Warrington, was trained at St Peter's College,

Peterborough, and secured his certificate in 1867. He was appointed headmaster of the CE Boys' school at Shepton Mallett, Somerset, where the future Mrs Wye was then headmistress of the Infants' school. They were married at the Parish Church, Shepton

Mallett, by the Rev. Canon Pratt on June 18th, 1869. Resigning their posts there in 1871, they were appointed to the headships of the Boys' and Girls' Schools at Bridge, from which they retired in September 1900. Mr Wye has led a strenuous life at Bridge. Whilst at the school he was organist of Patrixbourne, conducted a large Band of Hope, and almost before lay readers were thought of, took a week night cottage service in an outlying part of the parish. He also held several public appointments, such as Assistant Overseer and Rate Collector for three parishes, Collector of Taxes for 12 parishes, collector of Tithes, etc. For over 45 years he has been connected with the Marquess Conyngham estate office, which he still attends, and has for 25 years been lay reader, churchwarden and school manager at Bridge, a post which he still occupies. At Christmas 1871, Mr Wye's sister, Miss F Wye, was appointed headmistress of the Infants' School, from which she retired in 1914. During their tenure as head teachers all three departments received meritorious mention in the Education Office Blue Books, and whilst the 'Excellent' Merit Grant was in vogue, it was awarded to each department. Their respective ages now are: Mr Wye 82, Mrs Wye 85, Miss Wye 78. One of their old scholars is now a clergyman, another a doctor and specialist in New Zealand, and another, now deceased,

obtained a post in the Chinese Diplomatic Service. — not a bad record for a village school. (Williamson 186- no source or date)

Fanny Wye died Oct 30 1944 aged 94

Susan Emily Wye died December 5 1929 aged 85

Robert Wye died June 26 1935 aged 88

All buried in Bridge Churchyard , tomb G10

Thomas Badcocke of Patrixbourne d before 1681 leaving £227 17s 3d. Had 3 sons & 1 dr. aged 3-14 A Thomas Badcocke was Churchwarden of Bridge in 1711, first mentioned 1693. If born in 1666 he'd be 15-27 more likely the latter.

Compton Census of 1676 of all inhabitants over 16yrs. Suggested 40 children to every 60 adults gives:

Bekesbourne: Conformists 112 Papists 0 Nonconformists 8 Total pop: 200

Bishopsbourne “ 127 “ 1 “ 2 “ 195
Patricx & Bridge “ 196 “ O “ 4 “ 333
(From: 17th c Miscellany, Kent Records XVII, 1960)

Religious worship in Kent: the census of 1851 (Kent Records 1999) p xxx “Bridge
and Patricxbourne had ben united into a single benefice at the Tithe Commutation Act.
(But it always was?) . Cl-1 Hallett had a stipend of £442 p.a.

Bridge Parish: Area 1161 acres: Number of Houses in 1851 — inhabited 132,
uninhabited 6 building, 0.

Population: 1801: 325; 1811: 2397; 1821: 432; 1831: 543; 1841: 817; 1851: 864 [sharp
rise in 1841 due to workhouse — 1841: 165; 1851: 234.

St Peters' endowed with tithe £201 Os 4d, fees £10

Sittings: Free 100; other 300. The church will nearly accommodate the whole of the
parishioners. Average attendance for year Morning: 270, afternoon 330, Evening 102.
Vicar's rent charge £400, Glebe rent £42 Total £442.

Maurice Allen Smelt, Curate.

Wesleyan Chapel Bridge Attendance Morning: 12 on average. [Primitives not yet
taken over?]

Kent Records 1984: KL Wood-Legh: The Kentish visitations of Archbishop Warham:
(151 1-12):

“Ecclesia de Bekysbourne. . . item, that Alice the wif of Johan C[lar]yngebol
suspiciously Goethe to the house of M. Malk', vicare of Patryksbourne, late and rathe,
and he in lykewyse to hir house.” [ie Malcolm Ramsey, vicar 1495-1538] — Joan
Claryngbold denied the article against her, was ordered to avoid the company of
the vicar of Patricxbourne, but not required to purge herself, because this had been
enjoined by the vicar.

Ecclesia de Patrykisbourne. .. Compertum est: that the vicar of the said churche
kepithe Alice Claryngbole and doethe advoutry the whiche is openly knowen.

Mr Macolinus Ramsey denied the charge against him: ordered to purge himself with
two laymen and two men of his order, came on the appointed day with

Ecclesia de Brigge

Compertum est: that the wardeyne of seynt Laurence in Caunterbury wothholdithe
16d a yere dew to the churche of Brigges aforesaid whiche he paid not thies 30 yeres.
[Robert Dovor, monk of St Augustine's., warden of the house of the sisters of St
Laurence, Canterbury, denied owing the church 16d annual rent. Churchwardens
proved his liability and he was directed to pay or to answer before the abp.]

Item, M. Isaac withholdithe 2d a yere of the churche rent and is behind by the space
of 15 yeres.

[William Isaak, gentleman, to pay annual rent of 2d in future and to settle with

churchwardens for arrears.]

Item oone Thomas Yong withholdithe 5d a yere of the churche rent 3 yeres and more and wille not pay except M Isaac and other pay theirs.

[Thomas Yong said he had settled with churchwardens for rent and arrears and they confirmed this.]

Item that Nicholas Parker withdrawithe 2d a yere thies 30 yeres.

[Nicholas Parker denied owing rent. Churchwardens proved his liability by the rental, as above;: to pay rent and arrears or to compound with churchwardens.]

Item that they be not duely served with an honest preest but sometime with a freere, sometime with noone at all, and that the vicare wille not have there a preest resident. [Mr Macolinus Ramsey, vicar, to serve the cure by a fit secular priest as soon as possible; meanwhile no religious to minister to the parishioners.]

Item that the vicare will geve noo rights to theym that wille not content his mynd and when they doo not aggre with hym affir his pleasur.

[Vicar denied having refused the sacraments to anyone on account of unpaid debts.]

Kent Records: Calendar of feet of fines

Bridge 1 1 June 1262: Q[uerentes] Ralph s. of Gervase de Kenewysburn. D[eforciates] Walter Truoe and w[ife] Blanche; a mess. 6 ac. Of land, 4 ac. Of wood 13s of rent and rent of 10 hens in Brigges. D acknowledged the premises to be the right of Q of the gift of D. To hold to Q and his heirs of D and the heirs of Blanche, paying yearly

half pound of cumin at easter and doing service to the chief lords. Q gave a sore sparrow hawk. (46 Hen. III)

Bridge 25 Nov 1262; Q. Adam Snegg'. D William , Master of the Hospital of Priests of St Mary, Canterbury. 16 1/2 ac. Of land in Brigge and the suburbs of

Canterbury. . . .

Bridge 8 July 1271 Q. Nigel de Thurkyng and w. Cristine D Ralph de Brigg, clerk; 2 mess. 4 ac of land and the moiety of a mill in Brigg. Q acknowledged the premises to be the right of D D gave 20s. (55 Hen III)

Bridge Pit; Blackmansbury; Kenewesborne 25 november 1271 D Ralph le Clark of Bregg 187 ac of land in Brigge Pitte, Blakemannesbir' and Kynesburn'. D acknowledged the said land with appurtenances as in demesnes, homages, services etc to be the right of Q Roger Abbot of St Augustine Canterbury and his church of the

gift of D and for this Q granted it to D. paying yearly 12 marks at Nativity of John Baptist & Michaelmas.

Hasted III 724 notes that in 1249 Robert Abbot of St Augustines gave Ralph the lands of Kenewesborne for 20s per annum. Was Ralph an early vicar? [Not in the lists]

7 Brookside

Was a coal merchant's; then a haulier. Last (and only) house in Bridge on the Patrixbourne Road

8 Methodist Church

Bridge Village Hall and the early history of Methodism in Bridge

The Methodist Chapel as it now stands in Bridge has recently celebrated its centenary, for the 'Iron Chapel' in Patrixbourne Road was erected in 1894. The then Minister, William Rodwell Jones (who lived in Canterbury) signed the application to the Registrar General for use by the Wesleyan Methodists on June 22nd of that year. The application to build had been submitted to the Chapel Committee in Manchester on April 30th by Mr Jones, Thomas Grant Cozens (see also below), AJ Baker and Jabez James Lintott, the estimated cost being £177. This sum had to suffice for all possible costs, including purchase of the land, fencing, architect's commissions and so on. A further condition was that all liabilities had to be defrayed within twelve months after the opening of the Chapel, so as to leave no debt whatsoever. Sanction for the building furthermore was given only

grudgingly, for a handwritten note is appended to the form:

The Committee strongly object to Iron Chapels. In their opinion a good substantial brick building would be far more satisfactory in the end [and] more economical. Moreover the Committee would be prepared to aid in the latter but are precluded from doing so from allowing debt on Iron buildings.

In spite therefore of no pecuniary help from Manchester the money was raised and the building completed and fitted out well under budget with seating, hymn books, mats and oil lighting for a total sum of £1 39—17s-0^d. For more than 100 years now it has served its purpose, and perhaps it has confounded everyone by being more economical than brick?

But what of the period before 1894? The early history of the Methodist Church is complicated by disputes over fine points of doctrine and organisation, which led to the formation of numerous breakaway groups, the reasons for which are not of importance

here. They did however result in one decision which has left its mark on the village and in which the Marchioness Conyngham was closely involved.

The first record of Methodism in the village is said to be a minute of 1823 authorising one William Fordred to rent a house for Methodist Meetings 'at no more than 2/6 per week'. Whether this was an option taken up is not certain, and William Fordred does not reappear, but the following year support for the cause was evidently already sufficiently strong for the trustees in Canterbury to feel able to buy a plot of land for £50 on which to erect their own Chapel. This was indeed a plot very conveniently and prominently situated, with a frontage of 33 feet on the south-west side of Bridge Street, and extending back some 97 feet, adjacent to land belonging to the Rev. Richard Barham, who at the time owned Bridge Farm. This is the site on which the present Village Hall stands.

The earliest record of ownership of the land ascribes it to William Ottoway, who owned various properties in the county. On his death his sons sold this piece, which at the time consisted of a house and garden plot, to Stephen Simmonds for £100, in January 1819. Simmonds didn't enjoy the property for long however. He was in debt and died intestate leaving four sons, only one of whom (John) was of age, a few years later.

Joseph Duplock of Ramsgate, gentleman, was the person who through Simmonds' debts

held claim on the property, and it was he who, presumably in agreement with John, sold it on to the Wesleyan Methodist Trustees in June 1824. Their names are worth recording here, though none lived in Bridge:

Thomas Pilcher of St. Dunstan's in Canterbury, Wheelwright,

Daniel Gouger of Kingston, Miller,

Thomas Grant of Kingston, Farmer,

James Sutherland of Canterbury, Tailor,

Henry Stickalls of Canterbury, Clothier,

Thomas Hobday of Canterbury, Coal merchant,

Thomas Finch Cozens of Canterbury, Builder,

Jonathan Bundock of Canterbury, Upholsterer,

Robert Clarke of Canterbury, Butcher,

William Clay of Canterbury, Hatter,

William Potter of Canterbury, Cordwainer.

As solid tradesmen they were doubtless aware that Mr Duplock's authority to sell was not 100% secure, for they also required an indemnity from him to the tune of £150 in case any of the younger Simmonds boys (who were under 15 years old) should later file a claim, contending that they had not been party to the sale.

With the property now in their hands, the Wesleyans began to build, and eventually spent £320 on constructing and furnishing the structure which is now the front portion of the Village Hall. Some years later a note happily records that the adjacent house is tenanted by a Mr Wood, Cordwainer (ie shoemaker) 'with shoemaker's shop, garden and appurtenances together with a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel'. A photograph of the Village

hall, or Reading Room as it then was, taken in the early 1900's still shows the shop as a 'leather store' adjacent to the hall.

To begin with the chapel flourished. The surviving March-July preaching plan of 1827 shows that services were held twice every Sunday, at 10.30am and 6.30pm, or at 10.30am

and 2.30pm in alternate weeks. A list of preachers, several of whom appear as the Trustees above, is appended:

1 ,,r

Cusworth; Stones; Langstone; Hobday; Hills; Coulter; Stubberfield; Crippen; Cozens; Bundock; Corbet; Vile; H.Coulter; White; Read; Ashwell; Masters; Tappenden; Clay; Martin; Bate; Dyason; Luck; Ladd; Laker; Royce (on trial)

The 1820's, leading to the Reform Act of 1832 however, were marked by a period of political turbulence which was also reflected in the development of Methodism. Such agitation resulted in a series of secessions focussed on the tensions existing between the

ministers, bolstered by the well—to-do laity, and the rest of the people generally. While at that time they did not in general affect the development of the creed, the unrest culminated in 1850 with the formation of the 'Methodist Free Churches' and other groups, and between 1850 and 1855 the 'Connexion' lost some 100,000 members, nearly one third of the total.

Bridge was evidently not untouched by these events, for in 1851 permission was sought from (and given by) the President at a conference in Sheffield for the building to be sold, as there had been 'no attendance at late years at Wesleyan Chapel - hence their desire to sell.' [Alleged elsewhere to be ca 12 average] The form of consent was eventually signed by 'John Scott, 16 August 1852'.

Where had the people gone? A letter from a local solicitor in the Conyngham papers (Mr R Pilcher) to another in London (probably Lady Conyngham's) dated 5 September 1853 reveals that some had undoubtedly reverted to Anglicanism, but others had joined the secessionists:

I am told . . . that no sale is valid unless the consent of the president be had - this was obtained 2 years since when the idea of selling the estate was first thought about — owing 1 think to the Rev Mr Stevenson [the vicar of Patricxbourne & Bridge] drawing the Wesleyans to the parish church — a sect called 'Ranters' now have the chapel at £4 per annum and they disturb the whole neighbourhood. The house lets for £10.

The OED offers the following gloss on 'Ranters':

Ranter: Applied to members of the Primitive Methodist body, which originated in 1807-10. It then quotes the History of the Primitive Methodists by H Bourne:

When these . . . meetings were closed, the praying people, in returning home, were accustomed to sing through the streets. . . This circumstance procured them the name of Ranters; and the name of Ranter, which first arose on this occasion [in 1814], afterwards spread very extensively.

The OED also quotes the Penny Cyclopaedia, XV: . . .the Primitive Methodists, who are sometimes known as Ranters, originated in Staffordshire.

This term describes therefore people of a joyous and evangelical disposition, rather than rowdy. In Bridge they were however eventually ejected from the Chapel, for, as Mr Pilcher explains:

The Marchioness has verbally agreed to purchase from the Wesleyan Trustees in the Canterbury District, a house, garden and methodist chapel at Bridge for £270 . . .Her ladyship intends turning

the Chapel into a Lecture Room or a Village Literary Institution, on payment of a shilling a year for the improvements of the rising generation.

In due course the sale was agreed (on 21 July 1854) by the then Trustees, three of whom

(Bundock. Gouger or Gauger and Thomas Finch Cozens) had survived since 1824, the remainder being

Thomas Grant Cozens of Canterbury, Builder, probably the son of TFC, and the same who signed the petition to the Manchester Chapel Committee forty years later (he was born in 1825),

Francis Hewson of Wickhambreux, Baker,
Thomas Bird of Canterbury, Brushmaker,

Edward Castle of Canterbury, Gardener,

William Frederick Crippen of Camden Town, Grocer,

Thomas Harnett Gifford of Bridge, Cordwainer,

Henry Allsworth of Canterbury, Baker,

John Smith of Canterbury, Carpenter,

Edward Small of Canterbury, Plumber.

All these were required to state that they had been 'in peaceable and uninterrupted possession of the property for 30 years and upward', and knew of no claim of title of possession since 1824. The reappearance of the younger Simmonds boys was still

therefore evidently a remote possibility, as Mr Pilcher somewhat deviously notes:

The father . . . died intestate consequently the sons were equally entitled, and had there been a surplus — under our law of gavelkind John the Elder son did sign as you will observe and the estate passed by feoffment, I think two of the brothers died. I know and believe he has a Brother living nr Romney — or this one by the bye may be John — it strikes me that it might be unadvisable

to say anything to either on the subject — it is so far back — I recollect the [piece] of land when it was a garden abutting to the Dover Road.

The Primitive Methodists, having been evicted from the chapel, presumably met privately for a while, until they were able to secure a site in Dering Road for a wooden chapel of their own, which was duly erected in 1868. At the time it was the only building on that side of the road (opposite the end of Filmer Road) and fairly well separated from other properties. The building survived (though in the 20th century not as a chapel) until 1951, when it was demolished and replaced by a row of lock-up garages. It is however clearly marked as such in the survey of 1872/1873 (OS 1/2500 map sheet 47.9W), while there is no indication of a Wesleyan chapel at all. In the last two decades of the nineteenth century however a movement for Methodist Reunion was gathering pace, and by 1892 a Methodist Society was re-formed with 14 members, whose efforts then were rewarded with the erection of the 'Iron Chapel'. The Primitive Chapel is recorded still on a map of

1898, but by 1907 it is no longer marked, the building having been taken over as a private house.

The history of Methodism since that time has been for Bridge quiet and relatively uneventful. But what of the Reading Room? The Chapel as originally built in the 1820's (and shown on the 1873 map) was only half as long as the present main hall. It survived until 1874, when major improvements were undertaken, 'in celebration of the coming of age of the Marchioness's son' (Henry Francis, Viscount Slane), which extended the hall to its present size, and inserted a fireplace. The front wall abutting the pavement is original, though the windows may have been replaced. The former 'Village shop' was erected after 1824, in the gap created between the Chapel and the earlier property on the corner of Union Road, but the old cordwainer's leather goods shop has vanished, and the space incorporated into the adjacent property. The Reading Room has meanwhile served many functions, not least as Canteen and Recreation Room for troops in the First World War, renamed as the Village Hall in the 1970's and purchased outright in the 1980's from the Conyngham Estate. The Hunter Room (named after the village doctor Roger Hunter, who

practised here throughout World War II until the 1960's) has also been added in recent years.

Sources: 1994 Exhibition documents (board 73);
Conyngham papers (Whitfield) 8.U.438.T.25

MM Raraty

5 April 2000/revised 23 October 2001

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9 Bridge Hill Cottages; Bourne Lodge; Lynton House I
Lynton House built probably 1857; Bourne Lodge rather later ?Edwardian
Several board cottages on the hill adjacent to Patixbourne Road, four now

demolished. A forerunner of Lynton House is shown on Ogilby's map of 1675.

"A freehold Messe. or Tenement with the Garden Orchard and Appurts. thunto belongg containg by estimation 3 acres more or less situate lying and being in the several parishes of Bridge and Patixbourne or one of them in the County of Kent.

And also to six Cottages adjoining the above with the yards gardens and appurts. thunto belongg situate in the sd several parishes of Bridge & Patixbourne or one of them — the latter Estate being held for the residue of a term of 500 years created by an Indre Dated 23rd Nov' 1710."

In 1675 this estate belonged to William Cheston, a yeoman of Bridge.

1674 18th Sept^h} Will of William Cheston then dated and proved at Canterbury the 9th June 1677 whereby he Willed & Bequeathed — His House whin he then lived and the Malthouse Barns Stable and Outhouses thereto belongg together with the gardens

orchards closes and lands containing in all by estimon. 18 acres more or less with their and every of their appurts. and then in his posson. or occupon. Unto his eldest Son Richard Cheston his heirs and ass5' for ever.

Lynton House was formerly known as Lansberry Cottage, and probably built by John Lansberry, who died in 1849. For many years until the 1980's the upper side of the house proclaimed in bold letters the name of a coal merchant ***** who resided here. It was later the residence of Mr FRW Berry, a prominent Canterbury Estate Agent (also air vice-marshal *****). Bourne Lodge built on part of this estate (all now built up) as dower house by Matthew Bell 2nd? Grandson of the Director of The Equitable Life.

10 East Bridge House

11 Bridge Hill House;

Bridge Hill House 1799 property of Stephen Beckingham, tenanted by Edward Hawkins at a rent of £20 per annuin. Otherwise known as the Horse and Groom, it

offered a good ordinary on race days and was where horses were entered for the races.

12 Canterbury Races

1799 The Race Ground yearly rent of £3 1s from executors of Francis Whitfield. The race course 42 acres 1 perch valued at £313 4s, property of Stephen Beckingham

We hear that on Monday the 18th inst. There will be a match of running on Barham Downs, between young women, twelve or fifteen on a side. The meeting to be at Bridge-

Hill, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, or on the first day afterwards that the weather will permit; - - —great diversion, and much Company are expected.

We hear likewise, as a reward to those who shall have the best of the match, that twelve shifts will be given them by the gentry, &c.

(Kentish Gazette, 5 July 1768)

13 [Higham]

Is in Patricbourne.

14 The Hexagon; Star Hill; Military

Arch Cant 56, 1943 p 69: RF Jessup, MISC NOTES: "Saxon barrows inside Bourne Park mutilated by excavation in 1845 now obliterated by recent ploughing under war emergency. The Race Course... was responsible for much destruction... A small regular six-sided enclosure appears immediately to the NE of the hammer-shaped tree enclosure in Bourne Park. About 400 yards to the SE and 50 yards from the Roman road is a fairly large barrow circle, possibly Roman. Three other possible Roman barrow circles. . . could be seen in the fields between Bourne Park and Charlton Park." The six-sided enclosure (hexagon — cf aerial photo) is by no means small: It has a radius of approx 18 metres. Recent (2001 -3, ongoing) excavations have revealed a surrounding ditch, and at least two graves. Date: Iron—Age, possible pre—Roman.. It lies very close to the line of Kingsbury Road as it rises up Star Hill (why the name?) 'Before quitting Barham Downs and their neighbourhood, it will be well to notice one or two other features, which are corroborative as to their having been the site of Caesar's

camp.

On the brow of the hill, in Bourne Park, there are what appears to be the remains of two outposts, 400 yards apart, surrounded each by a ditch. They are of the same dimensions, and form almost perfect hexagons, each side being about 50 feet in length. They are situated in commanding positions on a hill, called locally "Star Hill," and would afford excellent stations for the guards placed before the gates of the camp, whence they could view the position and movements of the enemy. They are known traditionally as "the Forts". They are now bare of trees, but have the appearance of having been planted at some comparatively recent period.

A deep depression a few yards distant from one of these may possibly have been one of

those extemporized amphitheatres with which we know Caesar sought amusement for his soldiers, when not in actual combat. . .'

(FT Vine: Caesar in Kent, privately printed, 1886, pp 191/2, copy in possession of R Neame, esq., Bishopsbourne)

The 'deep depression' referred to above is not, it seems a reference to 'Old England's Hole', since Vine refers to that separately on pp 167-9 of his book.

See in reference to these comments the attached MS commentary by Matthew Bell of Bourne House (transcribed by Martin Vye). Mr Bell refers to a Scotch Fir plantation.

1838 tithe map identifies Star Hill, but no woodland is marked. 1801 map is too unclear to tell, 1764 map too unreliable.

The hexagons were evidently visible on the ground in 1886. They appear on no maps. I do not know where the second one may be, but the one in the photo is currently invisible to the amateur eye. The ground is covered in long dry grass at the moment. If mown and put to sheep it might show something. Photo was taken in February 1982.

As an enclosure to a plantation the hexagon is too regular: indeed it seems too mathematically precise altogether. The rounded corners I detect appear to be centred on the angles of the inner dark hexagon. It is situated on a high (but not the highest) part of the hill. A small tower (25ft or so) would give an uninterrupted 360 degree panorama, over the top of any trees. Wishful thinking?

The scale of the photo I have judged to be 5cm : 9m approx., which gives a maximum diameter to the feature of 36m — rather large - it looks more mediaeval than Roman!.

15 Mediaeval facts

Arch Caz/11346, 1934, p 33f :Will of Joan widow of John Denys late of Welle next Littlebourne 8 feb 1441: To the fabric of the churches in Bekesbourne, Patrykkesbourne and Bregge 6s 8d each

Arch Cant 50; 193 8 THE REGISTER AND CHARTULARY OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST LAURENCE,

CANTERBURY p 48: "Warin Brends, son of Osbarn of Pette, near Rodweye, grants to the brothers and sisters of the hospital of St Laurence all his lands in Bregge [Bridge] to be held of grantor at a yearly rent of 16d, a payment of 3 1 d to Ralph Clerk, Id Romescot, 1 hen and 3 farthings, 'and he that carries the hen shall eat it there or bring it back' (qui illam portaverit illuc manducabit vel reportabit). . . ." (°a' 1331).

16 Old Englands Hole

[FT Vine: CAESAR IN KENT, 1886 P 169; 2nd EDN 1887, Elliot Stock p 172;] “Never forget, my son,” said the father of him whose researches and suggestions have done so much to inspire the writer of these pages, “Never forget that this is ‘Old England’s Hole’ and that here a last stand was made for liberty by your British

forefathers.” . . .The rampart and ditch by which [the oppidum] was surrounded may still be traced. An agger or mound. . .still remains. . . Watling street... runs close to the enclosure, below the modern road by which Bridge Hill is now ascended [not true]

The rampart of the oppidum on this side is even now of considerable height, and must at one time have been at least twenty feet high[2nd edn — not in 1st] Other evidence: “When the present road on Bridge Hill was dug out in 1829 five or six Roman urns, with six or eight human skulls, were discovered about five feet below the surface, embedded in the chalk. The remains of a horst in a ferruginous condition were found within the oppidum by some boys about fifteen years ago [1872]. There is still a

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slight bank surrounding the Hole, though it is probably a chalk pit, partly filled in by Matthew Bell. It is too small (and badly positioned) to be a defensive position. ‘ Alec Detsicas in *The Cantiaci*, p.2 (1983) remarks: “The Hill-fort at Bigbury, the precursor of Belgic Canterbury, controlled the crossing of the Stour”. Bigbury is SE

of the Stour, before the crossing. Sheppard Frere, writing in 1967 (revised ed 1987) says “In the early morning he reached the Stour and easily drove the Britons from the crossing. The principal ford lay at the future site of Canterbury. No settlement yet existed on this site [but later, Frere refers to Belgic Canterbury: did it appear between 54BC and 43AD‘??], but a hill-fort lay on the heights above at Bigbury, one and a half miles beyond the ford.” Evidence has been found for Belgic settlement at Canterbury. The town is more than twice as far from Bigbury as suggested. And why should

Caesar cross the river before attacking Bigbury? A romantic solution might be that he did in fact encounter Britons at Old England’s Hole, who then retired to Bigbury

along the Kingsbury Road. The river would then be the little Stour. But C. doesn’t

then mention the Stour crossing. None of these arguments quite work.
Old England’s Hole

This is most probably an old quarry, cut into the side of the old road to Dover out of Bridge at about the lowest practicable point of the hill where chalk is available. It is however also a source of much romantic speculation. The theory that it is the site of an encounter between Britons and Romans is of relatively recent (early 19th century) origin. The following account is almost wholly fanciful (Caesar died of course in 44 BC. His second British expedition was in 54 BC. Nero was Emperor in AD 56).

‘At the summit of the. . . rise out of Bridge, the road, running exactly on the site of the Roman Watling Street, comes to that bleak and elevated table—land known as Barham Downs, the scene of Caesar’s great battle with the Britons on July 23rd, AD 56. Twenty-seven thousand Roman soldiers, horse and foot, met the wild rush of the Britons, who, with the usual undisciplined and untaught courage of uncivilised races, flung themselves upon the invaders and were thrown back by the impenetrable wall of the serried phalanxes. Recoiling dismayed from this reception, they were instantly pursued by the

Roman cavalry and cut up into isolated bands, who fought courageously all that fatal day in the dense woodlands. Protected by mounds and trenches defended with palisades of stakes cunningly interwoven with brushwood, they prolonged the hopeless contest until nightfall, and then fell back. Caesar, describing these woodland forts as oppida, gives especial attention to one troublesome stronghold. "Being repulsed," he writes, "they withdrew themselves into the woods and reached a place which they had prepared before, having closed all approaches to it by felled timber." This retreat was captured by soldiers of the Seventh Legion, who, throwing up a mound against it, advanced, holding their shields over their heads in the military formation known as "the tortoise," and drove out the defenders at the sword's point.

This, the last place to hold out, is, despite the eighteen and a half centuries that have passed, still to be seen in Bourne Park, on the summit of Bridge Hill, and is familiarly known in the neighbourhood as "Old England's Hole." "Never forget," the old countryfolk have been wont to impress their children - "never forget that this is Old

England's Hole, and that on this spot a last stand for freedom was made by your British forefathers."

Every one in the neighbourhood knows Old England's Hole. It is seen beside the road, on the right hand, just where the cutting through the crest of the hill, made in 1829, to ease the pull-up for the coach—horses, begins. At that same time the course of the road was very slightly diverted, and, instead of actually impinging on this ancient historic landmark, as before, was made to run a few feet away. Now the spot is seen across the fence of the park, the old course of the road still traceable beside it as a slightly depressed green track, plentifully dotted with thistles. The stronghold consists of a crater-like hollow, encircled by earthen banks, still high and steep. A great number of ash-trees and thorns, some very old, gnarled and decayed, grow on these banks, and cast a dense shade upon the interior.'

(CG Harper: The Ingoldsby Country, 1904, pp63-6)

In 1846, during excavation for a lake in Bourne Park, Samian pottery and other articles were found at a depth of 10-13ft. Also, nearby, Roman interments, including a large urn containing ashes at the same depth. Also three skeletons with large nails near the shoulders, hands and feet. A few Roman coins. Faussett in 1771 mentions over 100 tumuli on Hanging Hill, in front of and between Bourne Place, Bishopsbourne and the Roman road; others had been ploughed down. These were Saxon. (Wright).

17 Bourne Gatehouse

Built in 1857 by Matthew Bell of Bourne House as Gate Lodge to Bourne. Bourne

Park Road was until after WWII a gated road at both ends. One post on the upper side of the road remains here. It is probable that there was a previous lodge on this side to guard the entrance to the park. And Ogilby's map of the Dover Road of 1675 marks 'The Greyhound' on this site in the corner of 'Sir Anth. Aucher's Park'

Aucher owned Bourne Estate at the time. The Lodge has a number of ghost stories attached to it: one concerns a Victorian coachman in his greatcoat who was seen at the window by a young boy in the 1970's; another is of a young woman being brought into the house severely injured after her coach had turned over on the hill. A motorist on the hill is also said to have had to swerve on the hill outside to avoid something apparently crossing the road, although closer inspection revealed nothing there.

Some ghostly anecdotes

Mystery at Bridge

On Sunday February 14, I was driving home from Whitstable, the evening was dark and I passed through the village of Bridge at approximately 7 pm. I had commenced the run up the hill leading from the village to Dover, when a dark shape, which I took to be a van without lights, crossed the road from my left to the right about 20 yards ahead, moving quite slowly. It did not turn down the hill towards Bridge, neither did it go up the hill, but seemed to disappear into the churchyard. I thought that perhaps I had imagined the apparition, but my friend sitting in the front passenger seat remarked: 'He had no lights nor was there any noise.' We were both very puzzled by the incident, and were convinced that we had seen something unnatural, although we were unaware

of any previous reports of this type of encounter. We have since mentioned it to friends and two of them have stated that this has been reported as being sighted before.

Our wives were in the back seat, and being busy talking noticed nothing unusual and were inclined to treat our statements as a leg pull. The only drink we had was tea, and I assure you we

were not joking. I have since passed through Bridge at night and have carefully noted that it could not have been a shadow.

This statement can be confirmed with my friend, Mr F Pursey, of 7 Pilgrims way, Dover.

If you are aware of any history likely to be connected with this, if in book form, I should be much obliged to know the author and title of same
CH Watson, 47 Srcmhope Road, Dover

It was with much interest I read Mr Watson's letter, 'Mystery at Bridge', in your paper of February 26. When I lived in Bridge 15 years ago my sister, brother—in—law and I heard on more than one occasion unexplained footsteps and saw a ghost in our house (500 years old). Also my sister and brother—in—law had a similar experience to Mr Watson while they were walking along Patrixbourne Road one evening.

I have always understood that Bridge and, indeed, many parts of Kent are haunted.
BA Taylor, London SE 27

Haunted Bridge

If one believes in ghosts it is easy to agree with the correspondent who said recently, 'Ithas

always

been understood that Bridge and, indeed, Kent are haunted.' And it may very well be that the ghosts are those of men killed during that desperate last stand at Old England's Hole.

They could as well be the shades of some of those killed, or executed, in more recent times: Black

Robin, the highwayman whose only memorial is the public house at Kingston; the private soldier

killed by a limber outside Bridge Church during the Napoleonic wars; or even the jockey, 'Joe',

who broke his neck one day during the races on Barham Downs, not far from the changing room

which used to be where Highland Court now stands.

Or could it have been the ghost of the horse whose 'ferruginous remains were found within the

oppidum (of Old England's Hole) by some boys' in 1862?

One reader tells me that 'the other Bridge Hill' also had its apparition. During the War—to—end-

Wars there was a camp at the top of the hill 'on the right going to Canterbury' and one night a

sentry not only saw 'something' but challenged it three times and then turned out the guard. He

couldn't fire as the guard mounted with unloaded rifles!

This reader believes the troops in camp at the time were the Kent Cyclists. Perhaps some veteran

with a long memory can confirm the story, or even explain it.

(No year recorded for these — L Shirley's scrapbook, now with Williamson Archive)

18 The Church

Arch Cant I2; 1878 p 203f Holders of fees in Kent anno 38 Hen III (1254) ref to 'Blakemannesby[rie]': 'Thomas de Bourne tenet in Hegham iij quarter. milit. de domino Willelmo de Say, unde j. quarter. In Berekere

Arch Cant I4; 1882, pp 169-184: WA Scott Robinson: PATRICKSBOURNE CHURCH AND BIFRONS. Description of memorials in Patricksbourne & summary of vicars. 'Cardinal Morton instituted Malcolm Ramsey MA on the 7th of August 1494, but others must have held the benefice during that century, whose names are not recorded. Very few incumbents retain a living for so long a period as Ramsey did. He died in 1538, having been vicar of Patricksbourne for 44 years, and was buried in the chancel of Bridge Church. A memorial of him is carved in relief on the south wall of that chancel.. All these vicars (save one) had been presented to the benefice by the Prior and Convent of Merton in Surrey, but during Ramsey's long incumbency, the priory sold or otherwise alienated the next presentation to one John Bowle. John Grene

instituted by Cranmer on 5th July 1538 after Merton had been dissolved. Various others until Robert Rawson, presented by William Partheyche December 1589, also John White in 1594. Edward Partridge was Patron in 1640 [so Braems had not yet taken over?] John Fige presented by Braems in Feb 1662/3 then John Mackallar Nov

7 1667—Jan 27 1698/9 (31 years). Petition in Lambeth from 33 parishioners in May 1695 “Against mr Mackallars oppression, vexations, misdemeanours, and miscarriages. In the forefront stand disputes about tithes left long unsettled, and then overcharged. The vicar’s absence, for some weeks from Partixbourne, and for eight weeks from Bridge (Jan-March 1695) is likewise mentioned. The petitioners allege that he sometimes sat while reading prayers and preaching. They say that he detained the offertory amounting to about £1 per annum, pretending that he himself was ‘The Poor’. Also that he neglected to pay his proportion of the poor rates and the King’s taxes. The tenour of the petition evinces much petty irritation about trivial matters, but we can readily account for it when we remember that Mr Mackallar had then been vicar for 28 years and was evidently getting old and infirm.. His successor John Bowtell was presented to the living by Margaret, widow of Walter Braems and held it for 55 years (Feb 1697/8-Jan 1753). John B’s wife Olive was daughter of John Taylor. (Both buried in Patrixbourne churchyard) Then his brother-in-law Herbert Taylor for ten yrs, then Herbert’s son Edward Taylor for 35 years.

Bridge Register: ‘John Levingston, a private soldier in Maj or General J effery’s regiment of foot (No. 14), who was accidentally killed by a bread or forage wagon,

belonging to the camp at Barham Down, going over his body, whereby he was crushed to death, was buried Aug 17 1760.’

WP Griffiths visited Bridge Church in 1844. Noted absence of an organ at Bridge, west kingsdown & Bapchild (out of 25). Overall impression is that most churches were well kept & carefully arranged. (qv his report) (Arch Cant 103, 1986, pp 119-125: N YATES, The Condition of Kentish Churches before Victorian Restoration)

Notes on St Peters Bridge:

Roman Road through Bridge may have continued in use for some time since

a) Domesday refers to Bridge Hundred (knowledge of the bridge survives) and

b) Domesday Monachorum (earliest date cal 100) lists the church in a way that

suggests a record of remote times.

There was therefore almost certainly a Saxon Church here before the Norman invasion. It was probably though never more than a Chapel, since Bridge has never been separate from Patrixbourne.

The Chapel therefore implies habitation, and a continued use of the road. Possible pre-conquest trading centre for the Nailbourne valley. (Alan Everitt: Wickhambreux/Ickham — Littlebourne (implying Great Bourne) — Bekesbourne — Patrixbourne — Bishopsbourne (Kingston/Bridge). (Wootton & Denton from Bishopsbourne)

It is possible — even probable, given the course of the road up the hill, that the Norman church (late 12thc) is founded on the road itself.

Two Norman doors (effigies of early Bridge inhabitants!)
First listed vicar (as Patrixbourne Walter de Burne 1 189)

Outside W door a slab, with indents for a brass of a man & woman & group of daughters, ca 1450. once the top slab of a table tomb on the north side of the church (Hasted). If a genuine external brass it is the earliest recorded, & only pre-reformation example in Kent. Probably placed here in 1859/60.

Another edifice on the North side was probably the stocks [or were they on the Green?]
"He who will not the law obey/ here in ye Stocks must surely lay"

Malcolm Ramsey was vicar for 43 years from 1495-1538 (alias Maccobus Keasey of Hasted who died 1512 having been vicar for 21 yrs — he it is whose effigy lies in the North Chancel wall) Was he a Scotsman?? Listed as the only Pre-reformation MA..

The visitation of 1502 (ecclesiastical progress by the bishop to hear complaints and inspect the parish) took place at Wye: Prior of Merton (who held the gift — appropriator) was absent, but vicar (Ramsey) appeared, with Churchwardens Thomas Cheseman/John Newman and Parishioners William Aley/ Stephen Miller/ John Miller/ Richard Prentice: the earliest certain inhabitants of the parish.

Visitation of 1573 noted that Thomas Outlaw (surname common in the early birth registers which date from 1579) had got Mary Bell with child, she living with her father-in-law Simon Parramor. Also, that Mr Hevyside our curatt does not say the divine service every Sunday.

Complaints about others no doubt too. John Mackallar (another Scot??) vicar 1667-1698, very conscientious at first (his entries in the registers are full and beautifully written) was cited in 1695 for never being around.

The parish accounts of 1673-1740 show that the parish was responsible for upkeep of the church, as well as the stocks and the bridge. 1676 saw a wholesale refurbishment of the belfry. Payments to a bellfounder (Mr Palmer) suggest that there have not always been three bells here (which I have not seen) though one is undoubtedly old, with an inscription: Ave Maria gratia plena d[e]us tecu in Saxon capitals, ca 1325, cast by same bellfounder as Patixbourne no 2 William le Belytere.
Bellropes were replaced every 2/3 years.
Two surveys of the church done before the rebuilding of 1859/1860

a) Z Cozens 1793

b) WP Griffith 1844
See print of 1815.

Rebuilt by Mary Gregory, native of Congleton, but her husband Edward was vicar of Petham

See Igglesden for what is there now.

Many old tablets were removed, pillars altered windows shifted in the restoration.
Cozens notes Robert Bargrave 1584-1649. (By Cornelius Janzen?)

Semicircular carving (from above a door?)

Above God below in 5 compartments: 1 the expulsion from Eden; 2 Serpent, Adam & Eve; 3 Cain & Abel preparing sacrifices; 4 Abel offering sacrifice; 5 Cain slaying Abel

Font of Serpentine marble.

Clock by Gillett & Bland 1874 (or Gillett & Johnson 1847)

Notable tablets:

Baldock — common E Kent name

Braems

Brice — farmer

Foord — farmer

Forth — Workhouse master and clerk

Lansberry — of Lansberry cottage alias Lynton House (1783-1849)

Baron Montesquieu (1750-1824) of Bridge Hill house

Amelius Sicard, (see also W Window) 48 years local doctor 1832-1880. Born 1809 His father was probably the doctor before him. See also gravestone outside.

Churchyard was closed by Order in Council on October 31 1990. 1

New part of Churchyard was purchased from Dowager Lady Conyngham on August 28 1860 1

Outside:

Gravestones of Mantle (1762) (161)

Colegate Frederick 1790-1877 builder of Chapel Yard (ie post office). Later built Alexandra House on his retirement. Daughter turned it into a school.

Craft 1727 (b 1716) (193)

Crofts [Crafts?] 1775 b 1686

Foord James farmer 1733 b 1663 (41)

Zebulon Vinson butler to Mrs Gregory (95)

Halward 1749 b 1675 (27)

Robinson 1723 b1688 (192)

Spain 1715 b 1658 (135)

Stringer 1752 b 1662 (17)

Tucker 1714 b 1685 (76)

Unknown 1716 b1633 (134)

Arch Cant 122, 2002 pp113-142: MARY BERG: Patricbourne Church suggests that Patricbourne church was built by Ingelram Patrick (died 1 190/91) between 1170-1 190. Would Bridge have been built at much the same time? Patricks owned manors of Bridge as well. William Patrick 1 fl. 1066-83; Richard his probable son held it in 1086

(Domesday) from Odo of Bayeux. William Patrick 11 held Patricbourne by 1115 — he was heir to the French properties of the family. Still owned ca 1135. His heir was William Patrick 111, died 1174. WP IV also died 1174, succeeded by Ingelram. Ca 1200 church (and village?) passed to Beaulieu Priory near Rouen and stayed until 100yrs war with one or two short interludes. Beaulieu had local trouble with peasants, gave up on Patricbourne, which was given to Merton Priory to supervise in Surrey. In 1317 the archbishop of Canterbury decreed that there should always be two chaplains at Patricbourne, one of them to serve Bridge. 1333 escheator of Kent ordered to return Patricbourne to Beaulieu, but communication problems during 2100yrs war caused Beaulieu to lease

Patricbourne in 1390 to Richard Altryncham for 60 yrs. RA sold out to Merton Priory in 1409. Next came Isaacs in 1400s John Isaac buried ca 1440.

St Peter's Church Bridge: W. Rose

The Spire: It is recorded that repairs had been carried out by one Samuel Hills a churchwarden in

1787 and again in 1859 during major alterations instigated by Mrs Mary Gregory. The whole structure is constructed of pine timbers and proof of its immense strength design and

workmanship was put to the test in June 1983 when it was struck by lightning. The subsequent damage was duly and expertly repaired by steeplejack R Peter Harknett who refixed the weather vane in a more practical and weatherproof manner,

The Belfry: There are three bells in size 1) 33" 2) 36" 3) 39". The third or tenor bell (together with number 2 at Patricbourne church) was cast by the same bell founder in circa 1325 & both are thought to be amongst the oldest bells in this country. They were cast by one Wm Le Belytere and bear the moulded inscription "Ave Maria: gratia plena". This tenor bell is used to strike the hour at Bridge. The other bells bear no inscription but are none the less fairly ancient. The bells are no longer fully swung, but still ring out a good account of themselves by means of harnessed clappers.

The Clock: The clock keeps excellent time and controls two faces. It is motivated by handwinding the heavy weights and has a movement of great interest to horologists. The date on the frame casting is 1847 and was made by Gillett & Johnson. In 1975 the mechanism and cables were overhauled by Mr SJ Foord of Bridge.

The Font: This is an outstanding piece of workmanship for both size and quality of workmanship. It is of serpentine stone from Cornwall. Such large pieces of this stone are very rare. We understand that to form the bowl of this font would have necessitated the use of a waterwheel for turning. It is therefore to be considered both priceless and beautiful.

19 The Bakery; 18" c row; Nash & Hardeman; Pharmacist

JOHN NASH, Clock—maker,
At Beaksbourn.

WHEREAS some malicious Reports have been propagated by my Brother, WM. NASH, Clock—maker at Bridge, representing me as imposing on my kind Employers, - in Particular, that I had overcharged MR. DRAYSON of Upstreet, for repairing his Clock; and as such Reports have a manifest tendency to prejudice me in my Business, I have taken the Opportunity to lay the said Charge before some reputable Clock-makers of Canterbury; who have confirmed the Equity of the same, and will readily attest, if called

upon, the Injustice done to
JOHN NASH

(Kentish Gazette, 8-] 1 December | 769)

WILLIAM NASH, Watch-maker,
At BRIDGE

Thinks the Advertisement in last Tuesday's Paper too abrupt to pass unnoticed. - The

Clock of Mr. Drayson, that could not perform, was charged 85 6d. It was examined by Mr.

Warren, the reputable Watch-maker, who said, what was done to the Clock was worth 4s and the other 4s for fetching and carrying it back. This is my Brother's Method of working in the Clock Way. I have said, and can attest, he never cleaned and put together more than one Watch, to my Knowledge, all the Time he was with me and that was in

April last. Therefore what Injustice is done to John Nash by me, I leave the Reader to determine.

Elf the kind Friends of John Nash would prevent his ill Designs, and put him on a better Plan, it may answer his End better, as well as the reputable Watchmaker and his former

Friend,

(Kemish Gazette, 12 — 16 December | 769)

Bridge High Street. List of Buildings

Key: 15" c.:

>|<

A 16" c.: V

Bridge Hill House

High Street: Southwest Side

9 2

* 6

- 8-12

o 14
9- 16,16a
o 18

- 22,24
9 26,28
0

9 30

9 32,34
* 36

o 38

4 v 40-46
- 48,50
- 52

* 54-64
0 66-76
* 78

* 80

9 82

9 84

9 86

9 88-96
9

I

North—east Side
>|<

* 1,3
* 5,7
0 9,11
0 13

Sunnyside
Penbourne House
Regency Terrace

Post Office
Wayside
Rosedale Villas
Village Shop
Village Hall
Gordon House

Rogers Garage
Alexandra House
Ship Inn

Dentist
Newsagent

Riverdale House
The Saddlers
Plough & Harrow

Church cottage
St. Peter's Church

Laudin House
Semi—detached villas
Semi—detached Villas
Semi—detached cottages
Wych Elm

17th c.:

WILLIAM NASH.

4- 18th c.: 9

Early 19th c. L-shaped, 3 storeys

18th c. cottage — 2 storeys
Mid—1990S

Early 19th c. row

Mid-19th 0.

Late 18th or early 19th c. Originally two cottages
Early 19th c.

Early 19th c.

Mid 18th c. (note doorway to 26)
Mid 19th c. Shop adjacent

18th c.

18th c. Pair of cottages

Mid 20th* c.

Ca 1830

Late 15th, early 16th c. Timber frame, brick infill
cottage row. 16th c. cottage behind.

ca 1854 Pair of cottages

Early 19th c. Purssord butcher
Mid-1960s Neo—Georgian. Nos 54/56 on site of
Fagg's farm

Late Victorian terrace. One of these a post office?

1980's

20th O.

18th C.

18th c.

18th c. Originally two dwelling houses

18th c. terrace

18th c.

Norman and 19th c.

19705

Early 20th c. Late Edwardian?

Early 20th c. Probably 1900-1910

Late 19th c.

Part of early 19th c. terrace, with 19th c. addition

0 15-21 Albany terrace

* 23 The Vicarage

* 25 Rosebank

0 27-31 Belle Vue Terrace

A V 33,35 Walnut Tree Cottage

9 37

6 39,41 Gordon Cottage

0 43—45a

0 47,49 Maudsley House

A V ".751 Lime Cottage

A V 0 The White Horse

0 ?59 L Wakeham

6 61

0 63,65

6 67 River House

-1- 69 Annes House

* 71

9 73 Skippers

V -1- 9 The Red Lion

Some other local buildings

9 Lynton House

0 Bridgeford House

-1- O Little Bridge Place

A Middle Pett Farmhouse

-2- Great Pett Farmhouse

0 The Close

-1- Bridge Place

Early 19th c. For Trinity House

19603?

19203?

Mid-Late 19th c.

16th c. or earlier (now one dwelling)

18th c. (possibly earlier: false front), Post Office

18th c. now one dwelling

18th c. including shop, barn behind (shop)

19th c.? Pair of cottages, now one dwelling

15th c. or 16th c. Former forge

Late mediaeval core. Early 16th c. inscription on
fireplace lintel, 18th c. exterior to front elevation.

Posting House

19th c.? outhouse

18th c.

19th c.

18th c.

Probably 17th c. Shop, damaged by fire in early 20th c.

and partly rebuilt. Tea room. Now a private dwelling called Willow Brook.

Early 20th c. Former printing shop, previously motor spares

18th c. Price's grocers, then The Motorists Shop, then Gold's Delicatessen

16th c. or early 17th c and 18th c. Built around a core hearth

Mid-Late 18th c. Former coal merchant's (Bridge Hill)
Early 19th c. cottage row (Mill Lane)

17th c. or early 18th c. (Mill Lane)

Late Mediaeval

Late 17th c.

1835. Former Union Workhouse for 22 local parishes

Mid-late 17th c. Relic of 9—bay by 7—bay house with central courtyard, built by Sir Arnold Braems in 1650s (drawn by Schellinks in 1661)

Department of the Environment. Other comments and additions by R.Bodger & M Raraty

Two early figures connected with Bridge

780 EALDHUNE (ALDHUN, and variants)

The Kings prefect in Canterbury

William Somner (Canterbury, 1640, p. 363) cites certain charters dated at Canterbury, A.D.780 wherein mention is made of one Aldhune hujus Civitatis Praefectus and Regis Praefectus in Dorobernia, These charters, now apparently lost, recorded that Aldhune purchased 'Burne' consisting of four ploughlands from his master the Kentish King Egbert (Egbert II, c. 780 or later). The purchase price was 2000 shillings. It emerges from a series of surviving charters that Offa, King of Mercia (A.D.757-796), overlord of Kent, quashed the transaction on the grounds that King Egbert had no right to make the grant to Aldhune (Eald-). In 799 Coenwulf, King of Mercia at the request of AEthelheard, Archbishop of Canterbury, restored to Canterbury Cathedral various territories, including apparently the ground being subject of the grant quashed by Offa. The ground is said to be intended for support of the food-supply to the Cathedral community. There is not space here to enter into prolonged discussion of the site of the ground in question, but it appears to lie along the Nailbourne valley, between Barham and Bishopsbourne. [Why not lower?]

Ealdhune the Prefect or Reeve was a man of some substance. He is called comes, and is furthermore described as an active and very wealthy man (*strenuis er praedives homo*). He is said to have been a kinsman of Archbishop Jaenbeorht (A.D.765—792). He made the original grant when about to travel overseas. (Birch: *Cartularium Saxonicum*, nos. 293, 294, 319, 320, 332).

Professor Stenton says (Anglo Saxon England, p. 206) that Offa's revocation of the grant is the 'most uncompromising assertion of an overlord's authority that has come down from the whole Anglo-Saxon period.'

Jolliffe in Predeudal England (p. 47) suggests that Ealdhune was not exclusively a borough official, but was controller as well of the rural district adjacent to Canterbury, the lathe of the Burhware.

ABOUT 1046 GODRIC, PORTREEVE

Named as 'portgerefa' in the Cottonian charter of 1044-1048 recounting purchase by Godric of Bourne, the wealthy Kentish magnate and benefactor to Canterbury Cathedral, from his sister Eadgyva of land at Offham, Kent. The purchase was effected 'before the whole Shire of Kent' at Wye. Godric the portreeve is not specifically connected with Canterbury, but the 'port' (not necessarily a seaport but a place of trade) can hardly be other than Canterbury. See Bond: Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in the British Museum, IV, no. 28 for a reproduction of this charter. For a printed version, see A.J. Robertson: Anglo-Saxon Charters, 1939, no. C111 and notes thereto, p. 440.

From: W. Urry: City of Canterbury — The Chief Citizens of Canterbury. A list of

Portreeves (Prefects, Prepositi) from AD 780 until c. 1100, etc. etc. (Canterbury City Council, 1980)

20 The Red Lion

Reminiscences of Mrs Friend (1958) "When I came here in 1896 the Post Office was

at the Grocer's shop. , Mr Perry; Miller, Mr White; Tailor, Mr Stevens; Veterinary Surgeon, Mr Howard; Blacksmith, Mr Gilbert; Clock Maker, Mr Billy Hardiman; Saddler, Mr Taylor; Schoolmaster, Mr Wye. Now in 1955, the post master is Mr Roberts and the Post Office is in his own house,; no mill or miller, no tailor, no vet, no smith, no clockmaker, no saddler."

the

* Red Lion *

This inn known by the name and sign of the Red Lion was built in the 35th year of Elizabeth I, in 1593. Though the original structure of the building has undergone alteration down through the years, particularly during the reign of George III, when the structure was refaced and that of Victoria when other alterations were carried out.

When first built the property consisted of a main dwelling house or tenement with stables, outbuildings and a large tract of land. It was owned at this early date by Francis Bryce, yeoman of Patricbourne. By 1632 he had disposed of the house by sale and in that year one Jacob Jarvis, victualler of Canterbury was granted a licence to sell ales from it. He called the house and registered it under the title of the "Red Lion". By 1640, it had become a registered inn offering lodging and stabling facilities and because of its situation on the London to Dover High Road, it became an inn of some prominence.

Jacob Jarvis' family had for many years been vintners of Canterbury and were among the first to be called so outside the City of London. He kept the "Red Lion" until his death in 1661, whereafter it and all it contained passed with another dwelling in Bridge to his widow Arabella. She kept the house until 1672, when in that year she sold it

and its wine licence, to Martyn Bradstowe, a victualler of Canterbury, who for many years had kept an inn there called the "Black Griffin" in St. Peters Street, (the present one was built in 1887). Bradstowe's wife, Sarah was a harness maker by trade and it would appear that she conducted this trade from the "Red Lion" during the time she was here.

Most of the trade in the parish of Bridge at this date, because of its situation, seemed to be centred around travel. There were three wheelwrights in the village, two blacksmiths and two saddlers. This was apart from the trades conducted from the "Red Lion" which by 1700 could boast commodious livery and bait, stables and a harness maker. In 1708, the Bradstowes sold the inn to Richard Knight, victualler, who kept it until his death in 1741 whereafter it passed to his daughter Jane, a milliner of Bridge and together they kept the house until 1768, selling in that year to Thomas Fagge. The Fagge's were a prominent family of Bridge. There was at this date a baker called F agge, a miller, blacksmith and carpenter.

The improvement of the London to Dover highway in the 1760's meant faster and more regular coaches. The "Red Lion" was never a main stage, but a resting place between stages. Private coaches would wait here for the through coaches to pick up passengers transferring to local transport. It was during this period that the stables were extended to accommodate more horses and a coach—house was built. By 1800 Naomi Fagge, widow of Thomas was keeping the "Red Lion". She sold it in 1804, to Joseph

Moss, victualler and equine dealer, who by the year 1810, was licenced to let horses from the inn, a tradition that remained for many years to follow.

Moss sold the "Red Lion" in 1818 to Thomas Hawkins, who like his predecessor obtained a licence to let horses. By the time he sold the inn in 1832, wagonettes and carriages could also be hired here. In that year one Joseph Eyre purchased the house. By 1850, he was advertising the "Red Lion" as a fine lodging inn, with carriage and stabling facilities. By 1860 he had become a fly proprietor of the "Red Lion and livery stables". A fly was a small one horse carriage, first introduced at Brighton in 1816. It was originally pushed or pulled by two men, but later the term was given to any one horse carriage of the hansom type.

Joseph Eyre kept the "Red Lion" until his death in 1871, whereafter it passed to his son Robert. In 1886, he sold the house to the Frederick Flint Brewery of St. Dunstan's Canterbury. They installed one Thomas Fisher Hinds into the house as a tenant. He kept it until 1898, being succeeded in that year by Samuel Dommatt and he in 1902 by Frederick Anderson. It was whilst in his hands that the Flint Brewery sold out to the Beer and Rigden Brewery of Canterbury. In 1904, Anderson was succeeded by Frank Clayson, he in 1911 by John Friend, who was here for the duration of World War I, and on until 1921, when he was succeeded by Joshua Golder, he in 1926 by John Thomas Watson, he in 1928 by Richard S. Ansell and he in 1933 by George Burton, who was here for many years to follow. In the 1940's the Beer and Rigden Brewery sold out to the Whitbread Brewery and they eventually sold the "Red Lion" to the Bass Charington Brewery.

Today, the inn is no longer brewery-owned and is kept by Andrew Paice Hill and

Penelope Cavill. H

21 Skippers
22 Motorist

23 Anne's House

Now Willow Brook, Was a tea room in the 1970s. Earlier, had been a fish & chip shop, and was extensively damaged by fire (photo)

24 Fire Brigade

Bridge Fire Brigade

One organisation of vital importance was the Bridge Volunteer Fire Brigade, whose equipment in 1915 included a Merry—Weather manual engine and about 1,200 feet of hose. The Fire engine was horse—drawn being pulled by the same horses as were used for funerals and for delivering coal. The firemen were mostly local tradesmen and at one time included two grocers, the cycle agent, a publican, the draper, two gardeners, the coal merchant and the blacksmith. The men were summoned by a maroon flare, and one was killed in 1926 when looking over the flare, supposing it to have gone out. There were twelve sets of helmets, tunics

and axes, and if a tall man left the force to be replaced by a short man, the latter had to endure an ill—fitting uniform. The force entered the motorised age when Count Zborowski donated a motor appliance, registration number CE 1037. It was kept running largely through the donations from insurance companies, whose outgoings would have soared but for the Volunteer Brigade's existence and devotion to duty. The Brigade would resent the presence at small fires of the Canterbury or Sturry Brigades, who would be soaked on arrival. The Bridge Brigade had no ladders until shortly before the last war, while early hoses were

made of leather and thick rubber. The Fire Brigade remained independent up until the Second World War.

Author: Crispin Wilding — UKC Group Research Project 1976

Bridge fire Brigade: engine house, Plough & Harrow P.H.; consists of a motor

engine & trailer & about 1,200 feet of hose; Charles Eills, Lt. & sec; number of men 10.

Kelly's

An interesting interlude whilst the Count was at Higham concerns the local fire brigade. In 1920 its chief had complained that their horse-drawn appliance could not reach fires in outlying districts in time to be effective. The Count, hearing of this, presented them with a car along the lines of the Chittys. Blythe Bros. adapted the body to accommodate 10 men and a mile of hose. With a rating of 75 h.p. and a speed of 60 m.p.h. this was probably the fastest of its kind in the country at that time. For his generosity the Count was made Honorary Captain of the Brigade.

The Fire Maroon Tragedy at Bridge

One of the most momentous events in Edwardian Bridge, at least, to judge from the coverage it received in The Kentish Gazette, was the early death of young Mr John

Fenn, of 6 Albert Terrace, second engineer of the Bridge Fire Brigade, on 31st March 1910.

It appears from the inquest that a fire had broken out at Pett Bottom. It was the job of Mr Fenn Junior to light the maroon to call together the Fire Brigade. On the fatal

afternoon at about 12.30 he left the 'Plough and Harrow' and asked his brother for a match. This, his brother provided and then went off 'round the corner'. Almost immediately there were two simultaneous explosions and Mr Fenn's cap was seen by a witness to 'go right up in the air'. The witness hurried to the scene and found Mr Fenn lying outside on a pile of straw. Details of his injuries are graphic: "profuse

hamorrhage (Kentish Gazette's spelling), left eye completely gone...." Mr Fenn lived for only twenty minutes after the explosion.

It emerged during the inquest that second engineer Fenn had not fired a maroon before, and that instead of lying down to fire it, he had stood over it and hence received the fatal blow to the face. There seems to be some uncertainty as to whether the maroons were faulty, and in order to satisfy himself on this issue, a representative of Messrs Brocks "took train to Bridge" and inspected the scene of the accident. He subsequently declared that the maroons were of the best quality, similar to those fired at Crystal Palace since 1865, and asked permission to fire the remaining five. He later contended that the maroons were not defective, thus clearing the name and reputation of Brooks.

Mr Fenn's funeral was a stirring occasion. According to the Gazette: " Never before had the village of Bridge felt a disaster so keenly... April 3rd will stand out in the history of the village as a day never to be forgotten...."

5000 people thronged the narrow street, overflowing into the surrounding fields. Most of the gentry were present at the graveside, though the Conynghams were not mentioned, presumably because they worshipped at Patricxbourne. The dead man was given a military funeral with a firing party from the East Kent Yeomanry. The coffin was borne by six foremen and followed by 65 members of other Fire Brigades. "It was a mournful procession indeed as it wended its way up the hillside and... there were but few dry eyes...." The grave had been prepared under the shadow of

some tall trees bordering the road and "sympathetic hands had lined it with primroses and ivy.

At evensong after the funeral the Rector of Bridge Rev. H Knight referring to the tragic death of Mr Fenn said that God took us out of this world for two reasons. Either we were well ready for entry to the heavenly Kingdom or else we were 'so hardened' that it would be futile to give us any more chances. It was clear that the former case applied to Mr Fenn and that the finger of God had singled him out to

lay down his life for his friends. It is to be hoped that such fatalism afforded some comfort to his relatives and young widow.

Fire Brigade

At a Fire Brigade meeting on Friday a letter was read from Captain S Gilbert tendering his resignation. He had been a member of the Brigade for a number of years, but now finds the duties

too much for him. Lieut. F Hogben is elected Captain and Mr F Down Snr., becomes lieutenant.

(Williamson 83 — undated)

25 Plough & Harrow

THE

* PLOUGH&HARROW *

This inn known by the name and sign of the Plough and Harrow was built in the 4th year of William and Mary in 1692, though the original structure of the building has been altered and added to down through the years.

When first built the property was made up of two dwelling houses owned at this early date by one Charles Pittock. who appears not to have resided in either, but held leases on them. In 1703, one of the dwellings was occupied by Isaac Whale. a shoemaker of Bridge, whilst the other by Thomas Kettle, a carpenter of the parish. By 1720, both dwellings along with two others in Bridge and a third at Patricxbourne, was in the possession of Elizabeth Maudistely Pittock. Isaac Whale still occupied one dwelling and did so until his death in 1742, whilst the other, was occupied by the widow Kettle, who at this date lived here on what appears to be a peppercorn lease.

By 1750, the Pittock estate was in the hands of Dorothy Pittock, who had inherited it upon the death of her mother. At this date both dwellings were occupied, one by Henry Marshall and the other by Jacob Sherrod, however in 1761 both properties were sold, Henry Marshall. still occupied one, whilst the other appears to have remained empty. They were sold to Richard Hardiman, who in 1768 made them over in his will to Susannah Sherrad, daughter of Jacob Sherrod; and there followed some arguments at law between Sherrod and members of the Hardiman family as to the rightful owner, during the whole of which both dwellings remained unoccupied.

In 1785, Susannah Sherrard (now spelt thus) spinster of Bridge parish disposed of the two dwellings by sale to Thomas Williams a maltster of Bridge, who between the years of 1785 and 1789, carried out works to the dwellings to form them into a malthouse, though in doing so, he probably retained a small living area for himself and his family. His wife bore him eleven children. but as was usual of the times, not all these, survived the perils of infancy and by 1811, only six were recorded alive and living here with their parents,

Thomas Williams lived out the rest of his life here, producing malt for the purpose of brewing. He died in 1830. whereafter the house and business passed to his son William. who by 1831 was brewing ale here for he is recorded so throughout that year and early 1832. In that year he obtained a beer house licence under the terms of the 1830 beer act, which enabled any house holder of good character to obtain a licence to sell beer from a dwelling or tenement of rateable value, by merely paying the small sum of two guineas to the department of excise, thereby

avoiding the necessity of applying or being presented to Magistrates, who had no control over these beer houses and

frowned upon the act.

And so in April 1832, ale was sold here for the first time. The house bore no title at this date other than that of a beer house at Bridge and that the said Williams a brewer and now beer seller was of that house. He kept it and sold his home brewed beverages from it until 1858, when in that year he sold it to Joseph Burch, an ale and porter brewer. By 1863, the house had come to be commonly called the Plough and Harrow. It is quite possible that it was given this

title because there was a blacksmiths nearby run by Thomas Fagg, who forged farming implements and probably displayed them outside his shop.

In 1877, Joseph Burch sold the house to Samuel Shepherd of the Shepherd Neame Brewery. It was sold as the Plough and Harrow beer-house with brewhouse, and outbuildings. The price of the purchase was 410 pounds. The Brewery set about altering the property and upon completion of the works, they leased the house to Edward Russell in 1878. In the same year he was granted a wine and spirit licence for the house, and it became a registered tavern.

Edward Russell gave up the house in 1881 to George Whiddett. He, in 1887 was succeeded here by Frederick Miles and he in 1894 by Charles Hopper Bean.

Bean gave up the house in 1898, to Robert Silsey and he in 1901 to William Brice. He was here until the outbreak of World War I when he was conscripted. He never returned, His wife Harriet took over the Plough and

Harrow and stayed until 1928, when she was succeeded by George Ford and he in 1937 by Philip Ralph Mullinger, who was here for many years to follow.

To-day the Plough and Harrow is kept by James Henry Crowhurst.

26 Saddlers

27 Hawkins

28 The Bridge; The river; Schellinks

29 Albert Terrace

Dental Surgery
Opened in 1987 (Williamson 84)
Formerly a shop

30 River House & Glen Falls

31 Butcher & shambles

Butcher in 1668 was John Cooly

32 Beans Cottages; The Farm; Western Avenue

Bridge Farm was the home farm of Blackmansbury. In the 19th C it was owned by Rev. RH Barham (Thomas Ingoldsby). Demolished in 1962 it is visible on Schellink's drawing of the High Street of 1662. "The right-hand end of the jetty proved false, and masked a fifteenth century wagon entrance which was in a direct line with the gateway into the farmyard.. Remainder of the house had been a typical 15th century wealden house, with central hall open to the roof, small rooms each side, and jettied out in front. Modernised in 13' half of 17th c when a great fireplace was added and upper floor inserted. Further modernised in 18th or early 19th c (Conyngham?) to appear as in modern times.. Another timbered house had stood at right-hand end of the building, but demolished in the 18th c when the wagon entrance was blocked and entrance to yard moved to the right. Stairway of eight solid oak blocks of mediaeval date. The house must have presented a very attractive appearance at this time for on the front of the house vertical timbers known as studs were set

close together. In first half of 17th c alterations made, no doubt by Sir Arnold Braems.

Bread oven probably added in 1638, when red brick floors were inserted. Late 18th c covered all older windows, and three small bays inserted, with three sash windows above. Front doorway blocked and a new one inserted to the left. New newel stair inserted at rear (later than the fireplace). Barn and cowshed undoubtedly dated from

15th c. Very like Durlock Grange, both belonging to St Augustine's Abbey and then Conynghams. (Arch Cam' 79, 1964, pp 136-142)

33 White Horse

1 June 1668 Rented by William Ford yeoman from Sir Arnold & Walter Braems [Ford publican to 1668?]

23 July 1668 Rented by John Cooley Butcher from A & W Braems and Wm Ford
30 April 1679 Rented by John Cooley from Sir John[?] Aucher

5 April 1682 Rented by John Cooley from Sir Anthony Aucher

27 Jan 1682 three bonds from John Cooley to Sir A Aucher

8 May 1685 Rented by John Cooley from Sir A A via Francis Mitchell gent of Cant.
1702 Deed Poll under the hand of John Cooley

[Cooley publican 1668-1700?]

Subsequently property of Stephen Beckingham whose wife was Catherine Corbett one of five daughters of John Corbett of Bourne by his wife Elizabeth formerly Elizabeth Aucher, sister to Hewytt Aucher, son of Sir Anthony and dame Elizabeth Inventory of 28 November 1799 gives tenant of White Horse as James Aylward at a yearly rent of £1 8.

34 Forge

35 Pursford butcher

36 The Ship; Primrose Alley

Formerly a row of four workers cottages — even earlier perhaps a medieval hall house? With Oast attached. No evidence that it was ever a pub. Respondent recalls that she was not allowed to play with children from there because of the dirt.

37 Alexandra House

Built by Frederick Colegate (Bridge builder) as his retirement home. Used subsequently by his daughter as a school.

38 Garage

Established in 1927 by AW Rogers on the site of a woodyard. Forecourt originally not as wide: note the roofline on the adjacent property. Sheds at back are railway sheds from the now vanished South Canterbury Station.

39 Belle Vue Terrace

40 Rosebank

41 Village Hall

Patricxbourne

Canterbury

May 8 1895

Revd. & Dear sir,

Your letter of the 23rd ult. was duly placed before the Parish Council, at its meeting last evening,

and the terms you proposed, relative to the use, by the Council, of the Reading Room, were unanimously agreed to, and are hereby accepted, viz,

That the Council have the use of the Room on the first Tuesday evening in each month in consideration of a payment of £1 annually (at Michaelmas), with a payment of 2/— per night for additional meetings, if required subject to the room being at liberty, and reasonable notice being given to the caretaker, special arrangements to be made however for Parish Meetings.

I have pleasure in adding that on the proposition of Mr F airbrass, seconded by Mr Bird it was also unanimously agreed, "that a vote of thanks be recorded to the Vicar for his services as Chairman

of the Council to April last and for the liberal manner in which he had ...the Council in reference to the use of the Reading Room"

The Council consider the resolution passed by the Guardians at their last meeting (mentioned by me to you this morning) both illegal and uncalled for, but as it was stated that you would take action thereon, at the Board meeting tomorrow, it was decided to leave the matter entirely in your hands,

I am Revd. Sir

your obedt. servant

Robert Wye.

42 Albany Terrace
The Grand Old Man

Bridge is justly proud of Mr Charles Wills, the village's Grand Old Man, who will celebrate his 84th birthday next week. He has earned the gratitude of the residents by reason of his long career of useful public service. As a boy, he attended the Commercial School at Canterbury and later the Dane John Academy. He then entered his father's bakery business, of which he assumed control on his father's death in 1896.

Of charming and sympathetic disposition, he has prominently identified himself with nearly every phase of the village life. For some 70 years he assisted the St Peter's Church choir, and in the years gone by was always a popular entertainer in the district.

Perhaps, however, Mr Wills' chief claim to distinction is his connection for over 50 years with the Bridge Fire Brigade, of which he was Chief officer for over 30 years. Upon his retirement he was elected Hon. Chief Officer. At the recent Fire Brigades Tournament at Canterbury his health was enthusiastically honoured by the officers of the South Eastern District.

Among his official activities may be mentioned his long service on the Bridge RDC and the old Board of Guardians, his chairmanship of the Parish Council, of which he had been a member since its inception, and his secretaryship for nearly half a century of the Bridge Gas, Coal and Coke Co.

During the [first] war he was nightly on duty at the canteen run at the Reading Room for the benefit of the troops stationed at Bourne Park.

In his youth he was a keen cricketer and turned out for the local club for many years, while upon his ceasing to take an active part in the game, he assumed the duties of scorer. Despite his 84 years, 'Old Charlie' is remarkably active and vigorous. He comes of a long-lived family. His aunt, the late Mrs. Hayzen, who lived with him, was a centenarian, and it is the sincere hope of

everybody in the village that he himself will keep up his wicket and run into three figures. (Kentish Gazette May 28 1932. Williamson 172-3)

[Mr Wills died aged 94 in 1943]

Mr Charles Wills, of The Terrace, Bridge [ie Albany Terrace], near Canterbury, is

affectionately referred to as Bridge's 'grand old man'. His records of long service in village affairs which earn him the title are as follows: - 68 years member of Bridge church choir; 51 years member Bridge Fire Brigade; 36 years Vicar's Churchwarden; 42 years Secretary of the Bridge Gas Coal and Coke Company, and a member of the Parish Council, of which he is now chairman, ever since it was formed.

Born in the year 1848 he attended the Commercial School, Canterbury, now known as the Simon Langton School. On leaving he assisted his father in his baker's business, which he took over upon his father's death in 1896. A man of charming manners and genial disposition, Mr Wills has

been closely connected with nearly every branch of sport and social life in Bridge. He has been a member of the St Peter's Church choir for 68 years and has a fine falsetto voice. In his younger days he was in great demand in the district at concerts. He has also been the Vicar's Churchwarden for the past 36 years. For 51 years Mr Wills has been a member of the Bridge Fire Brigade, and for the past 28 years he has been its Chief Officer. These years of fire service must surely constitute a record. Mr Wills has always been a keen cricketer, and played for Bridge CC for many years. He remembers playing in such good company as Mr C Howard (the local veterinary surgeon), who on one occasion played for Kent, Arthur Webb, who afterwards became one of Hampshire's leading professionals, and Tom Kersley, who later qualified for Surrey, and was on the ground staff at the Oval for several seasons. Even now Mr Wills does not forsake the game, and continues to play for the club. Although 79 years of age he is still an active and busy man, being a member of the Bridge Rural Council and Board of Guardians, Chairman of the Parish Council and Secretary to the Bridge Gas Coal and Coke Company, a position he has held for the past 42 years. Those who during the Great War were in camp at Bourne Park or any of the [other camps] that were around Bridge will recognise [in] Mr Wills the old gentleman who assisted every night without a break at the canteen that was run by the late Mrs E Wilson for the troops at the Reading Room.

Mr Wills comes of a family noted for longevity and is the nephew of Mrs S Hayzen who celebrated her 100th birthday on February 25th, and who lives with him and his two sisters. The combined ages of the four people living in that house total 335 years. That Mr Wills, or 'Old Charley', as he is affectionately known, will live to celebrate his 100th birthday is the wish of all in the village. They are proud of him.

(Kent Messenger March 12 1927. Williamson 192)

43 Shop

44 Doctors

Dr. Hunter's House, 24 High Street, Bridge.

Dr. Roger Hunter, my father, came to Bridge with my mother in about 1937 when he bought the house and the practice from Dr. Wilson. Dr. Wilson had been the village doctor for many years and lived in the house with his brother, known as Mr. Jack, and their valet. I assume they kept their horses out in the carriage house which is just round the corner up Union Lane. The old stables with two rooms above are still in a more or less original state, with the present garage added on. My mother thinks that the house was still lit by gas when she arrived, but I am not sure about this.

The surgery was in the house with patients entering the waiting room through the door in the wall to the left of the house. Private patients were allowed to wait in the dining room and go in through the front door! In the 40s and 50s I can remember needles and syringes were sterilised on the kitchen stove in a

saucepan and the drugs were kept in the family 'fridge. My father worked closely with Mr. Stockwell who was the chemist in the village. Mr. Stockwell's shop was

down on the corner of Mill Lane and the High Street where I think there is now a

kitchen appliance shop. He would make up the pills and potions in the back of the shop.

The interior of 24 High Street is still very much as it was structurally, with all the original doors and fireplaces, etc. The hall ceiling is attractively plastered. In the basement there is an area where wine and spirits could be locked up and there is another large area with cupboard for storing apples and vegetables. The roof was repaired recently and over the bathroom the roofers found a large flat water tank which must have been used for collecting water for the house.

It was a shame that when the roof was renovated back in the 70s (I think) that a copy of the original pediment wasn't replaced and a mean little strip of wood was put back. You can see a trace of the original pediment on the corner of Miss Jones's house next door. The heavy traffic over the years before the by—pass was built caused the mathematical tiles on the front of the house to loosen and they all had to be re-fixed. I think that is when the pediment was taken down.

Mathematical tiles were renovated on the side of the house early this year and I saw that the lower ones were fixed in plaster and the upper ones hung on timber.

This is nothing to do with my parents' house, but I can remember Fagg's Farm as we used to ride with Captain Maslin, the local riding instructor, who sometimes

kept his horses there, and we used to keep our ponies in the three fields where the Western Avenue estate now is.

I hope this is useful information — do get in touch if you would like more help.

Diana Cairns (01227 752836)

Dr Wilson

Death of Dr Wilson. Gloom was cast over the village when Dr Wilson passed away on Friday evening, after a few days illness. He had not been in good health for some time, but was able to carry on his practice, which covered a large area, including Bekesbourne, Barham, Bishopsbourne, Upper and Lower Hardres. He succeeded about 30 years ago, Dr Moorhead who left the district. A bachelor, Dr Wilson resided with his brother, Mr J Wilson, on the death of his mother, the late Mrs Wilson, at Bridge Place, Bridge. He was a member of a well-known Irish family. His two surviving brothers are Sir Samuel Wilson and Mr Jack Wilson. Another brother,

General Wilson, passed away a few years ago. (Williamson 83 — undated)
Dr Hunter's house

Death of Dr. A. T. Wilson
Well-known Bridge Practitioner

We regret to record the death of Dr. Arthur Thomas Wilson, at his home in Bridge, on Friday. Dr. Wilson, who was 67 years of age, was born in Dublin, was Irish, and came to Bridge to practice medicine in 1906. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin University, and held the following degrees, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., B.A. Dr. Wilson, who was devoted to his work, had lived with his brother, Mr. J .B.E. Wilson, for 33 years. His father, Mr. James Wilson, was a well-known Irish Barrister.

The doctor had been M.O. at Bridge Institution since he first came to the village, and held the same position at the old isolation hospital, Bishopsbourne. Dr. Wilson was extremely well-liked and respected in the village and the surrounding district. He leaves two brothers, Mr. J.B.E. Wilson and Brig.—Gen. Sir Samuel Wilson, late Permanent Under Secretary for State for the Colonies.

The funeral took place in Ireland on Tuesday, Dr. Wilson's ashes being buried in the family vault.

A personal appreciation

For years he resided in Bridge, near Canterbury. A small man with a big heart, an Irishman's sense of humour and a characteristic laugh. A doctor, no, more than a doctor, a friend in need. How many, for miles around, will mourn him in silence. In the large mansion and in the small cottage, aye, even the tramp on the road will, if he pass through Bridge again, learn of this death with a tightness in his throat. Nothing was too small for this man to see and understand, no one was too poor for him to sympathise with and comfort. For years he knew the trials and troubles of multitudes, yet never have I heard him say one word to the detriment of any. Unconscious of self,

he gave his whole time to his people, and would often spend hours in sympathising rather than take the rest he sorely needed. Described in my hearing once by a Bishop as "A Christian" no man could deserve that appellation more than he. Yet his Christianity was not artificial, it was lived. Rarely have I discussed religion with him, but what he thought could be known by how he lived. So passes from sight a doctor, a man and an example, for if only one person can say "that man was a comfort and strength to me," then surely he has not lived in vain.

(No source, no date: Williamson 463)

Record of Bridge doctors:

...1835—41? William Nix (medical officer, Bridge Union, from its establishment)
Nov 29 1880 Amelius Sicard died: 'beloved physician to rich and poor' b 17.6.1809. 48 yrs the

doctor in Bridge, hence began practice in 1832 aged 23. Resided at the doctor's house with his mother. Buried December 3 1880.

Census 1851 describes him also as 'Lic. Apoth. Co. Lond.'

Wall plaque in the church: "Sacred / to the memory / of/ Amelius Sicard / M.R.C.S. /who departed this / life Novr. 29th 1880 / aged 71 years / This tablet and the West window / were placed in this / Church by a numerous / circle of friends. /"

Tombstone in the churchyard: "In memory of / Amelius Sicard / only son of John Jacob / and Mary Sicard. / born at Blackheath / June 12th 1809, died at Bridge /November 29th 1880. / Here he had resided forty-eight years and / had been to rich and poor / the beloved physician. /"

" Headstone, Bodystone and Footstone: A.B. 1880

Also: "Sacred / to the memory of/ Mary Sicard / widow ofthe late J.J. Sicard Esq. / of Kensington, who departed this life / on the 30th day of July 1843, / in her 79th year /" Headstone, Bodystone & Footstonez. M.S. 1843 (buried on August 5th 1943)

John Jacob Sicard appears to have been Major-domo to Queen Caroline in Blackheath and Kensington. and to have carried the announcement of her succession as queen to Caroline in Florence in 1820. John Jacob probably = Jean-Jaques. a refugee from the revolution. Sicards are related to the Comtes de Lautrec [13th century ancestors called Amelius—Sicard]

..1890. 1897 Charles Henry Schon. surgeon. medical officer. Bridge Union Died 1899 (buried Jan 25th 1899)

1901 census 1 190-1 Robert Leishman Moorhead. MB CM ~-(Edin) public vaccinator No. 1 District & M0 to Bridge Union.

1906-71939: ArthurThomas Wilson MB, BCh, BAO(Dub) Public Vaccinator. His mother was living in Bridge Place in 1907. Bought his house from Dr Schon.

1939-71970: Roger Bennett Hunter, MB (graduated from TCD in 1930)

?1970—1988: William GS Russell Died December 25th 1988

Jan 15th 1988- present (1999): D Mark Jones (was Russell's junior); also now Mary Rafla & PH Sykes.

The house in the High Street was therefore the Doctor's for at least 180 years, possibly longer.

Mathematical Tiles: designed to give the appearance of brick, when hung on a timber-framed structure.

45 Post Office; Chapel Yard

46 Cottages

47 Weston Villas

48 Sefton Villas

49 Conyngham Lane

50 Hillside

51 Sunnyside; Dering Road; ?Aunt Betsy

52 Pett

Originally 'Houndpitt' — 3 Oct 1361 Quitclaim from Alice, widow of Thomas Wydie, for a meesuage at 'Pette', lying with the King's highway to east and north, and the tenement of William Stokys to west and south. Witnesses John petit, Stephen

Stodmerssh, John Wydie, William Stokes, William of Bridge, Adam Kyntard, Peter the Clerk.

53 Duck Inn

Notes on The Duck Inn

Was originally built in 1623 as a farm and consisted of two dwellings owned by Isaac

Clinton, who died in 1647. Thence to Samuel Clinton, d. 1701 and Robert Clinton d 1732.

Was then known as Wodelands, and included 7 acres of land.

In 1732 it was occupied by Clement Foxearth and Richard White.

In 1780 was owned by Thomas ?Dack (a descendant of the Clintons)

Sold in 1785 to Ruben Clare and in 1793 to Henry Corner of Canterbury. Sold in 1806 to

Michael Price, wheelwright and horse dealer of Bishopsbourne, who died in 1831.
Thence to Neville Price, d. 1842.

Thomas Goodwin, grocer if Bishopsbourne obtained a licence in 1849 to sell ales,
groceries and provisions from the property - 'Woodlands'.

1862 was in possession of Thomas Sargeant, grocer and beer seller [1861 census wood-
sawyer]

1874 William Newell,

1890 Thomas Needle (general stores and beer house).

1891 census Thomas Stubbles [56] & Caroline [61] Ag lab & Licensed Victualler:
Woodmans Arms

1904 a full licence granted to Thomas Stubbles as the 'Wood1nans Arms'. He left in 1906.
Renamed 'The Duck' in the 1960's.

54 Filmer Road development; Primitive Chapel
Dering Road

Dering Road in Bridge commemorates Colonel Cholmeley Dering, a younger brother of Sir Edward Dering of Surrenden Dering, the seventh baronet. He is well known in Kentish annals as commander of the New Romney Fencible Cavalry (Duke of York's Own), which he raised in East Kent in 1794 and with which he served in Ireland for three years, receiving the thanks of the Lord Lieutenant and both Houses of Parliament in that country for his eminent services during the rebellion of 1798. The regiment was disbanded in October, 1800, on its return from Ireland. One year before, probably in anticipation of the event, Colonel Dering had bought Howletts [in Ickham] C?) from its builder, Isaac Baugh, and was in consequence the second owner of that most distinguished house, one of the best of its size and style in England. On the death of his elder brother in 1811 he became guardian of the infant eighth Dering baronet and had to remove to Surrenden from Howletts, which he sold about 1816 to George Gipps Esq., son and heir of one of the founders of the Canterbury Bank. In 1817 he was returned as MP

for New Romney. He died in 1836 and was buried at Pluckley. Howletts remained in the Gipps family until about forty years ago.

55 Union Road; The Workhouse
W A N T E D.
A Mistress for a Workhouse,

In the Parish of BRIDGE, at Easter next. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. MILLER, or Mr. CHAMPION, CHURCHWARDEN, and OVERSEER.

N.B. She must write a tolerable Hand.

BRIDGE, April 10, 1772.

(Kentish Gazette, April 7 — 1772)

MY LIFE CONNECTED WITH

THE UNION/THE CLOSE UNION ROAD BRIDGE

- MISS GLADYS M. LEMAR

In 1933, when we (the Lemar family) came to live in Old Mill House, Union Road, Bridge, we had relations working at The Union, Union Road. My Aunt and Uncle (Mr. and Mrs. Len Lemar) held the posts of Porter and Porteress, and their living accommodation was on the left—hand side of the main entrance (now made into two flats). They had two daughters (our cousins), so as children we were often in The Union. This gave us an insight into life that we would not otherwise have known about.

We spent many hours in the laundry, the chapel, the kitchen, and on the wards, doing little jobs when we could. The women lived on the left-hand side and the men on the right-hand side of the building. We talked frequently to the men and women who had to live there; we knew them all by name. In those days, some who lived in the Union, or the Institution, as it was often referred to, were only in their twenties and thirties. In

addition there were the elderly, infirm and mentally retarded. Some women had their babies with them.

I can remember vagrants being brought to The Union, being cleaned and bathed by my Uncle, and given food. After a night=s rest, some Awent on their wayz. The vagrants always arrived at, or were brought to, a special building which was situated opposite Old Mill House. The building was demolished in 1976, and later, houses were built on the site, now Mount Charles Walk. The Union gardens were eventually sold and Churchill House and Churchill Close are built where the gardens once were.

During the early years, The Master and Matron of The Union were Mr. and Mrs.

P. Honney and their living accommodation was on the right-hand side of the main entrance and above the archway.

Among the many and varied duties my Aunt and Uncle did, is one that I always remember vividly. In the main entrance, next to his desk, my Uncle had a bell-pull. He had to toll the bell many times during the day; for example:- time to get up, time for breakfast, lunch and tea (even between the courses), also, to signify that the Doctor had arrived, and finally, of course, time for bed.

The Board of Governors held a meeting every month on the premises. During those years I never thought that one day I would work at The Union.

After working for The Bishop of Dover (Bishop Rose) and his wife, at St. Martin=s Priory, St. Martin=s Hill, Canterbury, as House Maid and then Parlour Maid,

for five and a half years, I came to work at The Union in 1947, as The Matron=s Maid.

The Matron then was Miss Eborn and I worked for her for ten years, until she retired and returned to live in her home town of Dover.

During my time at The Union (later to be named The Close), I worked for seven

Matrons. Sometimes my work took on a different role as some of the Matrons had families, and then I had the children to look after as well.

During the time that Mrs. D. Upton (later to become Mrs. Holway) was Matron there was talk of The Union /The Close being closed. Matron became an active

campaigner to keep the home in Bridge. None of the staff or the residents, or in fact the people of Bridge, wanted the home to move into Canterbury.

The campaign and everyone's efforts to prevent the move were successful. The

Close was converted into houses/flats and The New Close was built in Conyngham Lane, Bridge.

We all moved to The New Close in 1982 and here, men and women were able to live side by side and were not segregated as in the old days.

I retired from The New Close in June 1985, having worked for The Kent County Council, at The Union/The Close/The new Close, for thirty eight and a half years. I

remained a Committee Member for The New Close Amenity Fund until the middle of 1997.

10th January, 1999.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EARLY ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW POOR LAW IN THE BRIDGE UNION

Miss J. A. Nunn

THE NEW POOR LAW

Any study of the New Poor Law must first encompass a description of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which laid down the principles governing the treatment of the poor for the rest of the nineteenth century. Prior to 1834 there was no national system of poor relief.

Instead different parts of the country administered different kinds of workhouse or provided various payments of cash or kind, which supplemented the low incomes of the poor. The most

famous type of outdoor relief was the 'Speenhamland System'. As pauperism and outdoor-relief

increased so too did poor rates. It was alleged that the Speenhamland payments encouraged

laziness and were a positive disincentive to work. For these reasons it was thought advisable to

devise a new and national system of poor relief.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 abolished outdoor relief to the able-bodied, who on applying for relief were to be offered maintenance in a workhouse where their lives would be

regulated and made less comfortable than had they chosen to stay outside and fend for themselves (1). This principle of 'less eligibility' had the attraction of being a self-acting test of destitution. Only those persons who were genuinely in dire need would accept the workhouse

rather than starvation, particularly since on entering the workhouse they lost all the rights and privileges they were entitled to in the outside world. Those who were not in such straits would prefer to remain independent and thus avoid contracting the morally wasting disease of pauperism (2).

The New Poor Law was seen as a positive solution to an increasing problem of pauperism, which would work wonders for the moral character of the working man, and reduce poor rates, since it would be cheaper to administer than the old systems of outdoor relief. For these reasons the Government accepted the principles of the New Poor Law even though they involved a greater degree of bureaucratic centralisation than would have been acceptable to them under normal circumstances. Under the 1834 act overall responsibility for the poor law passed into the hands of three Poor Law Commissioners at Somerset House, whose rulings were transmitted to Boards of Guardians in different areas by Assistant Poor Law Commissioners. The country was divided up into Poor Law Unions, for each of which a Board of Guardians was appointed with complete control of local administration. Each Poor Law Union was composed of several parishes. Boards varied in terms of administrative detail and in how they interpreted the legislation of 1834. Some stuck to the letter of the Poor Law Amendment Act, while others proved to be more flexible. Boards of Guardians were elected annually and each Guardian represented a constituent Parish within his Poor Law Union.

The implementation of the New Poor Law was not as uniform as its promoters had hoped for. For a few years several Boards of Guardians in Northern Counties merely administered the Registration Act of 1836 (3), and even when they were persuaded to assume responsibility for the poor law in place of the parish authorities they were allowed to continue the payment of outdoor relief to the able-bodied. Having permitted such a concession, the central authority experienced difficulty in withdrawing it. Moreover the workhouse test was never enforced in the industrialised Unions of Lancashire and the West Riding and Boards of Guardians even ignored the stipulation that able-bodied male applicants for relief be subjected to some form of task work. They demanded instead that their Guardians be given full discretion to relieve their poor as they thought fit, so that outdoor relief to the able-bodied continued, and even took the form of allowances in aid of inadequate earnings (4). Initially the central body lacked the power to enforce anyone to do anything, and yet much was achieved prior to the first great administrative

change of 1847, whereby a new Poor Law Board replaced the three Poor Law Commissioners as a governing and ministerial rather than a reforming authority (5).

For thirteen years between 1834 and 1847 the three Poor Law Commissioners, with Edwin Chadwick as their secretary administered the early years of the New Poor Law, but under

constant pressure from Parliament and from hostile agitation in the industrial areas they failed to achieve national uniformity in poor law administration or the abolition of outdoor relief. During the 1840s they both formally permitted a considerable degree of outdoor relief, even to the able-bodied, and relaxed their supervision of local administration. Chadwick, after a number of quarrels, increasingly turned his attention to the sanitary problems raised by his report of 1842, and from 1847 was no longer involved in poor law administration. 1847 also produced a major scandal surrounding the Andover Workhouse, where paupers who had been so badly fed on being set to work on grinding bones for fertiliser fought for any scraps of food which still clung to the

half—rotten bones (6). This case exposed a slackening of control from the centre and promoted a parliamentary storm out of which the Poor Law Board emerged as a minor government

department. Under a new Act, which was passed at the same time, an inspectorate was established and some improvements in workhouse conditions were promised (7).

Inadequate levels of outdoor and indoor relief have been blamed on the meanness of Boards of Guardians who, it is alleged, cared more for the rates than the poor under their control. Given a failure to reform the rating system in 1834, some of this parsimony is understandable. Prior to 1865 each parish remained responsible for the cost of relieving its own paupers, and until 1861 the contribution of each parish to the common expenses of the Union was assessed on the basis of its relief expenditure and not its rateable value; in other words, on its poverty rather than its property. Parishes with large working class populations experienced great difficulties in collecting poor rates in periods of trade depression, and so were unable to meet the financial demands imposed upon them by their Boards of Guardians, who, in turn found their financial resources dwindling at times when calls upon them were at their greatest. Under the Union Chargeability Act of 1865 the entire cost of poor relief was placed on the Union, rather than on

the parish, thereby redressing an unequal burden between rich and poor parishes within the same Union (8).

The Bridge Poor Law Union in comparison with more extreme examples was a model union. While it did not adhere strictly to the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act, it was certainly more co—operative than many unions in the North of England.

THE MINUTE BOOKS OF THE BRIDGE GUARDIANS

The main historical source for this chapter exists in the minute books of the Board of Guardians of the Bridge Poor Law Union, of which there are twenty—one spanning the years from 1835 to

1930. They can be consulted in the County Archives Office in Maidstone. Entered in these books were the weekly meetings, decisions and reports of the Bridge Board of Guardians. The books themselves are very large measuring approximately eighteen inches in length and ten inches in width. One single volume can contain entries for three years. They are all beautifully written in fine copperplate hand—writing.

The procedure at each meeting followed the normal pattern of any committee meeting, commencing with a list of those Guardians who were present. Normally the Guardians turned their attention firstly to the weekly financial accounts, as submitted by the two Receiving Officers of the Bridge Union, which usually showed how much had been paid in Out Relief over the previous week. Items discussed thereafter varied from one meeting to another, but might include the acceptance or rejection of tenders from local tradesmen, who competed with each other in supplying provisions and other necessities to the Workhouse; petitions for out-relief from paupers who resided in the Union; and matters of daily routine in the running of the Workhouse, such as new appointments, salaries, the diets of inmates and new pauper admissions. Queries on any point of administration were sent to the Poor Law Commissioners.

The minute books provide a clear and lengthy account of the day to day running of the Bridge Poor Law Union. They also yield much valuable and useful information in such areas as the quarterly cost of poor relief, or the cost of poor relief for individual parishes. Unfortunately, however, there are gaps in this sort of information, which therefore cannot be followed through on a year by year basis. With respect to Bridge itself the Minute books portray the parish and village as one part of the Poor Law Union. Intermittently figures appear which show Bridge's share of the poor rate, or the numbers of paupers from this particular parish who were receiving outdoor relief or staying in the Workhouse.

Despite gaps in information, lack of consistency and problems of interpreting other people's handwriting, those minute books which have been consulted have proved to be an interesting and informative source.

THE BRIDGE POOR LAW UNION AND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GUARDIANS

The first meeting of the Bridge Union Board of Guardians was held on 22 April 1835, "by order and by declaration of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales dated 27 March, 1835" (9). It was held at the White Horse Inn in Bridge. The Guardians were joined by Sir Francis Head, as Assistant Poor Law Commissioner for the East Kent Area, and by the following

Ex Officio—Guardians: the Rev. C. Hughes—Hallett [of Higham], George Gipps Esq. [of Howletts],

and Robert Ballard—Johnstone Esq.

There were nineteen Parish Guardians: (10)

Name Parish
Richard Brice Bridge
John Bushell Ickham

Henry Collard
John Sankey

Patricxbourne
Lower Hardres

John Marsh Hood Kingston

Stephen Fuller Harbledown
Stephen Gambill Waltham

John Howard Upper Hardres
John Harvey Bishopsbourne
Nathaniel Maynard Fordwich
Thomas Byng Wickham
Thomas Sladden Adisham
Edward Collard Stodmarsh
Richard Peckham Bokesbourne
Denne Denne Littlebourne
Henry Mount Nackington
Robert Lathe Thanington
Benjamin Harrison Womenswold
Robert Owann Westgate.

There were two guardians who were absent and they represented Barham and Petham.

Thus the

Bridge Poor Law Union was established on the basis of twenty—one parishes. The first meeting

was largely concerned with settling the administration of the Union. Richard Peckham of Bokesbourne was elected Chairman and Nathaniel Maynard of Fordwich was elected Deputy

Chairman. It was resolved that meetings should be held every Thursday morning at eleven o'clock at the White Horse Inn in Bridge. Herbert Collard was elected Clerk of the Union at a salary, to be recommended to the Poor Law Commissioners, of £40 per annum.

The Union was divided into two districts, each of which had one Receiving Officer. Captain Samuel Beachcroft, who was a half pay Officer of the 14th Regiment, was recommended as the

Receiving Officer for the first district at a salary of £50 per annum which had also to be

recommended to the Poor Law Commissioners. Henry Illsby was appointed Receiving Officer for

the 2nd District. The twenty one

parishes were apportioned to the two districts as follows:

1st District 2nd District

Bridge Nackington
Womenswold Upper Hardres
Barham Lower Hardres
Kingston Petham
Patricxbourne Waltham
Bishopsbourne Thanington
Adisham Harbledown
Bekesbourne Westgate
Littlebourne Fordwich
Ickham

Wickham

Stodmarsh

Four districts were created for purposes of medical assistance:

1st District 2nd District 3rd District 4th
District

Bridge Adisham Nackington

Harbledown

Womenswold Bekesbourne Upper Hardres Fordwich
Barham Littlebourne Petham

Thanington

Kingston Ickham Lower Hardres Westgate
Bishopsbourne Wickham Waltham

Patricxbourne Stodmarsh

The subject of a Workhouse was also discussed at the first meeting. It was agreed, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners, to provide accommodation for no more than 500 able-bodied paupers. A committee was established to find a suitable site for the Workhouse,

composed of Mr. Brice (representing Bridge), Mr. Maynard, Mr. Lathe, Mr. Peckham, and Mr. Denne.

Administrative arrangements were finalised at subsequent meetings, Mr. D. Denne was appointed Treasurer to the Union and Richard Pilcher was appointed Auditor (11). £150 per annum was

offered to the local doctor for caring for the sick poor. In July 1835 the Guardians accepted Sir Francis Head's request that the Parish of Chartham should join the Bridge Poor Law Union, which was thereby extended to twenty—two parishes, surrounding Canterbury as shown by the parallel

lines on the attached map, which has been taken from G. H. Garrad, A Survey of the Agriculture of Kent (1954).

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE WORKHOUSE: THE BUILDING.

The Bridge Union Board of Guardians, who resolved almost immediately to build a workhouse, set up a committee to find a suitable site within one mile of Bridge which contained an acre of ground (12). The site selected adjoined the turnpike road from Bridge to Canterbury. The necessary land, which belonged to the Marchioness of Conyngham (13), was bought for £237.

10s. from Lord Albert Conyngham (14). Having located and purchased a site, the Guardians through the medium of the Canterbury newspapers invited builders to tender for constructing the Workhouse. A surveyor was appointed and the tender of Mr. T. F. Cozens, a Canterbury builder, was accepted for £4,376 (15). The construction of a Union Workhouse at Bridge was financed by a £5,000 loan from the Exchequer (16).

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Within nine months of accepting Mr. Cozen's tender the Workhouse was ready to admit its first inmates by February 1836. Already a Master for the Workhouse had been appointed. An advertisement which appeared in the newspapers during August 1835 offered a salary of £80 per annum (17). Applicants whose names were short-listed were interviewed at the White Horse, together with their wives (18). John Weeks and his wife were appointed as the first Master and Matron of the Bridge Union Workhouse at a salary of £80 per annum, exclusive of rent, candles and living (19). Mr. and Mrs. Weeks resigned their appointments towards the end of December 1835 (20) before the workhouse officially opened, thereby forcing the Guardians to find a new Master and Matron. Early in 1836 Thomas and Maria Cobb were appointed Master and Matron of the Bridge Union Workhouse at annual salaries of respectively £80 and £20 (21).

A schoolmistress was appointed at a salary of £32 per annum, while John Adams as the first porter received wages of 10/- a week (22). Spiritual needs were provided by a Workhouse

Chaplain (23), while a medical officer was paid £50 per annum to attend on the sick in the Workhouse.

By the time the Workhouse opened its doors the following domestic staff had been engaged (24).

Laurance, Sarah, aged 35 — Cook

Morgan, Mary, aged 32 — Cook

Breasley, Mary, aged 37 - Cook

Brice, Sarah, aged 48 — Nurse for Wards No. 7 to No. 15

Spain, Mrs., aged 29 — To give her attendance to the Boys.

Holness, Ann, aged 23 — To give her attendance to the Girls.

Thus the Workhouse began its life with a minimum staff of twelve persons, eight of whom were women, and over half of whom were domestic staff.

THE INMATES

The Workhouse as constructed initially was intended to house 200 inmates, though it contained fewer than that number in its early stages. To start with only one hundred iron bedsteads were required. Inmates arrived from already established Workhouses, such as the Littlebourne Poorhouse (25). On 25 February 1836 the Bridge Guardians decided to seek authority to sell the Littlebourne Workhouse (26), which was the same Thursday when paupers from Barham and Bishopsbourne in Elham Workhouse moved into the Bridge Workhouse (27).

THE LAYOUT OF THE WORKHOUSE (28)

Probationary and waiting wards were situated below and next to the Committee Room. The Workhouse on its south and north sides contained upper and lower wards, viz:

On the South Side of the Workhouse:

Upper Wards To No. 7 inclusive Girls under 16 years of age.

To No. 15 inclusive Old Women and Bedridden Women.

Lower Wards To No. 22 inclusive Boys under 13 years of age.

To No. 30 inclusive Able-bodied Women.

On the North Side of the Workhouse:

Upper Wards Old Men.

Lower Wards Able-bodied men and boys 13 years of age and above.

Permission had to be sought from the Poor Law Commissioners for two old couples to sleep together (29) but this was strictly against the rules of the Poor Law Commission until after 1847 when some concessions were made.

The Guardians' minute books contain few figures relating to numbers of paupers in the Workhouse, but during the first quarter of 1847 there were nineteen paupers from Bridge itself in the Workhouse, whose maintenance cost £27. 8s. 9d. (30). During the same three months fifteen paupers in Bridge had received outdoor relief at a total cost of £16. 17s. 7d. In comparison with the other parishes in the Union Bridge was about average. Chartham, on the other hand, was well

above average, having had twenty-eight paupers in the Workhouse during the same period at a total cost of £45. 12s. 6d. In the granting to outdoor relief Chartham was much above average with ninety—seven paupers receiving outdoor relief at a total cost of £58. 15s 1 1/2d.

THE INMATES' DIET

At a meeting which was held in 1835, involving all the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the East Kent Unions under the chairmanship of Sir Francis Head, it was agreed to adopt one common diet for all Union Workhouses and Poorhouses throughout East Kent (31):

For the Able—Bodied: Men and Women

Breakfast and Supper. Bread and cheese or butter - 6 oz. of bread for men, 5 oz. for women with 1 oz. of cheese or 1/2 oz. of butter.

Dinner. Two days — Suet Puddings and vegetables - 1 lb. of pudding for men, 10 oz. for women. One day — Meat pudding with vegetables — 1 lb. of pudding for men and 10 oz. for women. Four days - Bread and Cheese — 7 oz. of bread and 1 oz. of cheese.

For Old People

The same as for the able—bodied plus 1 oz. of tea and milk for breakfast and supper.

For Children

Bread and milk for breakfast and supper and such proportions of the dinner diet for the able—bodied as the Board of Guardians shall decide.

For the Sick

Whatsoever be ordered for them by the Medical Officer.

Dietary alterations which were made subsequently included giving male inmates who

worked hard a daily pint of beer, while the breakfast diet was changed from bread and cheese to gruel.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS AND HOW THEY EXTENDED THEIR FUNCTIONS

It was immediately agreed by the Board of Guardians that the various parishes making up the Bridge Union had to meet the running costs of the union, in "such proportion of the general expenses of the union as is lawfully chargeable to the said parishes" (32). Bridge had to pay £27, as against Barham paying the most at £53 and Stodmarsh the least at only £6. Since the average was £22, Bridge paid something over the average.

The Guardians also quickly agreed on the following scales of weekly outdoor relief:

Amount without earnings

For a married man and wife 5/-

For each child 1/-

For single men 2/6d.

At the 1835 July meeting of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Sir Francis Head expressed the following views on the payment of out-relief (33):

"any fixed scale of relief is directly hostile to the principle of the Poor Law Amendment, Act. No pauper should be able to safely calculate the amount of relief he should receive and thus set store by it. Instead it should fluctuate so much that he could never calculate what he was to receive and therefore come to realise he had no certain support - nothing on which he could safely rely but his own industry and his own providence".

It was agreed that the eleven unions of East Kent should act as uniformly as possible.

Outdoor

relief was fixed at sums beyond which it was not to be extended under any circumstances:

Amount per week

For a man, wife and six children 10/-

For a man and wife 5/-

Outdoor relief was made still less attractive when it was decided that the maximum payment to old people should be 2/6d. per week.

Sir Francis Head further ruled that parishes within the Bridge Union had to allocate five per cent of their average yearly poor law expenditure towards the administrative costs of the Union, for

which purpose a report was compiled showing the annual average Expenditure on poor relief by each parish over the previous three years after deducting expenses for emigration (34):

Adisham 288

Barham 660

Bekesbourne 122

Bishopsbourne 365

Bridge 175

Chartham 884

Fordwich 109

Upper Hardres 258

Lower Hardres 261

Ickham 594

Kingston 180

Littlebourne 528

Harbledown 496

Nackington 302

Petham 483

Patricxbourne 259
Stodmarsh 120
Thanington 404
Waltham 73 1
Westgate 458
Wickham 714
Womenswold 101
Total 8.492

Bridge's share of administrative costs was £8. 15s. Compared with several other parishes, Bridge's poor law expenditure had been very low.

Due to the establishment of the Workhouse there was a higher expenditure on poor relief during the first quarter of 1836 (35):

1. Total cost of in—relief in the first quarter of... £275. 15s. 3d.
2. Total cost of out-relief in the first quarter of £763. 19s. 0 3/4d.
- Plus 3. Establishment charges of... £1,459. 11s. 3d.

Had these costs continued at this level for the whole year, then total poor relief expenditure would have exceeded £10,000, which would have been more than the £8,492 average of the previous three years. The three items of expenditure as far as Bridge was concerned were:

1. In—relief of £21. 7s. 10d.
2. Out-relief of £21. 11s. 5d.
3. Establishment of £30 15. 6 3/4d.

Had these costs also continued then the total cost of poor relief in Bridge would have exceeded £200 for 1836. Initially higher costs were involved in implementing the 1834 Poor Law Act with the result that poor law expenditure increased considerably during the first year following the establishment of the New Poor Law in Bridge. Such high levels of expenditure, however, did not

continue. By 1847 the total cost for the first quarter for Bridge was at a much lower level and was calculated as follows:

1. In—relief of £27. 8s. 9d.
2. Out—relief of £16. 17s. 7d.
3. Establishment of £5. 2s. 1d.

Lower outdoor relief and establishment costs existed alongside a higher expenditure involved in maintaining those paupers who had entered the Workhouse. These trends were repeated for other parishes within the Bridge Union.

The Guardians maintained a tight control over expenditure. Anything supplied to the Workhouse was subject to competitive tenders. The Receiving Officers in reporting weekly to the Board stated how much money had been spent on outdoor relief. Usually this amounted to about

£45,
except on those occasions when they had to pay for the treatment of lunatics, as on 9 April, 1840,
when a weekly expenditure of £72. 7s. 0 1/2d. was reported. The corresponding expenditures for
the previous week ending on 2 April were £41. 6s. 1 1/2d., and for the following week ending on
16 April, £41. 6s. 0 1/2d.

Initially the Guardians experienced difficulties in collecting the parochial poor rates. In 1836 several parishes refused to acknowledge and pay the Guardians' appointed Collector (36).
After
continuous trouble throughout that year the Board set up a committee, consisting of five of its
members who were to examine and report on the best method of collecting the Parish rates within
the Bridge Union (37). Richard Brice from Bridge was elected to this committee. The Guardians
in addition requested the Poor Law authorities to send an explanatory letter to the troublesome
parishes concerning the collector's right to the Parish Rate (38). Subsequently on 27
February

1840 the Board of Guardians allowed Parish Officers to excuse paupers from paying the Poor
Rate (39).

Another financial problem which the Guardians had to face in 1840 arose out of
disagreements
over the payment of Medical Officers. They sought information from the other Poor Law
Unions
in East Kent as to whether and how much they paid their Medical Officers (40). The
Guardians
were facing criticism from Mr. Nix who had been a Medical Officer to the Union since its
formation. In 1840 he was continually complaining of underpayment, but was finally satisfied
in
1841 with a salary of £50 a year for attending the workhouse, plus 12/— for each attendance
on the
outdoor poor and 14/— for each midwifery case (41).
As time progressed, so Boards of Guardians' functions were extended and their financial
affairs became more complicated. In 1847 Bridge Union became responsible for collecting
those county rates which were due from within its boundaries and had also to pay the county
clerk of the peace whatever sums were owing for judicial administration throughout its area
(42). In 1847 a cheque for £168. Os. 10d. was paid over to Mr. Mercer, the County
Treasurer,
as the amount of county rate due from the parishes within the Union. Bridge's share of this
was £9. 19s. 7d., but Chartham had most to pay at £19. 5s 11d.,(43).

The Guardians had many demands on their purse other than normal poor relief payments.
Occasionally they authorised grants to families to enable them to emigrate, as on 27
February
1840, when "the sanction of the Board was given to the Parish Officers of Upper Hardres to
advance the sum of £5 to Thomas Hobb's wife and child of that parish for the purpose of their
emigrating to Australia" (44). Later in that year on 11th September the sum of £14. 11s. 3d.

was granted to Thomas Fairways and his family of Chartham for their emigration to New Zealand (45).

Payments were sometimes made to other Unions for having incurred expenditure on a Bridge Union pauper. Whenever such requests were received the Bridge Guardians usually paid

promptly, as on 1 December 1836 "to the Faversham Union for the upkeep, for twenty—six weeks, of a child belonging to the Parish of Barham" (46).

Extensions of functions in other directions can also be seen in the Guardians' minutes. From 1836 onwards they were responsible for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

They

apprenticed boys to employers outside the area, so that a Canterbury sweep, for instance, was

allowed to have apprentice boys in 1840 (47). On 11 September 1840 they agreed to vaccinate all the children who required vaccination within the Bridge Union (48).

There was a wide range to the matters discussed and decisions taken by the Bridge Board of

Guardians. This overall conclusion can be supported from their minute books during the 1840s. On 5 March 1840 the Clerk to the Board of Guardians was requested to write to the Poor Law Commissioners to find out the correct procedure "towards Pregnant Unmarried Women requesting to lye—in in the Workhouse". and also whether such women who appeared

on a second occasion should be punished (49). At the same time it was also decided that all

bastards, over seven years of age, who applied for relief, would be ordered into the Workhouse.

The Union Chaplain reported to the Board of Guardians on 14 March 1842 that the internal discipline of inmates was generally satisfactory, and that there had been particular progress in

the education of the Workhouse children (50). On 29 April 1847 the Guardians considered

moving a lunatic from Upper Hardres to the County Asylum at Barming Heath, near Maidstone (51).

CONCLUSION

Even from this brief study of the early years of the administration of the Bridge Poor Law Union,

it is possible to advance several conclusions. The Guardians were very conscientious in executing their duties. They were not particularly hard or unkind in their administration of poor

relief, yet this is a charge which is commonly thrown at Victorian Boards of Guardians.

Although they were careful over financial matters, they were not always tight-fisted and did help

those in genuine need. Costs of poor relief were not always reduced at least in the short-term.

Despite condemnation of outdoor relief such payments to the able—bodied poor continued within

the Bridge Union, alongside other types of out-relief such as funeral expenses, clothing grants and

medical aid. Within the Bridge Union the parish of Bridge appears as a village having but a

small

number of paupers and an average poor-relief expenditure.

FOOTNOTES

(1) M. 13. Rose, *The Relief of Poverty 1834-1914* (1972), 8.

(2) *Ibid.*, 8.

(3) *Ibid.*, 11.

(4) mg... 11:

(5) M. Bruce, *The Coming of the Welfare State* (1961), 103.

(6) I. Anstruther, *The Scandal of the Andover Workhouse* (1973), 133.

(7) Bruce, *OP cit.*, 117.

(8) Rose, *op. cit.*, 42.

(9) Minutes of Bridge Board of Guardians, 22 April 1835.

(10) *Ibid.*, 22 April 1835.

(11) 31c, 28 April 1835.

(12) 1b@_., 28 April 1835.

(13) E" 7th May 1835.

(14) Ltd, 6 August 1835.

(15) Q" 27 May 1835.

(16) I_biQ, 25 February 1836.

(17) 1_l)ig1_., 20 August 1835.

(18) mg, 10 September 1835.

(19) lbig, 17 September 1835.

(20) M, 27 December 1835.

(21) *Ibid.*, 7 January 1836.

(22) l_)i_gl_., 28 January 1836.

(23) l_1)i_c_l;, 17 November 1836.

(24) Licl_., 10 December 1836.

(25) 119\$, 28 January 1836.

(26) pg, 25 February 1836.

(27) big, 18 February 1836.

(28) 11>i_d., 10 December 1836.

(29) 113\$, 11 February 1836.

(30) Q. 1 April 1847.

(31) E, 9 July 1835.

(32) *Ibid.* 21 May 1835.

(33) *Ibid.*, 9 July 1835.

(34) @1_., 21 November 1835.

(35) *Ibid.*, 25 February 1836.

(36) 11\$, 14 July 1836.

(37) M, 3 November 1836.
(38) Ibid., 3 November 1836.
(39) M, 27 February 1840.
(40) Il_id,, 27 February 1840.
(41) lid, 5 March 1841

(42) l_)i£1_., 12 March 1847
(43) 1_b11_., 9 April 1847

(44) 1_)i;ç, 27 February 1840.
(45) fl)_i_cL, 11 September 1840.
(46) l_b_ig_., 1 December 1836.
(47) LE, 2 January 1840.
(48) mg, 11 September 1840.
(49) Lbyi, 5 March 1840.

(50) gr, 14 March 1842.
(51) M29 April 1847.

56 Mill Cottage and the Mill
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 Gveq, moved from Canterbury to Bridge. The reason for this was that Mr. H.3. 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 Mill lived in Old Mill House. This is the reason why Old Mill House faces 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.

My father, (Mr. Lemar) had to do an immense amount of work to Old Mill House, i.e. levelling the floors, making ceilings and redecorating etc. In one instance, in a bedroom, when he stripped layers of paper off down to the wooden partitioning, he found signatures and ranks of

soldiers who it seemed had been billeted in the house. (I wonder which war they fought in?)

Old Mill House has only one half brick internal wall, all the other "walls" having wooden partitioning. There is an iron "X" on the back and front walls, securing an iron rod which runs through the house.

When we moved in there were just two gas lights and no other means of artificial light, so candles and hurricane lamps were used. The toilet was outside and there was a cesspool and water-well in the back

garden. After a few years a cement rendering was put over the old brick outer walls and the sash windows were replaced. Because of these alterations, the house is not a listed building.

My father and mother (Mr. & Mrs. Lemar) died in 1980 and 1981 respectively and both are buried in Bridge Churchyard; we all attended the Church. My sister, Margaret, became organist at Bridge Church at the age of 14, holding the post for 14½ years. She married the local

Policeman, moved to Gravesend and became organist at her Church there. She died in 1986.

Gwen (the writer of these notes) now lives in the West Midlands, but has always considered Bridge as "home".

Gladys, who worked for seven successive Matrons at The Union (later to become The Close and The New Close) from 1947 until her retirement in 1985 (38 years) lived in Old Mill House until 15th September 1998 (nearly 66 years).

Old Mill House has deteriorated over recent years; it has been owned by four different landlords and the present Landlords offered my sister the move to "Mereworth", 55 Union Road, Bridge.

Ironically, Gladys has moved next to the very "reason" we moved to

Bridge in the first place — the Coal Yard (now the Oil Distribution Depot)!

(Attached: Photographs of the Mill, Old Mill House and Old Mill House from Mill)

A short history of Bridge Windmill: 1596-1954

Bridge 8 July 1271 Q. Nigel de Thurkyng and w. Cristine D Ralph de Brigg, clerk; 2 mess. 4 ac of land and the moiety of a mill in Brigg. Q acknowledged the premises to be the right of D D gave 205. (55 Hen III) Was probably a water—mill

There is no windmill in Bridge. A brief exploration of the village will however reveal the existence of Mill Lane, running up from the ford by Little Bridge Place to a row of eight postwar houses alongside an old bridleway at the top, named Mill Terrace, and a 1960's development in the centre of the village off Western Avenue called Windmill Close. These names are virtually all that remain to remind us of a once familiar landmark, whose site now lies beneath one of the fuel storage tanks on the corner of Mill lane and Union Road. The only building remaining associated with it is Mill Cottage in Union Road, built

(it is said, about 1730, but in fact more probably 1830) sideways on to the road to give the miller a clear view of his workplace.

The first evidence for a corn mill at Bridge appears on the first detailed map of Kent issued by Philip Symondson in 1596, but it may have been in existence of course long before that. Windmills have been recorded in this country since the twelfth century. What is perhaps remarkable about Symondson's mill is that it is plainly not visible from Mill Cottage, for it is placed near the top of Side Hill, a quarter of a mile from the church, on the NE side of Bridge Hill. On a later map, in John Harris's History Of Kent of 1719, it is similarly positioned, and represented clearly as a post mill (like Chillenden Mill), which is the oldest type of mill. It is not represented on the large-scale map (2 inches to the mile) by Andrews, Dury and Herbert of 1769, but reappears clearly positioned on Greenwood's 1821 map and again on a map dating probably from 1825/6 in the 18th edition of Paterson's Roads. Here it is again placed at the top of Side Hill, just on the Patricbourne side of the parish boundary below the ancient track known then as Kingsbury Lane which cut through the woodland and ran down into Patricbourne, very close, indeed, to the viewpoint chosen by Jan Siberechts for his panorama of Bifrons House and Patricbourne of 1705-10, (a viewpoint now obliterated by the by-pass). This track from Middle Pett is traceable from the point where it crosses the bridge over the old railway down the hollow way past Flint Cottages. It has been obliterated (though still visible in aerial photographs)

across Star Hill, and was stopped up altogether in 1830 for a distance of 385 yards beyond its crossing of Bridge Hill. A continuation does still survive beyond Bridge bypass behind the wood above Side Hill as far as Keeper's Hill. It would not be wholly fanciful to imagine the painter Siberechts seated within a convenient distance of the mill, and the resulting view confirms one's sense that this is indeed a better site for a windmill than that down in the valley, albeit on a small eminence, and closer to the village.

Very likely the order stopping up the bridleway was not unconnected with the disappearance of the mill from this site, as will appear as the story unfolds.

The position of Bridge Mill prior to about 1820 is confirmed by the documentary

evidence, which also introduces us to some of the millers. The Kentish Gazette of 26-30 May 1786 reported that

On Saturday last was committed to St Dunstan's gaol. . . John Kent, of this city, miller, charged on the oath of John Pilcher, of Bridge, miller and baker, with having stolen out of his mill in the Parish of Patricbourne, a bag, containing upwards of one hundred weight of wheaten flour. . .

Our first known miller is revealed. Mr Pilcher was not a young man in 1786, and could well have

begun his work forty or more years before that, for the Gazette shortly afterwards (13-17 April 1787) carried a small advertisement:

Wanted, a man who understands the business of a MILLER and BAKER. . . He may have constant work and good wages by applying to John Pilcher, at Bridge.

Eighteen months later Mr Pilcher was dead. Wednesday last died in Bridger's Alms Houses, in this city, Mrs Pilcher,

aged 94, mother of the late Mr Pilcher, miller, of Bridge. (Gazette, 2-5 September 1788)

On 10-14 October of the same year an advertisement was placed, offering for sale furniture 'of the late Mr John Pilcher, Baker, at Bridge.' Perhaps the Gazette gives a clue as to the identity of the man who applied for work in 1786:

Tuesday was married at Boxley . . . Mr George Cleggett, miller and baker at Bridge, to Miss Frances Parks, at Boxley (8 July 1791).

Mr Cleggett's business was evidently prosperous:

WANTED. An apprentice to a miller and Baker - a stout healthy lad, of a creditable family. Apply to George Cleggett, Bridge (12 August 1791).

With more hands available, Mr Cleggett was able to expand:

Cleggett, miller and baker, Bridge, takes this opportunity of returning his most grateful acknowledgements to the neighbouring gentry and inhabitants of Bridge for the many past favours received in the above branches: at the same time begs leave to inform them, he has just opened a corn-Chandler's shop, and hopes by the strictest attention to every article of his business, he shall be able to merit their future as well as past favours. Beans, Peas and Barley, to be sold ready-ground. N.B. Gentlemen who keep dogs may be

supplied with oatmeal, in any quantity, on the most reasonable terms. (8 October 1791)

Shortly after this (26 October 1791) we find a further advertisement for 'a sober miller',

presumably because of the expansion of business, rather than because his apprentice had been too stout or healthy in his indulgence.

By the early years of the following century the mill had been taken over by John Fagg, who in the Gazette of 18 July 1808 was in his turn advertising for 'a journeyman wind-

miller'. Later that same year we find explicit reference to the location of the mill:

MILL ROBBED, Whereas in the night of Wednesday last, the 30th

November, the Mill belonging to John Fagg, on Bridge Hill, was broke open by forcing the hinges of the door, apparently with an iron crow or chisel, and a Quantity of flour with TWO SACKS marked 'J.Fagg, Bridge Mill' were stolen thereout and traced for about half a mile across the fields, leading towards Canterbury by Patricbourne, Whoever can give information so that the offender or offenders may be convicted, shall receive a reward of

TWENTY POUNDS from the aforesaid John Fagg (2 December 1808).

Such a substantial reward underlines both the value of flour, and the vulnerability of mills.

The final chapter in the history of this mill is tantalisingly recorded by the Gazette of 7 July 1818:

To be sold. . . a CORN WINDMILL, driving two pair of stones, and machinery complete and a storehouse near. . . both in good repair, as the same are standing . . . on a piece of land at Bridge Hill . . . now in the

occupation of Mr John Fagg, miller. The said corn windmill and storehouse must be taken down and removed by the purchaser, on or before the sixth April next . . .

The reason for the strict deadline is unclear, and as has been mentioned above, even the 1826 map still marks the old location, so the mill may not have been removed so swiftly; though equally, the change may not yet have been picked up. The sequence of events in the 1820's remains mysterious. But the period around 1820-1830 was one of change in the village as a whole. The great houses round about were changing hands. The Taylors who had owned Bifrons (and much else besides) sold the house to Lord Conyngham in January 1830. Edward Taylor the younger had married the heiress of Bourne, Louisa Beckingham, in 1802, and after her father's death sold that property too to Lord Conyngham. Charles de Secondat, Baron Montesquieu, who had been living at Oswalds in Bishopsbourne since his escape from the French Revolution and who had bought Bridge Hill House (originally owned by the Rev. John Beckingham) for £1500 in 1793, died there in 1824. The property was then taken by the Rev. Edward Gregory, who immediately entered upon major improvements, including the stopping-up of the road mentioned earlier. This most conveniently coincided with the realignment of Bridge Hill north-eastwards and the grading of its slope under the Turnpike Acts, which was taking place in 1829-30, along with a similar treatment of Town Hill on the Canterbury side of the village (hence the very steep slope at the entrance to Dering Road). A few years earlier, in 1816/17, the principal road from Bridge to Patixbourne, which ran right past the front of Bifrons, was stopped up part way along (Laundry Lane, now Conyngham Lane), and a new road built (Bekesbourne Road) around the perimeter of Edward Taylor's land. Pressure of traffic was being noticed even at this early date.

In the midst of this, on 19-20 January 1830, at the same time as Bifrons was sold, an agreement was drawn up between Edward Lord Skelmersdale, Sir Herbert Taylor (by now Lieutenant General) and Edward Taylor, late of Bifrons on one side, and James

Ashenden, farmer and William Sankey, surgeon of Bridge on the other, for the sale to Ashenden for £200 of

All that piece of land called or known by the name of the Three Corner

Meadow containing 2 acres, 2 roods 7 perches formerly in tenure of Henry

Crosoer, afterwards of Charles Howard, late of said James Ashenden and

then of Joseph Gardener and William Fagg the younger . . . abutting to a

bridle way leading from the village of Bridge to a place called Linsey

Bottom towards the north, to the highway or road leading from the village of

Bridge to a place called Street End towards the west or south-west, and to

lands formerly of the heirs of Mr Forde and then belonging to the Rev Barham [RH Barham, alias Thomas Ingoldsby, 1788-1845, who at the time owned Bridge Farm in the High Street, demolished in 1962] towards the south—east, which said piece was theretofore used with and formed part of a farm called the Upper Pett Farm late in occupation of Richard Garner deceased, and was theretofore described as all that . . . in occupation of Henry Crosoer . . . And also all that com windmill and other the buildings then lately erected and built on said land by and at the whole costs and expense of said James Ashenden [though in a later document, of 21 August 1878, Thomas Ashenden is said to have been the builder]. (East Kent

Archive Centre ref. U438 T27)

By 1830 therefore a mill existed, though it had only lately been built, on the site in the village. Was this the same mill that had been demolished elsewhere a few years earlier? Both had two pairs of stones, but this was a smock mill, albeit quite a small one. The mill on Bridge Hill was, by the time of its demolition, possibly still the post-mill of the 17th century. Wholesale removal of a mill was not impossible, although the terrain between Bridge Hill and Three Corner Meadow was difficult:

Many . . . Kentish mills were moved . . . from one part of a village to another or into an adjoining parish, often to take advantage of the prevailing south-westerly winds from a more exposed position. . . . Often, to remove a mill, the octagonal body was divided up into eight sections by sawing down the eight cant (corner) posts; then, in re—erection, these sections would be bolted together again. One of the original cant posts bolted together in this way can still be seen in Ripple Mill. . . . Frequently, however, the body of the mill was conveyed intact, and one can imagine that difficulties sometimes arose in the

conveyance of such a huge structure. . . . (W.Coles Finch, p.63)

The day after James Ashenden bought the site from the Taylors, he turned a tidy profit by leasing the mill and land to Ann and Sarah Garner for 500 years at a price of £400 (plus ten shillings to Dr Sankey). Ann Garner died on 8 March 1831 however, and the land was passed to Charles Edward Howard, a veterinary surgeon. Ashenden died in September 1832, and the following year Sarah Garner sold out to Thomas Sladden, who, having bought out Ashenden's children in turn sold the mill to Thomas and Benjamin Johnson (2 March 1832) for £650 - a profit of £250 therefore. The 1841 census records Thomas Johnson (born ca 1791) as resident in Union Street, presumably in Mill Cottage. Thomas ran the mill until his death in 1856. His long tenure, of some 24 years evidently left a mark on the village, for he was still remembered nearly a century later:

Local history has it that the figure of the dusty miller was a familiar sight in the village, for his practice was to deliver flour to his customers personally, his method of transport being the back of a donkey. One presumes, of course, that he loaded the donkey with his sacks of flour and he himself led the animal through the village. (Folkestone Herald, 25 March 1933)

Before Johnson died he had taken on Gilbert Huxstep as miller (aged 32, census 1851), but by 1859 Huxstep had taken on the tenancy of Bridge Farm and the miller was George Fryer, who was Benjamin Johnson's executor and brother-in-law. Fryer kept the mill running for a further twenty years or so, while Benjamin seems to have been in charge of Barton Mill in Canterbury.

In 1865 Benjamin Johnson died (11 March), and a couple of years later his widow, Mary Ann, took out a mortgage from one George Adams (?a cooper) for £500, presumably to buy back Fryer's interest, yet in 1874 Fryer also paid Adams £500 to recover ownership. After Mary Ann's death in 1875 (15 March) however ownership of the whole property was conveyed (January 1877) to the Johnson children Susanna, Martha Francis, Ellen Eliza, Emily and John Gilbert, with Fryer remaining as tenant. In the following year (21 August 1878) the Johnsons sold the whole property to the Rt. Hon Arthur Baron Wrottesley (Baron Wrottesley, Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire) and Theodore Henry Brinckman, Bart. for the princely sum of £1000. The property had once more reverted to aristocratic ownership.

At this point the 24 year old John Gilbert Johnson was prospering, for he was the employer of four men at Barton Mill, and of a maid at home, where his eldest sister Susanna now ran the household (Wrottesley and Brinckman on the other hand employed 32 servants between them).

On 10 April 1879 the 65 year old Fryer gave up his tenancy of the mill, which was valued then at just £98 10s 10d — notably including a sack chain 50 feet long and two iron pinions to the stones — and retired with his wife Mary Ann (a daughter of Thomas

Johnson) a few yards down the hill to number 5 Union Road. Some months later (October 1880) John Johnson transferred the tenancy to William White, who in his turn moved into the Mill House with his wife Rebecca and thirteen year old daughter Emily. William had been born in 1829, and was therefore by now well into middle age. The fact that his daughter was born in Bridge suggests that Mr White had already been working at Bridge Mill for some years. At this point the mill was judged to be worth no more than £65 9s 6d, including the 'lifts etc. for sweeps . . . and three old sails'. The reference to (canvas) sails suggests that the mill at this time was fitted with 'common sweeps'. Later photographs suggest that these were subsequently modernised as 'patent sweeps', with automatic adjustment of the shutters, depending on wind speed.

By the last decade of the century industrial milling was offering stiff competition to the old trade, and Mr White endeavoured to upgrade the mill with the addition of a steam-engine to assist the wind. This was however no more than a short-term solution, and when the mill was taken over by William Manwaring in 1900 he endeavoured to improve productivity further by installing a Blackstone oil engine in an outside store to run an additional pair of stones. The inevitable could not be put off for much longer though, and in 1907 wind-power was abandoned. A long period of slow decay set in as first the

sweeps were removed and then the body of the mill demoted to serve merely as a general storehouse. The mill probably ceased work grinding corn by whatever means sometime during or just after the first world war. Mr Manwaring moved on to become the owner of one of the last remaining working windmills in the country (before their recent revival as a 'heritage' industry) at Willesborough. The last journeyman ever to have worked at Bridge Mill was remembered (in 1954) as one A. Pegden.

By 1933 when the Lemar family replaced Mr and Mrs Charlie Hollands in the Mill House the mill site was being used as a coal yard, an outlying depot of HE Burniston, a Canterbury coal merchant, and Mr GF Lemar was employed to expand the local coal trade. His daughter Gladys still (2000) resides at 41 Union Road, the Mill House, though the coal yard in its turn has been replaced by the storage tanks of Messrs Corralls liquid

fuel depot. The one remaining relic of the mill itself is a millstone in the front porch of the Mill House.

Early in 1933 the remains of the mill were described by the correspondent of The Folkestone Herald.'

The tower of Bridge Mill is covered with tarred sheeting. It therefore has a sombre aspect and is not as picturesque as some of our old derelicts. It is, in fact, rather a sorry spectacle, with two sweeps missing and only the midlings remaining of the other two. The stage. . . has vanished entirely, and the fantail has also disappeared. The body of the mill, however, is fairly sound, and there are two floors of brickwork beneath the weather—boarded structure.

(25 March 1933)

Mr J Holman, reporting the state of affairs in June of the same year, relates:

The midling has been cut off at the end of the cheek pieces, the cap reboarded and creosoted. The back of the cap has been cut off short and boarded up, while the tower has also been repaired. Although the cap looks a bit strange, I am glad that repairs have been carried out since the mill was getting into a bad state. I believe it is now used as a store. (W Coles Finch, p.

313)

The mill survived, decaying gradually, through the second world war and beyond, until at last the end came, witnessed by the late Mr CP Davies. On Friday 15 October 1954 four men arrived to commence demolition. By midday on Wednesday 20th they had, with the aid of a crane, reduced the mill to its unusually tall, two-storey tapering brick base - tall perhaps to compensate for its relatively low-lying position.

There remained on the site at the time of my visit the cast iron windshaft

11'4" long, canisters 9" by 1'2½", tapering from top to centre thus >. Brake

wheel wooden, clasp armed, wood geared, cant 1'2" deep, cogs 3" pitch, 3 5/8" face. Brake - wood; curb - wood; iron truck wheels. Upright shaft - in two parts; upper part iron, carrying iron wallower, with wood ring to drive sack hoist. Wallower had four arms, cogs 3" pitch, 4" face. Lower part, upright shaft wooden, octagonal in section, spur wheel wooden, clasp armed, 1'2" pitch, 3" face. (CP Davies, MS notes)
The major part of the mill gear was thus still in place and well-preserved. Even the body might have been saved if it had survived another 15 years or so.

But an age which allowed the destruction of Bridge Farm had no time for an old windmill.

MM Raraty
©1 1/03/00

57 Pett Farm

1799 Property of Stephen Beckingham of Bourne. Tenanted by James Finch at an annual rent of £24

58 The Duck Inn
Notes on The Duck Inn

Was originally built in 1623 as a farm and consisted of two dwellings owned by Isaac Clinton, who died in 1647. Thence to Samuel Clinton, d. 1701 and Robert Clinton d 1732.

Was then known as Woodlands, and included 7 acres of land.

In 1732 it was occupied by Clement Foxearth and Richard White.

In 1780 was owned by Thomas ?Dack (a descendant of the Clintons)

Sold in 1785 to Ruben Clare and in 1793 to Henry Corner of Canterbury. Sold in 1806 to Michael Price, wheelwright and horse dealer of Bishopsbourne, who died in 1831. Thence to Neville Price, d. 1842.

Thomas Goodwin, grocer if Bishopsbourne obtained a licence in 1849 to sell ales, groceries and provisions from the property — 'Woodlands'.

1862 was in possession of Thomas Sargeant, grocer and beer seller [1861 census wood-sawyer]

1874 William Newell,

1890 Thomas Needle (general stores and beer house).

1891 census Thomas Stubbles [56] & Caroline [61] Ag lab & Licensed Victuallerz Woodmans Arms

1904 a full licence granted to Thomas Stubbles as the 'Woodmans Arms'. He left in 1906. Renamed 'The Duck' in the 1960's.

59 Mill Lane

Dering Road

Dering Road in Bridge commemorates Colonel Cholmeley Dering, a younger brother of Sir Edward Dering of Surrenden Dering, the seventh baronet. He is well known in Kentish annals as commander of the New Romney Fencible Cavalry (Duke of York's Own), which he raised in East Kent in 1794 and with which he served in Ireland for three years, receiving the thanks of the Lord Lieutenant and both Houses of Parliament in that country for his eminent services during the rebellion of 1798. The regiment was disbanded in October, 1800, on its return from Ireland. One year before, probably in anticipation of the event, Colonel Dering had bought Howletts [in Ickham] ('D from its builder, Isaac Baugh, and was in consequence the second owner of that most distinguished house, one of the best of its size and style in England. On the death of his elder brother in 1811 he became guardian of the infant eighth Dering baronet and had to remove to Surrenden from Howletts, which he sold about 1816 to George Gipps Esq., son and heir of one of the founders of the Canterbury Bank. In 1817 he was returned as MP

for New Romney. He died in 1836 and was buried at Pluckley. Howletts remained in the Gipps family until about forty years ago.

Another local Irish connection!

Howletts (or Owlets, as it was formerly called) was formerly the inheritance of Isaac family, but they lost it before the reign of Elizabeth I. In 1558 it belonged to John Dorante (a benefactor to Littlebourne) whose descendants alienated it to Sir Henry Palmer who resided here and died in 1611, and by his will gave it to Sir Isaac Sidley, his son—in-law, who conveyed his right to his brother-in-law Sir Henry Palmer, and he about 1620 alienated it to Sir Charles Hales of Thanington, but afterwards of Howletts, who died in 1623. His grandson Sir Robert Hales was created baronet 1660 during the time of whose grandson Sir Thomas this seat fell down and the family removed to another house nearer the church in this parish (Bekesbourne), where they afterwards resided. At length his descendant Sir Philip Hales in 1787 alienated the scite of it, with the gardens and offices remaining, and belonging to it, to Isaac Baugh who... has lately built for his residence a mansion on these grounds at a small distance north-westward from the scite of the ancient house. . . (Ed. Hasted, vol 3 p 716)

60

61 Brickfield

62 the ford; Brick Noggin

63 Little Bridge Place

64 Bridge Place; Braems

During the Thirty Years' War an international entrepot developed at the port of Dover as a result of English attempts to tax continental Europeans for using neutral English shipping by forcing traffic into Dover to pay taxes. Goods brought to Dover for storage, then reexported in English ships.. Silver entrepot began in 1620, by 1632 (diplomatic accord England/ Spain) "It provided that English vessels freighting Spanish silver should always stop at Dover in order to unload two—thirds of their cargoes for coinage in London. The silver removed from the ships was transported

over the Dover Road to the Tower Mint." Rate reductions resulted in higher income: "The Farmers saw their revenue from commodity re-exports increase from £11000 in 1634 to over £18000 in 1636 and to £23000 in 1638." Arch Cant 95, 1979 pp 53-64
A KEPLER: Entrepot Policy etc . No wonder A Braems thought he could afford to build a big house!

A Hasenson: The History of Dover Harbour, p 42 (map p 43): In 1641 "The Land at this point is mostly owned by Jacob Braeme[s]." Jacob was son of Charles Braems, m 1595, d ca 1611 of Sandwich & Dover. Jacob was Customer of Dover. Elder Brother of Sir Arnold, ba. Oct 1602. hence born 1596/1600. Arnold 1602-1681, knighted 27 May 1660.(in consequence of his 'humble remonstrance' to Charles II which

accounts for a great loss of money?) MP for Dover 1660. [see Blackmansbury, vols 5 & 8]

Bridge Place

The Manor of Blackmansbury, alias Bridge belonged to the Abbey of St Augustine, a total of 62 acres and three roods. Was let to tenants until suppression of the abbey in 1539

put it into the King's hands. In 1545 this manor, with divers lands in Houndpit and Blackmanbury was granted to Henry Laurence to hold in capite by the 20th part of a knight's fee, and he that year held a court here; and in his descendants it continued till 1576 when it was alienated by John Laurence to William Partherich, [Harris spells this Patrick] whose grandson Sir Edward Partherich passed it away in 1638 to (afterwards Sir) Arnold Braems who built a spacious and magnificent mansion on the site of the ancient court-lodge, which he named Bridge Place, in which he afterwards resided, as did his son Walter Braems until his death in 1692; but the great cost of building this seat so impoverished the estate that his heirs, for he had no surviving issue, about the year 1704, were obliged to part with it, which they did by sale to John Taylor, of Bifrons, who soon afterwards pulled down the greatest part of this mansion, leaving only one wing of it standing, the size and stateliness of which, being of itself full sufficient for a gentleman's residence, cannot fail to implant in our minds an idea of the grandeur of the whole building when entire. He died in 1729 since which this manor and seat has continued in his descendants, in like manner as Bifrons, down to his {great - {Hasted 2nd edn}} grandson the Rev. Edward Taylor. (Ed. Hasted, Vol.3 p724/5).

This was the largest house in 17th century East Kent after Chilham Castle. It appears to have been rectangular, certainly with a flat front of nine bays with the main door in the centre (Illustrations by Schellinks, 1661, and Adriaen Ocker, late 1670s), two storeyed, but with a row of seven dormers projecting from the hipped roof. Of this only three bays of the house's left hand end remain.

Some excavations in 1962 by members of the King's School uncovered parts of the terrace and other garden remains.

Among subsequent owners / tenants have been

1849: R Brice, vice—chairman of the Board of Guardians (of the Union)

1890-1897: Oscar de Satges

1907: Mrs Wilson

1913-15: Seymour Harries

1924-40: Mrs Ethel Penn

1954: Mrs Neame

?1962 2 Malcolm Pinhorn

1969: Peter Malkin

[Mrs Friend: I remember when General and Lady Byng resided there. . .the Duchess of Albany, daughter of Queen Victoria stayed after opening some official event in Canterbury]

PG ELGAR: The Braems of Bridge Place: Bygone Kent 18, 1997 says bridge Place was built with imported Dutch bricks.. The house possessed a large deer park, an aviary and extensive gardens. Schellinks arrived on 8 July 1661 at 8pm 'to a friendly welcome and were magnificently entertained and drank quite a few healths with sack'. Next day he played on the bowling green. The grounds were 'very beautiful, well kept pleasure grounds, with fruit trees, well watered by a fast flowing fresh sparkling stream of wonderfully clear sweet water. This splits up into several branches and rivulets; [did Braems divert the stream? An early map qv shows a house astride the stream] also some fish ponds in which trout is bred. . . There are also some vineyards, producing yearly two or three hogsheads of wine. He also has his own brewery, bakery, wine-press, hop garden, barns, stables, oxen, cows, sheep, pigs, geese, ducks. . .everything that one can

desire. . .He has planted a fine avenue of lime trees from his house to the

church. . .Schellinks also mentions an annual muster of seven or eight companies of the Militia on 6th October 1661 , each 200 men strong, on the hill above Bishopsbourne. Arnold & Walter were respectively Major and Colonel in the East Kent force in the civil war, supporting the royalist cause. Arnold lost considerable sums in this respect. (see

Pinhorn: Blackmansbury). In the Kentish rebellion of 1648 the petitioners were led by Arnold.

Arch Cant 116, 1996 J KEPLER: The international entrepot at Dover in crisis etc pp293-303.contains a long account of the activities of Jacob Braems (Brames) who 'had inherited a quay, wharves, and herring houses at Dover from his father (Charles) in 1611. During the 1630's he had spent £3000 in building houses at Dover to fit and accommodate his fishing business...' Made losses. Qv. This was Arnold's brother, but A must have been also closely involved.

BRAEM E S FAMILY

Misc. Notes

Origins Family came of Flemish stock. Ancestors settled at Sandwich at the beginning of the Stuart Period. Jacob (father of Arnold) set up in business as a merchant at Dover in the time of Charles 1. (1 I)

Arnold Braems later Sir Arnold Braems Kt. Born in Dover, baptized as in register of St. Mary's, 3rd Oct. 1602. Used his energies to develop Dover as a port. He acquired land all along the Sea Front and made a fortune out of Harbour Rights. Erected large buildings, monopolized landing and warehousing of goods, farming harbour tolls and customs. First chairman of Dover Harbour Board. Elected M.P. for Dover, April, 1660

and received Knighthood from King Charles II. Remained at House of Commons only a short time, preferring commercial life. Buildings used by officers of customs. Most of them destroyed in disastrous fire in 1808. (13)

Expended much of his fortune on construction of an enormous mansion at Bridge (Bridge Place).

Bridge Place —Background Originally Manor of Bridge or Blackemansbury was in possession of the Abbey of St. Augustine. Suppressed by Henry VIII and lands taken. In 36th year of reign granted it to Henry Lawrence to hold by knight's services. Court was regularly held, the ancient court lodge standing on the spot occupied by Bridge Place. Passing through several hands the land came into possession of Sir Arnold Braems who pulled down the court lodge and erected a magnificent mansion on the site (c. 1638?).

(13)

Sir Arnold Braems. Kt. departed his life in his mansion house called Blackmansbury alias Bridge Place on Sunday morning, 10 o' clock, 13th November, 1681, in the 80th year of his age, buried on 21st of the same month in the East Chancel of the Chapel of

Bridge. close to the tomb which he had . . . erected there in memory of his two deceased ladies.

Widow - Margaret

Kentish Rebellion 1648 In the town of Dover itself the petitioners were led by Sir Arnold Braems.

Group of conspirators involved in further conspiracies. Walter (son) and Arnold Braems among moving spirits - disturbing the peace of the County - helped to pave way for the Restoration. Off the Kent coast the newly—knighted Arnold Braems endeavoured to corrupt the Commonwealth Navy, 1659.

Walter Braems laid a plot at Dover to seduce the Governor and betray the Castle to Prince Charles, (1647-48). It is practically certain that Walter Braems and other Kentish

gentry were involved in the assassination of Dr. Dorislaus in May, 1649; arrested as suspected accomplices('.7).

Gerard's Plot 1654 In this wild conspiracy several of the young Kent cavaliers who were to have been John Gerard's officers in 1651 were involved, including Walter Braems. The plot itself had little connection with Kent, but it set off a train of events leading to the most serious insurrection of the Interregnum, the Rising of 1655, usually known by the name of its Wiltshire leader - Penruddock. (5)

Additional Notes on Braems

Member of Royal Fishing Association.

Son-in-law of Sir Thomas Palmer of Wingham.

Brother—in—law of Thomas Harfleete of Bekesbourne and Anthony Hamond of St. Alban's Court

Held rank of major in the East Kent force.

From 1670 onwards

At the Southern end of the (Custom House Quay) . . . was constructed a quay by James Hammond . . . while at the Northern end one Isaac Minet had a wharf and further along the Braemes family were established. The quay they owned at this point lay opposite their large warehouses across the Harbour, a block of houses known as "The Old Buildings", all destroyed by a great fire in 1808. (7)

The shipbuilding yard was then situated at the north-east corner of the Harbour, opposite the northern extremity of Strond Street . . . lay next to the warehouses which the Minets had taken over from the Braemes family (0. 1660). The Pents and houses running along

the Crosswall, also the Harbour Wall of 1592 — land at this point mostly owned by Jacob Braems. (7)

Reference to "Major Braems" who farmed the Harbour revenues in the time of Charles I.

(7)

At Bridge, though nothing of his house now remain, lived Sir Edward Partherich and his wife (Oxinden's kinswoman). After their property had been sold to the Dutch merchant Sir Arnold Braems their residence was handsomely rebuilt as Bridge Place - a

frequent guest was the painter Cornelis J anssen who painted portraits of the friendly families. (6)

About 1636 Sir Edward (Partherich) of Bridge conveyed his house at Bridge to . . .

Sir Arnold Braems, under whose patronage Cornelis Janssen came into the neighbourhood. (6)

Sir Arnold Braems had as his guest a famous portrait painter of his days Cornelius Janssen, for 20 years a fasionable artist in Blackfriars(?) at Bridge he painted county families. (14)

High on the east wall is a portrait thought to be the work of Cornelius J anssen a noted painter of the time of King Charles I . . . this painting on copper is of Richard Bargrave who was the builder of Bifrons in the 16th century.

The town of Dover seems to have been moderately loyal to the Parliamentarians, though a return of "suspects" in the town reveals the fact that disturbances may have been possible. These rather curious returns of suspected persons throughout the kingdom occupy seven volumes in the British Museum Add. mss. series. A suspect was most carefully watched. Information on movements was notified to central officials. Dover returns were made by one Reynolds "Registrar".

Reynolds seems to have been a careless person - constantly upbraided for sending returns wrongly addressed or writing in an illegible hand. (9)

Egs. Dover Arnold Braems, merchant 6th Febgary, 1656 at the house of Mr. Richard

Harrison, a tailor over against the Dolphin Tavern in the Parish of Barking.

12th Feb. Braines gave notice of removal to Dover.
12th March Again at Harrison's.

19th May Arnold Braems of Bridge went to the house of Harrison a taylor []
(9)

Bridge Place, addn, Fragment of a large brick courtyard house built between 1638 and 1659 by Sir Arnold Braems in a correct classical style with Tuscan plasters, a first floor entablature and eaves cornice articulating the elevations.

Much of the mansion was built with hand—made Dutch brick which was brought over from Holland and landed at Sandwich.

Recently drawings of the original house were discovered in Amsterdam Museum. After Chilham Castle it was the largest country house in East Kent in the 17th century. Had a large deer park and aviary.

The Heirs of Sir Arnold Braems, namely one Sir Thomas Braems ('.7 probably mistaken for Walter), had to sell it in 1704 to the Rev. John Taylor of Bifrons. Remained in

possession of the Taylor family until purchased by Marquis of Conyngham and became part of Bifrons Estate. Today — a country club, owned and run by Mr. Peter Malkin. (15)

The heirs of his son Walter (d. 1692) were forced to sell the estate c. 1704. So extensive

had been his building that the purchaser was able to pull down all except one wing and still have a large enough house for a gentleman's

residence. (8)

1671 A collection by HM. Privy Council towards the raising of £3000 for "the redemption of a great number of our Christian countrymen from that miserable Turkish

infidel whose inhuman slavery and bondage they now groan under". Sir Arnold Braems and his Lady - £1 . 10.0, apart from 4d and 3d all the rest gave 2p each. (15)

Buried in linen — a matter of extravagance for which a heavy fine was imposed - a law compelled all to be buried in wool for the benefit of the home woollen industry.

(13)

Bridge Place came into the possession of Walter Braems the old merchant's son, but widow sold it to Mr. John Taylor, who pulled down the greater portion of it. Remained in the possession of the Taylor family until purchased by the Marquis of Conyngham — - present tenant Mr. William Howard. Remaining part was apparently

one wing — wall upon which stables are built marks front of the old building. (13)

Custom House Dover New Custom House erected in 1806, as the houses erected by Braems were in a very ruinous state. The old house was originally in two dwellings, which were occupied by Braems and his son Walter, then the principal merchants in the town. They had a grant of the Beach on the opposite side of the basin, on which they

erected a square pile of buildings for store—houses. They were then in expectation of Dover being made a free port. (1 1)

One wife buried in St. Mary's Church, Dover.

Obituaries Anno Domini, 1681. Sir Arnold Braems, Kt. (Born in Dover and baptized as in the Register of St. Mary's in that town Doth appear October 3 A.D. 1602.

Departed this life in his mansion house called Blackmansbury alias Bridge Place on Sunday morning, ten o'clock November 13th A.D. 1681 in the 80th year of his age and was buried on the 20th of the same month in the east chancel of the Chapel of Bridge,

close to the tomb which he had . . . erected there in memory of his two deceased Ladies. (3)

x. Arch. Cantiana says 21st. Anno Domini, 1684. Sarah the daughter of Walter Braems

of Blackmansbury alias Bridge Place esq. by Mary his wife (who died of this child being the 14th) two hours after she was delivered was born on Tuesday(?) 27th at half an

hour past eight at night and baptized the next day being Wednesday January 28th 1684.(3)

1692 (Colonel) Walter Braems (of Bridge Place) was buried in woollen in the east chancel of the Chapel of Bridge on the 7th day of September, 1692. (2)

Maps Dover, c. 1641. (P. 41)

Dover, 1750. (P.43) (7)

Bridge. Tithe Map, 183 8.

Key to Main Sources Consulted

(1) Archaeologia Cantiana.

(2) Bishops' Transcripts, (Canterbury Cathedral Archives).

65 Brewery Lane; Fire engine; Waterloo cottages

The village Green was between Waterloo Cottages and Brewery Lane A well was there when I came to Bridge and was used by the cottagers(Mrs Friend). Very probably the stocks were there too.

66 Roads; Bypass

Arch Cam [2], 2001 pp 121-131: T TATTON-BROWN: The Evolution of 'Watling Street' in Kent. "In the earlier Anglo-Saxon period, much of the Watling street route in Kent was probably not used at all. Only in the late Anglo-Saxon period did it once again become a main land—route from London to Canterbury and beyond (p121/2). Watling street begun immediately in 43AD. In 999 Danes sailed up Medway and laid waste the whole area. Though Rochester Bridge was possibly in use again from the seventh to ninth centuries, it was perhaps in ruins at this time (sea route to London from Canterbury via Seasalter)., and the Danes may have been able to sail through the bridge and further up the Medway. Danes took Canterbury in 101 1. Only after accession of Cnut (1017) could the bridge have been rebuilt. From this time Watling

St became once again the main route from Sandwich, Dover and Canterbury. The sea route however was probably the more important route until after the Norman conquest. From 12th c onwards the land route re-established its importance. By late 14th c (Chaucer) this was the road to Canterbury. Old Rochester bridge destroyed by

floodwater after a great freeze in 1381, and not rebuilt until 1392. Ferry used meanwhile.

A DETSICAS: The Cantiaci, p 33 "According to Margary, Watling Street began at Dover: though this has the advantage of a shorter route from the Channel, it is unlikely to have happened before the second century, when Dover replaced Richborough as the main port of entry." The road from Dover and that from Lympne were both in use from the beginning of the second century.(p35) But for a long time Dover was principally a naval port: the commercial port was Richborough. "Here was the beginning of the main Roman

road to London and beyond..." (p 17) Military phase of occupation came to an end in ca 85AD. Construction then of the quadrifons.

"The decline of Richborough in Hadrian—Antonine times brought about the development of Dover as the main gateway to Roman Britain. (p78)" Or vice—versa? Riding Gate in Canterbury (Dover Road) is the only one with a double portal.

In 1836 the best served route was Royal mail London Dover, though more than half of all coaches went no further than Canterbury.

Statute of Highways, 1555 provided for a Surveyor who served for one year and was unpaid, supplied by the vestry. Given a salary after 1773. Duty to get other parishioners on the roads for repairs six days a year. By end of 17th c cartswere taking over from pack-horses.. Start of turnpike trusts. Bills originated by a group of landowners who would benefit, or tradesmen who wanted better roads for transport..

Money had to be raised to obtain an Act. Bill drafted, petition submitted to Parliament.

Most acts ran for 21 yrs, on assumption that no more repairs need be done. Hence need for renewal acts. Discontinued in 1827. Later threatened by the railways. Canterbury & Barham turnpike act 1791. (Arch Cam', 100, 1984: B KEITH—LUCAS, Kentish Turnpikes).

First turnpike act 1663: first in Kent 1709. 1787 paving, cleansing, lighting & watching of streets in Canterbury authorized. By 1851 there were over 290 tollgates in Kent.

Canterbury& Barham Trust:: bar at Gutteridge Corner Income 1799-1802 was £342, £324, £324, £420. Income for august (race month) was twice that of next highest. In the years 1827-29 major work was undertaken to smooth the gradients at Bridge, Barham & Denne hill at a cost of ca £2000. Trust closed in 1878.. In 1800 the debt was £5200, spread between eight people and one firm of bankers. Treasurer 1833 was Hammond, Plumtre, Parker, Farley, Bankers. Clerk Curteis & Kingford, Surveyor Wm Collis of Sturry. 1834 repairs: 1600 tons of flints annually at 2s a ton. (for 7 1/2 miles). The toll house at Gutteridge is incorporated in the Old Gate House Inn.. There is a fine milestone beyond Bridge on the old Dover Road. (Arch Cant, 102, 1985 pp 171-191: FH PANTON, Turnpike Roads in the Canterbury area).

An 31 Georg. III (1791)

'AnAct for making a new Road from St George's gate in the City of Canterbury, to a Place called Gutteridge Bottom; and for repairing and widening the present Road from thence to the Dover Turnpike Road, in the Parish of Barham.

Whereas the Road. . . is in a ruinous condition and in several parts narrow and inconvenient for passengers and carriages. . . and it would be of great convenience . . . if a new commodious carriage Road was set out and made from St George's Gate to join the present Road at or near a Place called Gutteridge Bottom in the parish of Patricbourne. . .'

Trustees must possess by right (or wife's right) rents of £40, or an estate of £800, or be heir to an estate of £1 00; none to be licensed victuallers.

Trustees to meet at The King's Head in Canterbury on the second Monday after the Act is passed;

'and shall then adjourn themselves to the Horse and Groom on Bridge Hill, and afterwards meet alternately at some publick Inn or tavern at Canterbury and Bridge, or alternatively at Canterbury and at any other Place near the said Road. . . . no Business shall be done . . . before the Hour of Eleven in the Forenoon.'

The quorum to be five.

Trustees empowered to make a new road not less than 35 feet and not more than 40 feet in breadth through land belonging to John Hodges, Gent; James Warren, watchmaker; Will Elwyn & Thomas Elwyn, Gents; Chantry Lane; George White; Wm Baldock,

brewer; Wm Hougham; Elizabeth farewell Sladden & Henry Simmons; Ann Smith; John Nutt; John Walker; Thomas White Collard.

Also, to widen and render safe and commodious the present road from Gutteridge Bottom to the Dover Turnpike Road in Barham they may buy up ground by the road.

No house or land to be taken without the consent of the owner or proprietor thereof, . . . other than and except certain Messuages or Cottages and Sheds or Buildings, and a Carpenter's Yard, and Certain Gardens, Orchards and Yards, situate in Bridge Street, the Property of the Reverend Edward Taylor Clerk, Stephen Beckingham Esquire, Henry Crosoer, Henry Farley, Thomas Abree Pickering, --- Nash, and Thomas Neal respectively, in the respective Occupations of Richard Jarvis, John Cooper, Robert Kingsland, Robert Osborn, Samuel Elvey, James Aylward, the said Henry Crosoer, Joseph Dixon, George Fortune, Joseph Best, Mary Peake, and - - - Lawrence.

Turnpikes and Tollhouses to be erected. Dues: Coaches etc with 4 or more horses 1/-; 2-3

horses 6d; 1 horse 3d. Waggons, carts with 5 or more horses 1/-; 4 horses 6d; 2-3 horses 4d; 1 horse 3d.

Every horse, mare or gelding laden or unladen, not drawing, 1d;

Every drove of Oxen, cows, neat cattle 10d per score, pro rata;

Calves, hogs, sheep, lambs 5d per score, pro rata;

Carriages & waggons with broad wheels to pay only half tolls

Tolls to be paid but once per day, tickets not transferable.

Exemptions: election days, road repairers, dung or manure carriers, hay, undried hops, farm implements, mails, soldiers etc, farmers or servants residing in Patricbourne, Bridge, Bishopsbourne, Kingston and Barham. Tolls to be let 3 years at a time. No Parking on the

road: 40/— penalty. Nothing to be erected within 6 yards of the centre of the road.
Mileposts to be installed.

Trustees:

Sir Brook Bridges barz' Sir Narborough d'Aeth bart Sir William Fagg ban'

Sir John Honeywood bart Sir Edward Knatchbull bart Sir Horace Mann ban'

Sir Henry Oxenden bar! Sir John Brewer Davis Kt John Abbott of St Dunstans

John Austen John Baker of St Dunstans Thomas Barrett
Richard Harris Barham William Baldock John Baker of Canterbury

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Dear Mr Cornfield,

Bridge & District History Society's Millennium Project.

My wife and I are members of the above Society. I left
Bridge at the age of 12 years in 1796, I have received the form
requesting Rouse/site information and that I am not able to help in this
specific connection, however I do have some recollections which might be
of some value, Mindful of my age on leaving the village and the time

distance between then and now you might feel obliged to check some of
the details.

William Bates

John Charles Beckingham Clerk
John William Head Brydges
James Drake Brockman
William Dejovas Byrche Clerk
William Cantis

Edward Lord Chick

Thomas White Collard

Edward Crayford

John Deedes

John Dilnott of Patricbourne
John Drew

John Fagg Clerk

John Minet Fector of Updown
James Finch of Bishopsbourne
Daniel Fox of Barham

Hopkins Francis

Richard Garner of Bridge
William Gregory Clerk
Richard Halford

Will'm Hammond of the White Friars William Hammond of Stonehouse

Anthony Egerton Hammond
Filmer Honywood
Woilliam Hougham junior
William Hugessen
Gilbert Knowler
William Lade Clerk
Robert Le Geyt

Johnson Macaree
Richard Mills

Henry Mount

John Nutt

David Papillon

John Palmer Clerk
Thomas Parker

Thomas Paine

John Peckham

— — — Plumtre junior
Robert Potter

Robert Thomas Pyott
Joseph Royle

Edwin Humphry Sandys
Thomas Sankey

Jacob Sharp

James Six

George Stringer

Robert Staines

Edward Taylor Clerk
Edward Toker

Samuel Balderston

Edward Tymewell Brydges Clerk

William Bridges

William Bristow

John Calcraft

William Carter MD

William Chandler

Henry Crosoer

William Deedes

Charles Dering

George Downe

Richard Elwyn

Henry Godfrey Faussett
Thomas Fenner

John Fowell DD

William Foord

Thomas Francis

George Gipps

John Gregory Clerk

Richard Harvey of Barfreston

John Springett Harvey
William Honeywood
Thomas Hodges of Elham
John Jackson

John Lade

John Le Grand

William Loftie

John Hollingbery Mann
John Monins

John Nairn Clerk

Henry Oxenden

Thomas Papillon
Christopher Pache MD

William Patteson

Vincent Page

Robert Peckham

Ralph Price Clerk

Thomas Pope

Thomas Randolph Clerk

Charles Robinson

Thomas Sayer

William Webster Sankey

Markham Ellis Sherville

Henry Simmons of Bridge

John Hollingbery Stringer

Thomas Starr

John Thomson

John Venner

Peter Berry

Samuel Egerton Brydges

Henry Bridges

Cyprian Rondeau Bunce

John Cantis

William Carter junior MD

John Henry Clapham Clerk

William Crosoer

William Deedes junior

John Denne

Bladen Downing Clerk

James Elwyn

Peter Fector of Eythorne

James Finch of Canterbury

John Foote

William Fox

Richard Frend

John Graham

James Hallett

Thomas Hammond

Thomas Hammond junior

Thomas Hey Clerk
William Hougham

John Hodges

John Jacob

John Hobday Lade
George Le Grand
William Long

Robert Matson

Richard Mount

Henry Nicholl junior
Thomas Watkinson Payler
Philip Papillon Clerk
Deane John Parker

John Parnell

John Peirce

John Plumtre

Giles Powell Clerk

John Pope

William Rigden

Robert Rushbrooke
James Minet Sayer Clerk
John Sankey

James Simmons
Hardingc Stracey
Richard Staines

Thomas Powell Symonds
Mark Thomas

John Walker

I remember some of the horse drawn vehicles around at the time, The milk delivery from Mr, Jones farm (I believe it was called Brickfield Farm) was by horse and float. The milk would be bailed out from the churn in a measuring scoop straight into the jugs which would be brought out by the customers, I seem to recall that we paid him weekly, The coalman (a Mr. Hollands who lived I think in Union Road) had a flat truck and he would deliver coal to the houses. We lived in one of the small terraced cottages opposite the Union, I seem to remember the coal being kept in the cupboard under the stairs, Another hose drawn vehicle, which as boys we called the soup cart was a barrel shaped

container on wheels into which the toilet bucket were emptied, Incidentally, our toilets were located at the far end of the communal back yard in a terrace of loos. Also in the yard was the pump, fed from a well, from which all the cottages drew their water, Another horse drawn vehicle was the ambulance in which I was transported to the fever hospital in Bekebourne when I had scarlet fever, The Ambulance was 'garaged' within the union grounds located between the main buildings and the gardens which extended to the end of Union Road, I think the Gardens were tended by some of the 'permanent' male residents.

At the top of Union Road on the left (leaving the village) was a wind mill (which I can never remember working) with some out buildings one of which was a stable, Somewhere in the village there was a riding stable and there ~AB a forge at the White Horse Inn.

Between the Wars the village had a branch of the British legion (pre Royal) which had a number of local members. My father was one of these and he was also a member of the Canterbury Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association. The badge of this association is on my father's gravestone in Bridge churchyard.

I attended The Bridge and Patricbourne School and of interest to us lads was the large brewery lorry which was steam driven

topping up its water supply from the River Nailbourne right opposite the school.

In retrospect I realise just how close we were to nature in those days. I am horrified to think that after school we would sometimes 'call in' to one of the two slaughter houses (which in those days were part of the butchers shops) just to see what was going on. The thought of doing that today would 'turn me up' but it was in many ways a fairly basic life. Many of the men in the village would go 'rabbiting'- it was a cheap meal and my mother with some of her friends would go 'wooding'

in the woods to collect 'chips' (small pieces of wood that were left behind when trees were chopped down).

My father was gassed in the First World War and was frequently 'on the panel'. He was a baker by trade and when he was able he would work in Mr.

Casle's bakehouse (opposite the Red Lion) but at other times he would see casual jobs. I remember him working as a night watchman on road works, doing stone breaking for road construction and work as a beater during the shooting season- At home in our small kitchen and on a

paraffin stove he would make doughnuts and on his bicycle would take them to sell in the hop gardens.

The Master and Matron of the Union were Mr. and Mrs. Honey. I would imagine them to have had a supportive staff but they also employed a number of local ladies who would have jobs in various departments of the establishment. My mother, Betty O'Connell was one such lady. She

was in charge of what she called the needle room in which some of the female men and their sides would repair linen and clothing. I recall another lady, Ada Wilson who worked in the laundry. I would imagine there were others who worked in other departments.

When I have read of the harsh regime of The poor law I have been reminded of the poor 'tramps'(as they were referred to) making their way to The Union to secure a bed for the night. As young people we were a bit afraid of these men and generally kept out of their way.

One final memory I have is of excitement and adventure created when electric light came to the village — it was electric light that was important up to now some houses had gas lighting and others were dependent on oil lamps. That reminds me, we had an oil man, I think he

came from Canterbury and I think he may have had a house(sic) and cart as well.

This has been a memory 'jogging' experience for me. I'm sorry about the standard of typing but I think it might be more legible than my writing might have been.

I hope this letter might be of some value. My thanks and good wishes to you and all concerned in this project.

Yours sincerely,

Vic O'Connell.
Village recollections

Often villages are shown as clusters of houses and shops merely providing a slumberland for commuters and retired businessmen. This illusion of rural stagnation is immediately destroyed when visiting villages such as Bridge, whose villagers care - sometimes passionately — about the future of their go-ahead community.

Bridge, with its rising population, has found itself coming to grips with the influx of new blood. Modern houses and bungalows have appeared on both sides of the village's main street and now its population is heading for about 2000.

Only about three miles from Canterbury, Bridge houses many people who come to the city to work but prefer the village to provide their home life. Business houses and factories Bridge may not have; shops to cater for its needs it certainly has.

Apart from a wet fish shop and a bank, Bridge has every type of shop needed to make it self-contained for the housewife.

Some villagers are pressing hard to get a bank and, if they are as successful with this project as they have been with past demands, Bridge should have one in the not too distant future.

Yet that is looking ahead and Bridge is proud of its past. It takes its name from what is now the 18th Century brick bridge straddling the River Nailbourne in the High Street.

For many of the older residents an evening is often well spent recalling life in the village at the

turn of the Century. Anyone wishing to know of the Bridge of decades ago is immediately directed to the home of Mr Herbert Price at Lynton Cottage.

Formerly the village's representative on the Bridge Blean Rural District Council he retired because of ill—health but is still an active member of the Parish Council, which he joined in 1930.

He is also Chairman of the managers of Bridge and Patricbourne Church of England Controlled Primary School.

Mr Price has almost a lifetime of recollections of the village. He remembers the days when the

High Street was uncluttered by cars and when the Elham Valley Railway line was in operation.

Some of his fondest memories are of the old Bridge Volunteer Fire Brigade, started by the Marquess of Conyngham in the 1890's. In the early days the brigade's manual pump was horse-

drawn, but in 1925. when Mr Price joined the brigade, they had a motor tender which proved to

be extremely efficient and was often called into Canterbury to help with city fires.

Later a Rolls Royce chassis was converted for use and in 1929 the brigade got its own motor

pump. In 1938 the Rolls Royce was replaced by a Bedford.

Of the changes in the village, Mr Price said: "Years ago the road was narrower near the bridge

and we had a fine set of lime trees down the street. What is now the Red Lion public house's car

park was stables, and the White Horse's car park was a lawn. We used to hold open—air dances

there.

"The Village Hall belonged to the Marquess of Conyngham but in 1952 he let the village have it

on a 50-year lease at 6d a year, to be rented by a committee delegated by the Parish Council. At

present we need a new hall and are looking for a suitable site."

Looking back at the village characters he has known, several names came to Mr Price's mind. He

said he could clearly remember Mr Jack Friend, a former landlord of the Red Lion, who organised the village's King George VI Coronation celebrations. He also had vivid memories

of a

former village baker Mr Charles Wills, and Mr Chas. White, who was the chairman of the Parish

Council for many years.

During his recollections Mr Price never fails to remember the day Bridge was packed with people.

It was at the funeral in 1910 of Fireman J. Fenn, who was killed while firing a maroon.

"Bridge has never been as full as it was on the day of Fireman Fenn's funeral. The streets were lined with masses of people who came from miles around to pay their respects to this popular fireman," said Mr Price.

Another person who has many memories of Bridge is Mr Harry Hawkins, owner of the ladies' and men's outfitters and the newsagents. His father came to Bridge in 1907 and he was born in the village.

Over the years he has seen the great housing developments in the village and is particularly proud of the way local tradesmen have risen to the occasion to meet the demands of the expanding population.

"There is," said Mr Hawkins, "everything for the shopper. Really there is very little reason for anyone needing to go out of the village for their shopping." With its shops, character and friendly atmosphere, Bridge obviously provides a popular base for young families in search of the country, but at the same time not wanting to be too far from the town. But what can these newcomers, together with the well-established villager, expect of the future?

Like any community, Bridge has its problems to face. But it is lucky in having a great number of people interested enough in its future to spend hours of their time striving to make the village more accommodating to growing needs.

Traffic is an almost constant menace to the village High Street. Cars stream through, coming or going to the continent, and Bridge is desperately trying to speed up plans for a by-pass to weed out this traffic problem from its doorstep.

Recently the A2 group was formed to demand a by-pass. The campaign secretary, 23-year-old Mr Brian Lewis, said the group was started when some members of the old Bridge youth Club became appalled at the road conditions through Bridge.

About 20 young people arranged a protest march through the village and at the same time they joined forces with another resident, Mr John Purchase, who was conducting his own campaign with letters to the Ministry of Transport.

With the Youth Club members teaming up with Mr Purchase, protest demonstrations were

arranged, aiming at a plan for an extension of the M2 from Brenley Corner to Dover. Because of their near-militant protests and pestering of local authorities and the Ministry

(incomplete: Kentish Gazette, no date, Williamson 215)

Jack Friend

We record with regret the death, which occurred rather suddenly on Saturday, of Councillor John friend. By his passing the village of Bridge loses one of its most indefatigable workers. Known affectionately as 'Jack', Mr Friend was only 48 years old and had been ill for only a few days. The only son of Mr Richard friend and of the late Mrs Friend, he leaves a widow and one son, Mr J E Friend, while a very large number of friends in the district will also sincerely mourn his death. Mr Friend, who was an old Langtonian, filled a remarkable and enviable position in the life of the village, for there was scarcely any activity for the benefit of the community with which he was not closely connected. Since 1930 he had been a member of the Bridge—Blean RDC, he was Chairman of the Folkestone and District PAC (Divisions 23 and 24), member of the Folkestone and District Guardians Committee, of the Bridge Parish Council for many years and of the local Old Age Pensions Committee. He acted as Chairman of the village's Jubilee Committee and as Hon. Secretary of the fete in aid of the Bridge Quota for the new Kent and Canterbury Hospital. For 29 years he was a member of the Fire Brigade and in recent years was Second officer.

It will be as a thorough all—round sportsman, however, that Mr Friend will be best remembered. He played the game in every sense. In earlier years he was a clever footballer and he continued his interest in the winter sport by taking on the duties of a referee, becoming a KCFA Class 2 official and on two occasions visiting France with representative teams as referee-linesman. On numerous occasions he has officiated at Wincheap Grove.

Also a keen cricketer, he was a forcing bat, on several occasions topping the century, and was a useful performer behind the stumps. He was captain and Hon. Secretary of the former Bridge Football and Cricket Club and played for a number of teams in the district, including Lower Hardres. He was an enthusiastic member of the Kent County Cricket Club for many years and regularly attended the Canterbury Weeks. In addition he was captain of the Bridge Bowling Club, a supporter of the local school sports teams, was a keen tennis player and an excellent shot with a sporting gun.

Other organisations with which he was associated include the Bridge Reading Room Committee,

the Bridge Horticultural Society, whose cup for the highest number of points at the annual show he twice won, the Bridge Boys' Club, of which he was the first secretary, and the East Kent and Canterbury Conservative Club, of which he was a member.

Upon leaving school, Mr Friend assisted in his father's coal merchant's business and in 1909 married Miss Louie Brice, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs W Brice, of Bridge. From 1912 to 1918 he was licensee of the Red Lion.

His cheery personality will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The funeral took place at Bridge Church on Wednesday afternoon when the coffin, which rested among a profusion of floral tributes, was carried to the Church on the tender of the Bridge Fire Brigade, members of the Brigade acting as bearers.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. H Knight) assisted by Canon Ashton Gwatkin (former Rector of Bishopsbourne) and Canon WF Burnside (Rector of Bishopsbourne).

[those present included] WH Wass (Relieving officer), Mr and Mrs PW Honney (Master and Matron, Poor Law Institution)

Blackmansbury, Braems and Bridge Place

The Parish of Bridge in early times had within it two manors: the first, Bereacre, very much the less important, has left no big house and had vanished before the mid—seventeenth century but appears to have occupied the northern part of the parish. It survives in two names: that of the triangular field at the junction of the roads to Pett Bottom and Whitehill, which on the tithe commutation map of 1838 is called Barakers, and possibly also in the former name of the Bargrave family, who are first recorded as Bargar, one of whom John, built the first house called Bifrons in Patricksbourne in 1607-11 but whose father Robert Bargar (died January 4

1600/01) was a yeoman tanner of Bridge. The family, though, is also said to have come from Woodnesborough.

The second, and far more significant manor was that of Blackmansbury (Blackemannesbyrie, 1253/4), 62 acres and three roods in extent in 1384, and until the suppression of the monasteries the property of the Abbey of St Augustine. It is notable that although the village of Bridge is not mentioned in Domesday, as the parish was regarded then, and for long after, as a subsidiary part of Patricksbourne, the name is attached to a much larger administrative division of Kent, the Hundred of Bridge. This suggests that the Hundred Court sat in or near Bridge. The most obvious location for this was likely to have been in the building described by Hasted as the 'Court Lodge' which was demolished to make way for Bridge Place.

Symonson's map of Kent of 1596 clearly shows a building on this site lying astride the

Nailbourne. It is obvious that the stream at this point today does not lie in its natural bed, and there is evidence in Church Meadow (most noticeable when the stream is in flood) of a former stream bed on a different alignment. One of the two branches into which it is now artificially divided flows around Bridge Place to enclose its former gardens (the outline of which may be discerned from aerial photographs). The other has been more obviously canalised and flows through the grounds within three or four yards of the house. This seems possibly to be the remains of a mill—leat, for in 1271 Ralph de Brigg, clerk paid 20s for use of '4 acres of land and the moiety of a mill in Brigg'. Although windmills had been known for eighty years in England at this time, it is probable that this was a water-mill, and no other site within the parish is more appropriate (in Domesday, Patricbourne as a whole is credited with four mills).

Although nominally the property of St Augustine's, as mentioned above, Blackmansbury was of course let to tenants until the Abbey was suppressed in 1538/9. Of these, the family of Garwinton is recorded, the last of whom was Thomas Garwinton who died c. 1411.

Blackmansbury then passed by marriage to the Hauts of Hautbourn and later by the same means to the Isaaks. In 1544 after the dissolution it was granted by the king to Henry Laurence, who held a court there in the same year, establishing his manorial rights. At this time the

Blackmansbury estate included 'Honpit' (or houndpit) i.e. Pett: where the manorial dogs were housed?.

The manor remained with that family until 1576 when John Laurence sold it to William Partheriche. By the late 16th century the mill had perhaps gone (to be replaced by a windmill on Bridgedown) though the building shown on Symonson's map might suggest its recent presence. The immediate vicinity of a supply of good water however was very convenient for

the manor house erected by William Partheriche, probably soon after he purchased the estate.

Excavations in 1964/5 of the semi-basement of Bridge Place (originally used as a kitchen) revealed a number of centrally placed hexagonal brick pillars, cemented over and with the brick outline redrawn, still standing to a height of three or four feet, which probably supported a vaulted ceiling in Partheriche's house. These were unfortunately demolished in the early 1970's to make way for the dance floor of the Country Club. Some of the shaped bricks were later inserted in a wall in the garden, facing the stream.

William Partheriche was Surveyor of the Ordnance Office under Elizabeth I, and its second principal officer, an important position at a time when there was no other permanent military establishment. The Office was responsible for "the ordering, purchase, storage, maintenance, issue, recovery, and repair of all munitions of war both by land and sea" (GE Aylmer: The King's Servants, 1961). In 1582 he was a member of a commission appointed by the Queen to

carry out extensive work on Dover Harbour, which improved its facilities very considerably, and which of course also improved the mercantile life of the town. William died in 1598. His will makes no mention of Bridge or Blackmansbury, and refers only to 'Higham Close' or 'Higham Garden' as bequeathed to his son, but this is because his third wife (Affra Morton) continued to live at Bridge, even though in 1607 she was remarried to Sir Anthony St Leger, Master of the Rolls in Ireland. William was buried in his chapel in Bridge church. His son Edward Partheriche did not live at Bridge, but moved away, probably to Hollingbourne, the

home of his wife's stepfather, Francis Colepeper. He was however eventually buried at Bridge in 1612.

Edward's son, also Edward, and later knighted, married Catherine Throckmorton, a niece of Sir Walter Raleigh, and later, Mary, a daughter of Sir Edward Fagge. He was MP for Sandwich from 1640-48 and is described as 'Adventurer [speculator/investor] in and a candidate for the Directorship of the drainage of the Bedford Level'. He appears to have lived first at Hollingbourne but never at Bridge, so no doubt the old house, left empty after his grandmother's death in the early decades of the century had fallen into some disrepair by the

time he sold out in 1638 to Arnold Braems. He later moved to Ely, to be near his interests in the fens.

As a son of a merchant of Dover who had prospered mightily by the harbour works in which William Partheriche had been involved, Arnold Braems no doubt came to know of the old

property languishing unwanted in Bridge, and as a canny businessman made Sir Edward Partheriche an offer it was not worth refusing.

So, Partheriche's Court Lodge in its turn was replaced by the house whose remains are still standing. When first erected, Bridge Place was the largest house in East Kent, second only to

Chilham Castle and with its construction the name of Blackmansbury passed more or less into

history. The house was rectangular, with a front of nine bays and a projecting porch with a balcony, seven bays at the sides. The gardens at the rear were lavishly landscaped. The centre

was occupied by a courtyard serving as a light well. The front wing (facing what is now Bourne Park Road) incorporated the semi-basement of the old house, which extended nearly

halfway under the two wings at the side. Further basement building towards the Nailbourne was impeded by the height of the water—table on that side. Four of the bays of Braems' original

front remain, with five of the east wing. The house is of red bricks, probably made in the adjacent field where remains of the old brickfield are still discernible (and which has been no doubt the source of material for other houses in Bridge), although it is also suggested that they

were imported into Sandwich from the Netherlands as their size is alleged to be slightly smaller

than English bricks of the same period, being two inches shorter. However, many are, by measurement, longer. On the outer face the bricks are laid (says Malcolm Pinhom) entirely as

stretchers (i.e. lengthways), and are worked into pilasters and string courses to form an ornamental and decorative facade. Even the window frames were originally of brick and then plastered over to simulate stone mullions and transoms. The windows between ground and first

floor are separated by a full entablature. Above is a deep projecting cornice under a hipped roof.

There were originally five chimney stacks, serving 24 hearths, one at each corner and one in the middle of the front wing. In the inventory of Sir Arnold's property drawn up at his death there are in fact 27 rooms listed, including a 'Billiatt Roome', in addition to the kitchen and

lesser offices. The front porch was of stone topped with a balcony, and a wide terrace extended along the whole front. On the west wing there was an open verandah and covered terrace giving on to the water garden at the side which was surrounded by a wall, the lower courses of which still survive beside the stream. Thomas Philipot, writing in 1659 says: "Mr Arnold Brame of Dover. . . upon the foundation of the ancient fabrick hath erected that magnificent pile which obliges the eyes of the passenger, both to admiration and delight, and which like a Phoenix seems to have arose more glorious out of the ruins." Internally only the secondary staircase, one wooden cornice, two or perhaps three fireplaces, some panelling and some doors survive. The cornice is of carved wood (probably cut down from a larger room) which shows a number of carved heads about four or five inches in height, one with a Flemish hat, one with a wig — portraits of Sir Arnold perhaps? — and others, more grotesquely stylised. Until the fire at the house in 1971 there was another cornice depicting leaves and bunches of fruit. The fireplaces are of Bethersden marble. Quite apart from the subsequent demolition of some two-thirds of the building, the remains have undergone considerable alteration, with the insertion of some wooden window frames at various periods — Regency, Victorian and Modern - and the addition of smaller extensions to the building.

The English branch of the Braems family probably came to Kent from Brabant in the mid-16th century as the result of Spanish political and religious policy. Jasper Braems came to England in the time of Queen Mary and settled at Sandwich, one of a large community of Flemish refugees. By the early 1570's however, perhaps foreseeing the developments which were about to take place (to the detriment of Sandwich) he had moved to Dover, where his son Charles Braems (died c.1593) was already a merchant. Charles' son, also Charles (died 1611), merchant and fishing entrepreneur increased the family prosperity, acquiring 'a quay, wharves, and "herring houses" along Dover harbour front. In turn his son Jacob Braems eventually acquired most of the land along the harbour wall and by virtue of his pre-eminent mercantile position Jacob became Customer (ie collector of customs) of Dover. A street at the base of the harbour had even become known as 'Braems, his street'. His 'Old Buildings', originally two dwellings, and subsequently occupied by Arnold Braems and later also his son Walter, had by the 19th century become ruinous, and were destroyed by fire in 1808, but not before, in 1806, the New Custom House had been erected.) Arnold (and Walter) also acquired a grant of the beach on the opposite side of the new basin, which had been created in the later years of the 16th century, on which he erected a square pile of buildings for store-houses.

During the Thirty Years' War (1618-48) an international entrepot developed at Dover as a result of attempts to exploit English neutrality by offering the convenience and safety of using neutral English shipping. Goods were to be brought to Dover, to be re-exported in (neutral) English ships. Naturally, in the process, customs duties were levied. As part of this process a

silver entrepot was established in 1620, and by 1632, with a diplomatic accord between England and Spain, 'it provided that English vessels freighting Spanish silver should always stop at Dover in order to unload two-thirds of their cargoes for coinage in London. The silver removed from the ships was transported "over the Dover Road [through Bridge] to the Tower Mint".' Reductions in the rate of tax resulted in higher income: 'The Farmers saw their revenue from commodity re-exports increase from £1 1,000 in 1634 to over £18,000 in 1636 and to £23,000 in 1638'[A.Kepler, Arch Cant 95]. As Jacob Braems' younger brother, a

merchant in his own right and also one of the farmers of Customs, Arnold was closely involved.

As he himself later admitted: 'when we had peace with Spain [I] paid in the Port of Dover for Customs six thousand and eight thousand pounds a year; and by [my] influence and Credit in foreign parts came through my hands in plate and bullion for many years five, six and eight hundred thousand pounds each year, a great part of which [I] sent to several merchants in London to be coined in the Tower. . . '. [from The humble remonstrance] No wonder that by 1638 he could afford to buy Blackmansbury and to build a vast new mansion there!

Arnold Braems was cultured, a royalist and a bon viveur. Born in October 1602 in Dover he was married three times: first to Joan, daughter of Walter Harflet of Bekesbourne (21 April 1631) who died in 1635, second, to Elizabeth Digges daughter of Sir Dudley Digges, Master of the Rolls, of Chilhain (17 August 1636) who died in 1643, 'and was buried [according to Zachariah Cozens] near the handsome tomb in the chancel of Bridge Church under a gravestone' -regrettably the tomb is no more: Its top slab is probably now the one to be found just outside the west door of the church, lacking its brasses. Arnold was married thirdly to Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer Bt of Wingham, who died in 1685. He himself died on 13 November 1681 and was buried at Bridge in the east Chancel 'close to the tomb which

he in his life created there in memory of his two deceased ladies' [Register entry by John Mackallar, vicar].

He was knighted by Charles II on 27 May 1660 as reward for his efforts in support of the Cause during the civil war, and was MP for Dover in the 1660 parliament, but soon gave up politics in favour of continuing his business career.

On establishing his house, Arnold seems to have entertained very freely — no doubt partly from business acumen and motives, but also because he enjoyed it. He had an interest in art and artists: one frequent guest was Cornelius Janssen (1593-1664) a Flemish painter born in London, who was patronised by James I and his Court, and later by Charles 1, and who painted portraits of numerous members of the gentry. One of these, said to be by him and of Robert Bargrave (1584-1649), is still in Bridge Church on the north wall of the chancel. As life

became more difficult for those closely connected with Charles I Janssen in 1643 left England for Holland, where he died in 1664.

In the 1670's another such visitor was Adriaen Ocker, to whom we are indebted for the picture of Bridge Place in its proper setting, with subsidiary scenes reminiscent of the experiences of an earlier visitor who came just after the Restoration to stay for a while. This was Willem

Schellinks (1627-78), who has left us a vivid portrait both of Braems and of Bridge. In the Journal of his travels in England, 1661-1663, he writes:

"On the 6th [August 1661] we [he is travelling with Jan Maurits (1604-79), founder of the Mauritshuis] were merrily entertained by the younger Sir Arnold Braems [a nephew, son of Jacob, born 1630] with French wine and light refreshments. . . . In the afternoon of the 8th . . . left Dover at 3 o'clock in a carriage, which Sir Arnold Braems had sent to take us to his delightful residence at Bridge, one hour's walk from Canterbury. . . We arrived there at 8 o'clock in the evening to a friendly welcome and were magnificently entertained, and drank quite a few good healths with sack.

On the 9th we played on the bowling green on the hill near Sir Arnold Braem's place.

On the 10th we saw a hart shot with a crossbow in the deerpark of Sir Arnold Braems; everybody, especially the ladies, washed their hands in the warm blood, to get white hands. The hart was immediately gutted and cut up into quarters.

On the 11th a venison pie and other dishes of the hart were on the menu. After the meal I walked to Canterbury and explored the town.

On the 12th we rode in two carriages with Sir Arnold Braems and Mr. Adriaens of London and several ladies to Canterbury and went to the cathedral to hear the canons sing the prayers and looked at the sepulchres or gravestones of kings, bishops, and other notables, some very old and much ravaged by age and war. In the recent troubles between the king and parliament, Oliver Cromwell had here, as elsewhere throughout the country, everything which looked like popery, such as glass, statues, crosses and the like, in and on churches and other public buildings, torn down and broken to pieces.

The 9th [September 1661] . . . took our lodgings .. in the Lily [in Canterbury] . . word was sent to Sir Arnold Braems to let him know we had arrived.

On the 10th September Sir Arnold came. . . we went on to Bridge, where we were sumptuously entertained in his great hall by Sir Arnold Braems with a large company of friends, ladies and gentlemen, and spent the afternoon in making good cheer and other pastimes, and left in the evening at 6 o'clock by coach for Dover [where] we were again merrily entertained by Mr Walter Braems, the son of Sir Arnold Braems.

On the 12th . . . we left in the afternoon for Bridge, and safely arrived in the evening to a friendly

welcome. Sir Arnold Braems gave us a room where we both could stay as long as we remained there, in fact we stayed for three months.

This estate of Sir Arnold Braems lies in a valley of outstanding beauty; it contains, in addition to his own fine residence, a large number of rooms, chambers, halls and other good apartments; there is also a large deerpark with many deer and does, woods, a rabbit warren in the hills [which still exists], and very beautiful, well kept pleasure grounds with fruit trees, well watered by a fast flowing, fresh sparkling stream of wonderfully clear sweet water. This splits up into several branches and rivulets, also some fishponds, in which a certain kind of fish called trout is bred, which is very similar to a large carp, and, prepared in the English manner, tastes very delicious. There are also some vineyards round the house and gardens, producing yearly two or three hogshead of wine. There is a like a chapel, in which are at times so many young pigeons that throughout the whole summer and longer 12 to 14 dozen can be taken out every week to put into pies or prepared otherwise. His people go out hunting 1, every day and catch a lot of partridges and pheasants, which we had every day on the table, besides a choice of other delicate food, all with the most delicious English sauces; there is an ample supply of drinks, different kinds of wine and perry, which is made from pears. He also has his own brewery, bakery, wine press, hop garden, barns, stables, oxen, cows, sheep, pigs, geese, ducks, corn and fruit, everything that one can desire in such an establishment. And because he is, with all this, so kind and

hospitable, and keeps such a princely table, he has so many visits from noblemen, gentlemen and ladies, so that his table is always surrounded by his own people and outside guests. The church stands not far from his house, and he has the right to nominate a minister of his choice for it. He has planted a fine avenue of lime trees from his house to the church, under which one is protected from rain and sun. His lands and his annual income, which amounts to a considerable sum, had suffered much damage in the war between the king and parliament, but is now all restored to him. As we now had the freedom of the

place we went walking and drawing every day in the countryside and in the villages in the neighbourhood. . . .

On the 6th October a general muster of seven or eight companies of the militia [Braems was a Major in the East Kent Militia] was held on the hill above Bishopsbourne, which lies at the bottom of the valley,

each company 200 men strong. They were brought on and off, skirmishing in one or two groups, firing spiritedly at each other, commanded by numerous officers on horseback and on foot. They started in the morning, but had to stop it all towards evening because of strong winds and oncoming rain. All the men get a drink allowance to refresh themselves. This muster usually takes place about once a year. Every parish and household has to supply and arm as many men as it is able..."

As further proof of Sir Arnold's conviviality, and his connections in high places, it may be noted that Samuel Pepys mentions him three times in his diary: on 15 November and 27 December 1660, and 5 October 1661, each time in relation to a drinking party.

Sir Arnold's relief at the Restoration must have been considerable, for since the beginning of the civil war until then, as a staunch supporter of the Royal cause, he had been put to much expense. This was summarised in The humble remonstrance of Sir Arnold Braems of his services and sufferings (PRO SP 23/9) in which he catalogues his expenditures on behalf of the

King: so for instance, forbidden by parliament, he sent a ship loaded with 300 tons of rye to Dublin, resulting in its confiscation, together with its returning cargo, and a loss of 'above £2000', including 20 guns; in other instances he was, 'before 1648 several times plundered for

refusing commissions from the parliamentary power'; then in 1648 he paid for 40 barrels of gunpowder spent in the service, as the leader of the Dover petitioners to parliament. He later maintained supplies and provisions to the castles in the Downs [Sandown and Walmer] which

were holding out; obtained 14 chests of sugar, which were sent to Zeeland in Holland, to be

turned into 100 tons of beer, for which he had to pay; lost more than £4000 in a seized ship in

Lisbon, and rendered many other services at his own expense.

For all these costs he was now claiming restitution. In spite of Schellink's belief, it is likely that what he principally received as his reward was his knighthood. This loss of revenue,

together with his obvious high level of living, clearly made life difficult for Sir Arnold's successors, and with his death the glory days of Bridge Place were over.

His son Walter Braems, born 3 October 1633, was, as a high-spirited young man, heavily involved in the Civil War. He is said to have laid a plot to seduce the Governor and betray Dover Castle to Prince Charles (Dover was predominantly on the Parliamentary side). It is practically certain that he and other Kentish gentry were involved in the assassination of Dr

Dorislaus in May 1649. Similarly, he was one of a number of Kentish cavaliers concerned in Gerard's Plot of 1654, leading to the most serious insurrection of the Interregnum, the

Penruddock Rising of 1655. He married in 1663 Mary, daughter of Sir John Jacob Kt of Bromley, Middlesex and was promoted Colonel in King Charles II's army. He became Comptroller of HM Customs at Sandwich, having petitioned the king that he had been 'at 14

years of age fetched out of his sick bed by your Majesty's Enemies carried & imprisoned in Dover Castle which hath since esteemed an honour to crown his fidelity to have been your youngest prisoner in England for your Majesty's service'.

Walter later became Comptroller of HM Customs at Dover, but under Charles II the opportunity for profit seems to have been more circumscribed than previously, and in 1690 he was obliged to petition the king for six years' arrears of salary: life in the big house was becoming expensive.

When Colonel Walter, father of at least 14 children, but several of whom did not survive childhood, died in September 1692 his family could no longer afford to maintain the house nor, presumably, did they wish to live in it.. His eldest son Jacob (b.1664) was a professional soldier, as was another, Walter (b.1670), who later settled in St Stephens, Canterbury.

In June 1695 the Bridge estate (including the home farm in Bridge street, and Pett farm) was sold to John Taylor (1665-1729), son of Nathaniel Taylor, a Shropshire barrister. John had purchased Bifrons nearby in Patricbourne only in the previous year. Preferring to stay at Bifrons, he demolished two-thirds of Bridge Place, and converted the remainder, presumably into a dower house. It is from this time that Bridge Place ceased to be the principal residence of

its owner, and reverted for the next 250 years or so to accommodating a long series of (frequently elderly) tenants. Taylor himself died at the age of 64, thirteen years after his wife Olivia. It is unknown who lived at the house between 1695 and 1729, but until 1708, according

to the Churchwardens' accounts he was himself liable for the parish rate. It is possible that at least for some years the occupier was John Bowtell DD, vicar of Patricbourne and Bridge, who

had succeeded John Mackallar on the latter's death in February 1697/8 and who married Olive,

Taylor's eldest daughter. Between 1708 and 1713 no rate was levied on the house. But thereafter, the 'Bridge Place Land' was assessed as the liability of various tenants, while a new

figure, Farnham Aldersey, Gent. appears as perhaps the tenant of the house itself. By 1720, Taylor was again assessed in his own right, and this continued until 1726, when again no mention was made of Bridge Place until 1735 when John Philpot jun. was assessed. This tenant

farmer remained in possession, John Taylor's eldest son Brook having died in 1731, and ownership having passed to the Rev. Herbert Taylor, until 1742 when tenancy reverted to the

family in the person of John Taylor's daughter Mary, born in 1690, who resided there from 1742 until her death in 1771. Here she attended to the upbringing of her niece, the daughter of

Brook Taylor, the first secretary of the Royal Society, who had died while she was still under age.

Thereafter, the house was let to John Hardy, probably a relative of the Halletts of Higham, who

had just married the daughter of the vicar of Bekesbourne, the Rev. William Bedford. He died

in 1778, but the widow Hardy continued there until her death in 1783. She was followed by

William Hougham, who later moved to his family home in Longport, now known as Barton Court.

In 1766, at the time of Mary Taylor's occupancy under the ownership of her brother Herbert,

who was by now himself vicar of Patrixbourne and Bridge (since 1753), the Bridge Place Estate was described as:

All that capital messuage or tenement situate and being the ville of Blackmansbury within the . . .parish of Bridge. . . together with all Houses, Edifices, Buildings, Outhouses, Orchards, Gardens, Courts,

Yards, Lands Arable Meadow Pasture and Woodlands. . . containing by estimation 40 acres or thereabouts. . . sometime in the tenure or occupation of Nicholas Heniker or his assigns [Heniker is nowhere else mentioned] and late in the tenure or occupation of Walter Breames or his assigns with all warrens for coneyes and grounds inclosed for coneyes to the same belonging. . .with the two. . .tenements thereupon theretofore built by William Partherick Esq deceased whereof one of the same tenements is within the said furclosed grounds commonly called Hounds Pitts [Great Pett] and the other is in a close called Whitehill [?Middle Pett] in Bridge near the highway leading to Dover.

William Hougham remained at Bridge until 1791, when the following notice appeared in the Kentish Gazette:

To be LET. /'

A Mansion House called BRIDGE—PLACE, now in the occupation of William Hougham, Esq; jun. Consisting of an eating parlour, 22 by 16½; a drawing-room, 22 by 17, and a small room. — On the second—floor, good bedrooms; and four garrets, with proper offices for a family; a coach—house with stabling for seven horses, and eleven acres of very fine pasture; two gardens; and a cottage, consisting of a brewhouse, laundry and dairy, with good lodging—rooms over them.

It is situated in the neighbourhood of Barham Downs and three miles from Canterbury.

For particulars enquire of Mr. DILNOT, Patrixbourne.

(Kentish Gazette. March 1st 1791)

Whoever took the property, if any did, did not stay long, for two years later Bridge Place was again advertised, this time with its description subtly enhanced, presumably to encourage enquiry.

BRIDGE PLACE

To be LET.

Either for two or six years, from Michaelmas next

BRIDGE PLACE, three miles from Canterbury, fit for the immediate reception of a family, with twelve acres of meadow land surrounding the house, and two walled gardens well cropt; coach houses for two

carriages, and very good stables for seven horses, with other convenient offices for cows, pigs and poultry. ~ The whole has lately been put into complete order. — The fixtures, and all or any part of the furniture, may be had with the house; and also four excellent cows, pigs, &c. with the coals, wood and hay. — Immediate possession will be given.

N.B. There is a trout—stream runs through the meadows.

For further particulars, and to see the house, apply to the Rev. JOHN FRANCIS, Mint Yard, Canterbury.
(Kentish Gazette, August 27th 1793)

This time the tenancy was taken up by Lady Elizabeth Yates, after the death of her second husband in 1793. Here she stayed until her death in 1808. Her daughter, married to Col. Cholomeley Dering lived nearby at Howletts in Littlebourne. She was followed by the Rev Charles Hughes who became vicar of

Patricbourne and Bridge in February 1813, but who took up residence meanwhile at Bridge when the house became vacant.

In 1829 the whole property of the Taylors, including Bridge Place, which by now was reduced to 'containing by estimation 1 1 acres or thereabouts', was sold to the first Marquess of Conyngham for £97, 475. Of this, Edward Taylor, grandson of John Taylor, had to contribute £18, 083 19s 8d in settlement of outstanding debts. Under the Marquess's ownership Bridge Place was let to farming

families. From 1826 to the 1850's it was occupied by Richard (born 1783) and Sarah (born 1789) Brice. He is described in the Land tax returns as 'yeoman' and in 1849 was vice-chairman of the Board of

Guardians of Bridge Union Workhouse. They were still resident there in 1851 (census return), together

with four unmarried daughters (Ann 35, Eliza 33, Ellen 30, Jane 26) and an eight year old grandson (Thomas). Four servants (two men, two women) are also recorded.

In the later 1850's the house was occupied by George Athill, another farmer, whose three children were all baptised at Bridge on 18 August 1857, after their father's death aged 50 in February the same year.

One of them, Charles Harold Athill MVO (1853-1922) became Clarenceaux King of Arms in 1919.

They did not stay long, however, for in 1861 the census records William Aldwith, aged 32, Curate of Patricbourne and a native of Scotland, together with his wife, an elderly aunt, cook,

parlourmaid,
housemaid and coachman. He also remained only a few months. In 1862 George Henry Conyngham (1825-1882), Lord Mount Charles and later (1876) third Marquess of Conyngham for reasons as yet unexplained moved in, staying until 1867.

1871 records a retired Major-General, George Briggs, born in 1808, and who seems to have spent most of his military career in India, where both his wife, his daughter and three grandchildren were born. They however kept but three servants — a cook, housemaid, and nurse for the fourth child of a mere two months, born in Bridge. In 1878 the contents of the house were sent for auction, but they were said to be the property of Walter Gipps Esq., who was leaving the neighbourhood.

By 1881 the house had been taken by another military man, the retired Lieutenant-Colonel George Billington, born in 1833, whose last posting was probably in Ireland, where his six year old younger daughter was born. He lived there with his wife, two daughters and four female servants, but again only for a few months, for by 1882 Bridge Place was in the possession of Col. Moyle Billington.

By 1891 a break had been made with military tenancy, and for a few years (1890-98) the house was occupied by a more exotic character, Oscar de Satgé, described as a 54 year old 'Retired Australian "Squatter" and sheep farmer', and a native of Switzerland. He had brought his wife, 20 years younger, and three small children under eight, together with no fewer than seven female servants, all except himself however of British stock. In 1901 the census reveals another change, but equally notable: a disabled gentleman of cosmopolitan experience, St John Butler, aged 47, married to an Englishwoman

(Agnes) born in Russia, with four servants, including a footman from Germany and a French maid. The census also happened to catch a visitor from India.

The tradition of providing a home for retired military or widowed persons returned with Mrs Wilson, the mother of the then Bridge medical practitioner Arthur Wilson. She stayed until 1907, to be replaced by Seymour L Harries (1907—12 — an American?), RHB Hammond—Chambers a WWI Naval Lieutenant—Commander (1919) and Julian Hedworth George Byng, General and later Viscount Byng of Vimy, with whom the Duchess of Albany (daughter of Queen Victoria) stayed after opening some official event in Canterbury. At some time in this period the house was also rented by William Howard.

Some greater stability was achieved by Mrs Ethel Penn, who with her daughter, Miss N. Penn tenanted the house from the mid—1920's until her death in 1949. Malcolm Pinhorn records that in the course of her tenancy the wall between the dining room and the entrance staircase collapsed, destroying in its fall one of the three remaining original fireplaces. The number has however recently been restored by the discovery (by Peter Malkin) of another, which had been hidden behind wainscoting. Miss Penn survived until 1952. In 1954 the long ownership by the Marquess Conyngham came to an end when the freehold of Bridge Place, now reduced to 6 acres was bought by the Hon. Mrs Neame. One further tenant (Harold Wyles) is recorded for 1955, but in 1962 Mrs Neame sold to Malcolm Alan Pinhorn, Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and of Phillimore & Co, who undertook archaeological work at the house, and to whom a great deal of the present work is very much indebted. He in turn sold Bridge Place to Peter Malkin in 1967, with whom it has remained until the present, and who established there a Country Club, with bar and dance floor in the semi-basement, and who, after the closure of the Club

opened (very briefly) a restaurant. We might say that the ghost of conviviality, established so long ago

with the hospitality extended by Sir Arnold Braems, had once again returned to haunt old Bridge Place.

It is however now (2006) up for sale once more.

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10

Bridge Doctors

The earliest record we have of a doctor in Bridge is that of Amelius Sicard, born in Blackheath on June 12th 1809, the son of John Jacob Sicard, who was probably a refugee from revolutionary France ('Jean—Jacques') and his wife Mary. John Jacob it appears was 'Major—Domo' to Princess Caroline of Brunswick (wife of the Prince Regent) at

Montague House in Blackheath. It was he who brought news to her in 1820 in Florence that George III was dead and that she was now queen. He died in Kensington (?Palace)

after this date, but before 1841. Amelius entered into practice in Bridge in 1832, aged 23, MRCS and Lie. Apoth. Co. London, and clearly able to afford the 18th century property

V»

on the corner of Union Road and the High Street, which remained 'the doctor's house' it 1st until 1970. Sicard was the village doctor for 48 years, dying on November 29th 1880.

Wall plaque in the church: "Sacred / to the memory / of/ Amelius Sicard / M.R.C.S. /who departed this / life Novr. 29th 1880 / aged 71 years / This tablet and the West window / were placed in this / Church by a numerous / circle of friends. /"

Tombstone in the churchyard: "In memory of / Amelius Sicard / only son of John Jacob / and Mary Sicard. / born at Blackheath / June 12th* 1809, died at Bridge / November 29th 1880. / Here he had

resided forty—eight years and / had been to rich and poor / the beloved physician. / "
Headstone,
Bodystone and Footstone: A.B. 1880

Also: "Sacred / to the memory of/ Mary Sicard / widow ofthe late J.J. Sicard Esq. / of Kensington,

who departed this life / on the 30th day ofJuly 1843, / in her 79th year /" Headstone,
Bodystone &
Footstonez. M.S. 1843 (buried on August 5m 1943)

The family of Sicard appears also to be\ related to the Counts Lautrec — several 13th century members being called Amelius-Sicard.

1841 census

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1851 census

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1861 census

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Blackheath

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1871 census

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Servant 1W

From 1835 until after 1841 the Union Workhouse had its own doctor, William Nix.

1841 census

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Sicard was succeeded by Charles Henry Schon, born in Chatham in 1855, the son of James F(rederick) Schon, chaplain to the Melville Hospital. He was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden, but a British subject (presumably naturalized). Charles served also as medical officer to the workhouse. He died in 1899 aged 44, and was buried on January 25th of that year. A brother, Frederick Schon was a sub Editor for the Press Association and had spent some time in Canada, where two of his children were born.

1881 census

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1891 census

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Schon was succeeded by Robert Leishman Moorhead, MB CM (Edin) between 1899 and 1906, but who quickly moved on. Moorhead was born in 1872 in London, possibly the son of Richard B Moorhead of Paddington, born in Newcastle, Co. Down in 1850, and in 1881 a 'buyer in Mouster House Ireland' (?), but also possibly of Isabella (b. 1839 in London) or more likely of Phoebe (b. 1845), both of whom were widows by 1881. In that year Robert was living with an aunt, Elizabeth Leishman in Edinburgh, who was herself almost certainly the daughter of the Minister of Linton Parish in Roxburgh and Glasgow Doctor of Divinity Thomas Leishman, born in Govan, Lanark in 1801.

1901 census

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Elizabeth ;[27 Cook Domestic.IHigh Street

Moorhead was followed in 1906 by Arthur Thomas Wilson, MB, BCh, BAO, BA (Dub).until ?1937

Death of Dr Wilson. Gloom was cast over the village when Dr Wilson passed away on Friday evening, after a few days illness. He had not been in good health for some time, but was able to carry on his practice, which covered a large area, including Bekesbourne, Barham, Bishopsbourne, Upper and Lower Hardres. He succeeded about 30 years ago, Dr Moorhead who left the district. A bachelor, Dr Wilson resided with his brother, Mr J Wilson, on the death of his mother, the late Mrs Wilson, at Bridge Place, Bridge. He was a member of a well-known

Irish

family. His two surviving brothers are Sir Samuel Wilson and Mr Jack Wilson. Another brother, General Wilson, passed away a few years ago. (Williamson — undated)

Death of Dr. A. T. Wilson

Well-known Bridge Practitioner

We regret to record the death of Dr. Arthur Thomas Wilson, at his home in Bridge, on Friday. Dr. Wilson, who was 67 years of age, was born in Dublin, was Irish, and came to Bridge to practice medicine in 1906. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin University, and held the

following degrees, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., B.A. Dr. Wilson, who was devoted to his work, had

lived with his brother, Mr. J.B.E. Wilson, for 33 years. His father, Mr. James Wilson, was a well-known Irish Barrister.

The doctor had been M.O. at Bridge Institution since he first came to the village, and held the

same position at the old isolation hospital, Bishopsbourne. Dr. Wilson was extremely well-liked

and respected in the village and the surrounding district. He leaves two brothers, Mr. J .B.E. Wilson and Brig.—Gen. Sir Samuel Wilson, late Permanent Under Secretary for State for the Colonies.

The funeral took place in Ireland on Tuesday, Dr. Wilson's ashes being buried in the family vault.

A personal appreciation

For years he resided in Bridge, near Canterbury. A small man with a big heart, an Irishman's sense of humour and a characteristic laugh. A doctor, no, more than a doctor, a friend in need.

How many, for miles around, will mourn him in silence. In the large mansion and in the small cottage, aye, even the tramp on the road will, if he pass through Bridge again, learn of this death

with a tightness in his throat. Nothing was too small for this man to see and understand, no one

was too poor for him to sympathise with and comfort. For years he knew the trials and troubles of

multitudes, yet never have I heard him say one word to the detriment of any. Unconscious of self,

he gave his whole time to his people, and would often spend hours in sympathising rather than

take the rest he sorely needed. Described in my hearing once by a Bishop as "A Christian" no

man could deserve that appellation more than he. Yet his Christianity was not artificial, it was lived. Rarely have I discussed religion with him, but what he thought could be known by how he

lived. So passes from sight a doctor, a man and an example, for if only one person can say "that

man was a comfort and strength to me," then surely he has not lived in vain.

(No source, no date: Williamson)

Dr Wilson was in turn succeeded by Roger Bennett Hunter MB (1910-1988) who

graduated from TCD in 1930

Dr. Hunter's House, 24 High Street, Bridge.

Dr. Roger Hunter, my father, came to Bridge with my mother in about 1937 when he bought the house and the practice from Dr. Wilson. Dr. Wilson had been the village doctor for many years and lived in the house with his brother, known as Mr. Jack, and their valet. I assume they kept their horses out in the carriage house which is just round the corner up Union Lane. The old stables with two rooms above are still in a more or less original state, with the present garage

added on. My mother thinks that the house was still lit by gas when she arrived, but I am not sure about this.

The surgery was in the house with patients entering the waiting room through the door in the wall to the left of the house. Private patients were allowed to wait in the dining room and go in through the front door! In the 40s and 50s I can remember needles and syringes were sterilised on the kitchen stove in a saucepan and the drugs were kept in the family 'fridge. My father worked closely with Mr. Stockwell who was the chemist in the village. Mr. Stockwell's shop was down on the corner of Mill Lane and the High Street where I think there is now a kitchen appliance shop. He would make up the pills and potions in the back of the shop.

The interior of 24 High Street is still very much as it was structurally, with all the original doors and fireplaces, etc. The hall ceiling is attractively plastered. In the basement there is an area where wine and spirits could be locked up and there is another large area with cupboard for storing apples and vegetables. The roof was repaired recently and over the bathroom the roofers found a large flat water tank which must have been used for collecting water for the house.

It was a shame that when the roof was renovated back in the 70s (I think) that a copy of the original pediment wasn't replaced and a mean little strip of wood was put back. You can see a trace of the original pediment on the corner of Miss Jones's house next door. The heavy traffic over the years before the by-pass was built caused the mathematical tiles on the front of the house to loosen and they all had to be re-fixed. I think that is when the pediment was taken down.

Mathematical tiles were renovated on the side of the house early this year and I saw that the lower ones were fixed in plaster and the upper ones hung on timber.

This is nothing to do with my parents' house, but I can remember Fagg's Farm as we used to

ride

with Captain Maslin, the local riding instructor, who sometimes kept his horses there, and we used to keep our ponies in the three fields where the Western Avenue estate now is.

I hope this is useful information — do get in touch if you would like more help.

Diana Cairns (01227 752836)

Dr Hunter was succeeded in 1970 by William GS Russell who died December 25th 1988. Dr Hunter retained his house on the High Street when he retired (even though the

notice 'Surgery' remained on the garden door until the 1990s) and Dr Russell began his practice in Green Court. After more than 130 years the doctor had moved.

Upon Dr Russell's death the practice was taken over by D Mark Jones, who had begun with him only on January 1st 1988, and who transferred the practice to a new purpose-built medical centre in Patixbourne Road in 2002.

Bridge in Kent: Some Notes on the Place and the People

The Bridge at "Bridge: m1-18 century. Photo ca. 193i)

The River Crossing and the Parish of Bridge

In October 2000 the rains came. The 'river' Nailbourne — a description many might until then have thought of as an unnecessarily generous term - began to run again after an interval of years, and within months had inundated its valley: the 'waters of woe' had risen to levels unseen for at least three centuries. Many properties in Bridge were flooded, though some not by any means for the first time. The stream, so quietly picturesque, became an impressive and formidable torrent. But that, of course, is precisely why Bridge is where it is, and why it bears the name, shared only, in its simple form, by one small hamlet in Cornwall.

Tithe maps of 1838 show the parish extending as far north as the Gate Inn at the junction of the two Dover Roads, and including Milestone Farm, but as may be seen from the sketch-map the parish as defined in the local government act of 1894 is rather smaller, and is largely agricultural and woodland. The village itself, and the river crossing, are tucked into the north-eastern end, while the

boundary with Patricbourne runs not far from the main Dover Road. It includes at its eastern extremity Bridge Hill House, but not Higham, and until the reorganisation of boundaries in the 1970's incorporated only part of Bridge Down, then ran down the edge of the wood enclosing Side Hill. It extends northwards to the crossroads of Town Hill; its

southernmost point stops just short of Bursted Manor and Broxhall Farm. It includes therefore all three Pett farms, the Duck Inn, and a

large part of Gorsley Wood. By far the greatest part of the population inhabits the village, though in former days the proportion was a little less. The Nailbourne, from its source (as the East Brook)

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near Etchinghill hardly more than three miles from the Channel coast at Hythe, flows predominantly northwards until it is deflected to the north-west by the sweep of the chalk downs at Barham. At Bridge it turns smartly through a right angle, and then runs (from Garrington as the Little Stour) north—eastwards to its confluence with the Great Stour at Plucks Gutter. The road from Dover to Canterbury runs of course along the dry scarp of the Downs, until it is obliged, by the turn in the river valley, to descend and cross the water. The valley itself has since before Roman times been heavily populated: the density of remains is among the highest in the country. There are several large post—Roman burial sites on the brow of the hills overlooking the river, mostly on the eastern side, but there were also three much earlier burial chambers (kistvaens) found in Gorsley Woods that were excavated by Francis Vine, vicar of Patricbourne. In 1846, during excavation of the lake in Bourne Park, Samian pottery and other articles were found at a depth of 10-13 feet, alongside some Roman burials. The Revd. Bryan Faussett, an enthusiastic antiquary of the late 18th century, mentions the existence in 1771 of more than 100 tumuli on Hanging Hill, in front of and between Bourne House, Bishopsbourne and the main road, most of which he uncovered, though

these were Anglo-Saxon in date. Burials were also found on Side Hill above the road to Patribourne, while during the realigning of the turnpike road up Bridge Hill in 1829 a number of Romano-British urns and earthen vessels were discovered, with skeletons and fragments of weapons, at a greater depth than the Saxon graves. There is no doubt more to be found, especially if one is to be guided by aerial photography.

One particular site that shows up well on such photographs among other mysterious marks deserving further investigation is that of "Old England's Hole". This is a very nearly circular, though much disturbed and dug—over, hollow about 90 metres in diameter in the field overlooking Bourne House, half—way up Bridge Hill. It is enclosed by a low embankment, much degraded now, but suggesting that the structure is more than a mere chalkpit. The fact also that it is cut through by the Roman road suggests that it is of greater antiquity. This has led to the popular supposition that it represents a defensive position constructed by the ancient Britons to protect the river-crossing after

their defeat on Barham Down in 54 AD by Caesar's seventh legion. (cf CG Harper, *The Ingoldsby Country*, 1904, pp63—66).

Village origins

At this point then, where there is a natural obstruction across the road, a bridge almost certainly existed, probably in Roman times, or even before. The name itself is first recorded in 1086 in Domesday, as *brige*, a word whose etymology suggests a wooden structure. Such a name also implies of course that the river was often enough sufficiently deep to offer, on its own, inconvenience at the very least to those attempting to cross. A bridge is after all a costly thing to build and maintain. Such evidence as there is suggests that the stream would have run until relatively recently more or less permanently from the spring just above Bourne Lake: the map issued by Andrews, Drury and Herbert in 1769 marks a point nearby as 'Stour Head'. The settlement of Bridge presumably took its name from the structure, even if previously there were some kind of habitations near the crossing. It is true that William Lambarde, in his *Perambulation of Kent* of 1576, does not mention this Nailbourne bridge in his catalogue of Kent bridges, but the ones he thought worthy of note were probably all stone-built. This one was surely not.

However, what is particularly notable about Domesday is that a settlement called Bridge is not identified. Patribourne, Bishopsbourne, Bekesbourne all are listed as distinct villages or hamlets (all perhaps part of the manor of 'Great' Bourne, as opposed to Littlebourne), yet Bridge is not.

Instead, the word is used to identify the Hundred or administrative district within which these places are located: that is, it is the structure across the stream that gives its name to the whole district, the most noteworthy feature for some miles around. Any dwellings associated with it were presumably

to be included in one of the nearby villages, most probably Patrixbourne, since, as Hasted remarks, "The church of Bridge. . . was always esteemed as a chapel to the church of Patricksborne. . ." It is not clear whether references subsequent to Domesday, as Brygge (ca 1100) and somewhat later as Bregge (1235), indicate the village as opposed to the bridge on the stream, though by then the flint-built church of St Peter must have been erected, for even today, in spite of the very considerable rebuilding it underwent in 1859/61 as the gift of Mrs Mary Gregory of Bridge Hill House, Norman elements in the church are still visible, in the West door for instance. A church would not have been built without a congregation to serve. The church may indeed have been erected even nearer the stream than now appears, for the water has been evidently diverted from its original and natural course, most probably by Sir Arnold Braems when he built Bridge Place. Recent flooding patterns may support this view. An additional complication lies in the fact that for at least some of the period in the early Middle Ages the Roman road was probably not the main thoroughfare from Canterbury towards Dover. That status must be accorded to the Pilgrims' Way, which ran through the Barton Estate to Hode Lane and crossed the Nailbourne at Patrixbourne, before climbing the hill towards Barham Down. It is possible therefore that at this period there was no longer a bridge at Bridge, and how much traffic along this road there was during this period must be a matter of speculation.

The origins of the village nevertheless lie in its dependency on the road, and the passage of travellers. For most of its existence it has consisted of a single street, whose buildings were very largely devoted to supplying the needs and wants of passers-by, in terms of both food and drink, and in the appurtenances of travel — a blacksmith, saddler, shoemaker, and so on. And although in recent years these travellers passed largely without stopping any longer, but merely causing such congestion and disturbance that a by-pass was eventually built in 1974, over the centuries the Street has seen the passage of virtually anyone en route to the Continent Via Dover. Merchants, aristocrats and kings have all passed through Bridge. John Harris, in his History of Kent of 1719, enumerates

various encampments of prodigious numbers on Barham Down, all of whom will have seen Bridge.

He cites, for instance, King John, in 1212, with 60,000 men in readiness to oppose a French invasion. Henry V returning from Agincourt to Calais and Dover in 1415 may well have passed

through the village, as did Henry VIII on his way to encamp on Barham Down before embarking

for the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. And the Downs have more recently seen no less

numerous and well-attested assemblies of armies. In August 1799 for instance, at the height of an

invasion scare during the Napoleonic wars, more than 10,000 infantrymen encamped on Barham

Down. All had come through Bridge from Canterbury, as the Kentish Gazette reports:

The immense train of farmer's and artillery waggons, employed in conveying the troops and baggage, ammunition, military and other stores, and provisions, towards the camp, adding the numerous carriages filled with officers and other

passengers; these together have produced a scene of populousness and traffic in this ancient city, which has not been beheld by its inhabitants since the days of St Thomas Becket.

Some months earlier, in preparation for this influx, Dr Wardell, physician to the forces and quartered in Bridge, was looking for a 'roomy house or other sort of building. . .to be used for a Regimental Hospital'.

How much more so, then, were the crowds in the narrow street of Bridge on the way to the trenches

of the first World War and no doubt on many other occasions too. All these have passed through

Bridge. In 1914-18 the 'Reading Room', as it then was, doubled as a canteen and rest centre, and the

chemist's register for the period revives the perception of Bridge as a medical centre as it records

the numerous military personnel who visited the doctor, including General Haig and Lord Kitchener

— who also famously sent his first telegram of the War from Bridge Post Office, though this was

probably not from the building we now know. The Post Office then was at Mr Price the Grocer's —

at present Skipper's Restaurant.

Growth and Development

Bridge is thus not a characteristic mediaeval nuclear village, housing the tenants of smallholdings

radiating from its centre, nor yet is it part of any great estate, and dependent on it, albeit in later

years it has been surrounded by great houses, notably Bourne, Bridge Place, Higham and Bifrons, all of whose owners have played their part in its development, though it is only Bridge Place itself which lies in the parish. For most of its existence its inhabitants have numbered but a very few hundred: the late 18th century saw a few new cottages ('Brook Place') in Brewery Lane, 1852 the development of Union, Deering (sic, but Sir Edward Cholmeley Dering was elected MP for East Kent at this time) and Filmer Roads, the later 19th century a gradual extension along the Street towards Canterbury. But only in the last half-century has there been any serious expansion, with the development of Bridge Down (1962), Western Avenue (1963) and Riverside Close (1965). At the outset of the 19^m century the entire parish population (including outlying farms) by census in 1801 was 325. By 1831 it had reached 543, and by 1841 a total of 817, of whom however no fewer than 165 were inmates of the recently established (1835) workhouse, which was built to serve 25 parishes around Canterbury. The previous parish workhouse of course was obliged to cater for the poor of Bridge only. The village population reached a peak of 941 in 1871 and then fluctuated, reaching a low point of 699 in 1921 as agricultural employment diminished. Numbers rose again slowly to 761 in 1961, which is when the face of Bridge began to change irrevocably, with the demolition of the most notable building in the centre, the essentially early 14th century Bridge Farm, a year or two later. Its replacement by streets of undistinguished modern housing resulted in a population in 1971 of 1225. By the Millennium it has reached close on 2000.

Bridge village emerges from mediaeval obscurity for the first time in Philip Symonson's map of Kent of 1596. The road to Dover as the principal route from Canterbury is by now clearly established, and the right-angled bend of the river past the church very obvious, even if the presence of a bridge is somewhat uncertain (unlike the well-marked bridge at Littlebourne to the north-east). Two other features are of note. The site of Bridge Place is labelled "Blakmasbery" (ie Blackmansbury), and there is a post—windmill placed on the edge of the hill to the south, alongside a road (Kingsbury Road) overlooking the village, north-east of the main road.

Manor and Village

The manor of Blackmansbury, first mentioned in 1254, and about 62 acres in extent in 1384, was once part of the possessions of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. The name therefore seems to pre-date that of the nearby village,

though by the end of the 16th century the latter is large and important enough to warrant a place on Symonson's map. According to Hasted, upon the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII ownership of the manor was granted in 1545 to Henry Laurence, whose son John passed it in 1576 to William Partherich. Harris offers a slightly different succession, asserting that the manor belonged to Sir Alexander de Cheyney in Edward 1's reign. Both agree however that in 1638 Partherich's (or Patrick's) grandson Edward sold the estate to (Sir) Arnold Braems (1602-1681), who soon afterwards built Bridge Place on the site of the old Court Lodge. Sir Arnold's father, a Fleming by birth, was a Dover merchant in Charles 1's time. At the Restoration Arnold was elected MP for Dover and knighted very shortly after. The family pursued a commercial career with such enthusiasm that they had soon bought up much of Dover waterfront, covered it with warehouses

(destroyed in a fire in 1808), and thus largely controlled the Harbour Board, its tolls and customs and movement of goods.

Sir Arnold rather ambitiously devoted his fortune to the construction of a magnificent house, rectangular in shape, nine bays by seven, with a central courtyard, second only in size in East Kent to Chilham Castle, and described by Philipot in 1659 as 'complete'. But by the time of the death of his son Walter in 1692 the fortune was dissipated, and the property obliged to be sold in 1704 to John Taylor of Bifrons in Patixbourne. He immediately demolished a large part of it, leaving just one corner, in which state it remains today, though still the largest house in the village. A second manor, not indicated on the map, was that of Bereacre, or Great and Little Barakers (according to Hasted), in the south-west of the parish.

Its location and extent are not clear, though by the mid 16th century it had come into the hands of the Nailors of Renville.

' Adriaen Ocker, detail from Bridge Place, Kent, late 1670's

The Windmill

Bridge windmill, situated conveniently on the scarp of Side Hill in Symonson's map, served the

village for a further 200 years. It is documented in the Kentish Gazette of 26-30 May 1786

when

'On Saturday last was committed to St Dunstan's gaol . . . John Kent, of this city, miller, charged on the oath of John

Pilcher, of Bridge, miller and baker, with having stolen out of his mill in the Parish of Patrixbourne, a bag, containing upwards of one hundred weight of wheaten flour. . .'

and again in 1808 when

'the mill belonging to John Fagg, on Bridge Hill, was broke open'

It is still recorded in this position on a map of about 1825/6, but possibly earlier, for in July 1818

the mill was advertised for sale, but with a proviso:

'To be sold. . . a CORN WINDMILL. . . standing. . . on a piece of land at Bridge Hill. . . now in the occupation of Mr John Fagg, miller. The said corn windmill and storehouse must be taken down and removed by the purchaser, on or before the sixth April next. . .'

In 1830, however, at the same time as Bifrons was sold (to the Marquis of Conyngham), an agreement was drawn up for the sale of 'Three Corner Meadow' (at the junction of Union Road and Mill Lane,) together With 'all that com windmill and other the buildings then lately erected and built on said land by. . . James Ashenden'. Whether this Was a new mill — it was certainly a smock mill, rather than a post-mill - or the old one in a new position is not certain, but there the mill stayed throughout the 19th century, overseen from the mill house a few yards down Union Road, until wind power was abandoned in 1907. By 1933 the site was in use as a coal yard while the mill itself steadily decayed, until it was eventually demolished in October 1954. One of

Messrs Corral's oil storage tanks now rests on the mill's old brick base.

Sir Arnold Braems

Sir Arnold Braems maintained extensive contacts in London, where Pepys met him for meals at

least three times in 1660 and 1661, and with the Continent. His wealth and position enabled him to

entertain numerous visitors, amongst them the artist William Schellinks, who toured England from

1661 to 1663, drawing the sights as he went. Schellinks' journal records a deal of drinking, but also

a game of bowls 'on the bowling green on the hill near Sir Arnold Braems' place', and he refers in

enthusiastic detail to the deerpark, woods, rabbit warren, fruit trees, vineyard and the stream 'in

which a certain kind of fish called trout is bred' (Harris too mentions trout at Bifrons).

Schellinks

... incidentally also notes on 6

i October 1661 'a general muster of seven or eight companies of the militia . . . on the hill above Bishopsbourne. . . each company 200 men strong.'

Among scenes that caught his interest here are sketches of the gardens of Bridge Place, and two wider perspectives: a view

« _ p of Bridge from the top of

.. . ____ . ____ m i; M; . : ; ' . " s l Town Hill across the

Willem Schellinks: Bridge Street, 1661 .© Courtauld Institute Valley, and a View of the Street from a point at the bottom of Bridge Hill. This latter is particularly interesting, for the White

Horse Inn is clearly identifiable, with its sign hanging out over the street, and a horseman waiting

outside, as well as Bridge Farmhouse, and in the foreground the Bridge itself at last: two low brick

arches under the dirt road and marked by two big wooden posts. To the side, for those wishing to

water their horses or to cool the metal rims of their cart or carriage wheels after the steep descent of

either of the hills on each side, there is a wide water-splash. The bridge itself was rebuilt and widened in the latter part of the 18th century, though retaining the two neat arches, and these may

still be seen by anyone prepared to Venture into the river—bed when it is dry. The water— splash too

remained until well into the 20^m century, before the road was widened again to accommodate the demands of modern traffic densities.

The Roads

The street was of course not tarred until the mid-20th century, probably when the water— splash was

covered, though Harris describes the Roman Military Way from Canterbury to Dover 'about three-

quarters of a mile before you come to Bridge-Street' as appearing 'entire and high, and continues so almost to the

Town's End; as it doth beyond it again on Barham Down'. Even in the early 20th century however the passage

of traffic inevitably resulted in clouds of dust in a dry summer, and muddied ruts in winter.

Such

conditions must surely have often made life intolerable when large numbers of soldiers, for instance, were passing through on their way to Barham. A graphic illustration of winter conditions

is provided by Charles Dickens in Ch 2 of A Tale of Two Cities. He refers to Shooter's Hill, and the

year is 1775, but it might as well be Bridge Hill in the same period, where the Roman Road was not so much in evidence:

It was the Dover Road. . .He walked uphill in the mire by the side of the mail, as the rest of the passengers did; not

because they had the least relish for walking exercise, under the circumstances, but because the hill, and the harness,

and the mud, and the mail, were all so heavy, that the horses had three times already come to a stop, besides once drawing the coach across the road. . .

With drooping heads and tremulous tails, they mashed their way through the thick mud, floundering and stumbling between whiles, as if they were falling to pieces at the larger joints. . .

Both hills, on either side of the village, were perhaps not quite so muddy, but they were steeper than they are now. Significant is perhaps the name 'Stickfast Hill' attached to the slope down towards Bridge from the Gate Inn into Gutteridge Bottom.

On December 23 1769 the Kentish Gazette noted that

'some public—spirited Gentlemen intend to petition Parliament for a Turnpike Act for the road from Dover—lane in Canterbury to the Half-way House leading to Dover over Barham-downs, and that the gate will be erected opposite the mile—stone near St. Lawrance.'

The following week it records that the proposal met with universal approval, since 'how it has remained in its present neglected condition is something very strange'. It was another 21 years however before the Act was passed, the Gazette meanwhile from time to time recording incidents of

road accidents and highway robbery. In 1791 however Parliament was presented with An Act for making a new Road from St George's gate in the City of Canterbury, to a Place called Gutteridge Bottom, and for repairing and widening the present Road from thence to the Dover Turnpike Road in the Parish of Barham. . .

Whereas the Road. . . is in a ruinous condition and in several parts narrow and inconvenient for passengers and carriages. . .

1 . .

In the same year, on June 6", notice was given

That the Turnpike Gate, now standing in Bridge street will be removed, on Monday next, the 13th instant, to the end of

the New Road next Bridge, and that HENRY BEAR is appointed by the Trustees to receive the Tolls at the said gate on and after that day. And the next meeting of the Trustees will be holden at the sign of the Star, without St. George's Gate, Canterbury, on Friday the 17th instant, to take into consideration the improvement of the road up Bridge—hill.

The Act enabled the construction of the New Dover Road, which was however only completed by about 1800, and enabled the Trustees to buy up land adjoining the road from there to Barham for widening, including

'certain Gardens, Orchards, and Yards, situate in Bridge Street, the Property of the Reverend Edward Taylor Clerk, Stephen Beckingham Esquire, Henry Crosoer, Henry Farley, Thomas Abree Pickering, - — - Nash, and Thomas Neal

respectively, in the respective Occupations of Richard Jarvis, John Cooper, Robert Kingsland, Robert Osborn, Samuel

Relvey, James Aylward, the said Henry Crosoer, Joseph Dixon, George Fortune, Joseph Best, Mary Peake, and - — — Lawrence'

This list thus neatly enumerates most of the owners and occupiers of property in the Street. Some of these names are still familiar in the first census (1841) to identify individuals - Jarvis the butcher, Crosoer the farmer, while William Nash the watchmaker was there already in 1769 and Edward Taylor was the owner of Bifrons and several properties on both sides of the Street.

The Act also specifies the dues and tolls to be collected: coaches with 4 or more horses one shilling, a single horse 3d; horses laden or unladen 1d; cattle 10d per score, sheep and pigs 5d per score. Carriages and wagons with broad wheels to pay only half tolls - which reflects their relative lack of damage to the road. Exemptions were available for election days, road repairers, dung or manure carriers, hay, undried hops, farm implements, mails, soldiers, farmers or servants residing in Patrixbourne, Bridge, Bishopsbourne, Kingston and Barham. There was to be no parking on the road, nor any structure erected within 6 yards of the centre line. All this seems perhaps very familiar. Familiar too was the fact that due to objections of various sorts, the toll road up Bridge Hill was not completed until 1829/30, a full 60 years after it was first suggested!

As a result of the turnpike roadworks both hills into Bridge were regraded to lessen the incline

down into the village and smooth out the slope. Consequently the descent into Dering Road (which was originally no more than a footpath) had to be made steep, and Surmyside found itself

overlooked by a new embankment. Recent excavations outside the Post Office suggest that a layer of chalk rubble up to two feet thick was also laid down along the Street. At the other end of the village not only was the gradient evened and lessened, but the road itself was shifted a few feet to the north-east: the line of the old road can be gauged by extending the line of the churchyard wall up the hill. The result is that the road runs on an embankment until it cuts into Old England's Hole (rather less than before), then it drops into a cutting until it reaches the brow of the hill, where

levelling takes it on to a fairly high embankment into Bishopsbourne Parish. In the course of digging the cutting, again some Roman skulls were said to have been found five feet below the surface.

Other changes have taken place in the road layout as Bridge has expanded. Probably in conjunction with the rebuilding of Bridge Hill in 1830 the ancient Kingsbury Road past the old mill, represented on Symonson's map and apparently 9 feet wide (and part of which still exists as the path behind the wood above Side Hill from the top of Keepers Hill in Patrixbourne to the south-westwards), was stopped, more or less where the by-pass now cuts through. It would once have gone on across Bridge Hill and down the field to join the very old hollow way past Flint Cottages. Maybe the new owners of Bridge Hill House felt it to be an intrusion on their property. Some years earlier, in 1816, similar considerations had no doubt prompted Edward Taylor of Bifrons to close the principal road to Patrixbourne (Laundry Lane, alias Conyngham Lane), which ran past his front door, and to replace it with a new road round the outside of his estate, from his lodge in Patrixbourne and the junction with Hode Lane, north and west to the present crossroads at the top of Town Hill — Bekesbourne Road. Laundry Lane as a public right of way thus became a cul-de-sac, with Bifrons laundry at the end. Union Road led at first merely to the mill, but came into its own with the construction of the Workhouse in 1835 and the development of housing adjacent to it, from 1853 onwards, in Filmer Road, Dering Road and Union Square. The extension of the road beyond the Workhouse to the mill was designated Union Lane. Western Avenue and its Closes of course came into existence only after the demolition of Bridge Farm in 1962. Further south, Brewery (or Brewhouse or Brandy, or originally Malthouse) Lane is rather older. It formed the original access to Arnold Braems' mansion, flanked by 'a noble avenue of limes'; and received its modern name more mundanely following the establishment of the malthouse that was the origin of the Plough

and Harrow public house. Its continuation across the ford to Pett Farm as Mill Lane is recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1801. Bourne Park Road was until after 1945 a private road to Bourne House, gated at both ends. At least one of the gateposts survived into the 1970's. The remaining track of significance in the parish to the south of the Dover Road is the rather prosaically named

Pett Bottom Road, which links the three Pett farms to the village. It has remained largely unchanged over the centuries.

On the other side of the street the only property in Bridge parish on the Patricbourne Road ('School Lane') was the appropriately named Brookside. The school (built in 1849) and the gasworks (1859) were actually in Patricbourne. Finally, in 1866 a scheme was proposed to cut a road between the White Horse Inn and the butcher's along the line of a public footpath. But only the first few yards were built, to give better access to the slaughterhouse behind the butcher. It was not until a hundred years later that housing was built on that land, now called Riverside Close. On the brow of the hill above the village to the south Bridge Down was built on part of the estate belonging to Bridge Hill House, some of which, fronting on to the Hill had already been sold off in the 19th century. At the northern end of the village the properties on Bekesbourne Road lie outside the old boundary.

In 1675 John Ogilby published a map or "gun:-non: in . l 5' - -

§;:.....% ~:3%«,.x.,..a.u.ii_~ 'E?' "" " itinerary of the road from London to Dover. Bridge unfortunately happens to lie on the .5':.Ç*;;~.<§.-u~:2':.».;§.m end of a section of the continuous ribbon P****é which characterises Ogilby's method, but 3% :

there are still several points of interest and indeed mystery here. Braems' Bridge Place is clearly indicated, as is St Peter's church. The fenced expanse of Sir Anthony Aucher's (ie

ll'liil

Bourne) Park is also shown. But the village appears to be called Bishops Court - or is that the name

of the bridg(e)? There is also a strange property, within the bounds of the park, called The Grayhound, apparently on the site of the lodge erected by Matthew Bell of Bourne, at the junction

of Bourne Park Road.

A Parish Register of Accounts

A surviving register of parish accounts for the years 1673-1740 lists the landowners and tenants

paying the parish rate in May 1675, as also those outdwellers, ie outside the parish, who were

nevertheless liable for land they owned within it. Arnold Braems and Anthony Aucher are thus

listed, as is Thomas Baker (who owned Bridge Farm), as major landowners. Other names, such as

Hopkins, May, Eldredge, Ovenden, Castle and Pilcher are well attested in the census returns of

1841-91, some even in the present day. Robert Bargrave's family built the original Bifrons and

numbered among its members a notable Dean of the cathedral, and the collector of the 'cabinet of

curiosities' from his travels on the Continent of Europe, John Bargrave, who is buried in

Patixbourne St Mary's church. Some of these names indeed (Ovenden, Eldredge, Philpot) are

T " " T A A 2, recorded in the early years of Bridge parish registers of baptisms and marriages, which begin in 1579.

An Asaeemf made ye 123" day or May, Anna 1675. By eymm Maren e: iirden dr Dredge; in ye Diocese of Canterbury, for, & towards ye reparations of Chappel, Steeple, dc renee &c. at ye rate of Sixpence tr Acre. viz.

John Eldredge ~»~X~—~— O04 » 0 — O2 —

Out Dwellers, viz. . cres L 5

The sum? or Leicester, 3; s' Anni? Aucher

s' Anthony Aucher xi re Barre? ' . _x_... 052 — i 7 O6 -

For ya farine in Bredge Stree'(rX012 W o — 06

Thomas Baker sen' For Ovendens farme 'reap.-. oaa -. i e 04 »

For ya furme cdetie us'd—X4— oso 1 W 10 —.~

strongly suggests a wayside inn. Equally mysterious

is perhaps the 16th century property in the centre of the Street, known now as The Ship. This too was by

003 0 ~04 —'

For woodland ——.——.x...._ 009 ~— 0 04 V

repute once an inn, though its more recent recorded

0 Drinking Opportunities

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' 31:33:; :.....T_4:;' 33;" 5- :3 jg name. The first in line comes to attention from

"""" ' ;:; ; ;aj:; " ; ; , § ___ 3; ; 3 _ 'j: j 3 Ogilby's map, where, clearly marked, is 'The ,,,, {SZ'SZ.i"Z:5Z\$; ; ;'ue.,sxil"" 33? 3'. 2;?' 2 Grayhourza", situated apparently on the site of the

_ , 0 \$3232: §C¥.....i.; 'S3? 3 ii' 3 lodge at the entrance to Bourne Park Road. This is the

5 *"" ""o*x"" {John Doolie .-.x-.. . 005 —. o —o3— o - -

mm Hopkinp _x___,.. 040 .. 1 —oo .. 0 only reference known so far to a building whose name

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M? Thomas Baker ~— Richard smith .--we-7 7- —x----- ~- 004—» 0 ~02 -

; ,l_i2'; ; ; ;' ,f'; ; ; §"f. ; ; ; j"" , "" "iii: 3: ; , 3 2'; 3: 1"; history designates it as Primrose Alley (recorded by a

W" 5 §Z\$,"§i\$ f, ,,"ZZ" _j _ . "X"; 333 . 3 T 3: 3 Weathered board nailed to the side wall until about

(Wed-ii:.\$7ZZ"e'.Silf'S'hi;"ZZ;f\$ _T:§: 1998), in ltter years a row of four very down-at-heel

George Butterris his . .

::::e1i:.....n:iey. ::::r:1a:.....el/ice?_v_.,. labourers' cottages, whose urchin children were

ms M A ,...x— avoided on parental order by the more respectable'

(2, ,,,,,,, , youngsters of the village. Perhaps as the successor to

The Grayhound we may see The Red Lion, on the corner of Patribourne Road and on the Dover side of

the stream. The building (much altered since) is first recorded in 1593 and may well be older,

though it was not until 1632 that Jacob Jarvis obtained a licence to sell ale there and gave the house its present name. In the following century, and into the 19th, it developed substantial stabling and livery facilities, and offering carriages and other vehicles for private hire, as well as providing stabling for horses entered for the Canterbury Race meetings. It was also the first location for Bridge fire engine, though this soon moved across the road to the Plough and Harrow. This house was first built about a century after the Red Lion, in 1692, as a pair of cottages, but it was not until 1785 when Thomas Williams 'maltster of Bridge' took them over that they were converted into a malthouse with a dwelling attached. It is presumably some time after this date that the first part of the way to Bridge Place acquired the name of first Malthouse, then Brewhouse Lane. Only in 1832 however did Williams' son acquire a beerhouse licence under the terms of the 1830 Beer Act, and thus began a business which by the 1860's recognised the house by the name it bears today.

To this catalogue may also be added a later beerhouse (or off-licence) situated in one of the cottages (now No.5) in Dering Road and which survived into the 20th century under the ownership of George Prickett (whose son Cyril took the Village Shop next to the Village Hall into the 1970's). The alley adjacent to this cottage still bears the graffiti of 1st World War soldiers.

Out in the country the Woodman 's Arms at Pett Bottom served, as its name suggests, a certain section of the local population, and survives today as the Duck. At the other end of the old parish the Gate Inn owes its origin to the establishment of the tollgate there in 1791: its current signboard is regrettably wholly inappropriate. The sign of the White Horse is however thoroughly Kentish, and this house near the village centre is perhaps the oldest of all, though its history is not well researched. This has a late mediaeval core, though perhaps the earliest extant reference, from the late 16th century, is held in the Cathedral Archives, which records a brawl here involving one Christopher Applegate, a Marlowe contemporary. An (as yet undeciphered) inscription above one of the fireplaces seems to be early 16th century, and there is Tudor stonework as well. An Indenture of June 15th 1668 refers to the sale of the property by Sir Arnold Braems to Sir Anthony Aucher. At the time William Ford seems to have been the tenant. A month or two later (23 July 1668) John Cooley, butcher, comes into the picture, again probably as tenant. All these names appear in the extract from the Parish accounts above. The White Horse then remained in the hands of the descendants of Sir Anthony and subsequent owners of Bourne Place (including the

Beckingshams)

until it was eventually sold at the end of the 18th century. Unlike the Red Lion which provided private stabling and livery, the White Horse was the public posting house (and consequently post-office) up until the latter part of the 19th century. It was the venue for the first meeting of the Guardians of the workhouse on 22 April 1835 and (like many other such houses) was used for

property sales and suchlike. In the late 18th century it was also the venue for meetings of gardening

enthusiasts - early precursors of the Horticultural Society:
To the FLORISTS.

On Wednesday the 20th of this Instant [April 1774] will be an AURICULA FEAST, at Mrs [Sarah] GILBERT'S, at the WHITE HORSE, at BRIDGE. Every flower entitled to a Prize must have six Pips. The first Flower to be intitled to

FIFTEEN SHILLINGS. . . No flower to be intitled to a Prize unless it be in the House before Dinner. . . No person to

win two Prizes. The flowers to be shewn at Four o'clock in the Afternoon. A good Ordinary on Table at Two o'Clock, and every Shower of Flowers to be at Dinner, or have no Right to shew his Flower.

Five years earlier, in 1769 Mrs Gilbert was serving 'a good Twelvepenny Ordinary at One o'Clock'.

More exciting fare was also available here. The Gazette for June 2-6 1772 advertises COCK—FIGHTING

At JOHN PALMER'S, the WHITE HORSE at BRIDGE: To show Twenty-one Cocks on each side; to Weigh on TUESDAY the 9th of JUNE and to Fight on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY for Four GUINEAS a Battle, and TEN

the odd Battle. A Close Pit and a good Ordinary at One o'Clock each Day. ii A pair of Cocks to Fight before Dinner.

The White Horse was by no means the only Public House in Bridge to offer Cock-fighting. Perhaps

the most mysterious of all such establishments in the village was Bridge Hill House, known in the late 18th century as the Horse and Groom. The Canterbury to Barham Turnpike Trustees were

enjoined in the Act of 1791 to meet at The King's Head in Canterbury on the second Monday after the Act was passed, and then to

Adjourn themselves to the Horse and Groom on Bridge Hill, and afterwards meet alternately at some publick Inn or tavern at Canterbury and Bridge, or alternatively at Canterbury and at any other Place near the said Road. . .

Bridge Hill House was however much more the resort of the sporting fraternity in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This was the period when Canterbury Races (on the course at Barham Down) were at their most popular. The races had begun in 1678: a hundred years later they were attracting vast crowds of people, including many fashionable gentry; in 1774 a 'new stand' had been built to supplement the old one, affording extensive views of the racing and the surrounding countryside,

but it was Bridge Hill House that was the administrative focus: The Horses, &c for the County and City Plates to enter at Bridge-hill House on the Thursday before running, between the Hours of Four and Six in the evening. . . No Person will be allowed to erect a Booth on the Downs, for the Sale of

Liquors, in the Race Week [August], but what shall subscribe Ten Shillings and Sixpence. . . The great Main of Cocks will be fought every Day, during the Races, as usual. (Gazette, 1768).

The Kemish Gazette in 1773 offered other attractions: horse racing was not confined to the official

race-week in August. For many years there was a meeting also at Easter, but in addition

On Monday next, being the first of February, Will be run a Match over the New Round Course on Barham Downs, one four—miles heat, for one hundred Guineas, between two Gentlemens horses - one is the Grey horse, that run twenty miles in an hour some time since on Barham Downs; the other a capital Hunter. To start exactly at Twelve o'clock Dinner will be ready at Bridge-Hill after the race is over.

A subsequent report notes the result - evidently a surprise for the bookmakers:

Such was the infatuated notions of the knowing ones in favour of grey and his rider, against dun and his rider, that soon after starting from two to one and so on as high as ten to one, was laid; but behold, grey was turned up, to the great disappointment of the learned, and the interest of those who knew nothing before hand. And on Thursday next we hear the grey horse is to run eighteen miles within the hour. . . a dinner will be provided at Bridge Hill house, as much company is expected on the occasion.

And other sports were catered for: cock-fighting, as mentioned above -

At Bridge-Hill on Tuesday next the 16th instant [March 1773] Bridge against Deal, to shew eleven cocks on each side,

and fight for Four Guineas a battle, and Six Guineas the Main. There will be a Battle before Dinner. Dinner will be ready at One o'clock.

Nor was racing limited to horses. On June 26 1770 there was

At Bridge Hill a match of running, between Twenty—four Gentlemen of the Chilham Club, and Twenty—four Gentlemen of East Kent; to meet at four o'clock, and strip exactly at five o'clock.

While on Monday July 24 the previous year there was more intriguingly At Bridge-Hill a match of Running by Maids. To Strip at Five o'clock. They are desired to meet at Bridge-Hill on

Saturday evening, at Six o'clock, to give in their names, and to run that night, that the Goals may be made equal on Monday.

It is reported that the match was played 'to the great satisfaction of a vast concourse of people'.

Such 'smock races' (so called because the prize was usually a new smock or shift) were not uncommon in the south of England in the 18th century.

The more mundane fact that the House was also a venue (as were most public houses) for auctions of property and real estate makes clear that the Horse and Groom was no misnomer. Its popularity

as a resort for sporting types survived even its conversion into a private house when it was bought by the Baron De Montesquieu in 1793 (for £1500).

Bridge Population statistics

1801 325 1861
1811 397 1871
1821 432 1881
1831 543 1891
1841 817 1901
1851 864 1911

Bagshaw's Directory 1847

Post Office at Mr Richard Sherrard's
Andrews, Mrs Eleanor

Beazley, Mrs S

Bettison, Wm Geo :Gent

Bing, Wm B :Commercial Traveller
Boysack, Mrs D :Ladies bdg school
Chapman, Mr Wm

Colegate, Fdck :Carpenter & Builder
Collard, Thomas :Tailor

Fagg, Thomas :Blacksmith

Fisenden, Peter :Gent

Gambrill, Mr John

Gregory, Rev Edward :Bridge Hill House
Hardeman, Wm :Watch & Clockmaker & Parish Clerk

Hills, Henry :Draper

Johnson, Thomas :Corn Miller
Lansberry, John :Gent

Martin, John & Son :Saddlers
Pittock, Wm :Gent

Pratt, Lieut. David

Richards, Wm :Schoo1master
Sicard, A :Surgeon

Thomas, James :Chemist
Williams, Daniel :Shopkeeper
Williams, Wm :Brewer & Beerhouse
Winter, Capt. :Bridge Hill

893

941

857

850

775

823

1921

1931

1951

1961

1971 1225

1981 1272

699

713

703

761

Inns and Taverns

Red Lion:

White Horse: Richard Sherrard

Bakers

Turner, Thomas

Wills, Richard

Boot & Shoemakers

Thro' Deal, Ramsgate, Margate & Canterbury
To Union Hotel, Dover daily 7.00am; 6.00pm

Arrive 12 hours

Belle Sauvage, Ludgate Hill Light Coaches
Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Chatham & Rochester
Daily 7.30am; 6.00pm

Bell, Bell Yard, Gracechurch Street Union Coach
Dover, Chatham, Rochester & Canterbury

Daily 7.00am; 7.00pm

Blossoms Inn, Lawrence Lane, Cheapside Post Coach

Canterbury
Daily 7.00pm; arr 4.00am
Return 8.00pm; arr 6.00am
Dover daily 6.30pm; arr Union Hotel 6.00am
Return 5.00pm; arr 5.00am

Boar & Castle Inn and Oxford Hotel, 6 Oxford Street, near Tottenham Court Road

Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Chatham, Rochester, Sittingbourne,
Faversham &
Gravesend. 6.45am

Bull, Bishopsgate Street
Dover Daily 7.00am; 6.30pm

Bull, Leadenhall Street & Old Black Bear, Piccadilly
Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate 8.00am; 6.00pm

Cross Keys, Gracechurch Street

Dover, Deal, Canterbury

To Ship, Dover Daily 8.00am; 7.30pm
Extra Coaches at any hour
Paris, by Dover 8.00am 7.30pm
Cross Keys, Wood Street, Cheapside Light Coach

Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury
Daily 7.00am; 8.00am; 6.30pm
Paris (Diligence) by Dover Daily 8.00am 6.00pm

George, Borough
Deal, Dover, Canterbury, Faversham, Ramsgate, Margate
Daily 7.00am; 7.00pm
George and Blue Boar, Holborn
Dover, thro' Dartford, Gravesend, Rochester, Chatham, Sittingbourne, Canterbury

Daily 6.30am
To Ship, Dover arr 7.00pm

Return 7.30am; arr7.00pm
George & Gate, Gracechurch Street
Dover, Deal, Margate Daily 7.00am; 6.00pm
Golden Cross, Charing Cross
Canterbury Daily 7.00am; 8.00am 7.00pm
To Rose Inn 10 hours
Dover, Margate, Ramsgate, Deal & Canterbury
Daily 7.00am; 8.00am 7.00pm

To Ship Inn, Dover 12 hours
Extra carriages always ready for families and parties
Paris (Diligencies of the Messageries Royales) by Calais or Dieppe &c

Daily 7.00am 8.00am 7.00pm
No.4 Gracechurch Street

Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Faversham, Chatham & Rochester
Daily 7.00am; 8.00am

No.11 Gracechurch Street
Deal, Dover & Canterbury (Union Coach)

Daily 7.30am; 6.30pm

Saracen's Head, Snow Hill

Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Faversham, Chatham, Rochester &
Gravesend
Daily 6.00am 12noon 6.00pm

Shepherd's Original Office, No. 90, Bishopsgate Within, and No. 35 Camomile Street
Deal, Dover & Paris Daily 7.00am 6.30pm

Margate, Ramsgate & Canterbury Daily 7.00am 6.30pm

Ship, Charing Cross

Canterbury Daily 7.45am 6.45pm
Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Faversham, Chatham, Rochester
Daily 8.00am
Spread Eagle, Gracechurch Street
Canterbury Daily 8.00am 6.00pm
To Rose, Canterbury in 8 hours
Dover Daily 8.00am 7.30pm
To London Hotel Dover arr 6.00pm 8.00am
Return 7.00am 5.00pm
Arr 9.00pm 7.00am
Paris, by Dover Daily 8.00am 7.30pm
Swan with Two Necks
Paris (New Light Diligence), by Dover Daily 7.00am
Rochester, Canterbury, Ramsgate & Dover (Telegraph) Daily 7.30
White Bear, Piccadilly

Canterbury, Chatham, Rochester Daily 7.00am; 8.00am; 6.30pm

White Bear. Piccadilly

Dover (Union Coach) Daily 7.00am; 6.30pm
Dover (Safe Coach) Daily 8.00am
To the Union and York Hotels
Paris Daily 7.00am 8.00am 6.30pm

White Horse, Fetter Lane

Canterbury Daily (nearly all hours)
To the Fountain and King's Head Inn

Dover & Deal Nearly at all hours,
To King's Arms and York Hotel, Dover

Paris (Royal Mail) Wed. and Saturday 2.00am
Other mornings 6.00am

(Cary's New Itinerary, 9th edn 1821)

Gazette Extracts

Houses that are no more. . .

27 December 1768: Friday evening, between five and six, a fire broke out at Mr Henry Simmons, Weaver, at Bridge, which intirely consumed his workshop, with an adjacent building, in which were stowed 150 pieces of hop-bagging, but by the timely assistance of the neighbouring inhabitants, the hop bagging was saved from the flames. This unhappy accident was occasioned by the candle setting fire to some loose pieces oftow in the loom.

This was as nothing compared with the sums claimed elsewhere. . .

26 August 1791] To be let. A Mansion house called Bridge Place, now in the occupation of William Hougham Esq. Jun. Consisting of an eating parlour 22 by 18½, a drawing room 22 by 17, and a small room,; on the second floor, good bedrooms; and four garrets etc. [again in 1793]

Advice to the Ladies

Never sit between two windows open, or a door and window, to play at cards. This short hint may save the life of many a good Card—Player. I have sneezed above a thousand times from so sitting, and would not do it again to get two sole voles in a night. An ingenious author says, if a man gets a fever by drinking and dies, he dies of drinking, and should be put down so in the bills of mortality; so if a Lady dies of a cold caught at quadrille, she dies of quadrille, [1768]

On Friday next will be played in Bourn Paddock, a MATCH OF CRICKET between the

Gentlemen of
Surrey and the Bourn Club, for a large sum The last match was thought to be as good a
match as was
ever played. [August 1768]

15 August 1772] On Wednesday next the 19th instant, will be played in Bourn Paddock the
long and
great depending match of cricket, the Gentlemen of Hampshire against all England; the
wickets to be
pitched at ten o'clock, and the match to be played out. There is a large commodious stand
for
gentlemen, and a fine ordinary as usual, there will be a large Ring made, and it is hoped that
no one
will, out of the great company expected, encroach upon the noble players. . . [18 August] At
the cricket
match to be played in Bourne Paddock tomorrow, is expected the greatest company ever
met on such
an occasion; amongst whom will be the Duke of Dorset, the Duke of Richmond, the
gentlemen of the
county and much company of rank and distinction. Sir Horace Man has made great
preparations at
Bourne house, and a long range of booth are erected in the paddock for the reception of the
spectators.
[21 August 1772]. . . The concourse of spectators is incredible, and a computation can
scarcely be
formed, but there were supposed to be in the field on the first day's sport between 15 and
20,000

people, among whom were several noblemen, the principal gentlemen of the county, and
other persons
of rank and distinction. [scores given — England won by 2 wickets]

24 July 1769: Monday next July 24 will be run At Bridge-Hill, A match of running by Maids.
To strip
at five o'clock. They are desired to meet at Bridge—Hill on Saturday evening, at six o'clock
to give in
their names, and to run that night that the Goals may be made equal on Monday.

[later] On Monday evening the match of running by young women was played upon barham
Downs, to
the great satisfaction of a vast concourse of people.

28 June 1770: This present evening will be run at Bridge Hill a match at running between
twenty-four
gentlemen of the Chilham Club, and twenty—four gentlemen of East Kent, to meet at four
o'clock, and
strip exactly at five o'clock. It is expected to be a fine match, as both parties are determined
to set
every stroke aside, that does not appear remarkably clear. . . . (won 7-3 by chilham) There
was a very
numerous appearance of genteel company, who were well entertained with the sport of the
day, and
what added to the general satisfaction was, that the whole match was won without a single
dispute. . . .

We hear that on Monday the 18th inst. [July] there will be a match of running on Barham Downs, between young women, twelve or fifteen on a side. The meeting to be at Bridge—Hill, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, or on the first day afterwards that the weather will permit; —— great diversion, and much Company are expected. We hear likewise, as a reward to those who shall have the best of the

match, that twelve shifts will be given them by the gentry &c. [again on August 15' — unless this was the first clear day]

A local spat in 1769:

[August] William Nash Clock and watch maker at Bridge

Begs leave to inform the publick, that the servitude of his brother, John Nash, is now dissolved.

Therefore what watches he should be instructed with for the future, I will not be accountable for, nor for the performance. I continue working in the country as usual, and shall be ever studious in meeting the approbation of those who will continue their favours to their obedient humble servant William Nash.

Wanted immediately, ajourneyman or a young person, to be instructed in the Clock and Watch Making business.

[September] John Nash takes this opportunity to acquaint the public, that there is no occasion for his brother Mr William Nash, to be answerable for any watches intrusted in his care, for he has not wronged him of any thing, as was imagined by his advertisement. New Clocks and Watches to be had at reasonable terms, by sending to John Nash at Beakesbourne, near Canterbury, who will go round the country as usual. All persons, that please to favour him with their custom, may depend on their work being done well, and reasonable, by their humble servant John Nash.

[11 December 1769] John Nash, Clock-Maker at Beakesbourne. Whereas some malicious Reports have been propagated by my brother, Wm Nash, clock—maker at Bridge, representing me as imposing on my kind employers, - in particular, that I had overcharged Mr Drayson of Upstreet, for repairing his clock; and as such Reports have a manifest tendency to prejudice me in my business, I have taken the opportunity to lay the said charge before some reputable clock-makers of Canterbury; who have

confirmed the equity of the same, and will readily attest, if called upon, the injustice done to

John
Nash.

[16 December 1769] William Nash, Watch—maker At Bridge. Thinks the advertisement in last Tuesday's paper too abrupt to pass unnoticed. — The clock of Mr Drayson, that could not perform, was charged 8s 6d. It was examined by Mr Warren, the reputable watch-maker, who said, what was done to the clock was worth 4s. and the other 45 for fetching and carrying it back. This is my brother's method of working in the clock way. I have said, and can attest, he never cleaned and put together more than

one watch, to my knowledge, all the time he was with me, and that was in April last. Therefore what injustice is done to John Nash by me, I leave the reader to determine.

If the kind friends of John Nash would prevent his ill designs, and put him on a better plan, it may answer his end better, as well as the reputable watchmaker and his former friend, William Nash.

[march 1769] Cock fighting. At Bridge—Hill on Thursday the 23rd instant — Canterbury against Bridge — to shew eleven cocks on each side, and fight for four guineas a battle and ten the main. Dinner will be ready at one o'clock. NB a pair of five pound cocks to fight before dinner for five guineas.

6 June 1772] Cock-Fighting. At John palmer's, the White Horse at Bridge; to show twenty-one cocks on each side; to weigh on Tuesday the 9th of June and to fight on Wednesday and Thursday for four

guineas a battle, and ten the odd battle. A close pit and a good ordinary at one o'clock each day. A pair of large cocks to fight before dinner.

In addition to the regular easter and Autumn meetings

[22 April 1769] Horse racing. On Tuesday next will be run for, over barham Downs, a match of fifty guineas between a bay gelding, late the property of William Lynch esq; who won the Easter Plate last year, and a grey gelding, who won the Easter plate this year, the bay gelding to carry eight stone, two pounds, and the grey gelding nine stone. Dinner will be ready, at Bridge-Hill, at one o'clock.

Origins of the Horticultural Society?

[1 769] This is to acquaint all lovers of Auriculas. That on Thursday the 6th of April, will be an Auricula feast, at Sarah Gilbert's the White Horse, in Bridge. The best flower produced, will be entitled to a guinea, the second best to fifteen shillings, the third best to half a guinea and the fourth best

to five shillings. Each flower that is entitled to a prize, must have six pips. And every person that shews a flower must have had it in his own possession fourteen days before before the day of shewing, which must be attested on oath if required. No person will be entitled to a prize, but who has subscribed half a crown three months before the day of shewing, unless he makes it up five shillings on the feast day, before one o'clock. No flower to be entitled to a prize, unless it is in the house before one o'clock. And

no person to win two prizes. Every person that shews a flower to appoint an umpire. NB There will be a good tweldepenny ordinary at one o'clock.

20 March 1774] again at Mrs Gilbert's. A good ordinary on table at two o'clock, and every shewer of flowers to be at dinner, or have no right to shew his flower.

[1769] Bridge. Made by John Thompson, Junior, a plough for lays, with two chips, one before the other in the length of a common beam, with turned Reests, the fore share to cut only the turf, the other to bury it. Also house joinery and carpentry work done, from the saloon to the plough. NB A journeyman wanting for the last branch.

10 march 1772] Whereas on Friday night last, the 6th of this Instant March, the workshop of John Thompson, Carpenter at Bridge; was broken open, and the several tools hereafter mentioned stolen thereout, viz One ax, one handsaw. One cast steel panel ditto, two tenant ditto, and one turning ditto, one plough—plane, two bench ditto, one smoothing ditto, one double-iron smoothing ditto, and several moulding ditto; one wimb1e—stock and bits; several firmer chisles, gouges, mortis chisles, and socket-chisles; one claw—hammer, one bench ditto, with squares, gauges and several other articles . . .if any of the said articles are offered for sale, that the person offering them be detained. . .etc. Reward two gumeas.

8 August 1772] Thomas Kedman, for stealing one ax, five saws, a plough, several planes, and divers other carpenters tools, out of the workshop of John Thompson of Bridge; and Margaret Lamb, for stealing a pair of silverbuckles, a pair of silver buttons, two gold rings, two handkerchiefs, and three caps, out of the dwelling house of Bridget Little, in Chatham, were burnt in the hand, and ordered to be discharged.

[23 December 1769] We hear some public-spirited gentlemen intend to petition Parliament

for a
turnpike act for the road from Dover lane in Canterbury to the half-way house leading to
Dover over
Barham Downs, and that the gate will be erected opposite the inile—stone near St
Lawrence.

[1 1 April 1772] Wanted. A mistress for a workhouse in the parish of Bridge, at Easter next.
For further

particulars enquire of Mr Miller, or Mr Champion., Churchwarden, and Overseer. NB She
must write a
tolerable hand.

Also at Bridge Hill House: 21 December 1773: Sale of property in Barham by auction.

24january 1815] To Be Sold by Auction. At the White Horse Inn, Bridge-Street, on Friday the
27th

instant, at three—o'clock in the afternoon. All the interest or right and occupation of Mr
Richard
Sherrard, as tenant under E. Taylor, esq. Containing a large Farm House, barn, yard,
stabling, lodges,

and all other necessary out-buildings; together with 20 acres of rich pastureland, three
acres of hop
ground and ten acres of arable. . .

215/22nd March 1815] Auction of all the genteel and valuable household furniture of Miss
Fitch, at
Bridge; consisting of four post and tent bedsteads, with handsome mahogany carved and
plain pillars,
elegantly burnished gold and other cornices, with fashionable white dimity and printed cotton
hangings
to ditto; French drapery and festoon window curtains, with cornices to correspond; excellent
goose and
down beds in bordered and plain ticks, paillasses, bordered horse-hair and wool mattresses,
fine witney
and other blankets, large 14 4ths Marseilles quilts and counterpanes, Kidderminster,
Venetian, and
Brussels carpets, nearly new; hearth rugs; mahogany double and single chests of drawers,
circular and
straight fronts, of excellent workmanship; circular and square bason—stands, ditto commode
dressing
drawers and tables, pier and dressing glasses, an elegant mirror in burnished gold frame,
inlaid
sideboard with celleret drawer, set of mahogany dining tables with circular ends, two sets of
mahogany
carved back chairs, neat painted and stained bedroom ditto, excellent elliptic, Pembroke,
card and tea
tables, a square stuffed sofa, with bolsters and cotton cases; polished steel fenders and fire
irons, a
capital bracket clock, a barometer and thermometer, hall—1amp, figured and plain oil cloths,
tea trays
and waiters, a set of blue and white printed dinner service, a quantity of queensware, a great
variety of
of kitchen requisites in copper, pewter, and tin, in excellent preservation, washing tubs, brine

tubs,

&c. an assortment of garden tools, hand glasses, ladders, and garden lights, about 11 rods of capital oak garden fence, a quantity of coals, faggots, and other effects, as will be particularised.

2 May 1823] similar list for Mrs Stephens at Bridge.. Houses were sold with entire contents.

27 January [1773] Horse racing on 15 February a match over the new round course on Barham Downs, one four miles heat, for one hundred guineas, between two gentlemen's horses — one is the grey horse,

that run twenty miles in an hour some time since on Barham Downs, the other a capital hunter. To start ,/

exactly at twelve o'clock. Dinner will be ready at Bridge-Hill after the race is over.[further report later] '

5 June 1799] Wanted, a roomy and airy situated house, or other sort of building, in the city or suburbs of Canterbury, to be used as a regimental hospital. Any person, having such a building to let, may apply to Dr Wardell, physician to the forces, Bridge, or to Dr Bruff, surgeon, 2^d battalion of grenadiers, St Dunstons.

1799] military camp on Barham Downs ca 6000 men. August 13] second encampment of 18-20,000 men. . . . The immense train of farmers and artillery wagons, employed in conveying the troops and baggage, ammunition, military and other stores, and provisions, towards the camp, adding the numerous carriages filled with officers and other passengers; these together have produced a scene of

populousness and traffic in this ancient city which has not been beheld by its inhabitants since the days of St Thomas Becket. . .

15 April [1823] A robbery attended with aggravating circumstances, was committed between the hours of five and six o'clock, on Monday afternoon, in the house of ---Brooks, a shepherd in the employ of Mr Henry Croasdill, of Tyler Hill, near this city. In the early part of the afternoon of the above day, a man had been to the cottage, soliciting alms, and from his apparently earnest representations of distress and hunger, he was relieved, and a quantity of victuals given to him by the wife of Brooks: he was however subsequently observed lurking about the premises by a part of the family, who expressed an apprehension of the man's intention. About four o'clock, Brooks went from home, leaving his wife, who also went out a short time after. The man, it would seem, watched the opportunity of their

absence, and with the aid of a knife, took out a pane of glass, and throwing up the sash, entered the house, and stole a quantity of tea, four silver spoons, a silver watch, a pair of silver studs, three silk handkerchiefs, and two cotton ones, together with a waistcoat and other articles of a portable nature; but it would seem he was disturbed by the return of Brooks, as upon entering the premises, Brooks found the back door, leading to the wood open, and upon calling his wife from a neighbouring house, and remonstrating with her upon the impropriety of leaving the door open, the robbery was immediately discovered. A search was commenced, and it was ascertained that the object of their suspicion had been to a public house in North—lane, and there divided the tea between two men, acquaintances of the fellow, and from their statement, a constable traced the robber, and overtook him at Renville pond, near

Bridge, with part of the property in his possession. After an examination of the prisoner, by the Rev. C Hughes, of Bridge—place, he was committed to St Augustine's gaol.

7 November 1823] Daring outrages. On Monday night a carpenter's shop, at bridge, was broken open; the depredators stole from the tools there deposited several implements for breaking open doors, and on their departure left a right—hand glove. The villains then proceeded to the church, which they forcibly entered, and stole the prayer books and baptismal basin. It is supposed that the same gang subsequently proceeded to the house of baron Montesquieu, and broke into the servants' room, from which they stole a quantity of wearing apparel; one of the servants, hearing a noise, struck a light, upon which the robbers decamped. The same night the same depredators went to the parsonage at Beakesbourne, from whence they stole two hives of bees and the garden line; and here they left the fellow glove to the one

left at Bridge. They made a secure retreat with their booty, and no clue to discovery has yet been obtained.

17 November 1823] In the night of Tuesday last, a barn in bifrons Park near Bridge was feloniously

entered by some thieves, who stole between three and four bushels of white wheat, with which they got off undiscovered.

/

NEW ROAD from CANTERBURY towards DOVER.

NOTICE is hereby Given,
THAT the TURNPIKE GATE, now standing in BRIDGE-STREET, will be removed, on Monday next,
the 13th Instant, to the END of the NEW ROAD, next BRIDGE; and that HENRY BEAR is appointed by
the Trustees to receive the Tolls at the said Gate, on and after that Day.
And the next Meeting of the Trustees will be holden at the Sign of the STAR, without Saint George's
Gate CANTERBURY, on Friday the 17th Instant, to take into Consideration the Improvements of the
Road up BRIDGE HILL.

By Order of the Trustees.

JOHN HODGES, Clerk
CANTERBURY, June 6, 1791

(Kentish Post, June 7, 1791)

To be LET.

A Mansion House called BRIDGE-PLACE, now in the occupation of William Hougham, Esq;
jun.

Consisting of an eating parlour, 22 by 16/2; a drawing—room, 22 by 17, and a small room.

—On the

second—floor, good bedrooms; and four garrets, with proper offices for a family; a coach—
house with

stabling for seven horses, and eleven acres of very fine pasture; two gardens; and a cottage,
consisting of a brewhouse, laundry and dairy, with good lodging-rooms over them.

It is situated in the neighbourhood of Barham Downs and three miles from Canterbury.

For particulars enquire of Mr. DILNOT, Patricbourne.

(Kentish Gazette, March 1st J 791)

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By Messrs POUT and SON

At the FALSTAFF INN, Wessgate, near Canterbury, on WEDNESDAY, 30th June instans, at
three

o'clock in the afternoon - all that

FREEHOLD MESSUAGE OR TENEMENT,

With a commodious Garden, and a large Workshop thereunto belonging.

The above is situate in the centre of the pleasant Village of Bridge, in the county of Kent,
about two

miles and a half from Canterbury, and in the occupation of Mr. Bruce. The Premises may be
viewed

on application to the Tenant.

For further particulars and to treat for the same by Private Contract, apply to Mr PITT,
Conveyancer, Hawk's Lane, or to the AUCTIONEERS, High—street, Canterbury.

(Kentish Gazette, June 15th 1827)

HOUSE - BREAKING.

Whereas on Thursday night the 14th or early on Friday morning the 15th of this instant October, 1790, the house of Mr. Robert Kingsland, at the Sign of the Red Lion at Bridge, was entered by means of a ladder placed against the window of a back chamber, the easement of which was opened by taking out a pane of glass; from which chamber the following articles were stolen:

A worked muslin apron bound with white ribbon; a worked handkerchief, bound with ditto; a clear lawn apron, worked in sprigs; a striped muslin apron, scolloped round the edges; a striped lawn apron; two pair of dark worsted stockings; one pillow-case; a new silk handkerchief not made; about 18 or so calico shirts, marked R. Kingsland with Indian ink; and a quantity of cravats, marked and numbered in the same manner, with several other articles.

On the same night the house of Mr. Thomas Fletcher, at Bridge, was also entered by means of a ladder being placed against the window of the chamber in which Mr. Fletcher slept; from which they took a watch marked T. Fletcher on the inside case, and some silver from his breeches pockets.

Whoever will give such information as may be instrumental in securing the offenders, shall, on

conviction, receive Five Guineas reward, by applying to R. Kingsland as above. . . .
(Kentish Gazette, October 4th 1790)

JOHN NASH, Clock-maker,
At Beaksbourn.

WHEREAS some malicious Reports have been propagated by my Brother, WM. NASH, Clock-maker at Bridge, representing me as imposing on my kind Employers, — in Particular, that I had overcharged MR. DRAYSON of Upstreet, for repairing his Clock; and as such Reports have a manifest tendency to prejudice me in my Business, I have taken the Opportunity to lay the said

Charge before some reputable Clock—makers of Canterbury; who have confirmed the Equity of the same, and will readily attest, if called upon, the Injustice done to

JOHN NASH
(Kertish Gazette, 8-1] December 1 769)

WILLIAM NASH, Watch-maker,
At BRIDGE

Thinks the Advertisement in last Tuesday's Paper too abrupt to pass unnoticed. - The Clock of Mr.

Drayson, that could not perform, was charged 8s 6d. It was examined by Mr. Warren, the reputable Watch-maker, who said, what was done to the Clock was worth 4s and the other 4s for fetching and carrying it back. This is my Brother's Method of working in the Clock Way. I have said, and can attest, he never cleaned and put together more than one Watch, to my Knowledge, all the Time he was with me and that was in April last. Therefore what Injustice is done to John Nash by me, I leave the Reader to determine.

elf the kind Friends of John Nash would prevent his ill Designs, and put him on a better Plan, it may answer his End better, as well as the reputable Watchmaker and his former Friend,

WILLIAM NASH.

(Kenlish Gazette, 12 - J 6 December 1769)

We hear that on Monday the 18th inst. There will be a match of running on Barham Downs, between young women, twelve or fifteen on a side. The meeting to be at Bridge-Hill, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, or on the first day afterwards that the weather will permit; - — -great diversion, and much Company are expected.

We hear likewise, as a reward to those who shall have the best of the match, that twelve shifts will be given them by the gentry, &c.

(Kerztish Gazette, 5 July 1768)

W A N T E D.

A Mistress for a Workhouse,

In the Parish of BRIDGE, at Easter next. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. MILLER, or Mr.

CHAMPION, CHURCHWARDEN, and OVERSEER.

N.B. She must write a tolerable Hand.

BRIDGE, April 10, 1772.

(Kerztish Gazette, April 7 - 11 1772)

White Horse

Sherrard 6
Sarah Sherrard 5

1841

Richard Sherrard Richard Sherrard Charles F Charles Hornsby James Webb 59 James N
Kennett
Victualler 30 43 Licensed Hornsby 58 69 Licensed Licensed 64 Licensed

Victualler & ' Licensed ' Victualler) Victualler Victualler

trainer of Victualler

racehorses

Anne Sherrard 30 (Anne Sherrard 45 \ Elizabeth Elizabeth A

I Hornsby 56 Hornsby 67 1

Catharine Anne Sherrard 14 1 Elizabeth Catherine A George W Webb Ellen M Kennett
Sherrard 65 Hornsby 19 I-hornsby 16 23 professional 12
(granddaughter) cricketer

Francis Sherrard 6 Richard G Charles Webb 13 John Hornsby 13 Caroline Anne Reginald J

Sherrard II (grandson) (grandson) Webb 18 barmaid Kennett 10
Anne Sherrard 4 George C Lucy Keeler 15 M Caroline Hornsby Arthur Stewart Charles S
Kennett

servant 35 (daur/law) Webb 12 6

Richard Sherrard
2

William Lemon
' 66 boarder, ag
labourer
Thomas Godding
69 boarder, ag
labourer

_ George Maytum
J 17 ostler

' George Strood 23 Arthur Fairbrass
M groom 15 domestic
servant

Louisa Sherrard Ellen Sherrard 3

William Swinson
16 gardener

Thomas Godding
60 lodger,
labourer
William Lerman
60 lodger,
labourer

Catherine
Sherrard I

Louisa Sherrard
2mth
William Willard
:-
Mary Ann
Robinson 22
—

William Jarvis 22
general labourer

George Eatwell

y William Gould 40 y William 0 Gould William 0 Gould
Elizabeth Gould ' Elizabeth Gould Elizabeth Gould Elizabeth Gould V M
=

0
Isabella Gould II Isabella Gould 20

Dressmaker

William Gould 30
Gardener

Elizabeth Gould
30

Isabella Gould 2

William Gould 8 William H Gould
18 Groom

Robert Reynolds

1 ' George Mallows
' 4 22 lodger,

carpenter

John North 22

lodger, carpenter

Gilbert Huxstep

William Rye 44
72 retired farmer

William Rye 35
Ag Labourer

William Rye 52
M Brewer's servant

Thomas W
A Sargent 42
builder employing

Thomas Sargent

Brewer's servant 32 carpenter

Elizabeth Rye 35

Elizabeth Rye 11 Charles Rye 18

butcher

Henry Walls 27
(son/law)
bricklayer

William Rye 15 Emily Walls 17
shoemaker (daughter)
iam Rye 6 Emily Rye 7 Alexander

Tripland 4

nursechild
Frederick Rye 4 William Harris 66 Richard Rickman
lodger Ag 20 Lodger,
labourer brewer's servant
John Wilson 25
lodger, brewer's

Emily Daniels 19
general servant

Charles Rye 8

Will

Mary Rye 1

labourer

Henry Wilson 20
lodger Ag
labourer

Elias Wilson 15
lodger, Ag
labourer

Hannah Whitnall

35 visitor, house
servant

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Red Lion

1841 1851 W 1871 1881 1891

Thomas Hawkins Joseph Eyers 41 Joseph Eyers 50 Joseph Eyers 60 1 George Finn 44
Thomas Hinds 52

50 Victualler Licensed Publican Licensed Licensed Hotel Keeper
Victualler ' Victualler Victualler '

46

Edward Hawkins Robert Eyers 5 William Thomas William G Finn Thomas Adley 73
21 Cheesman 37 Lawrance 15 pot I2 (father/law)
Coachman Gardener

Sarah Apps 20 M Emma Raiment Stephen West 15 Ann Jeffery 31
Thomas Taylor Alvis Lott 22 Fanny Lawrance
15 servant servant 14 servant

Kingsford Brice

62 lodger, ag
labourer
William Brice 53

lodger, ag
labourer

Hannah Finn 4 George Noble 27
servant

George Finn 2 ' William Brice 65
servant

Auther H Evans 1
(grandson)

boy
Rosie Finn 5 William Inge 26
Lodger, dairyman

Louisa Taffenden
17 general
servant

Plough and Harrow

William Williams
45 Brewer

William Williams
1 58 Brewer & Coal
Merchant
employing 3 men
Elizabeth
' Williams 58

Richard Mutton
34 Brewer

Elizabeth
Williams 45

Ann Halse 36
(sister)
housekeeper
Ellen Williams 17 Henry Mutton 9

Emma Williams Frederick
15 1 Williams 13

Robert Williams Mary Ann

14 Manson 28 house
servant

Thomas Hills 63
Lodger,
Coachman

John Williams 17

Sarah Thriepland
33 House servant

Walter Williams

13

Peter Heritage 62
Brewer's servant

Ellen Williams 6 Henry Rickwood

15 Lodger,

brickmaker
Frederick

Williams 4

James Spratbrow
50

Thomas Brice 50

Edward Gibbs 35

' Brewer &

Publican

Jane Gibbs 34

' Edward J Gibbs 5

' Emily Mutton 7 Sarah J Gibbs 3

Mary A Gibbs 2

John Gibbs llnth

George Whiddett
_ 29 Licensed
Victualler

Catherine
Whiddett 29

George Johnson
30 Lodger,
butcher

Alfred Russell 18
servant, fly driver

Frederick Miles
39 Publican &
farmer

Jane Miles 39

Ernest Miles 18
farmer's son

' Florence E Miles
8

Lilian A Miles 4

James German 21
Lodger,
coachman

Harriet Gibbs 33
(sister)

Fanny Cox 18
servant

William
Setterfield 18
Brewer's servant

Richard Watson
36 Lodger,

Shop

1871 1881 1891

George Lott 53 Rebecca Lott 60 William H
4 general dealer carrier Fogarty 25

' hairdresser etc

John Hoar 50 ag
labourer

George Lott 33
miller's labourer

George Lott 43

Rebecca Lott 40

baker & carrier

general shop

George Lott 20 Mary Ann Lott 9 Dorcas Lott 13 Emily M Lott 1 1 William Mills 77

ag labourer i

means

Dorothy Lott 3 Caroline H Lott 5

Rebecca Hoar 50 Rebecca Lott 30 1 M Rebecca Lott 49 1 George Lott 20 Emily Fogarty 21
1

carrier

William Hoar 8 William Lott 12 Rebecca Lott 16 Harriet O Lott 18 Hilda A E

Fogarty 1

(father/ law)

living on his own

Rebecca Lott 20 Sophia Lott 6 Charlotte Lott 1 1 George H Lott 7 Jane Mills

65(mother/law)

William Lott 2 Rebecca Lott 6 Rosannah Lott 7

— Charlotte Lott I Emily M Lott 1 '-

Jane Claringbold

43 visitor

Thomas Fagg 45 Thomas Fagg 57 Thomas Fagge 67 William Fagge 40 William Fagge 49

Thomas R Gilbert

blacksmith master blacksmith blacksmith blacksmith blacksmith 48 blacksmith

employing 1 man employing 2 men employing 2 men

Susannah Fagg 40 Susannah Fagg 53 Susannah F agge Margaret Fagge Margaret Fagge
Lizzie Gilbert 16
64 40 48 lady's help

William Fagg 7 ' William Fagg 17 William Fagge 27 Sidney Gilbert 14
' blacksmith assistant blacksmith's
' ' blacksmith apprentice

Julia Fagg 5 Julia Fagg 14 Lucy Fagge 21

Lucy Faggi Lucy Fagg n jj

Margaret Greg 50
servant

Doctor

Amelius Sicard Amelius Sicard Amelius Sicard Amelius Sicard Charles H Schon

Charles Henry

30 surgeon 42 MRCS Lic 52 MRCS Lic 62 Surgeon Schon 26 surgeon 36 general
Apoth Co . Apoth co London. practitioner
London. general general
practitioner practitioner

Mary Sicard 75 James Drum 21 Emma Freeman Frances Jeffreys Kate Schon 31
servant 43 housekeeper 47 housekeeper Schon 31 (sister)

Catherine Noble John Harrison 23 William Churchill Ashenden Ursula K Schon 2

_ 38 house servant M Cornwell 19

domestic servant

M 28 groom

William Wilson
33 living on his
own means

Chapel Yard
Post Office

Frederick
Colegate 45
builder

Frederick
Colegate 58
builder,
wheelwright
undertaker
employing 6
men
M Anne Colegate
54

Frederick
' Colegate 68
retired builder

John Ovenden
63

Joseph Taylor
' 32 builder
employing 6
men & 1
apprentice

Joseph Taylor
79 bricklayer

Anne Colegate
40

Ann Colegate

65

Caroline Taylor
30

Joseph Taylor
42 plumber
painter & glazier

Jane Colegate Jane Colegate Annie Taylor 5 Caroline Taylor
28 35 3 40 5

Mary Ann William Edward Herbert Taylor 3 Annie Taylor 15
Colegate 21 Colegate 27 Brighurst 22

blacksmith
Elizabeth Eliza A Harry Taylor 2
Williams 10 Brighurst 21
(granddaur)

Jane Colegate
15

Colegate 14

William
Colegate 17
apprentice

Mary Colegate

I 1

Herbert Taylor
1 3

Annie Brighurst Helen Taylor Henry B Taylor
7 (niece) 2mth 12

Joseph Taylor Hellen Taylor
68 builder

Louis Taylor 8
Ruth Taylor 5

j Hughrayion

Butcher
Jarvis

Henry Jarvis 45
Butcher

Richard Sherrard
31 Trainer of
racehorses

(jockey)

Ellen Jarvis 31 M Sarah E Sherrard Alice Prior 24
fund holder 27 ' (sister) ,

A i housekeeper '

John Jarvis 27 . . . Sherrard 5 James Spillett 19 Ethel N page 5

--

M Mary Ann Jarvis William R Jarvis Alice Skinner 17
20 25 fund holder general servant 4

John Jarvis 18 Elizabeth Jarvis Fred Auty 29 Hilda M Page 2
linendraper 23 fund holder servant, lad in
William
Bridgland 19
butcher's assistant M

Alfred Prior 31
Postmaster &
grocer

Henry Jarvis 60
Butcher

Mary Jarvis 67
Retired butcher's
widow

Alfred J Page 39
Butcher

Mary Jarvis 40 M Mary Jarvis 54

Ellen Jarvis 14 Ellen Jarvis 23

Mary Jarvis 1 1

William Jarvis 6

Elizabethjarvis 4 M William R Jarvis

16 linendraper

Henry Vye 24
visitor,
commercial
traveller (woollen
cloth)
Charles Ayres 17
groom

servant, lad in
racing stables

racing stables
Henry Small 16

Joseph Green 19
Elizabeth Keeler
butcher's assistant

20 servant

Elizabeth Jarvis

14

George Goodwin
18 apprentice, lad
in racing stables
William Peters 17
apprentice, lad in
racing stables

Mary Ann Rutley
11 visitor

Emma Castle 24
general servant

Butcher
Hodges

-li 1891

Charles Hodges Charles Hodges Charles Hodges Charles Hodges Sarah Hodges 62
Joshua Fairbrass
40 butcher 60 butcher butcher 48 butcher
Mary Hodges 70 Sarah Hodges 29 Sarah Hodges 38 Sarah Hodges 50 Charles Hodges
Mary E
John Steed 15 Cecilia Hodges 8 Cecilia Hodges Cecilia Hodges Edward Hodges Joshua T
Mary Mantle 15 Laura Hodges 7 ' Laura Hodges 16 Charles Hodges V Edwin S Hodges
Mary J Fairbrass
Peter Gammon Charles Hodges Charles Hodges Edward Hodges Nina Hodges 19 Sarah E

Edward Hodges Edward Hodges Edwin S Hodges Jessie Gibbs 18 Edward M
1 10 11 visitor Fairbrass 13

James Hodges Edwin J Hodges Nina E Hodges 8 Alice R

73 visitor, 3 Fairbrass 11
butcher

Charlotte Mantle Nina E Hodges Charles Lott 16 Walter G

22 butcher
journeyman

George Minter
27 servant, F airbrass 5

shopman

Alexandra House
High Street Junior School

Frederick Jane Colegate Elizabeth

Colegate 78 p 55 scholastic V Williams 40

retired builder profession schoolmistress

Jane Colegate ' Elizabeth Elizabeth A

45 'scholester' Williams 30 Fletcher 20
(niece)scholastic boarder,
profession governess
Charlotte E Jane Castle 17
Hatcher 14 domestic servant
boarder, scholar

Elizabeth
Hatcher 10

Bates 13
boarder, scholar

Eleanor Smith 9 John B Bates 11
pupil boarder, scholar
Edith Mary Alice James 9

Smith 7 pupil boarder, scholar

Percy L Smith 6 William
pupil Whyman 9

boarder, scholar

Hopkins 16
general servant

Not yet built??

Thomas Collard
50 Tailor

Elizabeth Collard
50

Catharine Collard
13

Samuel Miles 15
Apprentice

Amalia Minett 15

Not yet built??

Thomas Collard
62 Tailor

' Elizabeth Collard

Bellevue Terrace

Thomas Collard
72 Tailor master

Elizabeth Collard

Catherine A
Collard 32

Catherine Ann
Collard 43
Tailoress

Fanny Algar 18

Elizabeth J
Sutton 16 (sister)

Christine A
Collard 53
Tailoress
Frederick Sutton
29 (cousin)
gardener

William Fairbrass
32 Butcher's
assistant
Margaret
Fairbrass 23