

BRIDGE AS PORTRAYED IN HISTORICAL SOURCES PRIOR TO 1939

S214: Aspects of the Economic and Social History of Kent

Group Research Project

1978

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PREFACE

Bridge as Portrayed in Historical Sources Prior to 1939 represents the fifth unpublished Group Research Project, submitted under the general guidance of two project directors, as part of S214: Aspects of the Economic and Social History of Kent, which is one of the Part II Courses in Economic and Social History, run over two terms in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The two project directors were:

Mrs. Penny Reilly who, as a resident of Tyler Hill, is a member of the Blean, Hackington and Tyler Hill Society.
Mr. John Whyman, Lecturer in Economic and Social History at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Following the success of Tyler Hill: The Changing Scene Since 1890 (1976) it was decided during 1977/78 to study aspects of the economic and social development of Bridge as portrayed in historical sources, particularly of the mid-nineteenth century. The chapter titles, apart from the introductory and concluding chapters, indicate which sources have been researched in detail; namely the tithe map and apportionment of 1840; the census enumerators' books 1851-1871; trade directories between 1839 and 1882; local newspapers between 1840 and 1878, and the Minute Books of the Bridge Board of Guardians between 1835 and 1847.

This Project is the work of nine undergraduates. It has been researched and compiled over an eighteen-week period alongside the presentation of substantial seminar papers and conventional essays. It does not pretend to offer the last word on the history of Bridge. Its authors hope, however, that it contains some facts and conclusions of interest to all who are fascinated by the history of Kent and its village communities.

We gratefully acknowledge the helpful assistance which we have received from several residents in Bridge, who have placed at our disposal their own local knowledge, sources and photographs, including Mr. J.J. Williamson; Mr. H. Hawkins; the Rev. Canon C.E.H. Perry; Mrs. N. Mallinder, Chairman of the Bridge Women's Institute; Mrs. M. Sullivan; Mrs. C. Turff; Messrs. G.W. Finn, Estate Agents, Fordwich; and the Matron of The Close. We are much indebted to the Cathedral Library Archives, to the County Record Office, and to the Beaney Institute, for access to the tithe records, poor law records, census enumerators' books, directories and newspapers. Also, so far as illustrations are concerned, the authors are grateful to Mr. F.G. Kirkwood and Mr. J. Styles, the University photographer, for taking and developing some interesting photographs, and to the Faculty of Social Sciences in the University for its generosity in providing some financial assistance towards the production of this Project.

Finally, we offer our joint thanks to Mrs. Mollie Roots, Mrs. Muriel Waring, Miss Janice Sewell, and Miss Julie Patterson, for typing up and checking so patiently nine chapters and several hundred footnotes from hand-written and much altered manuscript chapters. Any factual errors or slips in presentation are, of course, our responsibility entirely.

John Whyman
July 1978

I: THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRIDGE BEFORE 1840John SleemanSITUATION

The parish of Bridge adjoins the parish of Patricxbourne to the north and is situated on the main London to Dover road, being some twelve miles from the latter, sixty miles from the former and 2½ miles eastward of Canterbury. The parish probably took its name, Bregge, from a bridge which crossed the Little Stour, a feeder of the Stour itself. The great Dover road, formerly the Roman Watling Street, passed through the actual village of Bridge. (1).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Although the Hundred of Bridge is mentioned briefly several times in the Domesday book of 1086, archaeological evidence suggests that there was earlier settlement in the parish. Three tumuli discovered in Gorsley Wood, were opened under the supervision of the local vicar, the Rev. Francis T. Vine in the late nineteenth century. In a written report, he recollected how:

"Only one at first caught the eye, but closer scrutiny revealed three tumuli of progressive size as to their heights and the length of their diameters, their centres lying in one straight line and the circular boundaries of the two outer mounds coalescing with that of the central one at the points of junction. some fragments of a broken urn and a pavement slanted downwards from the exterior towards the centre of the mound. This pavement was formed of large red bricks and was bordered by flint stones. The stone being now uncovered, the earth was dug out round its sides and it was found to be the cover of a large kistraen or stone chest. In each tumuli /there was/ a kistraen similar in most respects to that previously discovered. Two small pieces of charred bone and a few fragments of thin glass were all that could be found amongst the debris. The contents /of the third tumuli/ were different. In it was a large quantity of bones in small fragments. Some of the bones seemed to have been burnt, but the greater part had escaped the fire." (2)

From an examination of the various articles found in and about the tumuli, the interments were assigned to the Romano-British period.

Much more recently, in September 1956, human remains were discovered halfway up Bridge Hill, on the lower side of the village, partly under the pavement of the north side of the Dover Road, by Post Office workers trenching for telephone work.

"Upon excavation over a considerable area three inhumated burials were found. These were lying in a supine position in an approximately south-west to north-east direction, with the skull to the south-west. In one grave, there were two small Roman pottery jugs of the fourth century type placed at the feet of the skeleton." (3)

BRIDGE IN THE 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES

No documentary evidence relating to Bridge in medieval times has been traced, but from the year 1560 the parish registers are available, from which information concerning the population and social structure in the parish can be determined. For several reasons parish registers have to be approached cautiously. Local administration in this period was often weak, corrupt and inefficient. Although the keeping of parish registers from 1538 was legally required, there was no real means of enforcing this duty, so that during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries many parishes maintained their records in a slovenly way. Parish registers do not cover the entire population. For England it is well-known that the proportion of persons baptized of those who were actually born was substantially below 100 per cent. This situation resulted from several causes, of which non-conformity (4) was the most obvious. Anti-clericalism and slackness on the part of Anglican clergy also played a part (5).

The original Bridge parish registers are kept in the church but the Bishop's transcripts are available in the Canterbury Cathedral Library (6). They suffer from many gaps during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, particularly during the period 1640 to 1661. Furthermore, for a long period the entries are written in Latin, are faded and consequently are difficult to analyse.

The problems mentioned above greatly complicate any attempt to calculate the population of Bridge prior to the first national census of 1801. However, it is possible to discern in many years an abnormally high mortality and possible causes of death. While by a simple subtraction of the number of burials from the number of baptisms it is also possible to get some idea of the different stages of population growth in Bridge.

Bridge parish seems to have escaped both the plague and smallpox epidemics which struck London, Canterbury and even Faversham during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, particularly in 1625, 1636 and 1666 (7). In those years there was an average number of burials in Bridge.

Plague, as a highly infectious disease, which did not discriminate between rich and poor, had been endemic in England since it first appeared as the Black Death in 1348-49. To start with it had afflicted towns and villages but from the fifteenth century onwards it was an increasingly urban phenomenon. Urban overcrowding helped it to spread. During the seventeenth century plague rarely afflicted relatively isolated rural communities. Bridge escaped the plague epidemics in Canterbury probably because its small population was dispersed about the parish to such an extent that the disease had little chance of spreading. This seems all the more likely with only 89 and 120 communicants in the parish respectively in 1588 and 1640 (8). Assuming that communicants largely meant the number of people over the age of 14, which would have been about 60% of the population, then one can estimate a parish population for the two years of approximately 120 in 1588 and 150 in 1640.

Generally, in England the death rate in pre-industrial times was highly volatile. Epidemics of influenza and typhus, which caused excessive deaths, no doubt afflicted Bridge on a number of occasions, but the evidence to say the least is rather tentative, especially since the small population of the

the worst sequence of the entire century) restricted food supplies to such an extent that human resistance to particular diseases was lowered. Economically marginal people like infants, widows and beggars in the parish suffered from either influenza or typhus. Over the two years 1596 and 1597 burials reached 11, as against no recorded burials in 1595 and 1598.

1616 was another year of population crisis, when the total number of burials for the year reached 11. Although the harvests for the previous three years were by no means deficient Creighton believes that this particular year was unhealthy throughout England (10). In order to distinguish between different diseases one needs reasonably accurate statistics relating to infant mortality. Infant mortality in Bridge accounted for a sizeable proportion of deaths prior to the nineteenth century, as can be seen by such entries in the registers as:

"Mildred, an infant, the daughter of James Jurdonn, buried April 15th, 1689"

"John Burley, an infant, February 2nd, 1792"

Smallpox, for instance, affected children in particular, along with influenza, while enteric typhoid mainly killed adults. Without a distinct seasonal pattern of mortality, as in 1616 one cannot attempt to pin-point a particular disease as the cause of the excessive burials.

In 1629 burials were again well above the average figure, reaching 13, compared with two in 1628, three in 1630 and two in 1631. For mortality to be this high in so small a parish population something obviously abnormal occurred. The harvests in the preceding three years were not deficient and there are no entries in the registers which provide clues as to the causes of death (11), except the fact that the majority of burials occurred in the winter and early spring. Possible causes of mortality in this situation would be influenza, typhus or even a particularly cold winter.

The highest number of burials in any year during the period 1560 to 1840 was 16 in 1679, closely matched by 15 in 1790 and 1792. Major sickness is suggested following on two poor harvest years. That of 1677 was deficient and the following harvest in 1678 was particularly bad with grain prices rising to over 30% above the moving average (12). For the three years 1678-1680 30 burials are recorded, mainly during the winter months which once again suggests influenza or typhus.

That poverty existed in Bridge is clearly evident from several entries in the burial register during the later seventeenth century:

"Francis Marsh (a poor hous-holder) April 20th 1686"

"Thomas Harding (a very poor antiont house-holder) was buried December 6th, 1689"

"Buried Mary Taylor, a poor stranger (or travelling woman) on the 9th day of November, 1696".

Whatever types of sickness caused the short-term population crises during the period 1560-1840 they were never strictly epidemics. Rather they were more likely to be localised cases of disease, restricted perhaps to a handful of families and certainly induced by a lack of proper nutrition, which in some households resulted from domestic poverty.

Poverty continued to exist in Bridge at least up to the latter part of the eighteenth century, as can be seen from the following entries in the parish burial registers:

"November 18th, 1792, John Bentley, a pauper"

"November 30th, Win East, a pauper".

Poverty existed alongside the wealthy families and country seats, who caught the eye of contemporary writers and travellers of the eighteenth century.

"Proceeding towards Canterbury and passing the sixty-third stone, you enter Barham Downs Several villages and elegant gentlemen's seats are situated on the right and left of these downs; on the right is an eminence, on the left a beautiful vale, in which runs a small branch of the river Stour. On the right is Den-hill house and gardens, the seat of Lady Gray; near which is Nethersole house, the mansion of — Winchester, esq; which is situated in the small village of Wymplingswold."(13)

Fuller and more detailed contemporary descriptions of Bridge and its surrounding area begin to appear during the eighteenth century. The Rev. W. Grostling, who travelled the Dover to Canterbury Road, in the latter part of the century, passed through Bridge. He has left a record of his recollections of the area as follows:

their incumbents and ecclesiastical patronage. This definition of local history in his own day is well reflected in his account of Bridge:

"THE MANOR OF BLACKMANSBURY, alias BRIDGE was parcel of the possessions of the abbey of St. Augustine belonging to the sacristie, as appears by the registers of it, in which frequent mention is made of this manor, with the free tenants belonging to it In which state this manor continued 'till the suppression of the abbey in the 30th year of King Henry VIII /1538-9/ when it came into the king's hands, where it remained till the 36th year of that reign /1544-5/, when this manor, with divers lands in Houndpit and Blackmansbury, was granted to Henry Laurence, to hold in capite by knights service and in his descendants it continued till the 18th year of queen Elizabeth's reign /1575-6/, when it was alienated to William Partherich, esq.

His grandson Sir Edward Partherich, of this place, passed it away in 1638 to Sir Arnold Braems, descended of a family originally out of Flanders; where his ancestors were opulent merchants. Jacob Braems, his ancestor, was of Dover, merchant, and built the great house now the custom house there, where he resided. Sir Arnold Braems built a spacious and magnificent mansion on the site of the ancient court-lodge here, which he named BRIDGE-PLACE, in which he afterwards resided, as did his son Walter Braems, esq. till his death in 1692; but the great cost of building this seat so impoverished the estate that his heirs, about the year 1704, were obliged to part with it, which they did by sale to John Taylor, esq. 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 but give an idea of the grandeur of the whole building when entire. He died in 1729, since which the manor and seat has continued in his descendants, in like manner as Bifrons above described, down to his great grandson Edward Taylor, esq. the present possessor of them. There is not any court held for this manor.

BEREACRE, now called Great and Little Barahers is another manor in this parish, which in the 21st year of King Edward I /1292-3/ was in possession of Walter de Kancia Not long after it passed into a family of its own name. After this name was become extinct here, it came into possession of the Litchfields, who owned much land about Eastry, Tilmanstone and Betteshanger, and in this name it continued till the 22nd year of Edward IV /1482-3/ and then Roger Litchfield passed it away to Richard Haut, whose only daughter and heir Margery carried it in marriage to William Isaac, esq. of Patricbourne, from whose descendants Edward Isaac, about the latter end of King Henry VIII it was sold to Petyt and Weekes, who joined in the sale of it to Naylor, of Renville, from which name it was alienated to Smith and Watkins; after which it was conveyed by sale to John Taylor, esq. of Bifrons, in whose descendants it has continued down to Edward Taylor, esq. the present owner of it." (15)

Having described the descent through several centuries of major properties Edward Hasted noted how a form of charitable poor relief in Bridge had originated in the early seventeenth century, when "Sir HENRY PALMER, of Bekesbourne, by will in 1611 gave 10s. to be yearly paid out of his manor of Well-court, towards the relief of the poor". At the close of the eighteenth century eighteen poor persons derived some relief from his particular charity.(16)

It was very much a part of Hasted's conception of local or parish

history to describe the history and architecture of the parish church.

"Bridge is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury and deanry of its own name.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, consists of three isles, a high chancel, and a north sept or chancel in the middle of the north isle. It has a spire steeple at the south-east corner, in which there are three bells. In the high chancel, within the alter-rails, is a monument for Jane, second daughter of Walter Harflete, of Bekesbourne, first wife of Sir Arnold Braems, Ob. 1635, and lies buried in St. Mary's church, in Dover Against the north wall is a painted portrait of Robert Bargrave, gent. of Bridge Ob. 1649 The north chancel is made use of for a school, by voluntary contributions In the register are many entries, from the year 1580 to 1660 of the family of Bargrave, alias Bargar, residents in this parish, and one for Thomas, son of John Cheney, gent. who died in 1620.

The church of Bridge, which is a vicarage, was always esteemed as a chapel to the church of Patricxbourne, and as such is included in the valuation of that vicarage in the kings books, the vicar of which is instituted and inducted into that vicarage, with the chapel of Bridge annexed to it.

The above property comprises Six Bedrooms, Sitting Room, Smoking Parlour, large Club Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, Tap Room, Kitchen, Larder, Small Yard, Cellar, Private Cellar, Cleansing Room, Tun Room, Cooling Room, Malt Room, Hop Room, Office and a 3-stall Stable with Loft over." (91)

Matters relating to the Plough and Harrow might be reported in the local newspapers, as on 4 September 1860 when it was noted that Mr. Richard Mutton's application for a license to sell spirits at the Plough and Harrow had been granted by the magistrates at a Special Petty Sessions which had been held to consider public house licences. (92) Having obtained his wine and spirit licence, over forty gentlemen assembled on one Tuesday during the following November at the Plough and Harrow and "including several from Canterbury and the surrounding villages,... [they] partook of an excellent dinner and dessert provided by mine host (Mr. R. Mutton) in first-rate style." (93)

Public houses were prone to some trouble on occasions, for instance during 1874 when George Jordan, a labourer, refused to leave the Plough and Harrow when ordered to do so. Having been evicted once by P. C. Cordery, he went in again and had to be ejected a second time, on which occasion he used very bad language and became violent. When tried at St. Augustine's Petty Sessions, Jordan was fined 10s. with 8s. costs, or in default, ten days' hard labour. (94)

In an age of advanced evangelicalism, when excesses of most kinds were frowned upon, cases of drunkenness were no exception and for 1870 there was the case of a Bridge man who having arrived in Rye was arrested there for drunken behaviour:

"At Rye, on Tuesday, Thomas Barton, 40, chairbottomer of Bridge, near Canterbury, was charged... with being drunk and disorderly - P. C. Wood said that he and Supt. Butcher were called to the Strand on Monday in consequence of a disturbance taking place there. They found the prisoner in an intoxicated condition and using very obscene language. He moved on to the William the Fourth; afterwards he was induced to go away. Witness, however, said he again had his attention called to the prisoner at Landgate, where the prisoner was lying on the pavement and forming a centre of attraction for the mob. Finding it impossible to get prisoner to go away quietly, witness took him in charge. - Prisoner had no defence to offer. He said he had come into the town to go shopping and was full of liquor. - The magistrates severely reprimanded the prisoner; for it transpired that the shopping expedition had been undertaken on account of his wife who had just been confined, and the money which he took with him was to obtain necessaries for her, had been spent in this disgraceful way. He was ordered to pay a fine of 30s., and costs". (95)

The Kentish Gazette with its tongue placed firmly in its cheek, printed the above under the heading "An Affectionate Husband". With Canterbury so near at hand it is somewhat puzzling to understand why Barton selected Rye for a shopping expedition.

William Attaway, now aged 44, appeared again before the magistrates in 1876, having been convicted 26 years earlier in 1850 for theft as was noted in the section entitled "Law Enforcement in Bridge". He was an habitual petty criminal who on this occasion was described as "an elderly man, residing at Bridge". He was summoned before the St. Augustine's Petty Sessions "for having been found drunk on the highway at Lower Hardres on the 26th February", to which accusation he pleaded "guilty" and was fined 5s. with 8s. costs. He was also warned by the Chairman that "he might have been dealt with much more severely and if he came again he would be," to which the defendant replied "I thank you, for the honour you have done me". (96) It is interesting to note how Attaway was described as "an elderly man" at only 44 years of age.

Victorian public houses were meeting places for various societies or gatherings, such as in 1868 when

"the meeting of the Bridge Constitutional Association held a well attended meeting at the White Horse Inn. The chair was taken by Captain Winter, A. Sicard, Esq., vice-chairman... During the evening the announcement of the Conservative victory in West Kent was made known amid loud cheering, and the healths of the successful candidates were drunk with due honours. During the evening several capital songs were sung by members of the Association." (97)

Six years later at the St. Augustine's Petty Sessions, Robert Ayres, landlord of the Red Lion Inn at Bridge, successfully applied for an extension of time from 10 p.m. until 11 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month, so as to accommodate the Bridge Friendly Society which had 345 members. (98)

Towards the end of this period, the meadow adjoining the Red Lion Inn witnessed a number of Stock Sales, which were held by Messrs. Sladden, auctioneers of Adisham and Bekesbourne. At these sales farmers and gentlemen of the neighbourhood sold their surplus livestock, prior to which the auctioneers commonly provided luncheon in the adjacent inn.

Compared to the village inns the parish church was rarely mentioned in the newspapers but on 6 December 1855 The Kent Herald printed a letter from an irate churchgoer concerning seating accommodations in the Church:

"To the Editor of the Kent Herald. Sir - Will you have the kindness to insert what appears incredible, but is a fact, viz;

- My house is my own. I pay church-rates, poor-rates, highway rates and national taxes, but cannot obtain a pew in the church for myself with Mrs. Boyack and my friend. Will any of your correspondents have the kindness to point out a remedy?

Yours truly,

Alexander Boyack, Commander R.N." (99)

This was clearly a disturbing situation to a man who was considered to be one of the village gentry.

Although repairs and improvements to the church were undertaken between 1859 and 1861 the churchyard by 1860 was also suffering from overcrowding.

"Owing to the increase of population, and the crowded state of our present churchyard, the want of increased accommodation for interments has been sometime felt in the parish. [This] want, however, has just been supplied by the noble munificence of the Marchioness of Conyngham, who has not only given an adjoining piece of land for that purpose, but paid the expenses of the transfer and consecration, etc. The ceremony of consecration was performed...by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of a number of neighbouring clergymen, who had been invited by Dr. Stevenson to meet his grace on the occasion. We understand that it was the intention to open the church, which has been re-pewed and is undergoing thorough repair, at the same time as the new burial ground was consecrated. But as the repairs are not in a sufficiently advanced state the re-opening has been unavoidably postponed. It is estimated that the alterations, completed and in progress, will cost upwards of £4,000." (100)

Devoted clergymen were held in the greatest respect and esteem by the parishioners, as and when the residents of Bridge and Patricbourne said farewell, during July 1872, to their curate, the Rev. Lewis Clarke. At the farewell ceremony the Earl of Mountcharles, as son of the Marquis of Conyngham, occupied the chair from which he read the following address which was "elegantly illuminated on parchment and framed":

"We the undersigned, learning with much regret that the Rev. Lewis Clarke, Curate of Patricbourne and Bridge, is about to leave, desire to offer for his acceptance a silver salver and purse containing £55, as a small token of our esteem and regard for his zealous efforts and Christian ministrations amongst us, and we trust that every blessing may attend him in the new sphere of usefulness in which he now enters, and also follow him through a long and useful life." (101)

The Conyngham family displayed considerable interest in the welfare of the villagers, seeking to improve the quality of their day to day lives and being instrumental in the setting up of the Bridge and Patricbourne Schools in 1849. The laying of the foundation stone was an occasion for considerable ceremony and celebration, and as such warranted a lengthy report in The Kentish Gazette.

"On Friday the foundation stone of the schools was laid, on a well-adapted spot of ground on the banks of the Lower Stour, and behind the main street of Bridge, leading to Patricbourne... The stone was laid by the Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham, to whose munificence the promoters of the laudable undertaking are indebted for the site, as well as for pecuniary assistance... The Marchioness having taken the place assigned to her, and the company and the school children being arranged round the enclosure allotted to them, the Rev. Mr. Stevenson, the worthy and exemplary rector of the parishes reviewed briefly and eloquently the object which had drawn them together, closing his remarks with an appropriate prayer... The stone was then lowered to its place, and the Marchioness struck the stone three times with the maul. That portion of the ceremony was concluded. The Rev. J. Stevenson once more addressed the meeting, and a hymn, composed for the occasion, was sung by the children and the vast assembly, the

Rules and Regulations

FOR

ALLOTMENT

TENANTS

ON THE

BIFRONS ESTATE,

Bridge, near Canterbury.

Rules and Regulations.

1.—The tenants to be inhabitants of the parish of Burdæ. Any tenant leaving the parish, to be permitted to retain his allotment till the end of the year.

2.—The rent for each allotment (five shillings) to be paid to the landlord or his agent on the first Monday in October in each year, at the place and hour appointed.

3.—The landlord to pay the rates and taxes.

4.—The landlord and his agent, and any of the committee, to have the liberty, at all times, to enter on the land for all reasonable purposes.

5.—No tenant to trespass upon another's allotment, or to plant within ten inches of the outside.

6.—No tenant to underlet his allotment, or to feed any live stock upon it.

7.—No tenant to plant more than three-fourths of his allotment with potatoes, or more than one-half with peas or beans in one year, or to plant in future any fruit trees or bushes.

8.—The tenant to manure his ground sufficiently, and to keep his path clean.

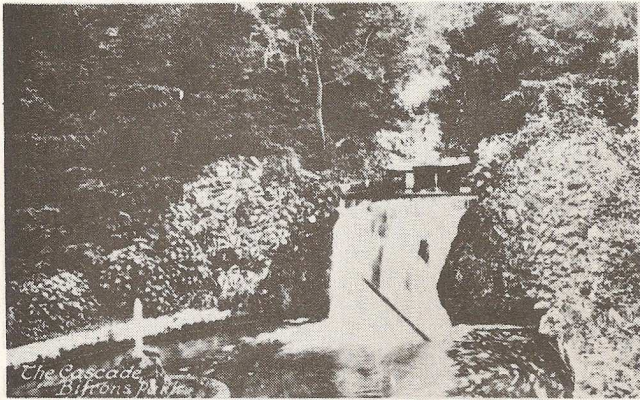
9.—The tenant to cultivate his land by spade husbandry only.

10.—No tenant to enter or quit the garden field except by the appointed road.

11.—Should any tenant permit his children to trespass upon the allotment of any other tenant, or to destroy any of his crops, he may be called upon, at the discretion of the committee, to forfeit his allotment at the end of the year.

12.—Any tenant who shall be proved guilty of any misdemeanour or offence against the laws of his country, to forfeit his allotment without notice or compensation.

13.—No work to be done or vegetables gathered on any allotment on Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas-day, or on any public fast or thanksgiving day.



Bifrons



Bourne Park



Albany Terrace, The High Street,
Bridge.



Plough and Harrow, June 1978

reverend gentleman's curate reading the words. Three times three hearty cheers were given and a profusion of plum buns distributed amongst the school children by Miss Augusta Conyngham, the lovely and interesting daughter of Lord Albert. The national anthem closed the day which will be one long remembered in the neighbourhood." (102)

In typical fashion, being concerned with the proper display of rank, wealth and quality The Kentish Gazette proudly noted how this function had been attended by Matthew Bell, Esq., and his lady, the Hon. C. Tollemache, the Rev. J. Stevenson and his lady, Captain Winter and family, the Misses Taswell, the Rev. J. White

being the instigator of the allotment gardens, and without whose assistance this boon would not have been granted." The Kentish Gazette derived much satisfaction in reporting that "nearly three hundred of the labourers are among the subscribers." (108)

The only real flaw in the smooth running of this annual show occurred in 1876 when "there was a little unnecessary confusion in the evening consequent upon the eagerness which some competitors exhibited to regain possession of their articles." (109)

It was the success of the Bridge Horticultural Society which led to an annual exhibition of potatoes grown by cottagers holding allotments in the parish of Bridge. The exhibition was held at the Plough and Harrow Inn, where in 1874, for instance, it was reported that "the collections of potatoes were considered by the judges to be the most distinct and useful varieties ever exhibited." (110)

SPORTING EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE

Despite the presence of a sporting tradition in the cultural heritage of Kent and England, reports of sporting activities in Bridge were rather sparse, so much so that no reports of cricket being played in Bridge appeared between 1841 and 1872, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the proximity of Canterbury, with its illustrious cricket week becoming the social highlight of the city's summer calendar; and yet on Thursday 9 July 1840 a cricket match had been played in Broom Park involving clubs from Bridge and Denton, following which the batting performance of the Bridge team was reported by The Kentish Gazette.

BRIDGE

<u>First Innings</u>			<u>Second Innings</u>		
Howard	run out	0	Sherrard	c by Wanstall	0
Johnson	c by Woodland	5	Collard	c by do.	1
Sayer	b by Newman	5	Dodd	not out	17
Dodd	b by do.	5	Saxby	not out	10
Saxby	b by Austen	3			—
Collard	c by do.	0			28
Sherrard	c by Newport	0			
Hooker	b by Newman	0			
Summerfield	c by Webb	7			
Williams	not out	14			
Forth	c by Newman	4			
Byes		2			
		—			
		45			

Since Denton were bowled out for 30 and 33 in their two innings, Bridge was victorious by eight wickets; Mr. Howard took the bowling honours with six wickets in the first innings and five in the second, whilst Messrs. Collard and Forth, apparently taking time off from their Poor Law responsibilities, clearly did not enjoy a very successful day. (111)

Two weeks later there was a return match at the Beverley cricket ground between Bridge and the Canterbury Amateur Clubs, with success going to Bridge with four wickets, still outstanding; however "as the

first match was decided in favour of the Amateurs, with six wickets to go down, it surely would be worth the contending parties to try who shall be considered the conquerors." (112)

Although the Gazette happily recorded in 1841, "the eminence which this noble game is rapidly gaining in the County of Kent," (113) cricket so far as Bridge was concerned was no longer being reported in the local newspapers. No doubt some respectable Bridge residents would have witnessed the occasion during Canterbury Cricket Week in 1868 when W. G. Grace, representing the South against the North, scored 130 and 102 not out, which prompted The Kentish Gazette to remark that "this feat of Mr. Grace's is, we believe, without precedent, two innings exceeding 100 in a first class match." (114)

The Bridge village cricket team returned rather ignominiously to the local newspapers in July 1872, when they lost by an innings and twenty-seven runs to Ickham, being bowled out for 27 and 67 whilst Ickham made 121, the only consolation being the form of Mr. Howard who scored 67 runs in the match. The Bridge team on that occasion was J. Collins, C. Howard, C. Willis, Pulley, Hyder, F. Martin, W. Winter, Esq., W. Dutnall, E. Gibbs, E. Hardeman and E. W. Tassell. (115)

Other reported sporting events in Bridge offered fewer opportunities for mass participation, taking the form of challenges of some sort or another, which the public could observe if they so desired. During February 1872,

"Robinson (the Spider) from London, walked his trial of seven miles over half a mile of ground between Bridge and Patricbourne, on Wednesday afternoon. The road, being heavy, was very unfavourable to the youthful pedestrian; but he accomplished the distance some time within an hour. He is matched with Ferguson to walk, on Sudbury Common, seven miles for £25-a-side on Wednesday next." (116)

1858 witnessed a foot-race between Mr. John Verrier and Mr. R. Sherrard, jun., with Sherrard giving his opponent a five-yards start. The first race ended in a dead heat and after a short rest the two men ran again, with "Mr. Verrier winning cleverly by a yard." (117)

The wealthy participated in field sports; East Kent was notable for having a number of foxhunting packs. The Earl of Guilford hounds met occasionally in Bridge for instance on one occasion at 10.30 a.m. on Friday 18 February 1876. (118) Stag Hunts were not so frequent judging from a Kentish Gazette report on 18 April 1854.

"A novelty was presented yesterday in an excellent stag hunt with the Thanet Harriers in the neighbourhood of Barham Downs. The party assembled at Mr. Hornsby's at Barham, when about 20 gentlemen partook of a very excellent luncheon, provided by that worthy host. The stag was uncarted near the Black Mill on the Downs, and after an excellent run of 40 minutes, 30 minutes of which were at capital pace, was ultimately taken at the back of Chantam

often occasions for extensive local celebrations which were enjoyed by many people in the village. Such was the case during May 1849 when Lord Francis George Churchill, the eldest son of Lord Churchill, married Lady Jane Conyngham, "the amiable and lovely daughter of the Marquis of Conyngham,... at the beautiful little village church at Patricxbourne." The Rev. J. Stevenson officiated, assisted by the Rev. M. A. Smelt, "in the presence of a select circle of relatives and friends of both parties." There was "a large congregation of neighbours, together with upwards of 100 school children", while "a tastefully formed laurel bower, interspersed with all kinds of flowers... extended from the entrance of the churchyard to the porch." The invited guests "subsequently partook of an elegant *déjeuner* at Bifrons" following which "the happy couple took their departure for Cheau, near Richmond." Over one hundred labourers and poorer cottage tenants, "seated under a splendid booth, ornamented with laurel branches and gay flags", enjoyed "a bountiful supply of roast beef and plum pudding" and were joined by some of the wedding guests. Later on that same day "the school children were regaled with tea and cake." Fortunately "the weather was most propitious, which added much to the hilarity of the joyous occasion." (120)

A somewhat humbler wedding attracted the following report in The Kentish Gazette of 4 December 1866.

"On Wednesday our little village was the scene of unusual excitement consequent on the marriage of Miss Kelcey, daughter of Mr. Kelcey of this place, with Mr. Nelson Collard, jun., of Canterbury. The villagers, to testify their good feeling towards the bride and her family, erected a very handsome triumphal arch on the bridge, which was very prettily decorated with ever-greens, flowers and flags and bore an appropriate motto. The church was filled with numerous friends of the happy pair and with nearly all the inhabitants of the village, and rejoicings in various ways took place in the latter part of the day in celebration of the auspicious event." (121)

The summer of 1872 saw the marriage of Miss Constance Georgina Bell, the fifth daughter of Matthew Bell, Esq., of Bourne Park to Major F. T. Whingates who was then commanding the Royal Artillery who were stationed in Canterbury. This event caused the village "to emerge from its quietude and to assume for a time an aspect of life and festivity." Readers of The Kentish Gazette were given some of the names of the invited guests to the wedding breakfast, which was followed by a garden party: namely, the Earl and Countess Mount-Charles, the Rev. H., Mrs., and Miss Hallett, Dr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Lady Victoria and Mr. Villeries and the Rev. C. Oxenden. (122)

Country House parties played a prominent part in the lives of the rural upper classes as was noted by The Kentish Gazette of 3 November 1874.

"The Earl and Countess of Mountcharles have been entertaining company during the past week at Bifrons, near Canterbury; the house party including Viscount Neville, Viscount Grimston, Captain and Miss Streatfield, Mr. and Mrs. Sands, etc. The gentlemen have had excellent sport at pheasant shooting.

Anno Domini, 1681.¹⁹

in perpet.
in perpet.
S^r: Arnold Braams Esq. (born in
Dordr, & Baptized as p^y Register
of S^t: Maries in that Count doth
appear: October y^e 3^d: An^o: Domⁱ: 1602,
Departed this life; in his Mansion
house, called Blakmansbery, alias
Wedge Place: on Sunday morning,
a clock, November y^e 13th: Anno,
1681. & in y^e 30th: year of his
age; and was buried, on the 17th:
Twentieth of y^e same month, in y^e
East Chancel, of y^e Church of Bridge
close to y^e Tomb, w^{ch}: he in his will
directed, there; in memory of his
Two deceased, Quilids.

Ed Cary y^e daughter of John Eld.
Bridg^e; buried in woollen as p^y the
affidavit) December y^e 2^d: 1681.

Thomas y^e son of William Sutton
buried (in woollen as p^y affidavit
wit) February the 7th: An^o: 1681.

Stephanus Hoogbeand (a youth)
buried (in woollen as p^y the affi
davit) February the 26th: 1681.

An^o: Domⁱ: 1682 (None Buried in
Bridg^e: Church)

The Earl and Countess entertained a numerous company at dinner who afterwards attended the hunt ball at Waldershare given by the Earl and Countess of Guilford to inaugurate the hunting season. The Earl of Mountcharles, according to his annual custom, since his residence in Kent, has supplied the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, also the Cottage Hospital, at Ashford, with an abundance of game, the result of his Lordship's and Friends' sport." (123)

Life had its sadder moments as on 29 January 1876 when the Marchioness of Conyngham died at her residence on the Marine Parade in Folkestone, following a short illness. Born in 1798 she had married the Marquis in 1824 and had borne him a family of two sons and four daughters, all of whom survived her. (124) On the following Wednesday her remains were deposited in the vault of the Conyngham family in the chancel of Patricxbourne Church, when the chief mourner was the Earl of Mountcharles. Although the church was filled with the inhabitants of Bekesbourne and adjacent villages, The Kentish Gazette noted, however, that "The Marquis of Conyngham was unable to attend owing to a rather severe attack of gout, and Lord Francis Conyngham, the Marchioness's youngest son, was prevented from being present at the solemnity as he was travelling in Egypt." (125)

Landowners, no less than those lesser mortals below them were accident prone, perhaps even more so bearing in mind certain aspects of their social life. Few of Bridge's ordinary residents would have suffered the sort of accident that befell the unfortunate Mr. Bell who, while out shooting with his two sons during September 1878,

"met with a serious accident. A partridge rose and flew back between him and his eldest son who after it had passed some distance behind, fired at it, and Mr. Bell having partly turned at the same time to watch the bird was struck by two or three glanced shots, one of which struck his left eye. Mr. Sicard of Bridge was sent for and on ascertaining that the shot had penetrated the eye, Mr. Adams, chief surgeon of the County Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, was telegraphed for and promptly attended. He found the injury so serious that it was necessary to remove the injured eye in order to save the other. This operation was most skilfully and successfully performed... by Mr. Adams, ably assisted by Dr. Smyth, house surgeon of the hospital, Mr. Sicard also being present, Mr. Bell having been previously placed under the influence of methylene. We are happy to add that Mr. Bell is progressing as favourably as possible, and that Mr. Adams expresses a confident opinion that the sight of the remaining eye will be preserved unimpaired." (126)

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS FROM BRIDGE

Not all the news coming out of Bridge can be categorised so easily as has been attempted so far in this chapter, particularly singular events or developments, as well as news of a more regular occurrence, yet of minor significance.

Barham Downs was on occasions a hive of activity; as a wide open expanse it was an ideal meeting place, for instance on Tuesday, 23 April 1850, for a meeting of the East Kent Agricultural Protection

Society, when "Friends of the Principle of Protection to British Industry" were invited by Thomas W. Collard, the Hon. Secretary, to attend a "PUBLIC MEETING on BARHAM DOWNS... to consider the present state of distress of the agricultural districts of the country and to adopt an Address to the Queen on the Subject." (127) The Kentish Gazette, in its report of this meeting, described it as being "unsurpassed in the annals of East Kent for numbers, respectability and unanimity," (128) calculating that over 8,000 people attended. Had a meeting of such size consisted only of agricultural labourers or the working classes it might have been interpreted as being potentially 'revolutionary'.

Five years later The Kentish Gazette carried rumours concerning possible 'camps of instruction' on the Downs. It was alleged that engineers were surveying possible sites to ensure that a constant and sufficient supply of running water would be available. The camps were expected to accommodate about 4,000 troops, cavalry, infantry, and artillery. (129) There was also a lighter side to military activity in this area when later in that year "some amusement was caused during the sham fight on Barham Downs by the appearance of a number of hares and rabbits which are very plentiful in that spot - the animals terrified by the mimic warfare ran in all directions among the soldiers, who bayoneted the poor victims without mercy, and consigned them to their haversacks in utter contempt of all game laws and game keepers." (130)

Considering that a majority of the inhabitants of Bridge earned their livings from the land there were surprisingly few reports of agricultural pursuits in the village. Emigration was an avenue open to those who could not sustain reasonable livings or obtain employment. It was during March 1850 that Mr. Craig conducted an emigration party to Herne Bay, where they boarded a steamer for London where the ship Columbine was waiting to conduct them to the United States. "The party consisted of about fifty, chiefly small farmers and agricultural labourers from the neighbourhood. The greater part are bound for Cleveland, Ohio." (131)

One "Remarkable Occurrence" for The Kentish Gazette involved a breeding ewe, which belonged to Messrs. Hodges and Sons. Within a period of thirteen months she gave birth to three lambs, all at separate times, and reared as well all the offspring, the births being in January 1877, on 30 September 1877 and on 1 March 1878. (132)

Victorian Bridge acquired its own Fire Brigade, which was established around 1874. The fire engine was presented to the village by the Conyngham family and operated with a reasonable degree of efficiency. Its services were demanded as early as 11 July 1874 when

"a barn at Bridge, in the occupation of Mr. Huxstep, and the property of the Marquis of Conyngham, was struck by lightning. Immediately it was discovered that the head of the barn was on fire, the Bridge Fire Brigade was summoned. They arrived in ten minutes with their engine, under the command of Mr. Verrier and owing to their exertions the fire was quickly extinguished, very little damage being done." (133)

A more serious fire broke out two years later at the farm of Mr. Collins, and was started when sparks from an engine, working with a threshing machine blew onto the roof of a large barn, which contained 300 quarters of corn. The Bridge Fire Brigade

and the Canterbury Volunteer Brigade, on realising that they could not save the barn and its contents directed their efforts to saving threatened farm buildings nearby, and apart from the end of one range of stabling the fire was prevented from spreading. The buildings belonged to the Marquis of Conyngham and had been insured for £1,000, Mr. Collins's personal loss was estimated at between £800 and £900, a large portion of which he was unlikely to recoup. (134)

There were occasions when the fire brigade's presence was not required, as and when,

"a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. J. S. Clayson, grocer. Mr. Clayson had been in bed some time when he found out that a portion of his house was on fire. Ready assistance was given him by Mr. Harnden, builder, Messrs. F. Sutton and J. H. Verrier and Police-constable Goldsack, and by their efforts the flames were prevented from spreading.

The cause of the fire was entirely an accident." (135)

In order to improve this operational efficiency the Bridge Fire Brigade undertook drills, which tested appliances so as to discover how far they could be relied upon in all sorts of emergencies. On one occasion the object behind the drill was to concentrate on buildings which were situated some distance away from sources of water supply.

"The result of the trial was very satisfactory. Within four minutes from the word being given the engine was at work and a jet of water from a source 450 feet away, was issuing from the pipe. Several drills were gone through with double deliveries, showing that in case of need two fires could be attacked at the same time. An attempt to reach the Church was also fairly successful. The members afterwards dined together at the Red Lion Inn." (136)

The progress of the Elham Valley Railway from the time it was proposed in the mid 1860's to its opening in the later 1880's was reported in the Canterbury newspapers. The route envisaged proceeded from Canterbury, past Bridge, Bishopsbourne and Barham, through the Elham valley to Elham and Lyminge, and then by way of Seabrook to Hythe. The Kentish Gazette of 20 March 1866 noted how "The Bill for this Railway went before a Committee of the House of Commons, of which Mr. Dent was Chairman, on Monday last," when the Rector of Lyminge, the R v. R. C. Jenkins, stated under cross-examination that Bridge, compared to Barham, Bishopsbourne and Dorrington, would derive little benefit from the line. (137)

Although the Act to build this railway received the Royal Assent during August 1866 the Company collapsed because it had only limited financial resources. Eventually the Elham Valley line was built, but not as a light railway as originally planned, but as a main line track. The first train ran from Folkestone to a temporary terminal at Barham on 4 July 1887. Canterbury received its first train only on 1 July 1889. (138)

Miscellaneous snippets of news from Bridge suggest that life was very varied. Christmas produced seasonal announcements such as the following in 1872.

"Mr. Hodges, butcher of Bridge, has in preparation for the festive season a capital show of prime meat, both beef and mutton, including the following:- Heifer, bred and fed by Mr. John Kingsmill, Elmsted, and awarded first prize at the last Ashford Cattle Show; prime South Down sheep, bred and fed by the Marquis of Conyngham." (139)

Ten years previously an amateur concert was held in the school room, the proceeds from which were paid over to "distressed Lancashire operatives." A full house was 'delighted' by an excellent performance and the Gazette could not bestow

"Too much praise...on the ladies and gentlemen who came forward to aid so meritorious an object. The sum of £9 was received and handed over to the worthy rector, Dr. Stevenson, who from indisposition was unable to be present." (140)

During February 1870 Major Castle, of Bridge Hill House, travelled down to Weymouth. During his stay on the South Coast he played a prominent role in the Weymouth Amateur Theatricals, by acting the character of King Charles II in a play bearing that title. The Kentish Gazette acquired from The Southern Times a glowing review to the effect that "the part of Charles II was borne with regal magnificence by Major Castle, who looked all the King (at least the King he was supposed to represent), and whose frolicsome humours he carried out with a grace and tact that were exceedingly attractive." The Major also acted in 'Checkmate' and 'Nine Points of the Law', in both of which he received a most enthusiastic reception." (141)

Unhappiness rather than pleasure was the lot of an unfortunate few some of whom achieved an exit from life in suicide, as did John Lott who, during December 1860,

"was found hanging from a tree in a wood in this parish. The unfortunate man was quite dead, and had been so apparently for some time. He was about 40 years of age, and has left a widow and five children. We understand that for some time past the deceased has laboured under strong religious excitement, under the influence of which it is supposed, he committed the rash act. The suicide was of a most determined character, as when found the deceased's feet rested on the ground and he had found it necessary to place himself in a kneeling position in order to throw the weight of his body on the cord by which he was suspended." (142)

A FITTING CONCLUSION. THE COMING OF AGE IN OCTOBER 1870 OF THE

"On Tuesday last, the Earl of Mountcharles, son of the Marquis and Marchioness Conyngham attained his majority. The pleasant little village of Bridge was en fête in honour of the auspicious event, and through the liberality of the Marquis many people, old and young, in the village, and round Bifrons kept high festival. The stranger entering Bridge in the morning found the place gay with flags and bunting and a glance at some of the houses revealed the reason, for there were various greetings and good wishes to the young lord inscribed in a variety of forms on the house fronts whilst the merry pealing of the church bells told of the general joy and gladness. It was feared that owing to the family not having returned to Bifrons, the rejoicings on the occasion would lack éclat which the presence of either the Marquis or Marchioness or the young Earl would naturally bestow; but it was a most agreeable surprise to everyone to hear that, although for a very sufficient reason, neither the Marquis nor his son could join in them, the festive gatherings would be graced by the presence not only of the Ladies Conyngham who were staying at the mansion but also of the Marchioness, her Ladyship having written that morning to Mr. Robert Smith, the Marquis's head steward, to intimate her intention of coming over from Ramsgate, where she had been staying with the noble Marquis. Meanwhile the preparations for the different gatherings had progressed under the direction of Mr. Smith who had had arrangements made for several dinners and other festivities.

The first event of the day took place at the Union where the whole of the inmates were entertained in a most liberal manner. The rooms and wards were richly decorated, the work of the staff of the house, and at one-o'clock the old men and women, and children sat down in their different wards to a substantial repast of roast beef and plum pudding with beer.

Grace was said by the Vicar of Bridge, the Rev. F. T. Vine, who was accompanied by the Rev. E. Seddon, Mr. R. Smith, Mr. Seddon, Mr. F. J. D. Sams, Mr. Sims, chairman of the Board of Guardians, Miss Parker, and other Ladies and Gentlemen, all of whom lent willing hands to the task of attending to the enjoyment of the poor people and young children.

While dinner was being partaken of, the Marchioness of Conyngham entered, accompanied by Lady Blanche and Lady Constance, and went through the various rooms and wards and also the Infirmary, the inmates of which were likewise well looked after...

At four o'clock in the afternoon the restored and greatly extended public hall and reading room in Bridge was opened by a number of the work people on the Bifrons estate (40 in all) sitting down to a capital dinner, provided by Mr. Webb of the White Horse Inn. The Rev. F. T. Vine addressed a few words to the company... and during dinner the Marchioness and Lady Blanche Conyngham came into the room. The hall presented a very gay and pretty appearance it having been handsomely and tastefully decorated by the members of the Fire Brigade assisted by several young ladies of the village. The hall, we may add, is the property of the Marquis, and after being restored and considerably extended had been generously presented by him to the village. Its dimensions are - 57 ft. long by 20ft. wide with an orchestra 20ft. by 10ft. The hall will be used for public entertainments, meetings, etc., in addition to being used as a reading room.

At the Red Lion Inn some five and twenty of the smaller tenantry partook of a substantial meal. Here too the Marchioness paid a visit and saw everyone thoroughly enjoying himself. From thence, the visitors went to the schoolroom where a particularly lively and happy scene presented itself. There amid gay and profuse decoration were seated some 200 children with an abundance of good things set before them, the repast in this instance being a tea. The juveniles, who had come in their best attire and with happy faces, were tended by a full and sufficient staff of ladies, amongst whom was Lady Constance Conyngham, whilst the Marchioness looked on with interest. At the conclusion of the tea the Rev. F. T. Vine proposed a vote of thanks to the Marchioness and Ladies Conyngham and the Earl of Mountcharles, and alluded to the many acts of kindness of the family to the schoolchildren... The children then went to the hill side and indulged in various school games being led by the Ladies Conyngham. Returning to the school as the shades of evening were gathering round they were entertained with some drawing room theatricals by the Ladies Conyngham, assisted by Miss Francis.

Before concluding it should be added that the workmen who are employed in the Mansion at Bifrons, where extensive alterations and improvements are being carried out, were likewise regaled with good things in honour of the occasion. In fact, no one was forgotten by the noble Marquis, who would himself have been present at the gatherings but for his continued indisposition.

At night fall a monster bonfire was lighted on the side hill of Bridge, lighting up the country for miles around, and there was also a display of fireworks. The faggots for the bonfire were kindly given by Mr. J. F. Martin. The village was illuminated with Chinese lanterns, etc. and in Mr. Willis's yard there was a flagpole from which hung innumerable lanterns. The day's festivities were thus brought to a close, all who had participated in them having passed a day that will long be remembered.

On the same day about fourteen of the Marquis's tenantry at Minster were entertained to dinner at the White Horse Inn, and 320 of the inmates at Minster Workhouse had a similar treat to those of the Bridge Union at the expense of his lordship." (143)

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Charles Lamb (1775-1834), Detached Thoughts on Books and Reading.
 (2) Alan Rogers, This was their World (1972), 236
 (3) The Kentish Gazette, Wednesday 25 May - Saturday 28 May 1768, 1a.
 (4) Ibid., 7 August 1840 and 17 August 1852, 2c.
 (5) Various copies of these newspapers can be consulted in the Beaneey Institute in Canterbury as follows:
The Canterbury Journal, 1836-7.
The Kent Herald, 1833-52 and 1854-6
The Kentish Observer, 1833-4 and 1836-52
 There is also a volume of Canterbury newspapers for the years 1854-1856.
- (6) The Kentish Gazette, 26 June 1855, 2a.
 (7) The Kent Herald, 28 June 1855, 2c
 (8) The Canterbury News and General Advertiser, 14 July 1855, 1a.
 (9) Ibid., 14 July 1855, 1a.
 (10) Ibid., 15 December, 1855, 1a
 (11) The Kentish Gazette, 17 March 1840, 2f.
 (12) Ibid., 7 October 1841, 2c.
 (13) Ibid., 25 February 1845, 2b.
 (14) The Kent Herald, 5 October 1854, 2b.
 (15) The Kentish Gazette, 2 April 1878, 1e.
 (16) Ibid., 13 March 1866, 1f.
 (17) The Kent Herald, 2 November 1854, 1c.
 (18) The Kentish Gazette, 10 March 1868 4a.
 (19) Ibid., 15 May 1860, 6b.
 (20) Ibid., 10 March 1840, 2c.
 (21) Ibid., 7 April 1840, 3b.
 (22) Ibid., 17 April 1849, 3d.
 (23) Ibid., 14 July 1840, 2b.
 (24) Ibid., 14 July 1840, 2b.
 (25) Ibid., 10 June 1856, 5b.
 (26) Ibid., 16 March 1858, 5b.
 (27) Ibid., 4 April 1865, 5b.
 (28) Ibid., 11 April 1865, 5a.
 (29) Ibid., 2 May 1865, 4a.
 (30) Ibid., 17 September 1850, 2c.
 (31) Ibid., 20 August 1872, 4a.
 (32) Ibid., 25 February 1868, 1a.
 (33) Ibid., 7 March 1843, 1b.
 (34) Ibid., 11 October 1870, 5b.
 (35) Ibid., 9 April, 4d.
 (36) Ibid., 14 December 1852, 2f.
 (37) Ibid., 11 December 1860, 5a.
 (38) Ibid., 11 December 1860, 5a.
 (39) Ibid., 15 May 1860, 6b.
 (40) Ibid., 23 July 1872, 4b.
 (41) Ibid., 14 February 1860, 5a.
 (42) Ibid., 11 January 1876, 3d.
 (43) Ibid., 24 May 1864, 3d.
 (44) Ibid., 28 January 1868, 6a.
 (45) Ibid., 9 June 1874, 3a.
 (46) Ibid., 18 January 1876, 3a.
 (47) Ibid., 15 August 1876, 5c and 5d.
 (48) Ibid., 16 April 1850, 3b.
 (49) Ibid., 18 October 1864, 4f.
 (50) Ibid., 24 May 1864, 3c.

- (51) Ibid., 16 August 1870, 3b.
 (52) Ibid., 12 March 1872, 3d.
 (53) Ibid., 12 September 1876, 5c.
 (54) Ibid., 7 August 1860, 5b.
 (55) Ibid., 4 January 1870, 6e.
 (56) Ibid., 4 October 1850, 5d.
 (57) Ibid., 16 August 1870, 4f.
 (58) Ibid., 24 October 1876, 3c.
 (59) Ibid., 9 July 1878, 5b.
 (60) Ibid., 15 May 1860, 6b.
 (61) Ibid., 20 October 1872, 3a.
 (62) Ibid., 24 November 1874, 3a.
 (63) Ibid., 13 August 1878, 3b.
 (64) Ibid., 3 October 1876, 3a.
 (65) Ibid., 11 August 1840, 3a.
 (66) Ibid., 2 September 1843, 3c.
 (67) Ibid., 2 September 1843, 3c.
 (68) Ibid., 31 August 1847, 3c.
 (69) Ibid., 3 September 1850, 3b.
 (70) Ibid., 31 August 1852, 3b.
 (71) The Kent Herald, 17 August 1854, 2a.
 (72) The Kentish Gazette, 29 August 1854, 2g.
 (73) Ibid., 29 August 1854, 3e.
 (74) The Kent Herald, 2 August 1855, 1d.
 (75) The Kentish Gazette, 15 July 1856, 3e.
 (76) Ibid., 20 July 1858, 5a.
 (77) Ibid., 27 September 1864, 8a.
 (78) Ibid., 13 August 1878, 1c.
 (79) Ibid., 24 September 1872, 6d.
 (80) Ibid., 8 September 1874, 6c.
 (81) Ibid., 28 April 1840, 2f.
 (82) Ibid., 5 April 1842, 3a.
 (83) Ibid., 6 April 1847, 3d.
 (84) Ibid., 13 April 1847, 3c.
 (85) Ibid., 1 June 1847, 1c.
 (86) Ibid., 20 April 1852, 2g.
 (87) Ibid., 9 April 1872, 6d.
 (88) Quoted in Raymond Carr, British Fox Hunting, A History (1976), 118.
 (89) The Kentish Gazette, 11 February 1845, 3b.
 (90) Ibid., 25 March 1845, 3b.
 (91) Ibid., 19 September 1871, 1e.
 (92) Ibid., 4 September 1860, 4f.
 (93) Ibid., 20 November 1860, 4f.
 (94) Ibid., 3 March 1874, 5c.
 (95) Ibid., 14 June 1870, 6d.
 (96) Ibid., 7 March 1876, 3a.
 (97) Ibid., 1 December 1868, 3f.
 (98) Ibid., 1 December 1874, 6d.
 (99) The Kent Herald, 6 December 1855, 3c.
 (100) The Kentish Gazette, 18 September 1860, 5a.
 (101) Ibid., 9 July 1872, 3d.
 (102) Ibid., 1 May 1849, 3d.
 (103) Ibid., 1 May 1849, 3d.
 (104) Ibid., 13 July 1847, 3c.
 (105) Ibid., 24 August 1874, 7a.
 (106) Ibid., 29 August 1874, 7a.
 (107) Ibid., 29 August 1874, 7a.

- (108) Ibid., 1 December 1868, 3f.
 (109) Ibid., 11 August 1876, 6cd.
 (110) Ibid., 13 October 1874, 3b.
 (111) Ibid., 14 July 1840, 3d.
 (112) Ibid., 28 July 1840, 2e.
 (113) Ibid., 24 August 1841, 3d.
 (114) Ibid., 11 August 1868, 3c.
 (115) Ibid., 16 July 1872, 6c.
 (116) Ibid., 17 February 1852, 3b.
 (117) Ibid., 28 September 1858, 7c.
 (118) Ibid., 15 February 1876, 5b, reported under hunting appointments that
 "The Earl of Guilford's Foxhounds meet at 10.30 Friday 18, Bridge."
 (119) The Kentish Gazette, 18 April 1854, 2f.
 (120) Ibid., 22 May 1849, 3a.
 (121) Ibid., 4 December 1866, 5b.
 (122) Ibid., 6 August 1872, 3a.
 (123) Ibid., 3 November 1874, 3a.
 (124) Ibid., 1 February 1876, 4e.
 (125) Ibid., 8 February 1876, 4f.
 (126) Ibid., 10 September 1878, 6d.
 (127) Ibid., 19 March 1850, 2b.
 (128) Ibid., 30 April 1850, 2f.
 (129) Ibid., 2 August 1855, 2e.
 (130) The Kent Herald, 1 November 1855, 2e.
 (131) The Kentish Gazette, 19 March 1850, 2g.
 (132) Ibid., 12 March 1878, 3a.
 (133) Ibid., 14 July 1874, 3b.
 (134) Ibid., 1 September 1876, 5b.
 (135) Ibid., 19 February 1878, 3a.
 (136) Ibid., 19 March 1878, 5c.
 (137) Ibid., 20 March 1866, 8e.
 (138) The history of the Elham Valley Railway has been thoroughly researched
 by M.J. Forwood, The Elham Valley Railway (1975)
 (139) The Kentish Gazette, 24 December 1872, 5b.
 (140) Ibid., 2 December 1862, 4f.
 (141) Ibid., 1 March 1870, 5a.
 (142) Ibid., 18 December 1860, 5a.
 (143) Ibid., 8 October 1878, 3ab.

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

Miss J. A. Nunn

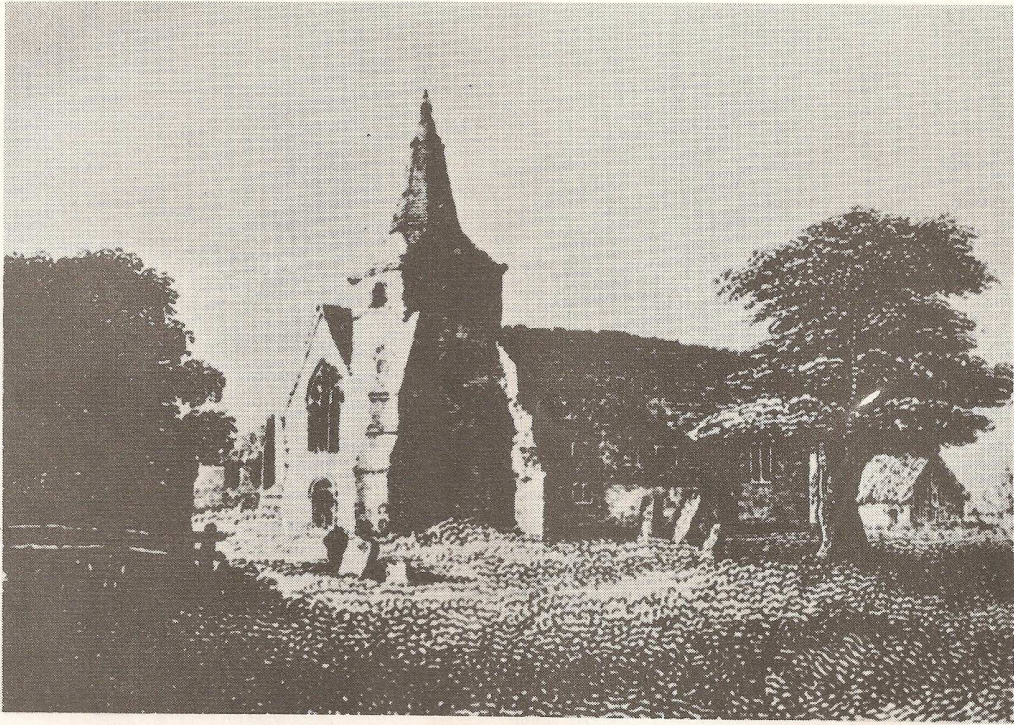
THE NEW POOR LAW

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



Bridge Church prior to its Victorian renovation.



The Old Ford: early 1930s.

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 1840's 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 In...

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, George Gipps Esq., and Robert Ballard-Johnstone Esq. There were nineteen Parish Guardians: (10)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Richard Brice	Bridge
John Bushell	Ickham
Henry Collard	Patricxbourne
John Sankey	Lower Hardres
John Marsh Hood	Kingston
Stephen Fuller	Harbledown
Stephen Gambill	Waltham
John Howard	Upper Hardres
John Harvey	Bishopsbourne
Nathaniel Maynard	Fordwich

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Thomas Byng	Wickham
Thomas Sladden	Adisham
Edward Collard	Stodmarsh
Richard Peckham	Bekesbourne
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 Bekesbourne 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:

<u>1st District</u>	<u>2nd District</u>
Bridge	Nackington
Womenswold	Upper Hardres
Barham	Lower Hardres
Kingston	Petham
Patricxbourne	Waltham
Bishopsbourne	Thanington

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).

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. 1½d.

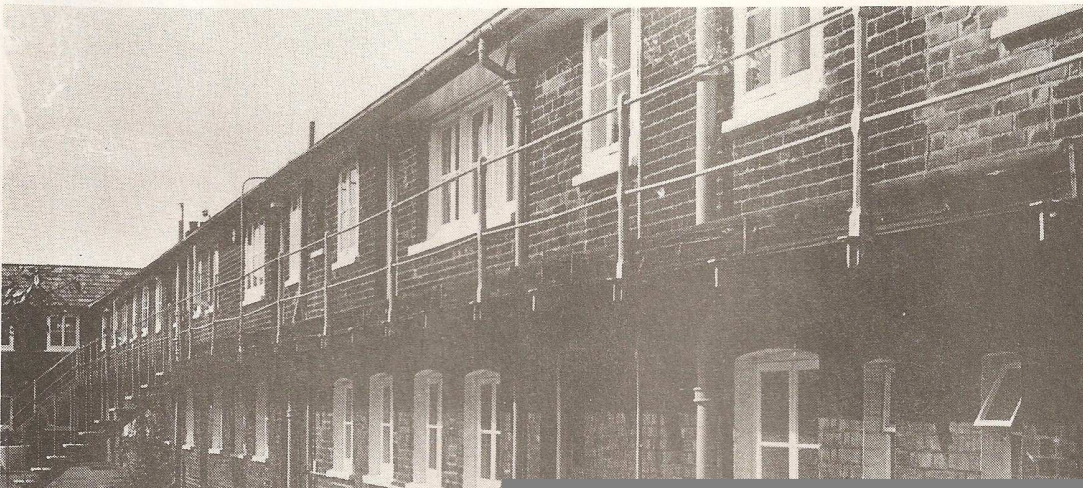
THE INMATES' DIET

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):

Union Road, Bridge



Looking up Union Road towards the front of the Workhouse.



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 of $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 S odmarsh 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:

	<u>Amount without earnings</u>
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:

	<u>Amount per week</u>
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
Patrixbourne	259
Stodmarsh	120
Thanington	404
Waltham	731
Westgate	458
Wickham	714
Womenswold	101
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,492</u>

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

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. 1s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was reported. The corresponding expenditures for the previous week ending on 2 April were £41. 6s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and for the following week ending on 16 April, £41. 6s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

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

John Bowtell was buried with his wife Olive under a tomb in that churchyard.(20)

In concluding this section it is necessary to point out that there is much which is not known about pre-1800 Bridge, especially with reference to its size and to the economic and social life of its ordinary folk, but the passage of time leads to new discoveries so that when Bridge Farm, which was situated on the main Canterbury to Dover Road was demolished in 1962, the following interesting discovery was made:

"The continuous jetty or overhang at the front gave the first clue that the house might be much older than it appeared and as demolition proceeded and the main timbers were exposed, the right hand end of the jetty was seen to be false and had masked a 15th century wagon entrance leading to the buildings behind the house.

Little is known of the house's early history but there is little doubt that the farm was once part of the Bridge estate known in more recent times as Bridge Place." (21)

A detailed photographic survey of Bridge would reveal the survival to this very day of buildings or parts of buildings whose history can be traced back to the eighteenth century or earlier. Of course, much more has survived from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

EARLY 19TH CENTURY BRIDGE

As time progresses so more and more information can be obtained from written or documentary sources concerning the economic life and social structure of the village. Nineteenth century trade directories highlight some of the leading features of the parish and provide lists of local gentry and business, professional and trading families, including farmers. The historical value of directories as such is fully explored in a later chapter. A comparison of an 1828-9 directory (22) with one other published in 1838 (23) reveals some interesting facts. The numbers involved in commerce apparently increase quite considerably over this ten year period from 13 to 21 entered names. While early directories may underestimate the numerical strength of some trades this problem becomes less acute as the nineteenth century progresses. From the following lists a picture of village shops, crafts, industries, notables and inns can be obtained:

For 1828-9:

Frederick Colegate, Carpenter
 William Fagg, Baker
 William Fagg, Smith, etc.
 Margaret Green, Grocer
 Saml. Hardiman, Watch maker
 William Hyde, Sacking manufacturer
 Richard and Henry Jarvis, Butchers
 John Martin, Saddler
 John Minter, Butcher
 Wm. Verrier, Painter, plumber, etc.
 Thomas White, Shoemaker
 Thomas Hawkin, Red Lion Inn
 Frederick Colegate, White Horse Inn.

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. 0s. 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 1840's. 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.

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FOOTNOTES

- (1) M. E. Rose, The Relief of Poverty 1834-1914 (1972), 8.
- (2) Ibid., 8.
- (3) Ibid., 11.
- (4) Ibid., 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) Ibid., 28 April 1835.
- (12) Ibid., 28 April 1835.
- (13) Ibid., 7th May 1835.
- (14) Ibid., 6 August 1835.
- (15) Ibid., 27 May 1835.
- (16) Ibid., 25 February 1836.
- (17) Ibid., 20 August 1835.
- (18) Ibid., 10 September 1835.
- (19) Ibid., 17 September 1835.
- (20) Ibid., 27 December 1835.
- (21) Ibid., 7 January 1836.
- (22) Ibid., 28 January 1836.
- (23) Ibid., 17 November 1836.
- (24) Ibid., 10 December 1836.
- (25) Ibid., 28 January 1836.

X: THE FUNERAL OF A BRIDGE FIREMAN - APRIL 1910

Mrs. P. Reilly

We realise at this stage of the Project that there is a chronological gap between the last chapter and the next chapter which it has proved impossible to rectify in the time available. Undoubtedly, one of the most momentous events in Edwardian Bridge is described by Mrs. P. Reilly in the following extract which has been taken from The Kentish Gazette, 9th April, 1910:

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 31 March 1910.

It appeared 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 into 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 in the face. There seemed 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 Brocks.

Mr. Fenn's funeral was a stirring and solemn 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 ..."

5,000 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.

The Fenn Family Tragedy at Bridge

One of the most notable events in the history of Bridge, at least to judge from the coverage it received in the local press, was the early death of young Mr. John Fenn, of 6 Albert Terrace, second son of the Bridge family, on 21 March 1910.

It appeared from the papers that a fire had broken out at Fenn Bottom. It was the job of Mr. Fenn Junior to fight the flames to call together the fire brigade. On the fatal afternoon at about 12.30 he felt the 'Brough 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 to fly into the air. The witness hurried to the scene and found Mr. Fenn lying outside on a pile of straw. Details of the injuries are given in the following paragraphs (Kentish Gazette's special), but are considerably more... Mr. Fenn lived for only forty minutes after the explosion.

It emerged during the inquest that second engineer Fenn had not fired a match before, and that instead of trying to get the match lit, he had stood over it and hence received the fatal blow in the face. There seemed to be some uncertainty as to whether the match was lit, and in order to satisfy himself on this issue, a representative of the Kentish Gazette took train to Bridge and inspected the scene of the accident. He subsequently declared that the match was of the best quality, similar to those used at Great Bridge since 1865, and asked permission to fire the remaining five. He later contended that the match was not defective, but allowing the name and reputation of the maker.

Mr. Fenn's father was a thriving and solvent merchant. According to the Gazette "never before had the village of Bridge felt a disaster so keenly... April 1st will stand out in the history of the village as a day never to be forgotten...".

2,000 people thronged the narrow street, overflowing into the surrounding fields. Most of the family were present at the graveside, though the dog was not mentioned. The dog was given a military funeral with a firing party from the local militia. The coffin was borne by six women and followed by 65 members of other fire brigades. It was a mournful procession indeed as it wound 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.



Funeral of Mr. J. Fenn, Bridge Fire Brigade, 1910.



1919: Victory Outing.

CANTERBURY IN 1891

In 1891 Canterbury recorded a population of 18,503. Growth had hardly been spectacular from the 1801 figure of 10,498. For 1891 the population is given for 22 parishes, precincts or parts within the City. Among the precincts were the following:

The Archbishop's Palace Precinct	152
Christchurch Precinct	230
Eastbridge Hospital Precincts	37
St. John's Hospital Precincts	31
Old Castle Precincts	62

Of the City's 13 parishes, only six had within their boundaries more than 1,000 people, namely:

St. George the Martyr	1,137
St. Mary Bredin	2,062
St. Mary Northgate	5,160
St. Mildred	2,748
St. Paul, including Longport	1,701
St. Peter	1,520

Total for these 6 Parishes: 14,328

The parish of St. Mary Northgate alone contained 28% of the City's population. Over 50% lived in the three city parishes of St. Mary Bredin, St. Mary Northgate and St. Mildred. Of interest as parts of the city with very small populations were the following:

Black Prince's Chantry Extra Parochial	3
& White Friars Extra Parochial	6

13 PROMINENT FIRMS

13 firms were listed for Canterbury in the following order:

1. Kennett, Son & Chamberlain, Auctioneers, Valuers, and complete House Furnishers, 1,2,3, & 4 Westgate; Auction Rooms and Warehouses.

In 1881 Canterbury recorded a population of 18,503. Growth had hardly been spectacular from the 1801 figure of 10,428. For 1881 the City. Among the precincts within

- 10. E. Williams & Sons, Tailors and Breeches-makers, 3 St. George's Gate.
- 11. William Prime, Hosier, Hatter, and Shirtmaker, 17 St. Margaret's Street.
- 12. J. Craik, Portrait, Landscape and Architectural Photographer 4 St. George's Gate; and also at The Pavilion, Herne Bay.
- 13. G. Nash & Son, Tailors, Hatters, and Outfitters, 51 St. George's Street.

1,137
2,062
2,160
2,748
1,701
1,520

14,328

St. George the Martyr
St. Mary Bredin
St. Mary Northgate
St. Mildred
St. Paul, including Langport
St. Peter

Total for these 6 parishes:

The parish of St. Mary Northgate alone contained 28% of the City's population. Over 50% lived in the three city parishes of St. Mary Bredin, St. Mary Northgate and St. Mildred. Of interest as parishes of the city with very small populations were the following:

Black Prince's Gentry Extra Parochial
& White Horse Extra Parochial

13 PROMINENT FIRMS

13 firms were listed for Canterbury in the following order:

- 1. Kennett, Son & Chamberlain, Auctioneers, Valuers, and complete Horse Furnishers, 1, 2, 3, & 4 Westgate; Auction Rooms and Warehouses, Stour Street.
- 2. Ash & Co., Lane John Brewery.
- 3. Court Brothers, Furniture and General Ironmongers, Ratchway Lane.
- 4. E. Lancelfield Wood, Bootmaker, 19 St. Margaret Street.
- 5. Prentice Brothers, Hog-Pocketing, Sacklar, Twine and Linen Manufacturers, St. George's Place.
- 6. Cox & Ellyott, Merchants and Wholesale Grocers (opposite the West Station)
- 7. H. J. Goulden, Bookbinder, Stationer, Printer, Bookbinder, Music-Seller, and Pianoforte Dealer, 39 & 40 High Street.
- 8. Mint & Sons, St. Dunstan's Brewery.
- 9. H. Norton & Co., successors to H. Letts, Importers and Bonders of and Dealers in Foreign Wines and Foreign and British Spirits, Offices & Cellars, 43 St. George's Street; Excise Bonded Stores, Iron Bar Lane.

XI: BRIDGE: A PORTRAIT OF THE VILLAGE BETWEEN THE WARSCrispin Whiting

Any survey of the village between 1918 and 1939 suffers from a lack of contemporary documentation. Guide and travel books found little of interest in the village itself, although several seized upon and romanticized about "Old England's Hole" where, it has been suggested, Caesar battled with the last of the resisting Britons. (1) Books specialising in architecture dwell upon some of the local houses of interest. (2) The local historian cannot be satisfied by the guidebooks' superficial passing over of Bridge as "an old highway village of the coaching days." (3) He must necessarily turn to other sources of information.

Trade directories are useful sources for the names and occupations of villages at any one time. Invariably they describe in outline the village, and its services and institutions. However, this source also has its drawbacks. Population figures are only accurate once every ten years, and even then can be confusing in the case of Bridge, as and when many directories failed to make it clear whether or not their population totals included residents of the union workhouse, in which cases a vexing game of arithmetic and assumption must be embarked upon in order to arrive at logical, and hopefully correct, sets of figures.

Among the local newspapers, The Kentish Gazette, provides only limited information, in a period when flower shows, the cricket club, and meetings of the Parish Council were by far the most documented events in the village. It does, however, contain some interesting photographs, including one of the Voluntary Fire Brigade in its early days. (4)

The East Kent Development Survey (5), published in 1925, although not dealing with Bridge as a separate entity, places the village in a wider perspective with others of similar size in the area, and provides lists of members of various committees including, of course, representatives from Bridge.

Since such written sources provide no more than a basic framework, some other source is needed in order to portray the village as it really was. The human mind offers a better and more comprehensive source than any book or document. Personal memories and recollections add flesh to the dry bones of written sources. The late Mrs. J. Friend, for instance, committed to paper in 1958 her recollections of village life, which were published in 1976 on the occasion of the opening of the Bridge by-pass. (6) They reveal much about the recent history of the village.

This concluding chapter owes much to Mr. Harry Hawking, who for the whole of his life has resided in the village and has played an important role in its social life. He has also recorded many of his memories, and has passed them on to others in the form of lectures to local groups and societies. He kindly made available his notes on the village, in the absence of which a restricted and somewhat superficial study of Bridge would have been the inevitable result. What is known of interwar Bridge is portrayed under the following headings, namely, "Education", "Transport", "Trade and Agriculture" and "village life in general".

EDUCATION

Most of the children attended the Public Elementary School, which although

no longer in use today still survives as a prominent village building. It offered places to 110 boys and girls and 86 infants, but was seldom filled to capacity. In 1918 the headmaster, John George Andrews, and the infants' mistress, Miss Constance Gwendoline Wye (7), were responsible to the Bridge Local School Attendance Committee which met at 21, Burgate Street, Canterbury on the first Saturday of each month at 2.30 p.m., under the chairmanship of the Rev. Canon M.A. Nisbit from Ickham. (8) The clerk to the committee was Thomas Louis Collard, who played a prominent role in the administration of village affairs.

Evidence from trade directories shows that Mr. Andrews had ceased to live in the village by 1923, but Miss Wye was still listed as "Infants' mistress, National Schools". (9) In 1924 the school was described as being under the control of the Kent Education Committee, and its new master was William John Billing, while Miss M. Bell was the new infants' mistress. (10) By 1928 Edgar Pope had taken over as master, but the infants were still under the care of Miss Bell, (11) who seems to have held the post for some time, and was certainly still living in the village in 1939. (12)

Even by interwar standards the school building itself was old, it lacked proper sanitation, and there was only one pump to raise all the water which was required. It educated children at least up to the age of 12, some of whom then left and went straight into a trade or employment. Although almost all the village children attended from the age of four, some were fortunate after a few years to be sent to school in Canterbury. Mr. Hawkins was sent by his father to the fee-paying Simon Langton School in Canterbury from the age of seven, when he used to cycle into the city each day. Fees of three guineas a term in 1918, had more than doubled to seven by 1928, when he left. Generally only the sons of tradesmen and farmers entered schools other than the National Elementary, while children from the "Big Houses" were usually sent away to boarding schools and had only minimal contact with the majority of village children.

TRANSPORT

Even by 1918 modes of communication had changed somewhat from the description given by Mrs. J. Friend of transport in and around the village at the beginning of the century:

"... Our connections with Canterbury were to walk or ride. We rode on solid tyre cycles, sometimes a penny farthing bicycle, tricycles, pony carts or horse back. Best of all was the coach with its four in hand and post horn. This came from Folkestone to Canterbury daily and was driven by Mr. Scott, passing through the village between 12 and 1 o'clock, and returning between 3.30 and 4 o'clock. (13)

Although following the first world war horse traffic was still in heavy use, it was now the motor vehicle that was "best of all". Private cars in the village were few and far between, owned principally by the people from the "Big Houses". This is well illustrated by Mr. Hawkins' recollection that when he wished to purchase a motor car some time in the late 20's his mother did her best to dissuade him, on the grounds that motor cars were only for the "Big families". She further urged that if the village draper bought one, then as a family they might be thought by the owners of Bifrons, Bridge Place, etc., to be too well-off by half and so could forfeit their valuable custom!

Of greater significance to the majority of villages were the motor omnibuses and charabancs of the East Kent Road Car Co. Ltd., which provided

For 1838:

Thomas Bushell, the "Gate"
 Frederick Colegate, Builder and Carpenter
 Thomas Collard, Tailor and draper
 Charles Davis, Grocer
 Jno. Dyson, Boot and shoe maker
 Wm. Fagg, Blacksmith and farrier
 Samuel Hardeman, Watch and clock maker
 Thomas Hawkins, Red Lion Inn
 Charles Hodges, Butcher
 Daniel Hooker, Grocer
 John Horton, Baker
 Hen. and Rich. Jarvis, Butchers
 John Martin, Saddler and harness maker
 John Nelson Paine, Hair dresser
 William Nix, Surgeon
 Wm. Pine, Boot and shoe maker
 Wm. Sayer, Painter, plumber and glazier
 Rich. Sherrard, White Horse Inn
 Amelius Sicard, Surgeon
 Thos. White, Boot and shoe maker
 William Williams, the "Plough and Harrow" (and brewer).

Professions and Trades in Bridge 1828-9 and 1838, in Alphabetical Order

	1828-9	1838
Baker	1	1
Blacksmith		1
Boot and Shoe Makers	1	3
Brewer		1
Builder		1
Butchers	2	2
Carpenters	1	1
Draper		1
Farrier		1
Glazier		1
Grocers	1	2
Hairdresser		1
Harness Maker		1
Inns	2	4
Painter	1	1
Plumber	1	1
Sacking Manufacturer	1	
Saddler	1	1
Smith	1	
Surgeons		2
Tailor		1
Watch and Clock Maker	1	1
<u>No. of trades</u>	12	19
<u>No. of tradesmen</u>	14	28

regular services to Canterbury, Folkestone and Dover. While they were efficient, they lacked much of the organisation associated with bus services today. Mr. Hawkins remembers the bus driver actually calling for regulars who were not outside the White Horse at the usual time. There were no timetables as such, and buses could be hailed at any point on their route, often resulting in bartering over fares!

Some years later, another company known as the "Cambrian Company", competed along the same route, starting from the Plough and Harrow in the High Street, and in effect raced the East Kent Company! Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how one looks at it, this practice ceased when regular stops and timetabling were introduced.

The introduction of motor vehicles necessitated the tarring of the road whose surface up to that time assumed the form of well trodden chalky dust. When, during the First World War, a convoy of London buses came through the village en route for France, the dust raised by the first dozen or so convinced those drivers, who were accustomed to clean London streets, that the Germans had put something on the road! (14)

Motorized traffic increased steadily, but during the period under review never approached the intensity of more recent years which made necessary the long awaited by-pass in 1976. Accidents, however, were frequent, in days when there were far fewer controls over the private motorists, yet with fewer cars on the road the risks involved in driving home after a night at the pub were less and this was a practice often indulged in. There was no driving test for the would-be motorist, and Mr. Hawkins remembers that on the night he had bought his car, for the princely sum of £12 10s 0d, he learned to drive by motoring to a function at Dover!

The changing nature of transport in and through Bridge is well illustrated by a picture postcard of the High Street dating from about 1920. Painted above the front door on either side of the "Plough and Harrow Inn" are "Good stabling" as opposed to "Garage". A single vehicle, a motorized delivery van, chugs purposefully down the centre of the High Street, observed by one pedestrian and a solitary cyclist leaning against the bridge.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE

Bridge still supported a surprising variety of trades for a village of its size, particularly given its proximity to Canterbury and the improvements in transport already noted. Shopping in Canterbury, however, was not of vital importance to Bridge housewives, since most of their basic daily needs could be secured from within the village. The following table shows the distribution of trades and professions listed alphabetically for 1913, 1918 1928 and 1939.

TRADES AND PROFESSIONS IN BRIDGE 1913-1939

	1913	1918	1928	1939
Artist	1	1	0	0
Baker	1	1	1	1
Beer retailer	1	1	1	1
Boot dealer	1	2	1	0
Boot dealer and Saddler	1	1	1	1
Boarding House	1	1	0	0
Brick Maker	1	1	1	0
Butcher	2	2	1	2
Builder	1	2	0	0
Chemist	1	1	1	0
Coal Merchant	1	1	1	2
Confection and General	2	3	1	2
Cycle dealer	0	0	1	1
Dairyman	1	1	1	0
Draper	1	1	1	1
Dress Maker	1	1	0	0
Fishmonger	0	0	1	1
Fly proprietor	1	0	0	0
Grocer	3	3	3	4
Hairdresser	1	1	1	0
Insurance Agent	2	2	1	0
Jobbing Gardener	2	1	0	0
Laundry	1	1	1	0
Motor Garage	1	1	1	1
Newsagent	0	0	0	2
Nurse	0	0	1	0
Plumber	1	1	1	1
Publican	4	4	4	4
Reading-room Manager	1	1	1	1
Riding School	0	0	1	0
School Master	1	1	1	1
Station Master	0	0	1	1
Sub-PostMaster	1	0	1	1
Transport Company	0	0	1	1
Wattle Maker	1	0	0	0

The table is not wholly accurate since some directories particularly The Canterbury and Herne Bay Blue Book for 1939, lists relatively few commercial or private residents in the village. Where a particular trade is known to have been in existence it has been added to the list for that year. The table shows several changes of an obvious and minor nature. Thus, it is hardly surprising that as early as 1918 both the wattle maker and the fly proprietor had ceased trading, while by 1928 one motor garage had been joined by a cycle dealer and a transport company. It is but one reflection of an agricultural area, that a blacksmith and saddler should both survive until the end of the period. In 1918 there were two builders in Bridge but ten years later both had ceased trading. It is possible that increasing mobility obviated the need for such a service in the village itself.

As well as satisfying many household needs the tradesmen of Bridge practically ran the village. Such names as Friend, Price, Hawkins and Hogben were associated with many committees and organisations, including the voluntary Fire Brigade. Mr. Hawkins, whose father had been the village draper since 1907, recalls how the tradesmen and farmers met informally and quite

frequently in the back room of the Red Lion to discuss the village affairs and trade in general.

The shop of Frederick John Hogben, the saddler and shoemaker in Bridge Street, was usually full of villagers only some of whom were customers, as the centre of village gossip. It was commonly known as the snob shop, from the slang for a shoemaker. (15) The Fairbrass family kept a confectioners business nearby, which around 1927, was being recorded as a greengrocer. The village drapery, located at Riverdale next to the Bridge, was started by Mr. George Hawkins in 1907, and passed to his wife on his death in 1928. Mr. Harry Hawkins subsequently took over, branching out to become the village newsagent from April 1934 onwards, prior to which Bridge had not possessed a paper shop. Five years later Bridge had two newsagents. The newsagency business which Mr. Hawkins founded in 1934 flourishes to this day and is run by his son, while the drapery side only closed down three years ago. In 1934 the building of a newsagent's shop cost a mere £100!

The garage was owned by Mr. Rogers, who, before the advent of the motor car, used to drive and work on steam traction engines and threshing machines at the steam engineers in Laundry Lane, known now as Conyngham Lane. The garage was unfortunately burned down, as was also the dairy which was replaced by a fish shop in 1928.

Milk from the dairy had been delivered in churns, each house bringing out a receptacle into which milk was ladled from a measure, but dust thrown up from the roads made this practice somewhat unhygienic.

Union Road contained a cycle agent who later moved into the High Street. Bicycles were a widely used form of communication between the wars, being the only form of personal transport which was cheap to buy and cost little or nothing to run. Bicycles were ideal for such short journeys as from Bridge to Canterbury.

Adjoining the elementary school was a coal merchant, who supplied not only coal, and faggots, but also hired out his trap for outings. The village baker baked bread in a brick oven, using faggots as fuel. The village butchers had their own slaughter-houses and it was a common sight to see livestock being driven through the village, to be sold over the counter within the next few days. From 1913 to beyond 1918 the Misses Tutt, were in business as dressmakers. They were local girls who had received the necessary training on leaving school, as the daughters of Mrs. Mary Tutt who had been a dressmaker in the village before the Great War.

Bridge had a mill which was owned by Charles Holland, who ground not only flour, but also sold coal, which explains why the land where the mill once stood is now owned by Corralls Ltd. The windmill was demolished some time during the 1930's, a move which would arouse opposition in these days of preservation and planning permission.

Sidney Gilbert was the sole surviving blacksmith between 1918 and 1939. His forge was situated where Turner's now stands, and it was customary to see a row of horses awaiting his attention in the street outside. He was never short of custom, for not only was there a riding school behind the Red Lion, but within the parish there were seven farms.

Bridge Farm was associated with lands in the village and on the hill, where Western Avenue now stands. What is today Great, Middle and Little Pett, was one single farm which, along with Lenhall, Benwill, and Pidd, was

mixed farming of other kinds, while Hode Farm specialised in apples, and kept pigs in its orchards to aerate the soil. Highland Court Farm was much smaller than the others until the Whigham family began to develop it.

VILLAGE LIFE IN GENERAL

Class distinctions remained strong in Bridge, as in many other areas of the country, during the interwar years. Situated close to the village were the two major estates of Bifrons and Bourne Park, plus a smaller estate, known as Higham or Highland Court. The owners and occupants of these big houses were socially superior to all other people and were viewed with a great deal of respect. They were major employers of labour, but not necessarily from the village itself. They engaged butlers, cooks, footmen, housekeepers and other menial domestics, such as grooms, gardeners and maids. Essentials for their households were supplied by village tradesmen, who valued their custom highly.

Below these aristocratic or gentry households were the highly revered occupants of the other big houses such as Bridge Hill House, East Bridge House, Bridge Place and Field House. The next rung of the social ladder was occupied by the farmers and leading tradesmen, such then was the social hierarchy of Bridge which survived the 1920's and 1930's, with the Talbot family being remembered in the village as the last of the gentry. Mr. Hawkins recalls having to try very hard to prevent his mother from going out to the chauffeur-driven car from Bourne Park which had sounded its horn for attention in the road outside the draper's shop. He recollects remonstrating with the chauffeur, informing him that in future all customers would have to come into the shop for service.

The Conyngham family continued to be good absentee landlords. Fences and other property were kept in good condition, and footpaths across their land were kept clear. They owned the Reading Room and Village Hall, which they rented to the village at the peppercorn rent of a shilling a year.

Count Zborowski derived much satisfaction from building a model light railway up on Barham Downs, which attracted many notable actors, novelists and actresses, before he met his untimely end, while motor racing on the Continent.

The joint living with Patricxbourne had been held since 1897 by the Rev. Hubert Knight, M.A. of Christ's College Cambridge, who resided at Patricxbourne. He was noted for being absent minded and for his fondness for gardening, which occasioned funerals or wedding parties having to send messengers over to Patricxbourne to fetch him from his garden, because he had forgotten his appointments at the Church. He is also remembered for having asked after the health of people whom he had buried!

Bridge has had only three doctors during the entire period that Mr. Hawkins has lived in the village. Dr. Wilson was an Irishman who had the unfortunate habit of giggling even when confronted with the most serious situations. He never rose before midday, and would ask people who called before noon to go away and come back later if they were really ill, and yet he was quite happy to see patients at 3 o'Clock in the morning. He was followed by Dr. Hunt who although less flamboyant, was considered to be an excellent doctor.

The Bridge Union Workhouse was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Honney, with the help of only two staff nurses for the female and male wards. In 1918 the

Board of Guardians met on every fourth Thursday at 12 noon in the Workhouse, under the Chairmanship of J. D. Maxted Esq., of Littlebourne. (16) The Assessment Committee met on the first Saturday of each month at 21, Burgate Street, Canterbury. (17) The clerk to the Guardians was Thomas Louis Collard of Bridge Hill, who is remembered for his hard hat as well as for his devotion to committee work. His work for the Bridge Blean R.D.C. involved him in the collection of rates, which he undertook personally, calling from house by house, as and where the rates had not been paid immediately! Bridge had a rateable value in 1924 of £2,262 (18) divided among a population of nearly 900, although in 1918 it had been £3,405, when the population was 823, according to the 1911 census. (19)

Bridge appears as a relatively healthy village between the wars. In 1922 the death rate for the Rural District was 12.1, compared to 14.0 for Deal and 9.8 for Walmer. (20) The average death rate for England and Wales in 1922 was 12.9. The birth rate was quite low relative to other places nearby. Margate had a very high rate at 19.5, while Bridge with a rate of 13.6 was only just above the lowest, Broadstairs, which recorded 12.1. (21)

The population of the village changed but little over the twenty years falling between 1911 and 1931. Excluding the inmates of the Workhouse, the figures at each census are as follows:

1911 - 723
 1921 - 699
 1931 - 713 (22)

Allowing for the fact that 13 men of the village perished during the First World War, (23) the discrepancy between the figures is only eleven between 1911 and 1921 as against only 14 between 1921 and 1931. Overall Bridge had a remarkably stable population, having ten fewer inhabitants in 1931 compared to 1911.

Recreational facilities and organisations existed or developed to meet the interests of most villagers. A Women's Institute was established in 1919, (24) while a cricket club had existed intermittently since 1748. (25) The Horticultural Society was reformed in 1920, (26) while for younger generations a scout troop met behind the Red Lion Public house, followed later by a boy's club. The British Legion organised railway outings until the closure of the Elham Valley line during the Second World War.

One organisation of vital importance was the Bridge Volunteer Fire Brigade, whose equipment in 1918 included a Merry-Weather manual engine and about 1,200 feet of hose. The Fire engine was horsedrawn, being pulled by the same horses

the last war, while the early hoses were made of leather and thick rubber. The fire brigade remained independent up until the Second World War.

CONCLUSION

Bridge developed in the same way as countless other English villages between 1918 and 1939, but like the rest of them it had its own characteristics. These manifested themselves in the institutions, the people and the life style of the village which we have looked at in the preceding chapter. Hopefully future generations, and not only the historians will find it easier to trace the development of the village in modern times, for there is an increased interest in recording aspects of village life, not only by individuals but also organisations like the Women's Institute, whose 'Countryside Survey' will be of great assistance in assessing the changing position of Bridge in the last decade.

1911 - 128
1921 - 128
1931 - 128

FOOTNOTES

- (1) C.G. Harper, The Dover Road (2nd Ed., 1922), 222-224.
- (2) J. Newman, The Buildings of England - North and North East Kent, (2nd Ed., 1976), 65, 73, 88, 91, 121, 159.
- (3) Marcus Crouch, Kent, (1966), 208.
- (4) Reproduced in (Mrs.) J. Friend, Notes on the village of Bridge (Cant., 1976), 2.
- (5) P. Abercrombie, East Kent Regional Planning Scheme, (1925), 24.
- (6) Friend, op.cit.
- (7) Kelly's Directory for Kent, (1918), 103.
- (8) Ibid.
- (9) Kelly's, op.cit. (1923), 437.
- (10) Kelly's, op.cit. (1924), 106.
- (11) Kelly's, op.cit. (1928), 110.
- (12) The Canterbury and District, Herne Bay and Whitstable local directory, 1939 (Brighton, 1939), 579.
- (13) Friend, op.cit. 6.
- (14) Ibid.
- (15) 'Snob : a shoemaker, shoemaker's apprentice, cobbler', Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary (revised edition, 1971), 1045.
- (16) Kelly's, op.cit. (1918), 104.
- (17) Ibid.
- (18) Abercrombie, op.cit., 26.
- (19) Kelly's, op.cit. 1918, 104.
- (20) Abercrombie, op.cit. 27.
- (21) Ibid.

In the ten year period a number of new businesses appeared, notably a builder, a tailor, a draper, a hair dresser, two surgeons, two boot and shoemakers and a second grocer. If this was a genuine expansion, it was probably the result of two factors. First, there was a rapid growth of population in Bridge between 1821 and 1841 from 432 to 817; and secondly, additional business accrued to the village from the construction of the Bridge Poor Law Union Workhouse, the history of which is examined in a later chapter.

Already by 1828 residents and travellers could quench their thirsts at one of the two inns in Bridge. The White Horse Inn, which is mentioned in both trade directories was once a "baiting", or halting house. Although it was hardly distant enough from Dover for a full stage, it was conveniently situated for a change of horses, certainly it is an old building, which is all too evident from the Tudor fireplace in the large bar, with its moulded beams above. (24) It served also as the village Post Office, with the mail in 1828 arriving at eight in the morning and being dispatched at six in the evening. These were days when coaches and carriers to and from London, Canterbury and Dover passed daily through the village. (25)

This chapter concludes by examining population growth in Bridge following the first national census in 1801. A simple subtraction of the number of burials from baptisms entered in the parish register suggests that population growth was very slow until the beginning of the nineteenth century. The 1801 census counted 325 inhabitants of whom 152 were males and 173 females. By 1811 the population had risen to 397, continuing an unbroken upward trend thereafter to 432 in 1821, to 543 in 1831, to 817 in 1841 and to 864 in 1851. The number of inhabited houses, families, occupations, males, females and total population as enumerated over the first four censuses are shown in the following table. (26)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Inhabited houses</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Those Employed in agriculture</u>	<u>In Trade</u>	<u>Other Occupations</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1801	42	65	74 persons	44 persons	207 persons	152	173	325
1811	76	81	51 families	16 families	14 families	199	198	397
1821	86	99	37 families	36 families	26 families	202	230	432
1831	97	101	45 families	24 families	32 families	261	282	543

Several points of interest can be found in these statistics, the ratio of houses to inhabitants, for instance, improved dramatically, so that there was one house for every 7.9 people in 1801 compared to one for every 5.3 persons in 1811, 1:5 in 1821 and 1:5.5 in 1831.

In 1811 males exceeded females in the population, having increased their numerical strength by 47 since 1801, but over the decade 1811-21 the number of males in the parish increased by only three, whereas the number of females rose by 32. Apart from including the possibility of male migration to and from neighbouring Canterbury during the years 1801 to 1821 in search of work, females exceeded males in number in 1821 and 1831, as they had done in 1801, by virtue of the fact that girls were less likely to die in infancy compared to boys.

APPENDIX

ABSOLUTE BURIAL FIGURES FOR BRIDGE FOR KNOWN YEARS, 1560-1840.

1560	2	1636	5	1731	8	1786	5
1561	9	1637	3	1732	2	1787	8
1570	3	1638	3	1733	9	1788	10
1571	0	1639	1	1734	5	1789	8
1572	1	1660	0	1735	9	1790	15
1577	1	1661	3	1736	5	1791	9
1578	2	1662	1	1737	11	1792	15
1579	1	1666	5	1738	13	1793	14
1580	5	1667	4	1739	6	1794	6
1583	3	1675	3	1740	4	1795	8
1586	6	1676	6	1741	9	1796	7
1587	6	1677	6	1742	11	1797	9
1588	3	1678	5	1743	7	1798	8
1589	4	1679	16	1744	7	1799	7
1590	0	1680	9	1745	4	1800	13
1591	3	1687	4	1746	6	1801	6
1592	3	1688	3	1747	7	1802	7
1593	3	1689	5	1748	2	1803	4
1594	3	1690	3	1749	8	1804	8
1595	0	1691	7	1750	10	1805	5
1596	3	1692	2	1751	6	1806	7
1597	8	1695	5	1752	4	1807	7
1598	0	1696	5	1753	3	1808	12
1599	4	1697	6	1754	5	1809	14
1600	1	1698	2	1755	5	1810	5
1601	6	1699	5	1756	6	1811	8
1602	4	1700	8	1757	8	1812	8
1608	1	1701	7	1758	6	1813	7
1609	0	1702	4	1759	8	1814	7
1610	1	1703	8	1760	6	1815	9
1611	3	1706	10	1761	8	1816	5
1612	4	1707	4	1762	4	1817	4
1613	2	1708	2	1763	7	1818	4
1614	1	1709	2	1764	4	1819	7
1615	3	1710	6	1765	10	1820	12
1616	11	1711	5	1766	8	1821	3
1617	5	1712	9	1767	9	1822	5
1618	8	1713	3	1768	14	1823	7
1619	5	1714	7	1769	6	1824	9
1620	4	1715	2	1770	10	1825	8
1621	2	1716	7	1771	8	1826	13
1622	4	1717	4	1772	10	1827	7
1623	1	1718	2	1773	6	1828	6
1624	5	1719	3	1774	10	1829	10
1625	6	1720	8	1775	7	1830	8
1626	5	1721	8	1776	10	1831	7
1627	0	1722	2	1777	11	1832	9
1628	2	1723	7	1778	13	1833	5
1629	13	1724	11	1779	5	1834	9
1630	3	1725	6	1780	12	1835	11
1631	2	1726	2	1781	10	1836	8
1632	0	1727	11	1782	8	1837	14
1633	4	1728	10	1783	9	1838	5
1634	2	1729	11	1784	13	1839	9
1635	0	1730	4	1785	6	1840	9

FOOTNOTES

- (1) E. Hasted, The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent, (2nd ed Canterbury, 1800), IX, 286-87.
- (2) F. T. Vine, 'On Three Tumuli in Gorsley Wood, near Bridge, and Canterbury', Archaeologia Cantiana, XV (1883), 311-317.
- (3) F. Jenkins, 'Researches and Discoveries in Kent', Archaeologia Cantiana, LXX (1956), 248.
- (4) Non-conformists, as non-Anglicans, included Methodists who, as such, were not entered in the Anglican registers.
- (5) T. Hollingsworth, Historical Demography (1969), 142.
- (6) Registers from each parish were sent to the Bishop on Lady Day, March 25th, every year to be copied.
- (7) C. Creighton, A History of Epidemics in Britain, I (1965), 507-532, 646-692, and E. Jacob, The History of the Town and Port of Faversham, in the County of Kent (1774), 108.
- (8) Hasted, op. cit., 290.
- (9) A. P. Appleby, "Disease or Famine? Mortality in Cumberland and Westmorland, 1580-1640", Economic History Review, 2nd series, 26 (1973), 401-431.
- (10) Creighton, op.cit., 536-37.
- (11) Anglican registers very rarely give entries referring to the cause of death, even in years when plague struck.
- (12) W. G. Hoskins, "Harvest Fluctuations in English Economic History, 1620-1719", Agricultural History Review, 16 (1968), 29-30.
- (13) The History and Antiquities of Rochester and its Environs (1772), 352.
- (14) W. Gostling, A Walk in and about the City of Canterbury, (5th Ed., Canterbury, 1804), 302.
- (15) Hasted, op.cit., 287-89.
- (16) Ibid., 289.
- (17) Ibid., 289-90.
- (18) J. Newman, The Buildings of England, North-East and East Kent (1969), 154.
- (19) Hasted, op.cit., 286.
- (20) Ibid., 286
- (21) E. W. Parkin, "The Vanishing Houses of Kent", Archaeologia Cantiana, LXXIX (1964), 136-139.

- (22) Pigot and Co., London and Provincial New Commercial Directory for 1828-9 (1829), 595.
- (23) Stapleton and Co.'s Topographical History and Directory of Canterbury (1838) 56-57.
- (24) G. M. Rainbird, Inns of Kent (1948), 16-17.
- (25) Pigot and Co., op. cit., 595.
- (26) Census Reports, Abstracts of the Answers and Returns, British Parliamentary Papers,
(1801), 146,
(1811), 137,
(1822), 137,
(1831), 258-9.

II: LANDOWNERSHIP AND FARMING IN BRIDGE DURING THE 1840's:
THE TITHE MAP AND APPORTIONMENT

Miss Kim Davies

"Kent is mainly an agricultural county, and not in any sense a manufacturing county, like Yorkshire or Lancashire" (1)

In a rural community, such as Bridge in the mid nineteenth century, farming was the most important village "industry". The evidence of agrarian change, at that time, is to be found in land tax assessments, rentals, crop-returns, officially printed population censuses, parliamentary papers on the state of agriculture and tithe awards. (2) Tithe commutation played an important part in Kentish agrarian history. Tithes, as a tenth part of the produce of the land, (3) were a payment exacted from the inhabitants of a parish for the maintenance of the church and its incumbents. In the first instance, tithes were paid to the rector (4) of the parish, but the Reformation saw the transfer of a large proportion of this revenue into the hands of laymen. Lay impropiators, as they were known, still held nearly one quarter of the net annual value of all tithes at the time of commutation. (5) In principle tithes were payable in kind, and were levied on all yearly profits.

The medieval open-field system, typical of the Midlands, never prevailed extensively in Kent, and the enclosure of the county was largely complete before the sixteenth century. The parliamentary enclosure acts of the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries so far as Kent is concerned, involved the enclosure and bringing into cultivation of limited areas of common-land, but in those counties where the parliamentary enclosure movement was more significant, the opportunity was taken to convert tithes into an equivalent allotment of land. In an old enclosed county like Kent, almost every parish witnessed a tithe survey, (6) which resulted from the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836.

	<u>% of land area covered by Tithe Surveys</u>	<u>% of land area covered by Enclosure Acts</u>
Kent	97.8	Nil
Northampton	23.5	51.8 (7)

THE TITHE COMMUTATION ACT OF 1836

The payment of tithes in kind caused endless disputes between farmers and tithe owners, so that

"frequent disputes arose concerning the nature of titheable produce. When tithes were allotted to more than one owner further litigation began. It was asked what constituted the vicar's tithe and how much belonged to the rector and lay impropiator, should the tithe be collected by the owners and if so when, or should it be delivered by the farmer, and if so, to what place?" (8)

Tithes were an imposition which bore most heavily on progressive farmers, whose increased yields involved them in increased tithe commitments. This reason, clearly, was in the mind of Lord John Russell as Home Secretary who,

when introducing the Bill for the general commutation of tithes in 1836, described the system as "a discouragement to industry, a penalty on skill, a heavy mulct on those who expended the most capital and displayed the greatest skill in the cultivation of the land." (9)

As well as being unpopular, tithes were administered inefficiently, so that a "tithe system", as such might not exist, which to some extent was the case in early nineteenth century Kent. Tithing practises became so complicated, so encumbered by local varieties of exemptions, prescriptions, extraordinary charges and moduses, (10) that one of John Boys's correspondents was forced to admit that,

"What is meant by a fair commutation of tithes, I know not. An equivalent or commutation that would satisfy most parties is perhaps impossible". (11)

In the event, Russell's formula, in the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, did satisfy most parties. The underlying principle replaced tithes in kind by a fluctuating money payment (12) known as corn rent, or the tithe rent charge, which was adjusted each year on the basis of a seven year national average price of wheat, barley and oats. In 1836 the septennial average price of wheat was 7s 0½d per bushell, as against 3s 11½d for barley and 2s 9d for oats. (13)

The Act established Tithe Commissioners who encouraged voluntary agreements between tithe owners and payers, imposing Awards only on districts where litigation was in progress. While critics of the Tithe Commissioners may have complained of inactivity and delay, 75% of the settlements in Kent were completed within six years of the confirmation of the first agreement. (14) By the end of 1848 tithe commutation in Kent was virtually complete. (15)

The Act provided for a field-by-field survey of landownership, occupancy and use in each tithe district, which was duly recorded on the tithe maps and tithe apportionments. These were made in triplicate. The original was placed in the custody of the Public Record Office, while the other copies were deposited with the incumbents and church wardens of each district, and were to be preserved in the parish chest, and in the relevant diocesan registry. (16) A series of apportionments and maps for East Kent is in the custody of the Cathedral Archives and Library in Canterbury. These records have been described as "the most complete record of the agrarian landscape of any period". (17)

THE TITHE MAPS

Most of the Kentish maps, which reveal the names of their surveyors, were produced by men who were resident in London or in the county. The Bridge tithe map was drawn in 1838 by Mr. J.M. Davey of Canterbury (18) to a scale of three chains to one inch. He would have produced one or two plans for other parishes near Canterbury.

All tithe maps were inspected at the offices of the Tithe Commissioners, and those attaining a standard of accuracy and admissible in courts of law were affixed with the Commissioners' seal. Only those maps which received this official seal of approval were regarded as first-class maps; the remainder were second class. (19) Just over half the Kent maps passed the system of checks, which was well above the estimated national average of 20%. (20) The Bridge map received an official seal on 18 February 1841.

It lacks, however, some features which are considered fundamental to a modern map. Although the most serious omission is that of a key, it did delineate the ecclesiastical parish, and the boundaries of each tithe area. The latter corresponded most commonly with fields rather than with farms. Other topographical features which were shown included roads, woods, streams, footpaths and buildings. Inhabited buildings were tinted red; the remainder were represented by shaded areas. Larger properties, such as Bridge Place, and some farms were named. Each tithe area was numbered, which allows it to be identified on the apportionment.

THE APPORTIONMENT

This was prepared on parchment, in manuscript, and consisted of an opening "Articles of Agreement" (21), followed by the Schedule which was divided into eight columns.

- (i) Landowners listed alphabetically.
- (ii) Occupiers, either a landowner as "himself" or a named tenant.
- (iii) A number referring to the map. Because properties were listed by landowners numbers occur in no clear order. The surveyors numbered properties on the ground as they came to them.
- (iv) Name and description of property. Here is a primary source for field names, farms and house names, but in some cases field names were not given.
- (v) State of cultivation, as a primary source for the study of land use, but limited in value because the nature of the crop was not indicated.
- (vi) Acreages in acres, rood and perches, with 40 perches = 1 rood and 4 roods = 1 acre.
- (vii) Rent charge in lieu of tithes.
- (viii) Remarks.

At the end of the Schedule was a summary of the total acreages of each landowner and occupier. (22)

When using the Bridge apportionment as a source for reconstructing elements of the landscape c1840, some assessment of its accuracy must be attempted. In particular, three questions may be asked:-

- (i) How relevant are the summaries of parish land use in the preamble to the Schedule?
- (ii) Are the names entered in the ownership and occupation columns, those of the true owners and occupiers of land?
- (iii) What are the criteria upon which land was classified according to use? (23)

Since land use statistics were frequently estimates, inaccuracies could occur through incorrect assessments. The summaries often referred to a time earlier than the date of the award. Although the actual acreages were sometimes inaccurate, the proportions of arable, pasture, wood and the like were stated, it is believed, with reasonable accuracy. (24) Under the 1836 Act, an owner of land meant any person in the actual possession of the receipts of the rents and profits of that land. Thus, it is almost certain that some mortgagees and "tenants-for-life" were assumed to be owners. In a reply to a question about whether the Tithe Commissioners investigated a person's interest in a parcel of land, William Blamire, a Tithe Commissioner, replied

"Oh dear no!" The names of occupiers listed in the apportionment, on the other hand, can be checked against parish rate-books, directories, or the census enumeration schedules of 1841.

Land in terms of its cultivation was differentiated by observation. According to the Tithe Commutation Act, land which was judged to have been ploughed within the previous three years for crops, rotation grasses, or fallow, was to be regarded as arable. Grassland or leys, which had not been under the plough for three years, were to be recorded as grass. Even if these instructions were strictly followed, problems of interpretation remain in Kent, particularly, where convertible husbandry was practised in the mid nineteenth century. (25) The most important distinction was that made between arable and grassland. Farmers on their arable land paid tithes equivalent to about one fifth of the value of their rent, whereas on grass they paid less than one eighth. Lands devoted to hop grounds were charged with supplementary or extraordinary rent charges.

BRIDGE AS PORTRAYED IN THE TITHE MAP AND APPORTIONMENT

The parishes of Bridge and Patricxbourne were designated as one tithe district by the Tithe Commissioners (26) Defining an area was the first task in commutation. Known as a tithe district it was distinguished from a parish, since

"What was frequently disputed was not the existence of a parish, but the exact extent of its boundaries. This was particularly important for someone who was a tithe owner in one parish and a tithe payer elsewhere." (27)

Few problems arose in Bridge. A meeting was held between the tithe owners and landowners on 22 October, 1838, and agreement was reached on 8 March 1839. Notice of appeal appeared in The Kent Herald on 7 July 1840.

"The Draft Apportionment of the agreed Rent-charge with maps and costs of commutations, are deposited at the White Horse, Bridge, and the day of Appeal is on Thursday the 30th of July at the same place, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, Robert Lake, Apportioner" (28)

All payments having been confirmed by 17 February 1841, the first payment of rent charge was to be effected by July 1841. The total sums agreed to be paid were:-

- (i) To the lay impropiator, Elizabeth, Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham
- | | | | |
|------|-----|----|---------------------------------------|
| £876 | 16s | 0d | (in lieu of tithes on corn and grain) |
| £ 23 | 4s | 0d | (in lieu of Rectorial rent charge) |

£900 0s 0d

- (ii) To the Vicar, the Rev. Charles Hughes-Hallett

	a.	r.	p.
Arable	665	1	20 (29)
Meadow or pasture	160	3	28
Woodland	204	"	22
Hop grounds	90	"	"
Market gardens	14	1	23 (30)
Glebe	"	"	"
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1134	3	13

While 32% of Kent was given over to grassland (31) this was clearly not the case in Bridge, which as part of a predominantly arable farming area had a ratio of arable: meadow or pasture of at least 4:1. Just over 58% of the total land area of Bridge was devoted to arable farming; only 14% was meadow or pasture.

Parishes within a tithe district could display quite different characteristics of landownership, and in this respect there was a striking contrast between Bridge and Patrixbourne.

<u>Acreage</u>	<u>No. of landowners</u>	
	In Bridge	In Patrixbourne
Under 1	28	3
1	4	-
2	5	1
3	3	-
4	1	1
5	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 5
<u>Total as a percentage</u>	80%	23%
<u>of landowners</u>		

Bridge contained a large number of landowners with holdings of less than one acre. It was a parish where owner occupation was common, especially since the summary listed 51 landowners for Bridge, as against 17 for Patrixbourne. 41 of Bridge's 51 landowners, which was 80% had holdings of less than five acres. Because owner occupiers represent an interesting group in Bridge, they justify more detailed study.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size of holding</u>			<u>Occupation (if known) (32)</u>
	a.	r.	p.	
AUSTIN, DANIEL	28	0	35	
BRICE, RICHARD	2	1	12	Gentry
CONNYNHAM	168	3	35	Nobility
COLEGATE, FREDERIC	"	1	26	Builder/Carpenter
DAVIS, CHARLES	"	"	27	Grocer and dealer in sundries
DUTNELL, WILLIAM	3	"	8	
FISSENDEN, PETER	1	1	1	Gentry
FAGE, SARAH	"	1	28	
FAGE, WILLIAM	1	3	28	Blacksmith
GAMBRILL, WILLIAM	"	"	16	
GREGORY, REV. EDWARD	20	3	29	Clergy
GUARDIANS OF BRIDGE UNION	2	1	"	
HARTLEY, REV. JAMES	4	3	13	Clergy
HOWARD, CHARLES	1	"	15	
HODGES, CHARLES	"	"	3	Butcher
HYDER, WILLIAM	"	"	23	
HARDEMAN, SAMUEL	"	1	32	Grocer and dealer in sundries
JARVIS, HENRY	9	3	15	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size of holding</u>			<u>Occupation (if known) (32)</u>
	a.	r.	p.	
JARVIS, RICHARD	3	1	31	Butcher
SONDES, RT. HON THE LORD	47	3	28	Nobility
SMITHSON, MILLER	"	"	11	
SICARD, MARY	"	1	11	
TYSON, JOSEPH	2	"	3	
VERRIER, WILLIAM	"	"	9	Plumber/glazier/painter
WILLIAMS, WILLIAM	"	"	24	Brewer
WHITE, THOMAS	"	"	15	Boot and shoemaker
WESLEYAN, CHAPEL	"	"	12	

Nine of those 27 listed landowners were also tradesmen; two were clergymen and two were institutions, namely the Bridge Guardians and the Wesleyan Chapel. Although the summary does not indicate the type of holding that each of these landowners had, the Schedule shows that Charles Hodges' three perches consisted of a house and a garden, whilst William Fagg's holding amounted to a house, a shop and an area of pasture land. While the nobility possessed sizeable holdings, the general pattern of smaller holdings consisted of a house and garden. The progressively larger holdings usually contained subsidiary areas of cultivation.

A large landowner, such as the Marchioness of Conyngham, occupied a large acreage and yet also rented out large areas of land. Ten different people occupied 598 acres which the Marchioness owned but did not occupy. Bridge was an area of compact small holdings, even among those tenants who did not own the land which they occupied.

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		
				a.	r.	p.
Beckingham, Louisa	Swan, William	Y45	Cottage and Garden	"	"	35
Bear, Catherine	Andrews, Eleanor	Y74	House and Garden	"	"	16
Marchioness of Conyngham	Rickwood, John	Y2	Cottage and Garden	"	"	27
Colegate, Prederic	Dyason, John	Y68	House and Garden	"	"	27
Curtis, George	Shaxby, Charles	Y22	Houseyard and Premises	"	"	9
Foord, Thomas	Lawrence, John	Y67	Cottage and Gardens	"	"	15
Phillpott, Stephen	Martin, John	Y58	House and Garden	"	"	24

It was infrequently the case that occupiers held land elsewhere in the parish. As and when this did occur, the tithe apportionment would rarely provide information showing the precise relationship between the separate portions of a total holding. In one obvious case of scattered occupancy the connection can be seen quite clearly. It concerned William Dutnell who owned some building ground in association with a rented brickfield.

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of land</u>
Conyngham	Dutnell, William	Y113	House and Brickfield
Dutnell, William	Himself	Y10	Building Ground

These two holdings were scattered only in the sense that they were geographically separated.

Mixed farming is yet another theme which can be identified from the Bridge apportionment. Those inhabitants who occupied larger holdings were tenant farmers. There were no specialist farms, and land was being applied to all types of farming and other uses.

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of land</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>
Barham, Rev Richard	Richardson, James	Y63	Bridge Farm	Homestead
		Y64	Two acre meadow	Pasture
		Y81	Six acres	Arable
		Y82	Further sheeplands	"
		Y95	Two and a half acres	Pasture
		Y96	Union fields	Arable
		Y97	Stour meadow	Pasture
<hr/>				
Beckingham, Louisa	Brice, Richard	Y148		Chalk pit
		Y150	Woodlands	Hops
		Y156	Little Hammel	Pasture
		Y157	Barn meadow	"
		Y158	Little Pett Farm	Homestead
		Y159	Half-acre meadow	Pasture
		Y173	Great Fields	Hops
		Y174	Rough Hill	Arable
		Y175	Stable Field	Arable
Y183	Old Down	Arable		

The high incidence of owner occupiers in Bridge points to a "closed" community, in the sense that land was largely held by local people. Larger Landowners, however, possessed holdings in the neighbouring parish of Patricbourne as well as in Bridge.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Quantity of land held</u>					
	<u>In Bridge</u>			<u>In Patricbourne</u>		
	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
Barham, Rev. Richard	62	3	36	26	"	20
Beckingham, Louisa	177	2	20	4	3	19
Conyngham, Marchioness of	767	3	15	643	3	7
Sondes, Rt. Hon. the Lord	47	3	28	111	1	32

Kent had long been famous for its hops and Bridge contributed to their cultivation during the nineteenth century; indeed the favourable soils of East Kent, "mainly around Canterbury ... had long been given over to intensive forms of cultivation such as hop growing" (33) There was an extraordinary rent charge upon hop grounds of 12/s per imperial acre, which was listed among the "Articles of Agreement" at the beginning of the apportionment as follows.

<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity</u>			<u>Amount of rent charge</u>
	a.	r.	p.	
Hops	5	3	5	Extraordinary charge on 5a. 3r. 5p. at 12/s per acre £3 9s 4 ¹ / ₂ d.

This extraordinary charge ceased when lands to which it was applied were no longer hop gardens after commutation. Conversely, the extraordinary charge applied to lands which were converted to hop production. The gross rent for tithe owners was adjusted according to their involvement in hop cultivation. Under the 1836 Act an extraordinary charge could also be applied to market garden produce. Bridge had just over 14 acres of market gardens, but they were not subject to any extraordinary rent charge in the Schedule.

CONCLUSION

While the Bridge Tithe Apportionment and Map provides valuable information on land ownership and occupation, the information relates only to one point of time, and the picture provided of agriculture in the parish is incomplete in many respects. Information is lacking on soil types and courses of crop rotation. There exists, in addition, tithe files for each tithe district, which contain replies to a printed questionnaire, which in turn had been sent to all tithe payers before commutation. The files have not been consulted in the case of Bridge, since "where there was an Agreement between the parties, the files are not likely to contain very much of interest. (34) A fuller picture of farming in Bridge demands the consultation of other documentary sources, such as probate inventories, or estate records which contain farming accounts or leases stipulating husbandry covenants.

APPENDIX AND MAP RELATING TO APPORTIONMENTS IN BRIDGE AND PATRICKBOURNE

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of lands and premises</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity a. r. p.</u>
Garner Harriet (Heirs of)	Boyack Alexander	Y7	House and	Garden	" " 39
Garner Harriet (Heirs of)	Wilson William	Y8	House and	Garden	" " 13
Fissenden Peter	Paul Samuel	Y13	House and	Garden	" " 9
Conyngham Marchioness of	Denne George	Y15	Bridge Field	Arable	7 2 4
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y16	The Park	Pasture	4 2 19
Fissenden Peter	Himself	Y17	-	Pasture	" 3 28
Fissenden Peter	Price James and Others	Y18	Four Houses and	Gardens	" 1 4
Page William	Himself	Y24	-	Pasture	1 3 4
Beckingham Louisa	Horn Henry	Y44	Bourn Paddock	Pasture	39 2 8

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of lands and premies</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity a. r. p.</u>
Hardeman William	Horton John and another	Y49	Two Houses and	Gardens	" " 16
Hardeman William	Goodman Thomas and others	Y53	Four Cottages and	Gardens	" " 11
Tritton Ann	Williams William	Y60	Two Houses and	Gardens	" " 20
Tritton Ann	Duckett Thomas	Y61	Houses and	Gardens	" " 28
Neal James	May Thomas and Four others	Y62	Five Cottages and	Gardens	" " 33
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y63	Bridge Farm	Homestead	" 3 19
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y64	Two Acre Meadow	Pasture	1 3 15
Hodges Charles	Himself	Y65	House and	Premises	" " 3
Foord Thomas	Lawrence John and others	Y67	Four Cottages and	Gardens	" " 15
Colegate Frederic	Himself and Dyason John	Y68	House, Yard and	Premises	" " 39
Fage Sarah	Eaden Edward and another	Y69	Two Cottages and	Gardens	" " 11
Marsh Richard	Callard Thomas	Y70	House and	Garden	" " 15
Keiler Maria	Hooker Daniel	Y72	House and	Garden	" " 8
Sicard Mary	Herself and another	Y73	Two Houses and	Gardens	" 1 11
Gambrill William	Himself	Y76	House and	Garden	" " 16
Guardians of Bridge Union	Themselves	Y92	Union Spot	Arable	" 3 25
Guardians of Bridge Union	Themselves	Y93	Union House	-	1 1 15
Barham	Richardson	Y95	Two and a Half Acres	Pasture	" " 18

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of lands and premises</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity a. r. p.</u>
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y96	Union Fields	Arable	5 1 31
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y97	Stour Meadow	Pasture	2 3 27
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y102	Bridge Place Meadow	Pasture	9 1 1
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y103	Bridge Place	Homestead	1 2 9
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y104	The Slip	Pasture	" 3 30
Beckingham Louisa	Rutter Ann and others	Y105	Two Cottages and	Gardens	" 2 16
Beckingham Louisa	Steed John	Y106	Dog Kennel Meadow	Pasture	3 1 37
Beckingham Louisa	Steed John	Y107	Dog Kennel Meadow	Pasture	1 " 30
Beckingham Louisa	Steed John	Y109	Dog Kennel Meadow	Pasture	3 1 3
Conyngham Marchioness of	Herself	Y110	Bourn Hop Ground	Hops	17 3 "
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y111	Bridge Place Pasture	Pasture	6 3 20
<u>Patricxbourne</u>					
Conyngham Marchioness of	Hopper William and another	X63(E)	Cottages and	Gardens	" 1 12
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	X78	Part of Bifrons Park	Pasture	12 2 6
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	X79	Soothouse Meadow	Pasture	3 " 11
Conyngham Marchioness of	Herself	X81	Mill Plantation	Plantation	5 " 20

FOOTNOTES

- (1) George F. Bosworth, County Geographies: Kent (Cambridge, 1909), 67
- (2) J. Thirsk, "The Content and Sources of English Agrarian History after 1500", The Agricultural History Review, III (1955), 77
- (3) Tithes were of three kinds: (i) predial, on agricultural crops, (ii) mixed, on the increase of farm stock, and (iii) personal, from mills and factories. The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 related mainly to predial tithes.
- (4) A rector may have been a bishop, prioress, monastery, nunnery or college.
- (5) H.C. Prince, "The Tithe Surveys of the Mid Nineteenth Century", The Agricultural History Review, VII (1959), 15
- (6) Apportionments and maps are extant for almost all of the tithe districts of Kent. 862,638 acres, or 86.8% of the surface area of the county, at the time of the tithe surveys, were subject to tithes. In all but one parish (Goodnestone-next-Wingham) the use and extent of tithe free land are described in the Kent tithe surveys. This means that in total, they contain a record of the ownership, occupiers and use of 974,706 acres of land, amounting to 98.1% of the surface area of Kent c 1840, according to R.J.P. Kain, "The Tithe Commutation Surveys", Archaeologia Cantiana, LXXXIX (1974), 104-105.
- (7) Gilbert Slater, The English Peasantry and the Enclosure of Common Fields (1907), 189
- (8) Prince op. cit., 15
- (9) The Secretary of the Tithe Redemption Commission, "The Records of the Tithe Redemption Office", The Journal of the Society of Archivists, I (1957), 132
- (10) Tithes converted to fixed annual moneypayments. A modus was not strictly equivalent to a tithe payment, which varied from year to year, according to the amount and value of farm produce.
- (11) Kain, op. cit., 102
- (12) Until the Tithe Act of 1891, payment of rentcharge was the occupiers liability.
- (13) Prince, op. cit., 17. The amount of corn rent was to be obtained by dividing £100 of tithes into three equal portions of £33 6s 8d, calculating how much wheat, barley and oats could be brought with each portion, and multiplying these quantities by the average price in succeeding years.
- (14) Kain, op. cit., 106
- (15) Ibid., 102
- (16) Ibid., 117
- (17) Prince, op. cit., 14
- (18) Jacob Mills Davey, 43, St. George's St. is listed as an Auctioneer or Appraiser (also a Broker) in Stapleton and Co's Topographical History and Directory of Canterbury (1838), 15. Also on p. 29 as a Surveyor.
- (19) In many parishes landowners tried to save themselves some of the cost of a new survey by presenting Assistant Commissioners with maps drawn originally for other purposes, such as poor law assessment. Unsealed maps consequently constitute a very mixed collection, and the only way in which accuracy could be proved was by selecting lines on a map and measuring them on the ground, but Tithe Commissioners could neither meet the costs of such operations nor impose the necessary expenses on the responsible parties.
- (20) Kain, op. cit., 113
- (21) Providing details of the area of the parish, the area subject to tithes, indicating how much was devoted to arable, meadow, wood, pasture

- (22) L.M. Munbey, "Tithe Apportionments and Maps", History, 54 (1969), 70
- (23) Kain, op. cit., 107
- (24) Ibid., 108
- (25) Ibid., 109
- (26) Canterbury Cathedral Library and Archives, B 29 A.
- (27) Prince, op. cit., 17
- (28) The Kent Herald, 7 July 1840, 2G
- (29) East Kent was predominantly an arable farming area, E. Melling, Kentish Sources: Aspects of Agriculture and Industry (Maidstone, 1961), 1
- (30) Gardens and market gardens were not clearly distinguished in the main part of the schedule.
- (31) R.J.P. Kain, "Tithe Surveys and the Study of Land Occupation", The Local Historian, XII (2) (1976), 88
- (32) Pigot and Co's Royal, National and Commercial Directory and Topography (1840).
- (33) D. Harvey, "Fruit Growing in Kent in the Nineteenth Century", in ed. M. Roake and J. Whyman, Essays in Kentish History (1973), 224
- (34) The Secretary of the Tithe Redemption Commission, op. cit., 136

III: BRIDGE: AS PORTRAYED BY CENSUS MATERIAL 1851-1871:AN INTRODUCTIONMrs. Zofia Wells

The material used for this and for the next three chapters has been drawn from the census enumerators' schedules for 1851, (1) 1861 (2) and 1871 (3). They were compiled from census forms which had been issued to every householder for completion on a specific census night, which was in 1851, March 31st; in 1861, April 8th; in 1871, April 3rd. The resulting schedules are open to public inspection after a lapse of 100 years. The returns for Bridge exist on microfilm in the Beaney Library in Canterbury. Before 1851 the information contained on these sheets is of limited value, so that the 1841 schedules, which have not been consulted for this study, listed names, approximate ages, sex, professions, trades, employed or of independent means, and where born: in the same county, or in Scotland, Ireland, or foreign parts. Subsequently for 1851, 1861 and 1871 the following headings were used:

1. Road, Street and name of house, but for 1851 and 1861 these details are incomplete, with only Petts Bottom, Bridge Hill and Bridge Village being specified.
2. The number of houses and whether they w

Other difficulties arise because census statistics relate to one specific night in every ten years. Only those persons who were resident in households or institutions on the census night were recorded, so that it will never be known how many people were absent on that particular night. Even a few absentees in a small community can affect calculations of family and household size, with parents or children possibly visiting relations elsewhere. Similarly occupational analysis can likewise be affected, particularly since the numbers within each category were invariably low in a small village.

Despite these problems census material represents a rich source of historical information and from analysing successive schedules changing patterns of community structure and life can be traced.

FOOTNOTES

1. P.R.O. 974/H.O. 107/1623.
2. P.R.O. R.G. 9/518.
3. P.R.O. R.G. 10/965.
4. A. Rogers, Approaches to Local History (2nd. Ed., 1977), 37.
5. ibid., 38.

IV: BRIDGE: AS PORTRAYED BY CENSUS MATERIAL 1851-1871:
FAMILY STRUCTURE AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Miss K.S.E. Chandler

INTRODUCTION

Census data from 1851 to 1871 provides an interesting insight into the structure and composition of households in Bridge. From this source the local historian can calculate the average number of children, servants, lodgers and relatives to be found in each household. Also revealed is the type of family which could support these various categories of people. Furthermore, it is possible to assess such general trends as changing family size, or the wealth of the village community, as measured by the number of servants which it could support. Lodgers and visitors indicate family and social contacts with the world outside Bridge. Hopefully from the censuses which were conducted between 1851 and 1871 a reasonable picture of household and family life in Bridge can be built up.

In order to analyse the household unit in any meaningful way, it is necessary to break it down into more manageable categories. Households can be distinguished from families which in turn subdivide into the nuclear and extended family. A nuclear family includes only parents and children whereas an extended family contains other relatives, such as grandparents or maiden aunts. All families constitute households which may or may not include servants, lodgers and visitors.

THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

Nearly all household units living in Victorian Bridge were nuclear families of parents and children. Single member households or households of brothers and sisters, have been excluded from this analysis of the nuclear family. As childless families their inclusion lowers the average number of children per family. This represents no more than a minor adjustment since such families were few in number and never formed more than 5.4% of the total number of households. Having dealt with this anomalous group, the average size of the nuclear family can be calculated for each year of the census, paying particular attention to children who were an important element in the population and family structure of mid-nineteenth century Bridge.

Over the years 1851 to 1871 Bridge experienced a rise in population, which was associated with an increasing number of households and a larger size of nuclear family, as indicated in Table 1.

<u>Table 1</u>	<u>1851</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>1871</u>
Total population	625	727	790
Number of households	134	148	167
Average size of nuclear family	3.88	3.93	4.03

Such trends were nationwide. In Bridge itself the number of parents per nuclear family remained fairly constant at about 1.77. An average of two parents for all households would not be obtained on account of single parent families, as and when one parent had died or had chosen to live elsewhere. Table 2 shows how the number of children per nuclear family rose to a peak

of 2.25 in 1871. This and other figures do not confirm the general impression

Table 2

	<u>1851</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>1871</u>
Average number of parents per nuclear family	1.84	1.77	1.78
Average number of children per nuclear family	2.04	2.16	2.25
Average number of children per nuclear family (excluding childless nuclear families)	2.86	3	3.17

that Victorian families were very large since when all the childless families are excluded from any calculations, the mean for 1871 did not rise above 3.17. Bridge was by no means unusual in having relatively small families. Indeed, generally the impression of large families is somewhat erroneous, as noted by several writers, including Dr. Armstrong, in his social study of York over the first half of the nineteenth century. (1)

Moving away from general trends, numbers of children per family can be related to the ages of parents and to the occupations of heads of households. Some families were childless. Table 3 touches on childless nuclear families,

Table 3 Childless nuclear families

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of nuclear families</u>
1851	31	28.9%
1861	40	27.8%
1871	46	29 %

which in total increased between 1851 and 1871 while remaining fairly constant at about 28% of all nuclear families. Table 4 shows that 45% of childless families occurred where the head of the household was sixty years or over. It would be wrong however, to suppose that such families had never raised

Table 4 Childless families where the head of the household was 60 years +

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of childless families</u>
1851	20	54%
1861	13	32.5%
1871	23	50%

children, since in many cases their sons and daughters would have left home already either to get married or to find employment elsewhere. That this was so is evident from comparing families over the three census years. During the two decades falling between 1851 and 1871 some children moved away to set up their own homes both in Bridge and elsewhere.

Childless families also occurred, where the head of the household was either a widow or widower. The significance of this fact is illustrated in Table 5. Inevitably there is some overlap between the figures portrayed in

Table 5 Childless families where the head of the household was widowed

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of childless families</u>
1851	8	21.8%
1861	9	22.5%
1871	6	13%