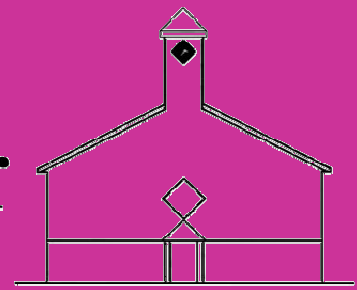


The Clock Tower



The Newsletter of the Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

Issue Number 18: May 2010
£2.00; free to members



Launch of the FOMA Collection

On Tuesday 13th April 2010, FOMA held its fifth AGM at a new venue, Frindsbury Parish Hall. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman, Tessa Towner, launched the FOMA Collection with the symbolic handing over of documents to Medway Archivist Alison Cable. *More inside.*

The FOMA Committee from left to right: Jean Skilling, Betty Cole, Tessa Towner (FOMA Chairman), Amanda Thomas, Bob Ratcliffe, Alison Cable (Medway Archivist), Odette Buchanan, Dr. Sandra Dunster, Kevin Russell.

The Launch of the FOMA Collection and the Fifth AGM

Amanda Thomas, Editor

Frindsbury Parish Hall was the setting for the fifth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre. The FOMA committee reported on a busy and eventful year, the highlight of which has been the appointment of Valerie Rouland as Project Archivist to begin work to catalogue, conserve and make available for research the contents of the 500 boxes of Rochester City Archives, the Archives of Great Expectations (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 17, February 2010). Medway Archivist, Alison Cable was invited to report on the progress of the project, and her report can be seen on page 25.

The AGM also saw the launch of the new FOMA Collection with the presentation to MALSC of some 52 historic documents relating to the Medway area. The documents, which were bought at auction by FOMA, include historic deeds and indentures from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many of which relate to the Hulkes family. Other documents previously acquired by FOMA will join this latest set of papers to form the new collection, which will be available to view and for study at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

A full list of the documents can be found in the middle pages and on the FOMA website, www.foma-lsc.org/index.html



Medway Archivist, Alison Cable(left) and FOMA Chairman, Tessa Towner, with one of the documents.



Top: FOMA Chairman, Tessa Towner, addresses members at the fifth AGM

Below: The box of documents.



From the Chairman

Tessa Towner, Chairman.



At the end of 2009, we decided to hold two Quiz Nights a year and the first of these was held on 20th March. I have to say I was slightly disappointed by the attendance, but nevertheless a very enjoyable evening was had by all and we made a profit of £122. Our thanks go to Elaine Gardner for arranging the questions, although unfortunately she had lost her voice on the night so I had to deputise and read the questions! A photograph of the winning team can be seen on the back cover. This was the first of many events arranged for the coming year to be held at our new venue of Frindsbury Parish Hall, and all agreed it was a lot warmer and the added bonus was the number of parking spaces available on Church Green. We do hope you will all support our forthcoming events.



FOMA's fifth AGM was held on 13th April at Frindsbury again, where we had on display the new documents bought at auction. As you will have read opposite, they consist of 52 deeds, indentures and legal documents relating to various places in Strood and Frindsbury and some outlying villages. Around 30 people attended the AGM, although we had hoped for more having moved the event to the evening. Sadly, Richard Stoneham decided to stand down from the Committee, and we thank him for his support over the last year. The remainder of the Committee was re-elected and Kevin Russell (pictured) was elected to take Richard's place.

An observation was made at the AGM that much of FOMA's focus is on Rochester and Strood, and we neglect the rest of the Medway Towns such as Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham. Members were quick to point out that *The Clock Tower* has featured many articles on different parts of the Towns through the years. However, we would welcome some ideas to rectify this omission, as we are, after all, the Friends of *Medway* Archives and Local Studies Centre, and should consider all parts of the area MALSC covers. Our thanks to Brian Joyce for highlighting this, as he certainly has a valid point.

Finally, the first report on the Archives of Great Expectations has been completed by MALSC archivist Alison Cable and the initial list of uncatalogued material made by Project Archivist Valerie Rouland can be found on pages 23 to 31.

News and Events

Odette Buchanan, Friends' Secretary



Well here we are springing around in the weak and windy spring sunshine! It was good to see those of you who managed to attend the FOMA AGM on the 13th. It all went well and we were pleased to welcome Kevin Russell onto the committee to replace Richard Stoneham who was unable to continue. I would like to join Tessa in thanking Richard for all he did and wish him well with his other commitments. The rest of us agreed to continue to serve you for another year and were re-elected unanimously.

We were all very excited after the AGM to be able to handle the old documents acquired at auction and our archivist Alison Cable was certainly very pleased to receive them. They will remain the property of FOMA but will be accessible for research at the Archives. It certainly wetted our appetite for all the goodies we might discover in the Great Expectations boxes.

FOMA continues to help folk searching for information (see Readers' Letters) and at the AGM I was most impressed with Alex Thomas, our webmaster (see photograph below), and the useful, informative links he has set up on the website. It was also very helpful to hear his statistics and to find out the huge number of hits our site has month on month.



Alex Thomas, FOMA Webmaster, pictured outside Bristol University's Archaeology Department where he is an undergraduate student.

Those who attended the quiz night in March had a really good time. It was a shame not more of you managed to come. Please don't miss the next one in October. **Remember all our events are now at the Frindsbury Parish Hall, Church Green, Frindsbury and start at 7.30 pm.** The next event will be the talk on the digital conversion of the glass negatives of various locations around the Medway Towns, some dating back to the middle of the 19th century. For more details see the *Calendar of Forthcoming Events* below. Roger Smoothy, who is giving the talk, is anxious to get as many views of the Medway Towns as possible re-photographed showing how the area has changed. If you are interested in helping him with this, please contact me or Roger himself at roger@hgv1.wanadoo.co.uk, or 01622 769954.

Odette's Dates

To follow is the next in Odette Buchanan's occasional list of interesting and amusing historical anniversaries.

February

10th February, 1567: Lord Darnley, the husband of Mary Stuart, killed in suspicious circumstances in Edinburgh.

1953: Sweet rationing ended.

1902: First Dreadnought battle ship launched by the Royal Navy. Sir Charles Isham introduced Garden Gnomes to Britain.

March

14th March, 44BC, (the Ides) Julius Caesar assassinated in a conspiracy led by Brutus and Cassius because he had made himself a dictator for life.

1360: During the siege of Rheims, Edward III contributed £16 towards the ransom of Geoffrey Chaucer, who was a soldier serving in France at the time.

1681 Charles II granted Will Penn, a Quaker, a Charter for a colony (Pennsylvania) in North America. *See Catharina Clement's fascinating article on the Quakers in Medway on page 20.*

14th March, 1757 Admiral John Byng executed at Portsmouth for failing in an attack against the French and thus loosing Minorca.

10th March, 1801, first official census in Britain revealed a population of 10 million.

25th March, 1807, the Slave Trade was abolished in the United Kingdom.

3rd March, 1847, Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone was born.

26th March, 1934, driving tests introduced into Britain under the Road Traffic Act.

5th March, 1936, first flight of the Spitfire at Eastleigh Aerodrome, Isle of Sheppey.

1957 Germany, France, Italy and Benelux countries sign the Treaty of Rome, thus creating the EEC.

30th March, 1939, Britain and France issue a guarantee that they will declare war if Nazi Germany invades Poland.

29th March, 1945, the last German V1 flying bomb to hit England falls harmlessly on open ground at Sittingbourne, Kent.

April

19th April, 1012, Viking raiders kill Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, before being bought off with a huge bribe.

7th April, 1739, Dick Turpin hanged for horse theft at York Knavesmire.

2nd April, 1801, Nelson destroys the Danish fleet in the Battle of Copenhagen (ignoring an order to withdraw).

9th April, 1940, Germany invades Norway and Denmark in a surprise attack that marks the end of the 'phoney war'.

MALSC OPENING HOURS

Please note the following revised opening hours at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

As of 1 April 2010, MALSC will no longer be open until 6pm on a Tuesday, and will close at 5pm. The following opening hours therefore now apply:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Saturday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Wednesday and Sunday closed

Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

FOMA Events

Tuesday 25th May, 7.30pm

A talk by Roger Smoothy:
Glass Negative Presentation.

Tuesday 28th September, 7.30pm

A talk by Amanda Thomas:
Medway, Lambeth and Cholera.

Saturday 16th October, 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00 pm)

Quiz Night
£5 for members and non-members.

Tuesday 23rd November, 7.30 pm

A talk by Christopher Barker:
The First World War

Tues 22nd February 2011, 7.30 pm

A proposed talk on the 'Archive of Great Expectation' Project

All events in 2010 and until further notice are at Frindsbury Parish Hall

Talks are £2 for members £4 non-members.

Please book for ALL events through the FOMA Secretary:

Odette Buchanan , 72 Jersey Rd, Strood, ME2 3BY; odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk; 01634 718231.

Calling all Photographers!

On Tuesday 25th May at 7.30pm Roger Smoothy will be giving his talk, Glass Negative Presentation. Roger and colleague Roy Moore have converted thousands of glass negatives of the Medway Towns into digital format and Roger is looking for volunteer photographers to photograph the same views as they are today.

Please contact Roger Smoothy at roger@hgv1.wanadoo.co.uk, or 01622 769954 for further details.

MALSC Events

Exhibitions

1st April to 1st June

Bricks, Mortar and Breeze Blocks: How to Research the History of your House

3rd June to 3rd August

History of Frindsbury Cricket Club: 125 years of Cricket

5th August to 5th October

The Battle of Britain: 70th Anniversary

7th October to 30th November

Roll out the Red Carpet: Royal Visits to Medway

2nd December 2010 to 11 January 2011

Dickensian Medway

13th January 2011 to 22nd February 2011

Sir Joseph Williamson – The Man behind the Name

24th February 2011 to 12th April 2011

Winget's: at Work and Play

Talks and Events

7th July, 2.30 pm

Presenting and Representing Lower Medway Valley

Dr. Andrew Hann

13th October, 2.30 pm.

Passage to India: Going and Coming

Derek Moore and Bruce Aubry

17th November, 2.30 pm.

Royal Visits to Medway

Bob Ratcliffe

8th December

Dickens: 150th Anniversary of Great Expectations

The Launch of Percy Fitzgerald's Collection.

Please note: this event will be taking place at Eastgate House, Rochester.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the above are held at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, (MALSC) Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU. Unless otherwise indicated, talks and events are £5, or £4 for FOMA members Further information is available from MALSC; please telephone 01634 332714 to book.

Please note: You may be aware that Medway Council has been relocated to Gun Wharf. This move does not include the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre and until further notice, we are still to be found in the Clock Tower building.

Exhibitions at Eastgate House

19th May to 1st June, 10 am – 3 pm
Edwin Harris.

7th July to 20th July, 10 am – 3 pm
A Stroll through Rochester.

11th August to 17th August, 10 am – 3 pm
History of Frindsbury Cricket Club.

8th September to 12th September, 10 am – 3 pm
Hopping.

9th September to 12th September
Heritage Open Days.

13th October to 22nd October, 10 am – 3 pm
Nelson.

3rd November to 14th November, 10 am – 2 pm
Battle of Britain.

Medway Museums and Library Service

Medway Museums and Library service has held a series of successful exhibitions, usually lasting about ten days, at Eastgate House, Rochester (see above), with the aim of both getting visitors into the house and highlighting the exhibitions put together by MALSC.

However, success depends on volunteers manning Eastgate House when exhibitions are on display, and we are keen to find more volunteers to avoid the stalwart few having to cover two or even three half days.

If you think could offer a two and a half hour morning or afternoon slot at future events please contact Elaine Gardner on 01634 408595 or e-mail emgardner@fsmail.net so that we can add you to the list and contact you before the next exhibition. Thank you!

Request for Material

The Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre would like to expand its biography base to include more variety and diversity. Any information or material on local 'celebrities', past or present, with connections to the Medway area by birth, residence or close links would be much appreciated. This can include families as well as business partnerships. Particularly welcome would be material on Medway's 'ethnic' families or persons and Rainham individuals, which are at present under represented in our collection.

Please contact Catharina Clement at MALSC on 01634 332714

Readers' Letters

We welcome letters and emails from readers with their comments. If you have anything you would like to say please write to: Mrs Amanda Thomas, Editor, The Clock Tower, 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NS or email at amanda@ajthomas.com. FOMA Secretary, Odette Buchanan, often receives queries from members or visitors to the FOMA website, www.foma-lsc.org/index.html. If you have any additional information for the following correspondents, please contact the Editor.

The following edited email was forwarded to Odette Buchanan from the city of Rochester Society:

From: Robert Murray Willis
Friday, 30 April, 2010, 18:35

The Mulberry Tree at Bakers Gate Walkway

Dear Miss Furminger,

Can you tell me, please:-

1. If the label placed at the foot of the Mulberry Tree planted by Alderman Willis near the gate of Bakers Gate Walkway was preserved after the 1987 storm damage and the destruction of the tree?
2. Was another Mulberry Tree planted in its Place? Was the Mulberry tree the one which silk moth caterpillars enjoy eating?

The Label was inscribed as follows:

MULBERRY – Planted by the children in honour of Alderman Charles Wills JP, “The Children’s Friend” four times consecutively Mayor of Rochester – Nov 9th 1909.

I look forward to your help with this unusual puzzle!

Regards

Robert Willis

From: Pauline Gingell
Monday, 22 March, 2010

Subject: Orphanages in Medway Area

Hello Odette, I hope you can help me

Can you tell me of or tell me where I can find out about orphanages that were in the Sittingbourne / Stockbury area in the late 1920s early 1930s that would have taken in abandoned children.

My now deceased mother in law was born Stockbury, she and two brothers were abandoned by their mother. This was a big part of her life that she never spoke off, understandably, but a time we as her family feel we should have more knowledge of.

We live in Wiltshire and will be coming to Maidstone for a few days to search in the record office at the end of April, I would be grateful for any information and advise you can give me to aid my research.

Many thanks
With kind regards

Mrs Pauline Gingell.

Cindy O'Halloran, MALSC Senior Archive and Local Studies Assistant responded to this query by email:

Hi all,

Sittingbourne Orphanages would be with Centre for Kentish Studies at Maidstone.
archives@kent.gov.uk

From: William Langley
Saturday, 20 March, 2010

Subject: Visit to Rochester

I am visiting Rochester for a few days from March 29th with other members of my family. I want to investigate the history of Rochester, with special emphasis on the decade either side of 1840, when our ancestors lived there. May I ask you what facilities you have to study this period?

Their name was Langley. They lived in Love Lane and I would be especially interested in the socio-economic aspects of that area at that time, including the prospects for someone working as a coach builder and also the transport infrastructure at the time, in particular how a poor family would migrate to London (boat, railway, cart?).

There were a number of Langley families in Rochester at that time and there are apparently still Langleys living in Rochester.

I would appreciate any help you can give me, both before we arrive and during our visit; I would be happy to explore any suggestions you might have for sources for carrying out any research, before we arrive. I have been given your name by Miss Furminger at the City of Rochester Society; I apologise for the fairly short notice, but I have only just heard from her.

Thank you for your assistance,
Kind regards,
William Langley

Note: FOMA Chairman, Tessa Towner, has since met William Langley and his brothers at MALSC and they were thrilled at what was available there.

About The Clock Tower

The Clock Tower is the quarterly journal produced and published by the Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre (FOMA), <http://www.foma-lsc.org/index.html>.

Editorial deadlines

Please note that as of August 2009, the editorial deadline has been changed. The deadline is the **last** Monday (or Tuesday when a Bank Holiday occurs) of January, April, July and October. Articles, letters, photos and any information to be considered for inclusion in the journal must be received before this date by the Editor, Mrs Amanda Thomas, 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5NS, Hertfordshire; amanda@ajthomas.com

The copy deadline for Issue 19 of *The Clock Tower* is **Monday 26th July 2010**.

Publication date

The fourth Wednesday following the editorial deadline.

The Clock Tower is printed by Ray Maisey, Rabbit Hutch Printers, 106 Charles Drive, Cuxton, Kent, ME2 1DU; telephone: 01634 294655; fax: 01634 723510; email: Ray@Rabbithutchprinters.com

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Front Cover Accreditations and Website Information

The logo for *The Clock Tower* was designed by Bob Ratcliffe.

The banner design (incorporating the logo) and the title *The Clock Tower* were designed by Alexander Thomas.

The Clock Tower is also available on: <http://www.foma-lsc.org/newsletter.html>

Further Information

Further information on the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre can be obtained on the MALSC CityArk website <http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/> or by writing to Medway Archives Office, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU. Telephone +44 (0)1634 332714; fax +44 (0)1634 297060; email: malsc@medway.gov.uk

General enquiries about the Friends can be obtained from the Secretary, Odette Buchanan: 72 Jersey Road, Rochester, ME2 3PE. Telephone: 01634 718231; email: odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

Membership enquiries should be directed to the Membership Secretary, Betty Cole, 25 Elm Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME4 6ER. Telephone: 01634 316509; email: bettycole@blueyonder.co.uk

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FOMA Members

The Highs and Lows of Family History Research

Ken Walter



FOMA member Ken Walter was born in Dartford where he lived for the best part of 50 years until moving to Chatham's Historic Dockyard in 2001. He attended Dartford Grammar School and today when he is not working on genealogy is a qualified accountant. He has been married to Lorna for 34 years and they have two sons.

I have been researching my family history for nearly 40 years, my interest having been stimulated by a great aunt who had the presence of mind to put her memoirs and anecdotes on to tape. In the early days, research was a time-consuming and often costly business, with many visits to St. Catherine's House in London, Kent Archives Centre and the local libraries, but it soon became an obsession as I discovered the many facets of local and family history.

I joined the Society of Genealogists and the North Kent Family History Society but the pressures of family, work and sport (not necessarily in that order!) dictated that the time I could give to meetings and research was limited. It was not until my soccer playing days ended and I had a change of career that I found I had more time (and energy) to devote to the subject. Television programmes on the subject added to the interest and informed me about the resources available; latterly the BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* series has further reinforced my fascination in the subject.

The development of computing and advent of the internet has enabled me to conduct research more effectively and extensively. However, numerous searches by *pay as you go* methods, the ordering of certificates and subscriptions to various internet sites proved to be costly unless they were contained! After my father died in 2000 and our sons graduated, my wife and I decided that we should sell our home in Dartford and downsize. We wanted to be closer to our work (then in the Medway towns), and so we moved to Chatham. I joined the Kent Family History Society and, more recently, FOMA, and my renewed interest started to dominate my spare time.

I was determined to solve the remaining conundrum in my family tree. I had traced my great great grandfather, John Walter, to his baptism in Swanscombe in 1800, his parents recorded as John and Mary Walters (sic). However, despite all these years of searching I had not been able to find their marriage or the birthplace of his father John. Sadly, after several decades I have yet to get the breakthrough, despite much more information from censuses and parish registers being available.

My family were farming gentry in the village of Bean for many decades, and my prize possession is the original lease for 21 years of Bean Farm dated 30 September 1840 by John Walter (junior) from John Hickson and eleven other gentlemen resident in the City of London for the annual rent of £125. The lease contains a map showing the neighbouring landowners, including John Walter (senior) at Lower Bean Farm, which can still be seen today from the A2, to the south west of the junction to Bean and Bluewater.

If I have not impressed upon readers that this quest was beginning to dominate my spare time, I can only add that my wife and others from my mother's side of the family began to question why I had not researched their family histories. Consequently, in early 2009 I started on my maternal tree (Muckle). My cousin contended that the phrase, 'Many a mickle makes a muckle' implied that the family were of Scottish origin. Working backwards from present day, I started to put the tree together and traced back to 1857 without difficulty.

However, I fell into a trap that had been set for me when I looked at the censuses for earlier generations. My grandfather, John Henry Muckle, was born in Gravesend in 1876. His father was William Henry, who married Elizabeth Gibbs in 1874, but I did not know his birth year. I found a William Henry in the 1861 census but placed too much reliance on its accuracy. It transpired that this was not him and that he had been recorded as *just William* (pardon the pun!) and this led to a totally different branch. In January of 2010 I had to back-track but in doing so I connected with a published tree on *Ancestry.com* that traced the family all the way back to Thomas Muckle, born 1619 in Lasswade, Midlothian, son of James Muckle and Helen Mark. I verified the entries on the tree by tracing the baptisms and marriages on *ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk*, to ensure that I did not fall into yet another trap! I was elated by this discovery, as were members of the family, and we have resolved to visit Lasswade in the near future.

This story goes to show that for an amateur genealogist there are many unexpected pitfalls and triumphs in this pastime. The good fortune I enjoyed with my maternal tree has given me even greater impetus to solve the clues that provide the missing links for my paternal line – I'm convinced that they are out there somewhere!

To Oz and Back:

Shadrach Edward Robert Jones

Brian Butler

Brian Butler was born on The Brook, Chatham, in 1956, and attended Glencoe and Fort Luton schools. Brian worked for many years in the retail and finance sectors in Medway but now works for Comet Delivery at Aylesford. During the sixteen years he worked in finance, for fourteen of these he was involved with the Trades Union movement : the NUIW, then MSF, and now Unison; in 1999 he was elected president of the Royal London and United Friendly sections. Brian's hobbies are employment law, reading, sport (now mainly watching), history, and – of course - genealogy.

The first part of this article was published in Issue 15, August 2009, of the Clock Tower. Apologies to readers for the delay in publishing this second and final part.

Part Two

Shadrach Edward Robert Jones was baptised at Gravesend, Kent, on 14th June 1822, the son of John Jones and Elizabeth Hind Pocock. He qualified as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1843, and in 1844 as a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, and Doctor of Medicine from St Andrews University, Scotland. The following year he married Louisa Onions in Shropshire with whom he had eight children. Jones practised medicine for many years in Shropshire, working in the coalfields, and in the late 1840s emigrated to Australia, at the time of the Victorian gold rush.



Shadrach Jones, circa 1862.

The Alexander Turnbull Collection, National Library of New Zealand, Ref 1/2-046362-F.

I resolved to see what happened to Louisa. I could only find six children from the census records, and not eight as previously mentioned. It would seem Louisa stayed in the UK. She never remarried, as far as I can find out. In the census returns she always stated she was the wife of an MD, although on one of the census (1881, Lambeth) this was crossed out. In her latter years she stated she was of independent means; she does not appear on the 1901 census. So was Shadrach sending monies home from Australia? Did Louisa at some time emigrate or travel to and from Australia with her husband even for a little while and bring monies home? Were her sons bringing or sending monies home? Were the sons and daughters on the census *Shadrach's*? Why was there an eleven year gap between the last two children? These questions need to be checked out further.

Shadrach, I know, was staying in Wrexham at the time of the 1871 census with his eldest daughter Alice; his occupation was stated as *MD, Physician, Surgeon*. At some time he was reported as 'whereabouts unknown' in Natal, South Africa and if he did not register his address to the military authorities, his name would have been removed from the medical register there. It was also reported

that he owned a stud farm in South America. More will be revealed of this story, I am sure, as my research leads me to discover more.

A newspaper article reveals another sad twist in the lives of the Jones family in Australasia:

Fatality at the Tram Stables.

A man named Edward L. Jones, single, and aged about 35 years, fell from a ladder leading to a loft in the City Tramway Company's stables in Cumberland street on Saturday afternoon, and sustained injuries to his head. He was taken to the Hospital, and died there a little after 9 o'clock on Sunday morning. Jones was a sailor but had not been at work for some time. Deceased is believed to be the son of the late Dr Shadrach Jones, who will be remembered as proprietor of the Provincial Hotel in the days of the gold fever.

The Inquest.

An inquest was held at the hospital on Monday afternoon. James Taggart, a groom, employed in the tram stables, Cumberland street, said he knew the deceased by the name of Edward L Jones. He was born in Dunedin and the witness had known him for 37 years. Deceased was a boy when witness was employed in his (deceased) father's stables, at Mornington. At that time Dr Jones kept the Provincial Hotel. When he was about 16 years of age deceased went home to be educated, and witness never saw him again till about two or three months ago. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Otago Witness, Issue 2337, 15 December 1898, Page 27.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the New Zealand Government for their permission to use George Griffiths' biography and the photograph of Shadrach Jones (c. 1862) from the Alexander Turnbull Collection held at the National Library of New Zealand, Ref 1/ 2-046362-F.

Thanks also to the National Library of New Zealand, and especially Beth Vincent for her help and research information; Papers Past for their permission to use the press cuttings.

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Goldfield Balladeer: The Life and Times of the Celebrated Charles R Thatcher, Robert Hoskins, Auckland 1977; pp 14-25

'S.E.R. Jones', *The Saturday Review*, 27th August 1864; p. 200

'Deliver this poor City from the Qua(kers)': Rochester Quakerism and its Struggle for Existence 1655-1750.

Catharina Clement



In 2005, Catharina completed a BA in history at Canterbury Christchurch University, and then began a part-time PhD in local history entitled Reactions in the Medway Towns 1640-1660. She has been involved in various local history groups and projects such as FOMA, CDHS, and the Victoria County History EPE projects. She won the 2009 Friends Historical Society Award resulting in a paper on Medway Quakerism 1655-1918 delivered at the Institute for Historical Research and later this year at the Friends Library in London. Currently Catharina works for MALSC.

Rochester Quakers celebrate their 355th anniversary this year, but few people know that they have been in our local Medway community since 1655. In that year the Quakers sent out missionaries from the north of England, known as the Valiant Sixty (there were around 64), to spread the word. They generally travelled in pairs and Kent received at least three of these groups. It was Ambrose Rigge, a plumber, and Thomas Robertson, a yeoman, both from Westmorland, whose lot it fell upon to convince the people of Medway. Rigge's journal noted 'we Travelled to *Rochester*, where it was laid upon us to go to a Baptist-Meeting, at which we were apprehended by Souldiers...'. Most of these groups had done their homework and came to target other religious radicals such as Baptists. The Baptist history of the area is another story, but they had a reasonably strong presence by 1655.

This pair must have met with some success as Samuel Fisher, the eminent East Kent Quaker, wrote in 1660 that he had encountered '*one Ackworth of Rochester, who was once heard by the writer hereof, deprecating & declaring against the Qua(kers)*'. Fisher had witnessed firsthand Allen Ackworth, the Presbyterian minister of Rochester St Nicholas, preaching against the local Quakers in his prayers. From the title quotation it is evident that Ackworth was trying to rid Rochester of the early Friends. As the publication of this tract was in 1660 and Ackworth had by then been ejected from his office this episode occurred in the late 1650s.¹ For Ackworth to be this concerned quite a few must have been convinced by the Quaker message.

Certainly by 1660 a Quaker meeting had been established in Rochester. A leading Quaker, William Caton, wrote in a newsletter to George Fox in July 1660: 'I being at a generall meeting in Rochester, to which there came many friends & it was exceedingly serviceable...'. Following the Act of Uniformity in 1662 nonconformist meetings were broken up and many dissenters imprisoned. The first meeting to be disturbed was in 1662, when several people from the Rochester meeting were arrested and gaoled. This group included Rebecca Elkington. A further meeting was disrupted in 1663 and seven people imprisoned including another woman Katherine Evans. In 1665 John Mennes wrote from Chatham to the diarist Samuel Pepys that 'there was a full congregation of quakers & the like seised upon by Sir Francys Clarke sunday last: where we met som of ours: he hath sent them all to Maydston Goale men & women...'. Thus the local Quakers were regularly subjected to harassment by the justices of the peace.

Many Friends 'suffered' for their faith; languished in prison for years and some even died for their beliefs. Besse's Book of Sufferings recorded two separate incidents around Rochester in 1660 where groups of young men 'were taken from their imployment by armed men & brought before the magistrate who tendered them the oath of allegiance.' As Quakers they refused to swear oaths and were committed to prison. One of these incidents involved three young men who 'suffered' for which court records survive. On 18 February 1661 Francis Clerke, Robert Watson and George May signed a Mittimus 'committing Roger Ellis, Ralph Young and Thomas Ewer, being sectaries, to

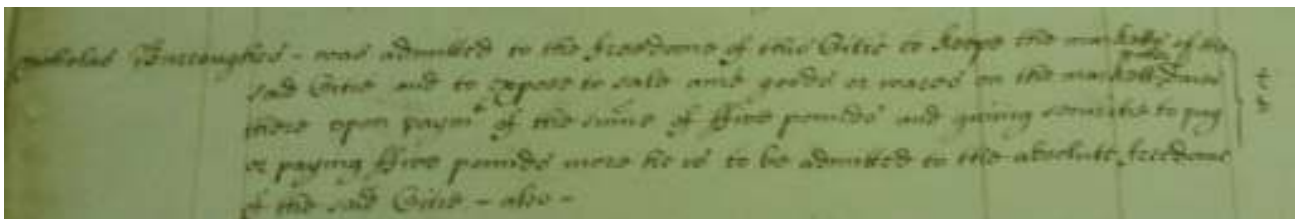
Maidstone gaol for refusing the oath of allegiance.’ Nothing further is known about the first two young men, but Thomas Ewer, a grocer from Chatham, remained a leading Medway Quaker for the next twenty years.



Map 1772 from Shrubsole/Denne History of Rochester, the first map to show the location of the Quaker meeting house; from the collection of the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

One of the earliest recorded Quaker deaths in a Kent prison was that of Rebecca Elkington of Frindsbury. She was held in the Dolphin gaol in Rochester and died there of fever in 1663. This Frindsbury connection with the Quakers was strong. Margaret Fell's journal indicated that she and her daughter Rachael came to Kent in 1670 and stayed with Widow Clements at Frindsbury holding a meeting there.² In September 1672, William Penn a leading Quaker, also lodged with her and held meetings there and at Rochester. This widow was in fact Jane Clements. She was probably related to George Clements, a mariner, who according to Frindsbury parish records refused to have his daughters Sarah and Mary baptised in 1668 and 1670 respectively. These young women were raised as Quakers with Sarah becoming a renowned Quaker speaker who toured Philadelphia in 1699; she married Thomas Owen in 1703 and return to the local meeting.³

This west side of the River Medway was to have a strong Quaker presence throughout the centuries. Nicholas Burroughes and Thomas Burford, both cordwainers, and Benjamin Smith, a tailor, all of Strood were amongst those that were persecuted by the authorities in the 1680s because of their non-attendance at the parish church. Thomas Burford's will indicates that he remained a Quaker to his death in 1708 and was interred in Rochester Burial Ground. His granddaughter, Martha Bishop, was probably the 'Martha' that married another of the Owens (Benjamin) in 1714. By the early eighteenth century the Wayland, Stanley and Alexander families of Strood attended the Rochester meeting, as did John Holwill of Frindsbury. Many of the young men were to become trustees of the burial ground in 1719 when the first generation of Quakers had died out.⁴ After the near demise of the Rochester meeting in the 1750s it was initially the Pratt family and then later the Horsnail families and others that were to carry on this tradition. The 1676 Compton Census returned six nonconformists for Frindsbury, but none for Strood. Many have challenged the accuracy of these returns and the above anecdotal evidence would indeed suggest that they were often made up or under estimated.



Nicholas Burroughes' freedom 1673; from the collection of the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, ref. RCA/02/1

Chatham also featured a few Quaker families. Thomas Ewer, son of Philemon Ewer of Strood, was indicted in 1682 for failing to attend the established church. An earlier branch of this Ewer family from Strood was Puritan and emigrated to America in the 1630s later embracing Quakerism there. Another name associated with Chatham was Joshua or Josiah Holland, a mariner. He raised a Quaker family that were later to marry other well-known Friends. In 1683 he purchased land in Pennsylvania that he passed to his son John, who was a shipwright and later settled there. Joshua was arrested in 1682/3 for travelling more than five miles from his abode. The Five Mile Act was passed in 1665 to prevent nonconformists preaching or attending meetings elsewhere. From the churchwarden's accounts for Chatham St Mary's it is clear that a number of Quakers refused to pay their tithes; amongst them Holland and Ewer. The 1683 church rate shows that both men had 'gone away'. Following the Titus Oates affair and James II's open espousal of Catholicism in the early 1680s there was a general clamp down on all nonconformist worship. Circumstances locally forced them both to move to London around this time. These men were not alone in carrying the Quaker torch in Chatham; three women/widows also appear amongst the donors to the burial ground in 1675 and have been traced via the above church records.

This tradition continued into the eighteenth century with both Thomas Hemmings, a tinplate worker/brazier, and John Pennell, a grocer and distiller, being prosecuted on a number of occasions for refusing to pay their church rates. In 1717 they were both

brought before the ecclesiastical court of the Diocese of Rochester 'for the non payment of a rate for the repairing of the steeple house of Chatham'. These young men applied to their meeting in 1719 for assistance when they were again imprisoned at Maidstone for six months for a similar offence. Ambrose Wayland and Thomas Owen reported this suffering to the Quarterly Meeting at Ashford in 1720. From John Pennell's will we know he married into the Canterbury Quaker family of John Sims. It is through these East Kent Quaker records, wills, parish records, court records, letters and journals that we can recreate a picture of Medway Quakerism, as absolutely nothing of the early Rochester Quaker records survive.

Karl Showler has suggested that the Rochester meeting began to assemble in Northgate in 1663. There is no direct evidence to support that claim. However George Sims, when creating his property register for Kent, did suggest that in 1674 a new piece of ground was for a burying ground and it was decided to rebuild the existing meeting-house there. This may well have been a wooden structure and possibly close to the existing meeting place in Northgate today.

It was Samuel Fox, who was entrusted with the job of purchasing the site in Pump Lane (now Northgate) in 1675. Tantalizingly the uncatalogued 'list of donations and gifts' at the Society of Friends Library indicates that the land was 'By ffee friends James Thurstone and Morrell Thurstone sons and heirs of Hearn Thurstone deceased convey(ed) to Samuel Ffox in ffee.' The term 'friends' was used by Quakers to indicate a member belonging to their society. If these two men were Quakers they kept it very quiet and outwardly followed a more traditional course religiously as James Thurstone was appointed Attorney of the Court of Portmore in 1676 and swore the necessary oath.

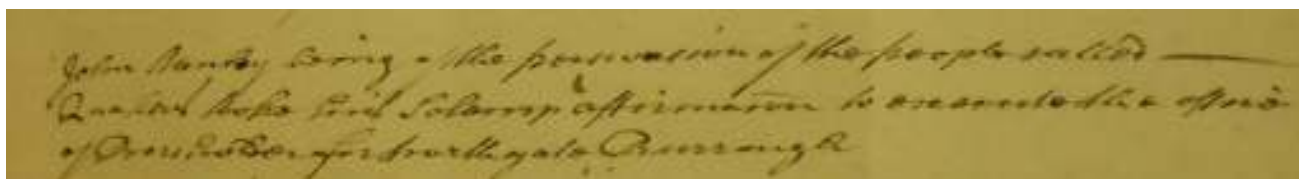
F F Smith asserted in his *History of Rochester* that John Stanley was the first Quaker to hold office in Rochester in 1709 after making a 'solemn affirmation to execute the office of Borsholder' rather than swearing an oath of office.⁵

However Samuel Fox, a tailor and freeman, was elected a common councillor and swore the oath of allegiance in 1673. He was dismissed from the council in 1676 as 'by the space of twelve moneths last past (he) have left the said office and refused and neglected to execute the same and to act as assistants and of the Common Councill of the said Citie and have during all the time aforesaid wilfully and without any reasonable cause absented themselves from the usuall Assemblies and Meetings of the Mayor and Common Counsell of the said Citie.' Samuel married a widow, Jane Moore, in 1665 at Chatham St Mary's, so his conversion was after that date and probably in 1673 when he became a councillor. John Moore, his stepson, also a tailor and married to Welthen Coxere, was appointed a borsholder in 1683, but refused to take up the post.⁶ 'This day John Moore paid 50s for a ffine for not executing the Borsholders office of Middle Burrough...'. Fox and Moore were not against serving as officers, but rather because Quakers refused to swear the necessary oaths of office. By Stanley's time this rule had been amended to allow Quakers to affirm instead and thus able to serve.



Quakers' houses in Castle Ditch Rochester; MALSC Local Studies Collection

Both Fox and Moore were to be prosecuted on numerous occasions for their beliefs. Samuel Fox was arrested in both Maidstone and Cranbrook for preaching at meetings. His Quaker conviction is evident in his will with various bequests left to other Friends or meetings. He like, Joshua Holland, had acquired land in Pennsylvania that he left to his son John Moore. John Moore's goods were distrained in 1684 for failing to send a soldier to the muster. This early refusal to be involved with fighting or warfare in general was always strong amongst Rochester Quakers. In 1691 Henry Hayes and three other carpenters working in Chatham Dockyard were dismissed from their jobs without pay 'because they could not bear Arms.'⁷



*John Stanley's affirmation entry of 1709 in Rochester Minute Book;
from the collection of the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, ref. RCA/A1/3*

The Rochester Meeting served a wide area of north Kent including Maidstone, Sittingbourne and Gravesend. Gillian Draper has identified many early meetings often held in people's own homes. To her list should be added Frindsbury, where meetings appear to have been held at the home of Jane Clements, and Milton near Gravesend at the home of John Giner (Jenner) where 'upwards of thirty' met in 1681 and nine were prosecuted for attending an illegal conventicle or assembly. Both were members of the Rochester meeting. Under an Act of Parliament no more than five people unconnected to a household were permitted to meet in a private dwelling for fear they were holding nonconformist acts of worship. The court records show another ten people over the age of 16 were part of the Giner household and could not be charged. Giner, a brewer and inn-keeper, was fined twenty pounds for allowing his home to be used for a religious meeting and Daniel Akenhurst, of Buckinghamshire, the same amount for preaching at the meeting. Eight others from Milton and Gravesend were made to pay 20 shillings each for congregating unlawfully including four widows, a butcher, a tailor and a labourer.

Early Rochester Quaker Meetings took place about twice a month and Friends often met in each other's houses locally in between the official meetings. The clamp down by the authorities in the 1680s meant numbers were dwindling, as reported in a letter from Rochester in 1687 by John Grigson to Anthony Tompkins of London. By 1689 Rochester and Maidstone combined with alternating meetings. Rochester Meeting had a new lease of life at the turn of the eighteenth century, due to the 1689 Act of Toleration, until around 1740 when the faithful had died or moved away leaving a handful of members struggling to keep the meeting going. In 1730 Rochester no longer sent anyone to the Quarterly Meetings and by 1759 'the friends appointed to attend to the three month meeting at Rochester did then lett the few friends there know.' This was the virtual demise of Rochester Quakerism. It was John Pratt's marriage to Mary Ladd in 1762, the one remaining active Quaker family still evident in Rochester, that firmly re-established the local meeting and led to the convincement of many new members in the community and others that had probably fallen away over the past decade or so.⁸

Due to limited space many others could not be included, but I have placed my biographical notes on all the Medway Quakers up till 1750 with Medway Archives & Local Studies Centre. In the next edition of *The Clock Tower*, I will look at Quaker education and schools in Medway, 1770-1840.

Notes

1. Ackworth was minister of St Nicholas from 1649-1660
2. Margaret Fell was the wife of George Fox
3. Owen family of Sevenoaks were active Quakers.
4. Burial ground purchased in 1675 with many of original members contributing.-see list at CKS or copy at MALSC
5. John Stanley was from Strood and probably married into the Wayland family.

6. There is some controversy of whether John was the son-in-law or stepson of Samuel Fox. But the marriage to widow Jane and no recorded children from their marriage would suggest he was Jane Moore's child by her husband John Moore-see Chatham St Marys parish register. The Coxeres were a well known Dover Quaker family-See Coxere's diary.
7. Hayes refused the Chatham church rate in 1680s & was prosecuted whilst working at Woolwich on a couple of occasions.
8. See biography for the Ladd family of Rochester.

Bibliography

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 Rochester Minute Books at MALSC
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 Frindsbury & Chatham Churchwardens accounts at MALSC
 BMD for nonconformists online
 Owen family history at LSF
 Journal of Ambrose Rigg
 Journal of Margaret Fell at LSF
 Journal of William Penn online
 Samuel Pepys' diary
 Pamphlet by Samuel Fisher (1660) on EEBO
 Newsletter Caton to Fox 1660 at LSF
 Besse's Book of Sufferings: Southern England
 East Kent Quaker Meeting Records at CKS
 Canterbury Quaker Meeting Records at CKS
 Uncatalogued donations list at LSF
 Cockburn's published Assize records for Kent
 Quarter Session Records at CKS
 George Sims Property Register at CKS
 Rochester apprentice & freeman records at MALSC
 Frindsbury, Strood & Chatham Parish Records MALSC
 Published Philadelphia Meeting records online
 Chalklin article on Compton Census returns
 Karl Showler's The Society of Friends in Kent
 Gillian Draper's dissertation at CKS
 Rootsweb on Ewer family
 Pennsylvania publication on Holland family land online
 Smith's History of Rochester
 Smetham's History of Strood
 Letter Tompkins to John Grigson 1687 at LSF
 Chancery Records at TNA re Fox will
 London Meeting Records for sufferings 1688-1691 at LSF

Archives Update

Alison Cable, Borough Archivist



First Quarterly Report for the Archives of Great Expectations

This is the first of the quarterly reports, edited from that presented to the FOMA Committee, as per the project timetable to catalogue, conserve and make available for research the contents of the 500 boxes of Rochester City Archives, the Archives of Great Expectations

Introduction: the appraising, sorting, arranging and cataloguing process

The first stage of any cataloguing process involves establishing the authenticity and provenance of the material. This entails a meticulous search through accessions records to identify the donors and depositors, along with the custodial and administrative history of the document(s).

The Rochester City Archive collection is made up of numerous accessions.

The core Rochester City Archives (e.g. minutes, financial records, charters) were initially catalogued some twenty years ago but there appears to be additional material created by Rochester City Council (RCC) located within mixed consignments sent over from successor authorities. This means that there are likely to be in the region of 650 boxes of material (as opposed to the initial 500 box estimate).

Once all relevant material has been identified it must be appraised in order to ascertain whether it is suitable for permanent retention. This appraisal ensures that we are adhering to relevant legislation (e.g. The Data Protection Act 1999; Public Records Act, 1958) and compliance with the Service's Collecting Policy.

We also need to avoid retaining secondary (e.g. printed material) that is duplicated elsewhere and non-current records that yield little information of historical or legal worth. Overall, we should always be able to justify why we are deciding to keep a document permanently.

The aim of the overall cataloguing process is not just to list and number each item but to be able to reflect the administrative structure of the organisation (and its departments) by means of arranging and describing each series and document within it, so that they are interpreted in terms of their original place and purpose within the original administrative structure. These processes help ensure the integrity of the documents as sources of primary evidence for researchers.

Existing catalogues serve to form the basis for gaining an overview of the collection and, more important, the structure of the organisation. The archivist will be able to identify gaps in the record series (which may be plugged by the un-catalogued material). It is often possible to augment and enhance existing catalogues but in some cases the structure is poor and it is advisable to start a new catalogue from scratch. At present we would hope to be able to do the former, but we will need to add in additional series and sub-series, and it may transpire that it is necessary to re-number some items (original reference numbers will be recorded at the end of the relevant document description). We will consult a number of classification schemes used for similar collections (e.g. Dover Borough) before we finalise the classification scheme for this collection. In general, Borough and City Councils will generate much the same record series, but of course, each individual authority may have additional unique series (e.g. Rochester Oyster Fishery).

In effect a template for the arrangement of pre-1974 local council archives will exist in most county archives offices, which should save us the trouble of starting from scratch- providing that RCC does not have many anomalies!

The FOMA Collection

A List of the Deeds and Indentures purchased at Auction by FOMA in February 2010

Compiled by Tessa Towner, FOMA Chairman.

1. No 3 Dated 1597 in Latin
2. No 5 dated 1602 in Latin
3. 1622 Will ? of John Cooper of the City of Rochester Taylor, brother William Cooper of Frindsbury Yeoman, Thomas Cooper my late father.
4. Dated 22 March in the eighth year of the reign of King James [1610-11]
John Langley of Frindsbury Carpenter £15 6s 8p paid by Henry Younge of Stroud Yeoman
Henry Younge and Gilbert Younge of Frindsbury Yeoman two and a half acres in Frindsbury known as Binbury
Dean & Chapter land to the west, Henry Younge land to the south, Thomas Cowper to the east and north to the other parcel of land known as Square.
5. Dated 10 Oct 1622 William Cooper of Frindsbury John Codd, Solomon Codd, John Leggett John Rowle Plus 3 other small documents in Latin possibly related to the above. Relating to Stood Mill
6. No 11. Dated 14 October 1622
Cooper to John Codd Dillywood Estate
7. No 12 Dated 20 September 1624
Messrs Cooper to Codd
John Cooper, George Cooper, Henry Cooper sons of Thomas Cooper late of Frindsbury Yeoman
All that messuage or Tenenments two barnes one stable one lodge or outhouse one yarde one garden one orchard near to DillyWood
Names mentioned Edward Betts John Clarke William Goddens William Cooper Brethren of St Bartholomews
8. No 13 Dated 30 September 1624
Messrs Cooper to John Codd
William Cooper of FrindsburyYeoman
All that messuage or Tenenments two barnes one stable one lodge or out house one yarde one garden one orchard near to DillyWood
9. No 14 Dated 5 October 1639 Wilkinson to Codd
John Wilkinson of Longfield ? Gent Edward Wilkinson late of London Gent John Codd of the City of Rochester Gent John ? of Rochester Barber (very fragile could not fully open this one)
10. No 15 dated March 31 1658 John Codd to George Codd
John Codd of Leybourne Clerk only son of John Codd of Rochester Grocer ? of the one part

George Codd of Kemsing Yeoman other part
Premises belonging to William Harper? In Frindsbury next to DillyWood and Higham
2 deeds severely damaged
One ? Wood and his mother to Mr Attwater land in Strood and Cobham dated 1701 the other not legible.
11. Dated 18 July 1707
Assignment of Lease
Stephen Hulkes Baker of Strood and Juliano Cosar of Strood Apothacary
This lease was purchased by Mr Julian Cosar after he had made his will in 1704 and made his wife ? ? who proved the said will in the prerogative of London 15 May 1712
12. Dated 4 Oct 1727
Copy of the Will of Mary Turner of Strood Widow
To my son Richard Tassel my part of Strood Mill

Several bequests

Her house and effects to Rev Mr Perfect Minister of the
Parish of Strood¹

13. Dated 8 April 1728 Lease Mr Attwater to Mr Low Lease for 11 years
William Atwater of Chatham Carpenter to Thomas Low of Strood
Kings Head presently occupied by Simon Rigglesworth on the south side of the High Street of
Strood

14. Dated 1 Dec 1729
Joseph Taylor Esq to Mr Hulkes and Mr Morley
Assignment of Mr Taylor's part of Strood Mill
Damaged

15. Dated 4 December 1741
Mr James Hulkes of Strood Baker and Mr Thomas Morley of Strood Baker
Articles of Agreement
Watermills in Strood

16. Dated 10 March 1742
Assignment of a Moiety of Watermill in Strood
Thomas Morley of Strood in the County of Kent Baker and George Cowland of Frindsbury in the
County of Kent Yeoman
Dean of Cathedral Nicholas Claggett
Joseph Taylor of Mark Lane London Esquire and William Scott of Strood Houes Carpenter
James Hulkes

17. April 1750
Elizabeth Scott of Strood widow of William Scott House Carpenter late of Strood to Henry Green
Names mentioned:- Henry Figges, Joseph King, Thomas Dolbin, Frances Russell widow. Dean &
Chapter
2 Messuages, Yards, Barksides, Garden and Buildings

18. Dated 15 April 1751 Assignment of Leasehold Tenants in Strood
Elizabeth Scott widow of William Scott House Carpenter of Strood to Henry Green
Dated 25 June 1777

Between William Twopeny of Rochester Gent & William Hardy of Chancery Lane London to
Henry Frederick of Strood Wheelwright
Assignment Absolute of a Dean & Chapter. Tenements in Strood
Property & land Newark Strood

Large tear almost through the centre of the document

19. Dated 1 July 1777
Mr Henry Frederick Wheelwright of Strood to Mr Aaron Waddup Taylor and Draper of Rochester
Newark in the parish of Strood messuages & tenements lately erected
Assignment of Leasehold Tenements in Strood on condition as a Security for one hundred and fifty
pounds and interest of 5£ percent

20. Dated 1 July 1777
Mr Henry Frederick Wheelwright of Strood to Mr Aaron Waddup of Rochester Taylor and Draper
Bond for £150 Interest at 5£ percent secured also by mortgage

21. Dated 6 December 1778
Release of a Legacy of £600 payable out of freehold premises
Mr William West alias Day to Mr David Day

22. Dated 13 January 1782
Lease Edward Epine of Westminster to Isaac Wildash
Property ? in Chatham

In urgent need of conservation: the mice have been at it !

Dated 24 June 1783

Mr Henry Frederick to Mr Thomas Hulkes

Assignment of Leasehold Tenements in Strood Absolute

Newark

23. Copy of Office Copy of the will of Isaac Wildash dated 15 November 1791 proved at London 24 September 1792

Yew Tree House in Rainham Street Rainham

New built messuage etc in Moor Street Rainham

Other property in Rainham and Upchurch

To son-in-law Leonard Bartholomew of Addington Kent

£15000 Consolidated Bank Annuities

daughter Frances Bartholomew

£2500 to Mary and Frances Murton daughters of Richard & Mary Murton my niece

Rest to his daughter Dame Rebecca Twisden

24. Dated 8 August 1798

Absolute Assignment of Leasehold premises in Chatham held of St Bartholomews Hospital

Dame Rebecca Twisden to Mr James Hulkes Brewer

Dame Rebecca Twisden of Jennings in the parish of Hunton in the County of Kent

Isaac Wildash of Chatham

Dated 13 February 1799 Lease of Little Hermitage and several Messuages Lands and Premises in Frindsbury

David Day Esq. to Thomas Bentley and Jacob Ashley of Chatham Brewers and Carpenters

Land at Dally Wood and Cooks Farms 94 acres

Mansion Messuage etc called Little Hermitage

25. Dated 16 May 1800 Copy of the Act of Parliament for the Thames & Medway Canal

26. Dated 5 December 1801

Mr John Eggier to Mr Thomas Chaney

Assignment of Leasehold Premises in Saint Margaret

John Eggier of Chatham Leather Cutter & Carrier to Thomas Chaney of Chatham Baker

a) Indenture of Lease 30 April 1785 made or mentioned to be of St Bartholomew near the said Brethren of St Bartholomew and Thomas Dampier DD Dean of Cathedral and Governor of St Bartholomew

b) and Francis Steel Bond of Chatham Shop Keeper Martha Bond occupying premises 30 Nov 1780

c) Francis Steel Bond to John Eggier 23 May 1800 Charles Dadd occupant

27. Guardian Insurance Policy No 1224 Dated 27 January 1824

Mrs Penelope Hulkes of Tovil Place Maidstone Kent has insured James Hulkes for £3000

28. Bundle of letters /receipts to do with above Guardian Insurance policy

29. Dated 24 June 1826

James Hulkes Esq son to his mother Mrs Penelope Hulkes

Bond for payment of Annuity of £15 for life of Mrs Hulkes

30. Memorandum dated 28 Apr 1828

Signed by Edward Day Hulkes and James Hulkes referring to their mother Penelope Hulkes

31. Dated 6 May 1834 Lease of Garden and Fruit Land at Sole Street in Frindsbury

William Wylde Day Esq of West Hill Frindsbury to Robert Hayes of Frindsbury Yeoman

32. Dated 7 July 1842

Bond for securing £400 and Interest Henry Stephen Hulkes of Rochester to William W Day of Little Hermitage Frindsbury.

33. Dated 6 July 1844

Letter of Ex.....? and Covenant

Miss Penelope Hulkes of Boxley Hall to Mrs Penelope Hulkes (her grandmother) of Little Hermitage Frindsbury

Names mentioned

Edward Thomas Day Hulkes deceased father of Penelope Hulkes and son of above Mrs Penelope Hulkes

James Hulkes son deceased c. 1836 father of James Hulkes grandson.

Hulkes Brewery Chatham

34. Dated 1844-1853

Blue envelope containing receipts for half yearly profits £390 of Brewery to Mr & Mrs Beauclerk's trustees

35. Dated 27 Sept 1853

Settlement on the marriage of William Alfred Swift Lt. 96th Regiment of Foot with Amelia Hulkes of Little Hermitage, Frindsbury (died 25 Oct 1879)

Policy of Assurance dated 27 Sep 1853 No 2638 with Royal Naval Military and East India Company Life Assurance Society £1000

Names mentioned James Hulkes Little Hermitage Frindsbury

Lawrence Henry Winckworth St Swithin's Lane, City of London (died 12 Dec 1872)

Richard Levinge Swift Stone buildings Lincolns Inn Barrister at Law (died 11 Sep 1872)

Including Release dated 29 Nov 1882 of Arthur Delgano Mackay Swift to James Hullkes

George Octavious Swift Release 13 Dec 1887

Also mentioned Robert William Callingford Swift

These three being offspring of the marriage

36. Date 1869 Cleverly v Troughton Lots 1,3,5,6,7,and 8

Abstract of the title to freehold premises in West St, High St, Queen St, East Terrace and Bentley St, Gravesend.

Tierney C.Matthews 55 Lincoln Inn Fields W.C.

37. Dated Feb 1877 to April 1878

Incurred by Russel (Solicitor) for legal work carried out on behalf of James Hulkes

James Hulkes to J Howard Russel

Account of expenses incurred to do with legal work regarding South Eastern Railway

38. Dated 18 February 1878

Counterpart Lease of House and Land at Ash near Wrotham Kent and of right of Sporting

James Hulkes Esq to Mr C.S.Cadman

James Hulkes of Little Hermitage near Rochester in the County of Kent

Charles Shirley Cadman of 80 Findborough Road South Kensington Middlesex Whip Manufacturer

Pettings Situate at Ash near Wrotham

Witness ? 34 Bedford Row W C Solicitors Clerk

39. Dated 15 Feb 1879

Letter to Jas Hulkes Esq of Little Hermitage from Howard Russell Solicitor of 1 Wrotham Rd

Gravesend receipt of cheque and reference to conveyance that may be obtained and mention of South Eastern ?

40. Dated 3 May 1879

Counterpart Lease of (Lacknuts) house and Orchard Garden Ground at Meopham in the County of Kent

Miss C Winckworth to Mr Robert Jeal

Commencing 29th Sep 1878

Term of Years 21

Expires 29th September 1899

Rent £30.

Miss Caroline Winckworth of 23 Upper Hamilton Terrace in Middlesex
Robert Jeal of South Street Cottage Meopham Kent
Land at Culverstone Green

Witness James Hulkes JP Little Hermitage Frindsbury

Dated 19 May 1879

The South Eastern Railway Company to James Hulkes Esq of Little Hermitage Frindsbury

Deed of Covenant for the production of Deeds relating to land in Higham

Together with correspondence [3 letters] a lease of Land dated 23 Dec 1858 the South Eastern Railway to Mr Thomas Wyles of Stone House Farm Frindsbury for land in Higham and a certificate of Exoneration dated 31 Oct 1878 the South Eastern Railway Company

41. Dated 14 Feb 1882

Debenture of the Rochester and County Club receipt of £5 5s from James Hulkes

42. Dated 1882 -1887

Solicitors accounts relating to the Swift's Trust

Messrs Latter Willet of Bromley Kent, see Item No 39

43. Dated 17 Aug 1886

Debenture of the Hundred of Hoo Cricket Club Receipt of £5 from James Hulkes

44. Dated 16 Sept 1889

Counterpart Lease of No 27 High Street in Milton next Gravesend in the County of Kent

Miss C Winckworth to Mr E Valentine

From Midsummer 1889

For years 21

Ending Midsummer 1910

Determinable by either party at 7 or 14 years

Rent £35 Lessor insures

Caroline Winckworth of the Little Hermitage near Rochester in the County of Kent

Ezechiele Valentine of 27 High Street Milton next Gravesend in the County of Kent

Witness George Clinch Solicitor Gravesend

45. Dated 1891 Black edged Envelope containing 4 items of correspondence from the Rev E.R.Sawley regarding dispute of Tithe apportionment at Ash next Ridley

46. Dated 28 Feb 1894 Receipt from C J G Hulkes sum of £35 8s 5d

47. The Executors of Thomas Hulkes Esq

Debt to John Gibbs

Notes

1. Mr. Perfect probably refers to Caleb Parfect (Odette Buchanan).

The National Archives: reference to wills of people mentioned in the above documents

PROB11/203 Will of Henry Younge of Cliffe 1648
PROB11/1223 Will of Isaac Wildash of Chatham 24 Sep 1792
PROB11/1816 Will of Dame Rebecca Twisden 1 May 1833 widow of Hunton dau of Isaac Wildash
PROB 11/952 Will of James Hulkes Gent Alderman of Strood 8 Nov 1769
PROB11/1085 Will of James Hulkes Baker Alderman of Strood 7 Dec 1781
PROB11/1441 Will of Thomas Hulkes Alderman of Strood 26 Apr 1806
PROB11/1680 Will of Edward Thomas Day Hulkes of Chatham 15 Jan 1824
PROB11/1681 Will of Thomas Edward Hulkes Gent of Rochester 28 Feb 1824
PROB11/1863 Will of James Hulkes of Frindsbury 3 Jun 1836
PROB11/1984 Will of Thomas William Hulkes Gent of Rochester 19 Aug 1843
PROB11/2073 Will of Penelope Hulkes Widow of Frindsbury 20 Apr 1848
PROB11/1630 Wwill of David Day of West Hill House near Rochester 21 Jun 1820
PROB11/1979 Will of William Wylde Day of Frindsbury 18 May 1843
PROB 11/1980 Will of David Hermitage Day Banker of Rochester 29 Jun 1843
PROB11/1544 Will of Aaron Waddup of Chatham Gent 1813

Mayors of Rochester

1626 – J.Codd
1637 – J Codd
1746 – J Hulkes
1767 – J Hulkes
1772 – J Hulkes
1781 J Hulkes
1797 – J Hulkes
1837 – W Wildash

Family Connections

Rebecca Wildash mar Sir Roger Twisden 6th Baronet 25 Jan 1779
James Hulkes son of James Hulkes & Jane Sarah mar Emma Sarah Winckworth dau of Lawrence Holker Winkworth & Mary at All Saints Frindsbury 11 Jun 1850
Penelope Jane Hulkes dau of James Hulkes & Jane Sarah mar Lawrence Henry Winckworth son of Lawrence Holker Winkworth & Mary at All Saints Frindsbury 11 Nov 1850
Caroline Winckworth was the dau of Lawrence Holker Winkworth & Mary
Amelia Hulkes dau of James Hulkes & Jane Sarah mar William Alfred Swift Lt in 96th Regt of Foot son of Richard Swift [Medical Dr] 28 Sep 1853 at All Saints Frindsbury.

A Snapshot: My Great Aunt Emma 1901

Ann Bowling

FOMA member Ann Bowling is a Professor at University College London and her interests include improving quality of life in older age, patients' perspectives and experience of health care. She lives in Mill Hill, London, and has been absorbed in her spare time tracing her ancestry on both sides of the family.



Here Ann shares the extraordinary story of her grandfather's family who originate in the Medway Towns. This article was originally published in The Guardian newspaper on 6 March 2010 as a reader's story in their Saturday family supplement. The Clock Tower is grateful to The Guardian for giving permission to reproduce the article.

Family life at the end of the 1800s and early 1900s could certainly be tough. There was no welfare or social service support that we take for granted today, and life for the poorer sections of society often went from bad to worse. The photograph shows my great aunt Emma Bowling and her husband John Hannell, who married in Marylebone in 1901 and it was probably taken the year after. In the photo she was aged about 20. In spite of her Church of England baptism and heavily pregnant state, she was married in a Roman Catholic church into a strongly Catholic family. Her marriage certificate gives her father (John Richard Bowling) as 'deceased'— although this was not actually the case - she was estranged from him. However, she was a true survivor of a family that endured the tremendous hardships of the time.

Emma's mother, Emma Osmotherly (my great grandmother), died in childbirth at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, in 1895, aged 42. The cause of death was stated as carcinoma of the 'uterus? Cervix.' With her died her new born baby Mary, her eighth child. Emma Osmotherly was born on 15th September, 1854 at home at Perry Street, Northfleet, and baptised at St George, Gravesend. Her parents were Richard (a farm labourer, Born in 1822 in Shorne, of George Osmotherly and Susanna Wright) and Martha Osmotherly (née Mills, who had been previously married to George Fordham in Fawkham). Emma and her parents were listed in the 1861 census living at 10 Wycliffe Road, Northfleet, along with Emma's siblings Mary Ann (b. 1849), Eliza (b. 1851), James (b. 1858) and Richard (b. 1860).

In the 1871 census Emma's mother, Martha, was not listed. Further investigations revealed that Martha had died of phthisis (tuberculosis) in 1869, aged 44. Emma's father, Richard, had died aged 50, just three years later in 1872 from a carbuncle (a large 'boil', usually caused by *Staphylococcus aureus*) from which he had suffered for ten days beforehand. Both Martha and Richard died long before treatments had been discovered. Emma was subsequently found in the 1881 census, unmarried, as a domestic servant at the Greyhound Hotel, George Street, Richmond, Surrey. She probably met her future partner here, John Richard Bowling, as he was a wine merchant's porter at about this time. Maybe he made deliveries to the hotel and this was how they met.

John Richard Bowling was born off the Old Kent Road, Newington in 1844 and died at St Pancras Infirmary in 1917; he was buried by the parish in a public grave. He had two other families before settling with Emma Osmotherly. This probably explains why they did not marry, and divorce was too expensive for ordinary people back then. In all three families he had a son baptised as John Richard Bowling.

In the 1871 census John Richard Bowling was listed as a servant (potman) living in Holborn. In 1873 he married Anne Pierpoint at St George the Martyr and they were both living at 3 Boswell Court, Holborn. John was by then a hotel servant. In 1873 they also had a daughter Ellen Elizabeth, and in 1874 a son named John Richard Bowling. However, by 1881 Anne Pierpoint, the children –

and her father - were living with Henry Albert (she was listed as his wife), a bedstead maker in Kennington. Meanwhile, in 1880, John Richard Bowling had another son named John Richard (Albert) Bowling with Annie Jaques in Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch. This relationship soon broke down as Annie and her son moved to Woolwich and she subsequently married Henry Fincham.

This must have been around the time that John Richard Bowling met Emma Osmotherly. They never married, but they had their first child, Emma Bowling (see photo – and who later married John Hannell) in Pimlico in 1882. John Richard Bowling had apparently met the right person for him, as this relationship lasted until Emma died tragically in childbirth in 1895 (and was buried on the parish in a public grave). After baby Emma was born, the family moved to Marylebone where their remaining children were born. My grandfather, also named John Richard Bowling, was born next in 1884, followed by Martha (1887), Albert (1889), Robert (1892) and Barnes (1894).

When Emma Osmotherly died in childbirth in 1895, she left behind seven children and an ailing partner (John Richard Bowling). He coped as best he could with his young family, but four years later in 1889, when he entered an infirmary for four months, he lost the family home, and subsequently lived in lodgings in Hammersmith (1901 census). He was found in the 1911 census, living in Rowtown House, in Hammersmith, a well-known hostel for poor working men. The two older daughters, Emma and her sister Polly, were working, and moved into a shared room in Marylebone together. The older son, John Richard (my granddad), was also working, and then became a young soldier, surviving both the Second Boer War and WW1.

Fate was unkind to the four younger children: Martha, Albert, Robert and Barnes. In 1889, they were referred by a missionary at Paddington City Mission to Annie MacPherson's Home of Industry in Bethnal Green. Annie MacPherson was a friend of Dr. Thomas Barnardo, and a fellow philanthropist. She opened her 'home of industry' in a large warehouse in East London, where poor children were fed and could work while receiving education. However, she was also responsible for sending them to Canada as 'British Home Children', which in theory was for a better life. In practice, many children were forced by their adoptive families to work as child labourers on farms and did not receive much schooling. Thus, in 1900, Martha (aged 13), Albert (11), Robert (8), and Barnes, who was just 6 years old, travelled to Liverpool and, aboard the S.S. Tunisian, onto Ontario, Canada. The siblings were almost immediately separated, with Martha being set to work as a domestic, moving to Detroit with the family who employed her, while the boys were 'adopted' by different families across Canada. All three boys re-crossed the seas later to fight in WW1 with the Canadian Military.

The Canadian military attestation papers from WW1 for Robert, Albert and Barnes have been traced. Robert's movements post his 1919 military discharge have not been found, apart from a trip to Detroit on a Greyhound bus to see Martha in 1920 (he also gave Albert as his relative in Canada on his border papers, so these three were still in touch). Robert's military papers gave his civilian work as wood finisher. Martha was found living in Detroit as a secretary in the 1920 census, but her movements after 1920 remain a mystery. Albert's marriage to Alice McConnel was traced, and the birth of a daughter, Murial Alice. He was a travelling salesman with a fruit company, and lived in Coleman. Tragically, he died suddenly from pneumonia, as the family were about to move to Fernie, BC, where his employer had relocated to. His family have not been found since.

As for little Barnes, as an obituary and death certificate had been found, clearly stating no descendents, Dr Barnardo's agreed to release his files. His papers from Annie Macpherson's Home (held by Dr Barnardo's) show that he was placed with six different families in Ontario before being returned by each as either unsuitable, 'too young,' 'shy,' 'an unwilling worker' and having 'a very bad habit' (most likely bed wetting due to stress). His seventh adopted family was more successful,

and he received some schooling. He was in contact with Robert (by letter) and Martha, who visited him on his first Christmas in Canada. However, there was no mention of Albert who had been placed on the other side of Canada. However, he was also expected to work hard on the family farm.

In 1954, aged 60, Barnes was run over and killed by a car, driven by a soldier, while crossing the road to deliver bread - he worked as a delivery man for Wonderloaf. He died single, with no family, and with 'parents unknown' listed on his statement of death. He was buried among fellow soldiers in the WW1 veterans plot at Woodland Cemetery Ontario. However, this very sad story had a more uplifting ending. Barnes' obituary notice in the local Ontario paper was written by the, now well-known, North American news reporter and correspondent, Morley Safer. It was headed 'Had No Wife, Children, Good Samaritan Leaves Big Family of Mourners'. Barnes had apparently long provided financial support to an old friend, his wife and their eight children, when long-term illness prevented them from working. This was summed up in the words of one of them: 'Barney stuck by us...kept us all well fed and in school.'

Back in England, the children's father, John Richard Bowling, despite ailing health, survived into his 70s and died at St Pancras Infirmary in 1917, alone and impoverished, having been admitted from lodgings in Cubitt Street nearby. He was buried, like his partner, 'on the parish', in a public grave, but in a different cemetery to her. John Richard was buried on the Camden side of Camden and Islington cemetery, and Emma was buried in Westminster cemetery - both were at opposite ends of East Finchley, London.

Of the older children who stayed behind, Emma, her sister Polly and brother John Richard (my granddad), survived into older age. Polly remained single, and was close to Emma. My granddad would not talk about his father, so was probably estranged too. Sadly Great Aunt Emma was also buried in a different cemetery to her husband, John Hannell, as, unlike him, she was not a Catholic - 'Till death do us part' again carries another interpretation.

Why Emma was estranged from her father is unclear. It may have been because her young siblings were sent to Canada; or because her father did not consent to her marriage into a Roman Catholic family. At the time of her marriage she was under the age of consent, so perhaps this is why she stated her father was deceased on her marriage certificate. In addition, her father's previous families (if known about) might have led to disagreements, or they perhaps they fell out because of her pregnancy.

I look at this beautiful photograph of Great Aunt Emma Hannell, née Bowling (see next page), and am full of admiration at how she - and Granddad - fought and successfully overcame life's challenges back then in those tough times. I am also full of sadness for the others - and for great granddad John Richard Bowling who died in poverty, alone, in the infirmary.



*Emma Bowling and her husband, John Hannell, who married in Marylebone, London, in 1901. The photograph was probably taken the year after when Emma was aged about 20.
Photograph courtesy of Carole Kildea, née Hannell.*

The Victoria County History

Dr Sandra Dunster



Dr Sandra Dunster was appointed by the University of Greenwich as Kent Team Leader for the Victoria County History's England's Past for Everyone (EPE) in October 2007. With the help of volunteers, she is researching and writing a history of the Medway Towns. She previously taught local and regional history at the University of Kent. Sandra was born and raised in Whitstable and, after 25 years absence, returned to live there in 1999.

The week after Easter I took a break from my computer and the demands of writing up the *Medway Towns* EPE volume and spent an enjoyable day walking around Rochester and Chatham with Matt Bristow, Historic Environment Research Manager from the Victoria County History. The purpose of our day was to capture some of the sights of the towns on film to provide illustrations for the book.

We were very lucky with the weather, enjoying bright sunshine all day and both felt that although another day of photography would be necessary later in the year we had achieved a great deal. The Medway Towns are certainly not lacking in historic buildings to photograph. What also struck me as we made our way around was the generosity of those we met. They willingly shared their knowledge about the buildings in which they worked or lived. Their enthusiasm made our task all the more enjoyable.



We began the day in Restoration House (see photograph) with Robert Tucker who welcomed us to his home and kindly allowed us to view and record the wonderful paint effects and japanning that were part of the preparations made for King Charles II's stay in the house on his return to England in 1660. A short walk to the bottom of the garden revealed the recently uncovered Tudor wall and we heard about plans to restore what is now a building site to its former glory as a garden with raised walkways and carp ponds.

Later in the day, as we walked back from the John Hawkins hospital, a chance encounter took us into a very different environment when Robert Flood (who we'd met that morning while he was on duty in Eastgate House) invited us to look around the brewery buildings and former bonded warehouses behind Chatham House (see photograph). Thanks to Featherstone's, who now own the buildings, sections of the warehouse have now found a new life as artists' studios but much of this environment was dark, dank and, in many places, pigeon-infested. Nevertheless the former utility of these riverside buildings was evident at every turn.



Although very different in character both of these buildings are significant in the history of the Medway Towns and we would not have been able to access either were it not for the two Roberts, who both gave their time and knowledge willingly.

Editor's Footnotes



Amanda Thomas is a freelance writer and public relations consultant. Born in Chatham, but now based in Hertfordshire, she belongs to several historical organisations, including the Kent Family History Society, the North West Kent Family History Society, and The Council for British Archaeology; she has a degree in Italian from the University of Kent and is a member of their alumni association. Amanda was made a full member of the Society of Women Writers and Journalists in 2008.

I am not able to visit MALSC as often as I would like, living some distance away in Hertfordshire. However, whenever I do I always make a point of looking to see if there are any books for sale. About a year ago I purchased a slim volume entitled, *A Short History of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School Rochester, 1701 – 1951*. The book was produced by the school to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the school, and was produced by the boys themselves, who were in attendance in the summer of 1950.

The Mathematical School was founded by Sir Joseph Williamson thanks to a bequest of £5,000 of land and tenements in his will on his death at Cobham Hall in 1701. Sir Joseph was born in Bridekirk, Cumberland in 1633, but his association with Rochester came much later with his marriage to Lady Katherine O'Brien, and as the *History* explains:

‘...he was married to Lady Katherine O'Brien, whose first husband, Lord Ibraken, had died five months earlier. Williamson made a financial gain by his marriage, and soon bought Cobham Hall for £45,000.

His connection with Rochester and Gravesend began with his purchase of the Cobham estates. He stood as M.P. for Rochester in March 1690 and was elected, but preferred to sit for Thetford. But later, in 1695, 1698 and 1700, although elected both for Thetford and for Rochester, he chose to sit for Rochester. Sir Joseph must have held the city in high regard, for he left her citizens a splendid legacy in his will.’

In the following pages, Betty Cole, FOMA Membership Secretary, shares another of her postcards from her collection. In this issue, Betty gives us a wonderful reminder of how many of us remember the Mathematical School when it stood in Rochester High Street and how it also looked when its pupils celebrated their 250th anniversary.

Edwin Harris – Recollections of Rochester

For those of you hoping to see the latest in Janet Knight's series on Edwin Harris, this will hopefully return in the next issue.

Betty's Postcards

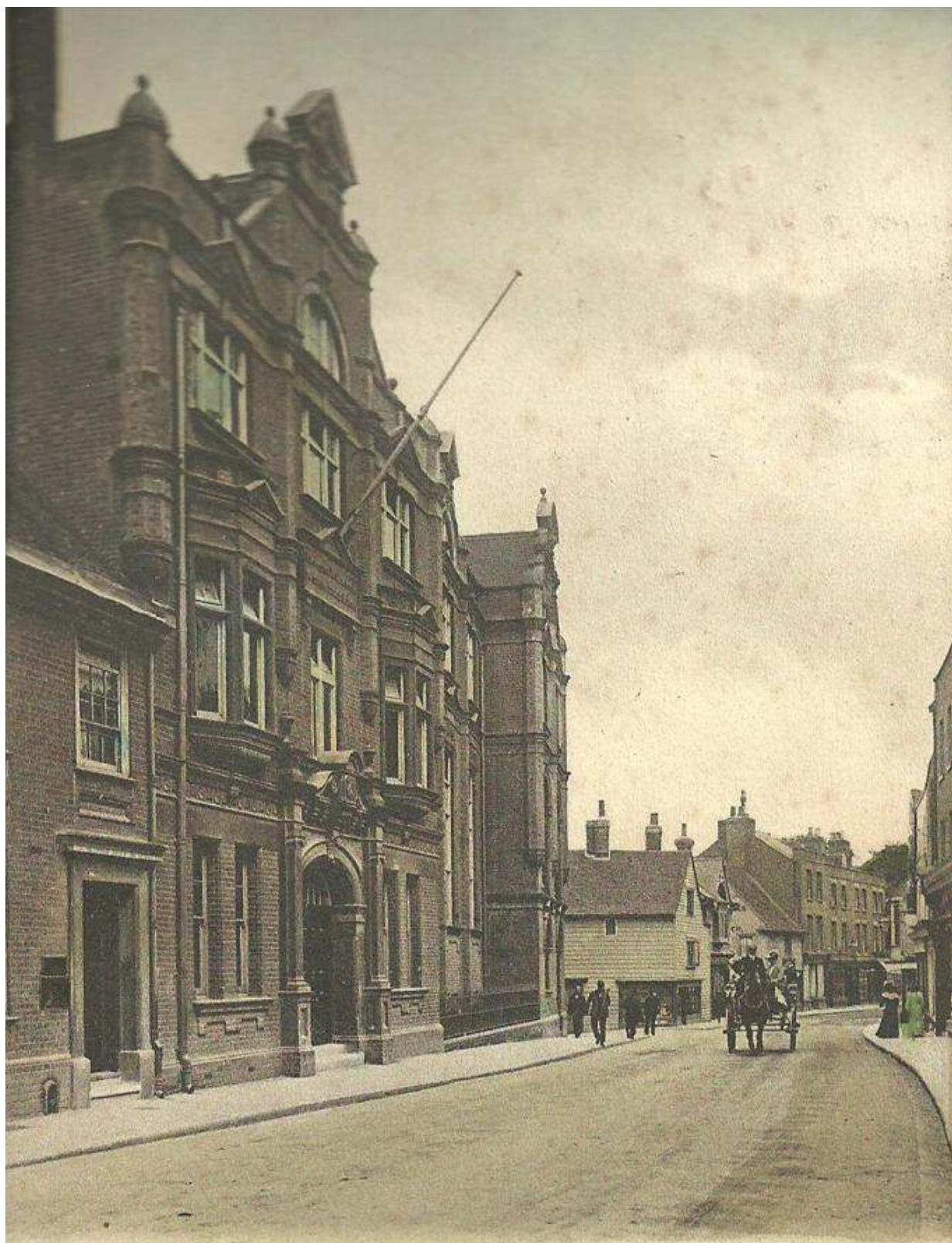


FOMA Membership Secretary, Betty Cole, has collected postcards for about 25 years, and to date she has hundreds in her collection, including at least 50 on a Dickens theme. In this issue Betty showcases her postcard of Rochester's Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School.

This type of postcard comes under the heading *Topographical*. At every postcard fair most dealers have boxes and boxes of them usually divided up into counties. The majority of cards are inexpensive sometimes less than £1, that is unless you are looking for local cards which can then be as much as £20 to £25 if they have social history content, people or transport. I am told that if I went to Yorkshire I could probably pick a Medway Towns card up for very little money as their locals wouldn't want them; I haven't put this to the test. I don't collect this type of card but this was given to me by a friend because of my interest in the local area.

The card shows the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School in its former location at the corner of High Street and Free School Lane, Rochester. From the first Kelly's directory in 1890 until 1969 the Math School was listed at this location. According to the same publication, from 1894 to 1916 Rochester Naturalists' Club had their headquarters here.

This card was posted over 100 years ago, on 5th October 1905, to a Mr. W. Moore in Maidstone from Alice who states, "my room is exactly opposite this school." She hopes "Will" can meet her about 9.15 on Saturday. "Then a whole day. Much love Alice". What hidden stories in these old cards!



Rochester

Mathematical School

The Wrench Series No. 7891

FOMA Quiz Night



The latest FOMA Quiz Night was held on 20th March 2010 at Frindsbury Parish Hall. Pictured from left to right is the winning team, Sue Haydock, Joan Harries, Frances Leng (Sue's sister), Tony Clarke, and Jean Skilling.



...and at the AGM on Tuesday 13th April 2010, FOMA members gathered together once again. A full report of the fifth FOMA AGM can be found on pages 2 and 3.