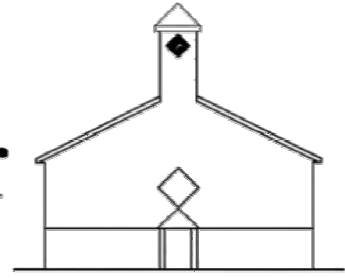


# The Clock Tower



Issue Number 28: November 2012  
£2.00; free to members

## Who Was Waghorn's Father?



The 1888 statue in Railway Street, Chatham, of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn (1800-1850), pioneer of the overland route to India via Egypt. In a series of *Clock Tower* articles in 2007 FOMA Member and Snodland historian, Dr. Andrew Ashbee discussed the riddle of Waghorn's parentage. Now, five years on, we have been contacted by a member of the Waghorn family and the mystery has finally been solved. More inside.

## Turning the Clocks Back

Now that the shorter days and longer nights are here again, let us reflect on some of the events in which FOMA members took part during the late summer.



### The Plaque to Charles Roach Smith FSA

On 26 August Medway Heritage Champion and FOMA Vice President Sue Haydock unveiled a plaque at Strood Conservative Club to Charles Roach Smith FSA, (1807–1890) the antiquarian and amateur archaeologist - and notable Strood resident. Read more on page 14 and the inside back cover.

*From left to right: Sue Haydock, with Cllr. Josie Iles, and Cllr. John Avey*

## The Live Bait Squadron

In September, FOMA Chairman, Tessa Towner was invited to an event to commemorate the sinking of three ships in a single morning in the North Sea in World War One. Many of those on board were young men from the Medway Towns, and on pages 36 to 40 their story is told by Tessa Towner and Brian Butler. Pictured is the Turning the Page ceremony which took place as a part of the commemoration in Rochester Cathedral.

*Photograph ©Cor Kuyvenhoven*



## Gillingham's Will Adams Festival

Long before Thomas Fletcher Waghorn discovered the overland route to India, Will Adams (1564–1620) was already a Medway pioneer. A naturalized citizen and samurai of Japan, his life was celebrated once again this year in the place of his birth, Gillingham. See page 15.

*Photograph © Simon Kelsey, PraxisDesign*

## *From the Chairman*

Tessa Towner, Chairman.



How strange it feels that this is the last journal of the year, and what a year we have had, the Diamond Jubilee, Olympic and Paralympics. A year to remember!

As we are nearing the end of 2012, I felt it appropriate to update you on the De Caville Index. For those of you who are new to FOMA, this is an index of the men who died in WWI with some association to the Medway Towns. The Index was originally compiled by the late Michael de Caville over a 25 year period and includes not only many local men, but those who appear on memorials around the towns or are buried here. I recently found a memorial in the St George's Centre in Chatham to the 120 men who perished in the Mediterranean on HMS Russell, though only a few on this Chatham ship actually came from the Towns. To date there are 3,418 names on the Index and I am now at the stage of checking the information I have and adding references pertaining to the service records of these men. The aim is to have it ready for publication at the start of 2014 in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of WWI.

In this issue of *The Clock Tower*, it is always difficult to balance the demands of publishing stories to coincide with Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. Stories about WWI and WWII are in a special section in this issue called *Lest We Forget*. Everything else is a bit more cheery, and on that note, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!



EX-CHIEF STOKER DALE, OF GILLINGHAM, OPENING A CHRISTMAS HAMPER GIVEN TO HIM BECAUSE HE WAS THE FIRST MAN WOUNDED IN THE GREAT WAR.

*A festive scene from the MALSC archives discovered by Senior Archive and Local Studies Assistant, Cindy O'Halloran. If you have any information on those pictured, particularly 'Stoker Dale of Gillingham' please contact Clock Tower Editor, Amanda Thomas, [amanda@ajthomas.com](mailto:amanda@ajthomas.com).*



## *Eastgate House Update*

Elaine Gardner Vice Chairman and Events Co-ordinator



As most FOMA members are aware, Eastgate House has been preparing a bid for Heritage Lottery funding to restore the building and create a useable and interesting arts, exhibition and activities venue. This bid was submitted in September and everyone is now keeping their fingers crossed that it will be successful and that the project will get the £1.28 million that they have requested. Those of us who were part of the so-called Archive of Great Expectations lottery bid at MALSC, nearly four years ago now, know how that feels and, when you do hear that you have been successful, keeping it a secret until the official announcement is made is difficult. We will be looking to see if Tracy Stringfellow, (the Eastgate House Project Manager) is walking around with a broad smile on her face in December!

Meanwhile, the Archive of Great Expectations project is coming to the end of its three year process. Archive staff and volunteers have been working hard on the education and outreach aspects of the project, concentrating in this final phase on producing packs of material from the archive to support school history teaching. We have been helped in this by a number of schools giving us feedback and suggesting topics for which they would like material. The talks and the exhibition that was held at MALSC in January are on-going and it is perhaps fitting that for the last two weeks of October the exhibition material has been on display at Eastgate House – one project supporting the other. The exhibition was backed up with my talk on some of the archive finds. A small but appreciative audience attended and were able to hear reports of the meetings held by the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and interested citizens discussing the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee project, as well as other aspects of the collection which were on display. Cuttings from the local press, which reported the meetings' proceedings almost verbatim - including the applause, cheers and laughter, were found in the Town Clerk's file dealing with the Jubilee celebrations (Doc RCA/TC1/38/1). These revealed that whilst the Mayor and Aldermen were keen to purchase Eastgate House and establish a museum there for the city, not everyone was so keen. Moreover, the subscriptions did not raise nearly enough of the required £2,000 the council required to subsidise the purchase from the rates. It seems that they intended this all along and as a result a number of subscribers demanded their money back! By the time the next *Clock Tower* is published in February we will know the outcome of the Eastgate House bid and let's hope that by then the house will be closing for the work to begin.



*The exhibition at Eastgate House*

## News and Events

Odette Buchanan, Friends' Secretary



Clocks back, leaves all over the pavements instead of on the trees, foggy mornings, the shops full of lurid Halloween plastic and Guy Fawkes fireworks. Where are the vests? Hurry up – Christmas is nearly here and, as we went to press, TV presenters had already started wearing their Remembrance Poppies.

I was very pleased to welcome an increased audience to my second talk on the Heritage of the Vines Park in Rochester. I didn't see anyone falling asleep and thanks to the wonders of publicity and canvassing from the committee, we made a comfortable profit. We also made a good profit on the Quiz at the end of October. As usual, Elaine Gardner's questions were excellent and all the committee worked hard to make the event a success. Have you bought next year's diary yet? Don't forget to put in 27<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013 for the next two quiz dates.

*Clock Tower* Editor, Amanda Thomas and I still continue to get a steady stream of questions from all over the world, as you will see on pages 9 to 13 in *Readers' Letters*, and it is always wonderful to receive an email such as the one from Mark Austin (see pages 18 to 22; the letter is on page 20) which addresses an unsolved mystery. It is fantastic to think that people all over the world read *The Clock Tower* on the web and contact us with their comments and queries. If only they would all join FOMA...

All of this auspicious year of 2012 we have been reminded of particular anniversaries such as Dickens' birth and the sinking of the Titanic, but many other famous people were born the same year as Dickens: The architect Pugin, the poets Edward Lear and Robert Browning, the social reformer Henry Mayhew and the man whose book called *Self Help* was the driving force of many eminent Victorians, Samuel Smiles. Also in 1812 *HMS Victory* was retired from active service and the only British Prime Minister to ever be assassinated, Spencer Perceval was shot on 11<sup>th</sup> May by Bellingham. They didn't hang about in those days (excuse the pun) – he had been arrested, tried, found guilty and was then hanged on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The same year as the Titanic sank (1912), National Insurance payments were introduced, Scott reached the South Pole, the Royal Flying Corps was established, the Suffragettes were very active, the Social Reformer Octavia Hill died and August, 1912 was the wettest on record. So, on that damply familiar note let me be one of the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2013!

### 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 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@virginmedia.com](mailto:emgardner@virginmedia.com) so that we can add you to the list and contact you before the next exhibition. Thank you!

## *Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions*

### FOMA Events

12<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 7.30 pm  
Monasteries and Hospitals  
A talk by David Carder

Tuesday, 16th April 2013, 7.00 for 7.30 pm

#### **FOMA AGM**

Business will be followed by light refreshments and a talk by local historian, Brian Joyce

**Please note, booking for FOMA talks is no longer necessary!**

**All events - and until further notice - are at Frindsbury Parish Hall**

**Talks are £3 for members £5 non-members.**

**Booking for Quiz Nights and enquiries through the FOMA Secretary:**

**Odette Buchanan , 72 Jersey Rd, Strood, ME2 3PE; [odette\\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk); 01634 718231.**

### MALSC Events

#### Exhibitions

19<sup>th</sup> November – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013

These we have Loved (shops, stores and emporia of Medway) by Jean Lear

#### **MALSC OPENING HOURS**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm; Saturday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Wednesday and Sunday closed.**

#### Talks and Events

5<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 pm  
Window Shopping in Kent  
Jean Lear

**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. TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE.**

**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, address as above.**

### Exhibitions at Eastgate House

Eastgate House has applied for Heritage Lottery funding (£1.28 million) for restoration and the creation of an arts venue for the Medway area. Tracy Stringfellow the Eastgate House Project Manager, comments,

"Should our application to the Lottery be successful, there is an extensive activity programme for 2013 and 2014, and a full programme of exhibitions and events programmed for the first year of opening in 2015. This level of detail is required for an HLF grant application of this size. The activity programme will be supported by a full time audience development officer post, again, should our application be successful."

See Elaine Gardner's article on page 4 for more details.

To join the Friends of Eastgate House, please contact The Membership Secretary, FoEH, 31 The Esplanade, Rochester, ME1 1QW; a copy of the membership form is also available on the website, <http://www.friendsofeastgatehouse.org/>

**Some MALSC talks and events also take place at Eastgate House – see above under *MALSC Talks and Events*.**

## Eastgate House

Eastgate House is one of Rochester's landmarks. Built in the 1590s by Sir Peter Buck, the most senior member of staff at Chatham Dockyard, its structure has been adapted considerably over the years, but research has indicated that the original building may be Medieval or earlier. A Heritage Lottery Grant awarded in January 2011 has enabled Medway Council to begin planning conservation work on the house and to start opening its doors once more to visitors. In the autumn, the Friends of Eastgate House was set up and on 28 January 2012 a very successful open day was held to raise awareness of the work at Eastgate House.

If you are interested in the project and would like information or to be put on the mailing list, please email Tracy Stringfellow, Eastgate House Project Manager, at [eastgate.house@medway.gov.uk](mailto:eastgate.house@medway.gov.uk)

## The City of Rochester Society

"The City of Rochester Society was founded in 1967 to help conserve the historic City as a pleasant place to visit. The Society is still active today, helping to improve the environment and quality of life in Rochester for residents and visitors alike." Taken from the City of Rochester Society website, [www.city-of-rochester.org.uk/](http://www.city-of-rochester.org.uk/), where further information on the society and how to join is available. Talks are on Wednesdays at the Auditorium of the Visitor Centre, 95 High Street, Rochester and start at 8.00 pm. There is a small charge for events to defray expenses; please contact the CoRS Secretary, Christine Furminger on 01634 320598 or at [cafurminger@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cafurminger@blueyonder.co.uk) for further information and how to join.

14<sup>th</sup> November

A Creepy Tour of Kent's most Haunted Place

A talk by Neil Arnold

12 December

A Christmas Carol

Performed by Colin Greenslade

9th January 2013

The Story of Short Brothers

A talk by Air Commodore Bill Croydon

## Friends of Broomhill

**Sunday 2nd December 2012:** Task Day. Meet in car park at King Arthur's Drive entrance at 11.00 am. Tools provided or bring your own. Come and help with shrub planting.

**Sunday, 3rd February.** BOB WADE COMMEMORATION TASK DAY Meet in car park at King Arthur's Drive entrance at 11.00 am. Tools provided or bring your own. Come and help with BOB'S BIG IDEA - help preserve the green environment with a monster scrub clear ready to welcome the spring and help us keep our Green Flag Award.

**Sunday, 3rd March, 2013:** Task Day. Meet in the car park at King Arthur's Drive entrance at 11.00 am. Tools provided or bring your own. Come and help plant more wild flowers

**Sunday, 7th April, 2013:** LAST Task Day of the season. Meet in car park at King Arthur's Drive entrance at 11.00 am. Tools provided or bring your own. Come and help with the final INTENSIVE LITTER PICK to give all the little beasts, however many legs they have, if any, to enjoy their summer.

**It's all FREE, it's FUN, it's HEALTHY and will help us keep our GREEN FLAG AWARD. Further details from secretary 01634 718231 or email [odette\\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk)**



## The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive

Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 4UG; [www.re-museum.co.uk/events](http://www.re-museum.co.uk/events)



**Brompton 200:** This year the Royal Engineers Museum celebrates the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal School of Military Engineering in Brompton. The Royal Engineers Museum is Kent's largest military museum, and holds its only Designated Collection of historical and international importance. The many galleries tell the story of Britain's military engineers from the Roman period to the modern Corps of Royal Engineers. The millions of items in its collection tell a sweeping epic of courage, creativity and innovation and the stories of individuals of great renown (General Gordon, Lord Kitchener, John Chard VC) and the average Sapper who has helped the British Army move, fight and survive for over 200 years.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm; Saturday – Sunday and Bank Holidays: 11.30am to 5.00pm; CLOSED MONDAYS. Admission: pay once and get in for 12 months! Adult: £7.80; Family: £20.80; Concession: £5.20; Children under 5: Free.



The following information is from Paul Tritton, Hon. Press Officer, Kent Archaeological Society.

### Grants Available for Kent Local History Projects

March 31 2013 is the latest date by which applications for grants from the Kent Archaeological Society's Allen Grove Local History Fund can be accepted. The grants are awarded annually to encourage interest in Kent's local history. Sums of up to £500 (or more for 'exceptional projects') are available to help cover the cost of research, publications, exhibitions and other projects. Individuals, groups, organizations and students can download application forms from [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk) or obtain one by sending a s.a.e. to the KAS's Hon. General Secretary, Peter Stutchbury, at Lympne Hall, Lympne, Hythe, CT21 4LQ.

Allen Grove was one of the county's most eminent historians of his generation. He was Curator of Maidstone Museum from 1948 to 1975, Hon. Curator of the KAS for 26 years (and its President in 1987/88) and Chairman of the Kent History Federation for eight years. When he died in 1990 he left £26,000 from the proceeds of the sale of his house to the KAS, with instructions that the society should invest the legacy and distribute the interest in ways that would promote the enjoyment of Kent's local history. The first grants were made in 1994. Since then more than £28,000 has been awarded, mainly to support the publication of books and booklets but also for displays in heritage centres, oral history projects, and establishing archives and research centres.



## *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](http://www.foma-lsc.org/index.html). If you have any additional information for the following correspondents, please contact the Editor.*

### **Charles and Mabel May Thomas Sampson**

From: Bob Dunford  
To: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk  
Subject: Re: My Family Tree  
29 August 2012

Please can you help you see my grandfather I believe moved into number 21 Star Hill Rochester in 1937 with some of his family. Is there a way to find out who was living in 21 Star Hill Rochester in 1937 or later. Or is there a way to trace all babies born in Medway since 1880 and later the name of Sampson: father, Charles Sampson, mother Mabel May Thomas Sampson. Thank you. Waiting for your reply.  
Bob Dunford.

From: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk  
To: Bob Dunford  
29 August 2012

Dear Mr. Dunford,  
Thanks for your enquiry. You can check who lived in Star Hill in 1937 by looking at Kelly's Directory or consulting the electoral role. the census will give you the other info. - that happens every 10 years on the 1 - e.g 1931, except for the war years - 1941.  
Odette.

[Editor's Note - Census records post-1911 are not yet available].

From: Bob Dunford  
To: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk  
30 August 2012

Thank you very much. I will try as you say Kelly's Directory and the electoral roll. You are very kind in helping me. Do you mind if I get in touch again? Thank you. Just tried could not find 21 Star Hill, Rochester.  
One more thing maybe you could help me with. I have been through the Medway Council census 1911 and found my Grand Father Charles Sampson lived in number 23 King Street Gillingham Kent and his daughters helped and worked for Coly Goodman who owned the Gem Theater [sic] at the time. My Grandfather would take in some of the Stars Appearing on the Gem. Now years later his daughter Eva Sampson married William Bance who was a musician and played in the orchestra at the Empire Theater [sic] Chatham and ran a guest house in number 11 Albany Terence [sic] Chatham. All the stars on stage at the Empire would stay there. I met many big stars when I was young, Is there any way you could find out more about the guest house, please, for our family tree.  
Bob Dunford.

From: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk  
To: Bob Dunford  
31 August 2012

Bob,  
I've copied our *Clock Tower* Editor (Amanda Thomas) and two other [FOMA] committee members who are also Kent Family History members. They will surely have a better idea of how to proceed with your search. Again - good luck. Sounds very interesting. Re. 21 Star Hill, it is quite likely that the houses have been renumbered. All the houses on the left, going up the hill are still extant but there is a bit near the top on the right hand side that used to be a shop and has now been rebuilt as an apartment block.  
Regards,  
Odette

From: Bob Dunford  
To: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk  
1 September 2012

Just thinking. All my mother's family they all came from Devon, so I must still have family living there. My Great Grand Father George Sampson, born 1840, married Susan Steer. George had several brothers and sisters who stayed in Devon. My Grand Father Charles Steer Sampson, born 1869 in Devon, married Mable Thomas. Charles had lots of brothers and sisters who stayed in Devon...their sons and daughters would have married so I should have uncles and aunts living in Devon with photographs of our family with more Information about our family, so how do I find them? If I could this would really start my Family Tree off. Can you help please?

I have tried going into Kelly's Directory but it is not easy to find out who lived in 21 Star Hill Rochester in 1938...I believe they only moved in in 1937. I know they lived in King Street Gillingham, Kent by the 1911 Census, but if they stayed there from 1911 to 1937 I don't know. Is there any way to find out? Thank you again,  
Bob Dunford.

## **Strood Mystery**

Readers may recall a request Editor, Amanda Thomas put out to members by email on 4 September 2012, and as follows: "Does anyone have any information about Lindsey Rachel M Baker, born in 1959, who lived in Brompton Lane, Strood, and who died in 1975? She also had a brother, Reece, born in 1966, died 1991, and they are buried together at Strood cemetery. I am particularly interested to hear about Lindsey and the circumstances of her death. Naturally all information will be treated in confidence."

Amanda is indebted to FOMA member Joan Harries for her swift response. Lindsey was a fellow pupil at St. Mary's School, Strood, but at the time of her death Amanda had already moved away from the Medway Towns. As other members of the family may still be alive, details are kept to a minimum. Lindsey tragically died of an asthma attack at the age of 15 and Reece was killed in a building accident.

## **Kitchener Barracks at Chatham**

Odette Buchanan received a telephone call on 24 September 2012 from a Mr. Montgomery in Bournemouth asking about the old Kitchener Barracks at Chatham and various cinemas. He was stationed there for a few months in 1946 and would like to know when the barracks were demolished. The Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive in Gillingham had been unable to help.

## **Dr. Ludford Cooper**

**From:** Andrew Daly  
**To:** odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk  
**Sent:** 25 September 2012  
**Subject:** Dr. Ludford Cooper

Dear Odette,

Greetings from Down Under and apologies for the interruption but I am seeking some information or leads on researching Dr. Ludford Cooper. To date via the internet I have pieced together a few bits and pieces but given he seemed to have a fairly substantial position at St Bartholomew's Hospital for many years I thought there may be an obituary, pictures or a profile already prepared. To date I think:

1. He may have been born in Surrey about 1868 and in 1871 may have been living in Uxbridge, Hayes.
2. He was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.
3. Elected to the Ophthalmological Society in 1901.
4. Was a resident surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital for many years and there is a ward named after him.
5. Served in the Boer War as a civil surgeon, I have tracked shipping records in the London Times noting him leaving on 18 Dec, 1899 and returning 14 December, 1900.
6. Appeared in a silent film fundraiser in 1930 at the time he was Chair of the foundation extension committee and I think a Board member.
7. I have also found numerous papers he presented but sadly no personal details.

Any assistance you could provide with regard to anything possibly in the archives or leads I might possibly pursue would be gratefully received. Thank you in advance if you are able to assist in any way and once again apologies for the interruption.

Regards,

Andrew

From: Amanda Thomas

To: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

Sent: 25 September 2012

Subject: RE: Dr. Ludford Cooper

Odette,

Thanks for this. Most interesting. There's a lot about this chap [Dr. Ludford Cooper] on the web and a fair bit on Ancestry. In the probate record, he left over £35,000 in 1949 to The Public Trustee and Elizabeth Marie Cooper (spinster). Amanda.

From: Andrew Daly

To: odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

Sent: 28 October 2012

Subject: RE: Your ancestor enquiry

G'Day Odette,

I am afraid I have been away so have only got a bit of the story at the moment primarily courtesy of the previous owner of his Queen's South Africa medal for the Boer War which I have purchased.

Dr. Ludford Cooper MRCS, LRCP

#### Born

5 April, 1867 (St John's Hill), registered 16<sup>th</sup> of May, Battersea, County of Surrey.

Parents - Father Henry Dudley Cooper, Secretary to a railway company. Mother Elizabeth Cooper (nee Jones).

#### Educated

Cambridge University

University College Hospital (Medallist with honours in Medicine, Chemistry, Analyt (?) Chem., Clinical Medicine and surgery).

MRCS, LRCP 1890.

1901 elected Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.

MRCS Member Royal College of Surgeons.

LRCP Licentiate of Royal College of Physicians.

#### Lived

1891 – University College Hospital.

1906 - 19 Victoria Street Rochester.

1927 – 12 Wimpole St London and 1? Star Hill Rochester.

1937-44 33 Devonshire Place London.

19??-49 – The Ark, South Berstead St, Bognor Regis (?).

#### Roles

Ophthalmic Surgeon St Bartholomew's Hospital Chatham.

Surgeon attached Fort Pitt Military Hospital.

RSO St Bart's Children.

H.P. East London Hospital for Children.

Clinical Assistant for diseases of the skin, UCH.

???? University College Hospital and London Ophthalmic Hospital.

Civil Surgeon South African Field Force.

Med Ref Scott Wid. & Legal and General Insurance Co..

Hon Sec West Kent branch, British Medical Assoc. (2 Nov 1901 copy of notice).

House Physician East Leeds Hospital for children.

Listed in 1902 Medical Directory

### Boer War Service:

Awarded QSA bar Cape Colony – WO 100 226.

London Times 18 Dec, 1899 Avoca sailed at half past four – Civil Surgeon Mr. L. Cooper.

London Times 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1900 The *Orotava* arrived in Southampton on 28<sup>th</sup> November ...for duty on the voyage...Civil Surgeon L Cooper.

### Publications

A case of Oesophagometry for impacted artificial teeth - 29 October, 1898.

Paralysis of vertical movements of both eyes – 14 Feb 1907.

Plexiform neuroma of upper lid and temporal region – 8 Feb 1906.

Film made in 1930 “A tour of St Bartholomew's Hospital” in which Ludford Cooper appears.

### Died

31<sup>st</sup> October 1949, The Ark, South Berstead St, Bognor Regis (aged 82 years). Died of Myocarditis and Mitral Stenosis. E.M. Kinrey, Melton Sturges Road Bognor Regis is noted as being present at the death.

### Will

Trustee – Public Trustee and his sister Elizabeth Marie Cooper.

Beneficiaries - Elizabeth Marie Cooper 10,000 pounds and right to live in the Ark; Gravesend Hospital – 100 pounds. Cousin, Amy Lucy Lake of Malvern Link – 500 pounds. Mrs Arthur Booth of Cobham – 250 pounds. Mrs Arthur Baker of Thong Mead Cobham – 250 pounds. Miss Phillipa Kerr – 100 pounds. God son Anthony Booth (Grandson of Mrs Arthur Booth) – 50 pounds. Nurse Ethel May Kinsey – 150 pounds. Doctor David Hay – 52 pounds and 10 shillings. Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Rochester – on the staff of which I was connected for over 50 years. A further endowment of 1000 pounds towards a bed in the Ludford Cooper ward to be called “Elizabeth Mary Cooper” bed. Neice Sylvia Lily Cooper - 3000 pounds. Blue coat school Christ's Hospital Horsham - 1000 pounds. Harrow Public School - 3000 pounds. Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association of Aldine House 13 Bedford Street Strand, London – 1500 pounds. Residue – Doctor Bernardo's medical benevolent fund.

Note re. his two nieces, daughters of his late brother John Osbert Cooper, however “they have shown no feeling or affection for either my said sister or myself in spite of the many kindnesses and benefits which they have received from us and also because of their lack of patriotic spirit and assistance to their country in time of peril.”

Estate was worth just over 35 thousand pounds. I have a handwritten note that Elizabeth Cooper was a spinster

That is as far as I have got. My interest is I have collected war medals from the Queen Victoria era since I was 13 years old and try to research these I guess in some ways to keep the history alive.

All the best from Down Under.

Cheers,  
Andrew

### Editor's Note on the St. Bart's Hospital Film

The film about St Bart's Hospital which Andrew Daly refers to in his letter was screened on 30 October 2012 by FOMA committee member, Rob Flood, at Eastgate House as a follow up to Elaine Gardner's talk and to compliment the Archives of Great Expectation exhibition (see pages 4 and 6 to 7).

In *The Clock Tower* Issue 21, February 2011, Keith Lambourne wrote an article about his work as a volunteer for the Medway On Screen project run by Screen Archive South East and as follows: "The film, *A Day In The Life Of St. Bart's*, was produced in the latter half of 1930 for St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, in order to raise funds to clear their crippling overdraft. The film shows the viewer round the hospital, as well as including shots of local streets and industry. It also features the work of The Association of Friends of St. Bart's who commissioned the film. The Friends were a body of volunteers, with branches throughout the area, who were committed to raise large sums for the hospital through small contributions from the local population, usually by the installation and collection of *penny-boxes*. The driving force behind the film was a leading Friend, Alderman Alfred Ernest John Price. Also featured are The Ladies Of Linen, a body of volunteers led by Florence, Lady Darnley, who supplied bed linen and garments to the hospital.

The *Medway on Screen* project has been gathering stories and memories related to the 20th century history of the River Medway and West Kent throughout 2010. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered by Screen Archive South East using archive films of the local area from their collection. We would love to hear your own memories and responses to the films. You can view these unique films and leave comments on the project website: <http://community.brighton.ac.uk/medway>

Alternatively you can view the films on a DVD at Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre. For more information, please contact project officer Catherine Walsh at Screen Archive South East, University of Brighton, Grand Parade, Brighton, BN2 0JY; Tel: 01273 643214; Email: [wlmhtml:screenarchive@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:wlmhtml:screenarchive@brighton.ac.uk)"

Rob Flood has also provided a link to the Screen Archives South East website where the DVD may be purchased:  
<http://www.brighton.ac.uk/screenarchive/dvds/forsale.html>

## Ashby's Waggonette and the Halling Institute

Dear Amanda,

The August 2012 *Clock Tower* had an interesting article [by Peter Lyons] on *The Outings and Excursions of the People of the Medway Towns in the Nineteenth Century* that included reference to various types of horse drawn vehicle including a waggonette. Further on I noticed your entry re Old Photographs. My first cousin, once removed, Edward Stanley Gowers deceased, lived in Halling all his life and had a large collection of photographs that some years ago he allowed me to scan. One of those photographs was of, what cousin Ted called, a Waggonette outside of the Halling Institute and probably pre 1912. None of the people in the photograph are named but the majority appear to be sporting a flower in their button hole!

If you think the picture is clear enough and of interest to your readers then I know Ted, were he still alive, would be delighted to share it.

Martin Webber  
Member Number 60.



*Ashby's Wagonette outside the Halling Institute, pre 1912.*





### Charles Roach Smith - Acclaimed Archaeologist and Strood Resident

Charles Roach Smith FSA, (1807–1890) was an antiquarian and amateur archaeologist. A fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the London Numismatic Society, in 1843 he was the co-founder (with Thomas Wright) of the British Archaeological Association; he is probably best known for his work on Roman coin hoards. Born on the Isle of Wight, in 1822 he was apprenticed to Chichester chemist, John Follett, and in 1827 joined a firm of wholesale druggists in Snow Hill, London. By 1834 Smith had established his own chemist's business at Founders' Court, London and it was then that he started to collect Roman and Medieval antiquities, not for their monetary worth but simply because he was fascinated by history. Many artefacts were being uncovered in London with the development of new offices, factories and dwelling houses, the building of the railways and the dredging of the Thames. Smith's collection grew to more than 5,000 items and is today housed at the British Museum.

Smith was at the forefront of early British archaeological study and observation and wrote many books on the Romans and Anglo Saxons in Britain, particularly in London and Kent. He suggested the development of the Roman City of Londinium and argued convincingly for the probability of a Roman bridge over the Thames. His *Illustrations of Roman London* (1859) remained the authoritative text on the subject for many years. Another of Smith's works was entitled, *List of Roman coins recently found near Strood*, an article published in 1840. His work on Roman coins was prolific and he assisted with Stevenson and Madden's 1889 work, *A Dictionary of Roman Coins, Republican and Imperial*.

In 1856 an unmarried Smith and his sister retired to Strood to Temple Place in Cuxton Road. He acquired some surrounding land and redirected his energies into horticulture and Shakespearian studies. He grew grapes and produced wine, gave readings in public, and in 1871 helped found the Strood Elocution Class to assist the young working men of the area. Smith died at Temple Place on 2 August 1890, and on 7 August was buried at Frindsbury churchyard, near to his sister. Just three days before his death, John Evans, president of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Numismatic Society, had presented Smith with a silver medal from fellow antiquaries to commemorate his 'lifelong services to archaeology.'

Charles Street, Roach Street and Smith Street in Strood are all named after this great man. On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2012, I was delighted to unveil a plaque to Charles Roach Smith at his former home, now the premises of Strood Conservative Club. The plaque was paid for out of my ward improvement funds during my time as a councillor for Strood South. At the ceremony, my speech included the following words, "Strood has suffered much in the past, living as it does in the shadow of Rochester, but it does have its claim to fame and I am happy to be able to record that an eminent archaeologist once lived here."

Ted Hogbin, Chairman of the Strood Conservative Club, was also pleased with the plaque: "Not many members will know the history of their Club house. This will help them realise that an academic once lived here and the local streets were once his smallholding where he grew grapes and fruit trees".



*Strood Conservative Club*



*The plaque to Charles Roach Smith*

*The unveiling of the plaque can be seen on the inside front cover*

See what Charles Roach Smith had to say about Thomas Fletcher Waghorn on the inside back cover.

## The Will Adams Festival

In the last issue of *The Clock Tower* we published Sue Haydock's article on Will Adams (1564–1620) in the run-up to the Will Adams Festival which took place on Saturday 15 September at Gillingham Park. This is what Sue had to say: "Four hundred years ago a chap born in Gillingham called William Adams landed on the shores of Japan and was the first Englishman to do so. He became the teacher and diplomatic adviser to the Shogun, Ieyasu Tokogawa. Adams was rewarded with estates and workers, and honoured with the title of Samauri - the Blue Eyed Samauri. When the political scene changed he moved to Hirado where he died in 1624."

We were delighted to receive the following report from Medway Council's Senior Communications Officer, Lisa Caleno.

### Japan Comes to Gillingham for the Will Adams Celebration

Thundering Taiko drums, colourful kimonos and majestic flying falcons were just some of the sights and sounds at this year's Will Adams Festival, which took place on Saturday, 15 September at Gillingham Park. Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the free family event is held annually to celebrate the life and times of Medway's famous seafaring son, who is said to be the first Englishman to travel to Japan.

Themed zones took visitors around the Tudor England that Adams would have grown up in, and the Japanese life he would have encountered on his arrival, when he was bestowed the honour of becoming a Samurai. Among the attractions were *Manga* art, samurai helmet and fishy kite workshops, a Tudor jolly boat, Tudor cooking, martial arts displays, re-enactments depicting crime and punishment in Tudor times, uchiwa fan making, origami paper magic and a display all about Sir Francis Drake. Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Cllr. Howard Doe said, "The Will Adams Festival marks Medway's many important connections with Japan and attracts thousands of visitors every year. It's fascinating, fun and free to enter - and it's perfect for families as there's something to keep children of all ages entertained."



Photographs © Simon Kelsey, PraxisDesign

### Old Photographs

Do you have any photographs which need identifying and you would like to be published in future issues of *The Clock Tower*? If so, please send them to the Editor, Amanda Thomas, [amanda@ajthomas.com](mailto:amanda@ajthomas.com) or to 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5NS, Hertfordshire.

## 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), [www.foma-lsc.org/index.html](http://www.foma-lsc.org/index.html).

### Editorial deadlines

Please note, 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](mailto:amanda@ajthomas.com).

**The copy deadline for Issue 28 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 28 January 2013, with publication on Wednesday 20 February 2013.**

### 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](mailto: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 at [www.foma-lsc.org/newsletter.html](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bettycole@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Help is always needed with events.**

**If you think you could help, please contact Elaine Gardner on 01634 408595 or email [emgardner@virginmedia.com](mailto:emgardner@virginmedia.com)**

## Thomas Fletcher Waghorn Revealed!

Amanda Thomas



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.



Dr Andrew Ashbee was born and bred in Snodland. The former Head of Music at Rochester Grammar School for Girls. Dr Ashbee is internationally known for his work on Tudor and Stuart music and musicians, especially the Maidstone composer John Jenkins. He is the Honorary Curator of Snodland Millennium Museum and the Chairman of Snodland Historical Society.

In May 2007, Dr. Andrew Ashbee (pictured) began a series of three articles in *The Clock Tower* (Issues 6, 7 and 15) on the history of Snodland and one of its most famous residents, Thomas Fletcher Waghorn (1800-1850), pioneer of the overland route to India via Egypt and to whom in 1888 a statue was erected in Railway Street, Chatham.

An extract from his article published in Issue 7, August 2007, gives some background to what was to become a fascinating quest:

"The question [i.e. who was Waghorn's father?] cannot be answered with absolute certainty, but we can review the evidence, both fact and fantasy. In her biography *Care of Mr. Waghorn* (Postal History Society, 1964), Marjorie Sankey writes:

'Thomas Waghorn ... was a butcher with a shop exactly opposite the *Mitre* [Chatham]. His wife had been a Miss Stedman, a descendant of the aristocratic Field family of The Hall, Ashurst Park, from an eldest son, who had been disinherited for marrying the daughter of a veterinary surgeon. This may be the foundation of the legend of our Waghorn's aristocratic birth and fortune. The butcher Waghorn had had three daughters before the birth of their only son. Another daughter was born later.'

The marriage to Stedman is also reported in Freda Harcourt's entry for Waghorn in *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004). Family genealogists have looked into this connection and have concluded that the butcher might be the Thomas Field Waghorn, baptized at Teston on 7 October 1770, illegitimate son of Hannah. This, of course, is a generation earlier than Sankey and Harcourt assert, and concerns a baptism rather than a marriage. No Stedman is mentioned, but the middle name, Field, might well identify the father. The date of this baptism tallies well with the elder Thomas's burial at St Mary's, Chatham, on 28 March 1826, aged 56.

But his *marriage* is established beyond doubt by an entry in the Snodland parish register:

28 July 1794: Thomas Waghorn, butcher, Chatham, to Ann Goodhugh of Snodland."

Indeed it was the information gleaned from the marriage record of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn which was most useful in identifying Waghorn's wife and the names of their children. The article continued:

"Sankey's list of children born to the couple is incomplete and Harcourt again followed her in naming Thomas as their only son.

The registers of St Mary's, Chatham, show the following offspring:

John, baptized 9 September 1795. Nothing more is heard of him and he may have died

in infancy.

Elizabeth, buried 14 February 1797, an infant.

Ann, baptized 3 March 1798; emigrated to Australia in 1853 and died there.

Thomas Fletcher, baptized 16 July 1800; died 1850 and buried at Snodland.

James Goodhugh, baptized 29 December 1802; buried 14 October 1804.

Mary Jane, baptized 27 June 1804; buried at Snodland 25 May 1883.

Edward, baptized 14 May 1806; emigrated to Australia and died at Queen Street, Melbourne, on 18 July 1868.

Eliza, baptized 12 July 1809; buried 29 August the same year.

Frances, baptized 1 August 1810; buried at Snodland 14 December 1848.

Sarah\*, baptized 9 June 1813; emigrated to Australia in 1855 and died at Prahan, Melbourne, on 14 February 1887.

I must here acknowledge the great help I have received from Mrs. Robin Handley of Junee, New South Wales, descended from Sarah\*, for supplying copies of documents and of facts about the Waghorn family, gleaned during her own researches and through contacts with Australian descendants."

Later, the article looked at further evidence for the origins of TF Waghorn's branch of the family.

"In 1826 Pigot's Directory gives the address of Waghorn's butcher's shop as 139 High Street, Chatham. (For some reason Pigot's 1823 Directory excludes all butchers!) This may have been his since the 1790s. The Land Tax records before 1805 record that he owned three other houses as well as his own. (A problem is that the Land Tax records at the Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS) are now available on microfilm only and it has proved extremely time-consuming and difficult to compare even two of the relevant volumes in seeking continuity or change of ownership/tenancy. One needs to see the originals side by side.). There seem to have been some changes, though these are not yet properly established, but on 31 August 1816 Waghorn was declared bankrupt and had to sell the three houses. The bankruptcy indenture, which is in my possession, shows that John Goodhugh had been a partner with Waghorn in buying the houses in Trinity term 1800-01, no doubt in the hope of setting up his son-in-law on a secure footing. The sale of the houses probably cleared his debts and Waghorn continued to trade.

Unfortunately none of this helps with the tracing of Waghorn's genealogy, but it is worth noting that the reasonable prosperity of Waghorn in the years following his marriage is just as likely to have come from Goodhugh's support as from any connection with putative aristocratic forebears like the Fields. I have always been sceptical of the illegitimacy story and propose another line of enquiry that might prove more fruitful: Waghorns as butchers.

It is intriguing to find two, and subsequently three, Waghorns trading as butchers in Rochester and Chatham and it seems worth investigating if there is any link between them. Apart from Thomas I, there was a younger man, William, in Rochester High Street. William's family was investigated by Robin Handley and others. He was baptized at Otham, near Maidstone, on 17 January 1796, the son of Samuel and his second wife Ann (nee Rose). He was of St. Nicholas parish, Rochester, on 26 June 1821, when he married Ann Biggs, so presumably he had already set up his shop (a few doors to the west of The King's Head). They had eight children, one of whom, James, is well documented as an omnibus proprietor, and the family appear in the censuses.

Samuel's two marriages at Otham: first to Margaret Bolton on 10 October 1785 (two children: Samuel and Elizabeth), and second to Ann Rose on 27 October 1794 (four children, of whom William was the eldest) can be traced in the International Genealogical Index, or IGI, on <http://www.familysearch.org/>, but the Otham baptisms are not yet included. However, the register shows a baptism for a Samuel on 29 July 1759, the son of another Samuel and Ann. No record of this marriage appears at Otham, so they must have come from elsewhere. I have traced six children in the Otham register:

Mary	bap. 10 July 1757
Samuel	bap. 29 July 1759
Sarah	bap. 21 August 1763
William	bap. 26 January 1765
Thomas	bap. 12 October 1768
Edward	bap. 15 June 1771 (buried 22 October that year)

I do not know the occupation of Samuel I, but Samuel II was a butcher and it is possible the father was too. I suggest that there is a strong likelihood that Thomas the elder was Samuel II's brother. True the baptism date of 12 October 1768 does not conform with his stated burial age of 56, but there is only eighteen months difference and experience in many years of transcribing documents has shown that discrepancies of this magnitude (or greater) are commonplace. In those days there were no official records of baptisms, marriages or deaths other than the registers, so much depended on memory and mental calculation, either of which might prove fallible. No apprenticeships have been found for the family and they may have learned their trade from each other. If so, it is quite likely that the elder Samuel taught his sons. Later William may have come under the wing of Thomas I and, following his training, established himself in Rochester High Street. Eventually, too, there is Edward, Thomas I's son, another butcher (who on this basis would be William's cousin) trading first in Rochester and in later life in Melbourne.

Whilst this butchery link may be supposition, I feel it provides a much firmer foundation than an attribution to an illegitimate birth with no known later history. In time we may learn more." (*The Clock Tower*, Issue 7, August 2007).

Indeed by August 2009, Andrew *had* learnt more with the discovery of some letters in the possession of the Tranah family. The letters established the following important facts:

"Hitherto the only record of John [Waghorn] has been his baptism at St Mary the Virgin, Chatham, on 9 September 1795. The letter shows he survived to adulthood, was married, and worked in the butchery trade. Ann Clarke suggested the





Mark had already concluded that his William (b. 1795) was the son of Samuel Waghorn (b. 1759 in Otham) and Ann Rose. What if Thomas Fletcher Waghorn was the son of one of Samuel's brothers? We already knew that TFW's father was named Thomas, and it did not take much research to reveal that Samuel did indeed have a brother called Thomas who had been born at exactly the right time, 1768. Such a close connection would explain Mark Austin's story and the family likeness. Samuel Waghorn (b. 1839) was the first cousin once removed of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, and this also means that Thomas Fletcher Waghorn is the first cousin four times removed of Mark Austin.

So who was Thomas Fletcher Waghorn's father? He was Thomas Waghorn born 1768 in Otham, and a family tree follows to explain the connection in full.

*Overleaf: please note that the marriage between Samuel Waghorn and Ann Sisley has not been proven, but is highly likely..*

Samuel WAGHORN m. Ann SISLEY 22 Apr 1755, Boughton Monchelsea

Mary bap. 10 Jul 1757 Otham  
 Samuel b. 17 Jul 1759 Otham **Butcher**  
 Sarah bap. 21 Aug 1763 Otham  
 William bap. 26 Jan 1765 Otham  
 Thomas bap. 12 Oct 1768 Otham  
 Edward bap. 15 Jun 1771 Otham  
 bur. 22 Oct 1771 Otham

m. (1) Margaret BOLTON 10 Oct 1785, Otham

Samuel bap. 27 Aug 1786  
 Elizabeth bap. 02 Nov 1788

m. (2) Ann ROSE 27 Oct 1794, Otham

William bap. 17 Jan 1796 Otham **Butcher**  
 Maria bap. 28 Oct 1798 Otham  
 Mary bap. 04 Oct 1802 Otham  
 George bap. 15 May 1807 Otham

m. Ann BIGGS 26 Jun 1821, Rochester, St Nicholas' b. 1796, Woolwich

James b. 1831 Omnibus proprietor  
 Samuel b. 1839 Painter and writer, Gillingham  
 William b. 1841

m. Lavinia COOPER, 1878 b. 1856, Old Brompton

Mark AUSTIN

Elizabeth b. ? bur. 14 Feb 1797 Chatham.  
 John bap. 09 Sep 1795 Chatham **Butcher**  
 m. Harriet BUCK 15 Sep 1818 Hoo St Werburgh  
 Ann bap. 03 Mar 1798 Chatham  
 Thomas Fletcher bap. 16 Jul 1800 Chatham  
 d. 1850 Chatham  
 James Goodhugh bap. 29 Dec 1802 Chatham  
 bur. 14 Oct 1804 Snodland  
 Mary Jane bap. 27 Jun 1804 Chatham  
 bur. 25 May 1883 Melbourne,  
 Edward bap. 14 May 1806 Chatham  
 d. 18 Jul 1868 Chatham  
 Australia **Butcher**  
 Eliza bap. 12 Jul 1809 Chatham  
 bur. 29 Aug 1809 Snodland  
 Frances bap. 01 Aug 1810 Chatham  
 bur. 14 Dec 1848 Chatham  
 m. William RANSOM 08 Dec 1834, Snodland  
 He d. 1852 - 1855 emigration to Australia  
 17 May 1855 d. 14 Feb 1887 Prahian, Melbourne, Australia  
 Sarah bap. 09 Jun 1813 Chatham  
 m. William RANSOM 08 Dec 1834, Snodland  
 He d. 1852 - 1855 emigration to Australia  
 17 May 1855 d. 14 Feb 1887 Prahian, Melbourne, Australia

## Keeping up with the Victorians

Alison Thomas

Archive and Local Studies Assistant, The Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre



*After completing a degree in medieval and modern history at the University of Birmingham, Alison Thomas trained as a teacher and worked in primary education for several years. Whilst bringing up her family she had various part time jobs within education ranging from playgroup assistant to special needs teacher. Alison left work to become a full time carer for four years, and joined MALSC as Archive and Local Studies Assistant at the end of February 2010.*

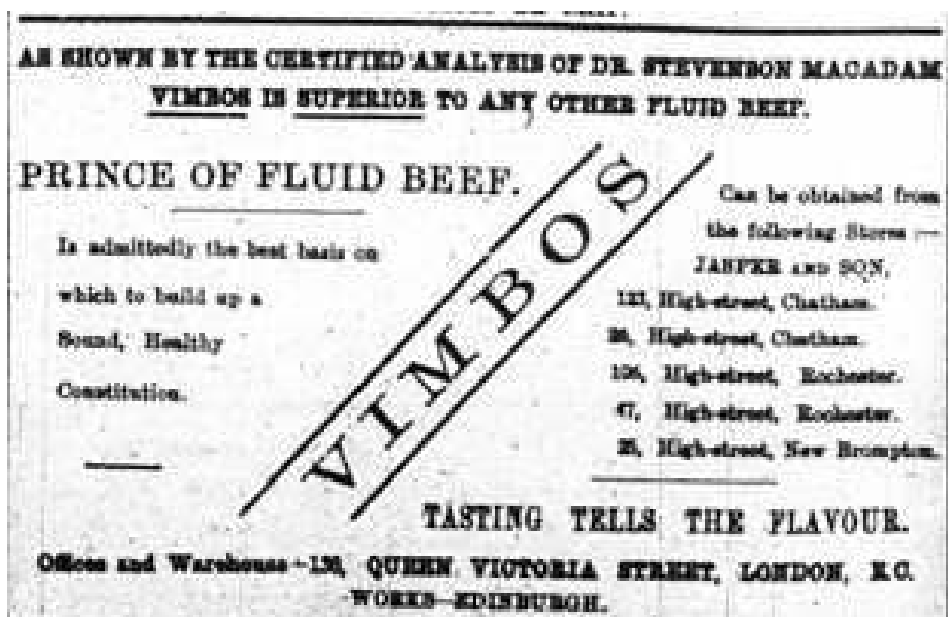
### Local Businesses through the Advertising of the Day

#### H. Jasper and Sons

In the last edition of *The Clock Tower* we saw how the ingenious William Clarke promoted his business by eye-catching advertisements, his efforts maintaining a successful business in the Medway Towns for a number of years. This edition's local business owner, Henry Jasper, can also be found advertising in the pages of the *Chatham News*, and although the advertisements were not as original as Clarke's, Henry Jasper was a phenomenally successful entrepreneur.

#### A Brief History of Fluid Beef!

This advertisement in the *Chatham News* of August 1897<sup>1</sup> for Vimbos 'the prince of fluid beef' illustrates yet another popular product, beloved of the Victorians. Fluid beef was invented by John Lawson Johnston as food for Napoleon's army, and its popularity grew in subsequent years. Bovril is perhaps the most well known brand and one that survives to this day. Bovril ran many unusual advertising campaigns, and used the slogan 'Bovril is liquid life,' extolling the health giving properties of the product. Bovril tonic wine – beef extract mixed with malt extract, port wine and other 'choice ingredients' – and Bovril lozenges were also popular! The rival brand, Vimbos, was usually advertised under the trademark slogan 'An ox in a teacup' with an accompanying picture of a large ox perched in a delicate teacup, its legs dangling over the rim.<sup>2</sup> Vimbos claimed that analysis had shown that its nutritional content was superior to any other fluid beef.



AN SHOWN BY THE CERTIFIED ANALYSIS OF DR. STEVENSON MACADAM  
**VIMBOS IS SUPERIOR TO ANY OTHER FLUID BEEF.**

**PRINCE OF FLUID BEEF.**

Is admittedly the best basis on  
which to build up a  
Sound, Healthy  
Constitution.

**VIMBOS**

Can be obtained from  
the following Stores —  
**JANKE and SON,**  
121, High-street, Chatham.  
25, High-street, Chatham.  
106, High-street, Rochester.  
47, High-street, Rochester.  
25, High-street, New Brighton.

**TASTING TELLS THE FLAVOUR.**

Offices and Warehouses — 13, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.  
WORKS — EDINBURGH.

*Advertisement from the Chatham News August 1897.*

## From Barrow Boy to Businessman

Henry Jasper, the stockist of Vimbos fluid beef, established a number of bakery and confectionary shops in Chatham and Rochester that were part of the Medway Towns from the Victorian period through to the 1950s. The *Chatham News* of February 1907 states that Henry Jasper began his own business at the age of 21 with one shop, pushing his own barrow through the streets on his daily round. Through hard work and diligence his business grew until he was the owner of an extensive factory with shops in various locations throughout the Towns, and also in Hastings.<sup>3</sup> These photos from the *Gentleman's Journal* in 1908 show something of the scale of the venture.



*From Medway Images. Loading up from 270 High St, Chatham. The Gentleman's Journal 13 June 1908 p. 458. WJ Lee Holloway; ref. C050948910*



*From Medway Images. The bread room. H Jasper and Sons. The Gentleman's Journal. 13 June 1908 p.457. WJ Lee Holloway C050948919*

Henry Jasper also had successful enterprises trading in corn and salt, interests in slate quarries in Devon and lead and silver mines in British Columbia. He spent some time in Clapham pursuing his business as a corn and flour merchant but returned to live in Lynwood House in Strood in 1894, remaining there until his death in 1907.<sup>4</sup> His prominence as a local



businessman is further shown by his selection for the role of land tax commissioner in 1906.<sup>5</sup> However, perhaps Jasper's most significant act was being instrumental in ensuring that the Towns had access to the marvel of electricity. He originally secured the order for Chatham and Rochester, but later extended his undertaking to include Gillingham. The task was beset by difficulties from persistent breakdowns with the current to a succession of different engineers.<sup>6</sup> The overhead cables had to be removed and all the wires placed underground. Nevertheless, by 1900 the Chatham, Rochester and District Electric Lighting Company was in a position to offer a 'reduction in the charge for electricity supplied to those inhabitants who use their lamps, or demand for current for more than one hour a day, on average throughout the year.' Under this system the longer the lamps were used per day, the lower the average rate per unit. Lamps burning for six hours per day only cost twice as much as those burning for one hour. Jasper eventually sold the Gillingham works to the Urban District Council in 1901.<sup>7</sup> In 1902 he relinquished ownership of the Chatham and Rochester venture to the Kent Electric Power Company, although he remained the main shareholder until his death.<sup>8</sup>

Henry Jasper had established a business that was an essential part of the Medway Towns for nearly a century and was a pioneer in the establishment of electric power throughout the area. At his funeral service on 23 February 1907 the pastor of the Ebenezer Congregational Church summarized his life very aptly in the following words, 'He was the founder and very heart of one of the most successful enterprises in the locality.'<sup>9</sup>

#### Notes

1. *Chatham News*, August 28 1897, p.1.
2. The John Johnson Collection – an archive of printed ephemera. <http://johnjohnson.chadwyck.co.uk>; accessed October 2012.
3. Obituary. Mr Henry Jasper. *Chatham News*, 23 February 1907, p.15.
4. Ibid.
5. *The London Gazette*, December 28 1906.
6. Jottings by the Way. *Chatham News*, 23 February 1907 p.15
7. Notice of Agreement. *Chatham News*, 21 September 1901 p.5
8. Obituary. Mr Henry Jasper. *Chatham News*, 23 February 1907 p.15. Electricity in Kent. *Chatham News*, 15 March 1902, p. 5
9. Funeral of Henry Jasper. *Chatham News*, 2 March 1907, p.2.

**FOMA's Heritage Lottery Fund project which began in 2009, investigated and archived the contents of 500 boxes of the Rochester City Archives – the so-called *Archive of Great Expectations*. The project has unearthed some interesting facts, many of which are included in the exhibition currently being held at Rochester's Eastgate House (see pages 4 and 6 to 7). Elaine Gardner highlights one notable gem:**

**" Jaspers bakery was one of those found selling underweight bread referred to in the Weights and Measures Inspector's diary of 1898.....also again several times in later years!"**

## William Bartholomew - A Man of Probity

Pauline Weeds



*In 2005 FOMA member Pauline Weeds was awarded the Higher Certificate in Genealogy by The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. She was a researcher for the England's Past for Everyone projects and has also transcribed for a Kent Archaeological Society project. Pauline is a volunteer at MALSC, and a volunteer custodian at Eastgate House. Recently she has started training to be a City of Rochester Society guide; she is also a member of the Users' Forum at the Centre for Kentish Studies at Maidstone.*

Pauline Weeds' series on William Bartholomew concludes in this issue of *The Clock Tower*.

### Part Four

### Bartholomew's Free Church

On 28 May 1859 William Bartholomew acquired the remainder of a lease on a piece of land situated on the west side of Delce Lane. The period remaining on the lease, which was acquired from one Samuel Cottingham, was 72 years from 25 March 1857, wanting ten days. The land was described as, "containing from east to west on the north and south sides 125ft and from north to south on the east and west sides 80ft and bounded on the north by Princes Street."<sup>1</sup> By the time he acquired the lease, William had already built his new church, known as Bartholomew's Free Church, on part of the land. The church, which he designed himself, was built entirely at his own expense. It was described by the *Rochester Gazette* as being "as ornamental as the purposes admit of." There was a gallery surmounted by an ornamental iron screen, painted sky blue to harmonise with the roof supports. A kind of platform or *throne* served as a pulpit and below and in front of this was a marble communion table and carved font of Caen stone. The fireplace was described as being underneath the communion table, which seems a somewhat strange arrangement; the seating was of stained wood. At the time the building was opened in 1858 a bell had already been suspended to chime the commencement of service and there was room in the church for about 200 worshippers. William was planning to erect an organ for the church and, for the future, he was also contemplating the provision of a school room.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the church, William had erected ten dwelling houses in Princes Street, which were known as Numbers 1 to 10 Bartholomew Place, Princes Street.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the 1861 census William was shown as living at 9 Delce Lane with his wife, Hannah and one servant. Although now aged 68 he was still working as a builder and he employed three men.<sup>4</sup> Less than a year later Hannah had died but so far I have not found the record of her burial.<sup>5</sup> William, despite his now advanced years, did not remain a widower for long as on 14 August 1862 he married Sarah Cole, a 48-year-old spinster, at the church he had built on the Delce just four years earlier. It is curious that the marriage certificate says the marriage was performed "according to the rites and ceremonies of the parties." The words "Wesleyan Church" were crossed through and "the parties" written in. There was no minister's signature but just the registrar's signature. I assume this was because the church was a so-called Free Church and therefore owed no allegiance to any particular denomination.

William had probably known Sarah for many years for he had certainly known her half- brother, William Cole, since the 1840s. In 1848 and 1849 William Bartholomew and William Cole had both served as stewards of the Wesleyan Bethel Chapel in Rochester. When the 1851 census was taken William Cole and his family were living in Rochester High Street, where he was described as a cordwainer employing six men and three apprentices.<sup>6</sup> It was indeed William Cole and his daughter, Esther Ann Cole, who signed as witnesses to William and Sarah's marriage. The Cole family were from Dover and later Lydd, Sarah having been baptised at Lydd on 14 August 1814, the daughter of Richard Mount Cole, variously shown as blacksmith and shoemaker. However, Sarah was in Rochester by the time of the 1841 census when she was employed as a servant in the home of one Orlando Nicholls in the High Street.<sup>7</sup> Ten years later she was still in domestic service in Rochester High Street but now with bookseller, William Shadbolt and his family.<sup>8</sup> By 1861 Sarah had been engaged as housekeeper to two unmarried sisters in Hastings, where she had two housemaids working under her.<sup>9</sup> Did she return to Rochester when she heard of Hannah Bartholomew's death? Maybe it was William Cole or one of his family who sent her the news? Perhaps she had had her hopes dashed in 1854 when William had married Hannah and that may have been why she had previously left the city for Hastings. Of course, this can only ever be speculation.

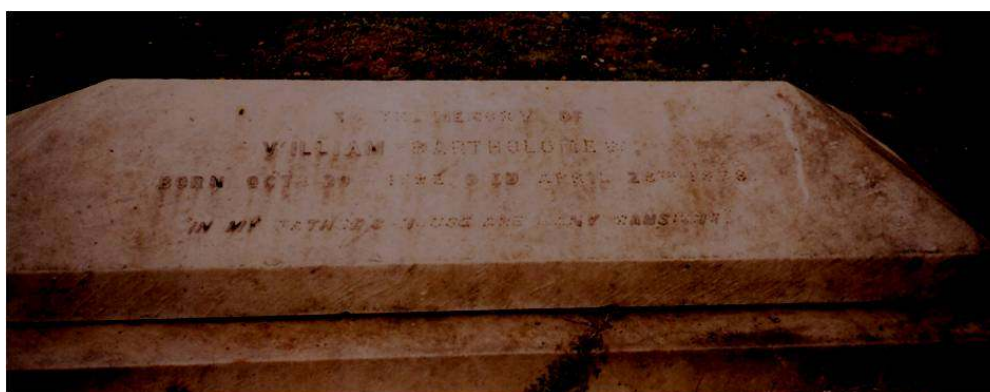
After their marriage William and Sarah remained very close to the Cole family. George, the son of William Cole, married a Susannah Carwardine at the Free Church on 7 August 1864. They went on to have several children, the first of whom was baptised William Bartholomew at the Free Church on 15 August 1865. Perhaps William and Sarah Bartholomew

were godparents. George and his family lived close by in King Street, Rochester, where he was a draper. By 1868 John Cole, another of Sarah's half-brothers, had moved to Rochester and was working in Delce Lane as a shoemaker. A widower, aged 68, he like William Bartholomew, clearly thought it was never too late for another marriage and, on 21 April 1868, he married one Mary Ann Elfick, a 52-year-old widow at the Free Church. William and Sarah Bartholomew attended the ceremony and signed the register as witnesses.

The winter of 1867 to 1868 had been a particularly harsh one and as a result there were many people out of work and suffering real hardship. In January 1868 twenty-four influential parishioners called upon the churchwardens of St Margaret's parish to convene a meeting to consider the distress being suffered by the poor. William Bartholomew was one of those who spoke on the subject of relief, stating that 200 persons were then out of work in Delce Lane. It was decided that general collections should be started immediately and bread would be given out on the following day. If the weather became more severe, then relief in coals and soup would also be considered.<sup>10</sup> In May that year William's dreams for a school for the poor began to come to fruition when the foundation stone for a new church was laid by Mr James Edwards, one of William's fellow Liberals. Unfortunately, inclement weather on the day kept the attendance down at the ceremony but this would certainly not have deterred William. The church which was again being built at William's sole expense would replace the original church which, due to increasing congregations, was now too small. On completion of the new church, the old one would be converted into Sunday and day schools and funds for their fitting and furnishing were already being collected.<sup>11</sup> I have not been able to find out when the new church and the refurbishment of the school were completed but I doubt that it would have taken more than a few months.

## A Man of Probity

Little more is known about William Bartholomew. In his *Historical Notes*, Canon Wheatley described him as "a striking looking man with a long beard." Unfortunately no pictures have been found of him. He died on 28 April 1878, aged 85, at his home in Delce Road. He had suffered a paralytic stroke some three or four years previously and sadly had subsequently been confined to his room. His funeral, which was arranged by Mr W Naylar of Eastgate, took place on Monday 5 May 1878. The cortege, which consisted of the hearse and two coaches, left his home at about half past four and made its way to St Margaret's Cemetery where a large number of people were awaiting its arrival. The service in the cemetery chapel was conducted by Mr Pritchard who was connected with the Free Church and an old friend of William's. The coffin which was interred in an unconsecrated grave, presumably because of William's nonconformist faith, bore the inscription "William Bartholomew died April 28, aged 85 years." After the mourners had left the cemetery, the children from the schools which William had founded sang several pieces over his grave, including *Safe in the Arms of Jesus* and *Over There*. On the following Sunday Mr Pritchard preached a funeral sermon at the Free Church. Both the *Chatham News* and *Chatham Observer* carried obituaries. The *News* said that he was "a man of high character and probity" who was "always held in high esteem by his fellow citizens." The *Observer* described him as a "very old and highly esteemed citizen" who "has done much in the cause of religion in the locality in which he lived and his deeds of charity will make him greatly missed by the poor."<sup>12</sup>



*The grave of William Bartholomew in St Margaret's Cemetery, Maidstone Road, Rochester. The inscription reads: 'To the Memory of William Bartholomew. Born Oct 20 1792 – Died Apr 28 1878. In My Father's House are Many Mansions.'*

In his will which was made on 26 November 1870, William left everything to his wife, Sarah, who was appointed executor together with her nephew, George Cole. William's effects were valued as "under £1500." Sarah died on 12 February 1904, aged 89, and was buried with William in St Margaret's Cemetery.

## Postscript

On 20 March 1896 Sarah Bartholomew transferred the lease of the Cross Street property to her nephew George Cole. George died on 5 July 1904 by which time both trustees named in his will had also died. Letters of Administration with will annexed were granted to his widow, Susannah, and on 15 March 1905 she appointed her sons William Bartholomew Cole and Frederick Cole trustees of George's will. On 6 February 1907 they sold the Cross Street property to the Society of Friends (Quakers) for £325. The property remained with the Quakers until 1965 when on 5 January the Corporation purchased it for £450. The land was subsequently redeveloped.

### Notes

1. MALSC Ref RCA-T1-440
2. Rochester Gazette 18 June 1858
3. MALSC Ref RCA-T1-440, 1861 Census Ref RG9/477/20
4. 1861 Census Ref RG9/477/9
5. GRO Ref Medway 2a 220 Mar 1862
6. 1851 Census Ref HO107/1610/61
7. 1841 Census Ref HO107/491/7
8. 1851 Census Ref HO107/1610/8
9. 1861 Census Ref RG9/561/110
10. Chatham News 18 Jan 1868
11. Chatham News May 1868
12. Chatham News 4 May 1878, 11 May 1878.

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Vol 8 No.3 Mar 1987  
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## *A Token in Time*

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.*

In the second and final part of her series (Part One can be read in *The Clock Tower* Issue 25, February 2012), Catharina looks at trade tokens in Chatham.

### Part Two - Chatham Trade Tokens

During the English Civil War, legislation to prevent the issuing of private tokens was rescinded due to the severe shortage of coinage. Up until 1674, when Charles II put a halt to the practice, local tradesmen issued their own tokens. The largest number of those found, outside London, were from Kent and over sixty of these survive for the Medway Towns. At least, twenty trade tokens of the seventeenth century survive for Chatham. Illustrations, unless specified, are obtained from EBay.

John Adams was a gunner. His token, issued in 1657, had a cannon inscribed upon it and the initials I.S.A. He died in 1658 and is described in the burial register as 'an ancient man'. John Adams was an active Parliamentarian penning his name to the Humble Petition of May 1642.

Francis Brett's token issued in 1666 portrayed a comb. His token was engraved with F.S.B., the middle letter indicating his wife Sarah.



Richard Creswell, a mealman and freeman of the city of Rochester issued his token in 1666. This token has R.H.C. etched onto it. He was first married to Philadelphia, who died 1663. Hannah was his second wife (died 1669) and it is her initial inscribed on the token. His third wife was Mary Cooke, whom he married in 1671. There was also a son by the same name, occupation and a freeman of the city. It may be he or his father who sired a bastard child, Honniwood, by Catherine Cooper in 1672.



Robert Dier or Dyer had an interesting item on his token; a Catherine wheel. It is unclear what trade this was supposed to represent, but possibly that of a wheelwright. His initials were R.I.D. He was originally married to Ellinor, who died in 1662. In 1668 he wed Joice Peel; the lady on the token, indicating that it was issued after that date. Robert Dyer's name is recorded in the 1643 Chatham vestry book as having taken the Vow and Covenant of July 1643 to demonstrate his loyalty to Parliament, following several threatened Royalist rebellions.

William Hardin had the arms of three fishes displayed on his trade token. This was generally a symbol of a clothier or an inn sign. However William was nicknamed 'Fisher', suggesting he may have been a fishmonger by trade and the church assessment describes him as a shopkeeper. His token is inscribed W.A.H. His wife was Anne, who was a widow at her death in 1660. This token must, therefore, have been issued in the Cromwellian era.

Joshua Holland had a cask on his token, reflecting his occupation of mariner. It was issued in 1668 and inscribed with I.M.H. Joshua was a wealthy Quaker, donating the largest sum towards the purchase of the Quaker burial ground at Rochester. He later acquired land in Pennsylvania, which he signed over to his son John Holland. All his surviving children married Quakers and two of them emigrated to America. Joshua refused to pay his tithes throughout the 1670s and 1680s as well as being arrested for his beliefs. By 1684 he had moved to London to avoid religious persecution.



John Jeffrey's token had a cheese knife displayed on it, perhaps suggesting he was a cheesemonger. His token shows I.E.I. His wife was Elizabeth. Unfortunately he was among the many plague victims in 1666. Like Robert Dyer, John Jeffrey took the Vow and Covenant in 1643 and contributed towards the Irish Subscriptions collected on behalf of Parliament.



Richard Jenman was a porter in the dockyard and had a bugle-horn on his token. It was issued in 1668 and contained the letters R.P.I., showing the tie to his wife Patience.

Walter Jones became a freeman of Rochester in 1669 and had written 'at the Nags Head,' a tavern in Chatham, on his token. This was issued in 1667 and shows the initial of his second wife, Jane Boore. (W.I.I.) His first wife was Anne Robinson.



An unnamed token, issued in 1662 inscribed 'at the Globe' and with the initials W.S.I, has been identified as belonging to William and Sarah Jenman. He was a beer brewer and freeman of the city of Rochester.

John Knight was a freeman of Rochester and had the symbol of a crown on his token as well as the initials I.O.K. The middle letter again represents his wife, Olive. He ran The Crown Inn at Chatham in 1657.

Samuel Mabbor or Maber had the sign of The Grocers' Arms engraved on his trade token. It was issued in 1657 with the initials S.S.M. A grocer by trade, Maber was first married to Margaret, who died in 1650. He was a prominent member of St Mary's vestry in the 1640s and 1650s as well as a Parliamentarian. His signature is on the Humble Petition and recorded in the vestry book as having subscribed to the Vow and Covenant.



John Marvell was a freeman of Rochester and described as a brazier, which accounts for his sign of a frying pan on his token. The token was distributed in 1666 and displays the letters I.D.M., which matches with his wife, Dorothy. An illustration of this is reproduced from William Boyne's 1858 work Boyne, *Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century*.

Richard Mathews was a merchant taylor, apprenticed to his father, and has the guild's arms on his token (see <http://www.merchant-tailors.co.uk/>). As a freeman of Rochester he could carry out his trade in the city as well as in Chatham. His wife Mary is shown in the letters R.M.M. etched on the token.



Walter Ramsden, a victualler from Chatham was married to Elizabeth. He died in 1658, which places the issuing of this token to before that date. His token depicts a cannon and anchor. His trade and the symbols strongly imply he ran a tavern, which served the dockyard.

Again another token merely inscribed 'at the globe' and issued in 1657 with the letters T.M.S. on it. A bit of searching has uncovered a Thomas and Mary Stanley in this hostelry in the 1650s.

Francis Sanders was another merchant taylor, who had died by 1666 of plague. This dates the token to earlier than this date. His token shows F.A.S., which tallies with his wife Anne. She was also a victim of plague in 1666.

Robert Smith was 'at the old Kings Arms'. He served in the navy and in 1640 married Mary Phinnes. His token was issued a year before his death in 1672 and was engraved with R.I.S., indicating he had remarried at some point.



John Tihurst was a brewer with the Brewer's company insignia on his token. He had married Sarah and was part of St Mary's vestry in the late 1650s. A copy of the token is reproduced below from Boyne's book.



Joseph Wymshurst was another merchant taylor who displayed their arms on his token. His token was dated to 1656 and had I.M.W. etched on it. Joseph's first wife, Katherine, had died in 1638 and he had married a second time to a lady with the initial M. He died a few years after the issue of this token in 1660, described as an 'ancient man'. Joseph Wymshurst signed a 1659 parish petition demanding their choice of minister, Thomas Carter, access to the pulpit.

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Wills obtained from The National Archives.

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K. Cockburn (ed), Kent Assize Records 1676-1684.

### ***The Clock Tower is now fully indexed!***

There is now a pdf on the FOMA website ([www.foma-lsc.org/newsletter.html](http://www.foma-lsc.org/newsletter.html)) which lists the contents of all the issues since Number 1 in April 2006. In addition, each of the past issues now includes a list of contents; these are highlighted with an asterisk (\*).

**If you have missed any of the previous issues and some of the articles published, they are all available to read on the website.** Read them again - *A Stroll through Strood* by Barbara Marchant (issue 4); *In Search of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn (1800-1850)* by Dr Andrew Ashbee (issue 6); *The Other Rochester and the Other Pocahontas* by Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck (issue 6); *Jottings in the Churchyard of All Saints Frindsbury* by Tessa Towner (issue 8); *The Skills of the Historian* by Dr Kate Bradley (issue 9); *The Rosher Family: From Gravesend to Hollywood* by Amanda Thomas (issue 9); *George Bond, Architect and Surveyor, 1853 to 1914* by Pat Salter and Bob Ratcliffe (issue 10) plus all the regular features on the Victoria County History by Dr. Sandra Dunster and Dr. Andrew Hann, Edwin Harris by Janet Knight and Alison Thomas, not to mention regular contributors such as Betty Cole, Brian Joyce, JL Keys, Peter Burstow, Odette Buchanan and Catharina Clement.

## *Great Expectations in Post-War Medway*

Brian Joyce



*Brian Joyce is a semi-retired teacher who lives and works in the Medway Towns. He was born in Chatham and has always been fascinated by the history of the area. Brian is the President of the Chatham Historical Society and the author of several books, including The Chatham Scandal, Dumb Show and Noise and Chatham and the Medway Towns, a History and Celebration. With Bruce Aubry, Brian co-wrote In the Thick of It- Medway Men and Women in the Boer War, which was published by their own Pocock Press. Brian is currently working on a similar volume which will examine the experiences of men and women from the Medway Towns during the First World War.*

In a final tribute to Charles Dickens, Brian Joyce gives a fascinating insight into one of the most famous films to have ever been filmed in the Medway Towns. For the last time, Happy 200th birthday, Charles Dickens!

Since the days of early silent cinema, the Medway Towns had been visited by film-makers wishing to shoot Dickensian location scenes. For example, the American star John Bunny had come to Rochester in 1912 to make a silent version of *Pickwick Papers*. In 1935, location views for Universal's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* were filmed around Rochester Cathedral, although the film itself was made in Hollywood. However, the film that used the area most extensively and to its best advantage was *Great Expectations*, made just after the end of the Second World War. The film-makers did not use the Medway Towns themselves, but the River Medway and the marshes around High Halstow. The presence of film crews and as important a star as John Mills gave residents of the area a few crumbs of cheer in the austere atmosphere of the immediate post-war period. The first location filming took place intermittently for two months during September and October 1945. The crew virtually took over the Bull Hotel in Rochester, with up to sixty staying there while in the area. David Lean, the film's director, together with key production staff, used The Leather Bottle at Cobham. Both establishments, of course, had suitably Dickensian connections. Great pains were taken to create the atmosphere of the novel, and the Art Director, John Bryan was to eventually win an Academy Award for his work on this film. Exterior scenes were shot on the marshes beyond Decoy Farm at High Halstow and the novel's *Ship Inn* was constructed at the nearby St Mary's Bay. The National Secretary of the Dickens Fellowship visited the locations and gave them his seal of approval; he particularly congratulated John Bryan on his creation of Joe Gargery's forge and cottage.



*John Mills, courtesy of eBay, postcards for sale online.*

Squads of extras, many of whom were recruited locally, played soldiers hunting the escaped convict Magwitch. They were drilled according to War Office practices prevailing when Dickens wrote *Great Expectations*. The scene in which they interrupt Christmas festivities was shot locally, as were scenes of young Pip stealing food for Magwitch and Biddy hanging out washing.

The climactic scene called for a steam packet ship to run down the boat in which the adult Pip is trying to help the escaping Magwitch. This was shot on the River Medway, with Darnet Island in the Medway estuary being used as the film unit's headquarters. Two locally-owned launches plied from Admiralty Pier in Chatham Dockyard to Darnet, carrying equipment and personnel to and fro. Among the visitors they carried to the island was Bishop Chavassee of Rochester, who with his wife, spent some hours chatting to David Lean and John Mills. Although it was necessary to have a location such as Darnet to act as a mooring point for the *packet ship* and to locate crew and equipment, it was not always

comfortable. At one stage, a gale coinciding with a high tide drove waves over the island, marooning the crew, who took refuge in Darnet Fort while it lasted. A four-oared police boat loaned for the river chase was smashed to

pieces and the Royal Navy provided a whaler from Chatham Dockyard to replace it. The paddle steamer *SS Empress* was used for the river scene. Before the Second World War, the sixty-five-year-old vessel had transported holidaymakers between Portsmouth and Torquay. More recently, she had seen service as a hospital tender at Dunkirk and Dieppe, and as a post D-Day holding centre for German prisoners. Now she was transformed into an early Victorian paddle ship. Two masts were added, her bridge virtually stripped out, her paddle boxes and funnel extended and she was given a bell-shaped top. Her name was retained for the film, lettered in gilt, underneath which was a rose, thistle and shamrock design. The work was done in Southampton, and her voyage to Darnet Island took thirty-six hours, her longest ever. A few more scenes were shot locally in April 1946. Meanwhile in January, *mudflats* to match those shot near High Halstow, were recreated at Denham Studios. Scenes of the soldiers' pursuit of Magwitch and young Pip's gift of food and a file were cut into genuine exteriors filmed on the marshes.

*Chatham Observer*, late Dec 1946.

AT YOUR GAUMONT BRITISH CINEMAS

# MAJESTIC PALACE

ROCHESTER CHATHAM

SUNDAY, DEC. 22nd WEEK — CLOSED XMAS DAY

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRESENTATION!**

The Greatest of all Classics  
NOW comes to the Screen...

## CHARLES DICKENS' Great Expectations

starring (A)

**John MILLS**  
*Valerie HOBSON*

with **Bernard MILES**  
*Francis SULLIVAN*

and introducing **Anthony WAGER**  
*Gene SIMMONS*

**KINDLY NOTE**  
Both Theatres will be **CLOSED** on XMAS DAY

MAJESTIC				PALACE			
Sunday: Doors 2 p.m.				Sunday: Doors 2.0 p.m.			
3.30	6.40			2.30	5.15	8.0	
Week: Doors 11.45 a.m.				Mon. & Tues.: Doors 1.45			
12.0	2.35	5.21	7.57	2.15	5.0	8.0	
Thurs. & Week: Doors 11.45				Thurs. & Week: Doors 11.45			
				12.0	2.45	5.30	8.15

On 18 December 1946, *Great Expectations* received its Kent premiere at the Majestic Cinema in Rochester and the Palace at Chatham. The guest of honour at the Majestic was the eighteen-stone character actor Francis L. Sullivan who played the lawyer Jaggers in both this film and in the Hollywood version released twelve years earlier. He was introduced to the mayors of the three towns, the Commander-in-Chief Nore, the Dean and Archdeacon of Rochester and other notables. Milburn Mackey, the then occupier of Restoration House, which had inspired Dickens to create Satis House for Miss Havisham, was also introduced to Sullivan. The actor then moved on to Rochester Casino, where he was mobbed by



autograph hunters. Such was the crush that Vera Foreman of Clive Road, Rochester, fainted and narrowly missed being trampled underfoot.

A curious blend of fantasy and reality followed a few days later. A four-horse stagecoach which had been used in the film, hung with holly and seasonal poultry and rabbits, and complete with a costumed crew, set off from the Bull Hotel in Rochester. On board were the mayors of the three towns, bound for the George Inn in Southwark. After comfort stops on the London Road at Tollgate and the Dover Patrol, they were met at their destination by the actress Valerie Hobson, who played Estella. The party then proceeded to the Gaumont, Haymarket, for a showing of the film. The object of this strange journey was rooted in the reality of the austere post-war period: before watching the film, the three mayors presented a written declaration to the Chair of the National Savings Movement. They assured him that the Medway Towns would reach the target imposed on them by the Chancellor of the Exchequer!



*Postcard photograph entitled "Great Expectations"\*, Charles Dickens comprising view of group of gravestones in south-west corner of Cooling churchyard looking west, showing in foreground grassy area and group of mummy stones and upright stone, in middle ground buttress of church tower, in middle distance second group of gravestones and in distance wall abutting Cooling Road and trees. Couchman's accompanying notes identify gravestones in foreground as belonging to Comport family of Cooling Castle, refer to graves of Pip's five little brothers at Lower Higham in Charles Dickens' novel Great Expectations and cite The Great Expectations Country by W.L. Dadd, 1929. c.1910 DE402/24/p.14 (L). [\* Original inverted commas.]*

## *Magnum Opus*

Cindy O'Halloran

*A review of the latest Medway titles.*



### *Lillechurch: a thousand years of a farm at Higham in Kent* by Ian Milton

This book is extremely well researched with the relevant sources acknowledged. The work is well illustrated, often in colour, containing a good level of photographs, maps and tables. An appendix lists the owners and leaseholders since 1066, displaying the depth of research undertaken by the author.

## **LILLECHURCH**

### **a thousand years of a farm at Higham in Kent**



## **Ian Milton**

Author Ian Milton had family connections to this farm and his personal knowledge comes across in the book. The work, arranged in chronological order, is full of facts and history of the farm. More recent chapters on twentieth century life at the farm and hop growing are illustrated with family photographs and recount personal experiences of farm working.

Milton's book adds to the historical knowledge of Higham and its surrounding area. An interest in history or farming is not, however, necessary to pick up and become immersed in this book. At £8.95 it is a reasonably priced book for something so well presented and resourced. Copies can be purchased from MALSC and there is no ISBN



## *Lest we Forget*

A series of special articles in recognition of November's Remembrance Sunday.

### *The Live Bait Squadron*

Tessa Towner



*Born in Frindsbury during WWII, Tessa was the first of two daughters born to Herbert (Bert) and Rose Walter. Her family were all born in Kent, her father's in North Kent and her mother's in Thanet. Tessa's interest in history probably was fostered by my father, an expert on Frindsbury history and the area around Meopham from where his family originated. Tessa attended Gordon Road School in Strood, then Chapter School and eventually Fort Pitt Technical School for Girls. She worked as a dental receptionist until her children made their entrance and then in later years was a care assistant at Shaw's Wood Old People's Home in Frindsbury before taking medical retirement. Since then she has developed her interest in family history, history in general and local history especially, and through her work at MALSC was persuaded by Stephen Dixon (the then Archivist) to set up FOMA ... the rest is history!*

I was invited to an event on Saturday 22 September 2012 to commemorate the loss of three ships sunk in the North Sea on that date in 1914, by a German submarine U9. This attack took place in what was known as the Broad Fourteens off the Dutch coast early on the morning of 22 September 1914, the three ships HMS *Aboukir*, HMS *Cressy* and HMS *Hogue* were sunk between 6.20am and 7.55am taking 1,459 men to a watery grave. Out of 2,296 men who were on these three ships, only 837 men survived. There were thirteen young boys aged 15 and 16 amongst those who perished and the crews were mostly reservists, many from the Medway Towns. A Dutchman, Henk van der Linden, discovered some eight years ago a cemetery in The Hague that contained war graves commemorating British sailors. He was so intrigued by this that he spent the next eight years researching the men and what had happened to them. The event I attended in September was to commemorate them. I had been invited after having responded to Henk's request in the local paper for information. Thanks to the painstaking indexing I had undertaken on the work of the late historian and FOMA member Michael de Caville, I was able to provide Henk with a list of all the men of Medway who had perished on those ships.

The day began with a short service in Rochester Cathedral, where descendants of the men turned the pages of the Royal Marine commemoration books and flowers were laid in remembrance, and then in the afternoon we all adjourned to the St George's Centre in Pembroke where the descendants heard Henk's story of how and what he had found out about that fateful day in 1914 and which has culminated in his book *The Live Bait Squadron*. This was followed by several other speakers explaining how events had unfolded that day in 1914. One of these speakers was Peter Dawson of the Chatham Dockyard Historical Society, who spoke about the background from a local view. There were some 140 men from the Medway Towns who perished in the North Sea that terrible morning, and Peter spoke about the effects this had on the local communities. The Netherlands Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Pim Waldeck spoke (amongst other things) about the illegal salvage that was taking place on these wrecks and how they do not appear to be designated war graves; because they are in international waters their status is not clear.

Henk had managed to track down descendants of some of the men who died and about 24 men were represented there and were also invited to tell their stories. Among these were the relatives of John Duncan Stubbs, known as Duncan. He was just 15 and served on HMS *Aboukir*. He was blown into the sea and swam to each of the other ships in turn as they too were sunk, and eventually lost his life trying to save another man.

Duncan Barrigan, the great great nephew of John Duncan Stubbs, read from his great grandfather's diary:

"Duncan and the gunner Mr Shrubsall were great friends and took the watch together. Lt. Hughes wanted to change Duncan's watch for some reason but Mr Shrubsall would not hear of it; he liked to hear Duncan talk at night and would not have any other midshipman with him. Hughes said that when he was in his hammock he could hear the two talking on watch and Duncan's laugh could be heard all over the ship.

Midshipman, Wykeham-Musgrave, told of going on deck with the other midshipmen after the *Aboukir* was struck, to be met by Mr Shrubsall, who sent them back down to close the watertight doors to the gunroom."



*Duncan Barrigan, the great great nephew of John Duncan Stubbs*  
©Cor Kuyvenhoven

Gunner William James Shrubsall's grandson, Barry Mack, was also there to tell the story of his maternal grandfather. He knew very little about him, his grandmother never spoke about him and so when he was contacted by Henk he was able to discover much more. Barry Mack said, "I thus learned that my grandfather survived the actual torpedoing and was trying to help save the ship but more than that these two entries in a way breathed life into him."

The day after the event Henk van der Linden travelled to Dartmouth to the Britannia Royal Naval College where he was presented to the Commander of the College, Jason Phillips. A copy of *The Live Bait Squadron* will be placed in the college's library

*Barry Mack grandson of Gunner William James Shrubsall*  
©Cor Kuyvenhoven



Henk has proposed the establishment of a The Live Bait Squadron Society, nothing formal, rather a virtual association to also include members who are not related to the men who died. Those who attended September's event - including me - are already very interested in the idea. Henk's proposal for a society is as follows:

"In case of a sufficient positive response to this proposal I would suggest we also set up subdivisions where the relatives of those servicemen or sailors who served on a particular ship can meet and exchange messages among them, so as to form groups of:

HMS *Aboukir*-members

HMS *Cressy*-members

HMS *Hogue*-members

SS *Flora*-members

SS *Titan*-members

Perhaps later also SS *Coriander* and *JGC*-members.



*Henk van der Linden and Commander Jason Phillips*  
©Cor Kuyvenhoven

As far as non-related-members are concerned, one may think of interested third parties like historians, divers, journalists, myself and my family, in sum anyone who is personally or professionally interested in this event. Subscription will be free. To help get these things going I'm planning to publish a quarterly *Live Bait Squadron-Bulletin* starting 1st October, then 1st January and so on until December 2014."

**For those who might be interested, please contact H. van der Linden, [H.van.der.linden@tip.nl](mailto:H.van.der.linden@tip.nl)**

**The first bulletin is already available and Henk has given me permission to use some of his text and pictures for this article. *The Live Bait Squadron* is also available now, ISBN 9 789461 532602.**

## John Butler and HMS Cressy

Brian Butler



*Brian Butler was born on The Brook in Chatham. He was the last in the line of the Butlers born on The Brook who moved from Lenham circa 1834 and managed the notorious King's Head public house for approximately 60 years. Brian is attempting to tell the stories of both his parents, descendants and ancestors, other than just the Pocock line of his mother. His interests include reading, local history and genealogy; he was a volunteer for the Archive of Great Expectations project at MALSC.*

The last story that I told was that of Shadrach Edward Robert Jones, who was on my mother's Pocock line (see below). This time, I would like to write a more recent but tragic story, on my fathers' side, about my Grand Uncle John Butler .

John Butler, was born Chatham 1878 and christened at St Paul's, Chatham on 14 April 1880, with three other siblings. His parents were George Whiterod Butler and Mary Ann Barrett, (who is a total brick wall in my family tree ) and they lived at 12 Bryant Street, Chatham. On leaving school John worked as a labourer and he joined the Royal Marines Light Infantry on 18 March 1897, just prior to his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. By the time he had boarded HMS *Cressy* in June 1914 he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant and had received two medals, the South African Medal (Natal) and the China Medal (Relief of Peking), both awarded in 1902.

HMS *Cressy* was an old Cresses class armoured cruiser and was the first Royal Navy Armoured Cruiser. She was built at Fairfield, Govan, laid down October 1898, then completed May 1901. She had a hardened armoured belt, made possible by the introduction of KRUPP armour. She was also one of the first ships to serve overseas which was not copper sheathed and painted with anti fouling paint, saving 500 tonnes displacement and around £40,000 per ship. These ships were very vulnerable to a raid by modern German surface ships. Usually the patrol was under the command of Rear Admiral Campbell on HMS *Bucchantes*, but he was absent on other duties and was also unable to transfer to another ship, due to bad weather conditions. So the command was transferred to Rear Admiral Christian aboard HMS *Euryalus*. Unfortunately *Euryalus* had to drop out because of a lack of coal and weather damage to her wireless, so Christian delegated command to Captain Drummond on HMS *Aboukir*, although he did not make it clear that Drummond had the authority to order the destroyers to sea if the weather improved, which it did towards the end of September 21.

Whilst sailing in the convoy known as Cruiser Force C (nicknamed the Live Bait Squadron), HMS *Cressy*, together with HMS *Aboukir* and HMS *Hogue*, were on patrol in the Broad Fourteens area of the North Sea. On 22 September 1914 at 06:25am, HMS *Aboukir* was torpedoed once on the port side by kerosene powered German submarine U9, commanded by Otto Weddigen, who came across the patrol steaming NNE at ten knots without zigzagging. Although the patrols were supposed to maintain 12 to 13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed and the zigzagging order was widely ignored as there had been no submarines sighted in that area during the war.

After half an hour, despite frantic counter flooding measures, *Aboukir* had developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power, and it was then, when a second loud explosion was heard, that it was thought that the ships magazine had caught fire. Captain Drummond ordered *abandon ship*. Only one lifeboat was launched with most of the men diving into the sea. Survivors said that many acts of bravery were seen and the men sang *God Save The King* as the ship sank. At first Drummond thought that *Aboukir* had been mined and signalled for the other two cruisers to close and assist; but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away. As *Aboukir* rolled over and sank, half an hour after being attacked, U9 fired two torpedoes at HMS *Hogue* that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of *Hogue* had stopped the ship in order to lower boats and rescue the crew of *Aboukir*, thinking that, as he was on the other side of *Aboukir* from U9, he would be safe. Unfortunately U9 had manoeuvred around *Aboukir* and attacked *Hogue* from a range of only 300 yards.

*Hogue* did manage to fire at the submarine when it briefly broke surface but without effect. She sank in ten minutes and then U9, so it is said, headed for HMS *Cressy*. Survivor statements from the time stated that there was more than one submarine, possibly five. *Cressy*, under Captain Johnson, had also stopped to lower boats, but on sighting a periscope got under way. It was stated that *Cressy* fired at a submarine's periscope, hitting it, then as the sub broke the water again, fired at the sub's conning tower, hitting it. The sub sank and it was stated that two German sailors floated to the surface and began swimming hard. All the while the crew of *Cressy* was cheering. *Cressy* then noticed a trawler flying a Dutch flag. It was thought that the trawler was in fact German and was radioing the subs with attack information: *Cressy* fired on the trawler and sank the vessel.

The Admiralty stated that there was no proof that a sub had been sunk and all that was hit was floating jetsam. However, at around 7.20 am, *U9* fired two torpedoes. One just missed, but the other hit *Cressy* on her starboard side. Again, witnesses stated that the damage to *Cressy* was not fatal and she started firing at a second periscope. *U9* turned around and fired her last torpedo which hit *Cressy*, sinking her within a quarter of an hour. In just over an hour all three cruisers were gone. In all 837 men were rescued but 1,459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets from Chatham and Gillingham. Hundred of women and families were plunged into mourning, and many painful scenes were seen at Chatham Town Hall as rumours of the loss spread. *Cressy* had only been at Chatham Dockyard a few days earlier and it was said that no road in Medway was unaffected by the loss. Survivors were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch vessels *Flora* and *Titan* and the British trawlers *JGC* and *Coriander* before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. A considerable number were saved by HMS *Lowestoft*. *Flora* returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew, who were quickly returned to Britain even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them.

In the aftermath, patrols by armoured cruisers were abandoned, ships stopping in dangerous waters banned and the order to steam at 13 knots and zigzagging re-emphasised. A court of inquiry was set up and found that some blame was attributable to all of the senior officers involved: Captain Drummond for not zigzagging or calling for destroyers, Rear Admiral Christian for not making it clear to Drummond that he could summon the destroyers, and Rear Admiral Campbell for not being present and for a very poor performance at the inquiry at which he stated that, "he did not know what the purpose of his command was."

The bulk of the blame was directed at the Admiralty for persisting with a patrol that was dangerous and of limited value against the advice of senior sea going officers. The Admiralty stated further that in future "disabled ships must be left to their own resources" and "The loss of these three cruisers, apart from the loss of life, is of small naval significance." Although they were large and powerful ships, they belonged to a class of cruiser whose speeds have been surpassed by many of the enemy's battleships. Before the war it had been decided that no more money should be spent in repairing any of this class, and that they should make their way into the sale list as soon as serious defects became manifest."

The *U9* sank only one other ship during the war, HMS *Hawke*, and mainly served in the Baltic. She also went on to be one of the only one of her class to survive the war. Kapitan lieutenant Otto Weddigen had a medal struck in his honour for sinking the three cruisers and was awarded the Pour le Mérite (The Blue Max), but was not so lucky. He was transferred to *U29* which was rammed by HMS *Dreadnought* and sank, resulting in all lives lost. This was *Dreadnought's* only action during the war. The crew of *U9* received the Iron Cross. Unfortunately we do not have a personal picture of my uncle. He is commemorated on the war memorial at Chatham, which is the main memorial for those lost at sea during both wars. The following Memorandum was printed in the local press:

1922 – *Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester News* Roll 47, Medway Archives, Strood: In loving memory of Sergeant John Butler RMLI who lost his life on HMS *Cressy*, September 22nd 1914. Ever in our thoughts from his sisters Alice, Polly and Amy and orphan son John.

Died 22nd September 1914 aboard HMS *Cressy* aged 36. Service no CH8249, Royal Marines Light Infantry, Rank: Sergeant, commemorated at the Chatham Memorial, Great Lines, Chatham. HMS *Cressy* torpedoed whilst picking up the survivors from two other ships by the German submarine no *U9*. 1484 died out of 2,350.

*Chatham News*, 1914, Roll 39.

*Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham News*, Oct 10th 1914.

#### Obituary.

Amongst those who perished with the *Cressy* was Sergeant John Butler RMLI whose portrait appeared in the *News* last week. He had been in the service nearly twenty years, the first eleven of which he served under Sir Percy Scott. He was in the *Terrible* during the South African war and also under during the Boxer Rising and was in possession of the medals. He was one of the landing party in Crete during the troubles there. He was promoted sergeant on the King's birthday this year. One of a family of five sons and three daughters he sent each of his brothers and sisters a postcard a day or so before he left the Medway in the *Cressy*. He was of very happy disposition and was often called "Jack the peacemaker". His elder brother is Mr. E.J. Butler of Grove Road, Luton and his brother in law Mr. E. J. Marchant, a well known Rochester postman. He leaves a widow and a young son who resides in London.

There are a couple of questions regarding my uncle that eludes me at the moment, and that is that he had a child. From 1914 to 1921 the papers stated, "son John," and from 1922, "orphan." Army records do not show a wife for John, they do show an A. Stafford of Church House, Rustington, Littlehampton, Sussex, as next of kin, and the last line of the above memorandum states "who reside in London." So: who was the wife of John, where were they married, and where and when was his son born?

My apologies if this story brings back unhappy memories for anyone.

*In Loving Memory of Walter Edward Butler (Sergeant, 6th Battalion, Buffs), who was killed in action October 13, 1916, aged 28 Years. Died in No. 6 General Hospital, Rouen, France. Edward George Butler who died 7 September 1918, aged 30 from gas at No 33 Casualty Clearing Station, France.*

#### Bibliography

Medway Archives and Local Study Centre

The *Chatham, Rochester, and Gillingham News*

Medway CityArk, Online Parish Registers.

worldwar1.co.uk

The Naval Historical Society of Australia

Readers may recall the articles entitled *To Oz and Back* about Shadrach Edward Jones written by Brian Butler (*The Clock Tower* Issue 15, August 2009 and Issue 18, May 2010). These have now been published in a book called *A Viking in the Family and other Family Tree Tales* by Keith Gregson; the History Press, ISBN 978-0-7524-5772-7, at £9.99.

## War-Time Memories

Bob Ratcliffe



*Bob Ratcliffe is a retired architect. He is President of The City of Rochester Society and a local historian; Bob is also a FOMA committee member.*

### Just Another ‘Incident’.

As a lad of eight, I was quite good at aircraft recognition. I could tell a Spitfire from a Hurricane and a Junkers 88 from a Heinkel 111. Indeed I’d looked at the crew of one of the latter as it raced at about 100 feet across our garden near Guildford in 1942, before being rapidly dragged indoors by my grandmother.

In August 1944 mother decided to move the family to Rochester. For two years she had commuted at weekends between the two cities, and with father away in the army she bought [for £1200!] 215 Maidstone Road, moving in on the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month. Rochester was at that time on the route of the first of Hitler’s *Vengeance Weapons*, the V1 or Doodlebug, and they were a common sight as they chattered their way across the land like a demented two-stroke motor bicycle. They posed no problem as long as their motor kept running, and I recall frequently gazing at them on my way to and from school. I also recall a cricket match at Frindsbury being interrupted by one that was observed approaching at a very low altitude from the direction of the Dockyard. Thankfully it kept running, and after its passing the teams stood up to resume the match. Such was not always the case, and on November 8<sup>th</sup> one landed in Grafton Avenue, killing eight, injuring 17 and demolishing 14 houses.

Though the V1s could be deadly, there were counter measures, and anti-aircraft batteries at the coast, fighter squadrons across Kent and barrage balloons near London all took their toll. There was however no defence against the next item in Hitler’s arsenal, the V2. This was the first *Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile* the world had ever known, and heralded a new age in warfare. In hindsight it nearly gave Germany victory out of the jaws of defeat. If development and production had not been delayed by Bomber Command’s raids on Pennemunde and Nordhausen, and had not the Allied advance through France and the Low Countries been so swift, an unstoppable barrage of V2s on London would have continued to a point when the outcome of the war could have been quite different.

As it was, by February 1945 most V2 sites had been overrun. It was on a bright sunny Sunday morning, the 18<sup>th</sup> of that month, that I was out for a walk in the Borstal Road with my father, when the peace was broken by an enormous explosion from the hills beyond Strood. The only V2 that was to land in the Medway area had arrived, thundering in from the stratosphere at 2,000mph to explode its one ton payload of TNT on an isolated row of houses at Salter’s Cross and to kill four people.

Today, sixty-seven years on, few would be able to identify the location of this last local *incident* of World War Two. It is just another road junction in the Strood area with yet more traffic lights, but it has its place in the history of the Medway Towns. It heralded the arrival of the age of the ICBM.

The V2 landed in the area of the word *Rede* (as indicated by the arrow on the map overleaf) in Rede Court Road on the map. Only two fatalities are recorded in the CWGC list of Civilian Casualties: Isabella Cladish, aged 75 and Christopher Huckstepp, aged 19.





*From the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre; 1939 OS extract.*

## *The V2 Rocket at the Royal Engineers Museum*

Amanda Thomas



*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.*

On 11 September 2012, a long-awaited and exciting new exhibit was delivered to the Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive in Gillingham. Older local residents would be forgiven for shuddering at the sight of a newly restored V2 rocket making its way by road to the Medway Towns, as the V2s were one of the most feared weapons during WWII.



The V2 rocket which is now on display has been strengthened and restored by Borley Brothers, a Cambridge structural engineering company. It was originally picked up in the Netherlands in the midst of the chaos at the end of the war and brought back to the UK by the Royal Engineers. The British army were keen to capture some of the V2s intact in order to investigate how they worked and to see how we could counter them. Operation Backfire was set up to research the rocket, including all support procedures, vehicles and fuel consumption and the principles of the V2's engineering are still relevant today. Since 1945, the rocket has been at various MOD bases, such as Farnborough and Ripon, and from the 1960s or 70s it was kept at Chattenden, but this is the first time it will have been on view to the public. There are only four other V2 rockets on display in the UK and about 20 on display across the world.

The V2 was designed by Captain Walter Dornberger and Werner Von Braun and was the first long range ballistic missile to be actively used in combat. It hurtled a one-ton warhead 50 miles high and hundreds of miles down range to its target. At launch a single rocket weighed almost 13 tonnes and measured 46 inches (14 m) in length. It travelled three times faster than the speed of sound and for this reason gave little warning of its arrival once deployed. From 1944 to 1945 over 500 V2s fell on London and over 2,500 on other Allied countries. The first V2 fell on Chiswick in London on 8 September 1944 killing a number of people, including Sapper Bernard Browning who was on leave from the Royal Engineers. Almost 3,000 citizens were killed in London by V2 attacks, with almost the same again injured. A scientific reconstruction carried out in 2010 demonstrated that the V2 creates a crater 20 m wide and 8 m deep, throwing up around 3,000 tons of material into the air.

The story of the V2's co-creator, German scientist Von Braun, is a difficult one. During the war when he developed the V2, he employed slave labourers from concentration camps, and his invention killed thousands in the most frightening manner. Yet it is thanks to his pioneering work that during his lifetime in the post-war period, the space age became a reality. Von Braun was interrogated by the Allies in 1945 and was given a contract by the Americans to work for Army Ordnance in the United States. He and others from Penemunde worked in Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas, White Sands in New Mexico. Later, in 1950, he and his men were transferred to Huntsville, Alabama to develop a tactical ballistic battlefield missile. He helped develop the Redstone missile and even gained American citizenship. When the Soviet Union began the Space Race, Von Braun was once again at the forefront of US research and America's first satellite was launched from a Wernher von Braun design, the Jupiter-C. He eventually went on to head NASA and saw his visionary rocket, the Saturn 5, carry men to the Moon.

The V2 and a section of the Berlin Wall are now on display at the Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive, Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 4UG; [www.re-museum.co.uk/events](http://www.re-museum.co.uk/events) Opening hours: Tuesday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm; Saturday – Sunday and Bank Holidays: 11.30am to 5.00pm; CLOSED MONDAYS. Admission: pay once and get in for 12 months! Adult: £7.80; Family: £20.80; Concession: £5.20; Children under 5: Free.

**Our thanks to Catherine Byrne, Deputy Curator (Access, Interpretation, Development), Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive.**

**Catherine would like to hear from anyone who has any objects relating to the latter part of WWII, the Cold War that followed, and British nuclear testing. She can be contacted on 01634 822221.**

*Images courtesy of the Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive*



## *Mystery Photos*

In a new series we look at unidentified photographs from MALSC and *Clock Tower* readers. If you have any information, please contact *Mrs Amanda Thomas, Editor, The Clock Tower, 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NS or email at amanda@ajthomas.com.*

The series starts with a request from FOMA Treasurer, Jean Skilling:

"I am attaching a copy of a postcard sent in 1908 to my husband's grandmother in Rainham by Mary Ann Springhall (nee Simmons). Mary Ann was baptised at Hoo St Werburgh in 1830 the daughter of Lance Simmons and Elizabeth Ann Rainer and married Richard Springhall, brother of my husband's great great grandfather. She died in 1919 at the home of her great niece Gertrude Springhall and her husband Cornelius Plum in Rainham. My mother in law told me that Granny Springhall, as she knew her, lived in a cottage opposite Cooling Castle lodge (1911 census Castle Cottage) and I wondered whether anyone can confirm that this is a photo of Castle Cottage, Cooling. The present day Castle Cottages opposite the lodge have been very much altered over the years and bear no resemblance to the picture."



## Archives Update

Alison Cable, Borough Archivist



### Outreach Working

On 17 October 2012, as part of our ongoing outreach work with local schools (and to meet the education component of our HLF project), we hosted another successful History of Public Health Workshop. Local Studies librarian, Irina Fridman ran the session for a group of history students from Robert Napier School, Gillingham. The session took place at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester.

In order to tie in with the Archives of Great Expectations project, the workshop has been put together using facsimile documents mainly from the Rochester City Archives. Of particular interest is the documentation relating to a typhoid outbreak in Strood (1912), the Medical Officer of Health's report for 1920, photographs displaying near-derelect and overcrowded housing in the 1930s, and an early example of a vaccination register (1882). The workshop was really well received and as a result, the school will be sending further groups of students.

Alison, Irina and the FOMA HLF education team have recently undertaken a consultation with a small group of history teachers, in order to identify further key topics for study and additional workshops and document packs will be put together over the coming months.



*Students absorbed in their studies.*

### New Archive Collections

During the summer we received a consignment of rather raggedy volumes, which had kindly been brought in by a teacher from one of the primary schools in Chatham. The volumes, it would seem, had been cluttering up school cupboards for quite some time. The school in question was New Road School, Chatham. New Road was built in around 1846 and I was pleased to note that one of the log books dated from 1874. However, once I started cataloguing the collection, I discovered that I was looking at records from three separate Chatham primary schools: New Road, St Mary's, and St Paul's Boys!

This was quite a find, as we had previously not held any records for St Mary's or New Road, what's more, the St Mary's collection included a log book from 1863. That school had been built on Military Road (not too far from the church) probably around 1860, mainly for the purpose of educating the children of Dockyard workers. It is a bit of a mystery how these records all came to be stored in one place, but it is clear from the Chatham Education Committee minutes that in the early twentieth century school departments were often combined or merged, renamed and rebuilt. For example, All Saints primary was originally called St Paul's C of E School.

All three collections are now catalogued and the catalogues are available in hard copy in the searchroom and online at Cityark:

St Mary's National School, Chatham 1863-1942	ref no: C/ES/85/10
New Road School, Chatham 1874-1971	ref no: C/ES/85/4
The St Paul's Boys School records (1925-1955)	
catalogued with the All Saints and St Paul's records	ref no: C/ES/85/1



## *Cindy's Little Gems*

Cindy O'Halloran



*Cindy is Senior Archive and Local Studies Assistant at MALSC, responsible for the daily management of the searchroom and non professional staff. She has worked at MALSC for six years following 12 years in branch libraries and as a teaching assistant at a local primary school. Cindy's interests include reading, gardening and anything to do with history, her main passion being the 17th century and the English Civil Wars.*

The Christmas season will soon be upon us so I have been searching our archives for something seasonal. The records of St Margaret of Antioch in Rochester<sup>1</sup> have provided the Little Gem for this edition.

Among a collection of sketches and photographs held by the Parish are six watercolour Christmas cards sent by the artist William Aikman and featured on the back cover of this issue of *The Clock Tower*. Further research shows that Aikman (1868- 1959) was a founder member of the British Society of Master Glass Painters. Born in Edinburgh, he was apprenticed to Ballantine & Sons, the company which provided much of the glass for the House of Lords. Aikman set up his own studio in 1913 and also taught at Camberwell School of Art.

The Historical Notes of Canon Wheatley have provided the answer as to how these cards came into possession of the Parish<sup>2</sup>. Aikman undertook several commissions for St Margaret's in the form of memorial windows, one for the Misses Nicholson, in remembrance of their parents, showing the Good Shepherd; the second a memorial to Gordon Denne Brown of the Gleanings, depicting St George. Denne, of HM Submarine *Spearfish*, died in 1940 and the window was a gift from his parents. Sadly, a landmine that landed near the church badly damaged the Good Shepherd window but that showing St George was not placed in situ until the war had ended.

Wheatley gives Aikman a glowing testament and refers to him as "a good designer and a good draughtsman...known to him by a fine series of windows placed in Ashford (Middlesex) Parish Church." The greetings cards all pre date the work carried out in St Margaret's, which indicates that Aikman and the Canon knew each other prior to the commissions being carried out. The card illustrated is very much reminiscent of the 1920s' period and is (in my opinion) very similar to the type of work produced by that other fine artist Donald Maxwell.

### Notes

1. P305/28D/28
2. Historical Notes by Canon S Wheatley 1915 – 1947 October 1945.



# *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.*

## A Young Girl's Week Before Christmas, Brompton 1860

Below there is a short extract from the diary of Honoria Roebuck, a sixteen year old girl who lived on Garden Street, Brompton, with her aunts. Her diary for 1860, held in the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, records details of her work as a private governess to the young sons of military and naval officers stationed in Brompton and of her daily leisure activities. It is also testament to her strong religious faith.<sup>1</sup> The entries for the week before Christmas show little change in routine that might be attributed to the festive season until 22 December. Up until 20 December Honoria was still working with one of her young pupils, Laurie, for whom she expresses a fondness. He is leaving the area that week as his father, a military man, has been stationed elsewhere. Once Laurie has left Honoria is free to prepare for her Christmas which she is going to spend in Birmingham with relatives. The trip to stay with SJH has been agreed in correspondence with her father some weeks earlier. She evidently spends the Saturday before her departure 'sewing and crocheting almost all day' to finish making Christmas gifts for her hosts. Her packing completed, she goes to catch the train to London at 11.00 on the morning of Christmas Eve, her final diary entry for the year asking for God's protection on her journey.

Tuesday 18 December

Rose at ¼ past 7 dear Laurie came about ¼ past 10 walked down to the convict prison to call on Mrs Bruce. Mrs Connelly called this evening about 5 o'clock – they expect to be moved soon – she is very pleased with his improvement & would like him to continue with me as long as possible.

Thursday 20 December

Rose at 7, Laurie came a little after 10, this is his last day with me, dear little fellow! Went over to Mrs Jones – sat about an hour with her – feel much blessed – the cloud of temptation is I trust slowly passing away.

Friday 21 December

Rose a little before 7, it is bitterly cold – busy at work this morning – packed 2 hampers this afternoon. Dear Laurie sent me such a handsome little purse as a present, it is very useful too, but better than the value of the thing is the kind spirit which it showed, dear little fellow! Transl[ated] part of the 13<sup>th</sup> chap Hebrew.

Saturday 22 December

Rose at 7 – busy at work, sewing and crocheting almost all day – there is so much to be got ready – received a letter from dearest SJH- she will meet me (all being well) at the Birmingham Station, a very kind letter.

Monday 24 December

Rose about 20 past 6, very busy packing & cording boxes this morning – received a letter from Mrs Smith – left Brompton about 20 past 10 for the 11 o'clock train - Lord preserve my going out & coming in & let the angel of thy presence go continually with me for Jesus sake.

### Notes

1. MALSC DA 4096 Diaries of Honoria Roebuck 1860-62. I am indebted to Astrid Salmon who spent many hours transcribing the diary for 1860, which is written in very small and cramped handwriting.

## *The Committee*

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## Charles Roach Smith on Thomas Fletcher Waghorn



Thomas Fletcher Waghorn (sitting with document in hand) meeting with the pasha in Alexandria on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1839 discussing improvements to the Overland Route to India through Egypt. The antiquarian Charles Roach Smith (see page 14) had this to say about the man: **‘Waghorn was the very incarnation of an impetuous, excitable personality, allied to great energy and vitality. These qualities alone made his great task possible. ... Waghorn was the type of man by whom tasks that look like miracles are accomplished. He wrought many such ...’**

*Engraving of a painting by David Roberts RA, from the Snodland Historical Society Collection; with thanks to Dr. Andrew Ashbee.*

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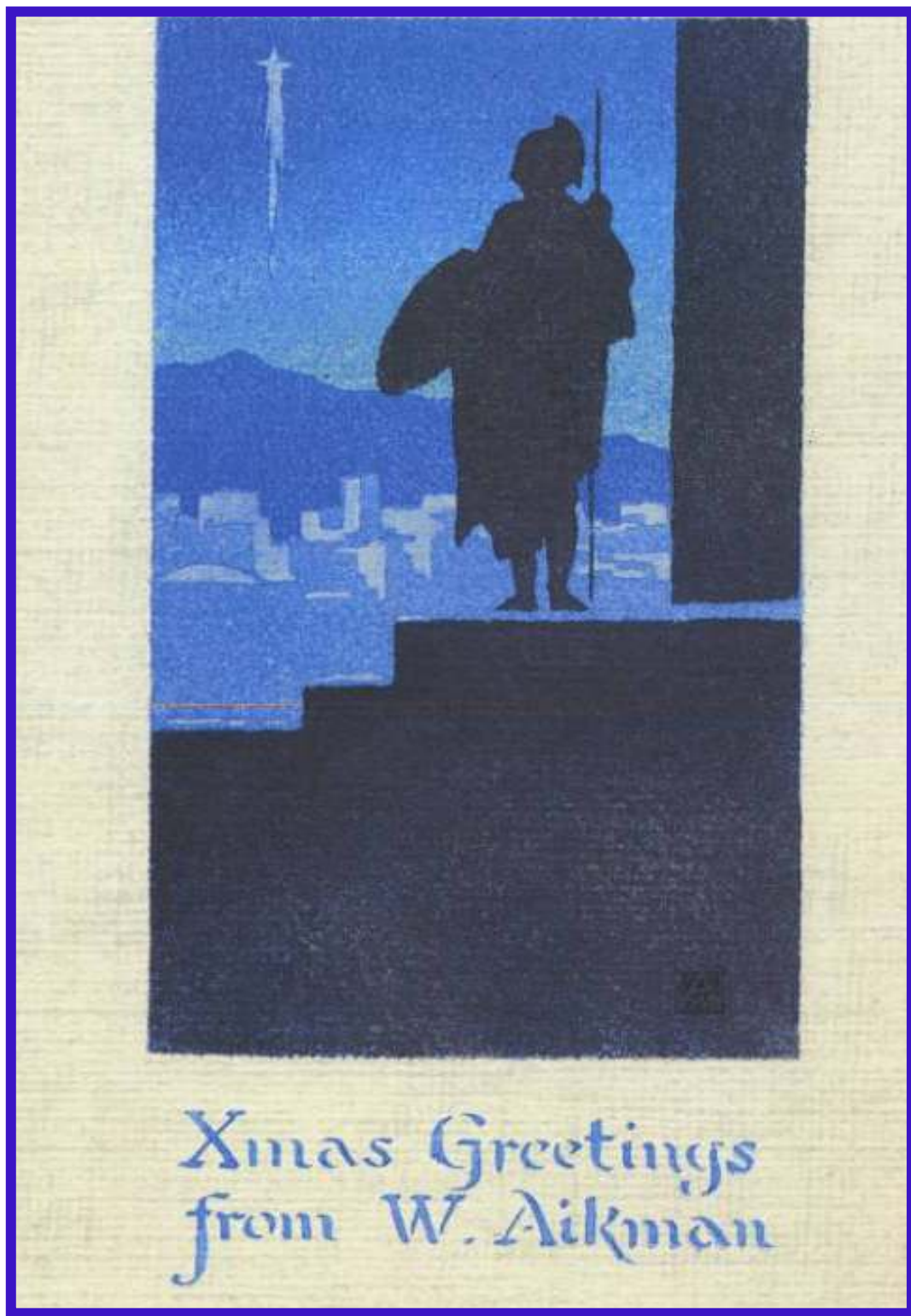
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Xmas Greetings  
from W. Aikman

From *Cindy's Little Gems*, page 47.

**A Very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!**