

SNODLAND AND  
'CEMENTOPOLIS'  
1841-1881



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INTRODUCTION

'Cementopolis' is a word coined by Victorian newspaper writers to describe the group of industrial workings which had grown up on the banks of the Medway, especially in the four parishes of Burham, Halling, Snodland and Wouldham. Some of the largest lime and cement factories in the country were developed here in what had hitherto been a predominantly rural area and their activities caused some amazement for visitors expecting the delights of the 'Garden of England'.

Encouraged and accompanied by travellers as enterprising as myself, I have recently employed a summer holiday in visiting a town known as Cementopolis, of which I had for years only heard dim, vague, and doubtful accounts. It is not unpleasantly situated in an amphitheatre of hills with a river branch for its base, filled with a flotilla of shipping. Its inhabitants are numerous and industrious, though what it is they are doing it is not easy for a stranger to discover. The courteous Alderman of the arrondissement I visited controls the Cementopolis and North Down Railway and chartered a special train for us, by which we were taken from the dockyards to the distant hills, passing serried rows of furnaces and mounds of coal; through realms of stacked wood and mighty masses of piled bricks, through tunnels, one more than half a mile long, over viaducts and under bridges, the latter giving a pleasant spice of excitement to the expedition, for if the traveller is too curious, or not careful enough in ducking, he runs some danger of being scalped. These perils surmounted, you arrive at immense excavations, which recall the quarries of Syene, and there you see scores of men, at various altitudes blasting (with gunpowder), picking, prising, and shovelling lumps of some cretaceous mineral, with which a long row of railway trucks is speedily filled. These lumps are carried away by a snorting Shetland-pony-like locomotive to a spot where the first of a series of gigantic and demoniacal machines takes charge of them and claws and scratches the lumps to pieces. The resulting mass is then mixed and macerated with a darker mineral, dug from a nearer spot, and twirled and drenched until it loses its pristine purity, the resulting compound being pumped to distant beds, where it rests for some days to settle. This peaceful period over, the water is poured off the stuff, which is toasted over plutonic fires in enormous kilns, the result being nodules as hard as iron. These again are taken to immense iron jaws and cracked and crunched and ground, and punched and stamped and triturated until they reach the stage of almost impalpable powder. Then it reaches something like rest and is stored into 2 cwt barrels.

These barrels are also made in Cementopolis and, as Pepys says, "it is mighty pretty" to see the strips of timber brought from the spreading stacks outside into the sawdust-laden atmosphere of the noisy cooperage and turned into barrels in the twinkling of a bed-post to the tune of six hundred a day. Swishsh ! sweeshsh ! the heated staves are shaped. Rattle ! thud ! thump ! bang ! the staves are forced into form and held by iron rings. Whirr ! whirr ! the edges are bevelled. Krunch ! prrsh ! kerrishe ! prrsh ! the head is rounded. Tap ! tap ! the wooden hoops are on. Tank ! tank ! the iron ones follow, and then the final tub is sent rolling down the gangway to be branded and stored in capacious sheds. I haven't space to tell you of all the resources of the place, the extent of its productions, or the ingenuity of its appliances. Suffice it to say that it is well worth a visit and of travelling some distance to see. If you want to go to this *terra incognita* you must take steamer to New Hythe or the coach to Burham, and when there seek the friendly aid of Mr. Butler, the energetic manager of the flourishing Burham Cement Company. He has something like a thousand men to look after, but, like all busy men, he can often

find half an hour to devote to interested tourists who desire to explore this wonderful but almost unknown locality.<sup>1</sup>

A former Rector of Snodland suggested that within the Garden of England Snodland might be considered as ‘one of the tool-sheds’. The description would not have been valid before the mid-nineteenth century when Snodland was small, like its neighbours, (a population of 300-400 in 50-60 houses) and dependent on farming for its livelihood. The years between about 1840 and 1880 were perhaps the most momentous in Snodland’s history. The village changed from relying on agriculture as the principal way of life to one in which the paper and cement industries came to dominate employment. It is true that both industries had gained a foothold here many years before, but then on a small scale and farming (as with so many other local communities) continued to provide the food, follow the seasons, and infiltrate the lives of all. Reporting on the opening of the Strood to Maidstone railway in 1856 *The South-Eastern Gazette* noted ‘The next conspicuous object [after Larkfield church] is the extensive lime works at Burham, [...] from which a large proportion of the builders of the metropolis are supplied. This is a flourishing little industrial colony, creating and diffusing wealth, both by what they consume and what they produce.’ Thomas Cubitt’s brick and lime works at Burham (in which many Snodland men worked) evoked much admiration from the writer of an article in *The Illustrated News of the World* (8 October 1859):

“... on viewing the whole field, with its various and numerous engines, buildings, tramways, kilns, wharves, &c., one cannot but see that here are what may be justly termed the model brick-works. Here are concentrated the results of near half a century’s experience and improvements. Everything is in the right place. Nothing superfluous. Every possible attention has been given to economise labour and material, and every advantage taken of the natural position of the estate. When in full work, between 600 and 700 men and boys are employed, and from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 of bricks, besides tiles and pipes, can readily be turned out from the works; which, however, can be considerably augmented without any great outlay, or increasing the present steam power.”

At Snodland and Halling the lime works of Poynder and Hobson, one of the earliest in the district, began in 1819 and with a companion works at Northfleet again supplied materials for major building projects in London and elsewhere. This factory expanded after William Lee bought it in 1844 and he was one of three brothers also involved in major national building projects. Poynder and Hobson’s first manager William Peters went on to create his own works at Wouldham in the 1850s, which was said to have become the largest of its kind. Again Snodland men were employed there and by 1880 some 600 men were said to cross the Medway to and fro daily in the small ferry boats of Snodland, Halling and New Hythe. Meanwhile Charles Townsend Hook took over the paper mill in 1855 and built it into a large and successful enterprise.

These were years of social change too as the enterprising Victorians set about exploring and regulating communal life. The area Workhouse had replaced poor relief in individual parishes, schools were inspected, the conditions for children working in factories were investigated, the advent of the railways opened up business and travel for many, a plethora of newspapers spread news of all kinds, whether, local, national, or international. Societies were set up to assist parishioners in planning for hard times—the Foresters, Shepherds, Odd Fellows—and in seeking greater fulfilment in their lives—Gardeners’ Societies, evenings of lectures, readings and music, sport, and the creation of the Working Men’s Club.

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<sup>1</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 10 September 1889, by ‘Verax’.

This account is laid out as a series of interlocking essays, each focussing on a particular aspect, exploring Snodland's development in the years 1841 to 1881, and naturally taking in links with Halling, Burham and Wouldham. Of course local industry continued to expand at a similar rate between 1881 and the outbreak of the First World War, but its roots were founded in the forty years before that date. In particular in Snodland the leadership and philanthropy of Charles Townsend Hook (1832-1877) at the paper mill and William Lee (1801-1881) at the cement works gave so much to the local area, not only in employment, but also in enriching its social life. Both lived in the village and served as parish officers in several capacities, endeavouring to improve the lot not only of their workers and their families, but of the whole community.

#### Abbreviations

KAS	Kent Archaeological Society
KHLC	Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone
MALSC	Medway Archives and Local Study Centre
ODNB	Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
SHS	Snodland Historical Society
SMM	Snodland Millennium Museum
THA	Smurfit Kappa Townsend Hook Archive (at SMM)
TNA	The National Archives, Kew

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# I: THE VILLAGE GROWS

## The 1840s

The decade of the 1840s was perhaps the last when Snodland matched its neighbouring parishes as a small and predominantly agricultural community. Between 1821 and 1841 the censuses show the parish population growing very slowly from 438 to just 500, with the number of houses increasing from 59 to 102. In size it was then hardly larger than Burham, Leybourne, or Ryarsh, and was actually smaller than Birling. Farms dominated not only the landscape, but also the economy, with agricultural labourers far outnumbering the workers in paper and lime.<sup>1</sup> The village itself divided into two main communities, one in the High Street and the other at Holborough. The 1841 census can be matched with the 1844 Tithe Apportionment map and schedule and a detailed Land Tax return for 1846 to present a remarkably clear picture of the parish and its inhabitants at that time, although this is also muddled by the constant movement of families at a time when virtually all rented their homes..

### Holborough

Tithe no.	Property	Inhabitants <sup>2</sup>
138	[Holloway Court]	Thomas Poynder (lime works owner) + 2
289	Cottage/garden	William Luxford (labourer; groom) + 10
148	House/mill	Edward Martin (miller) + 1
277	[Island Cottage]	Ann Waghorn (independent) + 2
142	House/garden	William Peters (lime works manager) + 7
144	House/beer shop	Richard Gowar (farmer; beer retailer) + 1
145a		William Hewitt (blacksmith) + 2
[146]		William Efford (ag. lab.) + 4
[147]		Mary Efford (widow); Samuel E by 1846
150	House/yard/garden	John Fielder (carpenter) + 9
151-2	House/garden x2	James/Elizabeth Hoppe (grocer)
153	Forge	Frances Phillips (blacksmith) + 4
156	[House]	Thomas Hulks Huggins (miller) + 4 William Hodge[s] (carrier) + 1; William Capon (ag. lab.)
157		James Hewitt (blacksmith) + 2
171	Oast and orchard	[unoccupied]
158+374	House/garden	Richard Peters (grocer) + 10
159	House/yard	Thomas William Peters
374-7	['Gilder's farm']	John Goodhugh (independent) John Wray (ag. lab.)
149	Shop	Edward Hawks (carpenter) + 6
?		Thomas Tomson (ag. lab.) + 2

<sup>1</sup> They will be treated separately in the next chapter.

<sup>2</sup> Names are from the 1841 census.





## Holborough Road

Tithe no.	Property	Inhabitants
270-272		George Francis (lime burner)
270-272		William Phillips (blacksmith) + 4 d.1854
270-272		Frances Southgate (independent) d.1855
263-4	[small holding]	William Patten Wilson (fruiterer) + 4
182-3	[Prospect Cottage]	George Gorham (butcher) + 2
261	[Covey Hall farm]	Thomas Matthews (farmer) + 5
242	[owners: Moore family]	Thomas Stallwood (lab.) + 3
243	[owners: Moore family]	John Moore (bricklayer) + 6
244	The Bull	Stephen Phillips (victualler) + 10

Numbers 270-272 on the west side of the road at the Holborough end comprised an old house, later commonly called Nightingale Cottages, in front of which was a timber-clad building, built by John Goodhugh (1745-1835), farmer and carpenter. All were in 'Sawpit Field', so it is likely that the village (or Goodhugh's) sawpit was here.

Virtually the whole road between the Bull Inn and Holborough was open farm land, but numbers 263-4, house and orchard, was the small-holding of William Patten Wilson, fruiterer, (1798-1884) just to the south of the present clock tower

The shell of Prospect Cottage on the east side of the road is a 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century building, with brick facing which seems to have been added by Jasper Crothall (*d.* 1781), manager of the paper mill, who lived here. Associated land on the west side of the road became the site of a windmill in subsequent years, although this was removed to Gillingham in 1839. Prospect Cottage was occupied by the Brain family from around 1792, who were butchers and millers, but others later became responsible for the windmill. George Gorham (1794-1861) was here between 1837 and his death and as will be seen he sold much of his land for new houses.

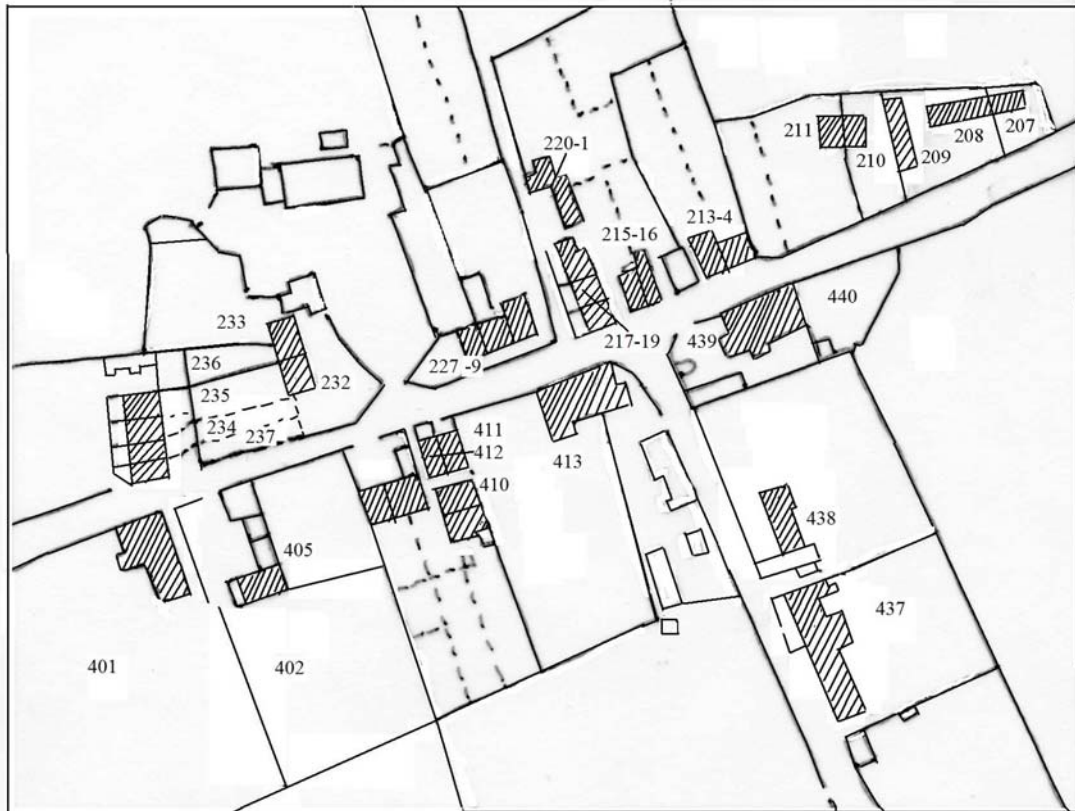
Covey Hall (perhaps a historic mistake in transcription for Coney Hall) and Home Farm had been in the hands of Thomas Matthews senior from around 1837. It was an ancient farm and was owned by the Whittaker family of Trottscliffe/Barming from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas Whittaker bequeathed it to Edward and Constantine Wood in 1817.

Opposite the Bull inn next to the corner shop were two small cottages occupied by Thomas Stallwood and John Moore (tithe nos. 242-3). In a court case in 1850 John Moore stated that he had built them, one eight years ago and the other about two years ago, but they were owned by his brother [William].<sup>3</sup> The Bull was an ancient inn, rebuilt several times, the last in 1878.

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<sup>3</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 16 April 1850.

## High Street



## *The main village*

<b>Title no.</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Inhabitants</b>
393	Toll gate	[keeper] + John Cogger +4
397	Rectory	Henry Dampier Phelps + 3
240	[The Old Bull]	William Kilpin (grocer) +4
401-2	Snodland Street (S)	William Gorham (delivery officer) + 7
401-2	Snodland Street (S)	Alexander Gorham (tallow chandler) + 4
234-7	[Gorham's Cottages] (N)	Thomas Bateman (papermaker) + 1
234-7	[Gorham's Cottages] (N)	Frederick Boorman (papermaker) + 5
234-7	[Gorham's Cottages] (N)	John Capon (lime lab.) + 4
234-7	[Gorham's Cottages] (N)	William Austin (lime lab.) + 2
403-12?	Snodland Street (?)	Joseph Bateman (grocer) + 4
403-12	[Hadlow's Cottages] (S)	William Mecoy (cordwainer) + 4
403-12	[Hadlow's Cottages] (S)	Nicholas Tiesdall (ag. lab.) + 7
403-12	[Hadlow's Cottages] (S)	Solomon Burgess (ag. lab.) + 4
403-12	[Hadlow's Cottages] (S)	George Manley (ag. lab.) + 5
403-12	[Hadlow's Cottages] (S)	Edward Dartnall (cordwainer) + 4
403-12	[Hadlow's Cottages] (S)	Armigill Hadlow (ex bargeman; independent) + 2
232-3	Snodland Street (N)	John How (ag. lab.) + 5
232-3	Snodland Street (N)	Thomas Goldsmith (ag. lab.) + 9
227-9	[Mulberry Cottage] (N)	Edward Baker (barge owner) + 2
227-9	[Mulberry Cottage] (N)	James Weeden (paper maker) + 1
227-9	[Mulberry Cottage] (N)	Catherine Park (independent) + 1

217	Snodland Street (N)	Capon
218	Snodland Street (N)	William Austin (carpenter) + 2
219	Snodland Street (N)	John Wingate (paper maker) + 5
413	Red Lion (S)	John Orpin
216	Snodland Street (N)	Frances Brown (independent)
215	Snodland Street (N)	Ann Pearson (independent) + 2
439	[Acacia Cottage] (S)	John Clark (papermaker master) + 9
214	Snodland Street (N)	Ann Gooding (independent)
213	Snodland Street (N)	Henry Gurney (paper maker) + 4
211	Snodland Street (N)	John Baker (lime lab.) + 3
210	Snodland Street (N)	Jeremiah Healey (papermaker) + 1
209	Snodland Street (N)	William Kemp (ag. lab.) + 2
208	Snodland Street (N)	Elizabeth Dartnall (independent) + 3
207	Snodland Street (N)	George Fissenden (ag. lab.) + 3

Much of the main village shown on the tithe map comprised old houses which had seen better days and which were in urgent need of replacement. On the north side of the High Street just Gorham's cottages (nos. 234-7) and the mediaeval hall house (nos. 227-9) survived into the twentieth century, but the others were replaced during the 1850s-60s, as noted later.

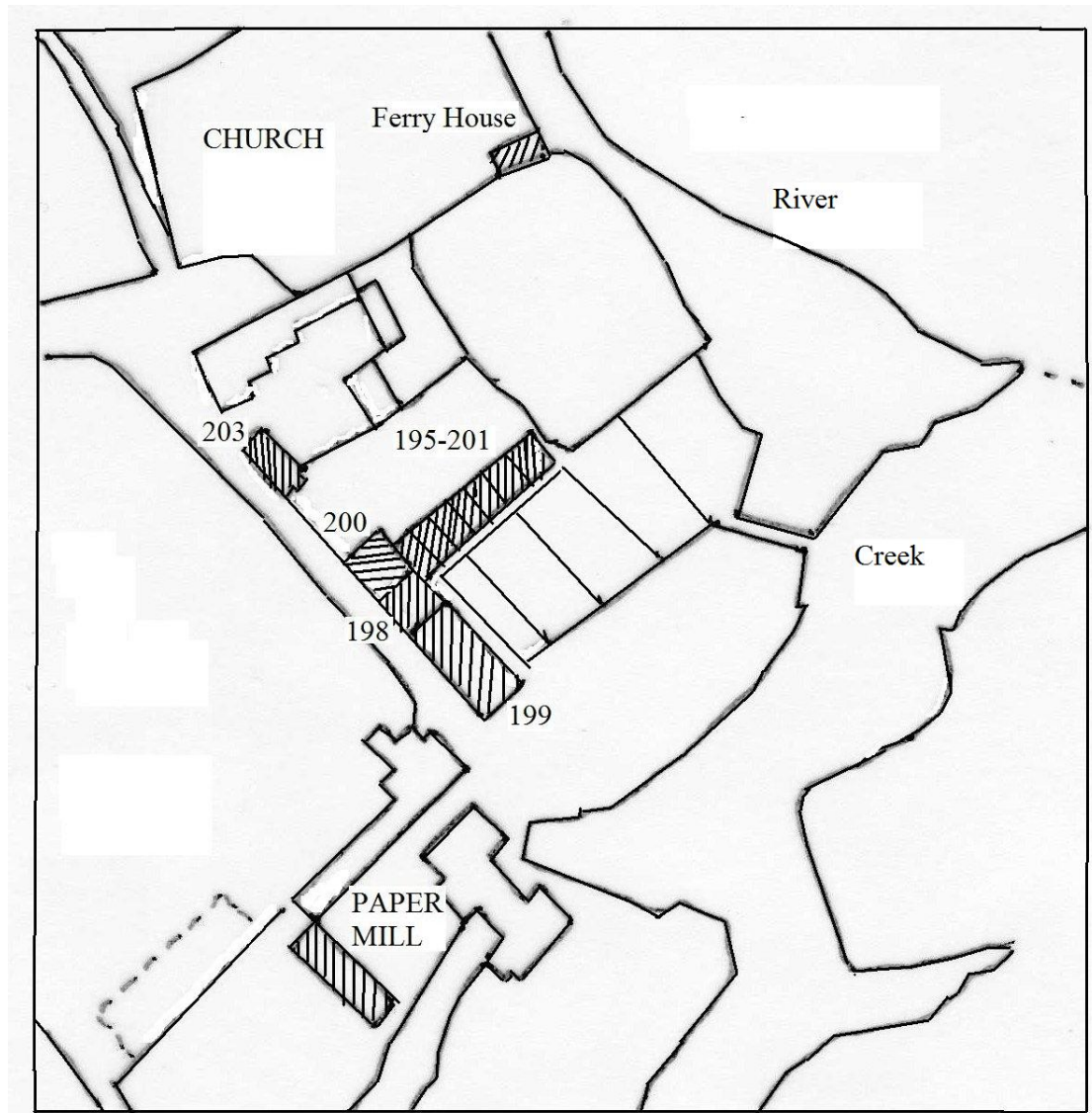


*Painting dated 1864, probably by Agnes Darlington Hook.*

*On the left is tithe no. 401, demolished in 1882 to make way for the New Jerusalem church, and on the right two of the former Gorham's cottages (tithe nos. 234-7).*



## Snodland Wharf

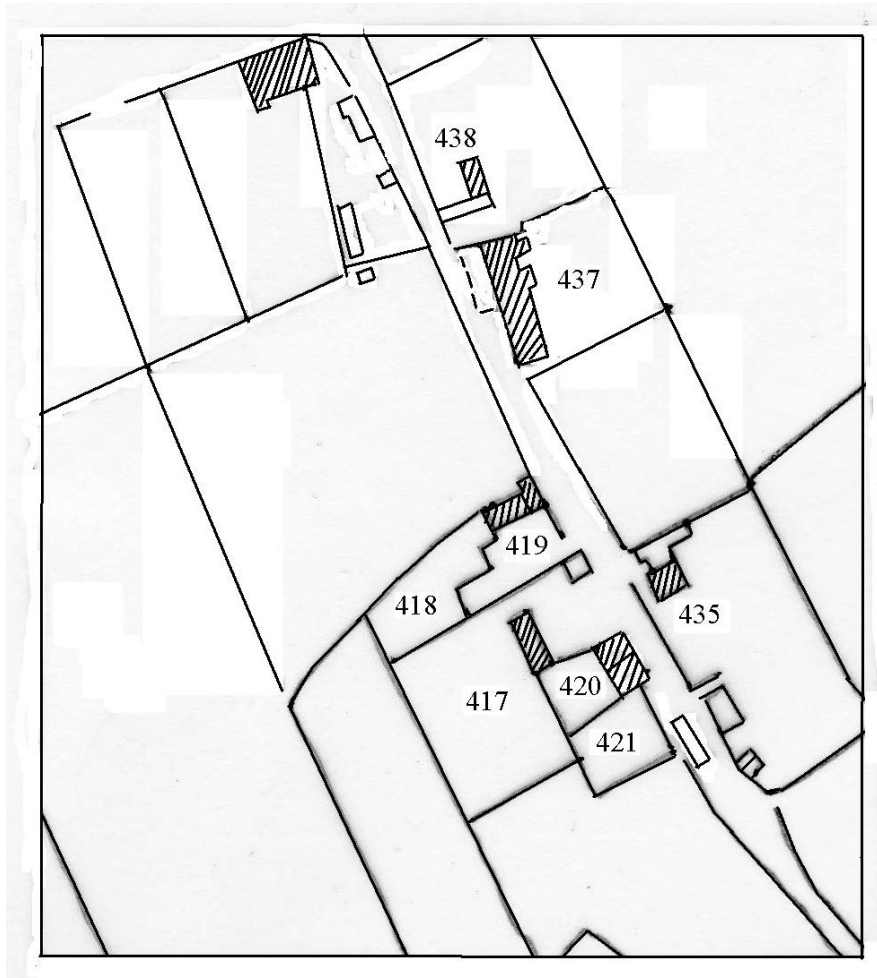


203	[Court Lodge]	John Orpin (ag. lab.) + 3
195-201	Snodland Wharf	Mary Boorman + 1 Thomas Eason (papermaker) Albion Jones (papermaker)
195-201	Snodland Wharf	[3 unoccupied]
195-201	Snodland Wharf	John Bateman + 5 [two lodgers are papermakers]
200	Snodland Wharf	Thomas Kidwell (papermaker) + 1
444	[Paper mill house?]	James Clark (papermaker) + 9
195-201	Snodland Wharf	John Weedon (paper lab.) + 4

The Court Lodge began life as the manor house of Veles. A family of that name is documented in Snodland during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and the manor of Veles covered most of the parish. By 1841 the estate had diminished to the area bordering the river and in 1818 had been split into two parts, one (as shown on the map)

for the mill and wharf and the other remaining as a 15 acre farm. Six houses in Wharf Row are mentioned in a deed of 1795 and no doubt the papermaker owners increased the number to nine in ensuing years for housing their workers. (Some of the numbers shown are for the gardens as well as the houses.) That of Thomas Kidwell (tithe no. 200) was licensed as a Non-Conformist Chapel in 1824 and continued to be used as such until a new chapel was built in Holborough Road in 1855.

### Brook Street



438	Brook Lane	Henry Hawks (ag. lab.) + 8
437	[School house]	John Cogger (schoolmaster) [to 1842] Edward Jupp [from 1842]
418-19	Brook Lane	John Gorham (ag. lab.) + 5
418-19	Brook Lane	William Mecoy (papermaker) + 5
435	Brook Lane	Thomas Wray (carrier) + 3
417	Brook Lane	Charlotte Faulkner (independent) + 1
420-1	Brook Lane	James Baker (lime lab.) + 3
420-1	Brook Lane	William Hadlow (ag. lab.) + 5

All the houses in Brook Street were old in 1841, although the school building had been renovated and modified in the late 1830s.

### Farms and related buildings in the rest of the parish

247-251	Paddlesworth Lane	William Waterman (ag. lab.) + 1 William Gowar (farmer)
247-251	Paddlesworth Lane	Edward Hawks (ag. lab.) + 3 William Adams (ag. lab)
247-251	Paddlesworth Lane	James Crowhurst (ag. lab.) + 4
247-251	Paddlesworth Lane	James Peters (lime burner) + 5
247-251	Paddlesworth Lane	William Vallum (ag. lab.) + 2 Thomas Fairman (ag. lab.) + 3
247-251	Paddlesworth Lane	James How (ag. lab.) + 4

Originally an L-shaped building called Bennet's Place (Thomas Bennet d.1461) and descending through the Hall and Brown families, it was bought by Thomas Stephens, farmer at Paddlesworth, and was converted to five cottages for his labourers c.1821.



254	Cox's Farm	James Lock (bailiff) + 4 William Walker (ag. lab.) + 1 George, Richard, and William Mills (ag. labs)
317-319	[Cox's Farm Cottages]	James Capon (ag. lab.) + 7
317-319	[Cox's Farm Cottages]	Charles Webster (ag. lab.) + 1
310	[Coney Hall cottage]	[1 unoccupied]
317-319	[Cox's Farm Cottages]	William Hawks (ag. lab.) + 4

Cox's, or Woodlands Farm was called 'Newhouse' in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and documents survive showing it was extant by the mid-fifteenth century. In 1841 it was owned by Thomas Luck of the Hermitage, West Malling and then descended to his son Edward. The isolated Coney Hall cottage on Whitedyke Road belonged to Covey Hall farm (formerly owned by Thomas Whittaker, but in 1841 by Constantine and Edward Wood).

	[Mark Farm]	George Masters (ag. lab.) + 7
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Mark Farm was of great antiquity, its name signifying its position on the boundary between the parishes of Snodland and Paddlesworth.

	Paddlesworth	Thomas Stephens (farmer) + 3 George Mungham (ag. lab.) James Wilcox (ag. lab.) James Rosebridge (ag. lab.) William Mulocks (ag. lab.) James King (ag. lab.)
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In 1841 Paddlesworth was still an independent parish – and remained so until 1888. The farm was owned by Thomas Stephens [I] (1770-1835) and then his son Thomas [II] (1799-1878).

12	Punish Crown Lodge	Michael Lane (woodreeve) + 2
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The house was probably built around 1819 when the Crown bought woods on the downs and Lane was appointed to look after them.

	Punish	William Loft (ag. Lab.) + 7 Joseph Francis (ag. Lab.) + 1
	Punish	Henry Allwork (ag. lab.) + 9
	Punish Farm	Richard Postans (farmer) + 4
	Punish Farm	Thomas Spain (ag. lab.)

Another farm of great antiquity, named after the Povenashe family, known to have been in Snodland in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1841 it was owned by William Tidd who had bought it from the Earls of Romney in 1808 and the farmer was Richard Postans.

	Pomphrey	Charles Letchford (ag. lab.) + 7 Henry Harris (ag. lab.)
	Pomphrey	John Chapman (ag. lab.) + 4 John Bassett
	Pomphrey	Richard Cassum (ag. lab.) + 7

Pomphrey/Pomphrey Castle high on the downs above Dode was a group of farm cottages, apparently serving Great Buckland farm (in Luddesdown) rather than Punish.

80	Ladd's farm	Solomon Brice (farmer) + 7 George Wingate (ag. lab.) William Town (ag. lab.) George Waters (ag. lab.) David Curd (ag. lab.)
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The Ladd family is known to have been in Snodland in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1841 the farm was owned by Edward and Constantine Wood, who had inherited it from the estate of Thomas Whittaker (d.1817).

## The 1850s

Although the 99 families listed in 1841 had grown to 129 in 1851 it is not possible to work out where the extra people lived. The closure of the paper mill for some time and consequent migration of workers mean that few names in the two censuses match up as one would have hoped. Only sixteen new houses were built in the parish in the ten years



to 1851. One of these was Thomas Fletcher Waghorn's house, known as 'The Lodge', which had been completed by February 1842. Another was the ferry house, completed by 1844, which was partly funded by Henry Dampier Phelps, the Rector, as a means of monitoring uncouth workers who were inclined to disturb his services in the parish church. He wrote:

For time immemorial a Foot Path had existed thro' the Church Yard to the River: & was no nuisance, till the Houses by the Paper Mill were let to a Lime Burner over the River for his Labourers. Then the number constantly passing, at all hours, & their shouting to call the Ferryman became so very annoying on the Sunday during Divine Service, that I determined to stop the Path, or turn it farther from the Church. Stop the Path entirely, I found could not be done. I then tried to change the direction of the Path to the outside of the North Wall of the Church Yard; but the Owner of the Land would not consent to it. I then made a similar trial to the Person who had let the Houses & whose premises ran down to the River on the South side, but he also refused. I was then compelled to turn the Path under the South fence of the Church Yard, down to a piece of Glebe at the bottom near the River & to fence it off. This I did: & assisted Edward Baker to build a House on my Glebe to be near his work, & to keep all things quiet. The Oak fence & my assistance to Baker cost me about £100. The rest of the expense was borne by him: to whom I promised as long a Lease as I could grant, on gaining the Bishop's consent: and that he should pay me Five Pounds per an.: as Rent for the Glebe & my share of the building One half of which I intend to give to the support of the Sunday School. The Bishop hitherto / 1848 / has not given his sanction.<sup>4</sup>

Elsewhere it seems some housing in Holborough underwent changes and the Moore family added to the group they owned on the west side of Holborough Road, but little else is recorded.



*The ferry house*

The planned Strood to Maidstone railway received Parliamentary assent in 1853 and it appears that some Snodland parishioners were aware that this could bring prosperity not only to the village, but to them personally. Furthermore the lime works had been bought by William Lee in 1846 and ownership of the paper mill passed to the Hook family in 1855, setting both enterprises on a secure footing. Soon after he arrived as victualler at the *Red Lion* in 1844, **William Kingsnorth** purchased a two-acre field (tithe no. 442)

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<sup>4</sup> Notebook 'A', Snodland Historical Society collection at Snodland Museum.

from the paper mill owner, Thomas Spong.<sup>5</sup> Kingsnorth retired from the *Red Lion* in the early 1850s. The field was well-chosen, for in due course the South Eastern Railway planned to run through the middle of it, and compensation was then due from them. Kingsnorth built his own house, Green Meadow Villa, on the west side of the field and on the east, fronting Mill Street, sixteen houses for workers, from whom he could collect rents.

From 1856 the railway itself provided a station, in which the stationmaster and his family lived, together with a cottage for the crossing-keeper. More enterprise was shown with the decision to build a good hotel nearby to serve travellers using the railway. Thomas Poynder owned the land and the Queen's Head was designed by a Mr. Clifton and built by J. G. Naylar, alderman and sometime mayor of Rochester. A grand opening took place on 19 June 1857 with a dinner provided by Thomas Castle and his wife, whom Poynder had persuaded to leave the Five Bells at Halling to become hosts of his new hotel. Poynder noted that

Fears had been expressed in some quarters that the establishment might prove rather too extensive for the place, but in these days of progress, now that the railway had been brought to their doors, and improvements were being carried forward all around them, he thought they might reasonably hope that those fears would not be found to be well grounded.<sup>6</sup>

There is no doubt that this was a superior building to any of the other inns in the parish and it soon became the venue of choice for meetings and societies. On more than one occasion in the 1860s Alderman Naylar used it for dinners of The City of Rochester Building Society (later The City of Rochester Permanent Benefit Building Land and Investment Society) of which he was chairman.

Stretching to the west of the Queen's Head was land acquired by **John Goodhugh** (1735-1834) from Robert, Earl of Romney in 1808. In 1788 the village 'poor house' had been built on the site, with the 'New Poor House' added later. It is likely that these are the buildings shown on the tithe map within the numbers 207-212, but in 1838 the establishment of regional workhouses made their original purpose redundant and they became available for normal use. The *Queen's Head* was built on the site of the New Poor House and the others had gone by the mid-1860s at the latest.

Immediately to the west were tithe nos. 212-13, one rented by a sequence of papermakers, the other by Ann Gooding (1777-1860), a laundress from Marlborough, Wiltshire, and her lodger Philip Hawks, a gardener.

Next were two old houses (tithe nos. 215-16) occupied by two sisters: Ann Pearson (1772-1847), widow of William, a shoemaker, and Frances Brown, who in the 1820s had managed the Bull Hotel. In 1863 the Vestry minute book remarks on the 'dangerous state of cottages, late the property of William Pearson' and they must have been demolished soon after to make way for Delamere House and its grounds.

Tithe nos. 217-224 and the associated orchard (no. 188) were owned by William Austin (1775-1842), a carpenter, and they passed to his wife Mary (1779-1859) at his death. At the 1841 census the four houses were occupied by Thomas Bateman, Frederick Boorman and two other papermaker lodgers, John Capon and three papermaker lodgers, and William Austin. By the 1844 tithe the occupants had become 'Capelin' [John Capon], William Austin, William Kemp, and Elizabeth Dartnell and her son William. These houses were demolished, probably in the 1860s, and were replaced by a baker's shop and

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<sup>5</sup> Shown as 'Land sold to William Kingsnorth' on an 1847 map of the mill area: SMM: THA.

<sup>6</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 23 June 1857.

bakehouse, the *Victory* public house, and a large grocer's shop. These new properties were certainly present by 1867 and the whole development may have arisen because Eustace Hook, the youngest son of the paper mill owners, required his own house at his coming of age. On 21 November 1865 Eustace bought the orchard and perhaps the whole property from William and Frances Austin, children of William and Mary, so it is quite likely that the new shops were all part of the re-development. Eustace built *Delamere House* in the former orchard, the alley on the west was extended to create a drive-way to it, and the site of the former poor houses became part of the garden.

On the south side of the High street two houses were transferred from Thomas Banfield (recorded in Snodland 1808-1815) to Armigill Hadlow (1772-1842), a bargeman, on 30 October 1822.<sup>7</sup> (These were replaced by the present nos. 74-78, built for Eliza Thomas, Armigill's daughter, in 1878.) Hadlow subsequently built four more houses on the land, which were in place by 1829 when he made his will. Two of these remain as Nos. 88 and 88a; the other two were behind and were demolished in mid-twentieth century.



*The two surviving houses built before 1829 for Armigill Hadlow*

One person it is difficult to place in the 1841 census is the grocer Joseph Bateman. Brother of Thomas, who was living in Gorham's Cottages, he was only in Snodland between 1837 and 1842, before moving to Aylesford. His shop and home may have been part of Hadlow's group, but this is unclear.

Another who began building around 1853 was **George Gorham** (1794-1861), a butcher living at Prospect Cottage in Holborough Road, and a member of a prominent local family. In 1836 the death of the owner enabled him to acquire a considerable amount of land attached to the property when it was auctioned—he already occupied it all.<sup>8</sup> Lot 1 was 'A Most substantially Brick-built WINDMILL, situated in the parish of Snodland, by the side of the high road leading from Rochester and Strood to Malling, driving two of French stones, with going gear complete, abundant stowage room, and every requisite accommodation for carrying on an extensive trade, ... and surrounded by two acres (more or less) of rich arable land.'. The mill was 'unoccupied' in 1837 and was taken down and moved to Gillingham in 1839, leaving the field empty (Tithe 267). In due course Gorham engaged a builder, John Roots, of Luton, Chatham, to build houses on

<sup>7</sup> Banfield is recorded in 1808 to 1815 in the tax assessments by the Churchwardens.

<sup>8</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 30 August 1836.

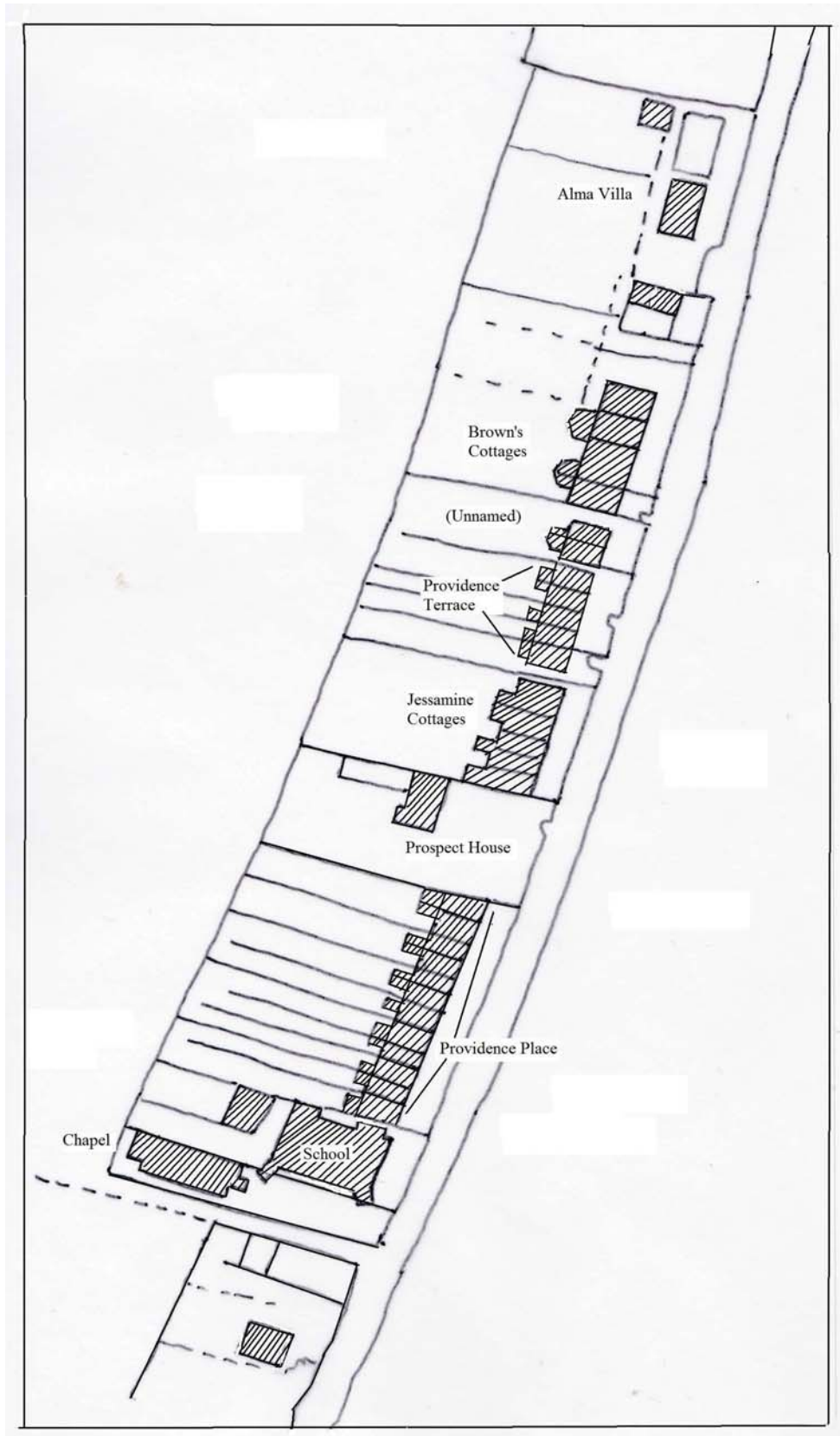
the field. An indenture of 3 May 1853 (mentioned in another of 9 May 1861<sup>9</sup>), shows that John Roots, brickmaker, sold part of Windmill Field to Joseph Bateman of Aylesford, grocer, and in due course this was acquired by Thomas William Peters who built five houses on it.<sup>10</sup> Those five houses are Jessamine Cottages (with three more behind them added a little later). Bateman's family was Non-Conformist, and part of the land was set aside for a chapel to replace the one beside the paper mill, and for a British School whose ethos served those not belonging to the established Church of England.<sup>11</sup> The 1861 census lists seven houses as 'Bateman's Row', but it is not clear which these are—most probably they are part of what is now 'Providence Place'. 'Alma Villa' (now no. 157) is also listed, together with another nine properties in the same field. The 1867 Ordnance Survey map shows the whole field was built upon by then, now including the substantial 'Prospect House', later known as 'Bryncree'. One problem is the identification of thirteen houses named as 'Prospect Place' in the 1861 census, where the group on the east of Holborough Road shown on the 1867 map (which still survives with its stone name-plaque) comprises only ten properties.

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<sup>9</sup> MALSC: 1200/DE 1171.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> See p. 115.



Windmill Field in 1867  
(names taken from the 1871 census)

George Gorham also owned Lot 2 in the auction: Pond Field (Tith 368) bounding Birling Road and Constitution Hill, as well as a smaller plot on the North side of

Constitution Hill (Tithe 152-3). George died on 14 November 1861, presumably having already sold the land to Roots. In 1853-4 Roots had taken lodgings as tenant to William Day in Thomas Waghorn's house and was actively building houses on Pond Field. Unfortunately he went bankrupt on January 19 1855 and had to cease operations. His assets were sold at various ensuing auctions, the first on 28 February 1855. This offered

All those ten brick-built COTTAGES, with slated roofs, known by the name of "Constitution Hill" (six of which are in an unfinished state.) Each cottage contains two sitting-rooms, washhouse, and cellar. Also a small newly- erected Cottage, situate at the bottom of the brickfield there, together with the said Brickfield, which, with the sites of the said cottages, contains about 2A. 3R. 33P. of land, with an inexhaustible supply of brick earth, and now used for the manufacture of bricks. ... The finished cottages produce a rental of £37 per annum, and are now occupied. ...<sup>12</sup>

A second auction, on 28 March 1855 concerned the brick-making stock:

The whole of the STOCK, implements and utensils in trade, by order of the assignees of Mr. John Roots, Brickmaker (a Bankrupt,) on the premises, at the SNODLAND BRICKFIELD, without reserve,

Consisting of about 70,000 stock bricks, 200,000 place bricks, 3 pug mills, 9 bearing off barrows, 10 crowding ditto, 32 lengths of wrought iron wheeling plates, wood planks, wash mill, iron pump, quantity of slates, reed hurdles, shutes, scrys, brick wagon, moulding tables, brick boards, iron and wood harrows, quantity of ashes, tools and implements in trade and other effects.<sup>13</sup>

Evidently some of this failed to attract buyers and a third attempt was made at the Bull Inn, Snodland, on 5 September 1855 to auction thirteen lots:

Seven valuable and desirable pieces of BUILDING GROUND, six carcasses of tenements or dwelling-houses, a tenement or cottage and garden, a very valuable piece of land, containing about 2 acres, and having a great depth of valuable brick earth, and the materials of a wash mill and a cast iron pump and gear.

The property is freehold, with frontage to the high roads leading to Meopham and Birling, within a short distance of an intended station of the Strood and Maidstone Railway, and to a wharf on the river Medway.<sup>14</sup>

There had been some sympathy for Roots at the bankruptcy hearing on 21 April 1855 'the failure having arisen in some measure from unavoidable loss, a heavy fall having occurred in the price of bricks and other building materials just after Roots had laid in a considerable stock'.<sup>15</sup>

It would appear that Gorham next turned to John Tomlin, a builder from Wrotham (and later Maidstone), who in the next few years built some 55 houses on Pond Field. By the time of the 1861 census a dozen of these houses in 'Birling Lane' were occupied, together with about 18 more on the present Constitution Hill, but by 1867 the rest had been built.

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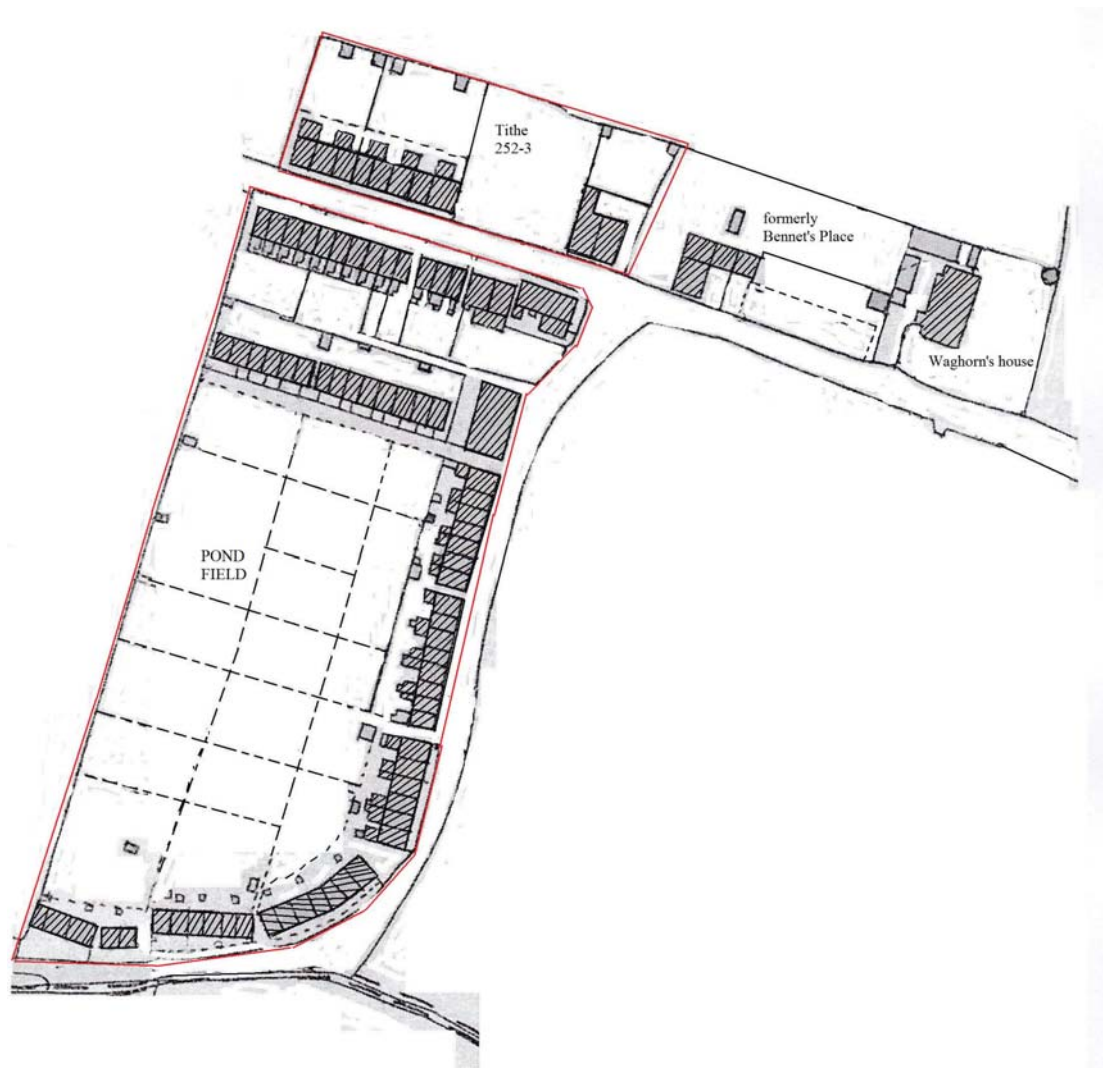
<sup>12</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 6 February 1855.

<sup>13</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 20 and 27 March 1855.

<sup>14</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 4 September 1855.

<sup>15</sup> *The Morning Post*, 23 April 1855.





## The 1860s

### Drainage problems and solutions

However, between 1865 and 1869 Tomlin was repeatedly summoned to attend meetings of the Highways Board at West Malling in connection with a 'nuisance' emanating from drains to these houses. Local newspapers first reported it on 18 November 1865:

The surveyor reported a very serious nuisance on property belonging to Mr. Tomlin, late of Wrotham and now of Maidstone, where 55 houses and cottages on Constitution-hill, Snodland, had no cesspool, but the drainage ran into the road. The nuisance had existed eight or nine years, and some drain pipes had been laid down, but were most inefficient, as they only conveyed the water to the corner of the road, and the rest ran across to the injury of the road. There was also another cause of complaint. One of the cottagers had dug a drain with a pick-axe across the road without any pipes whatever. The drain was only five or six inches deep and the water ran across the road.

Mr. Pierson, waywarden, (Snodland), said he had seen the soap suds running across the road. There was no cesspool at all.

Mr. Dickenson (surveyor) said that one of the cottager's wives told him the water ran into her house, and her husband was obliged to make the drain in order to get rid of it. [Tomlin was called and said he had spoken to the previous waywarden, Mr.

Kingsnorth, 'who said he had better put in a drain to carry it off into the ditch.' Kingsnorth denied this. The Board gave Tomlin a short time to find a solution.]<sup>16</sup>

In an ill-timed move the Malling Guardians had just voted against improvements to drainage in parishes under their control, but their stance was attacked by the vicar of Birling, Edward Vesey Bligh, and Rev. Carey, Rector of Snodland:

From J. Gaspard le M. Carey, Rector of Snodland:

Sir, I should not be doing Justice to myself, or to my people, if I took no notice of Mr. Bligh's clear and explicit letter on the nuisance question, which appeared in your impression of November 20<sup>th</sup>. I am exceedingly obliged to him, and can assure him that if the sanitary condition of Birling be deplorable, that of Snodland is no better. I could not have supposed, till I saw it with my own eyes, that the lust of gold would have gone so far. Men build houses here without wells, and without drains; with open cesspools, and with open drains; with the drains of one block of houses running under the open sinks of another block of houses, and sending up their vapours through them; with closets in the closest possible proximity to the houses, crowded, and not cleaned for eighteen or more months at a time. The demand for labour, moreover, is such that the poor labouring man has no escape. He must take the house which offers itself, or lose his bread.

Are these rapacious landlords murderers, or not? When diphtheria and typhoid fever carry off their victims in these foul places, and now a mother saturated over her home duties with the poison which her husband at the lime-works or paper-mill escapes, and now her tender babe, drawing at each innocent breath a deadly draught, are sacrificed and die, will the landlord have nothing to answer for as he meets them in another world? "But he did not murder them intentionally." No! but if by wilful and prolonged neglect he compasses their death, is he not responsible?

If the case of the landlord, however, be so bad, what shall be said of the Board of Guardians, who are aiders and abettors in this wholesale waste of life? It seems a mockery to call them "Guardians" any longer. They are the destroyers of the poor people whose misfortune it is to be placed in their hands. I am told that at the Board-meeting, at which this question was so sadly and painfully settled, the argument on which one speaker rested his opposition was, that if the request of the confederate parishes were granted, every parish in the union would demand the same concession! Surely there must have been some sitting by, who wished that speaker's tongue had never been loosed. Why, sir, this is the whole matter. The cry is universal, because the evil is so great; and no parish that has any regard for human life would do otherwise than, through its officers, claim the removal of these fatal poisons.

But the Board of Guardians may rest assured that their triumph in favour of disease and death will be shortlived. It will be found, if I mistake not, that we have gained far more than we have lost by the late decision. The attention of the Government will now be drawn to the matter; it will be shown how little, even in intelligent Kent, Boards of Guardians have the real interests of the poor at heart, that which is now permissive will be made imperative; and probably in other matters, over which they have at present a discretionary control, that control will be taken from them. Thus good will come out of evil.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 18 November 1865.

<sup>17</sup> *Maidstone and Kentish Journal*, 30 November 1865. Carey's letter retains the idea that illness was caused by breathing foul air (although John Snow's seminal work on tackling cholera had appeared ten years earlier). Bligh's support for proper drainage and his attack on the Board of Guardians is mentioned in Esme Wingfield Stratford, *This was a man: the biography of the Honourable Edward Vesey Bligh, Diplomat-Parson-Squire* (London, 1949), pp. 191-2



The Guardian for Snodland, C. Townsend Hook, felt he could not let this powerful letter go unchallenged, and pointed out that not all his colleagues were in favour of the motion:

Sir, I have read with much satisfaction the letter of the Rev. E. Bligh on the conduct of the Malling Board of Guardians on the nuisance question. There are numerous cottages in this village in which all the laws of health, from the necessity or ignorance of the inmates, are constantly set at defiance.

It is useless for the poor man to seek his remedy against his landlord. He would soon have to quit, and shift, if possible, to worse quarters.

I am sure that if those members of the Board, who by their votes refused to enforce the law, would have reflected that by so doing they were giving the strongest argument for the abolition of their remaining powers of self-government, to that influential and increasing class who are disgusted with the apathy, the local prejudices, and the obstinacy, which are too often the most conspicuous elements in the proceedings of parish vestries and local boards, the result would have been different. They overlook the real capacity for good work these institutions possess, and are thoughtlessly desirous of sweeping away all our self-governing bodies as so much obstructive rubbish.

I must protest against Mr. Bligh or the public entertaining the idea that Mr. Betts' motion was rejected by any large majority. I am glad to say there were many there who did not at all like to be known among their neighbours in *the words of the official Instructions from the Privy Council*, as those who "had neglected or refused to do their duty."<sup>18</sup>

Soon after John Tomlin was convicted under the 'Nuisances Removal Act':

The defendant was the owner of some fifty or sixty cottages at Snodland, and without permission he dug a drain under the road to a ditch on the opposite side, and consequently filthy water, and sometimes, when pigs were killed, blood flowed across the road.

The district surveyor

Said that in the summer time especially a great nuisance was caused by the waste and refuse water, soap suds, and pigs' blood running from defendant's cottages across the highway. Many complaints had been made, and he had several times spoken to defendant's son on the subject. Defendant had repeatedly promised to remove or abate the nuisance if time was allowed him.

Defendant said there was no nuisance. He went on Saturday week to the premises in company with W. Lee Esq., M.P., Mr. Pierson, and other gentlemen, and they all agreed that there was no nuisance. If there was anything to complain of it was only a little waste water, and he was quite willing to build a cesspool when the weather permitted.

He was fined £1 and costs, which he paid.<sup>19</sup>

At the end of 1866 a further problem was brought to Tomlin's attention and a committee was formed to consider it:

[They] had examined and inspected the road and had taken exact admeasurement, and they were of the opinion that Mr Tomlin had encroached upon the public road. They had been informed by Mr Kingsnorth, who some time since held the office of Surveyor of the roads, that at the time the cottages were built he told Mr Tomlin, or his son that he was encroaching upon the public roads, but no notice was taken. There was a great deal of traffic from Addington, Ryarsh, Malling, and other places

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<sup>18</sup> *Maidstone and Kentish Journal*, 4 December 1865.

<sup>19</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 10 February 1866.

to the Snodland railway station, and they were of opinion that Mr Tomlin should be required to remedy the evil complained of, and that failing to do so, proceedings should be taken against him by the Board.<sup>20</sup>

Nothing more is heard of this and one guesses that Tomlin could not or would not demolish the offending houses. In April the Board decided to take no further action against Tomlin, presumably for this infringement.<sup>21</sup> However the 'nuisance' had not gone away and in 1868 he was summoned to West Malling Petty Sessions

for neglecting to conform to an order for the removal of a nuisance in some of his cottages at Snodland.

Mr Alfred Hoppe, inspector of nuisances, said that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March he found a great stench arising from a drain running under the washhouses of 21 cottages of Mr. Tomlin. He served Mr. Tomlin with a notice for its removal, but he afterwards found that nothing had been done to abate the nuisance. He laid that information before the last board meeting, and he was directed to take the present proceedings. Mr. Tomlin, in reply to the information, said that it was impossible to find cottages in a better condition than those complained of. He had done all he could to remedy the drainage, but as he was compelled to drain into a ditch he was unable to make matters better. [Tomlin was ordered to pay costs and to attend the next vestry meeting]<sup>22</sup>

In all the proceedings the Highways Board continued to tell Tomlin to correct the problem, but never offered support or advice as to how he could achieve this. Eventually Rev. Carey made a formal complaint 'of the foul state of the drains in Mr. Tomlin's property at Snodland':

Mr Tomlin has laid out a great deal of money in building the cesspools near the cottages at Snodland, but they are still likely to overflow into the road. The premises are in a worse state than ever, and will be likely to be a nuisance in the summer.

Mr Woollett thought the gentleman ought to manage better, seeing he was a builder and an architect.

Mr Hoppe—He has done all his skill can devise, and spent a good many pounds.

Mr. Dickins—He could divert the overplus water.

Mr Carey—The cesspools are like great graves behind the houses, and will very likely cause serious results in the summer.<sup>23</sup>

The Surveyor said the nuisance was more than ever.

A waywarden had not seen much the matter at the place. Mr Tomlin had laid out a great deal of money, and had tried his best to prevent any nuisance.

The Surveyor never saw such a bad place, as the manure flowed on to the road.

A waywarden wished to know if the surveyor could not point out a remedy.

The Surveyor said it was not his place to find a remedy, and Mr. Carey had made the complaint.

Mr Tomkin though Mr Tomlin ought to have a proper cesspool and thus prevent the nuisance.

The Surveyor said the manure ran along the side of the hedge, and passed under an arch, where the poor people were obliged to get their water for drinking purposes.

It was a very foul cesspool, and contained manure from about sixty houses.

The Clerk stated that the Highway Board had nothing to do with it, unless the road was injured, and the surveyor had said the water ran under the road. If it was a nuisance to the public the Board could interfere.

The Surveyor—It is very offensive to passengers, and looks and smells dreadful.

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<sup>20</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 26 January 1867. The road narrows can be seen on the map.

<sup>21</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 20 April 1867.

<sup>22</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 4 April 1868.

<sup>23</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 20 January 1869.

A lengthy discussion followed and it was proposed ... that the Clerk write to Mr Tomlin ... informing him that unless the nuisance is removed within a fortnight, a summons will be issued against him.<sup>24</sup>

One final meeting covered much the same ground:

The Chairman—Does the soil run on to the road?

Mr Hoppe—It runs on the side of the road.

The Clerk—It belongs to the highway, and is part of the road. It is a piece of waste land used for stones, and the surveyor should see it kept right. ...

The Chairman—Have many persons complained?

Mr Hoppe—The general public complain of it, and Mr Tomlin has no power to keep it clean.

Mr Carey—The soil runs from 52 cottages.

The Chairman—One or two of the waywardens think the complaint a frivolous one, but the inspector is of a different opinion.

Mr Carey—It is a great nuisance, and injurious to the children.

Mr Hoppe—Mr Tomlin covers it with dirt to hide the nuisance.

The Chairman—The question is, should Mr Luck, the owner of the land adjoining, or the Highway Board, remove it.

Mr Hoppe—The case has been before the Board ever since I have been in office.

A Guardian said proceedings had been taken against Mr Tomlin; the case fell through and the Board had to pay £12 costs.

The Board requested Mr Hoppe to endeavour in the best way he could, to have the nuisance removed.

On 15 January 1870 ‘Mr Hoppe reported that the nuisance at Snodland was abated, as Mr Tomlin had done all he possibly could.’<sup>25</sup> A report of an accident to the night soil cart on 17 January 1874 is a reminder that this service, although rarely mentioned, was routine at the time.

Wells and pumps were normal features in Snodland, each serving a few houses, and are shown on the first large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1867. In 1877-8 it was decided that a drainage scheme should be drawn up for Snodland, noting that ‘the principal owners of property had already put in drains at a considerable expense’. A letter by a local doctor sets out in some detail what he felt was needed:

Now as regards Snodland, which depends for any sanitary or unsanitary appliances which it possesses upon the arrangements made for each separate or row of houses, we have so far a more simple question to deal with. We have no imperfect systems to disentangle before endeavouring to design the method most proper for our purpose. Snodland is a long, straggling village, with but few houses in comparison with the amount of ground occupied, low lying by the river side, at the foot of a range of hills plentifully supplied with natural springs, but nevertheless most abominably provided with ure water for drinking purposes, the sources being from wells which from the nature of the subsoil are shallow, collecting nought but subsoil water, and that necessarily polluted by all manner of abominations.

The question then, from the nature of the place and its capabilities as regards expense, gradually narrows itself into a choice of necessities to avoid evils of greater or lesser magnitudes. A main sewer to convey away the surface and slop waters would be very costly, and to remove the excreta also would necessitate water-closets, which when constructed at great cost, would be scarcely suitable for a population mostly of the cottage class, and although the sewage might be conveyed away we must not forget that our water supply would still be as impure, if not much more impure than ever. For no sewers can be so constructed but that they will allow subsoil water in and sewage water out, and thus

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<sup>24</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 22 May 1869.

<sup>25</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*.

while the sewage and surface water would be got rid of, rendering the air in the dwellings more pure, the water would be worse and the expense enormous. We should then make the procuring of a good water supply the first consideration, by forming a reservoir under the hills; the drainage would then reduce itself down to the object of keeping the sewage air out of the dwellings, and cesspools under these circumstances would be robbed of the greater half of their deadly effects, while the lesser half would be provided against by the simple method of disconnection. Each house should be provided with a properly constructed closet, after the pattern of our health officer's, Dr. Baylis, while the slop waters will be conveyed away into cesspools thoroughly ventilated and always cut off from the houses, trusting to no form of trap, although taking care to make use of one. The surface water would be conducted in surface gutters to the river, a careful collection of the rain water from the roofs by tanks rendering the quantity generally but small.

SAML. PRALL, M.D., F.R.C.S. West Malling, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1877<sup>26</sup>

In June that year a parish Local Sanitary Committee met to consider a report by the district sanitary inspector on the proposed drainage of Snodland<sup>27</sup> and by September they had decided to proceed:

Snodland. Local Sanitary Committee The above committee, having for some time past had the drainage of the parish before them, have now resolved to thoroughly drain the whole place, for which purpose the committee and ratepayers met at the National School-room on Monday, when Mr. May, the district surveyor, laid before the meeting certain schemes for drainage purposes, with probably cost. It was decided that the matter be at once proceeded with. Improvements have already been made along the Holboro'-road, by the construction of a footpath, and it is to be hoped that the next step will be "Gas in the streets".<sup>28</sup>

With the two leading industrialists in the village always anxious to do what they could for the welfare of the parishioners, Snodland was much better placed to take such decisions than those where there was obstruction caused by intractable management of ancient estates:

The tender of Mr. Ames, of Rochester, for the construction of the first section of the Snodland drainage works, at a cost of £690, including £110 for the settling tank, was accepted. With regard to the Burham drainage scheme, it was stated that the trustees of Earl Aylesford's estate had positively declined to allow the pipes to pass through his lordship's estates, and the matter was allowed to stand over for the present.<sup>29</sup>

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In 1851 **Thomas William Peters** (1817-1905) is first listed in a local directory as a coal merchant. He was the son of Richard (1791-1881) and he describes himself in an advertisement in 1849 as 'late wharfinger at Messrs Poynder & Co.', so clearly had started out working on barges there. The 'new wharf' he advertised was by the paper mill and he himself had moved nearby to Mill Street. Around 1860 Richard Peters built Anchor Place and the eight houses of Hope Terrace next to it. The 1861 census lists him as a 'proprietor of houses'. Anchor Place became the home of Thomas William when it was completed late in 1861.

With the expansion of the paper mill the number of houses in the parish doubled from 87 to 167 in the decade to 1871. **Charles Townsend Hook** was anxious to provide accommodation for his growing workforce and seems to have turned to a fellow

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<sup>26</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 2 April 1877.

<sup>27</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 11 June 1877.

<sup>28</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 24 September 1877.

<sup>29</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 8 July 1878.

Swedenborgian, Joseph Privett, who is first recorded in the village in 1857 at the marriage of his daughter Sarah to an East Malling papermaker, Samuel Fryer.<sup>30</sup> The 1861 census describes Privett as a ‘journeyman carpenter’ and he certainly had travelled much in the course of his work. Births of his children are noted in Cheltenham (1828), Llowes, Radnorshire (1840), Birmingham (1843) and Hythe, Kent (1853). Although no documentary evidence has been found, Privett probably built the fine houses which were on the west side of Brook Street, handsome buildings set back from the road with extensive gardens front and back. Beside them he built one for himself, which later became the home of the resident Swedenborgian minister and which was used for services in the early days of the Society in Snodland.<sup>31</sup>



*The southern terrace of  
five cottages in Brook Street*

It is likely that these houses were built during the late 1850s—early 1860s and they all appear on the 1867 ordnance survey map. Also there is a ‘Fibre or Tin Foil factory’ with four adjacent houses. According to Charles Townsend Hook these four houses were also built by Privett at a cost of £503. 3s. 3d., but the date of their completion is not shown.<sup>32</sup>

The Hook family lived in a house rented from the Rector, Henry Dampier Phelps, who seems to have bought it around 1839-40.<sup>33</sup> After Phelps’s death in 1865 they were able to purchase it from his executors for £409. 12s. 6d., and at the same time spent more on surrounding land and property, particularly on the north side of the High Street where a house was built for Eustace Hook as he reached his maturity. This also provided room for a coachman’s house and stables (£570. 2s. 3d.) and gardener’s house (£292. 9s. 8d.).<sup>34</sup>

William Kingsnorth added the five cottages of Railway Place on his field, fronting the High Street, but much building in this part of the village arose from the selling of a field belonging to the National School. John May’s original bequest included the field on which the schoolmaster could keep livestock, but perhaps the practice had been abandoned, since it was later leased to *The Queen’s Head*. In 1866 Mrs Castle, the proprietor, offered it for sale.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> All Saints, 30 November 1857. At that time there was no Swedenborgian building licensed for services in Snodland.

<sup>31</sup> See p. 120.

<sup>32</sup> THA, *Ledger*, p.233; *Journal* on loan to SMM, p. 30.

<sup>33</sup> KHLC, Q/RP1/346

<sup>34</sup> THA, *Ledger*, p.221; *Journal*, p. 29.

<sup>35</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 21 May 1866.

With the growth of the population provision of a larger school was imperative, as the rector records in *Parochialia*<sup>36</sup>

Mr. Walter Rumble resigned the charge of the school at Easter 1866 and Mr. Tom Hilder of Ightham was appointed to succeed him. The number of the children soon after this time increasing considerably, it was thought desirable to erect larger and more commodious school-buildings, as well as to build a new house. The school was founded by John May Esq. In 1801 who endowed it with 24 acres (nominally) of land. The land produced at the time I saw it £33. 10 per annum. Application was made to the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales to sell the land for the benefit of the school, and after much official delay the sale took place on Wednesday Feb. 27, 1867.

One portion, viz. that in front of the Queen's Head Hotel, hitherto let for £13. 10 per ann, was divided into 25 lots, and sold for £2402. The extent was 2¾ acres (about). The other portion, hitherto let for grazing purposes, situate next the river, and fetching £20 per annum, was sold for £500. Its extent was 16 acres (about). Thus the whole realised £2902.

No plan of the 25 lots has been found, but some are easily identified. On the south of the High Street the building on the corner of May Street was the Post Office until around 1895. Similarities in the pediments and barge-boards of this building with those on the former houses by Privett in Brook Street, suggest he built this too.

Two shops on the east side separate the Post Office from another three-storey building, May Place, beyond them. Evidently the latter was built for Thomas William Peters, who advertised no. 2 to let in March 1868.<sup>37</sup> However, Charles Townsend Hook notes 'Cash [paid to] T Peters for lot 2 £150. 0s. 0d.' on 14 January 1869 and by 13 March it had become the surgery for Snodland's first resident doctor.<sup>38</sup>

On the east side of May Street plots big enough for two or three houses became 1-3 May Cottages; 1-3 Gladstone Place; 1-3 Portland Place; 1-2 Springvale Place; Mons/Mona Cottage; 1-3 Faith Place; 1-3 Western Cottages. The builders and original owners of these are unknown, but the first occupant of 3 Portland Place was a builder, Edward Rowles, and it seems likely that he built at least his terrace, including a passageway large enough for his horse and cart to pass through.



More of a mystery is the wonderfully ornate 'Faith Place', with its date plaque of 1871. 'Faith Place' was possibly built by the Moore brothers, who were leading Non-Conformists and who may have made this a project to advertise their workmanship.

<sup>36</sup> SHS Pamphlet: *Notes from Snodland Rectory 1865-1882* (1992).

<sup>37</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 23 March 1868.

<sup>38</sup> SMM: *THA Journal*, p. 29; *Kent Messenger*, 13 March 1869.

Although the family had been active in Snodland as bricklayers for at least ten years, this may have been one of their first attempts at a finished building. A few years later they built houses in Malling Road, with the same distinctive front railings as here.

It would appear that all the other school plots were bought by Charles Townsend Hook to add to the houses already provided in Brook Street. He also paid for the making of the roads in May Street and East Street, the costs recorded in his *Journal*. These included payments for drains to J. Privett (17 August 1868) and E. Rowles (17 March 1871). The roads are marked on the 1867 map, but without houses. Other work completed by Privett and paid for by Hook includes ‘May Villas’ or ‘Millswood House’, a name derived from the family’s former home at Chalford, Gloucestershire, two superior dwellings for the mill clerk and mill foreman,<sup>39</sup> work on altering and ‘rearranging’ five houses, the mill messroom and storekeeper’s house,<sup>40</sup> seven houses in East Street,<sup>41</sup> and four houses with a workshop on the Brook.<sup>42</sup>

Six more houses were added to the terrace in East Street by the youthful firm of ‘Burgess and Langridge’,<sup>43</sup> because Privett had moved on to Chatham. For these they were paid £775. 19s. 6d. on 15 November 1869. Two more houses on the north side of East Street were named Vine Cottage, for which they received £280. 4s. 7d. on 19 September 1870 and their next recorded work is ‘Long Row’, eighteen houses on the west side of May Street.<sup>44</sup>



*The houses in East Street, seven built by Joseph Privett and six by Burgess and Langridge, Shown shortly before their demolition in 1980*

Charles Townsend Hook’s *Journal* and *Ledger* record his purchase and expenses of many properties, summarized here:

*Veles* [the family home] bought from Mr Phelps £409.12.6. 30 June 1866; alterations till 1868: £2750.12.9. [Rev. Phelps had died on 30 July 1865, and his nephews were his executors]

School Field: 5 lots £724 ‘added to Veles’ July 1 1867; Lot 10: gift to Mrs Hook £70 April 1 1868; Cash T. Peters for lot 2 £150 14 January 1869; land 2 houses £50 March 31 1869

<sup>39</sup> £780. 17s. 9d., paid on 30 June 1868;

<sup>40</sup> £328. 2s. 8d. paid to Privett from £1844. 14s. 4d. spent on purchasing nine cottages and gardens [Snodland Wharf] from Mrs Broad between 24 April 1867 and 26 January 1871: *Journal*, p. 30, *Ledger*, pp. 385-6.

<sup>41</sup> £791. 6s. 5d. paid to Privett on 17 October 1868: *Journal*, p. 30; *Ledger*, p. 233.

<sup>42</sup> £720 paid to Privett on 22 October 1868: *Journal*, p. 30; *Ledger*, p. 233.

<sup>43</sup> Thomas Burgess (c.1845-1889) and Robert Thomas Langridge (1844-1927). The 1871 census shows Burgess as master of three men and one boy.

<sup>44</sup> £2069. 13s. 4d. paid on 19 April 1875.



Fibre or Tin Foil factory £5001.15.8 to 30 June 1871 [This was a venture which failed]

22 July 1872: Thomas Wooding: mortgage for 4 cottages in Church Fields  
Built by Burgess and Langridge between 22 July and 18 December 1876 for £550  
Thomas Wooding lived in one of the five cottages making *Medway Place*, (1881-1891), so perhaps mortgaged the other four.

Coachman's House and stables £570.2.3; Gardener's House £292.9.8 [North side of High Street, with *Delamere*]

Kingsnorth wall [*Journal*, p.407] £13.8.10, 18 Dec.1871 [separates Kingsnorth's field from the May Street properties and prevents a back exit from the May Street houses.]

Coal wharf let to Thomas William Peters from 25 March 1871 at £30 a year.

Charles Gorham's House [next to Veles] £400; purchased 26 May 1873

Church Fields purchased from Poynder £3800, 17 May 1875

Beer House £528.2.1 24 June 1868 [*The Wheatsheaf* in Mill Street]

Purchased 6 cottages from Kingsnorth, 2 July 1875, £1350

New public houses served the growing number of workers in paper and cement. In 1868 Charles Townsend Hook built *The Wheatsheaf* in Mill Street outside the mill entrance and it was let to the Wateringbury brewers F. Leney & Sons for 21 years. But after Charles's death, and because they were avid supporters of the Temperance movement, his sisters closed the beerhouse as soon as the lease expired. On Constitution Hill *The Monk's Head* was open by 1867, while the Moore family of bricklayers diversified, with William Moore describing himself as 'bricklayer and beer retailer' at what became the appropriately-named *Bricklayers Arms* in Holborough Road. The *Prince of Wales* joined the *Rising Sun* as an additional hostelry at Holborough.

## The 1870s

In the mid-1870s a small estate was built between Malling Road (which was still restricted by the tolls) and Birling Road. This estate comprised the 28 houses in Portland Place, 8 more in 'Bottom Row', late re-named as Chapel Road with further houses added later, and two in Bull Fields. With the cessation of the tolls in 1878 a further 25 houses were built on the west side of Malling Road as far as the stream, then the parish boundary with Birling. The remainder of the houses in Malling Road, together with those in Oxford Street and Bramley Road, were gradually added in the years up to 1915, so do not concern us here. More houses were added in Constitution Hill, including Clara Place in 1875 and the Papermakers Arms off-licence next door.

Even earlier, at the Holborough end of the village, William Lee and others were supplying more houses. North of Windmill Field a further 26 houses were built on the west side of Holborough Road, with twelve more called 'Lee's' or 'Victoria Cottages' on the east side. **Richard Peters** added eleven houses on the ground associated with his shop and a terrace of 14 'Orchard Cottages' replaced the buildings of Gilder's Farm east of them.

It is noticeable that with all this building little provision was made for what would be called the middle classes and it was not until late in the century that a number of larger properties were built to satisfy the growing number of professionals, who might perhaps employ one or two servants. As noted earlier both the principal families in Snodland had gained their wealth through commercial activity rather than inheritance and it seems that those they employed were largely content to occupy the new if relatively small houses



built by their masters. Even the Hook family did not enlarge *Veles* their home until after the death of their landlord, the rector, but they then added *Delamere* for the youngest son, Eustace, and *Carisbrooke House* in the grounds of *Veles* for their governess and her sisters. The new papermill manager Colonel Holland, built *Iymeath* in the late 1870s, but soon moved to Tunbridge Wells At Holborough William Lee was one of a family of builders whose cement-making activities allowed him to purchase the estate previously acquired by the lime merchants Poynder and Hobson. His son-in-law William Henry Roberts brought a touch of aristocracy to the family, but they were minor gentry and it was Lee's wealth which sustained them here for three generations.

Elsewhere, within the 1841-1881 time-span we can note *Providence House* and *Alma Villa* in Windmill Field. *Brook House* in Malling Road was the home of a doctor, while *Nephalite Villa* in the High Street, was built by the ferryman Edward Baker. James Brown, a builder from Maidstone, built *Belle Vue Villa* for himself in Holborough Road, on the site of William Wilson's market gardener's house, while Thomas Henry Peters moved into *Anchor Place* in the High Street. For a time Waghorn's house *The Lodge* was owned by William Day, the Maidstone auctioneer, but then passed through a succession of cement foremen and managers. Eventually some superior houses were built facing the cricket meadow (glebe) and later still more were added in Birling parish at the south end of Malling Road.

As early as 1867, and because the paper mill had a gas works, Rev. Carey noted that 'gas was introduced into several shops in the village'. The idea of providing gas street lamps was discussed at a meeting on 9 October 1871, but nothing was done until February 1878 when the three Hook daughters asked for permission 'to break up the roads ... for the purpose of erecting lamps and supplying them with gas free of charge'. The Vestry Sanitary Committee noted 'that the Misses Hook had made a very liberal offer, which, no doubt, would be highly appreciated by the parishioners'.<sup>45</sup> The paper mill supplied gas until 1887 when the mill became a limited company and arrangements had to be modified:

Snodland, 25<sup>th</sup> October 1887

Sirs,

We wish to recall to your minds the promise we made with pleasure nearly ten years ago early in 1878, to put up (with the sanction of the Vestry) some gas lamps in the village and connect them with our then mains, and we have since that time been pleased to bear the expense of keeping the lamps lighted in accordance with our intention then expressed. We have now see fit to transfer our business (including the gas works) to a limited company and owing to this circumstance the promise has expired. The 24<sup>th</sup> of December next appears to us a convenient day for the present arrangements to terminate, but we will ourselves continue to take the responsibility until the time named. In the meantime you can doubtless make arrangements with the directors of the company as to future supply.

We would again express our gratification at having been able to be of this service to the village.

Will you kindly take this as formal notice and you will doubtless at once take the opinion of the Vestry as to the future.

Yours faithfully

Edith Anna Hook  
Maude Midsummer Hook

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<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 16 and 39.

Agnes Darlington Hook

For some years the mill continued supplying gas at a discounted rate of 'four shillings per thousand cubic feet' and they maintained the lamps. Twelve lamps had been given to the parish by the Misses Hook, three by C.T. Hook and Co. Ltd., and six by William Lee, all of which became the property of the parish.<sup>46</sup>

It was not until the 1890s that water was laid on to Snodland, so wells and pumps continued to be the source of supply during the whole of the time being surveyed here. Following Mid Kent Water Orders of 1888 and 1890, works were built at Halling and water was supplied to twelve local parishes, including Snodland, Halling, Burham and Wouldham. The Wouldham scheme was the last to be completed in 1897.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> MALSC: P342/8/1: *Snodland Vestry Book*, letters dated 25 October 1887 from the Misses Hook and 1 December 1887 from the Assistant Overseer at C.T. Hook and Co. Ltd.

<sup>47</sup> See *Mid Kent Water Company: The First Fifty Years*, compiled by H. D. Edwards, Maidstone 1954.

## II: Agriculture, Cement, Paper

### Agriculture

In considering the great changes which industry brought to Snodland, it is important to realize that of necessity the old traditions continued to play an important part in people's lives. Moreover, the owners of the cement companies had vast tracts of land in their care and were themselves as much farmers as industrialists. They often employed others to manage their estates, while they themselves lived as country squires in the principal houses of the district.

A stark reminder that all needed to find ways of feeding themselves at a time when few shops or other facilities were available, comes from the auction of the estate of Snodland's long-serving rector, Henry Dampier Phelps, on 6 September 1865. At the end of a full description of his library and furniture is the following paragraph:

The out-door Effects will include 3 excellent full milch well-bred cows, 2 store pigs, quantity of poultry, stack of capital meadow hay, 4-wheel phaeton, dung cart, quantity of manure, dairy and brewing utensils, wheelbarrow, ladder, hand glasses, quantity of garden tools, and other effects.<sup>1</sup>

The Town Malling Agricultural Association, for the encouragement of servants and agricultural labourers' was one of many such groups established around England. It was founded in 1830 and each year in October or November held a ploughing match, followed by a convivial annual dinner with speeches and entertainment for the farmers and landowners. Prizes were awarded. These were given to the farm servants and covered a variety of tasks: four- and three-horse ploughing competition, the drying of hops, shepherding skills, evidence of long-service, and the rewarding of servants with large families who had managed to raise their children without having to claim parochial help. Sums were not large, but welcome enough, and pride in receiving such an award was no doubt a considerable compensation. For the owners the occasion also provided the opportunity to see and test new machinery. Some sample awards :

On 4 November 1831:

Shepherds: The second prize of £2. 10s. was awarded to — [William] Vallum, Shepherd to Mr. Stephens [of Paddlesworth], for the care and management of 186 wethers without loss.

In 1832 the president of the Association was 'Thomas Poynder, Jun. Esq.' and the Committee of Management included 'Mr. Thomas Knight of Snodland'.

On 22 October 1834:

To William Vallance [Vallum], servant to Mr. Stephens of Paddlesworth, having lost only one sheep out of a flock of 262 - £2.

On 31 October 1838:

Shepherds: The first prize of £3 to Thomas How, shepherd to Mr. Thomas Matthew[s] of Snodland, for having had the care of 102 sheep for the year ending at Michaelmas, without losing one.

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<sup>1</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August 1865.

All the parishes had resident shepherds and sheep were a familiar sight until at least the 1930s.



*Sheep at Paddlesworth in the 1920s*

Labourers with large families: The first prize of £3 to Solomon Burgess, servant to T. Poynder, Esq., of Snodland, for bringing up nine children without parochial relief.

On 3 November 1841:

The best ploughman [of 30 entrants] Raydon Wingate, servant to Mr. Poynder of Snodland, £3. The driver John Cogger 10s.

On 10 November 1846:

Bringing up families without parochial relief: £2. 10s. to Richard Martin, servant to Messrs. Poynder and Medicot, of Snodland, nine children, youngest 11 years

On 1 November 1848:

Among a great many claimants for these prizes, Charles Gurr, servant to Messrs. Simmonds & Co., of Maidstone, and William Vallum, servant to Mr. Thomas Stephens, of Paddlesworth, had each served their masters and predecessors in their business the long term of 40 years, and the committee divided the two prizes of £3 and £2. 10s. between them.

On 26 October 1854:

Four-horse ploughs: To Simon Giles £1. 10s., the third prize; and John Knott the driver, 5s.; in the employ of Mr. W. H. Poynder of Halling

More people in the district meant more food was needed, but those men now working in the paper and cement industries were no longer directly involved in farming and food production. However most wives and children were not part of the new manufacturing processes and continued to follow the seasonal work in the fields in the time-honoured way. The National School log-books clearly show that many were involved in this and holidays were set accordingly:

1864. 8 August. Several gone gleaning
- 1865: 11 August: Closed the school for the Hopping holidays – 6 weeks.  
 25 September: 1<sup>st</sup> day of school ... Hopping not over – therefore scarcely any children at school Morning 28. Afternoon 27.  
 26 September. Hopping over. More children at school today – Morning 50 and afternoon 50.
- 1866: 20 August. Many children away, assisting their parent in the harvest fields or gleaning.  
 24 August. Broke up today for the harvest and hop-picking holidays.  
 8 October, Opened school after the Hopping holidays – 116 children present
- 1867: 23 July. Harry Capon, Edward Rosebridge, Mary Ann Hook, James Major came back to school after being absent a long time fruit picking.
- 1868: 23 July. Many children gone gleaning.
- 1869: 23 August. No present this morning only 51 & this afternoon only 46. A great many children are gone gleaning.  
 4 October. Commenced school after Hopping Holidays.
- 1872: 16 August [Infants]. The numbers during the week continue very low. Numbers still continue too ill to come – many others that are well are gleaning.  
 30 September. ... Allan Shays has asked for today to finish hop-picking.
- 1873: 28 July. Harvest began today – school will begin to go down in numbers.

One interesting later comment came from a mother, giving evidence in a case where one of her daughters had been savagely attacked by a dog.

As my little girls have told you, we were out hop-picking on the day of this unfortunate occurrence. We did not go exactly for the money, because I and my husband are always in regular work, but we went—as a great many do in the village—more for the outing and the fresh air than anything else. My husband works at the Snodland Paper Mills.<sup>2</sup>

The incident was at Ryarsh and about three miles from their home in Snodland. The tithe apportionment of 1844 shows about 60 acres in Snodland still devoted to hops, although the main area of cultivation was by then in parishes further to the south.

The farms in Snodland, as throughout the country, ranged from ancient and quite large enterprises to small concerns of just a few acres. Some had no involvement with industry at all, but those detailed below gradually shifted their allegiance from tilling the land to excavating it for its mineral wealth.

At the beginning of the period under discussion most of the Snodland farms had resident farmers, although the owners often lived elsewhere. In 1841 there were bailiffs at 'Cox's/Woodlands' Farm, owned by Thomas, then Edward Luck of the Hermitage, West Malling, and Mark Farm, which was grouped with Groves Farm on the Birling-Snodland boundary. But gradually other farmers were replaced by bailiffs, agricultural labourers, or even in one case a lime burner. As noted below, Ladds Farm passed from Thomas

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<sup>2</sup> *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 18 October 1891. The case was reported nationally and the Home Secretary was forced to write to the magistrates, who were accused of giving too lenient a sentence.

Matthews to Solomon Brice [I] in the 1820s and at Brice's death in 1843 there was no replacement farmer. Richard Postans had Punish Farm to 1845, and it was then taken over by James Pye, a member of the farming family from Cuxton, until 1864, and then a bailiff was put in. When Thomas Matthews quit Covey Hall Farm in 1854, William Peters [II] took over until 1869, when he died. Bailiffs then ran it until Joseph Champion combined farming at both Woodlands and Covey Hall. Thomas Stephens [I] (1770-1835) and [II] (1799-1878) were farmers at Paddlesworth, succeeded by William English in the latter year.



*Painting of Covey Hall farm (tithe no. 261), probably by Agnes Darlington Hook.*

*The oast houses remind that there were 23 acres of hops on the farm in 1844.*

The Ladd family is recorded in Snodland between 1242 and 1443, so Ladd's farm is of great antiquity; in the early 1820s it came into the hands of a Solomon Brice. Generations of Solomon Brices were born at or near Otterden, near Faversham. **Solomon Brice** [I]<sup>3</sup> (1764-1843)<sup>4</sup> and his son, also Solomon [II] (1806-1866), arrived to occupy Ladd's Farm by 1824. Solomon II was not yet old enough to have his own farm, but around 1827-8 he is recorded as succeeding Thomas Matthews as the occupier of Ladd's, while his father took on the rather larger neighbouring farm, variously called 'Clements' Farm', 'Dupper's', or 'Middle Farm'. The elusive William Dupper<sup>5</sup> had taken over this farm following the death of Susannah Clements in 1803 and his name appears as the occupier until 1812. On becoming rector of Snodland in 1804 the Rev. Henry Dampier Phelps was careful to draw up a list of all tithes due to him and this invaluable document gives information on the usage as well as the owners and occupiers of land in

<sup>3</sup> The [I], [II], [III] identifications concern only the Solomons of Snodland and Wouldham.

<sup>4</sup> [I] baptised 9 Sep 1764, Stalisfield; buried at Halling 'from St Margaret's, Rochester', 18 May 1843, aged 79; [II] baptised at Otterden 8 June 1806; died 29 Dec 1866, estate 'under £300'; [III] baptised at Halling 28 Oct 1832; died 25 Oct 1904, estate £9418. 18s. 7d.

<sup>5</sup> He did not live in the parish, but a man of this name was married at St Mary's Chatham, on 6 Nov 1812. A Susannah Dupper was buried at Halling on 30 Aug 1804, aged 52 and two females (daughters?) called Dupper were buried there in 1788 and 1792.

Snodland then, amplifying what can be gleaned from contemporary churchwardens' and overseers' accounts and the Land Tax returns. The owner of the farm at that time was Thomas Beech. Phelps lists

Lowers Shelters	11¼ acres	Wheat
Middle Shelters	9¾ acres	Fallow
Upper Shelters	10½ acres	Clover
High Lands (lay)	24 ac. pasture, 6 ac. Oats, 4 ac. Turnips	
Walnut Tree Field	5¼ acres	Clover
Underback Field	9 acres	Wheat
14 acres (lay)	14½ acres	Pasture
Brown's Lands	7½ acres	Oats
White Piece	7 acres	Clover
Gardener's Marsh	2¾ acres	Peas
Apple orchard	3 acres	Garden
Land in Common Field	19½ acres	Fallow

Total: 134 acres, assessed at £27. 0. 0.

When the farm was sold by Lord Romney in 1808 it comprised 224 acres in Snodland and Halling. However, although 'farmer' was the recorded occupation of both Solomons, newspaper reports indicate that they were also involved with lime-making. In Halling the farm included a small chalk pit (tithes no. 128), where a theft occurred in 1839:

William Reeve was charged with stealing various articles of wearing apparel, belonging to his fellow workmen, in the employ of Mr. Solomon Brice, at his Chalk works in Halling, near Rochester, on Sunday last. The workmen were lodged in a large building on the premises, and the prisoner was seen to come from there.<sup>6</sup>

Four years later a sturgeon was caught in the Medway and a Solomon Brice (which must be II, because his father was buried the previous week) was again involved. The sturgeon was seen in the Medway by workers at Whorne's place lime works, was caught and taken to Rochester

and was conveyed away, about twelve o'clock at night, by Stanbury's van, to the office of Messrs. Davis and Sanders, lime merchants, East-side, Grosvenor-basin, Pimlico, and St. Bride's, London—Solomon Brice, foreman of the works at Horns-place, paying 5s. for the carriage.<sup>7</sup>

Following the death of Solomon I his son's name also disappears from the Snodland records. There is no doubt that he moved across the river, but both Burham and Wouldham are given as his residence. It seems likely that since he was foreman for 'Messrs. Davis and Sanders', he was asked (or decided) to move to the Wouldham Hall lime works, where 'Edward Davies and Another' were the managers. Their pit was sited in Wouldham and the works in Burham. Brice seems to have moved first to Burham, where twins were born to him in 1843, and one guesses that he became foreman of the works there. By 1848 he had become the farmer at Wouldham Hall, replacing George Pierson who had moved to Holborough. This farm was recorded as 400 acres in the

<sup>6</sup> *West Kent Guardian*, 11 May 1839.

<sup>7</sup> *The Morning Post*, 26 May 1843. Using an earlier precedent the Mayor and Corporation of Rochester claimed the sturgeon as their right and the town clerk was instructed to order Davis and Sanders to return the fish to them.



1851 census, with ‘outdoor labourers’ supplying the workforce. Brice’s household includes several agricultural labourers lodging with him, so he was continuing his double life in agriculture and lime. In spite of his move, all the baptisms of Solomon II’s children took place at Halling.<sup>8</sup> But it is curious that regardless of all the evidence showing his activities in lime-working, the censuses, directories and tithe schedules list him as a farmer only. Once William Peters had bought the lime works in Wouldham around 1853<sup>9</sup> it is likely that he and Brice co-operated in developing the industry. Two tokens<sup>10</sup>, unfortunately undated, show that Brice was sufficiently involved in the operating of the works to be named on them:



*Tokens, probably for exchange by workers for beer or food*

As foreman perhaps he was required to pay his men. By the time of the 1861 census Brice had become a ‘mud dealer’ instead of a farmer and was living at Rainham. His men, known as ‘muddies’, dug the mud from the Medway which was used in lime and cement production. Clearly the business was in its infancy at this time and Solomon’s estate was only valued at ‘under £300’ following his death in 1866. However Solomon [III] was to transform the firm with a large fleet of barges, built between 1861 and 1905, and his estate when he died in 1904 was thirty times larger. Two other tokens for Wouldham Hall are known, but no person is shown on them:



At the time of the 1841 census **George Pierson** (1813-1872) was living at Wouldham Hall with his mother and sister. As a ‘farmer’ aged 28 he presumably was fairly new to the job. It appears that by 1848 he had been replaced there by Solomon Brice II and had moved to Holborough where he became the farmer of Halling Court Farm and other smallholdings. This farm was spread between Halling (437 acres) and Snodland (82 acres) and was leased from the Dalison family, acting for the Bishop of Rochester, the Lord of the Manor. Between about 1824 and 1849 it was occupied by William Holding [I] and [II], but in 1850 it passed briefly to ‘William Peters’. This appears to have been one of the farms which the Peters family decided to quit, advertised in *The Times* of 14

<sup>8</sup> The twins Grace and George, bap. 14 Aug 1842; bur. John Andrew ‘of Burham’ 28 Feb 1845; bap. Alfred ‘of Wouldham’ 13 Feb 1848; bur. William ‘of Burham’ 13 Oct 1848.

<sup>9</sup> See p.43.

<sup>10</sup> National Mining Memorabilia Association; see [www.mining-memorabilia.co.uk](http://www.mining-memorabilia.co.uk)



September 1850.<sup>11</sup> Pierson seems also to have worked the 22 acres of ‘Gilder’s Farm’, bequeathed to James Goodhugh by his father John. The coming of the railway seems to have been the catalyst for a new farm—‘Pierson’s New Farm’— which was built to the west of Holloway/Holborough Court. Pierson remained there until 1867, when he retired to Rhode/Road House, Mereworth. On 7 December that year, at St George’s Hanover Square, he married Katherine, the widow of James Goodhugh, formerly farmer of Rookery farm, Birling, and of ‘Gilder’s’ at Holborough, who had died in September 1864.<sup>12</sup> George himself died on 15 May 1872, leaving an estate valued at ‘under £14,000.’

**Rev. James Formby**, vicar of Frindsbury from 1826 to his death in 1881, had acquired much land in Kent, including 356 acres in Halling, detailed in the 1843 tithe apportionment. This document shows he also farmed a further 41 acres in the parish, owned by Poynder and Medlicott. Notice of the auction of land in various parts of Kent for which Rev. James Formby was the tenant appeared in 1857<sup>13</sup> and included plots called ‘Gilder’s’, ‘Reeds’ and ‘Mill Stream Mead’ which sound like part of Gilder’s Farm at Holborough. In the 1851 census James’s son Charles (1828-1880) already described himself as a lime merchant and he began a chalk pit on Formby’s land on the west side of the Pilgrim’s Road. Together with his brother James (1836-1898) he created their principal works at Whitewall Creek, Frindsbury. This ran into difficulties because the site only allowed access by barge, and in later years the firm was forced to transport raw material by barge from Halling to Frindsbury. James lived in Halling in the 1890s, no doubt so as to supervise this traffic.<sup>14</sup>

It is not easy to establish the agricultural activities of the Peters family, who divided their energies between lime work and farming. The 1851 Halling census shows **William Peters junior** (1824-1869) as a farmer of 20 acres, living with his father William and next door to his uncle Thomas, whose sons John and Thomas were agricultural labourers. These two may have been among the four men whom William employed. William senior must still have had his eye on other employment because he acquired three barges in 1845-6, built by his father-in-law Joseph Lilley; presumably these were used to carry either agricultural produce or lime/cement. An advertisement of 14 September 1850 already states that farming stock from Halling Court and at Snodland Farm of ‘Messrs. Peters, who are quitting the farm[s],’ is to be put up for auction. Land tax records show that Halling Court farm had been in the hands of William Holding father and son between 1824 and 1849, but for one year transferred to William Peters before Holding resumed in 1851-2.<sup>15</sup> George Pierson then took over. It appears that William Peters I and at least some family members moved to Wouldham in the early 1850s in order to set up their cement works. However, the baptism of four children to William Peters and Caroline recorded in the Burham church register between 1854 and 1860 can only refer to the son of Richard and Rebecca, since the son of William I was still unmarried. In 1861 William [II] appears to be the William Peters at Burham, aged 37, unmarried, limeburner, at the Beer House and Office among Lime Work cottages. Also in the building was James Hewitt, one of the Holborough family who were living next door to Richard/Rebecca.

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<sup>11</sup> See below, p. 34.

<sup>12</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*. When Katherine Hodshon married James in 1849 she was 45 years his junior; the age difference with George was only eight years.

<sup>13</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kent Advertiser*, 1 December 1857.

<sup>14</sup> He died on 16 October 1898 at Marsh Lodge, Halling; estate valued at £1401 16s. 2d.

<sup>15</sup> ‘William Peters lime-burner, Holborough Farm’ is listed in the *Directory of Maidstone and its Environs*, Maidstone, 1850.

Around 1848 a William Peters had added the 22 acres of Snodland Court Lodge to his holdings, and when Thomas Matthews decided to quit Covey Hall farm in 1854<sup>16</sup> Peters was successful at the auction. This gave him the principal farm in Snodland, together with a 4-5 acre plot at Holborough, although these were still owned by the Whittaker/Wood family.<sup>17</sup> The latter included the large thatched house on the site, which became the home of Harriett Peters and her husband the bargeman John Gooding. Her parents, Thomas and Harriett, are recorded here too in 1861. A big question remains as to what extent William Peters I was involved in these farming ventures and whether he provided money and support for them. William II's presence at Burham in 1861 noted above hardly suggests farming was central to his work then, although he is recorded as 'farmer' in the probate assessment of 1869.<sup>18</sup>

When he arrived in Snodland around 1823 **Richard Peters** rented a house at Holborough (tithe no. 158). But by the beginning of 1837 he was able to buy it and the adjoining property where, in due course, his son Thomas William Peters lived for a time. Richard is named as a 'grocer' in the 1851 census, but 'lime labourer' ten years later. However he is also recorded as a dairyman and around 1845 he rented pasture on the 'marshes', presumably for his cows, but apparently he hoped also to get rents from the grazing of horses there as well as money from the sale of reeds.<sup>19</sup> Some of this land was transferred to George Pierson in 1851.

**Thomas Weekes** the younger (1835-1893) had returned to North Halling by the time of his father's death in 1873 and became manager of the works there. The 1881 census lists him as 'Lime & Cement Manufacturer, Barge Owner & Farmer (of 140 acres) employing 150 men and 7 boys'. No doubt the bulk of these workers were employed in the pit and factory; Weekes is not recorded as an owner of land in 1873, so presumably leased it.<sup>20</sup>

### FARMS from CENSUSES

The following tables are compiled from the limited information given in the censuses and the tithe apportionment returns – including some approximate acreages. Names within brackets ( ) are bailiffs or labourers, so no acreages appear in their returns.

#### SNODLAND

Date	Farm	Farmer	Acreage	Men	Women	Boys
1841		William Gowar				
1841	Paddlesworth	Thomas Stephens				
1841	Punish Farm	Richard Postans				
1841	Clements Farm	Solomon Brice				
1841		Richard Gowar				
1841	Covey Hall Farm	Thomas Matthews				
1841	Cox's Farm	(James Lock)				
1841	[Mark Farm]	(George Masters)				
1844	[tithe Paddlesworth]	Thomas Stephens	88+			
1844	[tithe Punish]	Richard Postans	144			
1844	[tithe Clements]	Solomon Brice	74			
1844	[tithe Covey Hall]	Thomas Matthews	190			
1844	[tithe Halling Court]	William Holding	78			
1844	[tithe Cox's]	Edward Luck	178			
1844	[tithe Gilders]	James Goodhugh	19			

<sup>16</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 29 September 1854.

<sup>17</sup> Thomas Whittaker had acquired the farm in 1740 and it passed to various descendants.

<sup>18</sup> The couple had married in Gillingham in 1863. His estate was valued at 'under £450'.

<sup>19</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 11 May 1847 and 9 May 1848.

<sup>20</sup> *Return of Owners of Land 1873: Kent*.

1844	[tithe Holborough]	Poynder & Medlicott	257			
1844	[tithe various]	John/Ann Orpin	49			
1844	[tithe Grove/Mark]	John Knell	68			
1851		John Orpin	15			
1851	[Covey Hall Farm]	Thomas Matthews	140	6		
1851	Holborough	George Pierson	220	10		3
1851	Paddlesworth	Thomas Stephens	512	25		
1851	Mark Farm	(George Masters)				
1851	[Cox's Farm]	(James Lock)				
1861	Holborough	George Pierson	350	9		4
1861	Paddlesworth	Thomas Stephens	513	24		3
1861	[Cox's Farm]	(Charles Webster)				
1861	Mark Farm	(George Masters)				
1861	Pierson's New Farm	(Henry Cheeseman)				
1861	Ladd's Farm	(James Hart)				
1861	Punish	(Joseph Dyke)				
1871	[Covey Hall]	Joseph Champion	400	12		4
1871	Cox's Farm	(Charles Webster)				
1871	Mark Farm	(George Masters)				
1871	Punish Farm	(Joseph Dyke)				
1871	Ladd's Farm	(R. Hayman/F. Mitchell)				
1871	Lee's Farm	(Stephen Hodges)				
1871	Paddlesworth	Thomas Stephens	500	7		5
1881		Thomas Hollands	120	7	5	1
1881	Woodlands	Joseph Champion	160	8		4
1881	Paddlesworth	William English	266	8	4	2
1881	[Covey Hall]	(John Hucks)				
1881	Mark Farm	(Harriet Masters)				
1881	Ladd's Farm	(J. Mew/A. Kennett)				

## HALLING

Date	Farm	Farmer	Acreage	Men	Boys
1841		(Richard Martin)			
1841		Solomon Brice			
1841		William Holding			
	[tithe]	William Holding	437+152		
	[tithe]	Solomon Brice	20		
	[tithe]	William Pye	86		
	[tithe]	James Formby	356+41		
	[tithe]	Poynder & Medlicott	113		
1851		Thomas Castle	100	4	
1851		William Peters	20	4	
1851	[Plough Inn]	Edward Norman	100	2	
1861		Edward Norman			
1861		Charlotte Hart	250	11	2
1871	Plough Inn	Edward Norman	400	10	7
1871	Black Boy	Charles Vane	20	3	
1871	Upper Halling	Thomas Bates	340	12	
1871	Clements Farm	(Joseph Francis)			
1871	Formby Farm	(Thomas Payne)			

1881	Whornes Place	Thomas Weeks	140		
1881	Black Boy	Geroge Jessup	16		
1881	Hayward's Farm	(Walter Brooker)			
1881	Formby's Terrace	(Thomas Langham)			

### The farms at Burham and Wouldham

As with Snodland and Halling, there was some overlap between the farms of Burham and Wouldham. In the 1841 census John Friday is listed as a 'retired farmer', but he is still noted as occupying the 380 acre farm owned by the Earl of Aylesford in the tithe apportionment of 1842. A second farmer for the Earl was R. Warde, with 423 acres.

### BURHAM

Date	Farm	Farmer	Acreage	Men	Boys
1841		John Friday			
1841		Elizabeth Brisley			
1841		John Perrin			
1841		Henry Wraight			
1841	Burham Hill	John Hawks			
1841		William Swan			
1842	[Tithe]	John Friday	380		
1842	[Tithe]	R. Warde	423+144		
1842	[Tithe]	G. Pierson	142+51		
1842	[Tithe]	John Selby	210		
1851	Swan's Farm	Abraham Swan	85		
1851		Sarah Brooker	40		
1851	Burham Court	(William Kemsley)			
1851		James Tomlin	40		
1851	Petts Farm	(William Bishop)			
1851		Sarah Brooker	40		
1851		James Tomlin	40		
1851	Culand Farm	(Jesse Kemsley)			
1851	Culand Farm	(William Hawks)			
1851	Burham Hill	John Hawks	18		
1861	Hill Farm	Stephen Simmons	125	6	
1861	Burham Hill Farm	John Hawks	10	2	
1861		Henry Wraight		1	1
1861	Bridge Road House	William Miller			
1861	Fo[r]stal House	Thomas Salby [Selby]			
1861	Great Culand Farm	(Jesse Kamsley)			
1861	Little Culand Farm	Charles Brown	33	1	1
1861	Brooker Farm	Sarah Brooker	40	2	1
1861	Burham Court Farm	Thomas Abbott	572	24	3
1861	Scarboro Farm	Susan Swan	20	5	
1861	Hill Farm	(Charles Weller)			
1871	High St. Farm	(William Packham)			
1871	Burham Court	George Blackett	460	13	4
1871	Upper Teddington Farm	(James Cook)			
1881	Burham Court	George & John Blackett	560	26	2
1881	Petts Farm	George Kinner	37	1	
1881	Brooks Farm	Charles Brown	50	2	1
1881	Burham Farm	Franck Grensted	650	27	6

1881	Hill Farm Bluebell Hill	(Jas. Lane; Wm. Fudge)			
1881	Brooker's Farm Bluebell Hill	(Matthew Wraight)			
1881	Wood Farm	(George Mabb)			

### WOULDHAM

Date	Farm	Farmer	Acreage	Men	Women	Boys
1841	Manor House	Edward Day				
1841	Sta[r]cke[y] Castle	John Pearce				
1841	Wouldham Hall	George Pierson				
1841		William Hedgitt				
1842	[tithe]	John Pearce	268			
1842	[tithe]	William Pye	478			
1842	[tithe]	George Pierson	142+51			
1842	[tithe]	John Selby	210			
1842	[tithe]	William Mannering	25			
1851		William Pye	470	23		
1851		Solomon Brice	400	14		
1851		Robert Walls	204	6		
1851		(Richard Baker)				
1851		John Pearce	350	20		
1851		William Mannering	20			
1861	School Farm	John Yates	200	9		3
1861	Stark[ey] Castle	John Pearce	300	12		11
1861	Manor House	John Scott	477	20		
1871	Manor House	John Scott	570	22	12	5
1871	Starkey Castle	Mary Ann Pearce	c.300	14		3
1871	Free School Farm	Edward Keeler	200	18		3
1881	Manor House	John Scott	600	20		10
1881	Starkey Castle	Alfred Pearce	267	10		4
1881	Free School Farm	Edward Keeler	200	13	4	5

## CEMENT

Between the Medway Towns and Aylesford, the river Medway cuts through the chalk of the North Downs. The proximity of the chalk hills proved ideal for lime and cement entrepreneurs and during the nineteenth century many factories were built to supply demand. Initially chalk was moved from the pits to the works by horse and wagon(s), but eventually small railways replaced them. Barges could move the finished product to all parts of the kingdom, but especially London. The earliest of these works was established at Whorne's Place, North Halling in 1799.

The Holborough estate of John May (d.1805) was bequeathed to Edward Wickham, who in September 1819 sold it to Thomas Poynder and William Hobson.<sup>21</sup> This firm had been active for many years. Poynder, son of Thomas of Wootton, Hampshire, deceased, was apprenticed to Edward Wix of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company on 21 January 1765 and married Wix's daughter Mary at St Peter's, Cornhill on 7 November 1775. They traded as Wix and Poynder until the former's death in 1787. Poynder and Hobson, coal and lime-merchants, had premises in Scotland Yard, where a serious fire occurred in 1816. By 1823 Poynder, with his son Thomas, and Hobson were trading as lime-merchants and co-partners from buildings in Earl Street, Blackfriars, when a much-reported court case was brought against the elder Poynder for refusing to take the office of overseer of the poor for St Ann's, Blackfriars, on the grounds that he was not a householder living at the buildings.<sup>22</sup> Part of the evidence was that 'one Medlicott' [presumably Edward] managed the business for them and resided in the house. As will be seen Medlicott eventually replaced Hobson as a partner. For some years the younger Thomas lived at Holloway Court, Holborough, to oversee the workings. A map of 1823 shows 'Mr Poynder's House' as well as the growing chalk pit and waste.<sup>23</sup> His daughter Frances was baptised at All Saints in 1829 and later all four daughters donated a window to the church.<sup>24</sup> Thomas Poynder senior died in 1837, by which time he was extremely wealthy and living at Clapham Common. He remembered his friends William Hobson and Edward Medlicott with gifts of £10 each for memorial rings.<sup>25</sup> A contemporary account of Halling says that 'Chalk abounds, and the works for burning it into lime provide the chief occupation of the inhabitants; the lime used in building Waterloo and London bridges was brought from Halling'.<sup>26</sup>

Hobson was born in Southwark on 9 November 1752, married Ann Rickman in 1779 and they had 16 children. Hobson built the family home called Markfield at Tottenham, where, on a visit in 1806, the artist John Constable made sketches of the daughters. In 1805 Hobson became the main contractor for building the Martello Towers on the South Coast and he also helped build Newgate Prison and Thames Docks. He made his fortune

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<sup>21</sup> KLHC: CCRb/M4, 27 October 1819.

<sup>22</sup> E.V.Barnewell and Sir Creswell Creswell, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Court of King's Bench*, (London, 1823), vol. I, pp. 178-9.

<sup>23</sup> KLHC: Q/RH2/181.

<sup>24</sup> Unfortunately destroyed by a land mine in 1942 and no description survives. Phelps, the Rector, said it was the work of [Joseph Hale] Miller.

<sup>25</sup> TNA, PROB 11/1829/27. He bequeathed £36,350 in his will. The Snodland rector, Henry Dampier Phelps, was also bequeathed a £10 memorial ring.

<sup>26</sup> Samuel Lewis (ed.), *A Topographical Dictionary of England*, 7<sup>th</sup> edn., 1848, 'Halling'. Both bridges were designed by John Rennie, but Waterloo was opened as a toll bridge on 18 June 1817 – too early for the Halling works to have been involved. The replacement London Bridge was opened on 1 August 1831—but see below, p.42.

through involvement in brick-making, lime-making and brewing enterprises.<sup>27</sup> He died, aged 87, on 23 May 1840 and is buried at All Hallows, Tottenham. His will mentions his part in 'all the Chalk Pits, Buildings, Erections, Lands and Ground situate at Northfleet, Snodland and Hawling in Kent.' The Northfleet works were put up for sale on 7 May 1847

These extensive and valuable Premises occupy an area of upwards of Thirty Acres. On the north they are bounded by the River Thames, where there is a Wharf with sufficient depth of water for vessels of heavy tonnage; and on the south by the road leading from London to Gravesend and Dover. They were formerly known as the Lime Works of Poynder and Hobson, and are now principally used by Messrs Poynder and Medlicott for the carrying on a large trade in chalk, gravel and sand. Many portions of the land, which have been excavated, are adapted for building purposes; or the premises generally might be converted for any business requiring considerable space, or for wharfs, with valuable river frontage.

The Buildings now on the Property consist of a comfortable detached Cottage Residence, with stabling, coachhouse, and garden, fronting the Dover Road, two limekilns, 19 cottages, barn or storehouse, the Ship public house, stabling for — horses, blacksmith's shop, large yard, cow houses, and a Cottage Residence with garden on the hill. Also a newly erected factory with forge and foundry, let on lease to Messrs. A. Horlock and Co. for a term of 60 years, at a ground rent.

The Leasehold is held for a term, at a rental of £150 per annum; but the rentals received are more than sufficient to pay all outgoings, leaving the purchaser in possession of an excellent trade, the quantity of chalk, gravel, etc, sold last year being nearly 20,000 loads.<sup>28</sup>



*Northfleet from the river in 1829*

Pigot's Directory for 1840 lists Thomas Poynder as then residing in Northfleet, so he had probably moved on from Snodland, where his place was taken by his son William Henry. But later we find Edward Medlicott at 2 Stanby Place, Northfleet, where he died in

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<sup>27</sup> Information from <[Tottenham-summerhillroad.com/William\\_hobson\\_of\\_markfield\\_htm](http://Tottenham-summerhillroad.com/William_hobson_of_markfield_htm)> Henry Raeburn painted William and Mrs Hobson; the paintings are now at the Victoria and Albert Museum: see <[collections.vam.ac.uk](http://collections.vam.ac.uk)> to view them on-line.

<sup>28</sup> *Kentish Gazette*, 13 and 27 April 1847.



1850.<sup>29</sup> All his interest in his leases was placed in the hands of his son-in-law Alfred Horlock, while another son of Thomas Poynder II was an executor of the will.

Over the years the firm acquired more land and property around the Snodland-Halling boundary: 50 acres in 1821, 3 acres and several cottages in Upper Halling in 1826, a messuage and land 'called Rumsey's Field' in 1834, and another 22 acres in 1840.<sup>30</sup> On 26 October 1842 the manorial meeting recorded that 'The property which formerly belonged to Poynder and Hobson now belongs to Thomas Poynder and Edward Medlicott.'<sup>31</sup> Evidently they soon decided to put the works up for sale and an advertisement appeared in the *Times* of 18 May 1844:

To capitalists and others.—Freehold Estates, in the county of Kent, on the river Medway, between Rochester and Malling.—To be sold, all those valuable estates, situate and lying in the parishes of Halling and Snodland, containing the finest gray chalk in great abundance, with 14 lime kilns, wet dock, wharf, and every convenience for manufacturing gray stone lime of the best quality, and the trade accruing from the same; together with a good family residence, gardens, stabling, coach-house, and agent's house, cottages, barns, and farm buildings, comprising in the whole upwards of 300 acres. This very desirable property has an extensive frontage to the river Medway, and possesses the greatest capabilities for carrying on a most extensive trade; and the proprietors are willing to treat at the same time for the disposal of their several Wharfs and Establishments on the river Thames, Regent's Canal. Grand Junction, Paddington-basin, &c. For further particulars apply to H. D. Warter, solicitor, 1, Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn.

The younger Thomas Poynder lived on until 1856,<sup>32</sup> but had moved to Wimpole Street, London. However his son William Henry stayed in Snodland for a time as Lord of the Manor, but had to vacate Holloway Court for William Lee and his family. In 1851 he was lodging at Waghorn's former house in the upper High Street.

Historically the Bishop of Rochester's manor of Halling, with the appurtenances of Snodland and Cuxton encompassed all three parishes, and the Bishop remained the owner of much of it well into the nineteenth century, although in practice it was leased from him by the Dalison family. Many owners and occupiers held property in both Snodland and Halling. Poynder and Hobson/Medlicott leased a little land from the Bishop and Dalison, but about 260 acres was in their own ownership, spread through Snodland and Halling, with a further 220 acres leased from the landowners Cornelius and Edward Wood. Their works was certainly the largest in the district for the time and it seems to have been only the second of substance to have been created (after Whorne's Place in 1799). It is interesting to see that Thomas Poynder is recorded as the occupier of all their estate in Snodland, but 'William' [*recte* Edward] Medlicott for all in Halling. Maybe this simplified the paperwork. The works themselves were all in Halling parish. By the time the tithe schedules were made in 1843 and 1844 there were two separate operations: the main one with a pit and works on the Snodland-Halling boundary, and a second from a site south of Halling church with its own pit to the west. There were smaller pits at Upper Halling, but at least some of these were probably for lime for farmers to spread on the land rather than commercial use. However, one of them was certainly operated by Solomon Brice. An auction was held on 30 March 1847 at the lime

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<sup>29</sup> Will: TNA, PROB 11/2122/300, 19 November 1850. He was buried at St Botolph, Northfleet, on 9 November 1850, aged 75. He had married Suzannah Dormer (née Horlock) at the same church on 20 May 1826, so presumably was involved with the works for a long time.

<sup>30</sup> KHLC: CCRb/M4, recorded on 24 October 1821; 25 October 1826; 29 October 1834; 27 October 1840.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> Will: TNA, PROB 11/2236/63, dated 4 July 1856.

kilns lately belonging to Poynder and Hobson for the equipment belonging to a 'small private brewing plant', no doubt serving the working men.<sup>33</sup>



A key figure in Poynder and Hobson's/Medlicott's operation was the 'Conductor of the lime works', William Peters (1793-1867). He had married Mary Lilley at St Mary's, Chatham, on 23 April 1821. She was the daughter of Joseph, manager to Joseph Brindley, a builder of naval ships at Strood, and at the time of the marriage the couple both stated they were of St Mary's parish. In Snodland William's name is first seen in the Churchwardens/Overseers accounts of 1822 as a tenant of the firm. Earlier lists are less detailed, so it is quite likely that he was appointed as early as 1819 when excavation began. He was born in Aldgate in 1793, the son of William and Mary Peters from Dorking.<sup>34</sup> Although no firm evidence has been found connecting the Dorking Peters with the Medway lime industry it seems very probable that they were involved with it in some way, especially in view of the son's later career. Dorking lime was considered the best of its kind and was greatly used as London expanded. No doubt Poynder and Wix/Hobson made much use of it and found the manager of their Grey Lime Works in so doing. An advertisement in 1833 shows W. Peters as their principal agent when he 'begs most respectfully to inform the Agriculturist, Farmers, and the Public in general, he is ready to supply lime at "very low prices"'.<sup>35</sup> He offered Flame burnt Grey Lime, Flame burnt White lime and Tunnel burnt Grey lime at a scale of prices depending on where they were to be delivered: 'At the works, at Maidstone, at Branbridges, or at Tunbridge'. Clearly barges were the means of transporting the product, and, although no builder of the first barges owned by William is known, in 1845-6 he bought three barges built by his father-in-law, Joseph Lilley.

### The Peters Family

In fact other sons of the elder William also made their way to the Medway valley and one suspects that William the younger may have found jobs for his brothers. In later years Richard Peters (1792-1881) was a dairyman, grocer and proprietor of houses (censuses of 1841, 1861-1871), but the earlier references in the church registers (from 16 February 1823) list him as a lime burner or labourer (as does the 1851 census). Thomas Peters (1798-1878) too had arrived in time for the baptism of a daughter Ann at Halling in 1824; the church registers always describe him as a labourer, but again the 1851 census calls him a lime burner. William Peters lived in the manager's house at Holborough (tithe no. 142) until about 1846 and presumably moved on when William Lee took over. In his book on the cement industry Major Francis quotes a letter to William Peters dated 9 January 1839:

I will thank you to give me your price for Grey Stone Lime at per ton, delivered alongside wharf where directed between London and Hungerford bridges for the whole quantity required for building the London bridge and Charing Cross Viaduct. The building will probably commence at about mid-summer next and will occupy from two to three years in its construction.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 27 March 1847.

<sup>34</sup> John Gooding, *The Peters Family and the Medway Cement Industry*, privately printed, 2005.

<sup>35</sup> *Maidstone Gazette*, 21 May 1833.

<sup>36</sup> A. J. Francis, *The Cement Industry 1796-1914: a History*, Newton Abbot, 1977, 188. Unfortunately the author gives no sources for any quotations.

Francis assumes Peters to be at Burham already, but this seems unlikely. He already owned at least four barges,<sup>37</sup> so was able to work on his own account, although it is not clear whether here he was acting alone or for Poynder and Hobson.

He did not move far – just to Halling as a neighbour to his brother Thomas – but in the 1851 census he now described himself as ‘Lime merchant and barge owner.’ Joseph Peters aged 22 (son of William) is then described at ‘Lime Merchant’ and presumably was already helping his father. Another son William, at the same address, was a farmer of 20 acres, employing four men (two of whom were probably John and Thomas Peters, agricultural labourers, sons of Thomas). But *The Times* of 14 September 1850 had already advertised for sale two batches of farming stock at Halling Court and at Snodland Farm of ‘Messrs. Peters, who are quitting the farm[s],’ so the lime business is likely to have remained a priority. Interestingly it was stated that ‘the implements have all been new within three years, and are of superior quality’, suggesting that farming too happened after 1846.

On 6 April 1852 an advertisement appeared in the *South-Eastern Gazette* offering for sale a ‘Valuable lime business and premises, and farm, at Wouldham and Burham, comprising

A piece of Freehold Grey Chalk Land, of rare and valuable quality, consisting of 3 acres or thereabouts. Also the leases (being an unexpired term of 25 and a half years) of and in all those extensive and well-known Lime Works, plant, cliffs, pits, kilns, and wharfs; with an unlimited supply of chalk and limestone of the finest quality. Lately in the occupation of Messrs. George Potter and Co. Together with that capital Farm commodious Residence, cottages, and outbuildings, consisting of 275 acres or thereabouts of excellent land, known as Wouldham Hall Farm, in the occupation of Mr. Solomon Brice, at a very low rent, for Sale by Tender. London wharves, in connection with the business, may probably be had, if desired. The vendors are open to negotiation [*size*] for the purchase ...<sup>38</sup>

Potter had been declared bankrupt earlier that year. Presumably William Peters bought the property, because a further advertisement of 14 May 1853<sup>39</sup> suggests that by then he had established his works at Wouldham. In view of the fact that these had belonged to Potter, the ‘late Poynder and Medlicott’ reference is to remind readers that Peters had formerly worked for them:

To Contractors, Builders, Portland  
Cement Manufacturers, & others.  
WILLIAM PETERS,  
(LATE POYNDER AND MEDLICOTT.)  
7, North Wharf, Paddington, AND  
Wouldham Hall Grey Stone Lime Works,  
On the Medway, near Rochester,  
Begs to inform all large consumers of GREY  
STONE LIME, he can supply them upon the  
Most advantageous terms, in quantities of not less  
Than 100 or 50 cubic yards, at the kilns, or delivered  
Anywhere per barge.  
Also, Large and Small Grey Stone.

London trade directories of 1851 show three local firms all with wharves at Paddington North Basin: W. Peters at no. 7, William Lee at no. 9, and George Potter and Co. at no. 19.

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<sup>37</sup> See pp. 100-101.

<sup>38</sup> The advertisement was repeated on 13 April.

<sup>39</sup> *Norfolk Chronicle and Norwich Gazette*, 14 May 1853 [repeated; also *Essex Standard* at the same time]

At his death in 1867 William bequeathed the firm to his sons Joseph (1829-1876) and Edwin (1842-) with the proviso that their brother Henry (1848-) should join them once he had attained the age of 23 years. A newspaper account of 1869, largely concerned with a discovery of Roman buildings at the works, gives some indication that it had already become a large enterprise:

I left Snodland ferry this morning with a friend, and after a quiet paddle on the now wide Medway for half a mile down the stream, passing on our way a powerful paddle-wheel steam barge, the “Lee”, we landed on the low wall skirting the works.

Mr Wilcocks, the courteous foreman, informed us that their river frontage is the most extensive between Maidstone and London, as they can moor twenty-four barges—each barge eighty feet long—end to end in front of the sheds. Very large addition is being made to these works, by the erection of brick buildings of immense strength, for machinery, &c.; and we were informed that the facilities already possessed by the firm enables it to ship a hundred tons of chalk in ten minutes. The consumption of coal is about eight thousand tons annually.<sup>40</sup>

Ferries at Halling-Wouldham and Snodland-Burham meant that Snodland men were able to work east of the river and many did so. By the 1830s and ‘40s there were many small lime works operating in the area, but one would imagine these did not need to find other than local men.<sup>41</sup> Stephens/Stevens ‘lime burner and grocer’ at Wouldham in 1851, for instance, is clearly not a significant player. Three of them do touch on our story to a greater or lesser extent. The firm of Coles, Sankey, & Coles, listed in the Wouldham directory of 1843, were also at no. 16 Paddington North Basin, and together with their larger enterprise at Frindsbury, supplied London builders.<sup>42</sup> William Sankey lived at Mansion House, Wouldham for many years and his son John Hart Sankey married Ellen, daughter of William Peters, at Wouldham on 25 October 1860. John continued in the business at Gravesend and elsewhere.

### Thomas Weekes

Thomas Weekes [I] (c.1812-1873) too impinges on the Snodland story. Unlike other local cement manufacturers he was a non-conformist and he, his wife Rebecca and a ‘Miss Weeks’ – Sarah Ann? - were admitted to the Snodland Chapel in 1843.<sup>43</sup> In later years he lived at Tenioth/Tinnoth House, North Halling, where he was described as a barge owner and brick-manufacturer in 1862. Presumably he built it, since Tinnoth was his wife Rebecca’s maiden name. By this time his son Thomas [II] was manager of the Whorne’s Place works owned by Thomas H. Wild and Company and later generations of the Weekes family continued to run it until its absorption into the A.P.C.M. conglomerate in 1910. At some time before 1846 Thomas senior had bought the nine houses of Wharf Row in Snodland, but sold them on to William Broad around 1854. In his notebook the rector observed: ‘For time immemorial a Foot Path had existed thro’ the Church Yard to the River: & was no nuisance, till the Houses by the Paper Mill were let to a Lime Burner over the River for his Labourers.’<sup>44</sup> An advertisement shows that the company were confident that the South Eastern Railway would soon be of great value in promoting their products:

### MEDWAY LIME AND CEMENT WORKS

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<sup>40</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 13 March 1869; letter from Thomas Fardon dated 26 February 1869.

<sup>41</sup> See J. M. Preston, *Industrial Medway: an historical survey*, Rochester, 1977, for details of lime and cement manufacturing in the area.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 56-7.

<sup>43</sup> MALSC, N\_URC\_342

<sup>44</sup> At the 1841 census Thomas Weekes was listed as a barge owner, living in Burham. In 1849-50 the *Directory of Maidstone and its Environs* names him as agent to William Lee, still at Burham.

## LOWER HALLING near ROCHESTER

T.H. BOORMAN, WILD, and Co., beg to inform the public and trade generally that they have completed their Works for the manufacture of PORTLAND CEMENT, and from their contiguity to the river, as well as the branch line of the South Eastern Rail from Strood to Maidstone, a siding from which will be carried into their works, enabling them thereby to transmit any orders they may receive to any station on the before-mentioned line, they confidently hope they shall be able to supply the public with a first-rate article in both lime and cement on moderate terms.

Persons sending orders for cement are respectfully requested to say for what purpose it is required, and printed instructions will be affixed to each cask.

Orders to be addressed to Mr. Thomas Weeks, Agent at the Works.<sup>45</sup>

### Formby Brothers

In Halling the Rev. James Formby, Vicar of Frindsbury from 1826 to 1881, owned 356 acres and rented a further 41 from Poynder and Medlicott. 'Pit field' of 36 acres suggests some excavation, but there is no evidence of industrial working in the tithe schedule of June 1843. But

During the 1850's Charles Formby, son of the Vicar of Frindsbury, started a lime works at Halling. He used a pit just to the west of the Pilgrims Road. In about 1862 he was joined by his brother James. The lime kilns were later mostly situated alongside the wharf but the original kilns were sited next to the quarry. There were also two limeburners cottages here. The quarry and the wharf were linked by a tramway. The company later opened another quarry down the hill to provide grey chalk which was taken in barges to their cement works at Frindsbury.<sup>46</sup>

Frindsbury was the main Formby works, but was handicapped by its position at Whitewall Creek, being only accessible by barge.

In 1858 Anderson and Company of Faversham began a cement works at Whitewall Creek. They were later joined there by Charles and James Formby who having started cement production at Halling, began a second company at Whitewall. Their chalk was dug from Tower Hill and they produced 60 tons of cement per week from these works.<sup>47</sup>

Conversely, Formby's neighbours Hilton and Anderson, already operating at Faversham and Frindsbury, opened the Halling Manor Lime and Cement Works near the church in 1873.

### William Lee



According to an indenture of 31 December 1846 Poynder and Medlicott's business and the Holloway Court estate were bought by William Lee for £9245. The Lee family were a well-established firm of builders from Lewisham. William's father Henry (1764-1837) and his brothers Henry (1794-1867) and John (1796-1866) successfully contracted for some prestigious projects, including the river embankment foundations for the new Houses of Parliament, the Public Record Office, Dulwich Gallery, and the boundary wall of Maidstone Gaol. In 1826 William (1801-1881) became manager of a small lime works at Burham, but was still

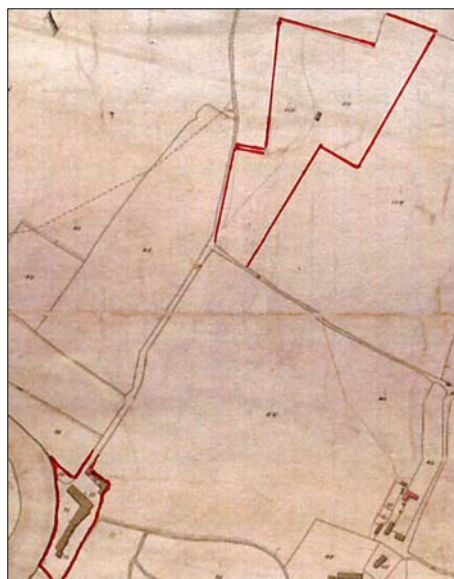
<sup>45</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 28 August 1855 and many subsequent issues.

<sup>46</sup> E. Gowers and D. Church, *Across the Low Meadow: A History of Halling in Kent*, Maidstone, 1979, 58.

<sup>47</sup> D. Barnard, *Merrily to Frindsbury: A History of the Parish of Frindsbury*, Rochester, 1996, 104.

living in London.<sup>48</sup> Satis House, Rochester, was his home at the time of the 1841 census, but he moved to Holborough after buying the estate.

The Burham tithe map and schedule of 2 May 1842 shows him occupying a works on the river bank with its pit further to the east. Lee's obituary in the *Kent Messenger* of 1 October 1881 states that 'after several years of hard work (his father having died), he became possessor of the lease, and considerably enlarged the works, and developed the business; so much so, that in 1846 he purchased the whole of the extensive business, freehold property, and the works of Messrs. Poynder and Medlicott'.



*Lee's works at Burham, beside the river, with the associated chalk pit. In the 1860s it was taken over by J. Hallett, H. Haynes and W. Margetts, trading as the West Kent Gault Brick & Cement Co.*<sup>49</sup>

Previous accounts have stated or assumed that Lee left the Burham works on taking up that at Holborough,<sup>50</sup> but there are small pieces of evidence that suggest he continued to have at least some interest in it for some years. 'Lee's Lime Works' continues to be named in the censuses until 1881, which might be nothing more than tradition, but the dissolution of a partnership between H. Earle and William Lee recorded in 1871<sup>51</sup> includes 'Halling and Burham' among Lee's addresses. Burham is also given as the address for the registration of his barge *Ann* on 27 June 1860. Furthermore, from 1854 William Lee organised several annual fêtes for the children of Snodland, Halling and Burham schools in his grounds at Holborough; the logistics of getting the Burham schoolchildren across the river must have been daunting.



*Lee's works in 1867*

Lee's son Samuel (1826-1852) became a director, presumably after coming of age in 1847, but his early death was a severe blow to William. With his marriage to William's youngest daughter Sarah in 1853, Alfred Smith also joined the firm, which became known as Lee, Son & Smith.

One product in which Lee's became heavily involved was in supplying the 'new cement' which had been patented by Captain Henry Scott of the Royal Engineers, Chatham, in 1856 and 1857. As an engineer Scott was required to construct

<sup>48</sup> At Upper Ground Street, Blackfriars when son Henry died, aged 7, on 23 July 1828, and at Christ Church, Blackfriars when son William John died, aged 7, on 14 December 1831. Upper Ground Street was also an address used by William Peters.

<sup>49</sup> Stoyel and Kidner, *op. cit.*, 109

<sup>50</sup> Preston, *op. cit.*, 57 and footnote 72.

<sup>51</sup> *London Gazette*, 12 and 19 May 1871.



fortifications, harbours, and the like, and so experimented to find the best cement for the purpose. Several reports on its qualities soon appeared.

Messrs. W. Lee, Son, and Smith, of Upper Ground-Street, Blackfriars, are now manufacturing the improved cement patented by Captain Scott, Royal Engineers [...] The firm mentioned has had it for two years under trial, and now confidently recommends it as most excellent for general use. The patentee is Superintendent of Instruction in Chemistry and other studies at the Royal Engineers' establishment, Chatham, and from him it takes the name of "Scott's Patent Cement." For *internal purposes* this cement possesses many advantages over ordinary lime and hair; it sets with sufficient rapidity to allow the plasterer to follow on with the finishing coat without loss of time; it does not blister, and when applied to a wall never opens in cracks from unequal contraction in drying. It is also admirably adapted for *external purposes*, for when exposed to the atmosphere it enjoys the conditions most favourable to its strength, and it dries to a light buff or stone colour. It is always of one uniform tint, and in this respect it possesses a great advantage over Portland Cement, as compared with which, there is a saving in the material of 30 per cent., whilst it can compete with it in hardness within a short time of its application. [...] As a *Mortar* or for *Concrete* it excels the Lias lime in strength, and can be employed at less cost, for it bears a far greater proportion of sand or ballast without injuring its cementitious qualities; and all delay and expense in slacking and screening are avoided. It is also superior to it for hydraulic purposes.<sup>52</sup>

Lee's was probably the most important local cement works at a time when Scott was experimenting with his invention and the obvious one to approach. Henry Young Darracott Scott (1822-1883) was a distinguished soldier who rose to the rank of Major-General.<sup>53</sup> He served on several committees including that for the Great Exhibition of 1851, becoming its secretary, and he designed and built the Royal Albert Hall in 1866-1871 and some additions to the Victoria and Albert Museum. His life was dedicated to public service and at his death his estate was valued at £775 only. He is buried in Highgate Cemetery.

### Thomas Cubitt



One of the largest and most important of the local factories was that established for Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855) at Burham in 1851. Thomas had made a great reputation for himself as the builder of prestigious estates in London and had gathered together all the necessary professional and building skills within his own enterprise.<sup>54</sup> He had developed a large works on the Thames just west of Vauxhall Bridge, but this and his other similar facilities in the capital were largely replaced by the Burham works. No doubt Thomas had much to do in overseeing the new factory, but in his last years his brothers William and Lewis were effectively running his empire. We are fortunate to have a detailed account of the Burham brickworks printed in *The Illustrated News of the World* on 8 October 1859, probably publicity instigated by the new board of directors.

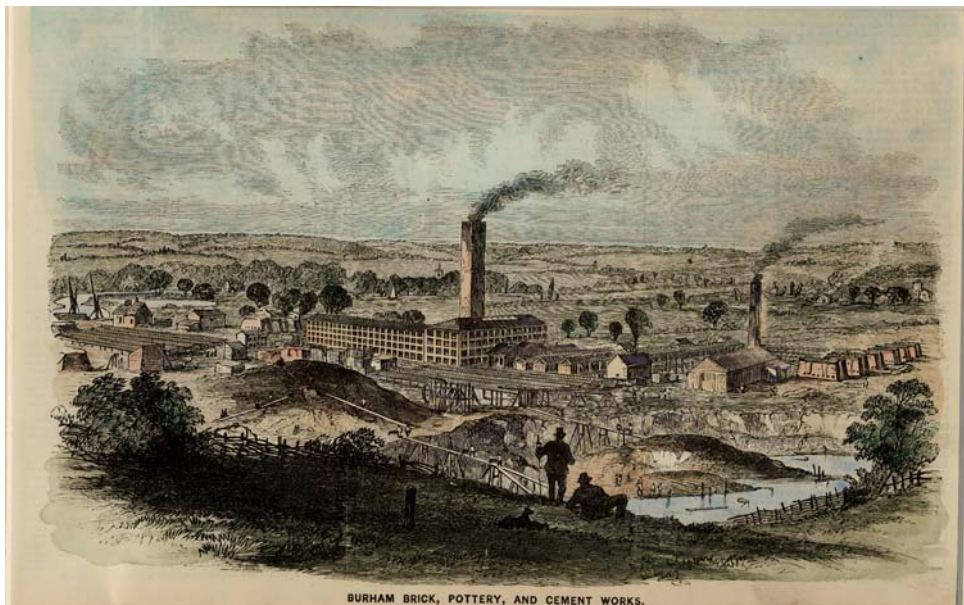
<sup>52</sup> *The Mechanics' Magazine*, Jan. 2 – June 26 1858, ed. R. A. Brooman and E. J. Reed, vol. LXVIII, 253. See also *Papers on Subjects Connected with the Duties of the Corps of Royal Engineers*, Woolwich, 1861, 132-158; *Newtons' London Journal of Arts and Sciences*, London, 1859, New Series, X, 127-8;

<sup>53</sup> Biographical details are in ODNB.

<sup>54</sup> A full account of his life and work is Hermione Hobhouse, *Thomas Cubitt: Master Builder*, London, rev. edn, 1995.



We present our readers, on this page, with two engravings illustrative of these extensive works. It is well-known throughout the building trade that the late Mr. Thomas Cubitt's works at Burham produced the very best bricks and pottery ware that could be profitably brought into the London market; and that the whole establishment, under the superintendence of the present manager, has arrived at a degree of perfection which will render it very difficult for any other brick-field in London to compete with that at Burham in respect of prices. In order to give our readers an idea of the extensive nature of these works, we cannot do better than lay before them the following account furnished by a gentleman who has visited this establishment. He left London one morning, by the 10.15 North Kent train, and arrived at Snodland in two hours. "On the journey we passed," he says, "many brick-fields of various extent, and after passing Strood they became more frequent, but in none of them did we see more than is ordinarily to be seen in such places. After passing Cuxton, the Wouldham and other cement works were pointed out to us on the banks of the Medway, and immediately after, long before our arrival at Snodland, we saw the large pottery and engine house of Burham, with its immense square shaft rising up in the valley, and reminding us very forcibly of the large building on the banks of the Thames at Pimlico, so well known as Cubitt's workshops, and now in the occupation of the Government.



On alighting at Snodland, we crossed the Medway in a ferry boat, and after a walk through the fields of about mile past the old church of Burham, we arrived at the works. The first objects of interest that attracted our notice were numberless rows of little sheds, under which the bricks are dried and which are termed hack grounds. These little sheds, about six feet high by three and half broad, cover upwards of seventeen acres of ground, and are situated between the brick machines and the kilns, and are intersected with lines of tramways. The whole estate is on a slope, falling gradually about one in eighty-five towards the wharf on the river, which fact considerably facilitates the economical working, as all the heavy material goes down hill, and in no case does any material or article have to travel over the same ground twice. At the top of the hill the clay is now dug, and is crushed and washed on the spot. The manager of the works, Mr. W. Varney, who was upwards of forty years in Mr. Cubitt's employ, informed us that he had in the first instance selected the estate for Mr. Cubitt, and that the whole of the vast works had been erected and developed under his own immediate and residential superintendence. The clay is about 130 feet thick, and will last for a century to come. After being washed and crushed, the clay is conveyed in waggons or tramroads to the pugging

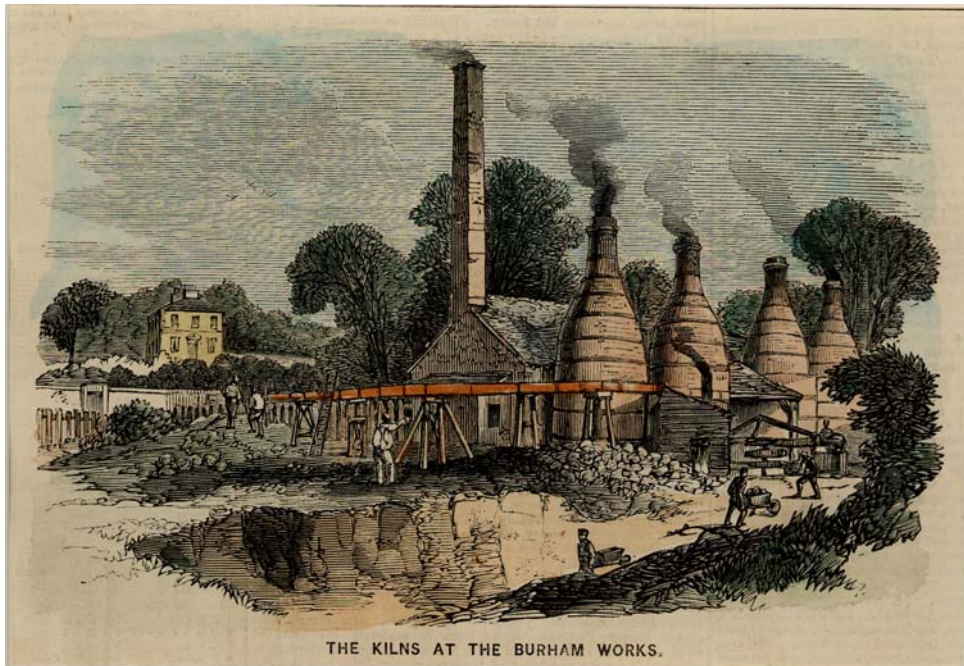
mills and machines, where, after going through a very simple process of squeezing, squashing, and pressing, it issues forth from the various machines, through the dies, in the shape of bricks, either solid or hollow, and tiles of all sorts, sizes, and shapes. These are generated, so to speak, by the machines with a wonderful rapidity, and conveyed by boys off the machines on to harrows, in which men wheel them into the drying hacks, under which they are stored to dry, previous to being stacked in the kilns for burning. All the brick machines are worked by one long shaft, 520 feet long, which receives its motion from the large engine of 220-horse power. This engine we found to be an old friend, being the one formerly worked at the Minorities Station to wind up the endless rope on the Blackwall Railway, when the trains on that line were propelled by the well-known wire-rope. This engine, which is by Maudslay and Field, does nearly all the work of the place—pumping water, crushing clay, flint stones, &c., working the pug-mills, and all the brick, tile, and drain-pipe machines.

The latter articles are all made in the large building forming part of the engine-house. There are four floors, 400 feet long, on all of which drain-pipes, ornamental flower and chimney pots, tiles, &c., are made and dried, the heat from the boilers and the pottery kilns being turned off from waste into various pipes and chambers for heating the rooms, and so drying those goods which are not suitable for outdoor drying in the hacks, previous to burning in the kilns. The number of moulds and wooden frames to receive the several articles when first formed, and when the clay is still plastic and liable to damage by handling, is really surprising. To give some idea, there was one pattern for hollow tiles of which Mr. Varney informed us there were in stock 80,000. The more elaborate articles made in this building are burnt in the kilns in the building; but the stronger and coarser goods are burnt in the out-door kilns with the bricks, and from each floor is a tram-road down an incline for waggons, leading direct from the pottery house, with the goods when dry, to the kiln where they are burnt, and the manufacture is so arranged that the heavy goods are made on the lower, and the lighter on the upper floors, so that in loading (as it is termed) a kiln of dry goods for burning, the heavy and stronger articles are at hand for the lower portion, and the more fragile goods for the upper tiers. After being burnt, the goods then ready for market and use are drawn out of the kiln on the opposite side to where they are loaded, and are placed on trucks on the line of rails immediately contiguous to the kiln doors, and are thence conveyed down the gentle incline of about 1 in 85, either to the wharf, to be at once loaded into barges and sent away, or to be stacked on the stock ground to await purchasers. With the single exception of the coal which is conveyed from the wharf to the kilns and engine-house there is no up-hill traffic, and even this is considerably assisted by the down pull of the loaded waggons, which also, as they go down to the wharf, help up the empty waggons back to the kiln. Thus much horse labour is done away with, and, instead of a large stud, only a very few are requisite to do the work. Some idea of the completeness of these carrying arrangements may be arrived at by the knowledge that there are upwards of three miles of tram and railroad on the works, with numberless turn-tables, weighbridges, &c. Nothing here is wasted; all the broken bricks, drain pipes, and even what few stones there are in the clay, are ground up to powder in a powerful mill worked by the large engine; and on being mixed up with the clay, form a material out of which some superior quality of goods are manufactured. "A never-failing supply of water is obtained from the river, which feeds a reservoir of some three acres in extent; and at the wharf, which is of the most substantial description, and stone-faced, some six barges may be loaded at once. At high tide there are fourteen feet of water at the wharf. Adjoining the wharfs are the cement works, consisting of engine and house, washing mills, some four kilns, with accompanying drying stoves and nine coking ovens.

Nothing strikes a visitor to these works more than the substantial character of everything on the estate. All is of the most solid construction, perfectly unlike any other brick works we ever visited. In most cases a few boards roofed in with tiles,

forming a tumble down looking shed, forms all the building one sees, except the huge square masses of burning bricks, called clamps. At Burham everything is made as if to last for ever—all is Cubittian in its appearance, and everything is burned in kilns of the most approved construction. In addition to the large engine—our old Blackwall Railway friend—there are three others of various power; and all the necessary workshops, with room for the men, foremen's cottages, &c., are in their places.

Near the top of the hill is a most substantial house, indeed quite a mansion, which overlooks the works. This is the residence of the out-door manager, Mr. Varney; and on viewing the whole field, with its various and numerous engines, buildings, tramways, kilns, wharves, &c., one cannot but see that here are what may be justly termed the model brick-works. Here are concentrated the results of near half a century's experience and improvements. Everything is in the right place. Nothing superfluous. Every possible attention has been given to economize labour and material, and every advantage taken of the natural position of the estate. When in full work, between 600 and 700 men and boys are employed, and from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 of bricks, besides tiles and pipes, can readily be turned out from the works; which, however, can be considerably augmented without any great outlay, or increasing the present steam power."



The cement kilns at Burham shown above were sited beside the river and separately from the main brickworks. The view also shows William Varney's house 'Varnes'. The account tells us that he 'he had in the first instance selected the estate for Mr. Cubitt, and that the whole of the vast works had been erected and developed under his own immediate and residential superintendence.' If Varney had been 'upwards of more than forty years in Mr. Cubitt's employ' that suggests he had begun some time prior to 1820; he appears in the 1841 and 1851 censuses living in Pimlico, presumably in premises provided for him by Cubitt. His first wife Maria died in 1842 and a year later he married Lydia Williams. By 1851 he had become a 'brickmaker superintendent' so was well placed for his forthcoming responsibilities. Thomas Cubitt died in 1855 and the family put the Burham works up for sale in 1857. A new partnership was formed to run it in 1859 with Varney appointed as one of the six directors. In his latter years he had a house in Lower Fant,

Maidstone, where he died on 30 August 1894, leaving an estate valued at £16,211. 15s. 6d.

## Cement Workers

The bulk of the workforce comprised unskilled labourers, so employment for them was easy to come by and there was no special need for them to move between parishes, once established. The list of workers given in Appendix 3 is compiled from those named as connected with the industry in Snodland censuses 1841-1881 and shows more than 100 places of birth for the men, although a great proportion of them were born within a relatively small radius of parishes from the Snodland area. Only 12.5 percent were born outside Kent. There were particular groups who had moved from the Wrotham area (13), East Peckham (7), and Yalding (6), but no doubt these and others resulted from family connections.

Glimpses of their working lives can be found in the often grim reports of accidents. Given that the chalk diggers were often perched precariously on cliff faces extracting the lumps of chalk, one would expect them to have had many accidents, but curiously there are no reports of any of these in newspapers, but many which involve machinery, especially that involving getting the wagons to and from the chalk-face. At Lee's works Henry Cook, aged 13, was 'removing a quantity of chalk, when he fell from one of the wagons, and three of them passed over his legs'.<sup>55</sup> John Paddick, 'an engine driver in the employ of Messrs. Peters Brothers, at Snodland, was cleaning the machine, when the waste which he was using caught the cogs, and his arm was drawn in severely injuring it'.<sup>56</sup> Although taken to hospital he died from the injury. He is perhaps the same John Paddick who was a shepherd to Mr Selby, receiving awards in 1832 and 1863 for his care of sheep. Jesse Pring, aged 27, an engine driver, slipped while oiling the crankshaft, and fell having been struck by the machinery, dying about an hour afterwards.<sup>57</sup> Alfred Cook, a smith at Lee's works, 'accidentally got entangled in the iron rope used in the tramway and was dragged by it several times round one of the drums before he could be extricated' Although his injuries were severe, he survived.<sup>58</sup> Another blacksmith, Baker, 'was coming from his forges and had to pass one of the inclines where the chalk is shot down from the wagons. As he passed in front of this, a load containing nearly two tons of chalk was shot, completely burying him beneath it. He was quickly dug out, but was insensible', yet recovered.<sup>59</sup> Work in the kilns caused other casualties. At Lee's Richard Wallis 'while engaged in repairing a kiln, fell a depth of 30 feet. Fortunately his fall was broken by a scaffold' and although concussed he too recovered.<sup>60</sup> John Henry Simmonds was less lucky: 'employed on in pitching cement into a kiln, he attempted to descend into the kiln. There is a rope fixed for the purpose of assisting the men to descend; but deceased incautiously commenced descending without taking hold of the rope, and the soil slipping from under his feet, he fell to the bottom of the kiln. He managed to get out himself, but he was found to be much injured, and he was conveyed to the hospital. Medical evidence was given to the effect that deceased ruptured his intestines, and death resulted therefrom'.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 27 November 1865.

<sup>56</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 27 December 1869.

<sup>57</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 30 September 1876.

<sup>58</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 1 April 1878.

<sup>59</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 14 September 1878.

<sup>60</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 19 June 1871.

<sup>61</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 28 October 1867.

As mentioned previously, the closeness of the works in the four parishes of Snodland, Halling, Burham and Wouldham meant that there was a great deal of movement of workers between them, with just two ferries to serve those crossing the river. Attempts to create a bridge across the Medway began around 1875, but failed, in spite of repeated efforts and promises of funding from the Rochester Bridgewardens. Nevertheless newspaper correspondence gives some idea of the problems faced by the men, particularly in inclement weather. The *Kent Messenger* included a leading article on the subject, part of which is quoted here:

As many of our readers are aware, the district referred to comprises several important villages, of which the chief are Halling and Snodland, Burham and Wouldham, the two former being divided from the latter by the Medway. There is a population of from 7,000 to 10,000, which is rapidly increasing. [...] Besides the extensive paper mill at Snodland, there are eight or nine large cement and lime works, which regularly employ more than 3,000 hands. Many of these workpeople live at Snodland and Halling, and the inconvenience which is daily experienced in passing to the works at Wouldham and Burham on the other side of the river, as well as in the everyday intercourse between the villages, is being felt more and more as the population increases, and the ample physical resources of the locality are being developed. It is anomalous that in these days the only communication across the Medway should be by means of a ferry-boat, plying between the hours of six a.m. and ten p.m., entailing a serious weekly deduction from the incomes of labouring men and their families, as every time the ferry is used a small charge is made. When it is mentioned that nearly six hundred persons, mainly of the working class, pass across the river every day, it will be seen that to heads of families who earn small wages the present mode of communication is not only troublesome but expensive.

Nor is it at all times free from danger, for in winter, when the tide is strong, and there is much floating ice, women and children often run considerable risk, especially during the dark evenings when the boat is crowded, and there is one or two drunken men in it. By the proprietors of the various works also the inadequacy of the existing communication is greatly felt in a variety of ways, and particularly in regard to the speedy conveyance of materials to and from the district. However urgent orders may be, goods have now to be sent from Burham and Wouldham by water - a long, circuitous voyage round the Nore. No ingenuity or exaggeration of fact is required to prove the necessity for a bridge over the Medway at Snodland. A plain statement of the circumstances is the best argument in favour of an improvement that has been too long delayed.<sup>62</sup>

A bout of severe weather in January 1881 provoked letters:

[...] I will only add how I could wish that those who either oppose a bridge, or laugh at the idea of a subway, could know as I do of the wretchedness and miserable inconvenience of the men who, in the pitiless weather of the last few days, have had to stand, hour by hour, shivering on the bank, or in the hut, waiting to cross - then finding it impossible, have had to walk round by Aylesford. I will leave it to others to speak as to what they think of probable danger to life and limb, with a river full of ice such as we have had lately. Can it be that we are living in 1881?

Yours faithfully, JOHN. G. BINGLEY. The Rectory, Snodland, January 27.

Sir. The want of something better than the ferry between the above place and the Burham side of the river has been keenly felt during the last ten days by the few who have been employed during the severe weather we have been visited with. Having occasion to cross the river one day last week at a time when the river was

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<sup>62</sup> *Kent Messenger*, 15 March 1880.



clear, on my return I found, that owing to a large quantity of floating ice brought by the returning tide, the ferrymen declined to come across, not that it seemed impossible in a strong boat manned by a couple of strong hands. They were, however, unwilling to make the attempt. While waiting I found one man who had been detained two nights on the Burham side, and he also told me of numbers of men waiting the night before four or five hours in the hut, but without getting across, and that many men had passed the whole night in the kilns, and I also heard that a professional gentleman had a short time previously offered half-a-crown to the man to come over for him, but without success. Under these circumstances I had to trudge it through the snow to Aylesford, where a choice of evils awaited me, - another dreary walk or to wait a couple of hours for the train, which hundreds of men have had to do during the last week. While the servants of an irresponsible ferryman thus declined to put themselves out of the way to serve the public, private enterprise was at the very time landing the belated wayfarers in boats from Peters' works, showing that it could be done. Again on the following Saturday, under the same circumstances, men were taken freely across, it being pay day. The contract passengers (those who pay by the week) had, I am told, to pay as if they had been taken regularly, and not intermittently, across during the previous six days. I am sir, yours truly, A SNODLANDER AND NOT A LAPLANDER.  
January 26 [1881].

Census descriptions cannot be relied on for accuracy, but in all the works there are relatively few men described as 'lime burner' or 'cement burner/miller'. To begin with the Peters family were clearly leading figures, with William as agent and manager, while Richard and Thomas and probably the younger James Peters all contributed their expertise to the firing of the material. It seems to have been the practice that each section of a works had a foreman to oversee their aspect of the operation, with a manager/agent at the head supervising the whole.

Francis Wilcocks/Wilcox was born in Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire, in 1817, son of William, a schoolmaster. On 6 September 1846 he married Martha Rogers at St Matthew, Brixton, Surrey, when his occupation was given as 'mercantile clerk'. Two daughters were born to the couple in 1849-50 and baptised at St Mary, Bryanston Square, by which time they had moved to a tenement in Upper George Street in the upper class parish of St George, Hanover Square. By 1853 they had moved to Burham and Francis is noted as a commercial clerk at the baptism of two sons, William in 1853 and Francis in 1856. In 1861 the family lived in Holborough Road in Snodland and Francis's occupation is given as 'manager of cement works'. This must have been Peters' works at Wouldham, since Francis is mentioned in the letter by Thomas Fardon quoted earlier.<sup>63</sup> By the time of the 1871 census the family home was the newly-built May Place in Snodland High Street, convenient for catching the ferry. Within the next ten years Francis had moved on to Tunstall, Durham, when his occupation had reverted to 'commercial clerk', and his place at Wouldham was taken by Thomas Castle. He died at Tunstall in the spring of 1885.

Thomas Castle, was the son of the publican of the Five Bells, Halling, and later the Queen's Head, Snodland, baptised at Halling on 25 December 1833. He married another Halling person, Frances Ellen Brice, daughter of Solomon [II] and Mary Ellen, at Wouldham on 8 June 1853. They then disappear from view until 1881, when they have moved to Snodland, but the census entry gives a clue to their whereabouts in the interim, for in 1868 a son James was born to them in St Petersburg, Russia. Between at least 1881 and 1887 their new home in Snodland was the Lodge, and Thomas had become a cement works manager, apparently at Peters works (and replacing William Joy, mentioned later).

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<sup>63</sup> See p. 42.

In 1890 he moved to Strood to become manager of the Reliant Cement Company, but lived in Esplanade House, Rochester. He died on 28 January 1895, leaving an estate valued at £2451 17s.

### William Joy<sup>64</sup>

One of the most intriguing men working in the local cement industry was William Joy, born to William, a blacksmith, and his wife Eliza, at Ryarsh on 30 June 1846. Both his parents had died by the time he was aged 13 and a year later he was a ‘dealer in yeast’ and apparently living and working independently. On 3 June 1865 he married Eliza Ann Wooding at All Saints church, Snodland, he aged 18 (and she 19, and already with an illegitimate son); they set up home in Holborough Road before moving to Constitution Hill around 1867. So William was one of many drawn to Snodland by the burgeoning industrial scene. For a long time the church registers note him merely as a ‘labourer’ at the baptisms of his many children, but precisely where he worked is unknown. He had brief periods at Snodland Paper Mill and as a brick-worker, but he was mainly employed in the cement industry, either at Lee’s, or at Peters’ factory at Burham. It is clear from his later career that William took a real interest in the process of cement-making and had sufficient drive to pursue ways of improving it. On 25 September 1877 he was granted a patent for ‘Improvements in the manufacture of cement and in apparatus to be used therein, and in drying sewage, mud, and similar matters’. Simon Joy writes:

What was new about William’s ideas? What was it that was so different it allowed him to be granted a patent? In essence William’s innovation involved “drying and burning the slurry at one operation.” This overcame the technical and expense problems of settling and drying the slurry, hand digging and barrowing the partially dried slurry to the drying floor, drying it and then again barrowing the dried charge into the kiln for burning. As such this single process that William designed effected a significant “saving of labour and fuel.”

Also in 1877 The West Kent Gault Brick and Cement Company signed a new lease showing they intended to produce Portland Cement at a new factory in Aylesford. Whether William Joy had any part in the development is unknown, but perhaps as early as 1879 he had moved to New Field House, Aylesford, as foreman of the cement works. Presumably his innovation was incorporated in the design, but even this was refined in a new patent of 27 December 1881. It is possible that around this date the family had returned to Snodland, where Ulga Inis, born in Aylesford the previous July, was baptised. For the first time William’s occupation is entered as ‘mechanic’. However all the Joy children were baptised in Snodland, wherever they were born, so this is not ‘evidence’. Between February and 6<sup>th</sup> April 1883 Ethel was enrolled at the National School, so they were certainly in the village then, but the log-book then records ‘family moved away’ because William had become Foreman at the prestigious works of J. B. White, Swanscombe. There he was soon promoted to Manager (one of several), presumably overseeing the burning process. He produced a further twelve patents during his time at Northfleet<sup>65</sup> all developing improved and more efficient ways of drying the slurry.

After six years in Northfleet William returned to Snodland. The family were installed in The Lodge, the house built around 1841-2 by Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, the promoter of the Overland Route to India. Sometime between 1871 and 1874—in the latter year a

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<sup>64</sup> This account is greatly indebted to an unpublished booklet by William’s great grandson Simon Joy: *William Joy Cement Burner 1846-1906*, 2007, which he has kindly donated to Snodland Museum.

<sup>65</sup> 1885: GB 7189, GB 9154, GB 15751; 1886: GB 31, GB 1816, GB 6218, GB 16480; 1888: GB 1978, GB 16811, GB 18491; 1889: GB 13827, GB 15115; 1890: GB 2896. Four of them are lost.



directory shows it was occupied by 'Mrs. Peters'<sup>66</sup> and subsequently by managers in the cement industry. Following Waghorn's death in 1850 the house had been auctioned and was actually bought by the auctioneer, William Day, who rented it out for several years. If Mrs Peters was the widow of William, she later returned to Wouldham Hall. Between at least 1881 and 1887 'Thomas Castle, manager, cement works' lived there. William Joy 'inventor and manager, cement factory' seems to have been his replacement, and he was followed in 1894 by William Peters, nephew of Henry, then by 1901 by Walter (b.1841), son of Thomas Peters of Halling. This is strong evidence to back up the idea that both Castle and Joy were managers at Peters' works and that the house passed between managers and family as was convenient.

There are a number of uncertainties regarding William Joy's life at this time, some generated by family reminiscences. One concerns the possibility that he suffered financial loss due to 'poor speculation' over a cement works at Cuxton. There is no evidence that he was involved with Weekes's factory, but Simon Joy notes that the neighbouring Medway Portland Cement Company Ltd. had a short life from 1885 to 1891 and cites it as a possible candidate. Another concerns his relationship with Peters' works and Henry Peters in particular. Henry is said to have purchased a patent for £5000<sup>67</sup> and it seems quite likely that he acquired both William Joy's services as manager and the use of his inventions. In 1890 Thomas Castle had moved on to be manager of the Reliance Portland Cement Company south of Strood, having also taken out a new patent that year.<sup>68</sup> Sadly William's wife Eliza died of meningitis on 2 August 1891 and, although there is no documentary evidence to confirm it, the event seems to have been a crushing blow for him. He stopped creating patents and his job at Peters' ended just two years later in 1893. Again the reason is unclear. Henry Peters had invited two nephews, Harold and William, into partnership with himself. We can only speculate either that Joy had decided that managing a cement works was too much of a burden (although he was only aged 47), or that Henry was finding him too unpredictable in mood and duty to take on the responsibility of a partner. In any event William Joy married again on 24 June 1893: to Ursula Letitia Daniels, a nurse working in London and for a time he took on the status of a 'gentleman'. It was necessary that he found a new home and within the year the family had moved to Meadow Villa near the railway, a smaller house, but still more imposing than the normal terraced properties in the village. Since at least 1890 it had been the home of Walter and Ida Woodard, son-in-law and daughter of William, so they moved elsewhere, and eventually in 1901 to a newly-built house in Queen's Avenue. Meanwhile the young William Peters, nephew of Henry, moved into the Lodge.

William Joy's last years were sad. His income was now much reduced, although he had bought eight houses in Holborough Road (Jessamine Cottages) in 1883 which would have provided some rents, and for a time he owned a butcher's shop. By 1902 the family had moved to Gravesend, but it is clear that in his last years he was suffering increasingly from dementia and mood swings. A brief stay at the private mental hospital Malling Place in 1890 heralded a two-year stay there in 1903-5, by which time Ursula had moved back to Snodland. She rented rooms in 2 May Place, the Snodland surgery, and perhaps as a nurse helped Dr Palmer there. He lived at Halling, but was constantly on hand as William's condition deteriorated. On 16 May 1905 William was admitted to the County Lunatic Asylum, Barming, where, after another brief home-coming between 5 October and 9 January, he died on 21 February 1906.

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<sup>66</sup> *Kelly's Directory for Kent*, 1874. Was this Mrs Peters Mary, the widow of William? William Peters (1824-1869) died here according to a newspaper notice of his death.

<sup>67</sup> A.J.Francis, *The Cement Industry 1796-1914: A History*, Newton Abbot, 1977, 189.

<sup>68</sup> Francis, *op. cit.*, 193.

## Snodland Paper Mill<sup>69</sup>

The ancient water mill by the Medway at Snodland was acquired by John May senior in 1732 and at some time before 24 January 1743/4 he re-built or converted it into a paper mill.<sup>70</sup> By his will of 8 November 1760 that part of his estate which included the paper mill was to be shared between his two sons John and William as tenants in common. William died on 25 August 1777, so all this in turn devolved to his brother John, who held it until his own death on 2 September 1805. Because he had no immediate family, John divided his large estate between four trustees, giving the family of each first benefit of particular parts of it. They were John Spong the younger of Southwark, hop-factor; John Simmons Esq. of Rochester; Edward Wickham the younger of Birling, farmer; Mary, widow of Thomas Simpson, of Rochester. It was Mary Simpson who was allocated Snodland Court Lodge with 50 acres in Snodland and Birling, the Manor of Veles in Snodland and Snodland Mill and Wharf. However, it was the Spong family who acquired the mill, probably when it was put up for sale in 1807. John Spong of Aylesford, father of the John Spong associated with May, was a coal merchant and had paid parish rates on the coal wharf at Snodland since 1793. Evidently it was he who made the purchase since in his own will of 20 August 1814 he bequeathed 'Snodland mill and the several cottages attached thereto' to his son William, then living at Snodland. This merely confirmed the status quo, for the manorial meeting of 25 October 1810 had already noted the transfer of the mill from John May to William Spong and his partner Isaac Wenman, the papermaker master. The Spong family continued to own the mill until at least 1842, leasing it to various papermaker masters.

One of these, William Joynson (at Snodland 1823-1833), was also an active Non-Conformist from Buckinghamshire and helped establish the 'Independent Church' at Snodland. Like many of the kind, the mill's fortunes varied greatly. There were occasional closures as papermaker masters came and went, but also efforts were made to keep the machinery working and up-to-date. By an agreement dated 1 January 1834, Thomas Spong of Mill Hall, coal merchant, leased the mill to Reuben Hunt, a papermaker of Wooburn, Bucks., for 21 years at £220 p.a. It appears that Hunt immediately re-assigned the lease to John Clark, who is shown to be paying rates on the mill by 1835. This is confirmed by the *Church Book of the Independents*, which records that

About the year 1832 Mr Joynson removed to St Mary Cray, and the paper-mill was shut up: several of his workmen also, who had received the gospel, accompanied him. This occurrence proved a severe trial to the friends of the gospels, and caused its enemies to rejoice. At length, however, this dark cloud was removed by the arrival of Mr. John Clarke, a member of an Independent Church in Buckinghamshire, who, having enjoyed the paper-mill, became a resident in the village, and espoused with all his heart the infant cause. [...]

It was not only John Clark who came, but many friends and relations, including his half-brother James. Both their grandfather James [I] (c.1749 - 1827) and father James [II] (1772 - 1810) were papermakers at Wooburn. The whole extended tribe of Clarks, Gurneys, Healeys, Masons, and Weedens, spread through several of the paper mills in this area: Snodland, Sandling, Pratling Street, Loose, and continued in them for years.

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<sup>69</sup> Much of this section (to 1854) is adapted from my longer account 'Early Snodland Papermakers (c.1740-1854)', Snodland Historical Society, Pamphlet 18, 2003; revised 2012 to which readers are referred for greater detail. Also on-line at <[www.kentarchaeology.ac/authors/aashbee.html](http://www.kentarchaeology.ac/authors/aashbee.html)>

<sup>70</sup> KHC: Q/RDz3/1-17

Clark evidently felt the need to modernise the mill and borrowed money to do so. In 1838 the rates were increased because the mill had been 'improved'. A detailed description survives of the machinery at this time:

2 October 1838

One Rag Engine with Shafts and Drivers in the Mill worked in Gear by Water Wheel or condensing Engine. One set of Glazing Rolls attached to paper machine - one Knot Strainer attached to Paper Machine. A Small Steam Engine of two Horse power - Two Board Tables in the Soll - One pair of small Rollers with swing Shafts and Wheels and Timbers erected in the Soll for rolling Boards - Tube Steam Boiler fourteen horse power high pressure - A large cylinder steam Boiler of Twenty horse power with cocks, pipes and valves erected in the Yard - A sixteen horse power steam engine high pressure and condenser with pipes and cocks; balance wheel, Spur Wheel and large Shaft erected in the new building in the Yard - a Rag Duster with Drivers - Two washing Engines with Rolls, plates and pinions; Water pumps to supply the same erected in the new building in the Yard - A new Bleaching Chest with Racks for braining stuff erected in the bleaching house - A Rag Cutter with Shafts and Drivers - Four shaving Boilers with Pipes and Ccks in the lower Drying House. A Pair of large Mill Board Rollers for Glazing with Shafts and Wheels erected in the Soll. A Grind Stone with Shafts and Wheels erected in the Soll. A Grind Stone with Shafts and Pinions - sixty pairs of new Trebles marked J. C.<sup>35</sup>

Clark planned more and drew up an agreement on 1 June 1840 for

A New Steam Boiler of 20 Horse Power - A New High and low pressure Steam engine of 20 Horse power, with Shafts and Blocks and pinions and the apparatus therewith as going gear connected - Four new Cast Iron Rag Engines with pumps and Apparatus complete - A New Paper Machine with Drying Cylinders, Machinery, Utensils and Apparatus

and a diagram survives which shows the position of the machinery new and old. Unfortunately Clark went bankrupt and the plans for this second phase fell through. The actual legal process is somewhat confusing. A 'Fiat in Bankruptcy' dated 31 August 1840 against John Clark records T. Stephens the younger ('then late of Old Broad Street but then of Lime H<sup>sc</sup> Square, London, merchant, as creditors' assignee of the estate and effects of the said John Clark of Snodland, miller'); John Clark was 'then of 26 Ray St., Clerkenwell, Middlesex'. John Clark's bankruptcy was reported in *The Times* of 9 September 1840: 'John Clark, Snodland-mills, near Maidstone, paper manufacturer, to surrender Sept. 18 at 12 o'clock, Oct. 20, at 11, at the Bankrupts' Court: solicitors, Messrs Walters and Reeve, Basinghall-street; official assignee, Mr. Groom, Abchurch-lane.' The census taken on 7 June 1841 shows that Clark and several of his workforce were still in Snodland. *The London Gazette* for 3 June 1842 records 'John Clark formerly of Hoxton, Middlesex then Snodland papermaker then Blackwell Hall near Chesham, Bucks. Foreman to a papermaker. Bankrupt.' Indeed it appears that bankruptcy was the least of Clark's concerns, for he indulged in shady and fraudulent dealings which eventually led to proceedings being taken against him for recovery of debts and taxes, both by the Crown and by Thomas Spong, then the landlord of the mill. The case was held at the Mitre Inn, Chatham, on 30 September 1841, by which time Clark appears to have disappeared, and it was fully reported in the *West Kent Guardian* of 6 November. The following points were made by Spong's attorney:

Spong, the landlord, has never possessed a control over the occupation of this mill. The mill is on lease for 21 years. Clark has been a sub-lessee of Spong's first lessee. Clark came to Snodland-mill, a stranger to Spong and the neighbourhood, and Clark has now left; if report misinforms not, for a foreign land. ... In the year 1834, Spong, the landlord of this mill, passed it by lease for 21 years to one Reuben Hunt, of Buckinghamshire. This Reuben Hunt was a stranger to Spong, until Spong's

public advertisements for the letting of the mill, which enabled Hunt to introduce himself and proffer terms for an occupation; such terms were accepted by Spong, and Spong then made an outlay on the premises to the extent of £1,200; Hunt got possession of Spong's lease, and afterwards he took other paper-mills near Maidstone, assigned them over to some of his creditors, and then became a bankrupt, to a loss of many persons in the neighbourhood. But, whatever may be the bankrupt notoriety of the individual late in possession of various mills on the Medway, the landlords have been their prey to an extent exceeding the losses of the public taken individually. this Reuben Hunt, be it also recollected, made Clark first his undertenant of Snodland mill, and then afterwards assigned over to Clark all his interest and plants in such mill. Clark took possession, having full control over this paper-mill, and carried thereupon the paper trade until the close of last year, when, after enrolling the mill in duty to the extent of £900 he became bankrupt, leaving deficiencies to the enormous amount of £35,000. Clark paid not one farthing in the pound. An individual named Healy, a paper salesman, resident in London, had previously passed over in the way of mortgage the lease of the mill. It was afterwards found that the lease of the mill came into the hands of a person named Godwin, another paper salesman. This Godwin afterwards offers to Spong the plant in the mill for £500, which he said he had purchased of Spicer; but Spong then, as at the auction (if auction it could be called; for no bidder was there save Godwin), refused to purchase; and on one or both occasions gave that assurance of his entire distrust of certain parties concerned in this transaction, a distrust which report warrants and which circumstance have recently proved not to have been misplaced. Godwin, finding Spong the landlord would be no purchaser, sells the property in the mill to some other person, and here all trace of the names of the parties purchasing and disposing of the lease, and tenant of the mill, utterly fail. We know not now whom to call the tenant of the mill in question, for Godwin, the last known possessor of the lease (Clark being only his tenant at will) condescends to notice his transfer by the following letter:-

Chelsea, 22d. Sept. 1841

“Dear Sir, - As you did not feel disposed to purchase my interest in Snodland-mill, Kent, it's a matter of no courtesy. I beg to inform you that I have disposed of it.  
I am, Dear Sir, yours truly,  
I. Godwin”

We could give evidence to you, gentlemen, proving that Mr. Spong has suffered the loss of several hundreds of pounds, not twelve months back, through Clark's bankruptcy and default of payment of duty in that period; and within the year Mr. Spong has again, as now, to find an extent for paper duty in his mill, and has again to suffer through the fraudulent practices of the late occupant of his mill; he has now even to learn the name of the present holder of his lease, and for the rental of £250, from a person whose name cannot yet be ascertained. Mr. Spong in the years 1838 and 1840, finding his own plant and machinery becoming intermixed with the plant and machinery there placed by his tenant, and therefore becoming difficult to distinguish, it is most fortunate for Mr. Spong that he then insisted on a minute schedule being taken of the plant, which schedule is affixed to the deed. The surveyor drew out the plan under the direction of both landlord and tenant; and there can be no difficulty of identification between those belonging to the landlord and tenant.

The mill was closed for a time after Clark's disappearance, so it does not feature in the evidence collected for the Children's Employment Commission, published in 1842-3.<sup>71</sup> But some of the workers had found jobs elsewhere through their family connections. John Bateman and his son Jabez were at Moses Clark's mill at Sandling, Moses being the

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<sup>71</sup> *Children's Employment Commission. Second report of the Commissioners. Trades and manufactures*

son of John the bankrupt. Both are resident at Snodland at the census on 7 June 1841, but Jabez, one of seven children at the mill, was interviewed by Major J. G. Burns a few weeks earlier:

*Jabez Bateman*, aged 18 years next September. Examined March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1841

Can read, bad at it. Been here about 6 months. Employed in paper finishing; making it up into quires. Stand to work. Come to work at 6, leave off at 6 in the evening. Allowed half an hour for breakfast, and one hour for dinner. Eat my meals at home. 9s a week regular wages. Sometimes, according as the work is, come earlier and remain later, but paid extra. Work don't hurt me in the least. Pretty good health. Hired by Mr. Clark, paid by the foreman Mr. Bateman. Plenty of good food. Well treated and like the place.

The statement that he eats at home suggests they were resident nearby for at least some of the time. Another local mill involving the Clark, Mason, and Gurney families was at Pratling Street, Aylesford. John Mason had arrived on 27 October 1837, from Buckinghamshire. At the 1841 census he was at Forstall Mill, Boxley, and his brothers-in-law Henry Gurney and Daniel Clark were in charge at Pratling Street. By 1851 Mason had moved on to become 'Foreman of Paper Boards Manufactory' at Loose, Maidstone, and Daniel Clark to West Drayton, Middlesex. Henry Gurney was at St Mary Cray by 1845, but by May 1851 he too had moved to Loose, where the lower of the two mills (Excise No. 303) undertook millboard production by Henry Gurney senior and junior. He remained there according to the 1861 and 1871 censuses. James, the son of Daniel Clark was another who was interviewed for the Children's Employment Commission:

No. 67. James Clark, aged 12 years: 22 March 1841

'Can read and write. Attend a Sunday School. Been here a year. Employed in glazing drying boards (a thick pasteboard). Work from 6 to 6. Sometimes come earlier. Allowed half an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner. Eat them at home; my father works here. Glazing the boards makes my back ache, but I am more used to it now. Well treated. Earns 3s. a week. Hired and paid by Mr. Mason.' On being asked to sign his name he says he can't, though he said he could write.

In 1842 the Snodland mill was leased to Henry Holden, a papermaker of 'Fulham and Snodland', who perhaps ran the business from London; certainly the house in the High Street was not regularly occupied until the next manager, 'Wildes', took up residence in 1847.<sup>72</sup> The mill appears to have been closed in 1846 since it has a 'Nil' assessment in the Overseers accounts. This prompted further movement of the workforce and St Mary Cray, where the former manager William Joynson was operating, seems to have been a refuge for them. Holden leased the mill at £200 p.a. also agreeing to take as an apprentice a son of Thomas Spong 'not exceeding seventeen years of age to learn and be instructed by him in the trade or business of a Paper-Maker.'

It would appear that the Spongs sold the mill around the mid-1840s and that it was bought by Henry Atkinson Wildes of Maidstone. Contemporary directories show him first as an attorney in St Faith's Street, Maidstone (Pigot's: 1840), and later as 'deputy clerk of the peace, and clerk to the Lieutenancy of the county' (Kelly's: 1851). He became clerk of the peace in 1855,

but after ten years of office he clashed with the justices, initially on a matter of his salary, and was dismissed. Between 1864 and 1869 Wildes repeatedly took legal action, first against the justices themselves and later against his successor in office,

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<sup>72</sup> A Henry Holden appears in the 1841 Fulham census, aged 39, as a maltster; by 1851 he had moved to St George's Hanover, still listed as a maltster.

Francis Russell. None of these actions succeeded.<sup>73</sup>

On 9 November 1863 a sitting at the London Court of Bankruptcy was instigated by Wildes himself, partly to obtain protection from arrest. A long list of his debts was made, but 'it was stated that the voluminous accounts of the bankrupt were not yet completed' and the next hearing was fixed for 21 December. Wildes stated that 'his inability to meet his engagements arises from "loss of capital in building paper mills at Basted and Snodland, renewing machinery, and heavy payments for insurances on my life"'.<sup>73</sup>

'H. A. Wildes Esq.' is assessed for the rates for the mill in the Snodland Overseers' accounts, but it is William Wildes, (his son, baptized at All Saints, Maidstone, on 18 June 1825) aged 26, who is named as papermaker master at the 1851 census, employing 13 men, 39 women and 4 boys. Of these all the men and boys, but only 22 of the women can be identified in the Snodland census. Some of the latter probably came from outside the parish, including two from Ham Hill, Birling: Eliza Norris, aged 44, and Ann Martin, aged 27, a rag sorter. 1851 was also the year of the Great Exhibition and Wildes was one of the papermakers who exhibited there. On 17 July 1858 'William Wildes of Maidstone, Kent, papermaker, [took out a patent] for an improved arrangement or arrangements of machinery for reducing vegetable matter to pulp,'<sup>74</sup> but where and when this happened is unclear, since by that time the Hook family had taken over the Snodland mill.

The latest sighting of William at Snodland is currently 28 August 1854 when he and his wife were guests of honour at a fête at Holborough. By the time of the 1861 census he had moved from Kent to Buckinghamshire, where he became manager of the Glory Mill [456] at Wooburn Moor with over 100 workers. What is very curious is the complete absence of any reference to his papermaking activities in his obituary, published in the *Buckinghamshire Herald* on 21 February 1891. This claims he 'was brought up to no profession', and is concerned entirely with his work as a lay-reader, his brief stay as a student at Oxford where he intended to take holy orders, and his plans to build a church in Capri, where he had retired. Probate was granted on 30 April 1891 and has yet another surprise:

The Will of William Wildes formerly of Basted in the parish of Wrotham in the County of Kent but late of Capri in Italy Gentleman who died on 8 February 1891 at Capri was proved at the Principal Registry by Elizabeth Martha Wildes of Palazzo Ferreo Capri Widow the sole Executrix. Personal Estate £1,247 6s. 6d.

There is no mention of Snodland or Wooburn, or clarification of when Wildes was at Basted (although this was presumably linked with his father's purchase of the mill there).

#### *Samuel Hook (1797-1866)*



No precise date has been found for when Samuel and Charles Townsend Hook took over the Snodland paper mill, but it was in 1854-5. It is unfortunate that a contemporary account of the mill in Hook's time is lost, perhaps destroyed, and only secondary references to it are currently available. Samuel had owned the mill at Tovil from 1852. 'Samuel Hook and another at Tovil' were plaintiffs on 9 January 1855 when a boiler was stolen from their works. On 19 April 1856 the partnership was dissolved between Samuel Hook and William Simpson, paper manufacturers of Tovil

<sup>73</sup> *Guide to the Kent Archives Office*, Maidstone, 1958, 36-37.

<sup>74</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 5 February 1859.

Upper Mill, and on 29 April 1856 ‘Samuel Hook of Tovil, paper manufacturer, and of Chalford, Gloucester, silk throwster’ was declared bankrupt.<sup>75</sup> Simpson continued to operate the mill.<sup>76</sup> Charles was certainly the driving force at Snodland, but others had clearly helped to pay for the mill. *The Maidstone Telegraph* of 23 April 1859 noted

Partnerships dissolved. – C.T.Hook, Mary Anne Smith, Sarah and Maria Smith, and Caroline Ellen Thurston, Snodland Mills, near Rochester, Kent, paper manufacturers.

Kenneth Funnell was able to draw on the missing document in his account of Snodland mill and writes

Townsend set about enlarging and re-equipping the mill with an energy rare even in those bustling Victorian days. He had the help of a man who may have matched him in ability and ambition. This was William Thomas, an older and more experienced papermaker, whose services the Hooks had hired with the Tovil mill. Thomas stayed with Townsend for about five years. He then joined forces with Mr. J. Barcham Green and another partner in buying Soho Mills in Buckinghamshire and founding the business which was to become the well-known firm of Thomas and Green. Thomas and Townsend Hook clearly parted on amicable terms because, apart from his own ability, Thomas brought to the new partnership permission to use free of royalties the process for straw boiling patented by Townsend. This permission was granted in consideration of the services which had been rendered by Thomas to the Hooks.<sup>77</sup>



*Charles Townsend Hook (1832-1877)*

From census records we can ascertain that William Thomas was born at Dartford in 1811. He married Eliza from Shoreham in the 1830s and worked as a papermaker there until at least 1851, living in Mill Lane. So he had not long been at Tovil when the Hooks arrived. By 1861 he had moved to be in charge of the Soho Mill at Wooburn, employing 35 men, 6 women and 8 boys.

His successor at Snodland was James Deacon, also born in 1811, but at Boxmoor, Hertfordshire, where the first paper was made at the Frogmore and Two Waters mills with the newly-invented Fourdrinier machine. In 1816 William Nash succeeded the Fourdrinier brothers at Frogmore and evidently James began working for him. William died in 1824 and his widow Ann moved to St Paul's Cray to be with their son Thomas (1801-1845), who, as a young man in his 20s, had leased the paper mill there. James too transferred to Kent. He was friend enough to the Nash family to be a witness to the will of Ann Nash at St Paul's Cray on 21 July 1831.<sup>78</sup> By 1841 he was married to Sarah, a local girl, and remained a papermaker there from at least 1841 to 1847. Thomas Nash died in 1845 and James moved on to the mill at Countess Weir, Topsham, Devon, by the time his son James was born in 1849; a daughter Eliza followed in 1851. He is next found at Snodland in 1861 as foreman papermaker for Hook, so presumably he had succeeded William Thomas a little before this. No doubt his lengthy experience was again invaluable to the youthful Townsend Hook. He moved on in 1865, but nothing further has been found about him and his family, except for his son Joseph (1841-1902) who remained in

<sup>75</sup> *Morning Chronicle*, 19 and 30 April 1856. The mill was no. 312.

<sup>76</sup> Alfred H. Shorter, *Studies on the History of Papermaking in Britain*, Ashgate Variorum series, 1993, 246.

<sup>77</sup> Kenneth J. Funnell, *Snodland Paper Mill C. Townsend Hook and Company from 1854*, privately printed, 1979, rev. 1986, 28

<sup>78</sup> W. S. Shears, *William Nash of St Paul's Cray, Papermakers*, London 1950 (Rev. 1967), 9.



Snodland, giving up his initial employment as a papermaker to become a grocer and draper, with taxidermy as a sideline.

Henry Hobday, born at Chartham in 1838, took over.<sup>79</sup> The third and youngest son of Daniel and Sarah, he worked at Chartham mill from 1848 with wages of 1s. per week. After a serious fire there in 1850 Daniel set out for Somerset, where he found employment, and sent for Henry to become an apprentice, but the plan was abandoned and both men were re-employed at Chartham. Around 1855 Henry spent a short time at Buckland Mill, Dover, but was back at Chartham by 1857. By 1859 he moved briefly to McMurray's Mill, Wandsworth. He married Hepzibah, daughter of the papermaker Isaac Tovey at East Malling in the third quarter of 1859 and the following year a son John was born there. Henry was Salle Foreman and later General Foreman for George Busbridge. In 1862 a daughter was born at St Mary Cray and in 1864 a son at St Paul's Cray, where Hobday presumably worked for William Joynson and William Nash respectively.

In 1865 Henry moved to Snodland to become Manager and later General Manager. On 2 August 1868 Hepzibah was admitted to the congregation of the Independent Church as was Henry on 4 October following. Three of their children had been baptized there on 25 August 1867, but Gilbert, Grace and Lewis, all born in the 1870s were not. With the completion of Millbrook House in June 1868, which was intended for senior management, Henry moved there with his family; his neighbour in the building was the mill accountant, Henry Brown. In 1875 he was receiving a salary of £300 p.a. and the rent-free house and free coal and gas. After Townsend Hook's death it was not long before a new manager was appointed. Colonel Trevenan James Holland had had a distinguished army career, but no experience of papermaking. Although on good terms with the Hook family one suspects that he did not have Townsend's innate enthusiasm for papermaking, but was a business manager for the firm. It is said that Henry could not get on with him and left in 1879. Townsend's brother Eustace, who was not himself much involved with the firm's operation, but who had perforce to assume some temporary responsibility following his brother's death, gave Hobday a gold watch on a heavy gold chain in 1878, inscribed "A token of esteem and respect". Henry Hobday moved as manager to Buckland Mill, Dover, retiring in 1906, and was succeeded by his son Lewis. He was elected to Dover Town Council in 1904 and later became an Alderman and JP. He was a steady chapel goer. Henry died in 1921, aged 83, and is buried at Buckland churchyard.

Two men are listed as papermaker foremen in the 1881 census: Arthur Harper, aged 36, born in Scotland, probably replaced Hobday since he cannot have been in Snodland before 1878 at the earliest. He had gone by 1891. William Dulton, born at St Paul's Cray, was aged 49 in 1881 and had been a papermaker in Snodland from at least 1857, remaining until he died in 1900.

Newspaper accounts say that Hook began at the paper mill with between 20 and 30 hands 'and considered he had done well when he had reached five tons of paper per week'. By the time of his death there were 250 hands employed producing nearly 70 tons per week. Funnell writes

From what has been said about production at the mill from the time of his acquisition, it is apparent that Townsend soon replaced the first small machine. In the twenty-three years left to him he added two more so that on his death in 1877 there were three machines, 60", 69", and 93" in wire width.

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<sup>79</sup> The account of Hobday draws heavily on that available at [homepage.ntlworld.com/glenn.hatfield/six\\_mills/henry\\_hobday.htm](http://homepage.ntlworld.com/glenn.hatfield/six_mills/henry_hobday.htm) but several errors in the Snodland paragraphs have been corrected without further comment.

From the first Hook favoured production from straw rather than from rags, having already patented a process in the manufacture of pulp through boiling straw.<sup>80</sup> The *Illustrated London News* reported on the International Exhibition of 1862 and noted ‘The webs of paper made from straw by Messrs. Townsend Hook & Co., are excellent, particularly so when made from that substance alone, unmixed with any other fibre – their printing and writing sorts being freer than usual from that brittle crackle so common to straw paper.’ The mill still has the silver medal awarded at the exhibition to Hook for his paper. Nevertheless there were still three women rag cutters listed in the 1881 census, with Henry Fowle a ‘rag paper boiler’ (and two straw boilers).

Among his Swedenborgian connections Hook befriended Walter Weldon (1832-1885) and seems to have influenced him to become a chemist. Around 1864

‘without any formal or practical training, he [Weldon] began to consider certain industrial problems, particularly chlorine and alkali manufacture, mainly by reading at the British Museum. He took out his first patents for the ‘manganese-regeneration process’, which eventually made his name famous, before he had ever seen a chemical experiment.’<sup>81</sup>

A later chemist at the mill was William Frederick Catcheside, who lived in May Street between at least 1871 and 1875. Three children were born to him in Snodland, but they are not recorded as having been baptized here. William was born in Liverpool in 1849 and was educated at Queenswood College, Hampshire, marrying Mary Langhorn at Newcastle on 17 May 1871, aged 22. The couple must have moved to Snodland immediately, but in later years seem to have separated. A Fellow of the Chemical Society William regularly took part in local entertainments and in 1873 gave a lecture on oxygen. In later years he was editor of the journal *Papermaking* and died in Swanley on 18 July 1902. Hobday is known to have sought his advice in later years.

The enumerator of the 1861 census was particularly careful in detailing the occupations of those working in the paper mill which enables us to see something of how the workforce was distributed.

<b>Sheet Layer</b>			Josiah Gay	21	(invalid)
George Hadlow	12		Joseph Collard	33	
Henry Hawks	13		<b>Finisher</b>		
Robert Whitehouse	13		Robert Whitehouse	36	& newsman
John Dearing	12		William Gay	42	
William Randell	13		Thomas Gay	19	
Charles H Mayatt	15		William Dulton	29	
Edward P Mayatt	13		<b>Millwright</b>		
Joseph R Mayatt	11		Joseph B. Privett	18	
<b>Chemical Dept.</b>			James Carmichael	23	
John Knopp	23		William Adams	20	
<b>Alkali Dept.</b>			<b>Straw Boiler</b>		
John Bassett	25		Henry Walker	35	Labourer
George Randell	44	Alkali maker	George Mayger	26	
<b>Bleacher</b>			James Crittenden	19	
Solomon King	27		<b>Straw Cutter</b>		
William Randell	36		William Adams	18	

<sup>80</sup> 1853, patent no. 2133 ‘manufacture of pulp’; published 1854.

<sup>81</sup> *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Walter Weldon. Hook’s *Journal* records payment on 18 May 1872 of a ‘cash gift W Weldon’s brother: £5.0.0.’

John F. Mayger	24		Thomas Cook	17	
<b>Paper glazer</b>			<b>Engine Driver</b>		
Harriet Capon	66		Walter Imms	31	
Harriet Capon	23		John Glover	38	
Rose Knopp	19		Cornelius Woolley	23	
Sarah H. Oliver	20		John Woollett	21	Engine fitter
Maria Hawks	17		Robert Patton	41	Engine smith
Grace Tanner	23		<b>Machine Dept.</b>		
Ann Phillips	32		George Cook	58	
George Gay	22		John Johnson	27	
Mary Ann Hawks	15	Glazing girl	Charles Mayatt	38	
Eliza Laurence	17	Glazing girl	David Smith	33	Machinist
Sophia Burgess	20	Glazing girl	<b>Mill labourer</b>		
Sarah Ann Baker	15	Glazer girl	William Mills	30	
Ellen Cook	18	Glazing girl	William Kemp	17	
<b>Paper Sorter</b>			Richard Wooding	32	
Ann Dartnall	33		John Adams	40	
<b>Paper maker</b>			George Hales	28	
William Jordan	43		James Hosburgh	26	
James Deacon	50	Foreman	James H Johnson	20	
Henry Penny	30		Thomas Cowen	35	
			Thomas Cowen	14	
Charlotte Banks	20	Paper work	William Capon	16	

*Snodland papermakers: 1861 census [C. Banks from Birling]*

The papermakers and finishers were experienced men, whereas eight boys worked as sheet layers, separating the individual sheets from the felts on which they had been pressed. Straw cutters and straw boilers here had largely replaced production from rags which was still common elsewhere. A substantial number of men were responsible for maintaining the machines and engines which drove them. Chief among them was Robert Patton, who is presumably the man Funnell records as being employed from 1857 and who on 20 February 1877 joined Henry Hobday in penning an advertisement ‘to the workpeople of Snodland works ... [from] the Family of our late employer to express to you their best thanks for your kindness in attending the Funeral [of C. T. Hook], and more especially for your good and orderly conduct on the occasion.<sup>82</sup> George and William Randell were Swedenborgians from Fisherton, Wiltshire, and part of the small group who formed the Snodland branch of the Society led by Hook. They worked in the alkali and bleaching part of the papermaking process.

Women and girls were regularly employed in papermaking, initially as rag sorters and pickers – removing buttons and other obstructions from clothing which was to be broken down – but at Snodland they also worked in the glazing department, feeding sheets between rollers to create a smooth surface for the finished product. Usually there was an older woman in charge of the girls and Harriet Capon evidently filled that roll in 1861. Three accidents at the mill relate to this department. In 1861 William Kemp, 19, ‘was about to place a roller in the machine when it (the roller) being hot he lost his hold and it came down on his right hand, which was frightfully smashed. He was as quickly as possible removed to the West Kent Infirmary, where amputation was resorted to. He is

<sup>82</sup> *Kent Messenger*.

at present going on favourably.<sup>83</sup> Worse still, on 12 March 1866. Sarah Ann Glover ‘was employed in the fibre manufactory of a paper mill at Snodland belonging to Mr. Townsend Hook, her duty being to place sheets of paper between zinc plates ready for rolling. On Tuesday last she tried to put the plates through the rollers, when her arms were drawn in between the rollers. She was frightfully injured and died the following day. Verdict “Accidental Death.”<sup>84</sup> Later still [James] ‘Goldsmith, aged 16, was attending to the melting of some zinc when the vessel containing it burst, and the lad was covered with patches of the molten metal. His clothes were burnt through, his face extensively burnt, and both eyes were seriously injured. He was taken to the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital at Maidstone, where ... he is doing well.’<sup>85</sup>

Something of the links between paper mills is seen in a court case involving two Snodland girls. Like Hook William Joynson mixed rags and straw in his paper production and it was reported in July 1852 that

Joynson has been making paper with a large mixture of Straw and says it will answer well. It appears that it takes the size well, and handles extremely well, and thick.<sup>86</sup>

In December 1863

Mary Hadlow, and Ann Lambeth, of Snodland, were charged ... on Tuesday, with breaking into two rooms in a house in Footscray, and stealing a shawl and a dress, value 24s., the property of Frederick Watkins, and also a pair of boots, two petticoats, and an umbrella, the property of Sarah Carlow. It appeared that the prisoners were employed as rag pickers in Mr. Joynson’s paper mill, and they lodged in the house referred to. Early on the morning in question the prisoners left for their work, but instead of going to work they returned to the house, forcibly entered the room, and carried away the property; but the loss was not discovered until the return home of Watkins and Carlow in the evening. Information was then given to the police, and Errill, 255 R., traced them to Snodland, and with the assistance of Marsh, 97 K.C.C., apprehended them wearing the stolen property at the time. They were both committed for trial.<sup>87</sup>

The next month

Mary Hadlow, 17, and Ann Lambeth, 17, pleaded guilty to housebreaking, and stealing a shawl, and other articles, the property of Sarah Carlow, at Footscray. Mr. Kays, for the prosecution, stated that the prisoners had broken into the house of the prosecutrix, and when inside, had cut a hole to get from one set of rooms to another. – Each one year’s hard labour.<sup>88</sup>

After their punishment both married in Snodland: Mary to Richard Hunt on 8 July 1865 and Ann to John Eversfield, a lime labourer, on 25 November following. Sadly Mary’s husband died of consumption aged 25 in 1870, and she remained a ‘paper mill worker’ when the 1871 census was made. The Eversfields moved to Wouldham.

By the time of the 1871 census C.T. Hook was employing 129 men, 35 women, and 12 boys and in 1882 the mill was ‘employing about 350 persons and manufacturing weekly more than 90 tons of paper.’

Eustace Hook’s relationship with the paper mill is not easy to determine. Surviving accounts (his brother’s *Journal and Ledger*) show that he received £2465, partly as a loan,

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<sup>83</sup> *Kentish Gazette*, 12 November 1861.

<sup>84</sup> *Maidstone and Kentish Journal*, 19 March 1866.

<sup>85</sup> *Kent Messenger*, 23 March 1867.

<sup>86</sup> Richard L Hills, *Papermaking in Britain 1488-1988*, London and New Jersey, 1988, 136

<sup>87</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 22 December 1863.

<sup>88</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 12 January 1864.

following the death of Samuel, and no doubt this helped him to set up house at Delamere, but the record of any salary paid to him by the mill has been lost. As the youngest child in the family he seems to have preferred to live an active life outside commerce. The memoir of Agnes Hook written by Maud includes a few pertinent comments: their sorrow on losing a playmate when he went to [boarding?] school; the children's sadness on leaving Gloucestershire for Kent, especially Eustace 'who was an ardent cricketer, for to the last matches between Kent and Gloucestershire that he followed, he was "divided between the two which he said he wished to win."' He played regularly for the local team between June 1860 and August 1867 – and occasionally thereafter.<sup>89</sup>

He became involved with the Kent County Rifle Association in 1862 and was made Ensign of the corps in April of that year. His enthusiasm led to his writing a song, *The Grey and Green*, with music by Stephen French of Maidstone, who played the organ in 1882 when the New Jerusalem church was consecrated. The *South Eastern Gazette* said 'The song is an exceedingly good one, and from the favour with which it has already been received, it bids fair to become extremely popular.'<sup>90</sup> Hook was part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Kent Rifle Volunteers of Chatham and was promoted to lieutenant in May 1863. This brought him into contact with the family of James Budden, a wealthy victualler of Chatham (1821-1866), two of whose children were also involved: James (1846-1897), a Major, and Lieut.-Col. Austen Frederick (1851-1924). Ties became closer still when Eustace married the eldest daughter, Evelina Augusta, at St George's Hanover Square, on 20 March 1867. In this he abandoned the Swedenborgian sect of his family and Evelina soon became an ardent supporter of the parish church, paying for many of the features installed there at the 1870 re-build and refurbishment.

Some involvement with paper-making shows in 1872-3 when a document was redrawn excluding him as a joint applicant with Charles Townsend for extending the wharf,<sup>91</sup> but more especially in connection with the purchase and development of the Ballyclare Paper Mills in Antrim, Ireland, where he is named as one of the Directors. A report by him from Snodland dated 26 July 1873 was to support an issue of more shares:

GENTLEMEN—Having visited the Works at Ballyclare, I beg to hand you my opinion of the place and its capacity.

I find the Mill in very fair working order, and that there will be no difficulty in turning out fifty tons of paper weekly. The machinery is in good working condition: the only thing immediately required is another steam boiler to replace one worn out and condemned.

I have no hesitation in saying that, having carefully gone through the cost of material at these mills, and taking into consideration their water supply and cheap labour and the plentiful supply of straw in the neighbourhood, these mills can turn out paper as cheaply, if not more cheaply, than most mills in the kingdom, and must prove a remunerative undertaking. The paper bears a good character in the market for colour, quality, and strength.

It is only just to add that the want of capital has alone hindered these works from being successful, and under new management, where regularity of supply can be assured, the concern must prove remunerative to all its shareholders.

With no unforeseen drawbacks, and careful and strictly economical management in every department, and with sufficient capital to work these mills, I beg to state

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<sup>89</sup> Teams are often listed in contemporary newspapers. His cricket bat is now at Snodland Museum

<sup>90</sup> 16 December 1862. Later references show it did gain popularity.

<sup>91</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 24 June 1872.

my conviction that, with a weekly out-turn of fifty tons at present prices, they can yield a manufacturing profit of some £10,000 per annum.<sup>92</sup>

Eustace served the community in many ways: as Overseer in 1870-1 and chairman of many events, including the inquest into the death of Police-Constable May. Both he and his wife were frequent performers at the Penny Readings. The death of Charles Townsend led him to assume control at the Mill for a time, but by 1880 that position was filled by Lieut.-Col. James Trevenan Holland. There is a marked contrast between the estates of Charles Townsend ('under £160,000') and Eustace (£1239. 5s. 9d.). He was an invalid for the last few months of his life (February-December), but he was popular and virtually the whole parish turned out for his funeral, even though it snowed hard.

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<sup>92</sup> *Belfast Evening Telegraph*, 13 August 1873. The mill traded successfully for many years.

# III: Road, Rail, River

## The Toll Road

The Strood to Malling Toll Road was opened in 1825/6 with toll gates at Strood, Snodland and Leybourne. New sections of road were built from the Bull at Snodland to Ham Hill and from the end of Lunsford Lane to Leybourne. A board of trustees managed the scheme, which seems to have operated smoothly. Each year advertisements were made in the newspapers and bids were made by those interested in receiving the toll money collected. Successful bids for the Snodland Gate generally averaged around £250 and each owner then put in collectors to live in the toll house and receive money on their behalf. So, in 1829, *The Times* included the following notice:

Malling and Strood Road. – Notice is hereby given, that the several tolls, which are now directed by the Trustees of the said Road to be taken at the Toll-gates and side Bar upon the said Road, called the Snodland-gate, the Temple-gate, and the Halling Side Bar, will be let by auction to the best bidder, for the term of one year from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September next, at the Crown at Rochester, on Monday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of August next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, in the manner directed by the general Turnpike Acts, which gates and bar produced last year, clear of the gate-keeper's salary, the following sums, viz:- The Snodland-gate, £119; the Temple-gate, £153; the Halling Side Bar, £6 10s. And they will be put up either together, at one sum, or separately in lots, at such sums as the Trustees of the said Road shall think fit. The best bidder will be required to pay down three months in advance of the rent at which such tolls may be let, and to give security to the satisfaction of the said Trustees for payment of the remainder of the rent monthly. – Dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 1829. J. N. and G. Dudlow, Clerks.

Note. – The full rate of Toll allowed by the act is now at present taken. A table of such tolls may be seen at the clerk's office, in Town Malling; and the letting is to take place under an express condition on the part of the lessee not to demand any other or greater toll.

Occasional disputes arose:

The following case has recently been decided by the Magistrates, sitting at Rochester, exempting an Itinerant preacher from the turnpike tolls going to and returning from one of his regular stations. Mr. Foster is one of six preachers belonging to the "Chatham Village Preaching Society." Snodland is a station of this society, distant from Chatham about eight miles. The preacher on this station uses a conveyance; and the exemption was claimed from two turnpikes on the Snodland road, under the general Turnpike Act, which exempts all persons going to and returning from their usual place of religious worship tolerated by law. Towards the close of the year 1830, Mr. Foster claimed the exemption, and refused to pay the toll: he was accordingly summoned, and appeared before the Magistrates, at Malling, when Mr. G. Acworth, solicitor, of Chatham, attended for the defendant, and claimed the exemption on the ground that the defendant was going to his usual place of worship, according to his appointment fixed by a regular printed plan, by which the appointments of the preachers were arranged for several weeks prospectively. The Magistrates admitted the validity of the arguments adduced, and allowed the exemption. – For about a year the exemption was admitted; but in consequence of the Trustees of the road being dissatisfied with the decision of the Magistrates, the toll was again demanded, and payment enforced. The only alternative, therefore, was submission to the exaction, or summoning the gate-keeper for the penalty imposed for demanding an illegal toll. The latter, after some considerable delay was resolved on, and last week, the case was heard before the



Magistrates sitting at Rochester. Mr. George Acworth attended on behalf of the society, and once more succeeded in establishing their claim to exemption. The Magistrates at Rochester concurring in opinion with the Magistrates at Malling, allowed the exemption, and the gate-keeper was fined in the mitigated penalty of 1s., with costs. – *The Patriot*, April 8.<sup>1</sup>

One suspects that this contretemps was as much an attack on Non-Conformity by Trustees whose allegiance was to the Established Church as it was about losing money. Another dispute, which surely was not unique, came to trial in 1869. The prisoner (Henry Derring) was accused of stealing 6s. from his master (Henry Simmons):

The prisoner was a waggoner in the employment of the prosecutor. On the 13th of February the prosecutor's bailiff sent out four teams of horses with waggons, one of them being in charge of the prisoner. The prisoner and the other persons in charge were ordered to go with the teams to a place called Snodland to fetch coal. For the journey which these teams were to take they should have gone through two turnpike gates, called the Royal Oak and Snodland Gate; and before starting the said bailiff delivered to the prisoner money to the amount of 8s. 8d. for the purpose of paying the tolls at the said gates in respect of all the teams. On February 25 the bailiff asked the prisoner if he had paid the tolls at the Snodland Gate. The prisoner said he had not. The said bailiff asked him why he had not paid the said tolls, and the prisoner replied that by the road they went no toll was payable, and that he had spent the money, amounting to 6s., in beer for himself and the other waggoners and mates. The prisoner stated that the teams had gone by a parish road, which only crossed the turnpike road at the gate, and thus no toll was payable. The jury convicted the prisoner, but raising some doubts whether these facts prove a larceny on the part of the prisoner, the court reserved the point for the opinion of the court for the consideration of Crown Cases Reserved, and admitted the prisoner to bail.<sup>2</sup>

The justices debated whether the facts supported the conviction for larceny and eventually quashed it on the grounds that the right question had not been put to the jury. 'The Chief Justice said the prisoner, having saved the tolls, might have thought that as his master was not injured he might spend the money. No doubt this was wrong, but might he not have done this innocently as regarded the law?'

Although large sections of the road were not subject to tolls, it was the responsibility of the Trustees to see they too were kept in good order. At the meeting on 25 March 1850, an improvement was proposed at Holborough 'by making the Road thro' the Blacksmith's Forge and across the Field in front of Mr Lee's residence'. This was agreed if William Lee would pay for it; the trustees had insufficient funds for such major work, but they would maintain it thereafter. So the old road past the mill – and more to the point – past William Lee's front door was abandoned. He built the road on the line it still holds, adding an extended driveway, wall and gatehouse to his property. Smaller changes were made from time to time, but their exact nature is unknown. In its last years the toll system became increasingly difficult to maintain and those willing to bid for the income increasingly hard to find. From 1865 the only bidder was George Smith of Tunbridge Wells, sometimes (if not always) acting as agent for W. E. Bottle of Dover. There were no bidders in 1872, 1874 and 1875. The last important order of this Trust, on 19 March 1877, was to agree to a footpath being made from the Bull Hotel to Holborough, they to pay a third of the cost. The remaining cost of £290 was raised by public subscription. On 1 January that year Henry Herbert Champion of Snodland was appointed Surveyor of the Road at an annual fee of £36. But that was probably as much as he got, for the scheme was wound up in 1878:

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<sup>1</sup> *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 25 April 1835

<sup>2</sup> *The Observer*, 30 May 1869

At a Special Meeting of the Trustees of the said Road held at the Institute at Snodland on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1878.

Present W Lee Chairman  
The Rev. J. G. Bingley  
W. H. Roberts Esq<sup>re</sup>

The Trustees took into consideration the disposal of the Toll House and Gates and the Malling Highway Board having given notice of their intention to take off a small portion of the side of the Snodland Toll House to improve the rounding of the corner of the Highway there. Ordered that the Toll House be pulled down and the Materials be sold.

Ordered that the remaining site thereof be offered to the owners of the adjoining Land for the sum of £12. 10s. and if they decline to take it that the offer of Mr Bingley to purchase it at that price be accepted.

Mr Bulmer having agreed to purchase the Temple Toll House [Strood] for £45 – Ordered that his offer be accepted.

Ordered that Messrs Burgess and Langridge's offer to give 5 guineas for the materials of the Snodland Toll House, Thirty shillings for the two Turnpike Gates and posts at Snodland and Strood and Twenty shillings for the small House and Side Bars at Ham Hill be accepted.

Ordered that a special Meeting be held at this place on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December next at Eleven a.m. to finally wind up the affairs of the Trust.

[signed] William Lee

## The Railway

In 1825-6, at around the time that the toll road was introduced, a scheme for a *Tunbridge Wells, Snodland and Edenbridge Suspension Railway* was proposed, using a system patented by Henry Robinson Palmer. This was basically a trackway of iron rails set some feet above the ground on which trucks were hauled by horses.<sup>3</sup> In spite of initial local enthusiasm, many were doubtful that the project was viable. They were right. Even now the lines of the proposed route are very rural and any freight then would have been limited to agricultural produce and the output of a few small paper mills. Furthermore the opening of the Stockton to Darlington railway that same year showed the way ahead. Landowners joined forces to oppose the scheme and the Bill to create it never reached Parliament.

The Strood to Maidstone railway arrived rather later than others in the district. Maidstone had been reached via the line from Paddock Wood in 1844 and the North Kent line had added a single-line railway to the canal tunnel between Higham and Strood in 1845. Passengers for Rochester then took a ferry or walked over the mediaeval road bridge. To reach London from Maidstone via Paddock Wood was hardly direct, so schemes were discussed to improve communication. Although the so-called 'railway mania' had passed, there were still plenty of proposals to be considered. Snodland features in several of these. The first was a proposal for a line running from Brentwood in Essex to Tilbury, taking a purpose-built ferry to Gravesend, and then a railway to Tonbridge. This was 'to pass from, in, through, or into, or be situate within [...]all or some of them [...] Halling, Upper Halling, Hoborough, Paddlesworth, Snodland, Birling, Ryarsh, Leybourne [etc].' The Act to be applied for in the ensuing Parliamentary Session

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<sup>3</sup> See James Carley, *The Tunbridge Wells, Snodland & Edenbridge Suspension Railway*, Meopham Publications Committee, 1979, for a full account of this scheme.

would include two secondary lines, the first ‘a Branch Railway, commencing at or near Ham Mill, in the parish of Birling, [...] and terminating at or near the station of the South-Eastern Railway at Maidstone.’ The second was for ‘a Branch Railway, commencing at or near Hoborough, [...] and terminating at or near to Furrells Wharf, and East Gate, in the parish of Saint Nicholas, Rochester [...] which [...] will pass [...] within the several parishes [...] [of] Hoborough, Lower Halling, Woldham, Cuxton, Bostal, Bostal Marsh, Saint Margaret’s Rochester, Saint Nicholas Rochester, and the Precinct of the Cathedral Church of Rochester.’<sup>4</sup> Not surprisingly none of these schemes came to pass, and the routes seem curious, to say the least.

In 1850 further meetings were held at the Star Hotel in Maidstone in connection with a ‘Mid Kent and Dover Railway’. A proposal discussed on 17 September 1850 noted ‘The line would run from Bromley, through Sevenoaks, to Snodland, and to Maidstone, with a fork to Rochester; and thence, through Sittingbourne, Faversham, and Canterbury, to Dover.’ A few weeks later a further meeting noted

It had been at length proposed to come to Snodland, then to go by the left to Rochester and the right to Maidstone, crossing the river at Snodland, in the Rochester direction, and running to Maidstone line along the west side of the Medway. It was thought that the Maidstone station might be placed opposite the Fair Meadow. If it were preferred, however, the station might, on increasing the distance about a quarter of a mile, be placed on the East side of the river, somewhere opposite the gaol. ... As regarded the portion of the line from Snodland to Rochester, it was originally contemplated to have it on the west side of the river. It had ever since been deemed best under all circumstances to have it on the east side.<sup>5</sup>

On 27 December 1851 the interested parties met again to consider how best to provide ‘a cheaper and shorter communication with London than Maidstone now possessed.’ It was promoted by those advocating an ‘East Kent and Maidstone Railway’, linking the town with a proposed railway from Canterbury to Strood. This link required a bridge over the Medway at Maidstone and disquiet was expressed that the plans showed the bridge with eight arches, which would hinder river navigation. Another problem was raised by H. Simmonds who ‘would be glad to see a line carried out to Strood, but this line crossed the river and landed them on the wrong side. They did not want the line to Rochester, but to Strood.’ This view was supported by J. Mercer, treasurer of the Medway Company, who naturally had concerns about navigation. But the promoters argued

With reference to the choice of that side of the river, they had taken the side which had been preferred by the celebrated engineers, Mr. Locke, Mr. Vignoles, and Mr. Cubitt, all of whom had at different times preferred that side of the river. It avoided the Snodland marshes, and was only about ten miles long, instead of nearly twelve miles.<sup>6</sup>

Here was the beginning of a feud which ran for years between the South Eastern Railway and what became the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, but in this particular case the South Eastern Railway was the victor.

*The South Eastern Gazette* announced on 5 July 1853 that ‘there is now every probability that the Bill for authorising the construction of this line [Maidstone to Strood] [...] will shortly pass through the remaining stages of Parliament, and that the works will then be

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<sup>4</sup> *Kentish Mercury*, 15 November 1845, signed by George Smith, solicitor, 21 Golden Square.

<sup>5</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 5 November 1850.

<sup>6</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 30 December 1851.

commenced in earnest.' It went on to describe the route and the requirements that existing supplies of water would be maintained, noting 'the fares on the railway are restricted (except in cases of special trains) to the maximum charge of 3d. per mile for first class passengers, 2d. for second, and 1d. for third class. [...] The line must be completed within three years, and the whole of the land for its construction purchased before the end of two years, or the powers of the Act cannot be exercised. The total length of the line is 11 miles, 3 furlongs, 98 yards.' This new stretch was 'the last link in the North Kent branch of the South-Eastern line.' A month later, on 4 August authorization was given to the East Kent Railway Company to build the line from Canterbury to Strood. This took longer, with the bridge over the Medway completed in 1858 and the line between Faversham and Canterbury opened in 1860.

The contract for building the Maidstone-Strood line was awarded to Thomas Stone, who set up his operation at Snodland, about mid-way on the route. Generally all seems to have gone smoothly, although there were one or two accidents:

On Thursday last [11<sup>th</sup> January] a man named George Sabin met with a very serious accident on the new railway works at Snodland. While digging in a cutting a large quantity of earth fell upon him, and dreadfully fractured one of his legs. He was at once removed to Maidstone, where prompt medical attendance was afforded him, but it is greatly feared he will lose his limb.<sup>7</sup>

On Monday, as a man named William Mann, in the employ of Mr. Stone, the railway contractor, was working in a deep cutting, a large quantity of earth fell on him. He was taken out in a state of insensibility and found to be much injured. Messrs. Hayman, of Town Malling, surgeons to the contractors, were sent for, and on examination found the man had sustained great injury to his head and right leg, but hopes are entertained that he will ultimately recover.<sup>8</sup>

In April 1855 Henry Ellis was buried under a slip of earth at Halling, but was extricated unharmed. Stone completed his work on time. He disposed of 'Three strong useful cart horses ... selected from the stables of Mr. Fairhead, of Rochester' in August 1855 and sold up in March 1856 'in consequence of the completion of his contract', putting up for auction:

The whole of his ALIVE and DEAD Stock, consisting of 12 cart horses, young, powerful, and in good working condition, several carts, timber truck, water barrel, light spring cart, cart and trace harnesses, good fallow plough, 20 fancy fowls; a few articles of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and numerous other effects.<sup>9</sup>

The grand opening of the railway took place on 11 June 1856, when the directors of the South-Eastern railway journeyed by special train to Maidstone.

The event was generally hailed in Maidstone and the vicinity as one of much importance; for the want of those facilities enjoyed by other places, many of them of less commercial importance, had long been severely felt. ...

At an early hour on Wednesday morning the bells of the parish church rung out a jocund peal; and discharges of cannon from several points announced that the population reciprocated the feelings of satisfaction which the occasion was calculated to inspire. ... The station itself and its approaches, presented a very pretty and pleasant sight. The front of the building had been tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, spread over a number of tiny arches, festooned with floral devices, and bearing the flags of the allied Powers, with the Royal Standard of

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<sup>7</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 16 January 1855

<sup>8</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 29 January 1856

<sup>9</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 11 March 1856

England. A large star, which was illuminated during the evening, was also a conspicuous object immediately in front of the station; while at the gateway, an arch was constructed, on which the words "The Mayor gives you a hearty welcome" were beautifully executed, each letter being composed of flowers. Arches were also erected at the lower end of Hart-street, and flags and streamers were displayed from several of the houses near the Railway.

[...] For its length, there are few lines of railway calculated to be of greater utility to the inhabitants of the district through which it passes [...] . The facilities thus opened to the extension of trade and commerce, will be readily understood by all who have felt the difficulty of getting readily at the best markets for their commodities [...].

The works were begun in August, 1854; and the cost is estimated at about £30,000 per mile; this heavy expenditure having been owing in great measure to the exorbitant demands of the landowners whose ground was required; the average price of that obtained having been not less than £12,000 per mile! The original estimate of the outlay was £240,000 only, which was accordingly fixed as the authorized capital for the construction of the line, with the power to borrow £80,000, making a total of £320,000; but it is believed that even this amount will be exceeded. The gradients of the line are favourable, but some of the cuttings have been exceedingly heavy, and certain portions of the route near Strood and in the vicinity of Snodland have, from the spongy nature of the soil, absorbed enormous quantity of material, and occasioned more expense and delay than had been anticipated. The works are generally of a substantial character, being principally of Kentish-rag stone with a small portion of chalk. There are three intermediate stations between Maidstone and Strood, all of neat design, and durable construction; but these are not as yet completed.

[...] The next conspicuous object [after Larkfield church] is the extensive lime works at Burham, the property of W. Lee Esq., M.P. for Maidstone, and W. Cubitt, Esq., from which a large proportion of the builders of the metropolis are supplied. This is a flourishing little industrial colony, creating and diffusing wealth, both by what they consume and what they produce.

The description of 1889 (set out in the Introduction to this book) elicited a response the following week enquiring

How is it that neither of the Kentish railways have exploited the eastern side of the Medway? The district simply bristles with large manufacturing works from Rochester right down to the Aylesford Potteries, supporting a large population and representing an enormous amount of capital. Yet any of the products sent by railway have either to be carted long distances, or have to be shipped and unshipped across the river. There would seem to be no great engineering difficulties in giving us a line from Chatham to Maidstone, for now-a-days it is as easy to cut through chalk as through cheese, and the local traffic would certainly repay the outlay.

Apart from any opposition by the South Eastern Railway, the most likely explanation is that 'exorbitant demands of the landowners', one of whom was the Earl of Aylesford, had something to do with it. From the point of view of the railway company they had already constructed a line on the west bank and it would make little sense to create another in competition. There was also the river traffic to consider. So the situation remained unresolved and in later years when Peters Brothers wished to use the railway they had to send their material across the river by barge, running a small tramway from the Medway to Snodland station yard and waiting trucks. To return to the grand opening of the line:

[...] Shortly after one o'clock, the Mayor (H. Argles, Esq.) accompanied by several members of the corporation, the chairman, directors, and officers of the railway company (who had arrived by special train,) and a large number of the principal inhabitants, arrived at the station, where a long train of first-class carriages was in waiting to convey them to the Strood station. The Cavalry Depot band accompanied the excursionists; and the train started precisely at half-past one. As the shrill whistle of the engine gave notice of this fact, a *feu de joie* was fired in the immediate vicinity of the station, and the bells chimed forth a merry peal. ... At each station along the line, the arrival of the train had been anxiously expected, and numerous groups were collected with a view of welcoming the visitors. Flags, too, were also displayed, and as the train advanced, numerous salutes were fired. Aylesford, and its magnificent scenery, was quickly passed, as also were the other stations. At Snodland, a fine display of flags was made in the immediate neighbourhood of Holborough House, the residence of Mr. W. Lee, M.P., while a *feu de joie* was fired; and a large crowd of persons there assembled gave several hearty cheers. On the arrival of the train at Strood, a short stay was made. Here, too, a variety of decorations had been executed; the large (temporary) station being nicely fitted up, the whole presenting a *coup d'oeil* of a most pleasing description.

The Mayor of Gravesend had previously arrived at the station, but neither the Mayor nor the corporation of Rochester was present, to receive the party from Maidstone—a mark of coolness or of heedlessness which had not been anticipated.<sup>10</sup>

In January 1859 (and presumably operating since the line opened) there were nine daily trains from Maidstone to London Bridge and seven from London Bridge to Maidstone. Charing Cross station was not opened until 1864 and Cannon Street in January 1866, after which all trains were obliged to shunt from London Bridge to Cannon Street and then on to Charing Cross. The December 1873 Snodland times, shown for comparison, are not dissimilar, but more powerful engines meant that the journey to Charing Cross then took just an hour and a half, little slower than today's trains on that route!

January 1859: Up

Maidstone	6.40	7.50	9.20	10.15	12.35	2.25	4.35	7.25	8.30
Snodland	6.53	8.02	9.32	10.27	12.48	2.38	4.48	7.38	8.50
Strood	7.15	8.20	9.50	11.00	1.05	3.00	5.10	8.00	9.30
London Bridge	8.45	9.40	11.05	12.40	2.45	4.45	6.50	9.40	11.00
<b>1873:</b>	<b>7-30</b>	<b>8-42</b>	<b>10-38</b>	<b>10-53</b>	<b>3-53</b>	<b>5-53</b>	<b>8-03</b>	<b>10-03</b>	

Down

London Bridge	8.00	10.15	12.00	2.00	3.40	5.50	8.00		
Strood	9.40	11.40	1.40	3.40	4.57	7.10	9.40		
Snodland	9.55	11.58	1.52	3.55	5.10	7.28	9.55		
Maidstone	10.15	12.15	2.10	4.15	5.25	7.45	10.15		
<b>1873:</b>	<b>8-17</b>	<b>10-59</b>	<b>2-17</b>	<b>4-26</b>	<b>5-32</b>	<b>7-38</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>11-10</b>	

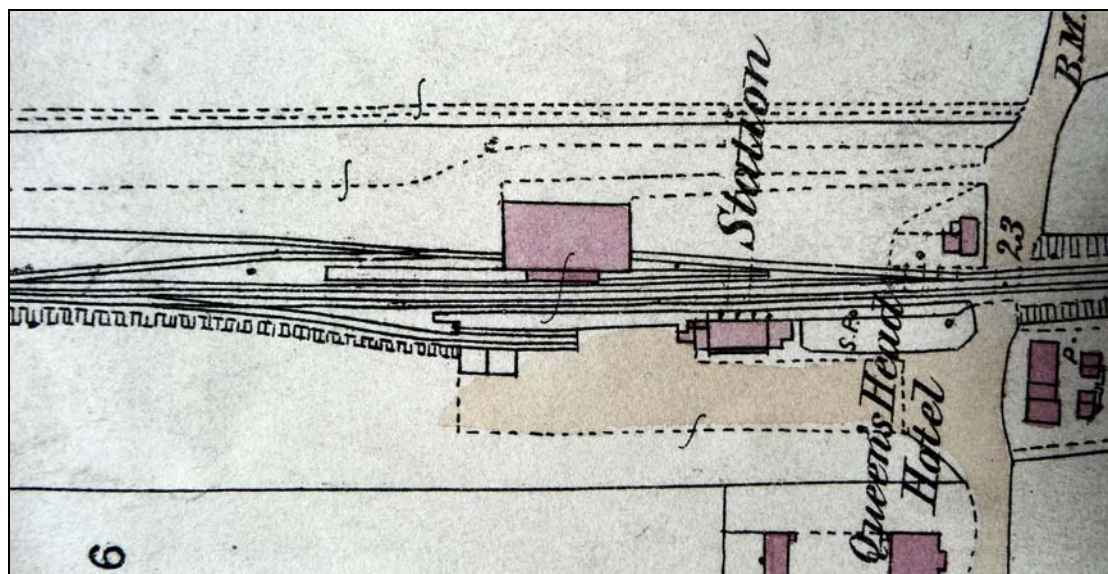
There were five trains each way on a Sunday.

In anticipation of plenty of goods traffic, two large goods sheds were built at Aylesford and at Snodland. Both the station building and shed at Snodland were completed in 1858<sup>11</sup>, so presumably some temporary structure served passengers before then. Maps show the sheds were on a continuous loop in these early years, resulting in a small

<sup>10</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 24 June 1856

<sup>11</sup> Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith, *Strood to Paddock Wood*, Middleton Press, 1993

platform for the down line. No footbridge was provided until 1883, so presumably passengers had to cross the lines at ground level.



Snodland was considered the station for passengers from West Malling (the line from Otford to Maidstone East was not opened until 1874) and a selling point for a house there advertised in 1868 was that 'An Omnibus runs from Malling to Snodland Station 3 times daily'. *Kelly's Directory* of 1862 for West Malling shows it already in service then, leaving the Swan Inn at 8.20 am, 12 noon and 6.45, returning at 9.50, 3.50 and 7.30. There were two similar services on Sundays at 8 am and 7 pm.

There was to be one further scheme which again never came to fruition, although remarkably the preliminary sketches for the high-speed route to the Channel Tunnel proposed the same direct line between Snodland and Gravesend, having crossed the river at this point.

The South Eastern Bill has a variety of objects, and it has been several days before the House of Commons Committee, presided over by Colonel Lloyd Lindsay.

The great fight was over the proposed shortening of the route between Maidstone and London by having a short route between Northfleet and Snodland. The Chatham and Dover Company opposed it, as being in contravention of an agreement entered into in 1862 not to interfere with each other in this district, but the South Eastern denied that the agreement went to that extent.

Mr Francis Brady, the engineer to the South Eastern, said the length of the line was 9½ miles, and there was a tunnel 2,222 yards in length through the chalk range at Halling. The main object of the line was the shortening of the distance between Maidstone and London, and to give convenient access to all the places beyond the Maidstone line. The distance saved would be nearly five miles. The present route by way of Strood and Cuxton was not a line very well adapted for express trains. There were difficulties at Strood and Gravesend especially, and by this route they avoided all the large station traffic at Gravesend and at Strood. The saving of time would be 20 or 25 minutes. This line served the districts of Northfleet, Dartford, Sidcup, and Eltham; and on the other line Plumstead, Woolwich, and so on. The Dartford loop ran from Lewisham to Dartford, and cost £180,765. The Lewisham and Tunbridge line, which cuts off the Redhill angle, cost £1,268,000. In cross-examination witness admitted that it would shorten the route to Canterbury. They had tried for several years to shorten the route to Maidstone by a line from Sevenoaks to Maidstone, but that was strongly opposed, and it was thrown out.



The Mayor of Maidstone (A. Spencer, Esq.) gave evidence as to the desirability of having a quicker route to London, and after two more witnesses had been called, the Chairman intimated that they had had plenty of evidence to prove that Maidstone was in favour of shortening the line between Maidstone and London.

Sir John Hawkshaw then gave engineering evidence, and stated that there was no extraordinary engineering difficulty. It would shorten the route between London and Maidstone by five miles.

Mr H.A. Brassey considered that the Northfleet and Snodland line would be of great advantage to the country.

Mr Myles Fenton, the general manager of the South Eastern Railway, said that what they wanted was to make the South Eastern the shortest line between Maidstone and London.

In the end the committee passed the preamble of the Snodland Loop.<sup>12</sup>

## THE RIVER

The river Medway has always presented something of a barrier for anyone wishing to travel from parishes on the west bank to those on the east, or vice versa. Until the construction of the new bridge between Halling and Burham in 2016, the only means to do so was by the bridges at Rochester and Aylesford. In the nineteenth century three ferries at New Hythe, Snodland, and Halling gave easy access to and from Burham and Wouldham, although not between 10 pm and 6 am. The growth of industry ensured that more and more men needed to travel between their homes and the lime and cement factories where they were employed and the ferries became increasingly busy.

Rights to the Halling-Wouldham ferry were granted to those acting as custodians to the Manor of Halling for the Bishop of Rochester, probably from as early as the fourteenth century, and documents survive from around 1550 onwards conferring those rights.<sup>13</sup> At the end of the nineteenth century they had passed to Anderson of Hilton, Anderson and Co., who in turn gave them to one his injured workmen in 1895. The ferry remained with the family until its closure in 1964, following the opening of the Medway Bridge for the A/M2.

There appears to have been no official ferry at Snodland until the 1840s, although surely boats would have been available prior to that for travellers to hire. In March 1714, John Crow, who lived in the Court Lodge beside All Saints, left his boat to his son John,<sup>14</sup> and there were often fishermen and hoyemen living in the village. The first established ferryman at Snodland was Edward Baker (1810-1892), already described as 'barge owner' in the 1841 census. Born in Snodland, it is likely that he and others in his family worked on the river. His father John (1783-1854) gained fame in the sport of pedestrianism, walking 1000 miles in 20 days at Rochester in 1815 and 2000 in 42 days at Wormwood Scrubs in 1817, winning both competitions. That did not prevent the Rector giving his occupation as 'smuggler' in the baptismal register in 1819, suggesting John too had a boat, or access to one. In later years Edward owned four barges.<sup>15</sup> The ferry house was built sometime between 1841 and 1844, when it appears on the tithe map. The route of the ferry was from glebe land at Snodland to land owned by the Earl of Aylesford at Burham, so agreements had to be made. So far as the Snodland rector was concerned there was much to be gained from the ferry.

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<sup>12</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 2 April 1881.

<sup>13</sup> See James Carley, *The Medway Crossings*, Meopham, 1996, especially pp.77-8 and 92-4.

<sup>14</sup> KHLc, DRb, Pw 48: 13 March 1713/14; inventory DRb, Pi 28/14: boat & oars: £3/ 10s. 0d.

<sup>15</sup> See p.89.

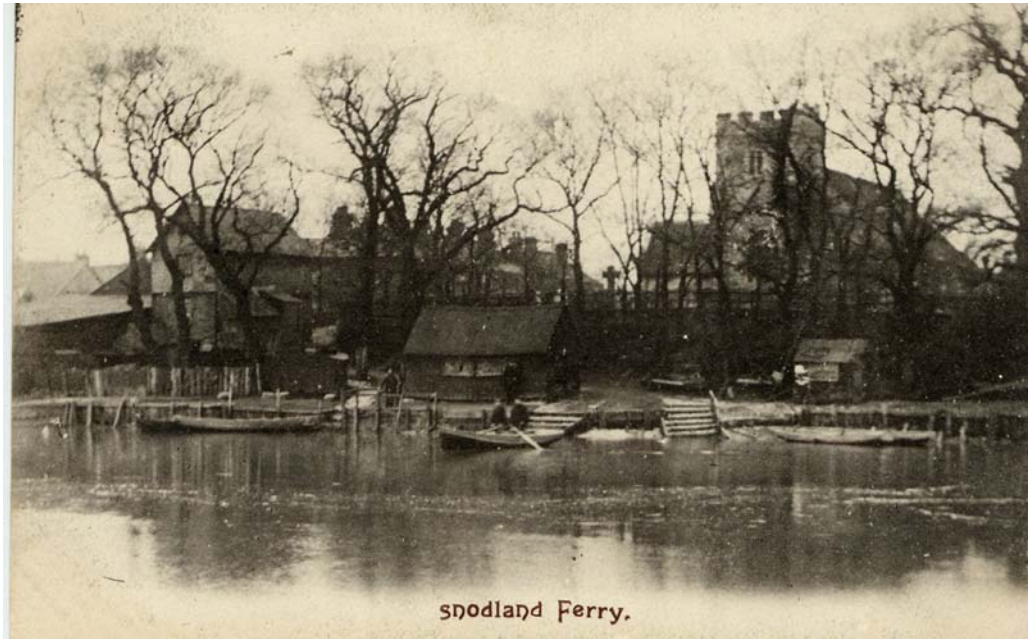
For time immemorial a Foot Path had existed thro' the Church Yard to the River: & was no nuisance, till the Houses by the Paper Mill were let to a Lime Burner over the River for his Labourers. Then the number constantly passing, at all hours, & their shouting to call the Ferryman became so very annoying on the Sunday during Divine Service, hat I determined to stop the Path, or turn it farther from the Church. Stop the Path entirely, I found could not be done. I then tried to change the direction of the Path to the outside of the North Wall of the Church Yard; but the Owner of the Land would not consent to it. I then made a similar trial to the Person who had let the Houses & whose premises ran down to the River on the South side, but he also refused. I was then compelled to turn the Path under the South fence of the Church Yard, down to a piece of Glebe at the bottom near the River & to fence it off. This I did: & assisted Edward Baker to build a House on my Glebe to be near his work, & to keep all things quiet. The Oak fence & my assistance to Baker cost me about £100. The rest of the expense was borne by him: to whom I promised as long a Lease as I could grant, on gaining the Bishop's consent: and that he should pay me Five Pounds per an.: as Rent for the Glebe & my share of the building One half of which I intend to give to the support of the Sunday School. The Bishop hitherto / 1848 / has not given his sanction.

So Edward Baker moved from his house in the High Street to be near his work. With the Rector agreeing to his operating from the Snodland side – and presumably receiving some rent for the privilege – Baker signed a lease with the Earl of Aylesford on 28 May 1853 for landing on the Burham side. By the 1860s he was employing three men to help with the ferrying and built himself a new house, Nephelite Villa, near the main crossroads. In 1874 the Rector, perhaps noting Baker's increasing prosperity, decided it was time for him to pay more rent and called a meeting:

August 20, 1874. In company with Mr. H. Wildes, solicitor, I had a long conversation with E. Baker, ferryman – touching the rent of said ferry – it being known that the present rent of £20 was wholly inadequate – considering also the immense number of persons passing and re-passing by ferry. At first it seemed hopeless to argue the point – Mr. Baker meeting us in very angry mood, but I am thankful to say at last his better judgment prevailed - & he saw that we had made out a proper case – and the rent was raised to £30 – being a concession on my part - & an immense victory over himself on Baker's part – as he had declared nothing should induce him to alter one 1d - & that he would move to other side of river - & from thence ferry to & fro. I need hardly say this would at once have led to serious litigation. I cannot be thankful enough for a friendly solution of this difficulty – as I hope and pray it may make a better understanding between E. Baker & myself - & lead him back to better things - & to avoid his special temptations.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> MALSC: P342/28/20. Printed in A. Ashbee, *Notes from Snodland Rectory 1865-1882*, Snodland, 1992, 29-30.



*The ferry house built by Baker and Phelps is on the left.*

Perhaps one reason for Baker capitulating was his realisation that plans were afoot for a bridge over the Medway, which would deprive him of much income.

Since the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Bridge-wardens of Rochester have received income to maintain a river crossing there. This has provided sufficient resources over time to allow them to build several new bridges and a tunnel and to support other related projects. To replace the mediaeval stone bridge at Rochester they funded a replacement, opened in 1856; the debt incurred by its construction was cleared by the early 1870s. The Bridge-wardens had intended to 'help Maidstone do something to the old bridge, when the Charity Commissioners, who were the wardens' financial masters, interfered, and intimated that a survey should be made of the bridge accommodation between Rochester and Maidstone, with a view to increasing such accommodation where most needed.' Two rival plans were made within the parishes, one for a bridge 'at or near the Halling ferry' and the other for a bridge at Snodland. Arguments for the Halling-Wouldham bridge were made at a meeting in Wouldham National Schools at the beginning of May 1875. It was pointed out that this crossing was equidistant from Rochester and Aylesford, but the third resolution presented the core facts:

That this meeting wishes to call attention to the comparative cost and convenience of the approaches to Halling bridge as compared with those to the proposed Snodland bridge; viz., there would be no land to buy either at Halling or at Wouldham, where the approaches to the ferry are broad enough for carts. At Snodland, on both sides the land must be purchased and expensive roads made for a very considerable distance, and on the Burham side the new road must cross a marsh which is even lower than the surrounding marshes; also on the Snodland side the road would be interrupted by the level railway crossing close to the station.<sup>17</sup>

A further resolution was passed saying 'it would be unfair to make Wouldham pay for the proposed new road from Snodland ferry, considering that Halling bridge would be much more convenient to them and that Wouldham has already made a road across the marsh to Halling ferry.' A dissenting voice was that of Henry Peters, owner of the cement works, who pointed out that the Halling scheme would only serve 3,000 people, where

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<sup>17</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 8 May 1875.

that at Snodland would serve 12,000. In fact he was one of the committee appointed at Snodland to support their cause, as was 'T. Peters', presumably his uncle Thomas. Snodland also held a public meeting at which the Rector said

the inhabitants of Snodland, a few years back, only numbered 500 or 600, and that they had now increased to 2,100, the majority being working men who had to go backwards and forwards to their daily toil; when they also considered that it was impossible to obtain a house in the place, and that the population was largely increasing, he need not say the parish was growing in size and importance.<sup>18</sup>

The vicar of Birling pointed out that the ferry was used by men from as far away as Ryarsh and that there was a railway station at Snodland 'and no probability of one being built at Halling'. Thomas Marsden, the Swedenborgian minister, noted the difficulty experienced by doctors in getting to Burham and Wouldham., while Dr. White 'hoped there would be sufficient public spirit in Snodland to form a company for the purpose of building a bridge' if their petition to the Bridge-wardens failed. His optimism was misplaced. The deputation duly met the Bridge-wardens later in the month and 'were received most graciously'; according to Rev. Bingley. The ensuing newspaper report gives much valuable information on the event and what was said:

Henry Peters (supported by Mr. H[enry]. Brown of the paper mill) repeated his view that

A bridge at Halling would be a decided mistake, and would tend very much to impede the working of barges. There were no less than 150 barges trading to and from Messrs. Lee and Son's, Mr. Hilton's, and their own works. ...

Mr. T. H. Cash said he appeared on behalf of some 1,600 working men who were interested in the erection of a bridge across the Medway in the immediate neighbourhood of Snodland. He had never heard a complaint with respect to the fares charged the working men who had occasion to cross the ferry to and from their work, as they were permitted to do so for sixpence per week, which was half the usual fare; still a tax of £1. 6d. per year was a very heavy tax when it was remembered how many of these men have to work the whole week through for 18s.; and to further increase the ferry accommodation could not be done without a corresponding increase in the fares charged; it would be unreasonable to expect it. Again everyone knew that sickness was no respecter of persons, and equally indifferent to time and place; and in places like Burham, where they had no medical man on the spot, it was often necessary at all hours of the night to fetch the doctor from Snodland.

Mr. Buckland C.E., then gave some very valuable and interesting statistics, and produced a large plan of the Medway, showing the wardens that Snodland would be the most eligible spot for a bridge, and that the cost [...] would be about £5,500, exclusive of the purchase of land. ...

The deputation, after thanking his lordship [Earl of Darnley, chairman of the wardens], withdrew. The following are the most salient points of the memorial, which had appended thereto the signatures of 1,532 persons, including magistrates, clergy, gentry, employers of labour, artisans, and labourers:-

That there is great need of bridge accommodation over the Medway, at some intermediate point between the existing bridges at Aylesford and Rochester.

That there would appear to be no more appropriate spot for a new bridge, than Snodland.

That the banks of the river at Snodland are naturally so elevated, that a bridge might be constructed there, without interfering with the navigation and traffic by barges.

That Snodland is the centre of various large factories employing many hands.

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<sup>18</sup> *Maidstone and Kentish Journal*, undated and not traced; pasted into *Parochialia*.

That many hundreds of workmen employed in the factories cross and re-cross the river daily at the Snodland ferry.

That the population of Snodland has increased from 800 in 1855 to 2,300 in 1875, and is fast increasing.

That there is a Railway station already existing at Snodland in close proximity to the river.

That there is communication by roads, which meet at Snodland, with numerous parishes and places, on the left bank of the Medway.

That communication may be had by a bridge with Wouldham and Burham, with Sittingbourne and East Kent, and a shorter route obtained, than any now existing, to the County Town of Maidstone.

That for the above and for yet more reasons, a bridge at Snodland would be of general benefit to the public of all classes.<sup>19</sup>

In March 1876 the villages heard that the Bridge-wardens had decided to allocate £16,000 for widening Maidstone Bridge and that their projects would be deferred for the time being. Nothing more is heard for about five years, when a further public meeting was called at Snodland to resurrect the scheme. The *Kent Messenger* printed a leading article supporting the proposed bridge, rehearsing the earlier arguments:

The district [...] comprises several important villages, of which the chief are Halling and Snodland, Burham and Wouldham, the two former being divided from the latter by the Medway. There is a population of from 7,000 to 10,000, which is rapidly increasing. [...] Besides the extensive paper mill at Snodland, there are eight or nine large cement and lime works, which regularly employ more than 3,000 hands. Many of these workpeople live at Snodland and Halling, and the inconvenience which is daily experienced in passing to the works at Wouldham and Burham on the other side of the river, as well as in the everyday intercourse between the villages, is being felt more and more as the population increases, and the ample physical resources of the locality are being developed. It is anomalous that in these days the only communication across the Medway should be by means of a ferry-boat, plying between the hours of six a. m. and ten p.m., entailing a serious weekly deduction from the incomes of labouring men and their families, as every time the ferry is used a small charge is made. When it is mentioned that nearly six hundred persons, mainly of the working class, pass across the river every day, it will be seen that to heads of families who earn small wages the present mode of communication is not only troublesome but expensive.

Nor is it at all times free from danger, for in winter, when the tide is strong, and there is much floating ice, women and children often run considerable risk, especially during the dark evenings when the boat is crowded, and there is one or two drunken men in it. By the proprietors of the various works also the inadequacy of the existing communication is greatly felt in a variety of ways, and particularly in regard to the speedy conveyance of materials to and from the district. However urgent orders may be, goods have now to be sent from Burham and Wouldham by water - a long, circuitous voyage round the Nore. No ingenuity or exaggeration of fact is required to prove the necessity for a bridge over the Medway at Snodland. A plain statement of the circumstances is the best argument in favour of an improvement that has been too long delayed. [...] The fairness of the claim has also been fully recognised by the eminent engineer to the Wardens, Sir Joseph Bazalgette, who in his report to them several years ago pointed out the wants of the neighbourhood, and recommended the erection of a bridge. [...] We trust that at their forthcoming meeting the Wardens will take the subject into their earnest

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<sup>19</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 24 May 1875.

consideration, and decide to vote a part of their funds towards the substantial improvement of Snodland, Burham, and other parishes which in former times contributed large sums to their exchequer.<sup>20</sup>

The official enquiry concerning the proposal was held at the Bridge Chambers in Rochester by the inspector of charity commissions, when a plan for a one span iron bridge costing £12,000 was exhibited. Opposition to a bridge was voiced on behalf of the Medway Lower Navigation Company, as a danger and nuisance to shipping. An Act of Parliament would be necessary to enable money to be borrowed from the Rochester Bridge Trust, and it was not established whether an authority such as the Malling Highway Board would be able to take charge of the work and subsequent maintenance. A concrete subway, sufficiently large for vehicular traffic, was proposed as an alternative, and after some discussion this proposal was accepted by those promoting the project. The Malling Highway Board felt that responsibility for maintaining the subway should come under the authority of the county, rather than themselves, but otherwise welcomed the scheme. The subway engineers described their scheme in a letter to the Snodland rector, Rev. Bingley:

The archway itself would only be 60 yards in length, 24 feet in width, and 16ft. clear headway, with two footpaths each four feet in width. The inside of the archway would be lined with white glazed bricks, and it would be light enough to read in the middle of it without any gas or other artificial light. The approach from Snodland would start from the existing roadway on the right side of the railway station, with an incline of one in thirty, being carried round in a circle 200ft in diameter, in the same manner as the approach to the meat market at Smithfield; the whole of the approach to be perfectly light. The centre space would be laid out as a garden, with a winding path similar to the Dane John at Canterbury, which would afford easy and pleasant means of access for foot passengers. On the Burham side the approach would be by the open roadway, with two footpaths, which would rise with an inclination of one in twenty until it attained the height of 16ft above the ordnance datum, and would be carried across the marshland on the south side of St. Mary's Church to join the existing road at that point. We are having a survey made to determine the best position for the archway, and until a boring has been made, we are unable to make an exact estimate, but we have no doubt that its cost will not exceed the sum of £12,000. As regards the expense of maintenance, there will be none beyond that of repairing the roadways, which would be the same if it had been a bridge; and the same remark applies to the cost of lighting at night. To provide for drainage we should place a small pump which would be automatic, worked by gas. We should state that steps would be provided as each end of the archway to afford access at the river works.<sup>21</sup>

A year later the whole country suffered a severe bout of cold weather and the rector took up his pen again to plead for the unfortunate men marooned because the ferrymen would not risk battling with ice in the river.

How I could wish that those who either oppose a bridge, or laugh at the idea of a subway, could know as I do of the wretchedness and miserable inconvenience of the men who, in the pitiless weather of the last few days, have had to stand, hour by hour, shivering on the bank, or in the hut, waiting to cross - then finding it impossible, have had to walk round by Aylesford. I will leave it to others to speak as to what they think of probable danger to life and limb, with a river full of ice such as we have had lately.

Can it be that we are living in 1881'!

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<sup>20</sup> *Kent Messenger*, 15 March 1880

<sup>21</sup> Untraced newspaper cutting: 9 April 1880, in *Parochialia*.

Yours faithfully, JOHN. G. BINGLEY. The Rectory, Snodland, January 27 [1881].

Another correspondent gave more detail:

Sir. The want of something better than the ferry between the above place and the Burham side of the river has been keenly felt during the last ten days by the few who have been employed during the severe weather we have been visited with. Having occasion to cross the river one day last week at a time when the river was clear, on my return I found, that owing to a large quantity of floating ice brought by the returning tide, the ferrymen declined to come across, not that it seemed impossible in a strong boat manned by a couple of strong hands. They were, however, unwilling to make the attempt. While waiting I found one man who had been detained two nights on the Burham side, and he also told me of numbers of men waiting the night before four or five hours in the hut, but, without getting across, and that many men had passed the whole night in the kilns, and I also heard that a professional gentleman had a short time previously offered half-a-crown to the man to come over for him, but without success. Under these circumstances I had to trudge it through the snow to Aylesford, where a choice of evils awaited me, - another dreary walk or to wait a couple of hours for the train, which hundreds of men have had to do during the last week. While the servants of an irresponsible ferryman thus declined to put themselves out of the way to serve the public, private enterprise was at the very time landing the belated wayfarers in boats from Peters' works, showing that it could be done. Again on the following Saturday, under the same circumstances, men were taken freely across, it being pay day. The contract passengers (those who pay by the week) had, I am told, to pay as if they had been taken regularly, and not intermittently, across during the previous six days.

I am sir, yours truly, A SNODLANDER AND NOT A LAPLANDER. January 26.

P.S. - Can you not. invoke your powerful pen in aid of one of our streets in Snodland (where I reside), May-street, a private road, which is owned by the wealthiest people in the place [The Hook family]; it is now all but impassable; in wet weather it is the muddiest, and as it is now would disgrace a savage community, nothing having been done to clear the snow.

These letters evoked one very unsympathetic response and the resulting correspondence rumbled on until 19 April:

Snodland Subway. Sir.- Under this heading you have, in your last issue, two letters full of grumbles and complaints at the inconvenience and delay caused to sundry poor Snodlandites by the late frost and snow. May I ask if there is *any* town or village in the kingdom that has not suffered lately from the same cause? and if the only argument that our Rector can bring forward in support of the subway scheme is that a few workmen "*in the pitiless weather of the last few days*" had to take a little extra exercise in a two-mile walk to Aylesford, and that if this tunnel is sunk at a cost of £12,000, these workmen in the next bout of similar "*pitiless weather*" (which we all may reasonably hope may not come again in our time) will be able to walk leisurely under the frozen Medway. If these are the only arguments in favour of the subway, I, for one, think that we might get a great many articles more valuable to the rate-paying community than a Snodland Subway, and I fail to see how the Rector's logical reasoning can be expected to convert to his views any of those "*who either oppose a bridge or laugh at the idea of a subway.*" Now, perhaps, I may be allowed to say why many in Snodland do not view the subway scheme with any favour.

First.-We cannot see how any one except the parsons, doctors and a few labourers will in any way benefit by the proposed subway; and even to these a row across the river must in ninety cases out of a hundred be more enjoyable and healthy than a trudge on foot by a circuitous route *under* the river. Second.-The



country on the other side of the river is a boggy marsh, and it can be of no advantage to any one from this side to have easier access to it; in fact, the further off it is kept from us the better. Third.-As a railway and the principal public houses are all on the Snodland side, Burham, Wouldham, &c. may benefit by having another approach to the station, but Snodland must suffer by having more drunkenness and immorality brought into it. Fourth.-Our rates are already quite high enough, and we don't want to pay in addition (as we shall have to do) the heavy cost of lighting and maintaining in a good state of repair the roads and approaches to the tunnel and the tunnel itself. Fifth.-We poor folk are in the habit of being guided in such matters by the opinions of those who are land and house owners and *permanent residents*, and in this case while we find the Rector (who may leave us any day for a better-paid cure) and the doctors (who with all "professional etiquette" are working hard to wrest patients from each other, and who I really think should not be allowed the facility of meeting each other in the dark tunnel under the water!!)-while these, the Rector and doctors, are in favour of this scheme, all the other principal residents "either oppose or laugh at the idea". The Rector's own churchwarden, a well-known and much respected resident, is certainly not in favour of the subway or bridge, and as he is perhaps the largest landowner in the place (having, by the way, some house property in the very May street so much abused by your second correspondent) his opinion must carry weight! The lessee of the ferry (by the way, another owner of property in May-street) is perhaps somewhat naturally opposed to the project, but whether from interested or disinterested motives, it is no doubt true that the *principal residents* of Snodland "*are opposed to the subway, or laugh at the idea.*" Why then should this £12,000 be spent on what we don't want?

[signed] AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM, Snodland, January 31st, 1880 [=1881]

Yet another failed attempt to revive the scheme was begun in 1895 and lasted until 1906. In the 1890s there was also a competition to design a bridge. With the gradual closure of the cement works at Burham and Wouldham during the first half of the twentieth century, the need for the Snodland ferry dwindled and it closed in 1948, followed by that at Halling in 1964.

The above reports and correspondence show that nearly 600 journeys were made daily across the river in the 1870s-80s, rather more than the 'few workmen' mentioned in the above outburst. And some 150 barges were employed in transporting cement to the metropolis and elsewhere to feed the continual building boom.

## Barges

Much can be learned about the local barge trade from the Certificates of Registry for the vessels and from casual references in newspapers.<sup>22</sup> The list of barges in the table below was compiled from the Rochester Shipping Registers and the following commentary is intended to add some clarification to the raw data.<sup>23</sup> The earliest recorded barge belonging to Edward Baker, ferryman at Snodland, was the *Hamlet* of 1829, which he registered in 1853. Three more were to follow in the 1860s, including the strangely named *Nepthalite*, which name (as *Nephalite*) he also gave to his new house in Snodland High Street. Dictionaries do not define the term, the closest being Nephelite, a mineral. The 'four good barges' which Baker put up for sale on 23 September 1864 must have been additional vessels, since their (much larger) sizes do not match the named ones. Armigill Hadlow was one of four men with that name who were born in Snodland. The

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<sup>22</sup> The most comprehensive account is Bob Childs, *Rochester Sailing Barges of the Victorian Era*, Rochester, 1993,

<sup>23</sup> Available online at [cityark.medway.gov.uk](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk)

*Jane*, which he crewed himself, was not included in the 1867 Mercantile list, so probably had been broken up by then.

Charles Townsend Hook also dabbled in using barges, perhaps for an investment as much as for his papermaking activities. Henry Brown was the company secretary who evidently handled the paperwork. The *George & Annie* was first owned by George Watson of Rochester, but was sold to Hook on 16 July 1868 for £696.<sup>24</sup> A year later repairs by Edward G. Watson cost a further £90 19s. The barge was sold for £500 on 15 July 1872, but it had earned a profit of £195 6s. 11d. The *Sisters* cost £657 11s. in 1869, again built by E. G. Watson, and was nominally owned by Edith, Agnes and Maude Hook; each received £78 5s. 10d. after the barge was sold. *Anna Maria* had a shorter life in the firm and like *The Sisters* was sold to Edward J. Goldsmith, whose barges continued to serve the paper mill for very many years.

Six barges were built for John Banks of Halling between 1825 and 1830, but little is known about him. In the church registers he is described as a 'gentleman' of Lower Halling, but the family disappears from the parish after 1835. John Wilmot Lindridge is another who is difficult to track down. There were two men of this name, both buried in Halling, the elder, aged 83, 'from Maidstone' in 1837 and the younger, aged 59, in 1856. Their occupations of farmer (1819), publican (1821) and wheelwright (1823) are replaced in the barge records as 'barge owner' (1835) and 'lime merchant' (1836-1849). Henry Pettit of Cuxton too is named variously as grocer and barge owner between 1835 and 1844, with four barges under his partial or full ownership. He died in September 1851. All these men are relatively minor figures in the barge trade and the transport of lime may have been only part of their interest. An insatiable demand from London meant agricultural produce formed a great part of barge work, with straw and produce sent to the capital and manure from the horses making the return journey to fertilize the land.

His farming activities may also have been the reason for which Solomon Brice [II] bought *Betsy & Frances* in 1833, but his lime works was equally likely to have required it. He owned few barges, even after moving to Burham, but eventually his son Solomon John created one of the largest fleets on the river for digging clay.<sup>25</sup> However, only a few of these were registered at Rochester before 1881.

We turn now to the larger lime and cement works, each of which relied on barges to deliver products to the metropolis. Only one barge each was registered in Rochester to Thomas Poynder and Edward Medlicott, both built at Northfleet in the 1840s, but since their business was London-based, it is likely that many more were registered to them elsewhere. However, one wonders what role their agent, William Peters, played in this. Already in 1825 he had bought *Providence* and six more barges followed during his time in Snodland. Having moved to Wouldham in 1853 a further five vessels were added to his fleet. This continued to grow after his death with seven more ships registered to his sons Henry and Edwin Peters before the end of 1881. All William Peters' barges were still under his ownership in 1867, so evidently he was always acting on his own account and not as a purchaser for Poynder and Medlicott. It is interesting to note that as 'limeburners' Richard Peters and his son Thomas William purchased a barge in 1841, perhaps to support William's enterprise. Another, *Fanny*, was later registered to Thomas William, but this and five other barges, presumably employed in his coal trade, were later

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<sup>24</sup> THA, *Ledger*, p.364

<sup>25</sup> See F. G. Willmott, *Cement, Mud and 'Muddies'*, Rainham, 1977, especially 64-78. Also [www.thamesbarge.org.uk/barges/Willmott/owners/FWBrice.html](http://www.thamesbarge.org.uk/barges/Willmott/owners/FWBrice.html) for a list of his 47 barges. I am not sure that all the barges listed by Willmott are attached to their rightful owners.

put up for sale. He may have investigated receiving coal by rail too, but in 1871 he signed a new lease for the coal wharf.

Variations in the details of owners make it difficult to be certain how trustworthy they are as evidence. William Lee lived in Rochester when he operated his lime works at Burham, so naturally those two places are named in the registration of his barges up to 1847. But Burham is also his address for the *Ann* newly registered on 27 June 1860, so is this further evidence that he still had an interest in his former works there?<sup>26</sup> Lee's daughter Sarah married Alfred Smith in 1853 and as partners in the firm the two men shared ownership of fourteen more barges registered between 1858 and 1866. Following Alfred's early death on 1 March 1867 it was two grandsons of William Lee, Samuel Lee Smith and William Henry Roberts, who eventually became managers of the factory. Roberts's social life included the yachting scene at Cowes with Edward, Prince of Wales. His interest was sufficient for him to take out a patent in 1876 for the invention of 'A New or Improved Instrument for use in ascertaining the True Course of a ship from the Compass Course.'<sup>27</sup> It is probably this connection that caused six barges to be commissioned by Smith and Roberts from J. S. White at Cowes in 1881, the year that William died.

Formby's needed a fleet of barges to serve their works at Halling and Frindsbury, but it seems to have been James the vicar (1797-1881) who first established this with six barges registered to him between 1847 and 1865. The two sons Charles (1829-1880) and James Marshal (1836-1898) added four more before 1881.

Thomas Weekes is another agent who bought for barges himself while still working as an agent for Lee's company. Several of his barge names arise from family connections and these certainly would have been chosen by him and imply ownership. Although his baptism did not take place until 27 August 1837 at Burham, the entry adds the date of his birth as 21 October 1811 (at Cuxton according to censuses). He married Rebecca Tinnoth (1808-1875) around 1833, it is said at St Anne, Limehouse.<sup>28</sup> She was the daughter of James Tinnoth (1770-1821) and born at Abridge, Essex, which is on the River Roding. Quite possibly they met through the barge trade. The Tinnoth name is both rare and unusual and variants include Tennioth, Tinmoth, to add to the confusion. Barges registered to 'Thomas Weekes barge owner of Burham' from 1840 to 1851, when he was agent to William Lee, included *Thomas & Rebecca* and *John Tinnoth*, the latter probably named after Rebecca's brother (1810-1890). Later *Ambrose* (their son? – 1843-1875) and *Henry Tinnoth* were added. Their home Tinnoth ('Teinnoth/'Tennoth') House at North Halling also took the name. Edward Weekes, a mariner who lived in Rochester and who registered the *East Kent* in 1871, was probably part of the same family.

The Higham family of barge builders served several of the local factories, competing with the well-established yards of Cheetham, Curel, Watson, Lilley and Gill in the Medway Towns. The career of the barge builder Robert Higham can be sketched from census and other information. Born in Whitby, he first worked in Sussex (where his wife Elizabeth was born). Two other Highams, William (b.1808) and John (b.1811/12) were boat builders there and probably were related, perhaps brothers. Five children were born to Robert and Elizabeth in Lewes between 1829 and 1842, with another son Henry born at Northfleet in 1843. In June 1849 Robert completed the barge *Halling* at Halling, for James Formby of Frindsbury. Prior to establishing his works at Burham, Thomas Cubitt

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<sup>26</sup> See p. 46.

<sup>27</sup> SMM, DOC.PAT.001.

<sup>28</sup> Genealogy is gleaned from [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) as well as local documentation.

commissioned Higham to build five barges at Pimlico<sup>29</sup>, so the 1851 census finds the family there, with son George helping his father in the business. By 1853 they had returned to Cuxton/North Halling, where three more children were born between 1853 and 1859. In later years Robert moved to Erith, but George continued as boat builder at Cuxton/North Halling (<1858-1865>) before moving to Wouldham to become landlord at the 'Great Medway Inn', remaining until his death in 1905. William Higham, (b. Lewes, 1838), was the son of John and Sarah, and both men had moved to Kent by 1861. In that year William was lodging in Minster, Sheppey, but moved to Rochester, first to Horse Wash Lane, St Nicholas parish (1871), then to St. Margaret's. By 1881 he was overseeing eleven men and seven boys at his firm based at Blue Boar Hard in the city.

Cubitt's five barges noted above were in hand to be ready for the opening of his Burham works, but it was not until the 1860s that the newly formed Burham Brick Cement and Lime Company consolidated and expanded the fleet. Between 1860 and 1870 the firm had a cement works at Murston, Sittingbourne and during this time most of its new barges were built there. Most were registered by a single director: William Varney, George Smeed, John Ward, William Webster and sold on to all of them jointly. Between 1871 and 1881 barge building moved to Aylesford and Burham.

Henry Peters' estimate of about 150 barges belonging to the local cement works around 1881 is only part of the story, for many more would be employed in moving coal and coke to feed the machinery, and in transporting agricultural produce. The river was a hive of activity.

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<sup>29</sup> The five barges were *Belgrave, Mary Ann, Thomas. George, William.*



## SELECT LIST OF BARGES WORKING IN THE MEDWAY BEFORE 1881

This list has been compiled from the Shipping Registers for Rochester only. Many more barges which traded in the Medway at the time would have been registered at London, or elsewhere.

The earliest registers did not include a space for recording the official numbers of barges, although these were added by hand to some entries. Official numbers formed part of the data recorded in later forms.

The earliest registers also recorded the name of the master at the time of registration and often noted later appointments to the post. This practice was discontinued later.

The place where the barge was built is always recorded, and in many cases the builder's name is also given. The date built denotes the day on which the builder signed off his work as complete, perhaps at launch.

The registered tonnage is given as a whole number, although the forms show additional fractions above that.

Rochester registration. For all new barges the date given is usually within a month of completion by the builder and the name of the first owner, his address and occupation is given. Some barges had originally been registered elsewhere and in these cases the date is that first entered in the Rochester registers. Alterations to size and weight of barges required them to be re-registered 'de nuovo'; in the list these re-registrations appear as a second date.

The lists of owners are grouped in part alphabetically and in part by place or company. Thus Thomas Cubitt becomes the Burham, Brick Cement and Lime Company.

No systematic attempt has been made to trace changes of ownership, although some are shown, especially when original owners sold to the principal firms or people recorded in the list.

I have also consulted Frank G. Willmott, *Cement, Mud and 'Muddies'* (Meresborough Books, Rainham, 1977) for his lists of barges owned by Medway companies, but some of the ships he mentions did not come into ownership of the firms I have included before 1881. So the 35 barges of Solomon John Brice which he lists are largely excluded here, as are those of Hilton, Anderson and Brooks & Co., which only began in Halling in 1873.

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration	
Hamlet	26351	Standgate, Lambeth	32	1829/15-8-1845; 29-10-1850	30-5-1853; 13-8-1857	Edward Baker, Snodland, ferryman; bought from Thomas Weekes of Burham, 4-6-1856	sold to Edward Perrin of Aylesford, 12-6-1869
Nepthalite	44619	Snodland	29; 37	14-8-1862	26-9-1862; 3-9-1866	Edward Baker, Snodland, barge owner	sold 3-3-1873
Marianne	45529	Halling	40	1863	12-9-1863	Edward Baker, Snodland	sold 22-3-1872; broken up 1924
Edward	49823	unknown'	26	unknown'	21-7-1864	Edward Baker, Snodland, ship owner	sold 3-9-1868
four good barges		for sale	90, 80, 65, 55		23-9-1864	Edward Baker, Snodland ferry	
Jane		Sittingbourne		1795	23-12-1825	Armigill Hadlow, Aylesford (later Snodland)	bequeathed to wife in 1842
George & Annie	52964	Rochester	49	15-1-1866	20-1-1866	sold to Charles Townsend Hook 16-8-1869 via Henry Brown 16-7-1868	
The Sisters	58494	Rochester	42	13-7-1869	15-7-1869	Edith Anna, Maude Midsummer, Agnes Darlington Hook (from Henry Brown)	sold 9-5-1876 to Edward J. Goldsmith
Anna Maria	67068	Rochester, Edward G. Watson	41	5-2-1874	5-2-1874	Charles Townsend Hook, Snodland, barge owner	sold 5-5-1876 to Edward J. Goldsmith



Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
William & Frances		Strand on the Green	62	9-6-1823	8-3-1825	John Banks Esq., Halling
Flora		Maidstone		1821	31-12-1825	John Banks Esq., Halling
Atalanta		Gravesend	13	25-5-1822	31-5-1826	John Banks Esq., Halling
William		Berkshire	31	1815	25-1-1828	John Banks Esq., Halling
Fancy		Lambeth, Joliffe Banks	43	9-1-1828	25-1-1828	John Banks Esq., Halling
Elizabeth			42	1819	6-9-1830	John Banks Esq., Halling
Betsy & Frances		Thomas Cheetham, Halling	19	21-9-1833	27-9-1833	Solomon Brice, Snodland, farmer
Albert	49832	Newbury, Berks	30	1848	31-10-1864	Solomon Brice, Rainham, ship owner
Betsy		George Cheetham, Frindsbury	37	25-9-1845	2-10-1845	S. Brice, Burham, barge owner
James	7973	Pangbourne, Berks	29	1835	13-12-1869	Solomon John Brice, Rainham, barge owner
Eagle	9412	Rochester	38	3-6-1843	1-8-1870	Solomon John Brice, Rainham, clay merchant
Industry	74820	Rochester, E. G. Watson	40	16-8-1876	22-8-1876	Solomon John Brice, Rainham, barge owner
Hope	76594	Milton, R. M. Shrubsall	44	24-1-1877	5-2-1877	Mary Elizabeth Brice, widow, Rainham

sold 11-3-1848

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Walter	76620	Rochester, E. G. Watson	44	25-7-1877	9-8-1877	Solomon John Brice, Rainham, barge owner
William	16654	Robert Higham, Thames Bank, Pimlico	57	30-1-1851	2-2-1852	Thomas Cubitt, Burham
Belgrave	4616	Robert Higham, Thames Bank, Pimlico	47	23-4-1851	23-4-1851; 9-9-1865	Thomas Cubitt, Burham; William Varney, Burham Co.
Mary Ann	26687	Robert Higham, Thames Bank, Pimlico	54	3-7-1851	21-5-1851	Thomas Cubitt, Burham
Thomas	16151	Robert Higham, Thames Bank, Pimlico	55	28-8-1851	9-7-1851	Thomas Cubitt, Burham
George	16390	Robert Higham, Thames Bank, Pimlico	56	29-11-1851	10-12-1851	Thomas Cubitt, Burham
Edward	18270	Strood [Edward G. Watson]	41	5-8-1857		sold to William Varney, Aylesford, Gentleman, 22-6-1867; then to Directors, Burham Brick Cement & Lime Co. [BBCL]

sold 22-4-1896

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Ann	55151	Frindsbury	39	31-5-1866	20-6-1866	sold to Directors BBCL, 3-11-1869
John	55173	Frindsbury	40	24-9-1866	12-10-1866	sold to Directors BBCL, 3-11-1869
Murston	58436	Murston	35	4-5-1867	28-5-1867	sold to Directors BBCL, 2-2-1870
Varnes	58450	Frindsbury	41	27-9-1867	8-10-1867	William Varney, Aylesford, Gentleman, to Directors BBCL, 18-2-1870
Venus	58452	Murston	37	16-10-1867	11-11-1867	sold to Directors BBCL, 18-2-1870
Surrey	58457	Murston	37	6-2-1868	11-2-1868	sold to Directors BBCL, 25-11-1869
January	58477	Adelaide Dock, Sittingbourne	36	4-12-1868	10-1-1868	sold to Directors BBCL 24-2-1870
Ann	58463	Murston	35	21-3-1868	7-4-1868	sold to Directors BBCL, 18-2-1870
William	58467	Frindsbury	41	28-5-1868	5-6-1868	William Varney, Aylesford, Gentleman, sold to Directors BBCL, 18-2-1870
February	58483	Adelaide Dock, Sittingbourne	35	3-3-1869	12-3-1869	sold to Directors BBCL 24-2-1870
March		Rochester, E. G. Watson	38	3-4-1869	12-5-1869	Directors BBCL
April	58486	Rochester	40	3-4-1869	13-5-1869	Directors BBCL

ex John Cook

ex John Cook

ex George Smeed

ex George Smeed

ex John Ward

ex William Webster

ex George Smeed

ex William Webster

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Meteor	58490	Murston [George Smeed]	35	15-5-1869	27-5-1869	sold to Directors BBCL 18-2-1870
May	58491	Frindsbury	40	11-5-1869	8-6-1869	Directors BBCL
James	45519	Frindsbury, James Curel	41	1863	30-8-1869	William Varney, Aylesford, Gentleman, to Directors BBCL, 18-2-1870
June	58497	Murston [George Smeed]	35	21-8-1869	22-9-1869	Directors BBCL
July	58502	Boston, Lincs	36	24-9-1869	24-11-1869	Directors BBCL
William Porter	58529	Battersea	82	25-3-1871	1-6-1871	Directors BBCL
	67022	Murston, George Smeed	123	7-6-1871	30-6-1871	Directors BBCL
William Varney	67028	Burham	93	4-8-1871	28-10-1871	Directors BBCL
August	67058	Aylesford, BBCL	65	17-7-1873	22-7-1873	BBCL
September	67089	Aylesford, BBCL	45	20-11-1874	24-11-1874	BBCL
October	67118	Aylesford, BBCL	39	13-1-1876	3-2-1876	BBCL
November	76593	Aylesford, BBCL	45	11-12-1876	31-1-1877	BBCL
December	78520	Burham, BBCL	43	7-2-1878	9-2-1878	BBCL
Spring	79886	Burham, BBCL	41	13-9-1879	14-3-1879	BBCL
Summer	81862	Burham, BBCL	42	1879	16-1-1880	BBCL
Autumn	84378	Burham, BBCL	42	18-2-1881	22-2-1881	BBCL
Winter	84409	Burham, BBCL	44	7-10-1881	10-10-1881	BBCL

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Pink	20063	Frindsbury, George Cheetham	42	26-11-1847	8-12-1847	James Formby, Frindsbury
Queen	7994	Frindsbury, John Curel & Sons	42	6-4-1848	20-4-1848	James Formby, Frindsbury
Halling	7969	Halling, Robert Higham	38	16-6-1849	13-8-1849	James Formby, Frindsbury
Protection	20068	Halling, Robert Higham	38	4-7-1850	10-7-1850	James Formby, Frindsbury
Neptune	20069	Frindsbury, George Cheetham	41	12-8-1853	3-9-1853	James Formby, Frindsbury
Whitewall	52950	Frindsbury, J. Curel & Sons	37	3-10-1865	8-12-1865	James Formby, Frindsbury
Frindsbury	52963	Halling	41	1865	14-2-1866	James and Charles Formby, Frindsbury
Vauxhall	58440	Frindsbury	39	27-4-1867	24-6-1867	Charles and James Marshall Formby, Frindsbury
Eclipse	58481	Frindsbury	38	4-2-1869	2-3-1869	James Marshall Formby and Charles Formby, Frindsbury
Kew	81847	Kew, F. White	39	12-5-1879	10-7-1879	Charles Formby, Whitewall
John		Sheerness	36	18-11-1815	20-5-1824	Edward Ellis, Cuxton, barge owner; John Lindridge, Halling, wheelwright

sold 23-11-1824

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Mary Ann		Aylesford, Thomas Webb	44	11-4-1835	23-4-1835	Henry Pettit, Cuxton, grocer; John Wilmot Lindridge, Halling, barge owner
Providence		Strand on the Green	21	19-11-1834	27-9-1836	John Wilmot Lindridge, Halling, Lime Manuf.
John & Mary Ann		Aylesford, Thomas Webb	39	29-5-1833	17-10-1849	John Wilmot Lindridge, Halling, Lime Manuf.
Neptune		Hilton Ferry, Durham	162	1804	22-9-1838	Edward Robert Coles, Rochester, corn factor, and John Lindridge, Halling, lime merchant
Henry		Strood, Robert Horsnail	30	24-5-1839	15-6-1839	Henry Pettit, Cuxton, barge owner
Maid of the Mill		Mill Wall, Poplar	62; 31	1825	9-12-1835; 30-3-1844	Henry Pettit, Cuxton, grocer
Sarah Elizabeth		Strood, Robert Horsnail	30	14-4-1837	22-4-1837	Henry Pettit, Cuxton, barge owner
Christiana	16724	Strood, Robert Horsnail	56; 39	27-10-1829	27-5-1854	W. Lee, Burham; W. Lee, Holboro, lime merchant

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
William & Mary		Bankside, Southwark, 19-8-1825 [London Reg.]+C101	64		6-2-1830	W.Lee, Burham, lime merchant
Burham		Rochester, William Crook, 28-7-1837	184		25-8-1837	W. Lee, Burham, merchant
Expedition		Maidstone, 1792	31	4-1-1826	11-5-1838	W. Lee, Burham
Dispatch	7992	Maidstone, 1836	31		1-9-1838	W. Lee, Burham
Delaval		Selby	199	1-3-1832	4-10-1839	W. Lee, Burham
Samuel	26590	Frindsbury, John Curel	37	22-1-1840	7-2-1840	W. Lee, Burham
Lee		Blackwall, 7-3-1840	47		7-5-1840	W. Lee, Burham
Medway	20066	Frindsbury, John Curel	38	21-3-1842	8-4-1842	W. Lee, Rochester
Eliza & Ann	1923	Bideford	58			W. Lee, Clovelly
Iris	42197		220	Liverpool		W. Lee, Liverpool
Two Sisters	7958	Aylesford, Richard Sampson		26-2-1841		W. Lee, Rochester
Satis	20033	Sunderland firm	192	3-5-1845	2-6-1845	W. Lee, Rochester
William & Mary		Kingston on Thames	27	30-8-1841	31-10-1845	sold to W. Lee, Rochester, 19-1-1846

foundered off Dogger Bank 10-1-1839

auctioned 4-9-1866

sold to Nathan and Silas Peters, 18-2-1881



Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration	
Brothers		Kingston on Thames	30	7-3-1842	31-10-1845	sold to W. Lee, Rochester, 19-1-1846	
Lady McAdam	23290	Borstal	31	10-7-1835	3-1-1846	W. Lee, Rochester	auctioned 4-9-1866; £170
Susan		Lambeth	38	12-6-1837	13-2-1847	sold by W. Lee, Rochester, 19-7-1848	
Clifford	7991	Northfleet	31	22-8-1840	13-2-1847; 30-4-1858	W. Lee, Rochester, lime burner [ex. Thomas Poynder <i>q.v.</i> ]	sold 3-3-1881; ex Thomas Poynder
Georgiana	11254	Sittingbourne		8-7-1854	9-9-1858	Alfred Smith, Halling and William Lee, Halling	
Rose	26415	Milton next Sittingbourne		21-12-1849	9-9-1858	Alfred Smith, Halling and William Lee, Halling	auctioned 4-9-1866: £300
Ann	28532	Newbury, Berks	26	1828	27-6-1860	William Lee, Burham	sold 10-6-1861
Charles	12590	Greenham, Berks	30	11-3-1854	27-7-1861	William Lee, Halling, and Alfred Smith, Halling	transferred reg. from London
British Queen	44591	Halling	35	1862	18-2-1862	William Lee, Halling, and Alfred Smith, Halling	
Expedition	44593	Rochester	40	7-3-1862	9-4-1862	William Lee, Holborough, and Alfred Smith, Rochester	
Urgent	44599	Chatham	40	31-3-1862	24-4-1862	William Lee, Holborough, and Alfred Smith, Rochester	

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Snodland	44618	Halling	38	1862	31-9-1862	William Lee, Holborough, and Alfred Smith, Rochester
Blackfriars	44620	Chatham	39		8-10-1862	William Lee, Holborough, and Alfred Smith, Rochester
Kent	45523	Halling	38	1863	28-5-1863	William Lee, Burham, and Alfred Smith, Rochester
Superb	47947	Halling	37	1863	12-12-1863	W. Lee, Holborough, and Alfred Smith, Rochester
Maidstone	49813	Halling	38	10-5-1864	27-5-1864	William Lee, Holborough, and Alfred Smith, Rochester
Rover	52938	Halling	37	1-7-1865	20-7-1865	William Lee and Alfred Smith, Halling, cement manufacturers
Defiance	52962	Halling	39	22-12-1865	10-1-1866	William Lee, Halling, and Alfred Smith, Halling
Renown	55183	Halling	37	24-11-1866	10-12-1866	William Lee, Halling, and Alfred Smith, Halling
Lee	55161	Halling	63	July 1866	3-8-1866	William Lee, Halling, and Alfred Smith, Halling
Monarch	58437	Halling	39	13-5-1867	28-5-1867	William Lee, Halling, ship owner
Invicta	58455	Halling	39	18-12-1867	27-12-1867	William Lee, Holborough

23-2-64: sank at Erith after collision; 27-9-1864: collision on Thames

steam yacht with paddlewheels

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Telegraph	58470	Aylesford	37	18-8-1868	21-8-1868	sold to W. Lee, Holborough, 26-5-1873
Victory	58480	Halling	39	5-2-1869	19-2-1869	William Lee, Holborough
Edith	58533	Ipswich	97	1867	17-5-1872	William Lee, Holborough, lime merchant
Ariel	67081	Rochester, George William Gill	36	9-6-1874	11-6-1874	William Lee, Holborough, Esq.
Graphic	74807	Rochester, Gill & Sons	39	29-4-1876	3-5-1876	William Lee, Holborough, Gentleman
Punch	76586	Rochester, Gill & Sons	39	16-12-1876	20-12-1876	William Lee, Holborough, Gentleman
Judy	76601	Rochester, Gill & Sons	42	9-4-1877	13-4-1877	William Lee, Holborough, Esq.
Lee	76625	East Cowes, John S. White	66	5-9-1877	26-9-1877	William Lee, Holborough, Gentleman
Urgent	76629	Rochester, Gill & Sons	41	31-8-1877	4-10-1877	William Lee, Halling, Esq.
Enterprise	81860	Cowes, John S. White	41	1879	15-1-1880	William Lee, Holborough, barge owner
Holborough	81893	Rochester, Gill & Sons	40	25-10-1880	10-11-1880	William Lee, Holborough, Gentleman
Shark	84383	Cowes, John S. White	44	22-3-1881	28-3-1881	William Lee, Holborough, Esq.
Dolphin	84386	East Cowes, John S. White	44	22-3-1881	6-5-1881	William Lee, Holborough, cement manufacturer

ex Henry Finch of Aylesford

foundered at sea, 4-9-1874

steam yacht

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Porpoise	84397	West Cowes, John S. White	44	21-6-1881	12-7-1881	William Lee, Holborough, cement manufacturer
Medina	84412	East Cowes, John S. White	42	14-10-1881	25-10-1881	Samuel Lee Smith, Halling, cement manufacturer
Dart	84418	Cowes, John S. White	43	25-11-1881	14-12-1881	Samuel Lee Smith, Halling, cement manufacturer
Thames	84428	Cowes, John S. White	42	1881	7-3-1882	Samuel Lee Smith, Halling, cement manufacturer
Sarah		Strand on the Green, Charles W. Blundell	21	19-2-1841	1-4-1841	Richard and Thomas William Peters, Snodland, limeburners
Fanny	9433	Aylesford	35	3-7-1849	1-6-1854	Thomas William Peters, Snodland, wharfinger
three unnamed canal barges		for sale		20-3-1866		Thomas William Peters, Anchor Place, Snodland
Edward, Sophia		for sale		22-9-1868		Thomas William Peters
Providence	25473	Rochester	66	1823	27-12-1825	W. Peters, Snodland, Gentleman
William & Mary Ann		Maidstone	52	5-2-1833	18-6-1833	William Peters, Snodland, lime manufacturer

Earlier *Thames*  
 auctioned 4-9-1866

15-4-1854: for sale;  
 broken up 20-11-1865

totally lost April 1875

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Luna	20054	Sunderland	185	1837	8-10-1838; 15-8-1853	W. Peters, Halling and William P. Haymen; W. Peters of Halling
Mary		Strood, Robert Horsnail	40	12-9-1838	12-10-1838	W. Peters, Snodland
William	20091	Strood, Joseph Lilley	43	2-5-1845	9-5-1845	W. Peters, Snodland
Joseph	7991	Joseph Lilley, Strood	45	16-1-1846	30-1-1846	W. Peters, Snodland
Elizabeth	9422	Strood, Joseph Lilley	43	26-6-1846	11-7-1846	W. Peters, Snodland
Emma	7972	Rochester, George Cheetham	40	3-4-1854	5-4-1854	W. Peters, Wouldham, lime burner
Edwin	7997	Rochester, Edward G. Watson	40; 45	2-6-1854	9-6-1854	W. Peters, Wouldham, lime burner
Ellen	9416	Rochester, Edward G. Watson	43	4-4-1855	7-4-1855	W. Peters, Burham, lime merchant
Harry	52955	Rochester	38	3-10-1865	8-11-1865	W. Peters, Wouldham Hall, ship owner
Peters	55149	Rochester	37	24-5-1866	14-6-1866	W. Peters, Wouldham Hall, ship owner
Providence	74819	Rochester, William Higham	37	16-8-1876	17-8-1876	sold to Edwin and Henry Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners, 17-1-1878

sold 6-4-1877

ex David Tippett

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Alice	76590	Rochester, William Higham	42	6-1-1877	15-1-1877	sold to Edwin and Henry Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners, 9-5-1882
Marie	76591	Rochester, Frederick Solitt	42	6-1-1877	15-1-1877	sold to Edwin and Henry Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners, 9-5-1882
Beagle	81894	Rochester, Gill & Sons	42	29-9-1880	10-11-1880	Henry and Edwin Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners
Fox Hound	81895	Rochester, William Higham	42	29-9-1880	10-11-1880	Henry and Edwin Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners
Mersey	84406	Rochester, Gill & Sons	41	19-9-1881	28-9-1881	Henry and Edwin Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners
Joseph	84407	Rochester, William Higham	40	7-9-1881	28-9-1881	Henry and Edwin Peters, Wouldham Hall, barge owners
Clifford		Northfleet, Joshua Wright	32	4-8-1840		Thomas Poynder of Snodland, Esq.
Maide Jane		Northfleet, Joshua Wright	32	9-8-1843		Edward Medicott
Expedition				25-2-1840	25-2-1840	to John Haisman and Thomas Weekes of Burham

ex Frederick William Stillwell

ex Frederick William Stillwell

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Hamlet	26351	Lambeth	38	18-6-1840	15-8-1845	Thomas Weekes, Burham, barge owner; sold to Edward Baker of Snodland, 4-6-1856
Susannah	25472	Frindsbury	37	22-9-1841	5-8-1844	John and Thomas Weekes, Burham
Thomas and Rebecca			36	1843/23-8-1850	29-8-1850	Thomas Weekes, Burham, barge owner
John Tinnoth			43	23-9-1851	23-9-1851	Thomas Weekes, Burham, barge owner
Mercury	18269	Newbury, Berks	28	30-9-1844	22-2-1853	Thomas Weekes, Snodland, barge owner
Busy Body	10479	Aylesford	38	27-7-1844	29-2-1853; 24-10-1864	Thomas Weekes, Snodland, barge owner; Thomas Weekes of Halling
William & Sarah	18076	Frindsbury/ John Curel	60	22-11-1853	29-11-1853	Thomas Weekes, Aylesford
Ambrose	20571	Frindsbury			14-4-1858	Thomas Weekes, Halling, barge owner
Two Brothers	27619	Halling	33		2-3-1860	Thomas Weekes, Halling, barge builder
Union	11210	Lambeth	29	1799	20-11-1862	George Higham, North Halling, barge owner
James	29791	Macclesfield Wharf, Middlesex	30	1825	22-9-1863; 25-6-1867	George Higham, North Halling, barge owner

broken up at Wouldham, c.1880

Name	Official Number	Builder	tons	date built	Rochester registration	owner at registration
Favourite	52947	North Halling [George Higham]	38	19-9-1865	14-10-1865	George Higham, North Halling, shipwright; William Weekes, Halling, barge owner; Alexander Letchford, Rochester, master mariner
Henry Tinnoth	55141	Halling	60	2-4-1866	7-4-1866	Thomas Weekes, Halling, merchant
Swiftsure	58434	Halling	39	27-4-1867	23-5-1867	George Higham, Halling, barge builder; William Weekes, Halling, barge owner
East Kent	44095	Sittingbourne	38	1862	1-2-1871	Edward Weekes, Rochester, mariner
Bella	74808	Frindsbury, George H. Curel	34	2-5-1876	15-5-1876	Thomas Weekes, Halling, William Weekes, Halling, cement manufacturers
Stratford	81899	Frindsbury, G. H. Curel	41	20-12-1880	14-1-1881	Thomas and William Weekes, Halling, cement manufacturers

1876: William Weekes and Thomas Weekes joint owners

sold to Edmund Butler of Burham, half in 1868 and half in 1872

4-1-1876: bought by Thomas and William Weekes, Halling



## IV: Church and School

An important element in the development of Snodland in the nineteenth century is the part played by the churches. From William Joynson's ownership of the paper mill in 1823 and his promotion of the Independents (Congregationalists), continued by John Clarke, to the later espousal by the Hook family of the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, papermakers were led by managers who were fervent non-conformists. The leaders of the cement industry on the other hand were mostly faithful servants of the Established Church. All their workers were free to worship as they wished, of course, but there is no doubt that the examples set by the managers were influential in guiding them.

### The Parish Church

The Rev. Henry Dampier Phelps (1777-1865) was Rector of Snodland for sixty-one years between 1804 and his death in 1865. Born at Sherborne in Dorset, he was himself the son of a clergyman, Rev. Thomas Phelps (1740-1811), vicar of Haddenham, and of his wife Elizabeth Dampier (1739-1825). Henry went up to Hertford College in the University of Oxford on 18 May 1795, graduating four years later and achieving his M.A. in 1801. In 1799, the year of his graduation, he took Holy Orders and went to Haddenham as curate to his father. His uncle, Thomas Dampier, was already Dean of Rochester, but was elevated to Bishop of the See in 1802. As Dean he had been able to put his brother-in-law into the vicarage at Haddenham; now, as Bishop, he appointed Henry to be Rector of Snodland, where the living was worth £300 a year. Henry was inducted on 3 July 1804, staying for the rest of his long life, unmarried, but with two nephews nearby playing their part in the cure of souls: Henry Dampier Phelps (1811-1864), Vicar of Birling, and Thomas Prankerd Phelps (1814-1903).<sup>1</sup>

Three notebooks compiled by Phelps survive and enable us to glimpse something of his care - and even affection - for the village, as well as his doggedness in maintaining his rights as Rector and his great work in restoring and repairing his church. He kept an account of his own money spent on repairing and altering All Saints, which amounted to over £1600 between 1819 and 1853. The church in his day remained much as it had done in previous centuries: high box pews for the parishioners, a gallery at the west end, and the west porch used as the priest's vestry. Phelps provided a barrel organ for the hymns and a church clock, and oversaw major repairs to the chancel, roof and windows. Parts of the ancient rood screen survived which he made into the door from the tower to the church. As a member of the British Archaeological Association he was conscious of the historic features in his care. Charles Winston, the greatest authority on mediaeval glass in his day, visited the church in 1843 and 1846 and made full-size paintings of the windows - fortuitously, since they were destroyed by a land-mine in 1941 and only fragments could be re-instated. Other artists visited too and made paintings and drawings of the church. In 1846 the whole east wall was re-built by the firm of Richard Hussey.

But with his superior education and social station, Phelps tended to look down on all his parishioners and some of this is evident too in the notebooks. Our best account of him (in old age) comes from his curate, the Honourable and Reverend Edward Vesey Bligh (1829-1908), who spent a brief time at Snodland after his marriage in 1854.

I must here relate one very odd story which he himself told me. He was a great foe to Smugglers, of whom in the old times there were many, and he had taken a somewhat leading part against them. Now Mr. Phelps was in the habit of walking

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<sup>1</sup> Gerald van Loo, *A Victorian Parson: The Life and Times of Thomas Prankerd Phelps, Ridley, Kent. Rector, 1840-1893* (Upton-upon Severn, 1989).

one day in the week across the Medway via Wouldham to Rochester and back again - a walk of many miles. Very likely he may have been known to go to his Bankers on such a day, but at any rate he was a marked man, as the sequel will show. Fortunately for Mr. Phelps - unfortunately for another individual, a certain Tailor in Rochester, also a diminutive man of small physique - the latter took it into his head to walk towards Snodland through some woods where the path lay; and coming along unwittingly was pounced upon by one or more of the "Smuggler" party and cruelly murdered then and there - by mistake of course, but a very convenient one for Mr. Phelps, who had that day left Rochester somewhat later on his return walk to Snodland. Suspicion appears to have fallen upon the right party, and at the Coroner's inquest on the Tailor which was held at Cuxton, Mr. Phelps was chosen foreman - his would-be murderer being also present under arrest, and the two facing one another. I recollect how the old gentleman related to me his own feelings at the time under such extraordinary circumstances, knowing well he was himself the "*corpus*" intended, over which the inquest was being held. It was satisfactory, however, that the murderer was so promptly brought to justice and in due course duly hanged. [...] The old Rector of Snodland was a positive curiosity - quite an old fossil, an antique Bachelor, who lived in two small rooms of his Rectory tended by a beaming Housekeeper called 'Kitty'. W. Phelps - that was his name - was nearly 80 years of age, a very short man, dressed always in a long tailcoat down nearly to the ankles, with an old-fashioned white choker round and round his neck and a 'Mother Gamp' large umbrella. On Sundays he wore his University gown, which he had had at Oxford or Cambridge 50 years ago, and which from black to brown had lapsed into a dingy floor colour: he always marched down the Village on his way to Church and back again in this manner. ... On quarter days, when my stipend of £25 was due, the old gentleman would triumphantly march up the village to our house and put the money down in hard cash or otherwise, and good-naturely dispose of his debt for my humble services as if I was the biggest '*dun*' or 'Old Clothier' London Jew craving for a prompt settlement! He also solemnly confused me when I first took up duty (no reflection of course on the services which I preached subsequently) as to the proper length for such discourses, using the phrase (as I well remember and also to my astonishment) "Twelve minutes is long enough for any *Monkey* to be talking to a lot of others". Peculiar indeed and hardly encouraging exhortation to a newly ordained Deacon. Old Phelps was a character, and the oldest clergyman in the diocese.<sup>2</sup>

Having married Isobel, one of the Nevill family of Birling, on 23 February 1854, Bligh found Snodland to be uncongenial. He rented Waghorn's old house in the upper High Street - one of the largest in the village - but of course it did not compare with his own Cobham Hall or his wife's Birling Manor!

We, Father, Mother and Baby, took up our permanent quarters in a very tiny habitation near the Bull Inn and Old Turnpike at Snodland. A more undesirable locality could not well be: even worse now with 4000 people, but it was then in its babyhood, and I think the population - nearly all cement and lime burners - was little over 700. Quite flat, smoky, without a single real gentleman - much less a lady - the one redeeming point was the close neighbourhood of Birling Manor where at any rate was refuge for the Curate's aristocratic wife.

Bligh went on to become Rector of Rotherfield from 1856 to 1865, and Vicar of Birling from 1865 to 1875 before retiring to Fartherwell Hall, Ryarsh.

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<sup>2</sup> Esme Wingfield-Stratford: *This was a Man* (London, 1949). The book includes a lengthy autobiography by Bligh.

His successor was Benjamin Peile Thompson (1828-1908) and Snodland was his second curacy. In 1856 Phelps was aged nearly 80 so Thompson had perforce to serve in his place. William Lee said

Mr. Thompson had been with them for nine years, and that for the greater part of that time he might, in consequence of the ill-health of the late Rev. Mr. Phelps, have really been looked upon as their rector. He had been continually in the esteem and affection of the parishioners, and many persons whom he had talked to, had expressed a wish, on Mr. Phelps's death, that the living might be conferred upon Mr. Thompson. He, therefore, immediately communicated this wish to the Bishop of the Diocese, at the same time expressing his own earnest desire that Mr. Thompson might be appointed. ... He received a letter from the Bishop, stating his regret at not being able to comply with this wish. [The Bishop had already offered the living to Rev. Carey]. Still he (Mr. Lee) thought that Mr. Thompson was the man of all others whom they would have like to have seen in the position of their rector, and he must say he was very much disappointed at the result of the application.<sup>3</sup>

In 1854 Thompson had married Rosa Grevis of Ightham Court, and it is evident that the pair was comfortably off. The school log-book records two visits (to Herne Bay in 1863 and to the Crystal Palace in 1865), paid for by the curate, much to the admiration of Rumble, the schoolmaster.<sup>4</sup>

It appears that Thompson's curacy brought about good relations between the established church and the non-conformists in Snodland, perhaps more so than at any other time in the nineteenth century. There seems to have been no problem in booking the British Schoolroom for a meeting for presenting a testimonial to him on his leaving the parish, nor for that of the presentation itself. George Pierson (a churchwarden) proposed 'That in the opinion of this meeting, the removal of the Rev. B. P. Thompson from the parish of Snodland is deeply to be deplored by all its inhabitants, dissenters as well as churchmen ...'

Mr. Bateman (a leading dissenter in the village) then moved a resolution to the effect that certain gentlemen be appointed to collect subscriptions in different parts of the village. He remarked that since Mr. Thompson had been with them, they had received nothing but kindness from him, and he had always stood high in their esteem and affection. He felt that the present was an important crisis in the history of Snodland.

Mr. Townsend Hook [a Swedenborgian], in seconding the resolution, said that the way in which Mr. Thompson had carried out his duties had won the love of them all.

The schoolroom (seating 400 persons) was full to overflowing for the presentation. 'The choir of Providence Chapel (chiefly consisting of the Gay family) enlivened the proceedings by their excellent singing; Mr. Wm. Bateman presiding at the harmonium.' Their Minister

The Rev. Mr. Carpenter said they had gathered together to perform what they all felt to be a very pleasant duty. During the time he had lived in Snodland he had occupied a position in the parish by no means antagonistic to Mr. Thompson; on the contrary, they had lived in the greatest harmony [cheers]. The kindly feeling which he had met with from the hands of their esteemed friend had been such as to awaken in his mind sentiments of great regret that he was about to leave the parish; and he doubted not that the meeting was most hearty and unanimous in their

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<sup>3</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 2 September 1865

<sup>4</sup> At his death in 1908, Thompson left an estate valued at over £5000.

expressions of sympathy and regret at Mr. Thompson's removal. ... In Mr. Thompson he had found a friend, a gentleman, and a Christian, and he believed all would prove him to be such, wherever he might go [cheers].

Thompson became vicar of St Laurence, Seal, and remained there for 41 years until his death, so was still able to visit Snodland from time to time.

With the installation of the new rector, James Gaspard le Marchant Carey, one senses that a greater antagonism grew between the churches. Carey was a forthright and energetic man and is remembered for good works – the rebuilding of the rectory and of the National Schools and overseeing major repairs to All Saints, and 'by his labours as guardian to the poor, and by his kindness and liberality to the sick and needy' (William Lee). Dr White added that 'the interest he had taken in all that appertained to the sanitary condition of this increasing and densely populated village,<sup>5</sup> had greatly struck him, whilst his assiduous efforts in ministering to the sick, aiding them with material gifts as well as spiritual comfort, had commanded his warmest admiration.' Soon after Carey's arrival William Poynder, the Lord of the Manor, offered to provide an extra half-acre extension to the churchyard and a meeting was held to consider the gift. Carey was in the chair.

At the meeting of which the present was an adjournment, Messrs. Hook and Bateman were commissioned to see Mr. Poynder with regard to obtaining a portion of the land for the benefit of the dissenters of the parish. Those gentlemen now reported that they had seen Mr. Poynder, who strongly objected to any portion being left unconsecrated for the use of the dissenters. They represented to him that it would much conduce to the harmony and good feeling in the parish if he would consent; and his reply was that he not only had an objection himself, but Mr. Carey had also the strongest objection.

The Chairman [Carey, added] As regarded those who differed from the church, though they would be buried in the yard, there was no occasion that the Church service should be read over them. It might be read by their own minister at the gate or at their own house; only the law of England, which he could not prevent, excluded all from performing the service in the churchyard, except the clergyman of the parish.<sup>6</sup>

Clearly 'harmony and good feeling in the parish' had to be subservient to the letter of the law. A further spat erupted in 1868 when Carey accused the Swedenborgian minister Thomas Lewen Marsden of 'bribing' children to attend their newly formed Sunday School 'by the prospect of a treat on Good Friday'. Letters were exchanged and Carey noted that Marsden 'published a pamphlet in 61 pages against me. They deny the Trinity of Persons'.<sup>7</sup> In October 1869 the row continued with further newspaper correspondence following Marsden's request for expenses from the Guardians of the district, having attended a local woman as a doctor to save a trip to Snodland by the Malling physicians.

In 1869-70 a major refurbishment of All Saints was undertaken, to a plan by Sir Arthur Blomfield. The west gallery was removed and the south side of the chancel was modified, with a small vestry added and a pipe organ to lead the music. Richly decorated tiles covered the floor of the sanctuary and part of the east wall and other less ornate tiles were laid throughout the church. New furniture was provided by local firms. The bulk of the cost was met by William Lee (who was a churchwarden), his daughter Ann Roberts,

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<sup>5</sup> See his letter on p. 17.

<sup>6</sup> *South-Eastern Gazette*, 30 January 1866

<sup>7</sup> See p.125 and *Parochialia*, MALSC, P342\_28\_20

her son William Henry Roberts, and Evelina Hook. She was the wife of Eustace, the youngest child, who alone in the family did not adhere to the Swedenborgian doctrines.

Very helpfully Carey compiled a diary of events during his rector-ship, mixing local and national news, calling it *Parochialia*. Perhaps he was inspired by the three note-books left by Phelps, which had set out *his* efforts to beautify and repair All Saints, information on his entitlement to tithes and other rights, and a brief history of Snodland as well as listing its flora and fauna. *Parochialia* was continued by Rev. Bingley, when it became a collection of newspaper cuttings rather than a manuscript notebook. Carey was also noted as being an enthusiastic promoter of cottage gardening, which was becoming popular at the time and the first 'highly creditable' show was held in the National Schoolroom on 26 September 1868. This at least was for the whole of the parishioners and became an annual event, with prizes given by the Hook family. But there were no tributes from non-conformists at Carey's farewell testimonial on 6 February 1874, nor any mention of them attending. He moved on to become Vicar of Boreham, Essex, and eventually Archdeacon of that county, dying aged 53 on 17 March 1885. A fine window in his memory was placed in All Saints.

Apart from continuing *Parochialia* Bingley also published an annual *Church Paper* for his Vestry meetings each of which provides a wealth of information on parishioners, clubs, societies and events for the previous year.<sup>8</sup>

## THE NON-CONFORMIST CHURCHES

### The Congregationalists

Non-conformity in Kent took a firm hold during the Cromwellian period of the seventeenth century.<sup>9</sup> The Compton Census of 1676 found 100 'Conformists' and 40 'Non-conformists' in Snodland, a large proportion of the population. Yet the extant records are silent on who they were. The earliest evidence that non-conformist worship was taking place in Snodland comes from three surviving certificates 'for a meeting house'; the first is dated 16 April 1816. Given by Joseph Slatterie of Chatham, Dissenting Minister, it confirms that a 'Dwelling house and Barn of Anthony Hunt of Snodland ... is intended forthwith to be used as a place of Religious Worship by an Assembly or Congregation of Protestants'. Hunt was a tenant of William Gorham between 1815 and 1818 and may have lived in one of the two houses formerly on the present site of the New Jerusalem church. Slatterie was minister at the Ebenezer Chapel of Chatham and the early registers from that chapel (now at the National Archives) include eight baptisms of Snodland parishioners between 1817 and 1833, the first of which is for Edward, son of Anthony and Sarah Hunt. The others were for children of William Joynson, James Peters, John Butler, and of William Fryer and George Harding, papermakers. It would appear that all these baptisms were held at Snodland. The second certificate, dated 7 June 1824, is for the house of Thomas Kidwell. The third, of 28 March 1828, states: 'I, William Higgins of Chatham ... Woollen Draper, do hereby certify that a certain Building ... in Snodland ... in the occupation of Wm. Joynson, Paper Manufacturer, is intended forthwith to be used as a Place of Religious Worship by an Assembly or Congregation of Protestants'. This building (Kidwell's house) is clearly marked as the 'Independent Chapel' on the 1844 tithe commutation map, and was situated at 'Snodland Wharf'.<sup>10</sup> Kidwell was a paper-maker from Maidstone, who lived here until his death, aged 85, in

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<sup>8</sup> Extant copies were printed in 1875, 1878, 1882-4, 1886 and 1889.

<sup>9</sup> See C. W. Chalkin, *Seventeenth-Century Kent*, London, 1965, chapter XIII.

<sup>10</sup> See p 7.

August 1860. Although it had long ceased to be used as such, in the 1891 census it is still referred to as 'The Old Chapel House'. The picture below shows it in late life as the mill's time office, but it was pulled down after the 1906 mill fire. The Non-conformist return for 1829 gives 60-100 people worshipping in the chapel at Snodland.<sup>11</sup>

Snodland was one of the 'stations' occupied by the Home Missionary Society, which they listed as 'Rainham—Higham—Chatham Hill—Luton—Slicards Hill—Snodland—Lower Halling—Upper Halling—New Hythe, and Ham Hill.'<sup>12</sup> These places were served by a 'Chatham village preaching auxiliary', acting on behalf both of the Home Missionary and the Chatham Itinerant Society, according to the same report. It is unclear whether any of the men actually lived in Snodland during their ministry, or whether the village was just part of their rota.

Among the Snodland archives is a book headed *Church Book of the Independents, Snodland, Kent*,<sup>13</sup> part register and part memorandum-book, which opens with an account (written in 1836) of the beginnings of non-conformist worship in Snodland:

The gospel was introduced into Snodland by agents of the Chatham Itinerant Society about the year 1822. At first worship was conducted in a cottage<sup>14</sup>, and afterwards a chapel, capable of accommodating about 200 persons, was fitted up, chiefly at the expense of Mr William Joynson, who occupied the paper-mill. Mr. J. was not only the honoured instrument of providing a chapel without any charge for rent, but also of inducing many to attend. Twelve persons from this village were received into the church at Chatham, under the pastoral care of the Rev. J. Slatterie. About the year 1832 Mr Joynson removed to St Mary Cray, and the paper-mill was shut up: several of his workmen also, who had received the gospel, accompanied him. This occurrence proved a severe trial to the friends of the gospels, and caused its enemies to rejoice. At length, however, this dark cloud was removed by the arrival of Mr. John Clarke, a member of an Independent Church in Buckinghamshire, who, having enjoyed the paper-mill, became a resident in the village, and espoused with all his heart the infant cause. Mr C. (having enjoyed the benefits of a regular ministry) became anxious that efforts might be made, in order, if possible, to obtain a minister to reside among the people, who might visit the numerous villages in the vicinity. In furtherance of this object, application was made to a gentleman connected with the Home Missionary Society, who came over to confer with the people on the subject of obtaining and supporting a Missionary. A subscription was immediately entered into, and in November 1835, a Missionary was sent down from London. Those persons who had joined the church at Chatham, now became desirous of forming themselves into a separate church. Accordingly steps were taken to bring this about and on the 8th of March 1836, a church, comprising 12 members, was formed on the principal of Congregational or Independent Dissenters. The Revd. G. Evans, of Mile End, London, and the Rev. P. Thomson of Ebenezer Chapel, Chatham, together with the Missionary, assisted on this interesting occasion. 'May the little one become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation'.

Later in the book are lists of members with the dates of their admission. The twelve who subscribed on 8 March 1836 were:

John Clarke	Richard Peters
James Clarke	William Bristello
Thomas Kidwell	Sarah Higgins

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<sup>11</sup> KHLC: Q/C/R/3/W/116.

<sup>12</sup> *Home Missionary Magazine*, December 1838, 195: 7<sup>th</sup> annual report.

<sup>13</sup> MALSC, N\_URC\_342. A photocopy is at SMM (SHS).

<sup>14</sup> 'At Halling' according to Thomas Timpson, *Church History of Kent, from the earliest period to the year MDCCCLVIII*, London, 1859, 331.



James Peters	Elizabeth Dartnell
John Butler	Frances Hadlow
Elizabeth Butler	Mary Norris

*The hymnbook belonging to George Norris:  
 a bound book of three volumes of hymns by  
 Isaac Watts*

The first three are papermakers, and Mary Norris is probably a relation of George and Elizabeth, listed in the 1841 census. At that time George was a teenage papermaker, lodging with Frederick Boorman in the High Street. A tiny hymnbook belonging to him survives, so apparently he could read and write.<sup>15</sup>

Three weeks later, on 31 March, numbers were swelled by Robert and Frances Allchin

and Elizabeth Allchin, probably the wife of Benjamin, a shoemaker, who himself joined on 30 July 1837. They all lived at Ham Hill in the parish of Birling.

There are some discrepancies between the earliest printed accounts of the Snodland Chapel and what appears in *The Church Book*, which require examination. The initial list of Snodland members was certified by George Evans of Mile End Chapel as were other later admissions in 1837 and 1838. Similar signatures belong to John Dorrington (1836 and 1839) and Charles Hyatt (30 July 1837), presumably the younger man of that name (1805-1847) who was then assisting his father at Shadwell, London.<sup>16</sup> It would appear that the earliest entries in the book, including the history and the rules of ‘Church Order and Discipline’ were written by Dorrington, who signs himself as Minister until 11 August 1839.<sup>17</sup> In 1836 he writes:

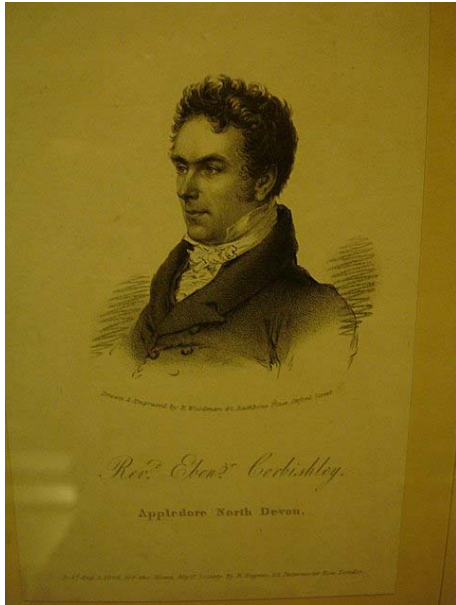
April 1<sup>st</sup> (Good Friday) The Anniversary of the Chapel took place. Rev. G. Evans of London and Rev. P. Thomson of Chatham preached. It having been previously suggested that in consequence of the uncertain tenure of the present place of worship for mesh[e]d as it is with the mill, it would be desirable to take early steps towards raising a fund for a new Chapel. It was determined on this occasion that a decided effort should be made, and that the proceeds of the day should be applied to the above purposes. Accordingly, besides the two sermons, a public meeting was held in the Chapel. William Spicer Esq. of London presided and at the close of the day it was announced that the sum of £57. 15s. 8d. was subscribed or promised. The weather was most unfavourable, yet the chapel was filled, and, it is believed, the Divine presence was realized. ...

On 29 April 1838 there was a visit from James Hamer, Minister at Sutton Valence, who baptized children of John and Elizabeth Butler, James and Christiana Clarke, John and Esther Weeden, and James and Eliza Peters. The ‘Missionary sent down from London’ mentioned above is given in Timpson’s book as the Rev. Ebenezer Corbishley of the Home Missionary Society, but he does not write in *The Church Book of the Independents* until

<sup>15</sup> Elizabeth Norris had moved to Borough Green (see the payment from her recorded below) and this hymnbook was presented to SHS by a resident of that village.

<sup>16</sup> A brief account of them is in Thomas Coleman, *Memorials of the Independent Chapels in Northamptonshire* (London, 1853), 32-35.

<sup>17</sup> But Timpson, *op. cit.*, 495, lists him as Minister at Milton-next-Sittingbourne from March 1837 to January 1841 and a son was born to him there on 17 January 1838: *Kentish Gazette*.



1840. In fact the 1835 date is wrong, because Corbishley was still in his previous parish of Appledore, Devon, on 22 October 1836 when he proposed a subscription for relatives of men lost in the shipwreck of the *Minerva* of Bideford.<sup>18</sup> And in October 1839 the *Sailor's Magazine* still notes Appledore as 'the sphere of labour occupied by the Rev. E. Corbishley, your agent, with much acceptance and usefulness. Occasionally he visits Clovelly ...'<sup>19</sup>

This all suggests that Corbishley did not become Minister in Snodland until around 1840 and that Timpson's Missionary was actually John Dorrington. It was not a propitious time for the Snodland church. Corbishley records that he received *The Church Book* ... 'from Mr Clarke at the time of his failure' and goes on to write:

In consequence of the Bankruptcy of Mr Clarke and the scattered state of the Church it was not possible to entertain the Ordinance of the Lord's supper for some time, till the affairs of the congregation took a more favourable turn about Michaelmas 1843.

The ordinance of the Lord's supper was administered Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 1843. The collection made promises of the Congregation & Church for the Home Missionary Society 10/- yr.

The Sabbath School after having been for some time given up was reestablished under favourable circumstances Nov<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1843.

Furthermore the *Home Missionary Magazine* of January 1841 noted 'The Chatham Auxiliary has only contributed £16 instead of £49 to the Home Missionary Society for Snodland, owing to the failure of an Individual who managed the pecuniary affairs of the station.' Nevertheless Corbishley's report was optimistic:

In adverting to the station at Snodland, partly supported by this Auxiliary, the Committee have much pleasure in stating, that since the arrival of the Rev. E. Corbishley, there has been a gradual improvement in the station, with some increase in the number of villages occasionally visited by the Missionary. In presenting a journal of his labours, he thus writes "At Snodland, the congregations have been very good, especially in the evening of the Sabbath, when the place is generally full. The Sunday school has been revised there, and now contains 60 children. There has been constant preaching at New Hythe on the Sabbath, and when the weather would permit, we have had preaching in the open air; on these occasions, a considerable number have attended. The Sabbath school has likewise been revised at this place, and now contains 60 children, the management of which entirely devolves upon myself and family. I have likewise preached in the week at Offham, a considerable village, one mile and a half from Town Malling, but in a very dark and destitute state; a School has been opened in that village, in which there are now 50 children, who are instructed by myself and daughter on every Tuesday evening. I have preached here in the open air to 150 people weekly. In all the places connected with the station, religious tracts have been freely distributed, and well received. The ignorance that abounds throughout this wide district is truly appalling, and required

<sup>18</sup> *Western Times*, 22 October 1836.

<sup>19</sup> *The Sailor's Magazine*, vol. XII, no. 2, October 1839, 68. His six children had been baptized at Appledore between 1822 and 1835.



much faith, prayer, and labour on the part of your agent.”<sup>20</sup>

Donations and subscriptions to ‘the Cause’ included £3. 2s. 6d. from the Snodland church in April 1841:<sup>21</sup>

C.Kerr, from a concern for the prosperity of the Cause at Snodland, & at Castle Hill, Dorset, by Miss Corbishley	0 10 0
Miss Corbishley	0 14 0
Rev. E. Corbishley	0 7 6
Miss C. Norris, Borrow Green	0 10 0
Mr. Kidwell	0 6 6
Miss E. Norris	0 4 0
Mr. John Bateman	0 6 6
Mr. W. Golding	0 4 0

Corbishley stands out as being an energetic and conscientious minister wherever he served, and was not afraid to lead by example. On 17 September 1829 the *Daniells* of Bristol was wrecked near Appledore.

She was watched with great anxiety by several persons from the hill, who observed a boat from Clovelly making towards her, but which, from the violence of the breakers, was utterly incapable of reaching her, and was obliged to leave her to her fate; at this moment the Rev. E. Corbishley, who was amongst the spectators, reminded them that they had a life boat, which might render the sufferers assistance; but a difficulty arose which was thought to be insurmountable, how she should be got to the beach; the urgency of the case, however, stimulated to exertion, and, encouraged by the lively feelings of humanity, which animated the breasts of several persons present, the boat was removed by manual exertion, from the cellar where it had remained useless, from the time it was first granted to the port, having been dragged two-thirds of the way across the Burrows, the further assistance of horses was obtained, and the boat was manned, but unfortunately she was not furnished with lashings, oars, nor any other necessary accoutrements; notwithstanding this, such was the intrepidity and dexterity of the sailors, who volunteered their services for this perilous but humane undertaking, she was presently alongside the vessel, and soon returned with six of the sufferers, whom having safely landed, she again braved the raging elements, and returned with four others; the third trip she brought the Captain onshore, who remained the last on board. ...

Having seen this newspaper report the lifeboat’s builder wrote to Corbishley to ask whether it was his boat – ‘which I built for the Royal Shipwreck Institution having had painted on its sides, ‘R. S. I. Life Boat—Biddiford Station’. Corbishley confirmed that it was, adding

I had much difficulty in overcoming the prejudices of the people, in getting the boat out; suffice it to say, that I was obliged to break open the door of the cellar, and push and hawl with the foremost in dragging her a distance of two miles. ... I am anxious to get the boat in better trim, and if any lives are lost on or near our bar, with such a boat, it must be the fault of the port.<sup>22</sup>

Corbishley baptized four children at Snodland between 12 December 1841 and 14 July 1844. He moved to Chigwell, Essex, in 1848, but soon had a distressing duty to perform. On 9 April 1849, at the Central Criminal Court

Henry Corbishley, 19, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing two [*recte* 10] sovereigns,

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<sup>20</sup> *Home Missionary Magazine*, July 1836 – Dec. 1846, January 1841, p.16

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p.101.

<sup>22</sup> *Reading Mercury*, 5 October 1829. (William Plenty the boat builder came from Newbury.)

the property of his father, Ebenezer Corbishley.

The father of the prisoner, who stated that he was a Dissenting minister, and who appeared greatly grieved at the position of his son, stated, in answer to questions put to him by the Court, that he had done all in his power to enable the prisoner to gain an honest livelihood and to reclaim him from his evil courses, but he had done so in vain. He had repeatedly robbed him, and he was at length compelled to resort to the present unhappy proceeding, in order to prevent the prisoner's younger brother and the rest of the family from being contaminated by his example. The prosecutor then detailed various acts of misconduct committed by the prisoner, and also the steps he had taken to put him in a way to obtain an honest and respectable livelihood, all of which appeared to have turned out unsuccessful.

The Recorder, in passing sentence, told the prisoner that it was quite clear he was utterly incorrigible, and that all the kindness he had received from his parent had been thrown away upon him. He then ordered the prisoner to be kept to hard labour for 15 months.<sup>23</sup>

Ebenezer eventually retired to Twickenham, where he died on 28 March 1883.

The Religious Census held on 30 March 1851<sup>24</sup> recorded the Independent Chapel:

*Sittings:* Free 85; other 65; total [150]

*Attendance on 30 March:* Morning 42 scholars, afternoon 50, evening 91

*Average [must be total] attendance during previous three months:* Morning 548 scholars, afternoon 910, evening 1,300

*Remarks:* The Preaching supplied by the Itinerant Society of the Ebenezer Chapel, Chatham.

*Signed:* Thomas Bateman, Hearer, Snodland, near Rochester

*Date:* 31 March 1851

### **The Providence Chapel (1855-1888)**

There are no further notices in the *Church Book* until the opening of the new Chapel in 1855 prompts entries by a W. B. Love, including the following record, signed by him as 'Pastor'<sup>25</sup>:

The above New Chapel was commenced building in the Autumn of 1854 and was opened for Divine Worship on April 6<sup>th</sup> 1855 (being what is called Good Friday) A day long to be remembered by all present on that occasion. The opening services were as follows: in the afternoon prayer was offered by the Revd. J. Russell of Zion Chapel Chatham and a sermon preached by the Revd. J. S. Hall of Ebenezer Chapel Chatham from 1 Cor<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> vs

At the close of the afternoon service about 300 persons partook of Tea which was provided in the Chapel.

In the evening a Public Meeting was held. The Revd J Hamilton opened the meeting by prayer after which the chair was taken by W. Joynson of Footh Cray. The following Ministers and Friends then addressed the meeting viz. Revd. T Jenkyn & J. J. Waterman of Maidstone, Revd. J. L. Hales & J. Russell of Chatham, Revd. J. Davis of Rochester, Mr. Hammond of Malling & Mr Everest of Frindsbury. After which Mr Hamond closed with prayer.

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<sup>23</sup> *London Standard*, 10 April 1849. Also [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org), ref. t18490409-833.

<sup>24</sup> Margaret Roake (ed.), *Religious Worship in Kent: The Census of 1851*, KAS, Maidstone, 1999, 110.

<sup>25</sup> Only one man of this name appears in Medway records: a William Bresnan Love was baptised at St Mary's Chatham on 26 April 1795, and lived until September 1880. His burial is not found in Anglican records, making it likely he was a non-conformist. Censuses show he had varied occupations, including wood dealer and locksmith. Timpson, *op. cit.*, 332, writes that 'For some time, the pulpit was supplied by a Baptist minister'; it seems likely that this is Love.

In the erection of the above building and premises the amount of expence was about £500, £400 of which was paid off by donation and subscriptions and collections at the close of the opening services.



*The first Independent Chapel in Mill Street*



*Providence Chapel, Holborough Road*

Although he had not lived in Snodland for twenty years, William Joynson continued to act as a benevolent godparent to the Independent worshippers here and he provided the financial support for the building of the new chapel and of the associated school. The indenture for the new chapel is dated 31 January 1855 and names (1) William Joynson of St Mary Cray, Esq.; (2) the said William Joynson, Edward Hamborough Joynson of St Mary Cray, Esq. [son of William]; John Bateman of St Mary Cray, grocer; Moses Clark of St Mary Cray, paper manufacturer; Jabez Bateman of St Mary Cray, paper maker; Henry Gurney of Loose, [papermaker]; John Joyce of King St, Dover, ironmonger; Nathaniel Toomer of High St, Chatham, ironmonger; William Harvey of High Street, Chatham; George Cheshire of Adelaide Place, Brompton, painter; Thomas Weeks of Forstall House, Burham, [limeburner]; Thomas Weeks the younger of the same place; Joseph Bateman of Aylesford; Alfred Stroud of Snodland; Joseph Brown of Week St, Maidstone, bookseller; Thomas Bensted Brown, of the same place, bookseller; Thomas Bateman of Snodland [grocer]. It cites an earlier deed of 2 August 1853 between (1) William Richard Jowett; (2) John Roots; (3) William Joynson; (4) James Fuller Maddox which granted the land, formerly part of Windmill Field, to William Joynson, on payment of 10s., on trust,

the said piece of ground to be used occupied and enjoyed as a place for the Public Worship of God according to the usages of Protestant Dissenters of the Congregational denomination commonly called the Independents being Paedobaptists under the direction of the Church for the time being assembling for worship therein and for the instruction of Children and adults for the promotion of such other religious Philanthropic purposes as the said church shall direct.

No doubt many, if not all of the persons, provided financial backing to the project and were active members of the church. Several had at one time lived in Snodland: William Joynson and his son; John, Jabez, and Thomas Bateman; the papermakers Henry Gurney

and Moses Clark, while Thomas Weeks had bought the houses on Snodland wharf, although himself living in Rochester. He was one of the new members admitted in Corbishley's time. Love's entries in the *Church Book* run from 22 April 1855 to 6 April 1856, 'but in August 1856, Mr. Dadson, one of the preachers of the Chatham Itinerant Society, was engaged by the church and congregation to officiate as their pastor.'<sup>26</sup> Stephen William Dadson is listed as a British Schoolmaster, living in Best Street, Chatham, in the 1861 census.<sup>27</sup> He gave a magic lantern entertainment to 'about 500 persons' at the annual treat for British School scholars on 29 December 1857 at the shortly-to-be-opened new school buildings. At the time Timpson noted 'the congregation is large, and the chapel seems scarcely sufficient'. It is possible, even probable, that Dadson lived in Snodland and taught at the British Schools between 1856 and 1861, but no confirmation of this has been found. His decision to withdraw from his ministry 'upon the completion of three years since the time of my 1<sup>st</sup> engagement' was entered into the *Church Book* on 17 July 1859, and an attempt was then made to ascertain whether The Kent Congregational Union could help them, but none was forthcoming, so Dadson carried on until March 1861.

The discrepancy between the small lists of members and the large numbers stated to be attending services and events needs exploration. The 'additional rules' set out in *The Church Book* hint that membership required public declarations, which apparently many were unwilling to make, and presumably was required for those taking Communion.

1<sup>st</sup>. The Lord's supper shall be administered on the first Lord's day of every month.

2<sup>nd</sup>. A church meeting shall be held on the Thursday Evening preceding the first Lord's day, for the purpose of proposing and admitting members, Christian intercourse, and attending to any other matters relative to the church.

3<sup>d</sup>. Candidates for church fellowship are to be proposed at one church meeting, and, if approved of, chosen at the next, the month being suffered to elapse in order to give the minister and members an opportunity of conversing with the candidates, and inquiring into their character. At the second meeting, each candidate shall be required to state to the church (or to the minister and two members appointed for the purpose), either verbally or in writing, his or her religious experiences and views of Divine truth. The candidates being then required to withdraw, the members shall proceed to elect or reject, signifying their approbation or disapprobation by holding up the right hand when the majority of votes shall decide the question, after which, the candidate shall be recalled and made acquainted with the decisions, and if elected, shall then receive from the members the right hand of fellowship, be admitted into the church, and have his or her name added to the list of members in the church book.

It was further ruled that proceedings in church meeting would be confidential and that a simple majority would determine any outcome.

Members were watched for any fall from grace and were visited to ask them to explain any shortcomings. So in 1857 John and James Peters 'who had Comitted Themselves Through strong drink' were told That the Church [would] withdraw from them'; Mr and Mrs Dartnell were visited 'to ascertain their views upon the subject of their non-attendance at the Lord's supper', as a result of which 'Mrs Dartnell signified her desire again to unite with the church'; in 1858 Mr Steadman was visited for the same reason, while 'several reports of an unpleasant character having been circulated in reference to Miss Phoebe Robinson' also needed investigation. George and William Gay became

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<sup>26</sup> Timpson, *op. cit.*, 332.

<sup>27</sup> In 1851, again as a teacher at the British Schools, he was living and working in Portsea, Hampshire.

members in February 1858, but in October 1859 William was dismissed for ‘immoral conduct’ and George for his ‘very unchristian manner’. The Gay family made quite a reputation for themselves as a musical group which performed throughout the area, helping raise funds for various churches and causes. George blotted his copybook even further by stealing from letters entrusted to his care as a postman in September 1867. Although the money was restored he was sentenced to 18 months hard labour. The 1881 census notes he had ‘lost 1 arm’, but in later life he left employment at the paper mill to become a printer.<sup>28</sup>

Between 1862 and 1867 a W. Carpenter acted as minister, admitting eleven new members and baptizing thirteen, including one at a preaching room in Upper Halling, but again nothing is known about him, apart from the reference (noted above) that he presided at the farewell meeting to Benjamin Thompson. Then on the first Sunday in May 1867 the long sequence of itinerant preachers came to an end: Rev. Parker Storey took up his post at Snodland, having been invited by the congregation to become their Minister after he had preached to them on three previous Sundays.

Parker Storey (1806-1890) was born at Scalby, near Scarborough, to Jonathan, a tailor and draper, and his wife Elizabeth. On 24 September 1835 he married Mary Thompson there, although both were then of Hunmanby in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Parker Storey was a schoolmaster and two years later (6 January 1837) advertised his ‘Wesleyan Academy’ at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, with an impressive list of subjects: the boarders were to be instructed in ‘English and Latin languages, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-Keeping, Geometry, Mensuration, Trigonometry, Plain and Spherical Land-surveying, Theoretical and Practical Navigation, Euclid’s elements, Geography with the use of the Globes, Astronomy illustrated by the Astronomicon, Composition rhetorical and practical, Elocution, Ancient and Modern History, Music, &c., &c.’ (This sounds as though he was aiming to impress prospective parents by listing fine-sounding topics, although the school had just nine boarding pupils in 1841.)

It seems his wife Mary died in 1840 and the 1841 census shows him at Horncastle living with his mother-in-law and neighbour to others involved in Wesleyan ministry and the school. On 24 February 1849 he was caught up in a court case for insolvency, heard at York, concerning the publication of a Wesleyan Newspaper. He had become a shareholder and director of the company which published it, but there were debts of £6000 and claims were made to him for £250. Fortunately for him the claim was dismissed, although he lost £62. 10s, a considerable sum. His mother-in-law died in 1851, but soon after he seems to have abandoned teaching: the earliest record seen of him as a Wesleyan Reform Minister is at Grantham in May 1854. On 25 August 1855 he gave a ‘valedictory address’ as Home Missionary at the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Grantham, and in the autumn of 1858 he married Matilda Leaver at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. At the 1861 census the couple were living in the parish of St Andrew, Northampton, and a local directory of that year shows Parker as minister at the Salem Chapel (United Methodist) in the town. It was in 1867 that they came to Snodland and stayed until 1 October 1882 before retiring to 19 Milton Street, Maidstone. Matilda died on 3 September 1887, at Scarborough, and Parker on 20 June 1890 at Maidstone.

A list of 22 members of the church was drawn up by John Harpley, a Deacon, in May 1867 and was entered by Storey into the *Church Book*.

No.	Name	Comment	
1	Thomas Bateman	Deacon	[grocer]

<sup>28</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 4 November 1867; he printed the Cemetery Regulations in 1894.

2	John Johnson	Deacon	[papermaker]
3	John Harpley	Deacon; Removed	[insurance/shopkeeper]
4	[Edward] Banner	Removed	[cement worker]
5	Charles Mayatt		[papermaker]
6	T[homas] J Dowsett	Joined the Wesleyans	[blacksmith]
7	Hayler	Joined the Baptists	[wife is no. 22]
8	Crowhurst	A Baptist; sits down	
9	Mary Bateman	Deceased 17-07-1873	Aged 59 [wife of no. 1]
10	Mrs Johnson		[wife of no. 2]
11	Mrs Harpley	Removed	[wife of no. 3]
12	Mrs [Mary] Banner	Deceased 26-06-1870	Aged 58 [wife of no. 4]
13	Mrs Dowsett	Not a member	[wife of no. 6]
14	Mrs Da[r]tnall	Gone to the Establishment	
15	Mrs Brown		
16	Mrs Peters	Removed	[wife of William II?]
17	Mrs Evans	Discontinued	
18	Mrs Raggatt	Gone to Primitive Methodists	
19	Miss Ivell	Removed	
20	Mrs Lambeth	Discontinued	
21	Mrs Wallis	Not a member	
22	Mrs Hayler	Joined the Baptists	[wife of no. 7]

John Harpley was only in Snodland briefly, but presumably his position of Deacon had been recommended from a previous church. When and where the Baptists held meetings locally before the 1890s is not known, although the note is in Storey's hand, which dates it before 1882. A list of 69 'Members added to the church' by Storey between 1868 and 1882 follows, with similar notes of decease, transfer and removal out of the membership.

No.	Name	Comment	Received	
1	Mrs Catherine Barton		03-06-1868	
2	Mrs Eleanor White	Widow. Removed	01-07-1868	
3	Mr Obadiah Chapman	Removed	01-07-1868	[W. Malling by 1871]
4	Mrs Louisa Sarah Chapman	Removed	01-07-1868	[W. Malling by 1871]
5	Miss Emma Maria Brown	Deceased	01-07-1868	[Bur. 13-07-1871]
6	Emily Ann Brown	[= Henry G. Russell]	01-07-1868	[See no. 47]
7	Mrs Lucy Ann Carman	Widow. Removed		[husband died 1870]
8	Mr Thomas Blunt		02-08-1858	[became a Deacon]
9	Mrs Martha Jane Blunt		02-08-1868	[wife of no. 8]
10	Mrs Hepzibah Hobday	Removed	02-08-1868	Left in 1878
11	Mr Henry Hobday	Removed	02-08-1868	Left in 1878
12	Mr William Barton		01-11-1868	[not Snodland?]
13	Mr Alfred John Shayes		06-12-1868	[blacksmith]
14	Mrs Catherine Shayes		06-12-1868	[wife of no. 13]
15	Mr James Waller	Gone to Baptists	06-12-1868	[lime lab.; q.v. no. 20]
16	Mrs Phebe Townsend	Deceased	06-12-1868	Bur. 08-02-1877
17	Mr Stephen Davis		03-03-1869	[papermaker]
18	Mrs Ellen Davis		03-03-1869	[wife of no. 18]
19	Miss Mary Peters	Removed	04-04-1869	
20	Mrs Emma Waller	Gone to Baptists	01-08-1869	[wife of no. 15]
21	Mrs Louisa Frances King	Removed	01-08-1869	[to Burham by 1881]
22	Mrs Amelia Jane Doomsday	Removed	30-12-1869	[not Snodland?]
23	Mrs Robert Jackson	Left	30-12-1869	[saddler]
24	Mrs Sarah Ann Jackson	Left	30-12-1869	[wife of no. 23]
25	Maria Gee	Forfeited	02-10-1870	[not Snodland?]
26	Mrs Henry Walter Peters	Gone to Primitives	06-11-1870	[shoemaker]

27	Frank William Davis	Forfeited	04-02-1872	[son of 17-19]
28	Samuel John Stallworthy	Removed	04-08-1872	[not Snodland?]
29	Mrs Martha Ann Stallworthy	Removed	04-08-1872	[not Snodland?]
30	Mr Richard Par[r]is	Joined Primitives	01-12-1872	
31	Henry Nicholas Johnson	Emigrated to Natal	02-02-1873	
32	Mrs Julia Ann Crowson	Gone to Primitives	02-11-1873	[wife of Robert]
33	Mrs Miriam Shirwell Freeman	Removed	07-12-1873	[not Snodland?]
34	Mrs Elizabeth Hawkes		01-02-1874	
35	Mr Frederick Howard Bird	Transferred	30-09-1874	[British Schoolmaster]
36	Mrs Harriet Woolmer		04-07-1875	[not Snodland?]
37	Mr Melville	Transferred	02-01-1876	[not Snodland?]
38	Mrs Melville	Removed	02-01-1876	[not Snodland?]
39	Mrs Eliza Long		02-01-1876	[wife of John]
40	Mrs Eliza Terry		02-04-1876	
41	Mr James Read	Deceased	28-06-1876	Bur. 19-02-1879
42	Mr George Tu[t]chener		28-06-1876	[cement lab.]
43	Mr Luke Terry	Gone to Prim. Meth.	28-06-1876	[general lab.]
44	Mrs Elizabeth Cooper	Removed	03-06-1877	[not Snodland?]
45	Mr James Cooper	Removed	03-06-1877	[not Snodland?]
46	Mr Thomas Watts	Removed	03-06-1877	
47	Mr Henry George Russell		03-06-1877	[married no. 6]
48	Mr John Thomas Moore		03-06-1877	[grocer]
49	Mrs Eliza Beadle		03-06-1877	
50	Miss Florence Eugene Brown		03-06-1877	
51	Mrs Barnes	Deceased	07-04-1878	
52	Mrs Daniel	Emigrated to America	07-04-1878	
53	Mr William Daniel	Emigrated to America	07-04-1878	
54	Arthur Augustus Smith	Removed	07-04-1878	
55	George Jennings	Transferred; discontinued	05-01-1879	[not Snodland?]
56	Mrs Sarah Lewis		04-01-1880	[not Snodland?]
57	Mr William Fissenden		04-01-1880	
58	Miss Ellen Louisa Jackson	Removed	04-01-1880	
59	Mr Edwin Goodsell	Deceased	03-10-1880	Bur. 23-01-1881 at Birling
60	Mrs Eliza Goodsell	Left	03-10-1880	[after husband died?]
61	Mr James Ashburner		05-12-1880	
62	Mr William James Ashburner		05-12-1880	
63	Mr Arthur Thomas Brown	Removed	03-07-1881	
64	James Collett Dickinson	Emigrated to New Zealand	01-01-1882	[British Schoolmaster]
65	Matilda Leaver Storey	Removed	01-01-1882	[wife of Pastor]
66	Esther Sinclair Morgan	Widow; removed	01-01-1882	
67	Jane Trowell		01-01-1882	
68	Edwin Charles Spice	Left	01-01-1882	
69	William Mannering			

The list is a snapshot of membership 1867-1882 and presumably draws from a wider area than just the parish itself: [‘not Snodland?’] is set against those names unknown from the censuses and registers



## The New Jerusalem

‘The New Church signified by the New Jerusalem in the Revelation’, to give the sect its full title, was founded on the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772). Swedenborg had been a Swedish scientist and engineer (Assessor of Mines and Military Engineer) until 1743/4 when, aged 55 or 56, he experienced a spate of unusual dreams and waking visions. Following this, he spent the rest of his life expounding his new spiritual revelations across Europe. A voluminous writer, his subjects included mathematics, atomic theory (in tune with modern knowledge), medicine, chemistry, metallurgy, navigation and astronomy, and he was of an academic stature such that he was offered a professorship of mathematics (which he declined). His works are filled with metaphysics; however he made no attempt to establish a church or attract followers: this was effectively done by the Wesleyans. Swedenborg’s theological works cover some 40 volumes and one, *True Christian Religion*, was among items buried in a sealed box beneath the foundation stone of the Snodland church built in 1882.

The Hook family had established a Society of this church at their home in Chalford, Gloucestershire, led by a retired minister, Rev. Thomas Goyder. The obituary of Samuel Hook, published in *The Intellectual Repository* for 1866 (p. 384), shows that ‘Mr. Hook received the doctrines of the New Church about thirty-five years ago [=c.1831], through his affectionate partner and relict, Mrs. Hook, who had learned them under the ministrations of the Rev. Thomas Goyder when he officiated in Norwich. (Goyder had visited Norwich in 1827 and 1832, becoming permanent minister there between 1833 and 1845.) By 1841, however, ‘Mr. and Mrs. Hook, who had been some little time attending our friend’s ministry, had gone to reside at Chalford Vale, near Stroud.’ There Samuel was a silk manufacturer at ‘Warehouse Mill’; his home was called ‘Millwood’. ‘There they had fitted up a room ... for worship; and, by-and-by, Mr. Goyder was invited to go over and deliver a course of lectures. At length they determined on building a small place of worship, and induced their esteemed friend to take up his abode amongst them. In this sequestered spot he continued until the period of his decease’, on 14 October 1849. There is a notice of his preaching at Stroud on 1 October 1843, when he also baptised an infant. The death of Ada Shoveller Hook, aged four years and ten months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hook, had occurred earlier that year on 10 February and was reported in *The New Church Advocate*.

‘The dear child seemed to have a great antipathy to *black*, and her parents, wishing all things relating to the funeral to be done in a manner congenial to her natural taste, had her coffin covered with blue cloth, to which was added silver-gilt ornaments. ... On the day of the funeral the ground was covered with a *white* vesture, ... her body was conveyed to the grave by six young ladies dressed in white and white silk hoods, while the pall was composed of white kerseymere, bordered with silk of the same colour.’

Goyder was succeeded as leader at Chalford by Charles Townsend Hook, although he was aged only eighteen. It was natural, then, that when C.T.H. bought the paper mill and moved to Snodland around 1854-5, he should immediately form a new Society of the Swedenborgian church in Snodland. It would appear that Hook killed two birds with one stone. He seems to have provided jobs at his recently-acquired and expanding mill for New Church members probably already known to him, gaining not only work-hands, but also swelling his small congregation.



Hook's little Society in Snodland first met in the house of Joseph Privett, who subsequently built cottages for C.T.H.<sup>29</sup> Privett lived in Brook Street, just round the corner from the Hooks' imposing house and, according to C.T.H.'s will, leased the property from Hook. He appears in the 1861 census as a 'journeyman carpenter'. He, his wife and eldest daughter were all born in Gloucestershire, so may well have come into contact with the Hooks when they were there; subsequently Privett had worked in Wales, Birmingham, and Hythe. On 30 November 1857, his second daughter married Samuel Fryer, a papermaker from East Malling, while his son Joseph also became a papermaker at the Snodland mill. 'J. Privett, senior' both spoke at and reported a 'tea meeting' bringing together about 100 members of the New Church from London, Woolwich, Chatham, Tonbridge and Maidstone, held in the large room of the Queen's Head hotel on 19 October 1864. Daniel Privett, son of Joseph senior, aged 8 in the 1861 census 'played occasionally a voluntary on the harmonium' at a meeting held at the Queen's Hotel on 23 September 1868. By the Anniversary meeting of the church held at the Paper Mill on 5 October 1869, Miss French of Maidstone presided at the new harmonium 'assisted by Mr. Daniel Privett, Professor of Music, New Brompton' [aged 17!].

George and William Randell, brothers from Fisherton, Gloucestershire, arrived at Snodland at about the same time as the Hook family. But what is the connection between Salisbury and Gloucester, and Hook and Randell? Obituary notices of both George and William which were published in the *New Church Magazine* offer interesting information. George died on 14 May 1887, aged 72, the unfortunate victim of 'injuries received whilst at work in Snodland Paper Mills', as his death certificate records. He had been 'for 52 years a member of the New Jerusalem Church, which he first joined at Salisbury [i.e. in 1835], under the ministry of the late Rev. D[avid] T[homas] Dyke. For that pastor he retained a profound and loving attachment, also speaking often of the late Rev. T[homas] Goyder with ever grateful and affectionate remembrance.' The Salisbury Society, formed in 1831, had been active since 1825. In 1846 a notice from Stroud reports: 'During Mr. Goyder's absence from here, the Rev. D. T. Dyke of Salisbury, visited Chalford' where he preached on 11 October and lectured the following day. Clearly links were established between the two Societies. George

'was a happy and true-hearted member of the society at Snodland - to which place he removed from Salisbury with his wife and children, together with his brother and family, to enter the employ of the beloved and lamented Mr. Charles Townsend Hook, and which society it was his delight to help the late Mrs. Hook and her family to found. His sudden death by accident, while on duty at the Paper Works, cast a gloom over all.'

William lived on until 9 August 1897, giving over 40 years' service to the mill, although suffering pain in his last years. Anyone would be proud to be remembered as he was:

He took an active interest in the welfare of the New Church from the earliest existence of the society in Snodland, and although from his retiring disposition he was never prominent, yet by his regular attendance and by his study of the doctrines he was ever one of its staunchest upholders. Moving in a humble sphere of life, he yet won the honour and respect of all who knew him. A loving father, a faithful servant, the light of a true Christian life which shone in his quiet, domestic character, endeared him to his fellow members, and bore its influence of "peace and goodwill" to a larger sphere outside. It was a sign of the times that William forsook his trade of shoemaker in rural Wiltshire to become an employee in the Snodland paper mill - the Industrial Revolution in action.

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<sup>29</sup> See p.22.

The first volume of the *Monthly Observer & New Church Record* (1857) tells us that 'a congregation of from twelve to fifteen hearers assemble twice every Sabbath at the house of Mr. Privett, where Divine service is regularly performed. From these numbers we can deduce that the New Church in Snodland was formed from just the four families we have noted. In 1857 the adult members (whose ages are in brackets) were: Samuel Hook (58), Anna Maria Hook (54), Charles Townsend Hook (25), Edith Hook (23), Amelia Drummond, the Hook governess (34), Joseph Privett (48), Mary Ann Privett (47), Mary Ann Privett, their daughter (29), George Randell (40), his wife Elizabeth (38), William Randell (32), and his wife Ann (27). The Fryers may have joined them from time to time, although they seem to have lived outside the parish - and there were another dozen 'children' to add to the numbers.

So far all attempts at tracing the present whereabouts of the archive of the New Church at Snodland have failed, although a helpful and detailed inventory was made by the late Phillip Stroud in 1975. Also a history of the Snodland church was published in the *New-Church Magazine* of March 1900. From these we can ascertain further details. Between 1857 and 1864 'parlour-services' both morning and evening were held at 'Veles', the Hook's home in the High Street. There was no resident minister, but among those who visited were 'Jones [from Chatham] and Trevett', the Revs. W. Bruce, J. Bayley, D. T. Dyke, John Hyde, R. L. Tafel, and T. Chalklen. Charles Townsend Hook was always on the lookout for visiting preachers and numerous letters to and from prospective ministers are in the archive list. Henry Lyne, from Brightlingsea, Essex, visited in March and December 1859 and was a leader of the Society in 1862. Initially he may have responded to Hook's offer of a bed for the night either at Veles, or at "a very respectable inn across the road" [The Queen's Hotel]. Hook mentions that the 2nd class rail fare from London to Snodland was 6/6d. By the end of 1862 it was reported that 'the Society at Snodland ... which has frequently received missionary aid from this Society, is now in a much improved condition, having a resident minister from some other Society. It has forwarded £10 for the Missionary Fund.' (In fact there was no 'resident' minister at Snodland yet, but visitors from other societies of the church). The following year saw visits from the Rev. D. G. Goyder from Islington (and librarian to the New Church Society), who administered communion to 14-18 persons.

1864 was a momentous year for the Snodland Society. It was formally received into the Conference of the New Church. There were 31 members and 21 in the Sunday School. Work was set in hand for a chapel to be built attached to 'Veles', the Hook's large house in the High Street. This was paid for by Charles Townsend Hook and opened for worship on Sunday, 26 June, 1864. The front door of this shows on two well-known photographs of 'Veles', but *The Monthly Observer and New Church Record* for 1864 not only reports the opening services, but also describes the interior of the chapel in great detail. The room measured some 28 feet by 18 feet:

In the external appearance the Church is plain, but neat and substantial. In the interior it is tastefully as well as beautifully fitted up, no expense having been spared. The altar is railed off from the body of the church. In the centre thereof, and of semi-circular form, is the communion table, covered with a crimson velvet cloth, on which, embroidered in gold, is the sacred monogram I.H.S., surmounted by a cross. On the communion table is placed a small desk for the reception of the Word. Above, in the centre, between two windows ornamentally bordered with stained glass, the Divine Commandments, as recited by the Lord in Matthew xxii. 37-40, are elegantly written in blue and gold coloured letters. The place will seat about 80 persons. The furniture of the church is in the mediaeval style, very substantial, and is stained to imitate walnut wood. The communion end of the church is raised about a foot above the congregational part, and is covered with a rich carpet. There

are two desks, and on each side of the communion table a chair for the ministers. The altar rails are picked out with blue and gold colours. The kneeling cushions before the altar will accommodate about ten persons. The font for baptisms is of stone, and in keeping with the mediaeval character of the desks, chairs, and seats for the congregation. On each side of the entrance to the church, which is protected by double doors and an entrance lobby, there is a space on one side for the harmonium and choir, and on the other a curtained recess to serve as a vestry. The church is lighted by three semi-circular trefoil burners, which branch out sufficiently to afford ample light on each range of seats occupied by the congregation; affording, also, a chastened light to cover the reading desk and pulpit. The ventilation is complete; two of the ventilators have the appearance of columns on the side wall, on which is written in beautifully illuminated letters in blue and gold colours, "O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." This is the work of the Misses Hook, who have also very neatly decorated the Church; the Lord's Prayer being tastefully displayed in illuminated letters round the walls. On the whole, this is pronounced to be one of the most elegant little structures to be found in the New Church.

This account was written by Charles Gladwell, the first resident minister, who had visited Snodland on 7 January 1864. He praised 'the worthy family, by whose liberality it has been raised (the members all having subscribed, according to their means, towards the furnishing and fitting up of this little temple).' When Maude Midsummer Hook died in 1930 she gave

to the General Conference of the New Church ... the portrait in oils (by the late artist Robert Kemm of Salisbury) of Emanuel Swedenborg taken in his robes as Assessor of Mines, being a copy of the original portrait in possession of the family of the late Augustus Tulk Esquire, made by permission of his surviving family in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty four; also the small portrait in oils of the late Reverend David Thomas Dyke, Minister of the Salisbury New Church Society, painted from life on canvas stretched on wood from Salisbury Cathedral by the said late Robert Kemm at the age of fourteen years; also the Bible that was on the Altar table of the small Church of the New Jerusalem at Chalford, Gloucestershire, under the Ministry of the late Thomas Goyder, standing in the grounds of Millwood House, Chalford, Gloucestershire, and that was removed after to the residence of my dear Father and Mother and was on the Altar table of the little consecrated Church Room under "Veles" roof, where worship was carried on until the consecration and opening of the present church building.

It appears CTH had been looking for a resident minister for the new Veles chapel and acquired testimonials for a Mr Collinson, but Gladwell offered his services and on April 20<sup>th</sup> stated he was keen to come to Snodland 'even at a reduced salary'. In August 1864 Gladwell was lodging with William Dulton, a papermaker, at 2 Prospect Place. 'During his pastorate the evening services and the cottage meetings for doctrinal study were well attended. Meetings for the admission of members were held on the first Sunday afternoon in each quarter, a paper by one of the members being read, with conversation following; after a simple tea-meeting in the school-room the members returned to the church for evening service.' Later correspondence suggests that Gladwell had his failings and, although apparently kindly disposed towards him, Hook asked him to resign, which he did on 23 September 1866. A month later Hook was requested to provide a reference for Gladwell by the Ramsbottom Society, when he described his style as more useful and attractive to a young and thriving society than to one whose members had been many years in the doctrines. On 18 February a letter was sent from Henry Cameron at Edinburgh to CTH in which he anxiously enquires about Mr. Gladwell's re-appearance in Edinburgh wishing to be taken on, on any terms. He does not want Gladwell around and

considers him unsuitable for any position. On a previous occasion "he was the means of sending away some of our educated and oldest members leaving almost none but a young and illiterate few". Hook declined to denounce him. A further enquiry to Hook about Gladwell came in August 1870 from Hull. Hook emphasized Gladwell's good points, in spite of noting his frequent visits to public houses and his tendency to being a drunkard and confirms that he asked for Gladwell's resignation. Hook was later notified of Gladwell's death in Birmingham on 7 January 1872.

Thomas Lewen Marsden became the minister at Snodland in August 1867. Among his earliest duties was a presentation, made on 24 November that year by members of the New Church to Anna Maria Hook, of two more bibles, together with an appreciative 'address', 'as a memorial of their esteem, and a token of their appreciation of her many valuable services to the cause of the New Church in Snodland.' The address was signed by Marsden; George Randall, Deacon; Joseph Privett, Deacon; and William Penny, Secretary.

Of Marsden we know a great deal because present members of the family have researched him.<sup>30</sup> Thomas Lewen Marsden was born in Leeds, Yorkshire on 19 February 1812, the third son of William Marsden, who at that time was a wholesale bacon and flour merchant, and his wife Elizabeth. After education at Leeds Grammar School Thomas moved to London and attended the Westminster Medical School and the Windmill Street School of Anatomy. In 1834 he was made a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries and the following year, at the age of 23, he was accepted as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. His education completed and his professional qualifications secured, Thomas returned to live in Leeds, where he married. Some of their children died in infancy, but the couple left the country with two daughters and travelled to Turkey where they were to remain until about 1850. Perhaps Elizabeth's health was failing and Thomas felt that the warmer climate would be beneficial. Thomas's experiences also provided the material for a lengthy series of essays for young people published in 1861, following his return to England, in the *Juvenile Magazine* under the title "Tales about Turkey".

By 1850, the couple had returned to Leeds where Thomas resumed his general medical practice. Sadly Elizabeth died of tuberculosis at the home of her sister Mary on 7 May 1853 at the early age of 39. In 1857 Thomas remarried. His new wife was Margareta, the 45 year old daughter of Margaret Brace and her late husband George of Camden Town in London. George Brace had been a dyer and so it seems probable that Thomas's acquaintance with the Brace family had come about through his late wife's family. The wedding took place at the New Christian Church at Argyle Square, St. Pancras, London.

Thomas Marsden's family were no strangers to nonconformist worship. His sister Betsy had already married into a Methodist family and Thomas had as early as 1835 been involved in procuring the property to establish a Baptist Tabernacle in Leeds along with William Binns, his wife's brother and Joseph Burras, her sister Mary's husband. The New Jerusalem Church had been set up in 1787 by former Wesleyan Methodist preachers on Methodist lines to disseminate the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, a Swedish scientist and mystical thinker.

It is not clear when Thomas became involved with the New Jerusalem Church. It is certainly probable, given the bride's prerogative in the choice of church, that the Brace family were already members of the movement. Perhaps this was Thomas's first

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<sup>30</sup> See [www.marsden-ons.co.uk/MFHN/TLM-Biog.htm](http://www.marsden-ons.co.uk/MFHN/TLM-Biog.htm) for a full account of his life and work, parts of which are summarized here.

encounter with the movement or perhaps it was in some way instrumental in bringing them together. Whatever the source of his involvement, it had developed by 1861 as far as lay preaching. His essays in *Tales about Turkey*, published around this time, contain strongly religious themes and promote Swedenborg's teachings. In 1861, following the resignation of the previous Pastor, Mr. Storry, he was appointed Pastor at the Grove Place Chapel in Dalton, Huddersfield, which had been established since 1825.

Thomas and Margaretta continued to live in Leeds but moved to a new house at 20 Beckett Street, then at the very edge of the city. To preach at Grove Place, Thomas would have taken one of the hourly trains from Leeds, a service which had opened in 1847 and which had already displaced the several horse-drawn coach services which had formerly linked Leeds to Huddersfield.

On 25 September 1864, Thomas took the step of ordination into the ministry of the New Jerusalem Church. He was ordained at his own chapel and immediately following, baptised a child into the church. The event was marked by a public tea party held in the local school room the following evening. It appears that he and Margaretta moved house to Huddersfield about this time and took premises in Grove Place.

During his ministry at Dalton, Thomas established a probationary class for training young people in the doctrines of the New Church. Support for the church appears to have remained strong with a procession of 200 children being mustered for the Whitsuntide celebrations. Following his earlier medical publications, Thomas turned his hand to religious writing and published the first of several religious tracts, "The Shunamite's Blessing" in 1865.

Thomas's ministry at Grove Place ended in July of 1867. It appears that by now the chapel was facing some financial difficulties since it was resolved that Thomas should not be replaced for at least six months. His new appointment was as Minister to the branch of the church at Snodland, near Rochester in Kent. One of the last events of his ministry at Dalton was to conduct the marriage of his daughter Selina Mabel to John Hutchinson, a local wool merchant.

It was not long after his arrival at Snodland that Thomas came into conflict with Rev. Carey, the Anglican Rector. On 31 March 1868 Carey wrote to Marsden:

I understand from the people, that you have recently opened a Sunday School ... This would be to me all a matter of indifference, nor should I comment upon it but for one circumstance. The children are bribed to attend, I am told, by the prospect of a treat on Good Friday. So long as all was grossly wicked in this place, the Swedenborgian Body, though the opportunities were abundant, made no stir – but, from the moment that some signs of life and godliness have shewn themselves amongst us, they have not ceased to entice and bribe both parents and children to desert the church.

Thomas replied a week later demanding withdrawal of Carey's accusations but Carey was unrepentant and further correspondence was exchanged. Thomas's efforts to convince Carey of his case extended to lending him a book entitled "Swedenborg's Writings & Catholic Teachings" (which Carey temporarily claimed to have lost) but there was little apparent movement by either party in the dispute. Marsden published the whole correspondence and a lengthy defence of his position in 61 pages.<sup>31</sup> Carey remained silent.

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<sup>31</sup> Thomas Lewen Marsden, *The Christian and New Jerusalem dispensations. A letter addressed to the Rev. J. G. Carey, M.A., Rector of Snodland, Rochester, in reply to his attack on the members of the New Church, in that parish*, W. Chamberlaine, West Malling, 1868. Carey's letters are printed in it.

Following his initial conflict with Carey, Thomas appears to have had a less eventful ministry. Thomas added to his religious publications during this period. His tract "Christian and New Jerusalem Dispensations" was published in 1868 to be followed over the next three years by two further tracts with the apocalyptic titles "Destruction of the World" and "The Noahic Deluge of Evils". His subsequent works consisted of "Contrast between the Lord's First and Second Advent", "The Dead Christ and the Living Jesus" and "The Rational Faculty Restored".

In spite of his new responsibilities, Thomas did not sever his connections with the Dalton chapel. In 1875, he returned on a visit and addressed the congregation on the 50th anniversary of the Grove Place Chapel's foundation. He also attended a picnic at Cockley Hall organised by the ladies of the Dalton Society and conducted a religious service for those present. Throughout his stay in Snodland, he remained on the medical register. The *New-Church Magazine* records that 'during his pastorate Mr. Marsden continued to practise in the medical profession. In this way he found many opportunities of introducing the New-Church doctrines to outsiders' and eventually the Veles chapel became overcrowded. No doubt his fees supplemented the £25 which Charles Townsend Hook paid him quarterly from his own income (recorded in a surviving journal). With other expenses the sum sometimes increased to nearly £30 a quarter.

By 1875 the Snodland Society was able to attract 60-70 people to its anniversary tea and 45 children to celebrate the recently-founded Sabbath School. The society was gaining strength and under Thomas's ministry and the Hook family's patronage, plans were made for a new church. The impressive Kentish ragstone building, complete with bell-tower, cost £5000 and was consecrated on 27 June 1882. The cost was met by the Hook family and Colonel Holland, then the manager of their paper works.

Thomas retired from full-time ministry in April 1881 (although he was present at the consecration of the new church) and he and Margareta returned to Dalton where they moved into Holly Cottage. He remained in Dalton until his death there on 16 July 1891. His will tells us little about his possessions but their probate value is recorded as no more than £75. Wills for medical practitioners and ministers of the established church at this time might typically dispose of estates to the value of several hundred, if not several thousand, pounds. Such a modest estate suggests that Thomas had not used either his medical or religious activities as an opportunity to accumulate wealth and had lived by the religious principles which he had promoted.'

There are several reports of meetings at Snodland addressed by visiting speakers during Marsden's ministry. These tended to be held either 'in the large room in the mill of C. T. Hook, Esq.', or at the Queen's Hotel opposite 'Veles', but tell us little about the Society in Snodland. Of more interest are the accounts of the activities of the Sunday School, founded in 1864 under the direction of the Secretary of the Snodland Society, William Penny. In 1871 he directed 'a Tonic Sol-fa tea party' held in the mess-room of the mill (the largest room available), at the conclusion of which 'Mr. Penny conducted the classes through a series of well-selected pieces of music.' On the Saturday before Whitsunday 1873, nearly 40 children sat down to tea, before being addressed by J. Cullingworth from South Africa. He 'spoke of the great advantages which English children enjoy, compared with those of Caffres, where he dwelt so many years. The children again sang hymns using the tonic sol-fa method which the New Church had so successfully inaugurated in this village, under the superintendence of Mr. Penny, whose son made his first public attempt to play the harmonium on the Sunday following the festival. The effort was admirable and gave great satisfaction.' On 14 September of the following year:

about fifty-six scholars met at 3 o'clock at the mess-room of Mr. Hook's paper-mill. Thence, after playing a variety of games in the meadow adjoining, they proceeded to the lawn of Mrs. Hook's garden, where a very excellent tea was provided. After tea the children resumed their games within the precincts of the meadow, the teachers and friends joining in their healthy sports. When the evening was somewhat advanced the party, now amounting to ninety, re-assembled upon the lawn. All were agreeably surprised at finding how handsomely they had all been provided for by the ladies. In matters of presents for the children the Misses Hook had anticipated every wish so congenial to young minds. It was certainly a beautiful sight to see all formed into a circle, wonderings at the many gifts provided for their pleasure. ... The children sung two sweet hymns which being in the open air and within the enclosure opposite to Veles, the house of Mrs. Hook, had a pleasing effect. On retiring from the grounds each child was presented with a piece of sweet cake; and, in connection with this anniversary, a quarto Bible was presented to Mr. Wm. Penny, the superintendent, who for seven years has had the charge of this Sunday-school.

The Pennys too worked at the paper mill. By 1861 a Henry Penny from Canterbury was a paper-maker and it seems two brothers also born there joined him in the following years: Robert a 'labourer and Chelsea Pensioner' who was three years older, and William, three years younger. The latter was store keeper at the mill by 1871 (aged 39), remaining in the post until he retired. He died in January 1909.

Charles Townsend Hook died on 11 February 1877, 'whose life was an example of wisely-directed charity and good works.' He had contributed much to the village, not only in supporting the New Church, but in fostering the British Schools. 'From a desire to perpetuate a memorial of his good will and active benevolence towards the inhabitants of Snodland', his sisters and mother erected the splendid clock tower in Holborough Road alongside the Schools; it was completed by October 1878.

On 23 March 1881, at the annual meeting of the New Church Society, 'it was resolved to erect a handsome edifice as a church, capable of meetings the increasing requirements of the Society in Snodland and its neighbourhood. The Misses Hook promised to give a suitable piece of ground for the building. Donations to the building fund of £500 from Colonel Holland, and £500 from Mrs. and the Misses Hook were also promised. At the same meeting the resignation of the Rev. T. L. Marsden, owing to impaired health, was accepted. Mr. Marsden has been the New Church minister at Snodland for fourteen years, and is much respected and esteemed. ... The Society of which he has been the pastor is the fruit of the Christian efforts of the family who are now taking active measures to crown their work with a fitting house of worship. To the late Charles Townsend Hook, Esq., the Society is indebted for much fostering care and for the endowment to aid in providing a stipend for their minister; and it is on the part of the members of his family and others with whom they are associated as evidence of their zeal in the New Church and a graceful memento to his memory to thus provide for the continuance and extension of the work in which he took so lively an interest.'

## **The Methodist Church**

According to Rev. Wall:

In 1873 [Methodist] preaching was begun in Snodland by members from Maidstone. At first this work was done in the open air, but eventually Mr. James Rand, Brook Street, lent his house. ... The appointment of the Rev. C. Harrison as Minister [who had previously preached here] caused such a rapid growth in the membership that the present site was bought and the Church built at an inclusive cost of about £1000.

The foundation stone for the chapel was laid on 14 November 1877:

In splendid weather on Wednesday afternoon, the interesting ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new Primitive Methodist Chapel, was performed by N. E. Toomer, Esq., ex-Mayor of Rochester. The ground secured is in the Malling-road, about 200 yards from the Snodland toll-gate, and is, we believe, freehold. A very large gathering, which was marked by many of the leading members of other denominations, met on the ground. The proceedings were opened by the Rev. C[harles]. Harrison, of [29 Church-street] Maidstone (through whose persevering agency the work has been carried on). Prayer was offered by the Rev. T. L. Marsden, minister of the New Jerusalem Church, Snodland. Portions of scripture were then read by the Rev. C. Harrison, after which the Rev. W. Rowe, of London, ex-President of Conference, introduced Mr. Toomer to the assembly. After the ceremony, Mr. Toomer spoke in eulogistic terms of the Primitive Methodist body. [...] The second stone was then laid by Mrs Harrison, the wife of the Rev. C. Harrison. Those who felt an interest in the work were then invited to step forward, and either lay bricks or place money on the stone. A hearty response was made to this invitation. The Rev. W. Rowe then delivered an address [...] At the close of his speech the ceremony was concluded by the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. T. L. Marsden. The company then marched to the Working Men's Institute where tea had been prepared and where the evening meeting was to be held. About 200 were present, but this, number was greatly increased afterwards, the large room being closely filled. [During the meeting] The Rev. C. Harrison, under whose pastoral charge the chapel will be placed, and to whose efforts the establishment of the body in Snodland is mainly due [...] stated what had been done during the past 18 months by means of open air and cottage meetings. [...] He stated also the financial condition of the effort, from which it appeared that there yet remains about £800 unprovided for. [...] Several anthems were very efficiently rendered by the choir of the Independent chapel, assisted by some other friends, the harmonium being presided over by Mr. Johnson.<sup>32</sup>

## SCHOOLS

### The National Schools

Returns made by Snodland's churchwardens in the first half of the eighteenth century occasionally state categorically that there was no school in the village. That situation changed with the arrival of William Lewis following his marriage at All Saints, Snodland, on 1 June 1762: 'William Lewis of Cuxton, singleman, and Sarah Wingate of Snodland, singlewoman'. William was the son of William and Mary Lewis of Cuxton, and was baptised there on 26 February 1739. Whoever taught him did a fine job, for Lewis acted as parish clerk in Snodland and his books are the most beautifully written and organised of all the parish records. He lived in Brook Street, using his house as a school, so there cannot have been many pupils. When Jasper Crothall made his will in 1780 he made provision for his young nephew George:

I will and desire that ... George Crothall be put to School to William Lewis, Schoolmaster, of the Parish of Snodland aforesaid, to Board with him, at Sixteen Pounds per Year until he be put Apprentice or otherwise provided for.

Jasper actually owned the house occupied by Lewis and after his death ownership passed to George! The Land Tax assessments hint at a change in 1793 when the former valuation of £7 is divided into two parts: £3 for the house, with one for £4 assigned to the 'free school'. It seems likely that some kind of benefaction had been agreed, probably with John May, to supply free schooling for at least some pupils. Lewis died in April 1797 and his place was taken by Samuel Maurice Hitchcock (1755-1811). In 1799 the ownership heading in the tax list, which is 'Free School' between 1793 and 1798, changes

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<sup>32</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 17 November 1877.



to 'John May'. May evidently intended to set the school up on a proper footing and took steps to make provision for its future. On 10 October 1800, he drew up a scheme for two charities, one of which concerned the school. He sold to those who were to be trustees for the scheme the house then used as a school and four acres of land belonging to it, with twenty acres of salt marsh. From the rents of the marshland the schoolmaster was to receive £20 a year, on condition that he taught reading, writing and arithmetic to twenty poor children from Snodland and ten each from Birling and Halling. (This did not restrict him from taking other scholars whose parents paid for them.). The schoolmaster also had free use of the house and four acres. Future appointments of the master were to be made by the clergy of Snodland, Halling and Birling, or by Magistrates in case of their neglect or disagreement.

Following Hitchcock's death in 1811, the new schoolmaster was William Higgins. He had married Mary Butler at All Saints on 13 May 1809. Eleven children were born to them (although three died in infancy), no doubt helping to sustain the school numbers at this time. In the 1831 will of John Goodhugh, grandfather of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, Higgins was described as his nephew and was bequeathed £25. When John Woolmer compiled his *Historical Jottings of the Parish of Snodland* in 1894, he seems to have drawn upon memories of elderly parishioners for some reminiscences of village life earlier in the century. He writes that the school was originally

a long and narrow red brick building with tiled roof, being well lighted with three or four large square windows on either side. It contained two large rooms, porch, and a house for the master, and stood nearer the street than the present fabric - on the site now devoted to the boy's playground. In the front were well-kept palings, painted white, and at the back was an extensive playground for both boys and girls. In the very large wash-house, at the back of the master's house, could be seen some fine old beams of timber, and from one of these Mr. Higgins, a former master, hung himself, and strange to say, his nephew who came to the funeral, shot himself in Church Fields, near the railway arch.

Higgins was buried at All Saints on 5 March 1836, aged 48, but no report has ever been found that he committed suicide, nor of that of his nephew.

In 1833 Parliament required nationwide information concerning education and Snodland with Paddlesworth (population 518) submitted the following:

*Two Daily Schools*, one whereof contains 30 males and 30 females; this School has an endowment for 40 children; 20 of whom are of this parish, and 10 each from the two adjoining parishes of Birling and Halling, the remaining 20 pay; in the other are 8 males and 12 females, whose instruction is at the expense of their parents.—  
*Two Sunday Schools*, in one of which (commenced 1824), are 35 males and 39 females, who attend the Established Church; the other (commenced 1830), is connected with Independent Dissenters, and consists of 7 males and 6 females; in both Schools the children receive gratuitous instruction.<sup>33</sup>

A report by the Charity Commissioners in 1839 notes:

The property devised for the support of the School consists of a good dwelling-house, with two schoolrooms, a barn, oast-house, and four acres of land, and a right of common for two cows, which premises have been occupied rent free, by the schoolmaster for the time being.

The late schoolmaster died in February, 1836, and it has been thought advisable to take this opportunity of putting the school-house in complete repair, the expense of which is estimated at £54, by pulling down some of the out-buildings, which seem

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<sup>33</sup> Parliamentsry Papers: Abstract of Education Returns, 1833, p.412.

to be of little or no use, and selling the materials... .

A schoolmaster has been appointed by the Rector of Snodland and the Vicar of Halling, on an understanding that he is to receive no emoluments other than the occupation of the school premises and what he may obtain by admitting pay scholars, in addition to those who are to be taught free on the foundation, until the expenses of the repairs were defrayed.

The Tithe map of 1844 shows these premises, but no picture of them has been found. They are believed to have been built by John May when he set up his charity to replace what was formerly just a house. John Cogger was the replacement for Higgins until 1843. But at the Malling Petty Sessions on 6 February 1843

A complaint was made by the trustees of the Snodland free school, against the master, for alleged cruelty to his pupils. The master had been summoned to attend, but not doing so, and there being also other reasons why his continuance was prejudicial to the school, he was dismissed from his situation.<sup>34</sup>

The 1841 census gives his age as about 60, with his daughter Eliza, aged about 30, as the schoolmistress. Edward Jupp, son of William and Eliza of Birling, took over, his wife Susanna (born in Rochester) becoming schoolmistress. Next was William Thomas Wood and his wife Emma (1854-56), then Walter Rumble (1856-66).

New regulations in 1862 required the master to keep a log-book, in which he was supposed to make 'the briefest entry that will suffice to specify ordinary progress or whatever other fact concerning the school or its teachers, such as the dates of withdrawals, commencements of duties, cautions, illness, &c., may require to be referred to at a future time or may otherwise deserve to be recorded.' Poor Rumble found this a daunting task:

24 November [1864]. Nothing has been entered since Tues: 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. Why? Because I have nothing to enter but the number at the school, the state of the weather, the hours in school, &c. As for the work, that is always the same. Such entries as I make can never be of use. The time taken up in entering them is wasted.

Rumble had two pupil teachers, Ryott and Rolfe, neither of whom he found congenial. He instructed them before and after school and they were expected to arrive at 6-30 am before the school day of 9 - 12 and 2 - 4.30, and then continue from 5-30 to 9 pm; hard work for all. The first log-book entry on 1 June 1863 gives 103 pupils present in the morning and 100 in the afternoon. But distractions of various kinds meant that numbers could fluctuate wildly. Haymaking, Harvest and Hopping were seasonal reasons for absence. The first day after the Hopping holiday, 25 September 1865, brought the entry 'Hopping not over – therefore scarcely any children at school. Morning 28, Afternoon 27', but the next day 'Hopping over. More children at school today – Morning 50 and afternoon 50.' Among the events which drew pupils to them were Maidstone Fair, the Foresters Fete, treats at the Chapel School, as well as their own celebrations: an excursion to Herne Bay for the 'best Sunday scholars', (3 June 1863) and on 9 June 1865:

This week has something worth talking about – the liberal curate treated us all to the Crystal Palace on Wednesday to the Childrens Concert and a splendid day we had – the Rev. B. P. T[hompson] accompanying us - £10 did not cover the expenses I am certain.

At the end of his tenure Rumble had apparently lost interest in his work. Daily numbers present were around 70-80 and the Inspector's Report on 5 March 1866 was gloomy:

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<sup>34</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 14 February 1843.

I am very far from satisfied with the present state of this school. It is low in numbers, low in attainments and unsatisfactory in general tone. The master, who is about to leave, has other and more remunerative employments.

There were also problems with the accommodation, which was now too small. The Rector writes

Application was made to the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales to sell the land for the benefit of the school, and after much official delay the sale took place on Wednesday Feb. 27, 1867. ... Of this sum the Charity Commissioners permitted £800 to be set apart for the erection of the new buildings—the same to be repaid (without interest) by yearly instalments of £27 each in 30 years. The remainder, after legal and other expenses had been paid, was invested in the 3 p. cent consols, and ordered to be paid half yearly to the local trustees of the school. In addition to this sum of £800, the Committee of Council gave £277. 8. 9., and the remainder necessary, amounting to £516. 8. 6., was raised by private subscription. Total cost £1593. 17. 3.

‘The land’ was a four-acre field, which John May in his charity of 1800 had allocated to the schoolmaster, together with 20 acres of salt marsh, which he could rent.<sup>35</sup>



*Tom Hilder.. He married Ellen Seers at All Saints, Snodland, on 22 June 1866, which is probably when this photograph was taken.*

The new headmaster Tom Hilder arrived on 9 April 1866, with 68 children attending on his first day; on 7 November he recorded 165 and 172 present and numbers remained high. On 19 April he ‘turned the whole school out at 11 o’clock for a few minutes recreation. Shall continue it.’ Progress on the new building is evident from entries in the log-book:

‘19 July 1867. The Architect and Builder of the new Schools came to stump out the foundation today.’

On 14 August ‘Rev. J. G. Carey came in to hear the responses & Psalm & Hymn in the service for the ‘laying of a Foundation Stone’. This afternoon the children assembled to the number of 240 at 2.15. A large number of prizes were distributed by the Rev. J. G. Carey & Mr. Lee Esq. M.P.’

The newspaper report is detailed:

At 2.30 prizes were distributed in the school-room, and soon after three o’clock, all being ready, the foundation stone of the new school was laid in the presence of a large number of spectators. Prayers according to the form usual on

such occasions were said by the rector, Psalm cxxvii (“Except the Lord built the house”, etc.) was sung, and then Mrs Roberts of Brook House, West Malling, daughter of W. Lee, Esq., M.P. the staunch and generous supporter of the school, approached to take her part in the ceremony. A bottle containing a short record of the endowment, and five new coins were inserted in the stone, the mortar was carefully spread with the trowel, the spirit level applied, for adjustment, the mallet tapped approval, and the stone was laid. The rector then said, “In the faith of Jesus Christ, and in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we lay this Foundation Stone, Amen.” A few more prayers followed, hymn 229 of Hymns

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<sup>35</sup> See chapter 1.

Ancient and Modern was heartily and effectively sung, and the blessing was given. On the stone, which is tastefully carved, are inscribed the words “Glory be to God, August 14, 1867,” surmounted by a small ornamental cross. The children were now ranged two and two, and headed by the Birling band, they marched to the rectory meadow. Here long tables spread with paper, kindly furnished by C. T. Hook, Esq., were found prepared for them. Copious supplies of tea, cake, bread and butter, and buns refreshed them; and when they had eaten and were satisfied, their parents were invited to regales themselves likewise. Other persons, we regretted to see, who were not invited and had no interest in the school whatever – some indeed, much the opposite – ventured to intrude into these private grounds, and trespass on the hospitality of the rector. We trust that this may be prevented another year. All the arrangements for this tea, with its army of helpers, were admirable. Two foot balls were now soon at work, prizes for running eagerly contended for, ladies’ cricket vigorously prosecuted, games of all sorts kept up with spirit, till at half-past seven the heavy dews warned Mr. Hilder, the school’s faithful and indefatigable master, that pleasure must have an end. A basket of juicy pears, the kind gift of Mrs Lee of Holborough, was served out; three ringing cheers were given for the school; an all took their departure highly gratified at the success of the day. ...<sup>36</sup>

The new buildings were built to the south of the old ones, so on 21 January 1868 the log-book has: ‘Pulling School House down’, and on 23 January 1868: ‘Commenced pulling the infant school down today at 1 o’clock. The infants are gone to a room in a tenantless house up [the] High Street. We tried to find a room for this school, and failing, have decided to break up school after next Monday till the opening which is to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February.’

Divine service was held in the parish church at 11 o’clock. ... After the sermon [by the Bishop of Rochester] an offertory collection was made, at the conclusion of which the scholars were formed into ranks two abreast outside the church; the Bishop, clergy, and people followed, and all moved in a long, silent and imposing procession to the school. There prayers, in a form suited to such a dedication, were said by the Bishop: Hymn 229 was sung and the Benediction was given. The Bishop then visited the infants, who with their mistress, had awaited his coming in their own school room, and addressed some kind, fatherly words to them also. ... Luncheon was afterwards served at the Rectory, to about 40 guests. ... The offertory amounted to £49, and to this W.H.Poynder, Esq., with his accustomed kindness and generosity, added a cheque for £45, making the collection for the day £94. The schools have been designed by E.W.Stephens, Esq., and admirably built by Mr. T. Clements of Rochester. They bid fair to be amongst the greatest ornaments of the village.<sup>37</sup>

Rules of the school were distributed to each child:

The school bell will ring five minutes before 9 & 2 o’clock, and children are required to be punctual.

All payments to be made on Monday morning

Rates of payment: 2d for each child in either school, except when three children are sent, in which case the third will be submitted for 1d.

No child to be absent without leave, or without a valid reason being assigned.

The Inspector’s report noted that the Infant part of the school was now a separate department, where formerly it had been joined with the girls.

New class room 5 June 1871 (infants)

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<sup>36</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 24 August 1868.

<sup>37</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 15 February, 1868.

## The British Schools

It is not surprising that the considerable religious non-conformity in the village, spearheaded by the paper mill managers from 1823 onwards, led to a desire for education not geared to the established church. The report of 24 May 1833: *Education enquiry. Abstract of the answers and returns made pursuant to an address of the House of Commons* has the following for Snodland:

*Two Daily Schools*, one whereof contains 30 males and 30 females; this School has an endowment for 40 children; 20 of whom are of this parish, and 10 each from the two adjoining parishes of Birling and Halling, the remaining 20 pay; in the other, are 8 males and 12 females, whose instruction is at the expense of their parents. *Two Sunday Schools*, in one of which (commenced 1824) are 35 males and 39 females, who attend the Established Church; the other (commenced 1830), is connected with Independent Dissenters, and consists of 7 males and 6 females; in both Schools the children receive gratuitous instruction.

It is likely the smaller daily school was held in the Independent Chapel and was attended by children of non-conformist religions whose parents were prepared to pay for their education. A family called Bateman appears to have come to Snodland with William Joynson from Wooburn, Bucks. John, perhaps the father, Thomas, Joseph and Jabez are all listed in the 1841 census, of whom Thomas and Jabez were papermakers and Joseph a grocer. Thomas at least went briefly to St Mary Cray (which is where William Joynson was) around 1842, for his son William was born there, but he was back in Snodland soon after, becoming a grocer at what had previously been 'The Old Bull' on the High Street/Holborough Road corner. In the words of Woolmer:

A few members of the Congregational Chapel wished for a school of their own to which their children might go, and thus be free from that class of religious instruction usually taught in Church Schools. Their desire was soon carried into effect, for in the vestry of the Congregation Chapel the Nonconformists started a small school, under the charge of Miss George. Afterwards it was fortunate when there was a great increase in the child population of Snodland, and a corresponding necessity for another school beside the National, that the late Mr. Thomas Bateman was able to prevail upon his friend, the late Mr. Joynson, of St. Mary Cray, to build these schools (in 1857). At a meeting, the latter gentleman presented them to the people of Snodland, but unfortunately did not place them in the hands of a legal trust, or form a committee of management. The inhabitants, as a recognition of the gift, presented Mr. Joynson with a Bible, as a token of their thankfulness for his benevolence.<sup>38</sup>

In 1857 the British Schools were started with six children, because the Nonconformists thought they would like to have a school to themselves. The school was at first kept by a woman, and the children increased so that there was not sufficient accommodation. Mr. Joynson, of the paper mills, did much towards the education of the villagers. Being a Nonconformist himself he took an interest in the British School, and by-and-bye he strove to secure for it the Government grant, but failed. Getting disheartened and tired, Mr. Joynson afterwards had the school put up by auction, and Mr. Hook bought the materials, and another gentleman bought the ground and the schoolmaster's house. Some time after this, the Nonconformists asked Mr. Hook if something could not be done to save the

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<sup>38</sup> John Woolmer, *Historical Jottings of the Parish of Snodland* ... [SHS, Pamphlet No. 3, p. 10].

school, and after much delay, a bargain was struck, and the schools were secured. From their then state of inefficiency Mr. Hook worked them up, and now they obtain, as a rule, the highest grant from the Government.”

Evidently the pupil numbers had reached 200 by the end of 1857: On 29 December the buildings were christened:

On Tuesday evening last the children of the Congregational Church school, to the number of 200, had their annual treat in the new and handsome buildings just erected by W. Joynson, Esq., of St. Mary’s Cray. After a plentiful supply of tea and plumcake to the juveniles, their parents and friends were admitted to the evening’s entertainment, given by Mr. S. W. Dadson, consisting of a large and choice selection of views exhibited by means of a powerful magic-lantern. About 500 persons were present, who appeared highly pleased with the evening’s entertainment. The new building is to be opened shortly for school purposed, and will doubtless prove a great boon to this place.<sup>39</sup>

The formal opening took place a month later:

The new congregational day and Sunday schools recently erected were formally opened on Tuesday last, on which occasion about 200 persons commemorated the event by partaking of tea together. At half-past six a public meeting was held, when the handsome and spacious building was crowded to excess. What was particularly pleasing was the fact that, with the exception of about a dozen persons, all present were residents in the immediate neighbourhood. W. Joynson, Esq., of St. Mary Cray, who is at the whole cost of erecting these schools, presided, and was supported by the Rev. M. Sloman, of St. Mary Cray, the Rev. B. Freeman, Maidstone, and other friends. The chairman and other speakers directed attention to the fact that the system of education adopted in the schools would be based on the Bible, that it would be entirely unsectarian, and that the children of all parties might there be taught the elements of a sound education without questioning the religious opinions of the parents. ... The proceedings terminated about 9 o’clock. The new building is a noble gift to Snodland, and we trust the inhabitants will use and appreciate it.<sup>40</sup>

Unfortunately no records of the school now survive from before the 1870s and little can be found about the early years. It is likely that Stephen Dadson was a schoolmaster here between 1856 and 1861.<sup>41</sup> Another was Alexander Gunning, mentioned twice in the *Church Book* with a note appended ‘To Jamaica on Baptist Mission’. Sadly he died there of a fever after just 15 months, but his obituary mentions Snodland:

He chose the calling of a schoolmaster, and completed his studies at the Normal School at Homerton. ... One leaving Homerton he became the master of a school at Snodland, near Rochester, where he won the esteem of his employers as a Christian and Christian teacher. Here he also married a lady engaged in a similar occupation. His school was flourishing, and he was useful. [He then offered himself to teach abroad.] At this juncture the Committee were looking out for a tutor to take charge of the Normal School department in the Calabar Institution, Jamaica. His offer was accepted, and in the month of February, 1861, he and Mrs Gunning sailed for their destination. They arrived in April, and Mr Gunning immediately entered on his work with zeal and earnestness.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 5 January 1858.

<sup>40</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 2 February 1858.

<sup>41</sup> See Chapter [2]

<sup>42</sup> *The Baptist Magazine*, 1862, 600-601. One notice has his death on the 20<sup>th</sup>. On 29 July 1860 he was one of two deputed to visit Frederick Luckhurst at Snodland. That same year he married Mary Snowden in York (her home town, and where she died on 10 September 1874). Her maiden name (qualified by the note

The fever began about a week before he died on 27 July 1862; he was buried 'in the little cemetery behind the Institution'.

It is likely that the replacements for Gunning and his wife were William and Letitia Francis, who in the 1861 census were living at Constitution Hill. Both were born in Essex, but after marriage settled in Geldestone, Norfolk for some years, where three children were born to them. A fourth, Annie, was born c.1859 in Sherston, Wiltshire and a fifth in Snodland c.1869. By 1871 the family was living at the British Schools, but clouds were on the horizon as Woolmer records:

For a lengthened period the working of the Schools appears to have been unsatisfactory, and ultimately a disagreement arose with some of the persons concerned, which led Mr. Joynson to have the school materials put up for sale in one lot, to be cleared away in a short time; and the house and ground in another lot. The school materials were bought by the late Mr. Charles Townsend Hook, who asked several of the leading Nonconformists what was best to be done about the school-house and ground, which had been bought by Mr. Collier of Greenhithe. In the end, the two gentlemen arranged matters, Mr. Hook purchasing the house and ground from Mr. Collier, who gave a donation for the benefit of the Schools.

Advertisements for the auction of the 'residence and buildings materials contained in a large building hitherto used as a school' appeared in April 1872, so it would appear that the materials were not just a heap of bricks, but remained as a building. Hook evidently bought the school at the auction on 28 April and his *Journal* details further expenditure on it until his death.<sup>43</sup> Mr Collyer was paid £121, but £617. 2s. seems to have been the whole purchase price. £90 paid to Thomas Bateman may have been Collyer's donation. There are numerous small payments to the builders Burgess and Langridge and the Evernden Brothers following the purchase, but nothing showing major building works. On 23 July 1872 notices appeared in the *South Eastern Gazette* from the 'Lords of the Education Department' detailing what was considered necessary for school accommodation in the district following the Elementary Education Act of 1870. In Snodland the National School could accommodate 72 boys, 72 girls and 109 infants; 'Mr Joynson's School' 76 boys and 76 girls, and a new school was recommended at Ham Hill for 50 pupils under a certified teacher

The last notice of William Francis in Snodland is a payment of £1. 12s. 8d. to him on 21 June 1872, after which he is next found at Skelton in Guisborough, Yorkshire (in the 1881 census). William's replacement was Frederick Howard Bird, from Borough Road Training College, Southwark, receiving a regular monthly salary from Hook of £5. 16s. 8d. between February 1873 and August 1874. The log book at this time shows 77.5% average attendance, with 128 on the books and fees of 2d. a week.<sup>44</sup> In May a note records 'This afternoon the children had their portraits taken in two groups', but sadly neither has come to light. The winter of 1874-5 was noted as harsh, with fever causing deaths and illnesses. Apart from Bird there were three pupil teachers and Mrs Storey, wife of the Congregational Minister, as sewing mistress. The *Church Book* records Bird's admission as a member on 30 September 1874, but adds undated notices of his 'transfer' and 'removal'. We can be fairly sure that he was the man born in Daventry, Northamptonshire, in 1852. He describes himself as a Certified Schoolmaster and Undergraduate of Cambridge University in 1881, and seems to have returned to the city directly after leaving Snodland. He became headmaster of the British School (formerly in

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'after Mrs Gunning') appears under his in *The Church Book of the Independents* so she was indeed teaching in Snodland too.

<sup>43</sup> THA *Ledger*, pp. 277-80, 341-2; *Journal* (on loan at SMM),

<sup>44</sup> KHLC, C/E3, 342/5/2.

Fitzroy Lane) until his death in 1915, having continued with his university studies, graduating with a BA degree in 1883 and an MA in 1887. He was sufficiently distinguished to be given an obituary in the *Cambridge Daily News* of 27 January 1915.

Payments to the equally youthful James Dickenson begin in June 1875, but at a higher rate of £10. 8s. 4d. a month. The 1881 census gives him as aged 28 and unmarried. He was 'Received into church 1 June 1882' and the *Church Book* adds he emigrated to New Zealand.

No doubt the fact that William Joynson lived some distance away hindered his appreciation of the difficulties the school had faced. But certainly under the ownership of the Hook family it soon prospered and received high praise from visiting Inspectors. Woolmer in his *History* mentions one act of benevolence:

After a long and trying winter the parents were requested to meet Mr. Hook at the Schools, when he commented on the severity of the weather experienced during that winter, and knowing full well the struggle which the parents had to pay the school pence during that time, he desired to refund them whatever school fees they had paid during that period, which act of benevolence was accordingly carried into effect.

Following the death of C. T. Hook, his sisters took over the school and promptly gave it the tower by which Snodland is so well-known today. It incorporates a stone on the south side, inscribed:

This Clock Tower is erected in Loving Memory of  
CHARLES TOWNSEND HOOK,  
Of "Veles", and the Paper Works, Snodland,  
by his sorrowing mother and sisters.  
Died 11th February 1877.  
Deeply loved and mourned.

Numbers increased to such an extent that it outstripped the National School and expansion was called for. The Misses Hook offered 1000 guineas for the adjacent Providence Chapel, which the congregation accepted, and which subsequently became the infant department of the British Schools. At some stage, perhaps when the tower was built, maps show the school building had expanded as far as the footpath and this may also have been time when the building received its distinctive striped decoration. With the addition of the Chapel accommodation was increased from the former 430 places to 320 boys and girls and 190 infants. It remained busy until the opening of the Central School on 19 May 1930, to which the children were then transferred.





## Infant School, Holborough

In the 1850s William Lee decided to create an Infant School at Holborough. The only references to the school currently found are in accounts of the fetes given at Holborough Court annually by William Lee to the children of Snodland, Halling and Burham schools. In 1856

The children of the Snodland and Burham schools [...] formed in procession, and marched with a great profusion of flags and banners, through the village, preceded by the Birling band, to Mr. Lee's residence. Previous to reaching the grounds, the procession was further augmented by the addition of the Holborough Infant School, lately established through the kindness and liberality of Mr. Lee, and the Halling School, also carrying flags and banners [...].<sup>45</sup>



*The outbuilding beside Court Cottage, presumed to be the 'Infant School' named in the 1861 census*

(Photograph  
© Colin Greene)

<sup>45</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 5 August 1856. 'Holborough' school is included again on 30 August 1858: *South Eastern Gazette*, 7 September 1858.

In 1861 Henry Raven, recently appointed as commercial clerk to the cement works is listed as living at an 'Infant School' with his wife and a four-year old visitor, which can only be the school-like little building still beside Court Cottage. This may have still have been his home in 1871 for it is only in 1881 that he is established at 'The Cedars'. So evidently the school can only have operated for around four or five years. Several old houses at Holborough were being demolished during the mid-century, and the British Schools were nearby, so that may have been the preferred choice.

# V: Community

## Parish Officers

Like rural parishes throughout the land, Snodland was administered by a group of prominent householders, until parish councils were formed at the end of the century. Chief among them were the two churchwardens and two overseers of the poor, chosen annually by the Rector and parishioners at each Easter vestry meeting. Unfortunately two relevant volumes for Snodland are currently ‘unfit for production’<sup>1</sup>, so information about the parish officers has temporarily to be gleaned from elsewhere. The Godden charity mentioned below provides the names of the two church wardens to 1869 and others who signed with them are presumed to be the overseers or other persons with official positions. Often the same men fulfilled either role at various times.

Churchwardens	William Frederick Kilpin [grocer] (1840-1) Solomon Brice [farmer: Clements/Middle Farm] (1840-1) John Clark [paper mill manager] (>1840) Edward Martin [miller: Holborough] (1840-4;) Thomas Matthews [farmer: Covey Hall] (1842-4; 1847-9) George Gorham [butcher] (1844-5; 1849-54) Richard Peters [grocer; limeburner] (1845-7) Thomas Bateman [grocer] (1847-9) George Pierson [farmer at Holborough] (1849-67) William Lee [owner of the cement works, MP] (1854-69<)
Overseers, etc. <sup>2</sup>	Thomas Matthews (>1842; 1845-7; 1851-4) quit 1654 Thomas Stephens [farmer: Paddlesworth] (1841-8) Richard Postans [farmer: Punish] (1839-40; 1842-3) George Gorham (1841-2; 1843-4; 1846-8; 1854-6) James Hoppe [grocer: Holborough] (1841-2) Richard Peters (1843-4) John Martin [occupation unknown] (1844-5) George Pierson (1847-8) Thomas Bateman (1849-51; 1854-7; 1860-1; 1864-5) William Lee (1851-3) William Wildes [paper mill manager] (1851-2) Edward Thomas Luck [farmer: Woodlands] (1853-4; 1857-8; 1860-1) William Kingsnorth [victualler: Red Lion] (1856-7; 1859-60) Charles Townsend Hook [paper mill manager] (1859-60; 1864-5) Samuel Hook [paper mill owner] (1859-60; 1864-5) Eustace Hook [paper mill director] (1870-1) Henry Gorham [butcher] (1870-1)

### Constables and police

1863: John Gorham, constable; 1870-1: Richard Wray and William Pink constables

Surveyor W Kingsnorth

Waywarden G Pierson 1865-6; 1871-2 Edward Baker

It is striking to find a number of non-conformists as churchwardens here: John Clark,

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<sup>1</sup> MALSC, P342/5/1 and P342/8/1.

<sup>2</sup> Signatures in Gorham charity ‘Gift Book’.

Richard Peters and Thomas Bateman were leading figures. But the law stated 'If a dissenter be elected churchwarden, he may execute the office by sufficient deputy, who will comply with the laws.'<sup>3</sup> One suspects that their companions listed above would have been well placed to comply with the churchwarden's duties of maintaining behaviour and attendance at, and of overseeing repairs to, the parish church, and that general parish affairs and the poor would occupy more of their time.

## Parish Charities

Communities have always tried to look after the poorer members of their society. Wealthy parishioners hoped that charitable acts would stand them in good stead in the afterlife. Snodland still operates a charity created by Edward Godden by his will of 8 February 1662 in which he gave '20 acres in Ivychurch to Brett Netter and his heirs to the intent that they should pay yearly to the churchwardens and overseers of Snodland £10 on trust with £5 thereof to put forth one poor child male or female apprentice to some honest trade or calling.' The accounts are extant from 1784 onwards, apart from a gap between 1869 and 1895.

Alexander Beech; James Langridge; William Wenman; Edward Thomas Higgins; William Gorham all completed their apprenticeships in the early 1840s, followed by:

George Capon with John Bassett, 1840-1849, trade not specified

George Langridge with James Huggett, East Malling, cordwainer, 1842-1848

Edward Fissinden with Thomas Waghorn, 1845-?

Solomon Burgess with James Huggett, East Malling, cordwainer, 1848-1854

William Langridge with William Mair, West Malling, carpenter 1848-?

Albert Richard Augustus Higgins with John Butler, 1850 [buried 12 June 1850]

John Evenden with John Johnson, Ightham, cordwainer, 1851-1856

Israel Evenden with James Huggett, East Malling, cordwainer, 1851-?

James Baker with John Rayfield, Borstal, wheelwright, 1851-1857

James Terry with George Rayfield, Higham, blacksmith, 1852-?

Charles Baker with Mr Billson, West Malling, carpenter, 1854-1859

Walter Springett with Thomas Curtis, Seal, wheelwright, 1857-1863

Mary Ann Dartnall with Ann Hunt, Rochester, dressmaker, 1859-?

Thomas Burgess with William Cox, 1860-1863, then with Mr. Kemp, Chatham, 1863-1865

Sarah Ann Hawkes with Miss Merrell, Maidstone, 1860-?

[?] Clackett with Mr. Calloway, Malling, saddler, 1861-?

William Wray with [Joseph] Privett, [carpenter], 1865-?

William Lamb with Mr. White, 1865-? [died 1873]

William Lambeth with Mr. Woollett, 1866-?

Henry Peters with Mr. Jenkins, Burham, shoemaker, 1867-?

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<sup>3</sup> *The Complete Parish Officer*, London, 1772, p. 120.

Lucy Tilly with Miss A. Moore, Maidstone, 1867-?

William Young with Mr. Allchin, East Malling, carpenter, 1868-?

David Peters with [Edward] Rowles, builder, 1868-?

The churchwardens received £20 annually from the rents and the money was allocated as required to the apprentices and their masters. Each master/mistress received £10 for taking the boy/girl, who received £5 at the start of their apprenticeship and £5 more at its completion. The accounts show that the initial £5 was often included in the master's fee, making £15, but the ladies were paid only £12. 10s. Occasionally the fund was raided for other purposes. On 25 April 1848 'Paid William Burgess, Wife & 4 children Expenses to South Australia £21 9s. 6d.' and on 28 September 1849 'Paid John Wingate Wife & 5 Children going to America £20. 0s. 0d.' On 2 April 1859 two bills were paid to Mr [Robert] Allender and Mr [James] Brown 'repairing Snodland School': £8 and £12 respectively.

Many of the apprentices are missing from other records, but seven of them are known to have pursued their trades in Snodland at some time: George Capon, Mary Ann Dartnall, William Wray, Henry Peters, Lucy Tilly and William Young. Thomas Burgess became a partner with Robert Langridge of Ham Hill in a leading local firm of builders.

By a deed dated 10 October 1800, John May (1734-1805) provided for the establishment and maintenance of a school in the parish of Snodland, at which 20 poor children of the parish of Snodland, and 10 poor children each of the parishes of Halling and Birling would be allocated places. (That is to say those would be 'free' places, paid from the endowment; paid places were available to other pupils). With continual changes to the provision of education, free places for all, and ultimate responsibility for the school and its buildings being taken by the Kent Education Committee, the investment has now been absorbed by the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education.

At the same time John May granted a yearly rent charge of £20 'issuing out of a message or tenement called Gassons, with the lands thereto belonging, containing 15 acres in the Parish of Snodland, payable every January, without any deduction, on trust, to divide the same between the Parishes of Snodland, Halling and Birling, one third part to each ... for the purchase of great coats for poor persons, being inhabitants of the said several parishes.' Each year six or seven people from each parish received a coat.<sup>4</sup>

## Health and Welfare

The Poor Law Reform Act of 1834 created Unions of parishes, for which workhouses were built and local hospital facilities created. Snodland, Burham and Wouldham all belonged to the Malling Union, but Halling was part of Strood Union. A Guardian was elected for each parish to oversee the administration of their inmates in the workhouse and a Board of Guardians met regularly at West Malling to consider this. The first Guardian in Snodland seems to have been Edward Thomas Luck, the owner of Woodlands farm, but on 25 March 1865 Charles Townsend Hook was promoted to Guardian of the Poor of Snodland because, 'The Vestry taking into consideration the growing importance of the Parish and the increasing population thought it necessary that the Guardian of the Poor should be a gentleman living in the village. Mr C.T. Hook was therefore chosen in the place of Mr Luck.'<sup>5</sup> From April 1868, Rev. Carey became the Snodland Guardian, serving until his move to Essex in 1874. His place was taken by

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<sup>4</sup> The charity is still extant, but now money rather than greatcoats is allocated. A list of the Snodland recipients of this charity is at <[www.snodlandhistory.org.uk/document-miscellany](http://www.snodlandhistory.org.uk/document-miscellany)>.

<sup>5</sup> MALSC, Vestry Book, P342/8/1.

Joseph Henry Champion, farmer at Woodlands, although Lt.-Col. Holland, manager of the paper mill after C. T. Hook's death, served briefly in 1881-2.

There were no doctors resident in Snodland before 1869, so any call on their services prior to that meant a trip to West Malling. Many residents were too poor to pay, so the Overseers often had to pick up the bills, including those for medicines or inoculations. Nursing was often arranged locally, but again the Overseers might pay those who had to sit with the sick. The National School logbooks tell of outbreaks of illnesses like measles and scarletina and include a distressing number of pupil deaths. As late as 27 November 1868: an entry reads 'Thomas Capon sent for to go to Malling for the Doctor.'

However, not long after, the *South Eastern Gazette* was able to announce:

We are glad to hear that this important village, with its population of 2,000 has at last a resident medical gentleman. The inhabitants will not therefore be compelled to send, when taken ill, to West Malling, a distance of three miles and a half, for a doctor – having now one of great experience in their midst. Dr. White, who has taken up his abode at Snodland, is not only an M.D., but he is also a L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and L.S.A. Formerly he was house surgeon at the University College Hospital, and recently medical officer at Queen Charlotte's Lying-In-Hospital, London. For 16 years too he was a surgeon in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Service.<sup>6</sup>

Dr White moved into the recently-built Nyanza Place in the High Street, named after the P&O ship on which he served, which remained the parish surgery for more than forty years. Dr. White was often called to treat those injured at work, but he himself suffered greatly on one occasion, although stoically insisting on performing his duty:

An accident, which might have been attended by serious consequences, took place here on Friday last. As Dr. White was being driven by Mr. Barker of the Queen's Hotel, to visit a patient late in the evening, the gig came into collision with a night soil cart which had been left standing for some time in the narrowest and darkest part of the main street. In an instant the gig was upset, and both occupants pitched out. The doctor got three of his ribs injured, with a severe sprain of the shoulder. Mr Barker was also injured, but less so. They, however, proceeded on their Journey, the doctor suffering most acutely, to Pomfrey, a hamlet on the outskirts of the parish [on the hill above Dode church], and on reaching the hill it was found that the harnesses was so much injured that they were obliged to walk for upwards of a mile across ploughed fields to their destination. His duty discharged, Dr. White returned to require in his turn the services of Drs. Pope and Furley, whose friendly and skilful aid enabled him to speedily resume his vocation, at the cost however of much suffering, from which he has not yet recovered. Thanks to the almost criminal folly which could leave such a cart in such a place, and on such a night, to recklessly imperil valuable lives.<sup>7</sup>

Epidemics of various kinds continued to affect the village. Rev Carey noted 'Much low fever prevailed, after the cessation of the great drought, in the autumn of 1868, but we had no fatal cases.' In April 1870 he reported 'The spring of this year was very fatal to young children, not less than 13 having died since Jan. 1. Bronchitis and low fever were the prevailing disorders.'<sup>8</sup> In August 1866 he wrote that 'smallpox was somewhat prevalent in the village, and after attending a child named Kemsley, who had it very badly, I was seized with it myself.' His was not a severe attack and he returned to duty

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<sup>6</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 13 March 1839.

<sup>7</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 17 January 1874.

<sup>8</sup> *Parochialia*.

after three weeks. A further outbreak in <sup>9</sup>May 1882 affected at least five people, mostly bargemen and their neighbours; the bargeman Arthur Abrams, died, aged 30.<sup>10</sup>

Dr White remained in Snodland until around 1890 and then retired to Bournemouth, but another doctor had taken up residence in Snodland even before him. Thomas Marsden<sup>11</sup> had moved here from Leeds in 1867 to become the resident minister of the Swedenborgian society. On one occasion in 1869 he tried to claim expenses from the Malling Guardians, having attended a case and, he proposed, thereby saved the Malling doctors from journeying to and from Snodland. The arrival of Joseph Evans Smith just before Marsden's departure in 1881 also creates uncertainty both as to whether he practised here—he was already aged 67 in 1881—and whether or not he was a Swedenborgian. Born in Horsley, Gloucestershire, and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons from 1855, Smith had previously served as a surgeon in Herefordshire, also receiving a commission from the War Office in 1870. He was probably the first resident of Brook House in Malling Road and lived to the great age of 93. Other doctors recorded in the 1871 and 1881 censuses include I Manning-King, James P. Macken, and Joseph W. Macnale, all assistants to Dr. White. Edward Hadden's independent practice, recorded in 1871-4, was in Constitution Hill. William Alexander Fitzgerald was 'a surgeon practising at Snodland; in 1876.<sup>12</sup>

The nineteenth century saw a vast growth in the creation of Friendly Societies, giving the working man a means 'to make provision, however small, for probable casualties, and certain death,' by subscribing to their funds, which could then support them in hard times. Snodland and its neighbouring parishes were almost entirely populated by the working classes, and so were ideal places in which these societies could flourish. Exact information on their extent and work is intermittent, although newspapers mention them from time to time.

A branch of The Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Fountain of Friendship, no 2634, was formed in Snodland in 1854 and a report of their ninth anniversary meeting at the Queen's Head not only describes the dinner and ensuing entertainments, but provides financial details:

From the annual financial report it appears that the Court numbers 224 members, 63 of which they initiated last year, only one death having occurred during that period. The amount paid for sickness and funeral, &c., was £145 7s. 1d., of which sum £44 10s. were levies to the Kent United District. The receipts to the sick fund for the twelve months were £301 10s. 8½d., including a balance of £46 18s. 8d. in hand the previous year, of which they have invested £80 and left £76 3s. 7½d. in hand. The report shows the total funds of the Society to be £353 19s. 10½d., of which £26 1s. 5½d. is balance of management fund and £9 18s. 5d. balance of incidental. This speaks volumes for the Society and its constitution.<sup>13</sup>

In 1861 The Ancient Order of Shepherds was formed and was somehow linked with the Foresters since it had the same Court Fountain of Friendship, no. 2634, as them and also met at the Queen's Head. At the end of the century the Foresters convened on the first Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, while the Shepherds met on the last Monday. This was a smaller group since their third anniversary dinner was for just '50 brothers

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<sup>9</sup> *Parochialia*.

<sup>10</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 27 May 1882.

<sup>11</sup> See pp.124-6,

<sup>12</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 30 September 1876.

<sup>13</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 25 July 1863.

and friends' and it was even necessary to clear a small deficit in their accounts that evening.<sup>14</sup>

With the arrival of Dr. White a Medical Club was soon established in the village:

16 Oct. 1869: This week the Hearts of Oak Benevolent Society held its first monthly meeting at the Monk's Head Inn, Snodland, when no less than thirty-eight men, varying in age from 18 to 45 years, and willing not only to help themselves but each other, came forward and paid their contributions. The benefits are 10s per week during illness, £6 upon the death of a member, and £3 upon the death of a member's wife. They have also wisely secured the services of Dr C.S. White, of this place, who is evidently bent upon becoming the working man's friend. The members, it will be seen, are taken up to 45 years of age, giving those an opportunity of doing good for themselves who are too old, or unable to pay the entrance into the Foresters' and Odd Fellows. The entrance money into the Hearts of Oak varies from one to ten shillings per member up to forty-five years of age, to be paid in six months from entrance, and the payments including surgeon's attendance and medicine 7d per week, thus giving the labouring man an opportunity of providing not only for himself in sickness, but for his wife and family in case of death. The Rev. J. G. Carey, rector of Snodland, has kindly consented to act as honorary auditor. The secretary is Mr T. H. Cash, East-Street, Snodland.<sup>15</sup>

On 12 October 1876 the 'Odd Fellows (M. U.)—Loyal Pride of the Village [later 'Medway'] Lodge, No.6,212' was opened at the Monk's Head, Constitution Hill. This branch had been proposed by the Malling Lodge and indeed the first officers elected at Snodland all came from outside the village. About 70 people enjoyed the meal prepared for them. It is interesting to note that Dr. White, who had been invited, mentioned 'he was already a freemason, a forester, and a druid, and he hoped the time was not far distant when he should be a member of the new odd fellows.' Since he was also a churchwarden the 'druid' seems unusual.

Two other contemporary welfare groups are the Snodland, Halling and Birling Provident Maternity Society, established in 1871, and the Snodland Coal and Clothing Fund, which was operating by 1880. By the time Woolmer published his *Historical Jottings of the Parish of Snodland* in 1894 he could add the 'Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes—Sir William Alexander Lodge', which like the Odd Fellows then met at the Bull Hotel. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Death and Burial Society was reported in June 1876, so presumably was formed in 1851.<sup>16</sup> On 24 July 1871 a 'Maternity Institution [was] set on foot', with initial funding provided by five ladies: Mrs Lee, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Hook, Mrs Brown, and Mrs Carey.

## Education and Entertainment

The first signs of Victorian aims for self-improvement in Snodland seem to have emerged around 1858 with the formation of Snodland Mutual Improvement Society. A report in 1860 mentions that it was established two years ago, and is now in a flourishing state, numbering upwards of 170 members. Lectures are given once a fortnight. There is also a select library for the use of the members.<sup>17</sup>

On 25 February 1860 the Society sponsored Mr. C. Pell of Maidstone to give a lecture on 'The Natural History of the Lion and Tiger,' illustrated with diagrams and a specimen' at

<sup>14</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 20 February 1864.

<sup>15</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 16 October 1869.

<sup>16</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 24 June 1876.

<sup>17</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 21 January 1860.



Burham school-room. Earlier that month he had spoken on 'British Fish and Fisheries' in Snodland. The Society's third year began on 9 October following, at which more than 200 members and friends took tea and heard addresses 'on the subject of mutual improvement'.<sup>18</sup> On 20 November W. E. Hayman from West Malling lectured on 'Garibaldi and the Italians', a very topical subject given Garibaldi's victory in the 'Expedition of a Thousand' that year. 'Mr Gay and family enlivened the evening with some appropriate pieces, and the popular piece "Garibaldi" brought the proceedings to a close.'<sup>19</sup> A couple of lectures are recorded in 1861, but most seem to have gone unreported. By the beginning of 1860 32 lectures had been given in Snodland and four more at Burham under the auspices of the Society.

This success perhaps laid the groundwork for the curate Benjamin Peile Thompson to plan the formation of a Working Men's Institute and in February 1863 he proposed that 'once a week readings would be given out of instructive and entertaining books, interspersed with singing and music.' In October he reported

That intention was carried out, and I think everyone will allow was, as long as the dark evenings continued, decidedly successful. ... Such was the success of the endeavour then made, but we trust much more than this has been produced, and that a desire of spending some part of our long winter evenings rationally and for our mutual benefit and amusement has also sprung up. ... This room [at the National School] will be thrown open upon every evening from 6 to 10, Sundays of course excepted, and also Tuesday when it will be taken up with the usual readings. There will be a supply ... of daily and weekly newspapers and monthly magazines. ... The following games have also been placed in the room: two sets of chess, two sets of draughts, a box of dominoes and lotto. ... There will also be a number of books, one of which will be allowed to each member at a time, and can be changed once a week; and here I am sure the Snodland Working Men's Institute have and must express their thanks to the members of the Snodland Mutual Improvement Society for their liberality and kind feeling, in having handed over for their use their library.<sup>20</sup>

He continued by hoping for a good membership of those who 'without going to any great expense of acquainting themselves daily with what is going on in the world, of laying up in store a stock of useful information, and of spending some part of each evening harmlessly and innocently', would thus enjoy the fruits of belonging. He was grateful to those who had volunteered to read, play and sing, and to those who had contributed towards initial costs. These included W. Lee, Esq., M.P. £5 and an annual subscription of £2; Rev. B. P. Thompson £2 donation and £2 annually; Mrs. Hook, £5 donation; and Mr. Peters of Wouldham Hall, £2 donation and £1 annually. 'Altogether the evening was a very pleasant one, and the school-room was crowded, there being upwards of 150 persons present.'

The programme was:

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| 1. Inaugural address                                 | Rev. B. P. Thompson     |
| 2. A Domestic Drama                                  | Mr. Dalton              |
| 3. The Seasons (original)                            | Mr. Ryott               |
| 4. Mr. And Mrs. Easy's discussion on the Baby's name | Mr. Rumble              |
| 5. The Ancient Britons                               | Mr. Lyne                |
| 6. The Master and the Slave                          | Messrs. Rolfe and Ryott |
| 7. Alfred the Great                                  | Rev. B. P. Thompson     |

<sup>18</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 16 October 1860.

<sup>19</sup> *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 24 November 1860.

<sup>20</sup> *Kentish Mercury*, 3 October 1863.

8. Sally Brown	Mr. Archer
9. The Niagara Falls	Mr. Gay
10. A Candle Lecture	Mr. Rumble
11. Woods and Forests	Mr. Draycon
12. An Angel in the House	Mr. Lyne

'All acquitting themselves exceedingly well, the comic portions by Mr. Rumble and Mr. Archer being evidently much appreciated by the audience and "An angel in the house" being exceedingly well delivered by Mr. Lyne. The Misses Gay, Mr. Rolfe, and Mr. Rumble contributed some excellent vocal and instrumental music between the pieces, and Miss Rolfe ably presided at the harmonium.' In May 1865 a benefit concert was given at the British Schools for W. H. Gay and his family 'for their services in connection with the Working Men's Institute and Penny Readings'

No more has been found about this Institute, but similar programmes became a regular part of Snodland life. This was probably partly due to the new school buildings providing a suitable venue for a series of 'Penny Readings' which seems to have begun in the autumn of 1869. Held every fortnight from October to March they were very popular and proceeds were usually devoted to worthy causes. In 1869-70 these included the West Kent General Hospital, the church organ, a coal fund, a soup kitchen, and the Schoolmasters Benevolent Association. This last was one of the 'special' programmes, when entrance was more costly: 1s. for front seats, 6d. for the middle ones, and 3d. for those at the back. Here is a typical programme from 1873:

PENNY READINGS. On Tuesday evening, the eighth of a series of winter readings took place before a very good audience.... Dr. White read "Mary, Queen of Scots" in a thoroughly artistic style, which gave universal delight. Then came the feature of the evening, namely, a reading from Cumberland's Comedy of the Jew, by Mr. C. Roach Smith, a gentleman distinguished alike for his high knowledge of antiquity archaeology, and for his great ability as a dramatic elocutionist. His powers were well exhibited in the characters he introduced into the scene under notice. He threw into each such an amount of individuality, and brought out each peculiarity and voice so distinctly that only the sight of the platform could prevent the audience from believing they were witnessing the comedy itself, in *propria persona*. Mr Smith's picture of *Sheva*, the Jew, was intensely natural, as was his rendering of the part of *Dorcas*, the maidservant, but, perhaps his *Jabel*, the poor, starved, lean, long, and hungry footboy was the greatest triumph of all. The plaintive moans, the piteous sighs, and excruciating gastric agonies of this individual, on the very sound of anything to eat, were really an exhibition of histrionic art of the very highest order. The roars of laughter at this particular character demonstrated how intense was the enjoyment of the audience. Mr Smith gave a second reading from the same comedy, which was equally well rendered and equally well appreciated. Later in the evening he also gave one scene from "The School for Scandal," in which the character of Sir *Peter Teazle* was well delineated, and the squabble between the old gentleman and his young bride, given to the life, and which had the effect of making the audience wish for more. The other readings comprised "Loan of a gridiron," given with vigour by Mr Flint; "Jonas Grubb's Courtship," a Wiltshire tale, in the hands of Mr Rumble left nothing to be desired; the lingo he introduced being given with great humour. In this style of piece Mr Rumble is unrivalled, nor does he ever fail to raise a hearty laugh from all. The readings were varied by music, well rendered by Miss Champion, and songs, of which "Excelsior," by Mrs Flint, evinced great taste and purity of feeling; this lady also acquitted herself well in "Stars of the summer night." Mr W. F. Catcheside's "Ever of thee" was creditably given, and "As I'd nothing else to do" brought a very pleasing entertainment to a close. On Tuesday, February 25th, Mr W. F. Catcheside, F.C.S., will deliver his lecture on Oxygen, illustrated by numerous brilliant experiments, the chair, on which occasion,

will be taken by C. Townsend Hook, Esq.. This interesting subject will, no doubt, command a large audience.<sup>21</sup>

Similar programmes were regularly heard elsewhere too, some at the Mess-room at the paper mill, and some at the British School Room. Often these too raised funds for worthy causes like the West Kent General Hospital, St Bartholomew's Hospital, or in 1871 the Paris relief fund, but others would swell local funds, some geared to the parish church and others to the non-conformist community. In his inaugural 1863 address mentioned above Rev. Thompson said 'we look forward to a time when it [the Institute] shall have a room of its own. This may appear very problematical and not likely to be effected, but still who knows?' Thanks to the generosity of William Lee and supporters his hopes were taken up and a dedicated building was built and funded, for which plans were drawn up in 1876.

A step in the right direction has been taken by the gentlemen of Snodland and vicinity who have long felt that some place other than the public house or beer shop was required in the parish for the working men to spend their evening at. It has therefore been decided by Mr. W. Lee, Mr. C. T. Hook, and Captain W. H. Roberts, to erect a suitable building for the use of the working men. Through the kindness of the Rev. J. G. Bingley, the rector, the National school-rooms have been placed at the disposal of the working men during the past winter, and the attendance of the classes for whose especial benefit the rooms were granted has been such to warrant the gentlemen above named in providing a more suitable place. It is estimated that from £1,200 to £1,600 will be necessary to complete the undertaking, which sum has already been promised. The new building is to consist of reading, smoking, recreation and general conversation rooms. Also a large assembly room for concerts, lectures, and such other rational amusements, as the management committee may deem advisable. Accommodation will also be provided for such of the Friendly Societies in the neighbourhood, who may deem it proper to hold their meetings there. <sup>22</sup>SEG [22-1-76]

The Club was formally handed over to the members by William Lee on 9 January 1877 and details of the inaugural meeting were fully reported in the local press.

The premises were erected and furnished at a cost of about £2,000 by W. Lee Esq., but several gentlemen of the neighbourhood have contributed liberally towards the fund for meeting other expenses. The building is let to the members of the club at a nominal rental, the property being invested in three trustees. A committee of management, consisting of working men, has been appointed, and the institution will be carried on under their superintendence. The building was erected by Messrs. Burgess and Langridge of Snodland, from plans prepared by Mr. H. Raven, and it is apparently a very substantial and well-finished structure. It consists of a large hall, capable of accommodating several hundreds of persons, and a number of other rooms, which will be devoted to different purposes for the amusement and recreation of the members. The club was originally established some time since, and the meetings have been held in the National Schoolroom, which was kindly placed at the disposal of the members by the Rev. J. G. Bingley. Previous to Tuesday evening 80 members had joined, but a large increase is anticipated. The subscription is 7d. a month, 1s. 6d. per quarter, or 5s. per year for ordinary members, and £1. 1s. a year for honorary members.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 15 February 1873.

<sup>22</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 22 January 1876.

<sup>23</sup> Newspaper cutting not traced, but included in *Parochialia*.

## Music

In the earlier part of the nineteenth century singing at All Saints church was led by a group in the west gallery, where there was a barrel organ. This group is certainly referred to as a 'choir' by Rev. Carey after 1865. The alterations to the church in 1870 provided a pipe organ in the chancel and the choir would have moved here because the west gallery was demolished. Tom Hilder became the National schoolmaster in 1866 and organist at All Saints, probably when the church was re-opened. Various lists of the choir between 1874 and 1889 show 12 -17 boys and 11-15 men.

In the 1860s the Non-Conformists had a choir based around the Gay family, who made quite name for themselves in giving concerts locally for worthy causes. William Henry, a skilled papermaker, and Diana Gay had seven children and the first concerts involved all of them. There are reviews of concerts at the Wesleyan Chapel, Burham (4 April 1860 and 23 January 1861), Wesleyan Chapel East Malling (twice in 1860), a lecture on Garibaldi at Snodland (1 December 1860) 'with a new piece entitled "Garibaldi" appropriately bringing the proceedings to a close', at the schoolroom in West Malling in aid of the chapel (5 February 1861), at the schoolroom, Borough Green (11 May 1861), and joint concerts with the Birling Band, conducted by Mr Bishop, (22 November 1862 and 25 April 1863). Like several other local groups at the time, they pledged to give another concert in aid of the distressed Lancashire (cotton) operatives, 'which was warmly approved'. On 8 May 1863 the same groups performed in aid of the West Kent Hospital in the new schoolroom at Snodland. In return a benefit concert for Mr. W. Gay and family was given in the British Schoolroom in May 1865 'for their services in connection with the Working Men's Club and Penny Readings'.<sup>24</sup>

On 11 November 1869 a concert on the tonic-sol-fa principle was given in the British schoolroom by a choir made up of members from Burham, Aylesford and Maidstone trained by William Bevis. Bevis was a Swedenborgian who attended the Snodland church, and evidently he soon persuaded William Penny, director of the Sunday School established there in 1867, to adopt the method, invented by Sarah Glover and John Curwen in 1853, and which had quickly spread through the country. The group gave three concerts in 1870 and 1871 at the British Schools.

Towards the end of 1878 a Choral Society was formed 'by the exertions of the Rev. J. W. Parrington, Mrs. E. Hook, Mrs White and others' and Mr W. Makepeace, a vicar choral of Rochester Cathedral, was engaged as instructor. He was already well known for similar work, including directing Gravesend Choral Society, and had trained the parish choir at Snodland who regularly attended the annual choirs' choral festival in the cathedral. The first concert was given on 23 January 1879 at the Working Men's club and was a great success. Others followed, including Handel's *Acis and Galatea* in November 1879, but in 1882 the *Church Paper* states

This [Snodland Choral] Society, which was started in 1878, although it has been attended with a good measure of success, has been discontinued for a time, but it is hoped soon to resume the practices. The musical instruction was carried out by Mr. Makepeace, of Rochester, to whose ability and kindness many feel much indebted. Practices were generally held on Thursday evenings in the Assembly Room of the Institute. During the summer months they were held in the National School Room. The music that was last performed was Romberg's 'Lay of the Bell' and Haydn's 'Creation,' but perhaps the music was rather too difficult to attempt, and required too much external aid in the choruses.

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<sup>24</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 15 May 1865.

Subscription 2s. 6d. per quarter. Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to be hon. members of the Committee.

*Treasurer* Mrs. White.'

From around 1865 the 'Birling Band' conducted by John Bishop attended most village functions in the area and they were much in demand. Sometimes the Royal Engineers Band joined them, for instance at the Foresters' Fetes in 1876 and 1877. Others known to have appeared are the 9<sup>th</sup> Kent Rifle fife and drum band in 1965 (perhaps because of Eustace Hook's involvement with the group), and the Royal Marines Band. Snodland's own band was formed until the 1890s and it took over at many local functions because the Birling Band had retired.

### **Flower, fruit and vegetable shows**

Rev. Carey seems to have been a leading figure in establishing a flower show in the village and the first was successfully held in the National Schoolroom on 11 September 1868. This became an annual event, enthusiastically taken up by the parishioners. Two years later an 'Industrial Show' was added and the 1871 show was described as follows:

'A very successful Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition was held on Friday, September 15. Mr. Draycon acted as secretary, and to his indefatigable exertions the success was in great measure due. Mr. Smith was a judge of gardens as well as of fruit, &c., and Mr. W. Penny was treasurer. In the Industrial Exhibition Lady C. Nevill and Lady Isabel Bligh exhibited some of their fine carving in lime, cherry, and sandal woods. J. Johnson produced bound books, velocipede wheels, and a turning lathe. Mr. Plowman made an excellent model of the church. The children's needlework was much admired. Mrs. Eustace Hook sent frames of leather, elaborately ornamented. Selina Burgess produced very beautiful patchwork. The prizes in all on this occasion amounted to about £26., and among them were those called the "Veles" prizes, given by Mrs. Hook's family, very valuable, and stimulating.' The show was described in the *Kent Messenger* of 23 September. Among the prizes in Class C: Works of Art, was one to 'Joseph Deacon: godwit (bartailed): 2s.<sup>25</sup>

The whole became the main event of the Snodland, Halling, and Birling Gardener's Mutual Improvement Society's and prizes were awarded in several categories: plants, fruit, vegetables, garden and window plants, works of art and industries. The local gentry not only attended, but provided the money for the prizes.

Regular meetings of a 'Snodland Cottage Gardeners Society' were held at *The Victory* from January 1870, but in March 1872 a 'New Cottage Gardeners Society' met at the *Queen's Head*. It appears that these were separate from the original Society and in July 1872 Rev. Carey wished the two societies to combine for 'one great flower show'. Hopefully they did, for the annual show certainly continued.

### **Communal Fêtes**

From time to time fêtes were arranged for the community to enjoy. William Lee held four between 1854 and 1858 in his grounds at Holborough, to which all were invited. Children were the focus of these events and the schools of Snodland, Halling and Burham all joined in a great procession before being fed on cakes and participating in various sports.

Mr Lee remarked with much satisfaction on the increased means of education which have been afforded within the last twelve months within this neighbourhood; attributing it mainly to the fact of there now being resident clergy in Burham and

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<sup>25</sup> See p. 150.

Halling, who have established schools in both of these parishes, where previously none existed; the Snodland schools being also re-organized and their usefulness extended, increasing the attendance from 40 to about 120 children. He, therefore, felt it to be a duty and a pleasure to assist, to the utmost of his ability, in so laudable a work. [...] The party next proceeded to a large meadow adjoining, where a tent was erected, and various amusements provided for the children, including races, jumping in sacks, with appropriate games for the girls; and last, though not least, a match of cricket was played between eleven of the Snodland and eleven of the Burham school-boys, in which the former proved victorious.<sup>26</sup>

Another annual event was the Foresters' fete, which again involved the whole community. The National School log book shows that a half-holiday was granted (no doubt pupils would have taken illicit absence anyway) and all participated in the celebrations. In 1868 the headmaster Tom Hilder wrote

20 July. A Holiday in consequence of the Brothers of the society of Foresters in this village giving the children a tea & free admittance to the sights and amusements prepared for the foresters, on their annual Feast Day. The children assembled here at 12.30 formed in procession & fell in behind the procession of Foresters, two boys: William Hawks & George Raven having the School Banner at the head of the children and marched to Mr. Lee M.P.'s meadow at Holborough where they partook of tea & cake and afterwards enjoyed themselves as only boys and girls can.

The schools themselves had an annual 'treat' for the children, usually involving sports and a tea, and from time to time outings were arranged for groups like the All Saints choirboys. Two excursions to the Crystal Palace were made in the 1860s. The laying of the foundation stone at the National School preceded a special day:

The children were now ranged two by two, and headed by the Birling Band, they marched to the rectory meadow. Here long tables spread with paper, kindly furnished by C. T. Hook, Esq., were found prepared for them. Copious supplies of tea, cake, bread and butter, and buns refreshed them; and when they had eaten and were satisfied, their parents were invited to regale themselves likewise. [...] Two foot balls were now soon at work, prizes for running eagerly contended for, ladies' cricket vigorously prosecuted, games of all sorts kept up with spirit [until half-past-seven].<sup>27</sup>

At the opening of the British Schools in 1855

After a plentiful supply of tea and plumcake to the juveniles, their parents and friends were admitted to the evening's entertainment, given by Mr. S. W. Dadson [the headmaster], consisting of a large and choice selection of views exhibited by means of a powerful magic-lantern. About 500 persons were present, who appeared highly pleased with the evening's entertainment.<sup>28</sup>

Towards the end of the 1870s it became customary for the Paper Mill and Lee's Lime and Cement Works to arrange annual outings for their workforce and families. Some 300-400 persons participated in these and costs were largely paid by the firms, including the hire of special trains. In 1877 Hook's went to Brighton, and in 1878 to Ramsgate and Margate, while Lee's chose Dover in 1876 and 1878, with some crossing the channel. In 1879 Hook's went to Brighton and in 1880 it was their turn to visit Dover and Calais, which they repeated in 1881. A sumptuous dinner for the management was part of the long day, which began before the train arrived at 7 am and lasted until after 10-30 pm.

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<sup>26</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 29 August 1854.

<sup>27</sup> *Maidstone Telegraph*, 24 August 1867.

<sup>28</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 5 January 1855.

## Sport

One or two Snodland men gained a reputation in 'Pedestrianism', as Rev. Phelps noted: 'John Baker in the year 1815 undertook to perform 1000 Miles in 21 Days & performed it in 20 Days walking 75¼ the last Day. He, also, undertook to perform 2000 Miles in 42 Days against Eaton, a famous walker, & beat him by 13¾ Miles, in the year 1817.) These duels took place daily on a measured course, but with breaks for dining and sleeping. The 1815 competition was in Rochester and that in 1817 in London. On 25 February 1867 a race of 200 yards was organised on the Loose Road near the Wheatsheaf in Maidstone between Albert Barber of Maidstone and Charles Carpenter of Snodland, each with their own supporters. The event was marred by a false start in which Barber ran the whole course, but then had to re-run the race against his opponent. Carpenter

On breasting the handkerchief ... was rewarded for his triumph by the embrace of a young woman, who saluted him upon the cheek. The running of Barber the whole course at the top of his speed by the false start, doubtless materially affected his after running, otherwise a good contest might have been the result. There was a vast concourse to witness the match. Carpenter was afterwards matched to run the Champion of Maidstone 200 yards, which will shortly take place.<sup>29</sup>

The main sport in villages like Snodland during the nineteenth century was cricket. The earliest report of a match involving Snodland so far found was against West Peckham in August 1830, but earlier local matches in Birling and other parishes are recorded. Fairly regular notices of matches appear from 1857 onwards against a wide variety of mostly village opponents, but also including teams from Rochester, Gravesend, and the Royal Engineers from Chatham. This last, on 14 August 1880, was probably at Holborough Court, and it appears that William Lee Roberts had called upon the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Aylesford to boost his team. This included Charles and Daniel Heneage Finch, sons of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Aylesford, a noted amateur cricketer, who had played for the MCC. Snodland won.

With the marshes attracting a wide variety of birds, shooting was a constant occupation for local men, although a Shooting Club was not formed until the early 1900s. In 1832 a visitor, having paid a 4½d toll for his carriage, wrote 'At the first catch of a good frost, [Snodland] 'tis noted for good snipe shooting, and looks well from the road. Inquired of the landlord of the Inn at this time but few found.'<sup>30</sup> Conservation was not a concern at this time, other than taxidermy, so

On Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> [1871], Mr. Tanner shot a beautiful bar-tailed godwit, on Snodland Brook, which is the first known specimen of the kind in this neighbourhood. The bird is now in the hands of Mr. Deacon, bird-stuffer, for the purpose of being stuffed.<sup>31</sup>

Shooting competitions were regular occurrences and were widely advertised.

28 November 1881: A grand day's shooting will take place at Snodland when a very handsome gold watch will be shot for by ten members at 10s each, to shoot at five pigeons each. The winner can have watch or cash, less 5 per cent. Mr Nicholla will be handicapper, and Josh Hammond, of Tabard Sstreet, Borough, will attend with a good supply of birds. Shooting to commence at twelve o'clock sharp. Trains leave Charing cross at 8.40 and 12.45.<sup>32</sup>

The *Kent Messenger* reported the event:

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<sup>29</sup> *South Eastern Gazette*, 2 March 1867.

<sup>30</sup> *The Sporting Magazine*, vol. 4, p.239 (1832).

<sup>31</sup> *Kent Messenger*, 2 September 1871.

<sup>32</sup> *The Sporting Life*, 26 November 1881.

On Monday last a fairly good muster of the lovers of the trigger assembled in the meadow adjoining the Queen's Hotel to witness and take part in several shooting competitions, The light good some excellent scores were made. A gold watch was put up for competition by ten members at £1 each, but there were not sufficient entries. Mr Willing won three watches at small birds, and afterwards won a pigeon sweepstakes of 10s. each. Various other sweepstakes followed, in which Messrs Willing, H. Rodrav and Summers were most successful. Mr Nicholls was handicapper and referee, and Hammond and Co., of London, supplied the birds.<sup>33</sup>

A notice of 'McGregor's One Mile Bicycle Handicap' at Snodland was advertised in *The Sporting Life* in April 1881, and in October that year a Snodland Bicycle Club was formed; by February 1882 it had 29 members. A regular series of competitions was arranged, with prizes 'promised by gentlemen of the neighbourhood'. The club flourished. Holborough Court became the home of the Kent County Polo Club, but not until about 1887. Football was another sport which did not take off until the late 1880s, but then became very popular. Snodland boasted several teams.

## Chronology

- 1840 31 August. Bankruptcy of John Clark, manager of the paper mill
- 1842 The paper mill was leased to Henry Holden 'of Fulham and Snodland'
- 1843 Death of Solomon Brice [I], Clements/Middle Farm; Solomon Brice [II] quits Ladds Farm and moves to farm at Burham. John Cogger dismissed as master of the National Schools and replaced by Edward and Susanna Jupp (to 1854); Thomas Spong puts the paper mill up for sale or auction
- 1844 Poynder and Medlicott put up for auction their lime works in Snodland and Halling; sale of Crown land in Snodland, Birling and Luddesdown (156 acres)
- 1845 Richard Postans leaves Punish Farm and is replaced by James Pye (to 1864)
- 1846 The paper mill seems to have been closed during this year. William Lee buys the Holborough estate and lime works for £9245 and moves to Holborough.
- 1847 William Wildes, son of Henry Atkinson Wildes, became papermaker master. His father had bought the mill from the Spong family.
- c.1848 George Pierson moves from Wouldham to Halling Court farm in Snodland and Halling (until 1867)
- 1849 Thomas William Peters sets up his coal business at the wharf.
- 1850 25 March: proposal for road at Holborough to be re-routed: approved on 30 April
- 1851 Thomas Cubitt establishes a large brickworks at Burham, replacing his works in London. 30 March: Religious Census held
- 1852 William Peters [I] buys the lime works of George Potter at Wouldham and moves to Wouldham
- 1854 Samuel and Charles Townsend Hook become owners of the paper mill. Thomas Matthews quits Covey Hall Farm and is replaced by William Peters [II]. William Wood becomes master of the National School, with his wife Emma as

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<sup>33</sup> *Kent Messenger*, 3 December 1881.



- schoolmistress (to 1856). A branch of The Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Fountain of Friendship, no 2634, is formed.
- 1855 Death of Thomas Cubitt. 6 April: consecration and opening of new Independent chapel in Holborough Road. Edward Vesey Bligh becomes curate at Snodland (to 1856). William Bresnan Love signs as 'Pastor' at the Independent church (to 1856)
- 1856 Walter Rumble becomes master of the National School (to Easter 1866). William Lee builds a small infant school at Holborough around this time. 11 June: opening of the Maidstone to Strood railway. Benjamin Peile Thompson becomes curate at Snodland (to 1865). Stephen William Dadson become minister at the Independent church and schoolmaster at the British Schools (to March 1861).
- 1857 British Schools begun with six pupils, but soon reached 200. 19 June: opening dinner at Queen's Head
- 1858 26 January. Opening of British School buildings. Founding of Snodland Mutual Improvement Society in this year
- 1859 Repairs to the National School is paid from the Gorham charity.
- 1861 Formation of Ancient Order of Shepherds, with same society no. (2634) as the Foresters. William Francis becomes teacher at the British Schools (to 1872).
- 1862 W. Carpenter became minister of the Independent church (until 1867)
- 1863 a new parish officer created: waywarden. Walter Rumble appointed assistant overseer
- 1864 26 June: opening of a chapel in Veles, the home of the Hook family, with Charles Gladwell as the resident Swedenborgian minister
- 1865 Death of Henry Dampier Phelps, Rector since 1804. 31 August: James Gaspard le Marchant Carey was his successor and moved into the rectory on 17 October. Alterations to the rectory begun on 10 October and completed on 1 April 1866.
- 1866 9 April Tom Hilder becomes master of the National School. 16 June. Death of Samuel Hook.
- 1867 27 February. Sale of land to raise funds for re-building the National School: 25 lots sold for £2,402 and a further 16 acres sold for £500. 14 August: new school buildings begun, designed by Edward Stephens of Maidstone and built by T. Clements of Rochester (cost £1593. 17s. 3d.). Thomas Lewen Marsden becomes the resident minister of the Swedenborgian Society (until 1882). 20 October: the Bishop of Rochester consecrated an enlargement of All Saints churchyard. Gas piped into several shops and All Saints church. Rev. Parker Storey becomes minister of the Independent church in May (to October 1882).
- 1868 11 February: new National school buildings opened by the Bishop of Rochester. 26 September: 11 September: First show of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables held in the National Schoolroom. There have been gardeners' societies in Snodland since that time.
- 1870 Severe drought. 8 September: severe gale, four poplars on Brook blown down. Testing of Channel Tunnel boring machine at Lee's pit (*Times*: 22-9-1870).
- 1871 2 April: census: 1844 inhabitants; males 957; females 887; houses inhabited 349; houses uninhabited 19; houses building 6. C. T. Hook requested lease of two acres of Brook; signed 22 January 1872. Many children died from bronchitis and

- fever. Further repairs to All Saints church. Formation of Snodland, Birling, and Halling Provident Maternity Society
- 1872 28 April: Charles Townsend Hook bought the British Schools at auction, and Frederick Howard Bird appointed schoolmaster (to 1875). January: confirmation of abolition of Snodland Fair. Three new bells added at All Saints church.
- 1873 Open air preaching by the Methodists began in Snodland. 24 August: murder of P.C. May
- 1874 Snodland Working Men's Club formed: meetings were held in the National Schoolroom. John Walter Parrington becomes curate at Snodland (to 1880).
- 1875 First meetings to consider proposals for a bridge over the Medway at Snodland. James Dickenson becomes schoolmaster at the British Schools.
- 1876 19 October: Odd Fellows society formed and met at Monk's Head
- 1877 9 January: opening of Snodland Working Men's Club building: the Institute. 11 February. Death of Charles Townsend Hook; February: serious flooding. 19 March: agreement to create a footpath between the Bull Hotel and Holborough. 14 November: laying of foundation stone of Primitive Methodist Chapel in Malling Road
- 1878 Footpath added to Holborough Road, paid for by public subscription at a cost of £290. Gas lighting for the parish - at the expense of the Misses Hook. October: Turnpike toll-house pulled down. Clock tower completed in memory of Charles Townsend Hook. 17 December: final meeting to wind up the affairs of the Toll Road.
- 1879 23 January: first concert of Snodland Choral Society (extant until 1882). Soap/oil factory constructed north of All Saints church.
- 1880 Walter Rumble, income tax and rates collector, absconded with parish funds to the value of £270. Josiah Marling Apperley becomes curate at Snodland (to 1884)
- 1881 10 February: old Bull Inn pulled down; present building erected to provide a wider roadway. c.March: proposal for a direct railway line from Snodland to Gravesend. 11 July: major fire at Veles, the old manor house by All Saints church, which caused its demolition. 29 September: death of William Lee. 14 October: violent gale caused major destruction. 17 December: Temperance Rooms opened in May Street. Laying of foundation stone of New Jerusalem church by Agnes Hook, deputising for her mother, who was gravely ill.
- 1882 June 27: consecration of New Jerusalem Church. Mr Garner becomes master of the National School (to 1884) because Tom Hilder was appointed as Assistant Overseer.

# APPENDICES

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SNODLAND: STATISTICS: ALL SAINTS PARISH REGISTERS

Year	Bap.	Mar.	Bur.	50+	16-50	2-15	under 2	Population
1841	10	1	11	6	3	0	2	500
1842	18	3	8	5	0	0	3	
1843	15	0	4	3	0	0	1	
1844	16	2	8	1	3	1	3	
1845	25	1	12	3	3	2	4	
1846	12	0	13	6	1	2	4	
1847	20	2	9	2	4	1	2	
1848	20	2	10	2	3	2	3	
1849	15	0	10	2	4	1	3	
1850	22	1	10	5	4	0	1	
	173	12	95	35	25	9	26	
1851	15	4	15	3	4	3	5	617
1852	26	4	6	2	1	2	1	
1853	19	1	12	2	5	4	1	
1854	22	8	11	4	3	1	3	
1855	29	3	19	10	3	4	2	
1856	38	3	11	3	0	3	5	
1857	34	8	10	3	2	0	5	
1858	22	3	21	6	5	4	6	
1859	35	4	24	4	2	8	10	
1860	24	4	11	4	3	1	3	
	264	42	140	41	28	30	41	
1861	39	4	21	12	5	3	1	1077
1862	32	9	16	3	7	2	4	
1863	47	10	26	7	2	12	5	
1864	50	8	24	5	3	6	10	
1865	66	13	29	6	7	5	11	
1866	71	10	20	5	4	4	7	
1867	75	13	29	6	8	3	12	
1868	93	11	30	6	5	6	13	
1869	60	4	15	2	2	1	10	
1870	67	6	31	5	8	2	16	
	600	88	241	57	51	44	89	
1871	69	10	31	8	10	5	8	1844
1872	63	8	36	4	5	8	19	
1873	73	3	19	9	4	3	3	
1874	70	12	31	9	4	5	13	
1875	60	7	45	7	12	12	14	
1876	74	6	30	5	5	4	16	
1877	67	7	32	12	5	4	11	
1878	88	9	40	8	11	5	16	
1879	78	13	45	10	9	12	14	
1880	101	10	34	15	3	3	13	
	743	85	343	87	68	61	127	
1881	93	16	34	13	8	8	5	2826

STATISTICS: HALLING: ST JOHN PARISH REGISTERS

Year	Bap.	Mar.	Bur.	50+	16-50	2-15	under 2	Population
1841	25	0	10	1	3	2	4	448
1842	12	0	9	2			7	
1843	21	3	4	2			2	
1844	17	1	14	3	5	2	4	
1845	21	2	10	2	1	3	4	
1846	18	4	9	5	2		2	
1847	10	2	7		2		5	
1848	19	2	10	2	4	1	3	
1849	19	4	8		4	2	2	
1850	20	1	3	1	1		1	
	182	19	84	18	22	10	34	
1851	21	1	9	4	1		4	550
1852	22	2	12	1	3	3	5	
1853	14	1	5	1	1		3	
1854	14	1	7		4	1	2	
1855	16	3	7	2	1	1	3	
1856	12	1	9	2	5	1	1	
1857	22	2	16	2	6	2	6	
1858	23	2	15	5	2	3	5	
1859	27	0	14	2	3	1	8	
1860	21	4	10	2	4	1	3	
	192	17	104	21	30	13	40	
1861	15	6	16	2	2	7	5	764
1862	27	4	14	2	8		4	
1863	32	5	15	2	4		9	
1864	32	5	11		2	6	3	
1865	36	5	10	1	4	4	1	
1866	26	6	20	6	4	2	8	
1867	36	5	18	9	2	1	6	
1868	34	7	16	3	3	5	5	
1869	21	3	12	5	1	4	2	
1870	30	3	15	5	4	3	3	
	227	49	147	35	34	32	46	
1871	21	1	10	3	4		3	838
1872	27	6	8	3		2	3	
1873	26	1	17	2	5	4	6	
1874	26	1	14	5	4	3	2	
1875	26	1	36	6	7	15	8	
1876	25	3	6	1	1	1	3	
1877	25	9	11	1	1	4	5	
1878	27	11	12	4	2	1	5	
1879	36	6	12	2	3	1	6	
1880	36	7	31	8	6	3	14	
	275	44	157	35	33	34	55	
1881	36	4	21	7	3	2	9	1306

STATISTICS: BURHAM: ST MARY PARISH REGISTERS

Year	Bap.	Mar.	Bur.	50+	16-50	2-15	under 2	Population
1841	7	2	4		2	1	1	287
1842	8	0	3	1	1		1	
1843	9	2	4	1	2	1		
1844	13	5	5	1	2		2	
1845	7	4	6	3	3			
1846	16	4	3		2		1	
1847	7	6	7	1	2	3	1	
1848	17	4	9	4	3		2	
1849	11	4	6	1	2		3	
1850	14	2	12	1	3	6	2	
	109	33	59	13	22	11	13	
1851	14	3	4	2	1		1	380
1852	17	6	8	4	3	1		
1853	19	4	13	3	4	4	2	
1854	27	3	16	3	5	2	6	
1855	24	2	10	2	5	1	6	
1856	17	3	8	1	2	1	3	
1857	19	2	9	3	3		3	
1858	28	5	12	1	4	3	4	
1859	31	1	19	3	7	6	3	
1860	23	2	12	3	5		4	
	219	31	111	25	39	18	32	
1861	41	6	12	4	4	1	3	518
1862	32	4	8	1	3	4		
1863	46	3	17	4	5	1	7	
1864	38	2	19	6	3	4	6	
1865	45	11	20	10	2	1	7	
1866	49	10	24	3	7	1	13	
1867	44	12	13	5	4		4	
1868	63	1	18	4	5	1	8	
1869	63	2	28	4	8	9	7	
1870	41	1	19	3	5	3	8	
	462	52	178	44	46	25	63	
1871	50	5	14	5	4		5	773
1872	54	7	14	3	2		9	
1873	67	3	12	1	3	1	7	
1874	63	3	21	5	4	3	9	
1875	57	6	44	7	6	20	11	
1876	47	6	39	10	6	12	11	
1877	52	4	27	7	5	7	8	
1878	48	12	17	5	6		6	
1879	60	5	16	4	3	4	5	
1880	57	11	28	6	3	8	11	
	555	61	232	53	42	55	82	
1881	51	5	12	2	4	2	4	1172

STATISTICS: WOULDHAM: ALL SAINTS PARISH REGISTERS

Year	Bap.	Mar.	Bur.	50+	16-50	2-15	under 2	Population
1841	14	0	6		3	2	1	247
1842	7	1	6	2			4	
1843	16	1	10	3		2	5	
1844	11	0	4	2	3	3		
1845	12	0	3			3		
1846	11	3	7	2	3	1	1	
1847	18	1	8	1	1	3	3	
1848	5	2	9		4	3	2	
1849	17	1	8	3	4	1		
1850	9	1	5	2		2	1	
	120	10	66	15	18	20	17	
1851	12	1	7		4	1	2	284
1852	13	3	5	2	1	1	1	
1853	15	6	5	2	1		2	
1854	6	1	7	1	3	2	1	
1855	10	3	9	2	3	1	3	
1856	10	3	8		3		5	
1857	13	3	9	5	2		2	
1858	16	4	12	2	5		5	
1859	10	3	6	2		2	2	
1860	19	3	6	2	2		2	
	124	30	74	18	24	7	25	
1861	20	1	6	1			5	343
1862	25	4	10	2	2	3	3	
1863	17	5	13	3	4	1	5	
1864	13	1	6	3		1	2	
1865	22	1	4	2			2	
1866	11	1	6		1	1	4	
1867	25	5	8	5	3			
1868	23	4	15	3	3	3	6	
1869	18	2	11	1	3	5	2	
1870	30	4	20	8	3	2	7	
	204	29	99	28	19	16	36	
1871	33	4	13	2	5	1	5	433
1872	34	6	14	1	3	1	9	
1873	33	6	22	2	8	5	7	
1874	31	6	16	1	2	3	10	
1875	38	2	18	4	5	1	8	
1876	46	2	18	3	2	9	4	
1877	45	6	21	7	4	2	8	
1878	38	5	24	4	8	2	10	
1879	51	5	12	3	1	1	7	
1880	46	7	21	5	3	6	7	
	395	49	174	32	41	31	75	
1881	50	6	18	5	5	3	5	818

STATISTICS: CUXTON: ST MICHAEL PARISH REGISTERS

Year	Bap.	Mar.	Bur.	50+	16-50	2-15	under 2	Population
1841	17	2	5		1	1	3	376
1842	12	1	5	3		1	1	
1843	21	1	8	5	1	1	1	
1844	9	1	6	1	2	2	1	
1845	14	3	10	3	6		1	
1846	16	5	11	2	4	1	4	
1847	10	1	16	8	2	4	2	
1848	15	3	9	1	5	2	1	
1849	10	1	6	1	3		2	
1850	13	2	3	1	1	1		
	137	20	79	25	25	13	16	
1851	13	1	8	2	1	3	2	374
1852	13	1	4	3			1	
1853	11	5	18	9	2	2	5	
1854	15		13	4	4	1	4	
1855	11	1	9	2	4	1	2	
1856	8	2	6	1	2		3	
1857	18	2	15	3	7	3	2	
1858	16	5	16	6	1	3	6	
1859	14	3	12	3	4	2	3	
1860	18	6	8	2	2	1	3	
	137	26	109	35	27	16	31	
1861	16	1	7	2	2	1	2	441
1862	18	7	7	2		1	4	
1863	24	6	11	2	4	2	3	
1864	18	2	6	3	3			
1865	18	9	10	2	2	5	1	
1866	18	2	14	3	6	1	4	
1867	10	3	5	2	1	1	1	
1868	18	3	9	3		1	5	
1869	16	3	7	3	1	1	2	
1870	22	4	7	3	2		2	
	178	40	83	25	21	13	24	
1871	21	3	8	3	3		2	421
1872	13	4	14	8	2	3	1	
1873	15	2	10	6	1		3	
1874	19	3	6	2	1	2	1	
1875	17	6	17	12	2	1	2	
1876	26	4	11	3	3	1	4	
1877	21	3	10	5		1	3	
1878	22		15	6	4	2	3	
1879	16	2	8	4	1	1	2	
1880	25	2	16	7	5	1	3	
	195	29	115	56	22	12	24	
1881	20	1	5	4	1			393



## Census occupations

Having embarked on compiling these lists I am somewhat uneasy in tabling the results. Individual enumerators show no consistency in labelling the occupations and my original aim to work out percentages has been abandoned as worthless. 'Labourer', entered without further detail, means many unskilled workers cannot be assigned to a particular task or place. 'Agricultural labourer' is more secure, but here includes other labels like 'farm servant', or 'waggoner'. 'Chalk', 'Cement' and 'Lime' labourers are useful and, at least in some cases, may denote more precise work: 'chalk lab.' for those at the cliff face, 'cement lab.' for a works like Lee's which had begun producing Portland cement in the 1860s, and 'lime lab.' for those still using traditional methods. This is only a guess, but some lists include all three terms. At the paper mill 'labourers' were assigned to different departments and presumably were not involved in the actual paper production. Although some lists even record individual departments, elsewhere all those involved in the process of creating paper are listed under 'paper maker'. Later lists for both paper and cement show persons involved in mechanical or engineering aspects: 'engine driver', 'engine fitter', 'engineer', and so on, so these are shown separately where possible. However not all can be attached to particular factories. Owners, administrators and clerks may have their own entry. Where two occupations appear for one person, both are shown separately: 'bricklayer and beer retailer'

### Notes on other entries:

Annuitant and Independent usually refer to retired professionals. 'Pensioners' usually refers to retired army or navy personnel.

'Proprietor of Houses', when listed, shows those who owned/built property

Beer: licensed victuallers and beer retailers are grouped together under 'beer', but bar workers are listed under 'shop assistants/bar workers'.

Coopers were an important element in cement production and most in these parishes would have been engaged in making casks for cement rather than beer.

Domestic servants (female) list those not given a particular occupation, but e.g. 'cook', 'housemaid', 'nursemaid' are shown separately when named as such

Male servants are treated similarly. 'Groom' includes all others working with horses, apart from waggoners and carters.

'Clergy' groups all denominations together

'Schoolteacher' includes all in authority, including pupil teachers and monitors

All postal and railway workers are grouped

All shop assistants and those serving in pubs are grouped together, but those in charge as 'butcher', 'draper', etc. have their own entry

Market gardeners/fruiterers, 'hawker' and 'dealer' are grouped together.

## Snodland: occupations from censuses

Occupation	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Agricultural Labourer	64	59	52	54	45
Annuitant; gentleman/woman; pensioner	15	3	3	2	11
Baker	1	1	1	5	6
Barge owner	1		1		
Barge builder; shipwright; ship carpenter			3		5
Bargeman; waterman; lighterman			6	13	31
Basket maker				1	1
Beer retailer; victualler	2	4	4	10	12
Blacksmith	4	4	9	10	9
Book sewer book binder				3	
Boot and shoe maker; cordwainer	2	4	3	4	6
Brickfield carter			1		
Brickfield labourer			4	1	
Bricklayer	1	3	13	15	33
Bricklayer's labourer	1	1	10	4	9
Brickmaker			1		1
Builder				1	2
Butcher	2	2	4	3	8
Butler				1	2
Cab driver					1
Cabinet maker			1		
Carman; carrier	2		9	5	5
Carpenter; joiner; turner	4	4	10	11	26
Cow keeper					1
Cement burner				3	1
Cement works clerk					3
Cement works engine driver			1		
Cement works foreman				1	
Cement grinder				1	
Cement works kiln filler			1		
Cement labourer			16	46	31
Cement maker			1	2	
Cement miller					4
Cement works sack maker and mender			1		
Cement works stoker					1
Cement tester					1
Cement merchant; manager; agent	1				2
Chalk labourer; chalk digger		3	29	20	6
Chalk works carter			1		
Chalk works foreman					1
Chalk works stoker					1
Charwoman		1	3	2	4
Chelsea Pensioner; dockyard pensioner			3	2	1
Chemist					2

Occupation	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Clergy		1	3	3	3
Clerk (Commercial)	1			3	8
Coachman		1		2	7
Coal carter			2		1
Coal dealer					2
Coal heaver; carrier		2	4	6	
Coal merchant	1	1	1	1	5
Coke breaker; coke burner			1	4	1
Companion					1
Confectioner			1		3
Cook		2		4	7
Cooper; hoop maker			1	12	30
Corn merchant				1	1
Corn miller					1
Dairy; cow keeper		1	3	6	6
Delivery Officer; tax collector (1861)	1		1		
Domestic servant (female); lady's maid	14	8	19	40	62
Domestic servant (male)	6	1	2	1	5
Draper			1	3	4
Dressmaker; milliner; sempstress; needlewoman; Tailoress; lace maker	1	9	16	13	20
Engine Driver				7	9
Engine fitter/smith; engine stoker			4	10	11
Errand boy		1		1	4
Farm bailiff	1	2	4	6	4
Farmer	6	5	2	2	3
Ferryman		1		2	5
Flower pot maker					1
Footman		1	1		3
Fruit salesman; hawker; market gardener	1	1	1	7	1
Gardener	1	4	8	12	11
Gas maker				2	
Gate maker			2		
General dealer		3		1	
General labourer	2	1	5	46	376
Glazier (master)			1	1	
Governess			1	2	4
Greengrocer			1		1
Grocer	4	2	5	9	11
Groom; horse work; ostler; saddler		4	2	3	2
Hairdresser				1	
Hop pole merchant		1			
Housekeeper		7	6	7	11
Housemaid		11	3	4	5
Insurance agent					1
Ironmonger				1	2
Laundress; washerwoman;		1	14	8	10

Occupation	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Lime burner	3		9	5	8
Lime works labourer	15	58	23	48	1
Lime works barge loader			4		
Lime works carter			2		
Lime works engine driver		2			
Lime works kiln filler			1	1	
Lime works manager		2	2	2	
Midwife			1	1	1
Miller and assistants (corn mill)	2	2	3	3	
Millwright			2	3	4
Nightwatchman				2	2
Nurse		4	1	7	6
Nursemaid		4	3	1	
Painter; decorator			3	3	5
Paper mill owners; manager		1	3	1	4
Paper mill alkali maker			1		
Paper mill bleacher			3		
Paper mill carman				1	
Paper mill charger					1
Paper mill clerk				1	1
Paper mill cutter; straw cutter		2	2	2	2
Paper mill engine driver			3	1	
Paper mill engineer; millwright; machine man/boy		4	6	2	1
Paper mill finisher			4		2
Paper mill foreman			1	1	2
Paper glazer			13	1	4
Paper labourer	1		15	46	10
Paper maker	23	29	4	42	45
Paper mill loader					1
Paper mill machine man; boy				1	2
Paper rag cutter/boiler		1		1	5
Paper mill marking ruler/ruling machine				2	
Paper mill shaving picker				1	
Paper mill sheet layer			8	3	
Paper sorter				2	3
Paper mill stoker					2
Paper mill storekeeper				1	
Paper straw boiler			2		2
Plasterer					2
Plumber			1	2	3
Police			1	1	
Postal employee				3	2
Printer				1	4
Proprietor of houses		1	7	4	
Railway employee			3	6	9
Relieving Officer and Registrar		1	1		

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>
Rush picker				1	3
Sail maker			1	2	4
Sailor; mariner		1		2	3
Sawyer				3	1
Schoolteacher	2	1	7	9	19
Scrivener	1				
Shepherd		1	4	3	3
Shopkeeper		1			
Shop or pub assistants		2	6	9	23
Stationer					1
Stoker				3	6
Storekeeper					3
Surgeon; general practitioner; +assistants				2	4
Tailor	1			1	3
Tallow chandler	1				
Tea dealer				2	
Thatcher				1	2
Toll gate keeper	1			1	
Toy shop keeper					1
Watchmaker				1	1
Wheelwright			4	4	1
Woodreeve; woodman	1		1		
Census population	500	625	1078	1844	2826
Percentage increase on 1841		25%	116%	269%	465%

## Halling: Occupations from censuses 1841-1881

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>
Agricultural labourer	30	72	53	49	38
Annuitant; pensioner	3	1			1
Baker		1		1	2
Barge builder; ship builder/carpenter			6	2	2
Bargeman; waterman			2	1	2
Barge owner		1			
Beer seller; victualler	3	2	2	5	9
blacksmith	1	4	2	2	4
Boot and shoe maker	4	1		2	
Bricklayer			4		6
Bricklayer's lab			7	3	4
Butcher		1		1	
Carpenter; joiner	1		2	1	5
Carrier; carter			1	1	4
Cement cooper			2		
Cement miller			1	1	3
Cement sack mender					1
Cement works engine driver				2	
Cement works foreman					3
Cement works labourer			14	34	79
Cement works night watchman			1		
Cement works stoker				1	
Chalk labourer			64	35	43
Chalk works horse driver				1	
Charcoal burner					1
Charwoman				6	3
Chelsea Pensioner					2
Clergy			1	1	1
Clerk (industrial)					1
Coachman					1
Coal merchant				1	
Coke burner			2		
Cook		1			2
Cooper			2	2	5
Dairy				1	
Dealer; hawker				5	2
Domestic servant (female)	9	8	6	10	17
Domestic servant (male)	1	1	2	1	1
Dressmaker; lace maker; sempstress; milliner			5	5	4
Engine driver			3		10
Engine smith; fitter			1		1
Farmer	2	3	2	3	2
Farm bailiff	2	2	2	4	3

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>
Ferryman		1		1	1
Gamekeeper		1	1	1	1
Gardener	1	1		1	2
General Labourer	107	107			86
Governess		1			
Gravel pit labourer			1		
Grocer	1	1	2	1	3
Groom; horse work		4	3	4	9
Handicraft	1				
Housekeeper	1	1	2		8
Housemaid			1		1
Laundress		3	1		2
Lawyer			1		
Lime burner		3	9	12	4
Lime works engine driver				2	
Lime works foreman		1		2	
Lime works labourer			30	66	44
Lime works manager		2		2	3
Machine maker			1		
Nurse		2			1
Nursemaid					1
Painter					1
Paper mill worker			3		1
Pensioner					1
Police			1	1	2
Post worker				1	1
Proprietor of Land and houses		1	1		
Railway employee			4	6	4
Road mender			1		
Sack maker; mender			1		2
Sail maker		2	2	1	
Sawyer			1		2
Schoolteacher	1	1		2	7
Shepherd				1	
Shopkeeper				1	3
Shop assistant		1	1	1	3
Shepherd					1
Stoker					1
Storekeeper					1
Thatcher			2		
Wheelwright	5	5	2		2
Winnowing machine maker				1	
Woodman; wood cutter			1	3	3
Census population	448	550	760	838	1306
Percentage increase from 1841		22.8	69.6	87.1	191.5

### Burham: Occupations from censuses: 1841-1881

Occupation	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Ag. Lab.		84	50	63	45
Baker			1	5	2
Barber				1	
Bargeman					6
Barge owner	1				
Beerhouse keeper; licensed victualler		4	8	9	11
Blacksmith	2	2		3	3
Boot and Shoe; cordwainer		1	6	4	3
Brazier		2			
Brick burner; maker; finisher		3	7	1	2
Bricklayer			3		3
Bricklayer's lab				1	
Brickworks foreman				2	
Brickworks/brickfield labourer		3	74	63	35
builder	1		1		
butcher		1	2	3	
Carpenter; joiner		2	2	1	8
Carrier; carter			12	3	6
Cement burner					1
Cement foreman					5
Cement lab			8	39	43
Cement miller			4		1
Chalk lab.		52	3	71	46
Charcoal burner			1		
Clergy		1	1	1	2
Clerk (commercial)			1	4	2
Coal industry				1	3
Companion				1	
Cook			1	1	
Cooper					5
Dealer				2	1
Domestic servant (female)	8	9	10	9	33
Domestic servant (male)	5	3	2	4	2
Draper					3
Dress maker; lace maker; shirt maker			7	8	11
Engine Driver; fitter		1	8		6
Farm bailiff		1	3	1	
Farmer	6	4	9	2	6
Fisherman					3
Independent/retired/annuitant	3	1			1
Gamekeeper				1	
Gardener	1			2	2
General Labourer	96		13	7	147
Governess			1	1	
Grocer		2	4	5	7



<b>Occupation</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>
Groom; horse work			3	1	3
Hardwareman			1		
House owners		1	1	1	4
Housekeeper			7	5	7
Housemaid				1	2
Landlady			1		
Laundress			1	6	1
Lime burner	3	7	7	5	7
Lime works foreman			1	1	
Lime labourer; loader		1	62	30	34
Maltster	2				
Marine (Royal)			1		
Medical botanist				1	
Messenger (office boy)			2		1
Miller				3	
Miner				2	
Nurse; midwife			2	1	3
Nursemaid					1
Parish clerk		1			
Pensioner (ex forces)	1				1
Painter					1
Paper mill					2
police			1	1	2
potter		11			
Sack mender					2
Sail maker; shipwright; barge builder				1	5
Sailor; seaman	1			1	
Sawyer			1	1	2
Schoolteacher	1		1	5	6
shepherd			2	3	2
shopkeeper				3	4
Shopkeeper's assistant; bar worker		2	1	4	5
Steam boat labourer		1			
steward					1
stoker			1	2	5
surveyor					1
Tanner	1				
Thatcher and hay binder				1	
Tile maker		1		1	
Time keeper					1
Wheelwright		2	4	7	1
Woodcutter	1				1
Census population	380	518	775	1172	1353
Percentage increase from 1841		36.3	104	208.4	256

## Wouldham: Occupations from Censuses 1841-1881

Occupation	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Ag lab	66	64	40	33	46
Army (Royal Engineers)					1
Baker				1	1
Bargeman; mariner		3	1	7	6
Barge builder				2	
Beerhouse keeper; victualler	1	1	2	4	5
Blacksmith	2	4	3	7	9
Boot and shoe maker	1		1	1	1
Brickfield labourer				1	5
Bricklayer				3	2
Bricklayer's lab					7
Brickmaker					2
Builder					1
Butcher			1	1	3
Butler					1
Caretaker					1
Carpenter; joiner			1	3	7
Carrier; carter			6	3	3
Cement burner; maker			1	2	3
Cement works foreman				2	1
Cement lab			6	20	115
Cement manager				1	1
Cement miller				2	3
Cement works stoker				1	
Chalk lab		1	18	7	47
Chalk works foreman				1	
Charwoman				3	4
Clergy		1	1	1	1
Clerk	1			1	2
Coachman				1	
Coal burner			1		
Coastguard		1			
Coke burner				2	6
Companion					2
Cook			1	4	4
Cooper				9	12
Domestic servant (female)	12	12	8	8	14
Domestic servant (male)		6	3		3
Draper				1	
Dressmaker; tailoress; lace maker		1		5	3
Engine Driver				2	8
Engine fitter			1	1	5
Errand boy				1	
Farm bailiff		1		1	1

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>
Farmer	4	5	2	2	3
Game Keeper				1	1
Gardener		1		2	3
Gate keeper					1
General labourer			1	119	56
Governess			1		1
Grocer	1	1	3	3	3
Groom; horse work		1	1	2	2
Hay binder		1			
Housekeeper		3	3	2	6
Housemaid			1	3	5
Independent; annuitant	2			2	
Iron moulder					1
Laundress			1		2
Lime burner		4	4	8	11
Lime works labourer	9	27		7	24
Lime works manager; owner		2		1	
Lodging house keeper		1			
Maltster	1	1			
Merchant (Cement and lime)					1
Midwife			1		
Miller (corn)				1	2
Nurse				1	1
Nursemaid		1		2	3
Police				1	2
Postal employee					1
Railway employee					3
Sailor; mariner				2	
Sawyer				1	
Schoolteacher		2		5	3
Shepherd		2	3		3
Shopkeeper					3
Shop assistant		1		1	1
Time manager and stock keeper					1
Watchman				1	
Wheelwright		2	1	3	4
Census population	284	343	438	818	1268
Percentage increase on 1841		20.8	54.2	188	346.5

## Cuxton: Occupations from censuses

occupations	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Agricultural labourer	112	94	81	82	64
Annuitant; independent; pensioner	11	2	3		
Army contractor					1
Baker		3		3	3
Barge owner	1				
Beer retailer; victualler	1	1	2	1	1
Blacksmith	2	4	6	7	5
Boot and shoe maker		1	1	1	
Bricklayer					2
Brickmaker		2	9	1	
Brickmaker's labourer		2	6	8	
Carpenter	1		3		
Carter			11		
Cement labourer			4	6	15
Cement miller			1		1
Cement works engine driver			2	2	2
Cement works horse driver					1
Chalk labourer			3	4	4
Charwoman		2		2	2
Coachman			1		
Confectioner			1	1	
Cook			3	2	1
Clerk (commercial)					1
Clergy	1	1	1	1	1
Domestic servant (female)	12	9	6	10	11
Domestic servant (male)		7	4	1	
Dressmaker		1	1	2	1
Farm bailiff		3	3	3	4
Farmer	2	3	3	2	
Gamekeeper	2	2		3	2
Gardener	1	2	4	3	4
Gate maker		1	2	2	1
General labourer					24
Grocer	1			1	
Groom; horse work		1	3	2	1
Housekeeper		2	6		2
Housemaid			3	7	2
Laundress		2	6	1	1
Lime burner		2	3	5	1
Lime labourer		4	1	3	2
Lime loader					1
Market Gardener				1	
Nurse		1	1		
Nursemaid			1		
Out servant		1			
Parish Clerk	1	1	1		

occupations	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Police				1	1
Postal employee				1	
Railway employee			2	3	5
Sawyer			1		
Schoolteacher		2	2	2	2
Shepherd				2	2
Shop or pub assistant				2	
Tool manufacturer			1		
Wheelwright	2	2	2	3	2
Wood ranger			2	1	

### Comparative lists for Birling, Cuxton, Aylesford and East Malling

Four neighbouring parishes are shown below for comparison. The Whorne's Place cement works straddling Halling and Cuxton had little impact in the latter parish. Workers from Aylesford were drawn to Thomas Cubitt's brick-making and cement works, particularly in the mid-part of the century. East Malling had its own paper mills, but there was no industry within Birling parish, although a few workers walked to places like Snodland paper mill. However, the growth of the Ham Hill community adjacent to Snodland fed both the paper and cement factories towards the end of the century.

BIRLING					
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Census population	511	620	682	718	884
% increase from 1841		21.33	29.54	40.50	72.99
CUXTON					
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Census population	376	374	441	421	383
% increase from 1841		0.53	17.20	11.96	4.52
AYLESFORD					
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Census population	1344	1437	2057	2100	2719
% increase from 1841		10.6	53.0	56.3	102.0
EAST MALLING					
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Census population	1578	1741	1974	2077	2583
% increase from 1841		10.32	25.09	31.62	63.63

## SNODLAND CEMENT WORKERS 1841-1881

These names and details are mostly gleaned from the censuses. Nearly all worked at Holborough; most were labourers with no particular skills in cement production.

**ADAMS, George.** c.1836-? b. Thame, Oxfordshire; lime lab., 1871-81

**ADAMS, William.** c.1815-1854; b. Milton; lime lab., 1841-51

**ALLCHIN, Richard.** c.1822- ; b. Maidstone; lime lab., 1851-61

**ALLWORK, William.** 1833-1917; b. Snodland; coal heaver and filler at lime works, 1861; labourer 1871; chalk worker 1881

**ANDREWS, Edward.** 1839-1905; b. East Peckham; lime lab., 1866-7; railway porter 1868; labourer 1871-81

**ARNOLD, Arthur.** 1842-1904; b. Tring, Herts.; cement lab., 1871-81

**AUSTIN, William.** 1805-?; b. Snodland; lab. in chalk pit, or lime lab. 1841-71; to West Malling by 1881

**AUSTIN, William Henry.** 1857-1939; b. Tenterden; cement lab.; general lab. furnace stoker, cement works 1881-

**AYERS, William.** 1808-?; b. Birling; lime works lab. 1861 (lodging at *Red Lion*)

**BACKHURST, John.** c.1847-1928; b. Boughton Monchelsea; cement lab. 1871-81

**BAKER, James.** c.1815-1891; b. Snodland; cement lab.1841; barge master; carrier; lime lab., coal carrier, cow keeper

**BAKER, John.** 1783-1854; b. Snodland; carter; lime lab. 1841-51

**BAKER, John.** c.1849-; b. Maidstone; cement lab. 1881

**BAKER, John.** c.1825-?; b. Birling; lime lab. 1851; to Frindsbury by 1881

**BALDWIN, William.** c.1849-?; b.Plaxtol; lime lab. 1871 (lodger)

**BANKS, William.** c.1818-1861; b. Birling; lime lab. 1851; gentleman's gardener 1861

**BANNER, Edwatd.** c.1811-1895 b. Eastchurch, Sheerness; lime lab. 1841-81

**BANNER, Edward.** 1838-1888; b. Eastchurch, Sheerness; cement lab 1861-81

**BARDEN, Amos.** c.1841-?; b. Strood; lime lab 1871

**BARNAM, John.** c.1817-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851

**BARNDEN, Walter Henry.** C.1854-?; b.Snodland; cement lab. 1871

**BASSETT, John.** c.1835-?; b. Plaxtol; lab. alkali dept, paper mill 1861; barge trimmer 1871; cement works lab. 1881; bricklayer's lab. 1891

**BEADLE, Charles.** c.1795-1865; b. Hadlow; labourer 1841; lime lab. 1851; sack maker at cement works 1861

**BEADLE, Charles.** c.1830-1906; b. Hadlow; lime lab. 1851; foreman Lee's lime works Burham 1881

**BEADLE, Edward Humphrey.** c.1826-1902; b. Hadlow; chalk digger 1861, chalk lab. 1871, foreman of chalk works 1881

**BEADLE, George.** c.1840-?; b.Halling; lime works lab. 1861

**BEADLE, Henry.** c.1830-?; b. Hadlow; lime lab. 1851

**BEADLE, Henry.** c.1838-?; b. Wrotham; chalk works lab 1871, chalk works lab. at Burham 1881

**BEADLE, Walter Allan.** 1857-1903; b. Snodland; engine driver 1881

**BEADLE, William.** c.1864-1945; b. Wrotham; lab. at chalk works 1881

**BENNETT, George.** c.1851-1904; b. Wrotham; cement lab. 1881

**BENNETT, John Thomas.** c.1845-?; b. Plaxtol; cement lab. 1871; to Otford by 1881

**BISHOP, Henry Charles.** c.1854-?; b. East Peckham; cement lab. 1871 (lodger)

**BODKIN, Matthew Henry.** c.1830-1896; b. Wateringbury; cement lab. 1871

**BRADSHAW, John.** c.1820-?; b. Bedworth, Warwickshire; engine driver, cement works 1861

**BRANN, John.** 1837-1876; b. Snodland; cement grinder 1871

**BRANN, William.** 1809-?; b. West Malling; lime lab. 1861

**BROOK, Thomas.** c.1826-? b. Maidstone; lime lab. 1851

**BROOKER, Henry.** c.1860-1913; b. Hoxton; chalk lab. 1881

**BROOKER, Thomas.** 1823-?; b. Chelsea; cement lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**BROWN, Thomas.** c.1802-1880; b. Maidstone; cement lab. 1871

**BUDD, Henry.** c.1837-?; b. Ryarsh/West Malling; chalk digger 1861,

**BUGGS, Richard.** c.1842-1872; b. Meopham; cement lab. 1871

**BURGESS, Solomon.** 1807-1877; b. Snodland; barge loader 1861

**BURREN, James.** c.1818-?; b. Boxley; cement lab. 1871

**BURSTOW, William.** c.1804-1860; b. Sussex; Lim lab. 1851

**BUSHELL, David.** c.1844-?; b. Mertsam, Surrey; chalk lab. 1871

**CAPON, James.** c.1815-?; b. Halling; agricultural lab. 1841; chalk pit lab. 1851-61

**CAPON, John.** 1821-1877; b. Ryarsh; lime lab. 1851

**CAPON, John.** c.1784-?; b ?; lime lab. 1841

**CAPON, William.** 1845-?; b. Snodland; paper mill lab. 1861, lime lab. 1871; to Otford by 1881

**CASTLE, Thomas.** c.1834-? b. Halling; cement works manager 1881; to Reliance Portland Cement Co., Strood by 1890

**CATT, John.** 1821-?; b. Tudely; chalk digger 1861

**CHALKLEN, Daniel.** c.1863-?; b. Burham; chalk lab. 1881

**CHANTLER, Peter.** c.1857-?; b. Tudely; cement tester 1871

**CHANTLER, William.** c.1849-1893; b. Tudely; cement burner 1871

**CHEESEMAN, James.** c.1816-?; b. Yalding; chalk lab. 1871

**CHITTENDEN, George.** c.1816-1901; b. East Malling; lime lab. 1851; chalk digger 1861; coal wharf lab. 1871; chalk lab. 1881

**COOK, John.** c.1820-?; b. Prettywell, Essex; chalk lab. 1871

**CORK, George.** c.1828-?; b. Bearsted; cement works lab. 1861; lab. 1871; cement works lab. 1881

**CORK, William.** c.1831-?; b. Wrotham; cement works lab. 1861 (lodger);

**COSTEN, Thomas Charles.** c.1846-1864; b. Wrotham; cement works lab. 1861

**COULTER, William.** c.1854-?; b. Halling; cement works lab. 1881

**COWEN, Thomas.** c.1847-?; b. Maidstone; cement lab. 1871

**CRAPPS, James.** c.1844-?; b. Yalding; chalk works lab. 1871

**CRAYFORD, Richard.** c.1837-?; b. East Peckham; chalk works lab. (lodger)

**CROWHURST, George.** 1827-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851-61; to Halling

**CROWHURST, James.** 1794-1877; b. Halling; agricultural lab. 1841; lime lab. 1851; road lab. 1861-71

**CROWHURST, James.** 1823-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851, lab. 1861, chalk works lab. 1871, general lab. 1881

**CROWHURST, Thomas.** c.1817-1890; b. Meopham; cement works lab. 1861

**CROWSON, Robert.** c.1835-?; b. Wrotham; cement works lab. 1871-81

**CURLING, George C.** c.1844-?; b. Birling; cement lab. 1871

**CURLING, Robert.** c.1838-?; b. Iwade; lime works lab. 1971

**DARNER, Charles.** c.1824-?; b. Mereworth; lime lab. 1851 (lodger)

**DARTNELL, William.** c.1814-1893; b. Halling; lime lab 1841; chalk lab. 1851; lime works lab. 1861; then tea dealer 1871; grocer 1881

**DAY, Filmer.** c.1854-?; b. Burham; cement lab. 1871

**DAY, James.** c.1831-?; b. St Mary Cray; lime works lab. 1861

**DAY, William.** 1854-?; b. Snodland; cement works clerk 1881; to St Paul Deptford

**DEARING, James.** c.1822-?; b. Plaxtol; cement works lab. 1861; to Wouldham 1871; Cliffe 1881

**DEARING, John.** c.1833-1898; c. Wrotham; chalk digger 1861-71; general lab. 1881

**DENYER, Charles.** c.1823-?; c. Mereworth; lime works lab. 1861-71 (lodger)

**EFFORD, Edward.** 1844-?; b. Snodland; carter at lime works 1861; lime lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**EFFORD, Samuel.** c.1819-?; b. Leybourne; lime lab. 1851; chalk digger 1861; lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**EFFORD, William.** 1811-1881; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1841-51; kiln filler 1861-71; lab. 1881

**EFFORD, William.** 1842-?; b. Snodland; carter at lime works 1861; lime lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**EVANS, William.** c.1821-1896; b. Ealing, London; engineer 1851; engine driver lime works 1871-81

**EYLES, Sidney.** c.1851-?; b. Chute, Wilts.; cement lab. 1871; cement miller 1881-1901

**FAIRMAN, Richard.** c.1820-?; b. Halling; lime lab. 1851

**FAUCETT, Henry.** c.1844-?; c. Yalding; cement lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**FIELDER, John.** 1829-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851

**FIELDER, Thomas.** 1825-?; b. Snodland; cement works lab. 1851-61



**FISHER, William.** c.1821-?; b. Eastchurch; lime works lab. 1861

**FLINT, James.** c.1842-?; b. Capel; cement lab. 1871

**FLINT, Miles.** c.1865-?; b. Capel; coke breaker 1881

**FRANCIS, George.** ?c.1811-?; b. Halling; lime burner 1841

**FREEMAN, William.** c.1832-?; b. East Farleigh; ag. lab. 1851; lime lab. 1861

**GLOVER, Henry.** c.1816-?; b. Boxley; lime lab. 1841; to Halling

**GORHAM, Robert.** c.1827-?; b. Wateringbury; lime works lab. 1861 (lodger)

**GOWAR, Jonathan.** c.1831-1906; b.

**GRAHAM, Richard.** c.1831-?; b. Doddington, Lincs.; cement works lab. 1861

**GRANT, James.** c.1805-1885; b. Stockbridge, Hants.; lime lab. 1851; grocer 1861

**GREEN, George.** c.1855-?; b. Cliffe; cement lab. 1881

**GUNNER, William.** c.1851-1908; b. Ightham; cement lab. 1881

**GURR, William.** c.1827-1910; b. Winchelsea; cement works lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**HARRIS, Henry.** c.1826/31-1916; b. Snodland; lime burner 1851-61

**HAWKS, Charles.** 1828-?; b. Snodland; agricultural lab. 1851; lime works lab. 1861-71; general lab. 1881

**HAWKS, James.** c.1845-1891; b. Snodland; chalk works lab. 1861; engine fitter 1871; general lab. 1881

**HAWKS, John.** 1810-1883; b. Snodland; lime works lab. 1841-61; lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**HAWKS, John.** 1815-1877; b. East Malling; grocer and chalk digger 1861; lime lab. 1871

**HAYLER, Thomas.** 1861-1932; b. Snodland; stoker cement works 1881

**HILDER, George.** 1827-1890; b. Halling; cement lab. 1881

**HILLS, James.** 1839-1899; b. Brasted; chalk lab. 1871

**HODGES, John.** 1848/51-1924; b. West Malling; fireman and stocker at cement works 1881

**HOLT, James.** 1838/43-1916; b. High Wycombe; cement works lab. 1881

**HOOK, John.** c.1829-1890; b. Rotherfield; lime works lab. 1861

**HOW, Thomas.** c.1841-?; b. Ditton; chalk digger 1861 (lodger)

**HUNTER, John.** c.1823-? b. Hunton; cement lab. 1871

**JARVIS, Richard.** c.1837-?; b. Wood Ditton, Cambs.; cement lab. 1871

**JEFFERY, John.** c.1847-1893; b. East Malling; cement works lab. 1871; agricultural lab. 1881

**JENNS, George.** c.1855-?; b. Stratford, Essex; cement lab. 1881

**JESSUP, Amos.** c.1858-?; b. Southfleet; lime burner 1881

**JESSUP, Frederick.** c.1857-?; b. Kingsdown; lime burner 1881

**JOHNSON, Francis.** c.1808-?; b. Cuxton; lime lab. 1851

**JORDAN, Henry.** c.1823-?; b. Bishopsbourne; lime lab. 1851

**JOY, William.** 1845-1901; b. Ryarsh; cement lab. 1871

**JUDGES, Alfred.** c.1840-1926; b. Yalding; lime burner 1881

**JUDGES, John.** c.1838-1915; b. Yalding; cement lab. 1871

**KEMP, William.** 1812-?; b. Snodland; chalk digger 1841-71

**KEMSLEY, John.** 1847-1917; b. Halling; carter at chalk works 1861; lab. 1871; stationary engine driver 1881

**KEMSLEY, William.** 1858-1920; b. Snodland; lime burner 1881

**KIDWELL, Henry.** c.1842-?; b. Ditton; lime works lab. 1871-81

**KNIGHT, Charles.** c.1823-?; b. Canterbury? ; lime lab. 1861; to Burham

**KNIGHT, George.** c.1832-1898; b. Wrotham; cement works lab. 1871-81

**KNIGHT, Henry.** c.1861-?; b. Ryarsh; stoker chalk works 1881

**LAMB, Jesse.** c.1818-?; b. Halling; lime lab. 1851; lighterman 1861; platelayer 1871; general lab. 1881

**LAMBETH, James.** 1816-1903; b. Rochester; chalk lab. 1851-71; general lab. 1881

**LANE, Henry.** 1846-?; b. Meopham; cement lab. 1881

**LARGE, Charles.** 1824-?; b. [E or W?] Peckham; cement lab. 1871

**LARKING, Richard.** 1834-?; b. West Peckham; chalk digger 1861; potman, the Bull 1871

**LAWRENCE, John.** 1811-1876; b. Seal; lime burner 1851-61

**LEE, Samuel.** 1826-1852; b. London; partner in lime works 1851

**LEE, William.** 1801-1881; b. Lewisham; owner of lime and cement works 1841-81

**LEE, William James.** 1864-?; b. Snodland; cement lab. 1881

**LEMAN, John.** 1817-?; b. Snodland; cement works lab. 1841, 1861

**LEMAN, John.** 1841-?; b. Snodland; chalk works lab. 1861-81

**LENHAM, John.** 1834-?; b. Birling; lime lab. 1851

**LENHAM, William.** 1824-?; b. Birling; lime lab. 1851

**LETCHFORD, Charles.** c.1838-?; b. Snodland; foreman of cement works 1871

**LETCHFORD, Charles.** c.1805-?; b. Halling; cement maker 1871

**LINK, Albert.** c.1843-?; b. Bethersden; chalk works lab. 1871

**LIPSCOMBE, Peter.** c.1837-1909; b. Hadlow; cement works lab. 1881

**LOVE, Thomas.** c.1831-?; b. Birling; chalk digger 1861

**MANLEY, George.** 1814-?; b. Snodland; lime lab 1841

**MANLEY, John.** 1817-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1841

**MANLEY, Richard.** 1821-1881; b. Snodland; lime works lab. 1861

**MANNERING, George.** 1842-?; b. Maidstone; lime works lab. 1861

**MARTIN, Alfred.** c.1849-?; b. East Peckham; chalk lab. 1881

**MARTIN, George.** c.1845-?; b. Meopham; lime lab. 1851

**MARTIN, John.** c.1808-1890; b. Farningham; chalk digger 1861

**MARTIN, Silas.** c.1833-?; b. Meopham; lime lab. 1851

**MARTIN, William.** c.1806-?; b. Eynsford; lime lab 1851

**MASTERS, George.** 1817-?; b. Chatham; lime lab, 1851

**MASTERS, John.** 1831-1856; b. Birling; lime lab. 1851

**MATTHEWS, George.** 1850-?; b. Snodland; lime works lab. 1861 (aged 11)

**MATTHEWS, Wiliam.** 1826-?; b. Lewisham; lime burner 1861

**MAYGER, Joseph.** c.1843-?; b. Leeds, Kent; cement lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**MECOY, William.** 1825-1868; b. Maidstone; lime lab. 1851

**MERCER, John.** c.1810-1845; b. ?; lime lab. 1841 (lodger)

**MILLS, John.** c.1861-?; b. Tovil; cement lab. 1881

**MILLS, Joseph.** c.1858-?; b. Halling; cement lab. 1881

**MILLUM, Charles.** c.1837-?; b. Yalding; lime burner 1881

**MONK, Albert.** 1847-1924; b. Snodland; cement miller 1881

**MORRIS, Charles.** c.1843-?; b. Goudhurst; cement lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**MORRIS, James.** c.1857-?; b. Cuxton; cement lab. 1871

**MOTT, Joseph.** c.1841-?; b. Maidstone; cement lb. 1871

**MUDDLE, Thomas.** 1828-?; b. Lewes, Sussex; lime lab. 1851

**NEWMAN, Charles.** c.1828-1899; b. Wrotham; cement lab. 1871

**NORMAN, Walter Henry.** c.1861-1924; b. Plumstead; clerk at cement works 1881

**NOTT, Martin.** c.1807-?; b. Birchington; chalk lab. 1871

**PALMER, John.** c.1841-?; b. Ringshall, Suffolk; chalk digger 1871

**PARKS, William.** c.1842-? b. Greenwich; engine fitter

**PATTEN, Charles.** c.1831-?; b. Colchester, Essex; cement works lab. 1861; cement maker 1871

**PEARSON, William Richard.** 1813-1861; b. Snodland; agricultural lab. 1841; lime lab. 1851; postman and boots at Queens Hotel 1861; died at Malling Union

**PETERS, Edmund.** 1836-1900; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1861, lab. at home 1871, lab. 1881; son of Richard

**PETERS, Frederick.** 1834-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851

**PETERS, James.** c.1810-1889; b. Dorking; lime burner 1841-51; lighterman 1861

**PETERS, James.** c.1832-?; b. Snodland; lime works engine driver 1851; to Burham by 1861

**PETERS, James.** 1831-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851; to Wouldham: retailer of beer and lime burner 1861; son of Richard

**PETERS, John.** c.1811-?; b. Goring, Oxfordshire; lime burner 1851

**PETERS, John.** c.1854-?; b. Snodland; lime burner 1871-81

**PETERS, Joseph.** 1826-1859; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1851; son of Richard

**PETERS, Richard.** 1791-1881; b. Brentwood; grocer 1841, lime lab. 1851, shopkeeper 1861, grocer and dairyman 1871

**PETERS, Thomas.** 1801-1881; b. London; lime burner 1861; Halling 1841-51 and 1871-81

**PETERS, Thomas.** 1838-1914; b. Halling; lime burner 1881; son of Thomas

**PETERS, William.** 1795-1867; b. Aldersgate, London; manager and agent of lime works 1841, farmer in Halling 1851; owner of lime works at Wouldham 1861

**PETERS, William.** 1824-1869; b. Snodland; lime burner 1861; son of William

**PETT, John R.** c.1825-?; b. Margate; cement works lab. 1861

**PHILLIPS, John.** 1817-1871; b. Snodland; lime burner 1841-51, lime burner 1861

**PHILLIPS, Thomas.** 1820-?; b. Snodland; lime lab. 1841-51

**PHILLIPS, William.** c.1823-?; b. East Grinstead/West Hoathly, Sussex; chalk digger 1851-61

**PHYALL, John.** 1838-?; b. Boughton; chalk lab. 1871

**PINK, William.** c.1839; b. Kemsing; had an accident at Peters' Works 9 October 1869; became town carrier and parish constable 1871 census.

**PLUMMER, Henry.** 1843-1929; b. North Cray; lime burner 1881

**RAND, James.** c.1842-1920; b. Pendon, Essex; cement lab 1881

**RAVEN, Henry.** 1826-1908; b. Chelsea; clerk to lime works 1861-81

**RAYNER, George.** 1823-?; b. Thoyndon, Essex; lime lab. 1851

**RAYNER, William.** 1845-?; b. Stefford, Essex; lime works lab. 1861; engine driver of chalk waggons 1871

**RAYNER, William G.** 1823-?; b. Royden, Essex; lime works lab. in machine dept. 1861

**ROOTS, James.** c.1841-?; b. Luddesdown; chalk pit lab. 1861

**ROOTS, William.** c.1841-?; b. Boughton Malherbe; cement works lab. 1871; to Halling by 1881

**RUSSELL, Thomas.** c.1830-1872; b. Ash; chalk digger 1861, general dealer 1871

**SAUNDERS, Samuel.** 1844-?; b. Brenchley; cement lab. 1871

**SIMPSON, John.** 1838-?; b. Meopham; cement lab. 1871

**STEVENS, John.** 1841-?; b. East Peckham; chalk lab. 1871

**STEVENS, Richard.** 1835-?; b. East Peckham; chalk lab. 1871

**STEVENS, Thomas.** 1857-1912; b. Snodland; lime works lab. 1871; bricklayer's lab. 1881

**STEWART/STUART, Charles.** c.1841-1905; b. West Farleigh; cement burner 1871-81

**STEWART/STUART, Stephen.** c.1839-?; b. West Farleigh; cement lab. 1871; general lab. 1881

**STILL, William.** 1854-?; b. Birling; cement lab. 1881

**SWEETSER, James.** 1848-; b. Birling; lime lab. 1861-71

**SWEETSER, William.** 1814-?; b. Snodland; lime burner 1861

**TANNER, John.** 1837-?; b. Halling; lime lab. 1871

**TANNER, William.** 1810-1885; b. East Malling (buried there); lime lab. 1851, lab. 1871

**TAYLOR, Abraham.** 1828-?; b. Fridnsbury; lime works lab. 1861

**TILLEY, George.** c.1832-1904; b. Tunbridge Wells; cement factory lab. 1861-71

**TUCKER, William.** c.1834-?; Maidstone; cement lab. 1871

**TURNER, George.** c.1833-?; b. Tudely; chalk digger 1861

**TUTCHENER, George.** 1832-1888; b. Capel; cement works lab. 1871, general lab. 1881

**TYLER, Stephen.** 1838-?; b. Canterbury; cement works lab. 1871

**UNDERDOWN, Richard.** c.1829-?; b. Brenchley; cement works lab. 1861, cement burner 1871

**WALL, William.** c.1839-?; b. Bingham, Notts.; commercial clerk 1881 (son-in-law to Henry Raven)

**WALLER, James.** c.1834-?; b. Kingswalden, Herts.; lime works lab. 1871

**WALLER, John.** 1845-?; b. Kingswalden, Herts.; cement works lab. 1881 (brothers James and William are general labs., b. Kingswalden)

**WALLIS, Daniel.** 1846-?; b. Goudhurst; cement lab. 1871

**WALLIS, Richard.** 1845-1905; b. Snodland; coke breaker at cement works 1861; cement works lab. 1871

**WALLIS, Richard L.** 1819-1893; b. Aylesford; cement works lab. 1861, cement burner 1871, general lab. 1881

**WALLIS, Samuel.** 1841-?; b. Goudhurst; cement lab. 1871

**WEAVER, William.** 1831-1914; brickfield lab. 1861, chalk digger 1871, general lab. 1881

**WEEDEN, William.** 1838-?; b. Snodland; cement lab. 1871

**WELLS, George.** 1840-1882; b. Ulcombe; cement lab. 1871, general lab. 1881

**WENHAM, James.** c.1851-1901; b. Loose; cement lab. 1871-81

**WICKENDEN, William.** c.1827-?; b. Seal; chalk lab. 1871

**WILLCOCKS, Francis.** c.1818-?; b. Sutton Bonnington, Notts; manager of lime works 1871

**WILLIAMS, John.** 1820-?; b. Berkshire; lime lab. 1851

**WILLIAMS, William.** 1837-?; b. Wrotham; chalk digger 1861

**WINGATE, John.** 1852-?; b. Wouldham; cement lab. 1881

**WINGATE, Thomas.** 1845; b. Wouldham; lime works lab. 1861

**WINGATE, William.** 1806-1892; b. Snodland; lime burner 1851-71; unable to work 1881

**WINTER, Walter.** 1832-?; b. Buxsted, Sussex; chalk digger 1861

**WOODGER, Edward.** 1845-?; b. Snodland/East Malling; chalk lab. 1871

**WOODGER, William.** 1840-?; b. East Malling; lime works lab. 1871, general lab. 1881

**WOODHAMS, Thomas.** 1844-?; b. Otford; chalk digger 1861

**WOODING, Charles.** 1836-?; b. Wouldham; lime works lab. 1861

**WOODING, Isaac.** C.1820-1895; b. East Malling; agricultural lab. 1841; lime truck loader 1851, gas maker 1871, lime burner 1881

**WOODING, Richard.** 1832-1907; b. East Malling; lime lab. 1851; paper mill lab, 1861; ironmonger etc. 1871

**WOODING, William.** 1822-1892; b. East Malling; chalk lab. 1851; lime works lab. 1861-71; chalk lab. 1881

**WOODRUFF, James L.** 1832-?; b. Margate; cement miller 1881

**WOOLLEY, Cornelius.** 1838-?; b. Preston; engine driver 1881

**WOOLMER, William.** 1816-?; b. Halling; lime works lab. 1861; cement lab. 1871

**WORSLEY, William.** 1807-?; b. Egerton; lime works barge loader 1861

**WRIGHT, John.** 1813-?; b. Boxley; lime works lab.

**YOUNG, Richard.** 1827-1878; b. Halling; lime works lab. 1851-61

## SNODLAND PAPERMAKERS 1841-1881

More detail is given in this list, particularly noting those born in paper-making places around the country. Movement to and from paper mills includes: in **Kent**: Basted (Wrotham), Buckland (Dover), Chartham, Dartford, East Malling, Maidstone (including Loose and Tovil), North Cray, St Mary Cray, St Paul's Cray, Sutton at Hone; **elsewhere**: Abbots Langley (Herts), Boxmore (Herts), Cullompton (Devon), Flackwell Heath (Bucks.), High Wycombe (Bucks), Sutton Courteney (Oxon), Swanton Morley (Norfolk), Tardebigge (Worcs.), Wooburn (Bucks)

### ADAMS

**John.** b. Halstow c.1820; marr. Phoebe Elizabeth; bur. Snodland 15-09-1885, aged 65; paper mill lab. 1861-71; labourer 1881

**William.** b. Scotland, c.1841; Millwright 1861-71

**William John.** b. Chatham, c.1843, marr. 1867; straw cutter, paper mill (1861); publican at *Walnut Tree*, Halling from 1869; d.1908 Halling

**ALLCHIN, Joseph.** bap. East Malling, 4 Sept. 1825, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Rebecca; papermaker 1841; farm servant Rochester 1851; bur. from Mill St., East Malling, 28-07-1859

### ALLWORK

**George.** bap. Snodland 13-03-1859; ruling machine boy 1871; bricklayer 1881; d.1886

**William;** bap. Birling 04-03-1855; labourer in paper mill 1871-81

**ANDREWS, Thomas Rainger,** b. East Peckham 18-09-1831; marr. (1) Fanny Obey, East Peckham, 25-12-1859; (2) Ann Gurr, West Peckham, 17-11-1861; bur. Snodland 16-11-1901, aged 73; paper mill labourer 1871; general lab. 1881-91; farm lab. 1901

**AUSTIN, Benjamin/Berryman.** b. Rochester c.1817; engineer, paper mill >1851-54<

**Edward;** bap. Snodland 25-01-1829; marr. Jane; bur. Snodland 17-10-1885, aged 56; bricklayer's lab. 1861; paper mill lab. 1871; labourer 1881

### BAKER

**Charles.** bap. Snodland, 23-06-1839; son of James and Jane; marr. Harriet; paper maker 1851; to Tonbridge by 1881

**James Thomas.** bap. Snodland, 28-05-1837; son of James and Jane; papermaker 1851

**Jane.** b. West Malling, c.1820; papermaker 1851; wife of James, a coal carrier

**Mercy.** b. Yalding c.1839; wife of Thomas; paper worker 1871

**Sarah Ann.** bap. Birling 24-08-1845; glazing girl 1861; marr. Edward Woodger, Snodland 31-07-1864; d. Upper Halling 1910

### BANKS

**Charlotte,** bap. Birling 28-02-1841; paper makers work 1861 living at Horn St., Birling

**William. b.** Maidstone c.1847; marr. Elizabeth; bur. from Malling Union, 30-03-1921, aged 74; labourer at paper mill 1871-91; cement lab. 1901

## **BARTON**

**Thomas.** b. Maidstone, c.1820; marr. Frances; papermaker in Snodland 1850-53  
**Frances,** b. Maidstone, c.1820; papermaker in Snodland 1850-53; bur. Snodland, 20 Feb. 1853, aged 33

**BASSETT, John,** b. Plaxtol c.1835-6, Plaxtol; marr. Sarah Neil, 26-09-1858; alkali dept. at paper mill 1861; labourer, barge trimmer 1871; at Halling: cement works lab. 1881; at Wouldham: bricklayer's lab. 1891

## **BATEMAN**

**Jabez.** b. Wooburn, Bucks., c.1823; papermaker 1841; worked at Sandling mill Aylesford 1841; papermaker at St Mary Cray 1851-61

**Thomas.** b. Wooburn, Bucks., c.1813; papermaker 1841; worked at Sandling mill, Aylesford, 1841; became a grocer in Snodland shortly after this and remained so until death in 1886, aged 73

**BEADLE, Caroline.** b. Hadlow, c.1821; papermaker 1841-51

**BEASLEY, James.** Accident at paper mill reported 26-05-1879

**BENNETT, Henry.** b. Meopham c.1838; labourer in paper mill from at least 1855 to 1891<

**BIRD, John.** b. c.1848, Poplar, Middlesex?; bur. 1921, aged 73; paper mill lab. 1871-81; general lab. 1891; blacksmith's lab. 1901; cement lab. 1911

**BOORMAN, Frederick.** Baptist from Headcorn, b.1805; papermaker 1841; moved to St Mary Cray (William Joynson?) by 1846, a papermaker there

**BOWERY, Edward.** b. Cliffe, c.1849; 9 Mill St (boarder) (1871); Paper mill lab. 1871 census

**BOW[E]RY, William.** b. Wycombe, Bucks, c.1816; papermaker 1851, but in Snodland from at least 1845; papermaker at Taverham, Norfolk, 1861, with 3 children born in 'Kent' 1846-50.

**BOWLER, William.** ?b. Bucks, 1826, son of either Thomas/Sarah at Shenley, or Richard/Elizabeth, Fulmer; papermaker 1841

**BROWN, Henry.** b. Kingston, Surrey, c.1821; bur. Snodland 1878, aged 57; cashier and accountant at paper mill; 3 children born in United States, c.1859-63: in Snodland by 1865. Two ledgers extant which he kept for Charles Townsend Hook.

**BRYANT, James.** b. in Kent, c.1821; papermaker 1841

## **BURGESS**

**Richard.** Possibly son of Solomon and brother of Sophia, b. Snodland 1815; a lime lab. before becoming a papermaker in Snodland c.1844-7; moved to St Mary Cray by 1851 and still there in 1881.



**Sophia.** bap. Birling 15-08-1841; glazing room girl 1861; marr. Charles Hinbest, a cordwainer, 1865

**BUSS, Joseph.** Accident at paper mill reported 13-04-1872; hand amputated

#### **CAPON**

**Harriet.** b. Mereworth c.1797; marr. James Capon; bur. 18-05-1885, aged 85; paper glazer (1861)

**Harriet.** bap. Ryarsh 06-07-1842; parents: Joseph Olive/Mary; unmarried in 1861

**William.** b. Snodland 1845; parents: William/Mary Ann; Snod. St. (1851-61); paper mill lab. 1861; lime works lab. 1871; to Otford by 1881

**CARMICHAEL, James.** b. Scotland c.1838; millwright 1861 (lodger)

**CASH, Thomas H.** b. Nottingham, c.1830; accident to him on 26-09-1868 reported in *Parochialia*, but he was unhurt; paper mill labourer 1871

**CATCHESIDE, William.** b. Liverpool, c.1849; marr. Mary Langhorn at Newcastle on 17-05-1871; chemist at the paper mill between at least 1871 and 1875; died Swanley, 18-07-1902

**CHAPPELL, John.** b. Spitalfields c.1831-3; marr. Mary; d. Barming Asylum, bur. 1910, aged 80; in Snodland by 1868; marking ruler/machine worker 1871; Bow, London 1881; in Snodland again by 1901

**CHARLWOOD, John.** b. Chipstead c.1831; marr. Eliza; bur. 1881, aged 50; platelayer 1861; lab. in paper mill 1871

**CHITTENDEN, Susannah.** b. West Malling, c.1824; papermaker 1851

**COLLARD, Joseph.** b. Chartham, c.1828; marr. Louisa A.; High St [175]; River Cotts., Chartham (1881); Papermaker/labourer 1861; unemployed papermaker at Chartham 1871; carter at paper mills, Chartham 1881

#### **COOK**

**Ellen.** b. Woking c.1843; glazing girl at mill 1861

**George.** b. Snodland 1803; labourer in machine dept. of paper mill 1861;

**Thomas.** b. East Malling c.1844; paper mill: straw cutter 1861

**COSTEN, Elizabeth.** b. Birling 1818; papermaker 1851

#### **COWEN**

**Edward.** b. Maidstone c.1851; brother of Thomas; paper mill lab. 1871; general. lab 1891;

**Thomas.** b. Maidstone, c.1826; bur. 1897, aged 72; carman at mill 1871; paper lab. 1881; gen. lab. 1891

**Thomas.** b. Maidstone, c.1847; marr. Sarah; bur. 1909, aged 62; parents: Thomas/Sophia; paper mill lab. 1861-91

**CRANE, Robert.** b. Orpington, c.1839; marr. Olive; bur. 1902, aged 65; papermaker 1871-91; fruiterer and greengrocer 1901;

**CRITTENDEN, James.** b. East Malling c.1843; marr.; paper maker/straw boiler (1864); Labourer (1866-8); Bricklayer (1869-71); Publican *Red Lion* (1881-91); in 1861 lodged with grandfather James Wooding

#### **CROWHURST**

**Emma.** b. Snodland c.1850; parents: James/Elizabeth; paper mill worker 1871

**Sarah.** b. Snodland c.1852; parents: James/Elizabeth; marr. George Palmer 1871; paper mill worker 1871; Palmer, a mariner, of Chatham

**DADSON, Rose Ann.** b. Dunks Green, 1842; marr. Alfred Dadson, Cuxton, 1859 d. at Malling Union, bur. Snodland 1904, aged 60; 'convict works in mill' 1871; housekeeper 1891; laundress 1901

**DANDRIDGE, Daniel.** b. Wooburn, Bucks., c.1821, son of John, a papermaker; marr. Martha Smith at Snodland, 1841; papermaker 1841; to Wooburn as papermaker by 1851

#### **DARTNALL**

**Ann.** b. East Malling, c.1829; marr. William Dartnall (d. Dec. 1893); paper sorter 1861; [husband: tea dealer 1871]; grocer 1881-1901; Congregational Church list: 27-09-1857

**Mary.** b. Birling, c.1831; papermaker 1851

#### **DAVIS**

**Ernest Stephen.** b. Whitchurch, Hants., c.1865; papermaker 1881

**Frank William.** b. Sutton Courteney, Berks., c.1855; marr. Sarah; bur. 1927, aged 72; accident at paper mill reported 13-11-1865; papermaker 1871-81; Congregational Church list: 04-02-1872, but left 1884: 'forfeited'

**Stephen.** b. Sutton Courteney, Berks., c.1832; marr. Ellen; bur. 1895, Snodland, aged 62; papermaker 1871-81; Congregational Church list: 03-03-1869

**Willie Tom.** b. Sutton Courteney, Berks, c.1863; papermaker 1881-91

**DEACON** family at St Paul's Cray c.1835-1846; Countess Weir, Topsham, Devon, c. 1848-51

**James.** b. Boxmore, Herts., c.1811; marr. Sarah; paper maker (foreman) 1861;

**Joseph.** b. St. Paul's Cray, c.1841; paper maker 1861; grocer 1871-1901; d. Snodland, 1902, aged 61

**DEAN, Daniel.** father of William, baptised at All Saints, Snodland, 15-01-1832, and George, baptised 10-02-1833

**DEARING, John;** b. Plaxtol, c.1849, son of James/Mary Ann; bur. 1862, Snodland, aged 14; sheet layer at paper mill 1861

**DRAYCON, Rowland Alfred.** b. Snodland 1868, son of Alfred and Abigail; paper mill worker 1881; carpenter 1891 onwards; retired by death in 1949

**DULTON, William.** b. St Paul's Cray, c.1832; bur. 1900, Snodland, aged 69; paper maker/finisher; paper works foreman 1881; paper maker 1891

**EASON, Thomas Barton.** b. East Malling 1825, son of Samuel and Elizabeth; papermaker 1841 lodging with Boorman family; journeyman bricklayer in Gillingham 1851 (boarder)

### **ENDSOR**

**Freeman.** b. High Wycombe, Bucks., c.1834, son of John and Hannah; papermaker (cutter) 1851 (lodging with James Wooding)

**John.** b. c.1803, Tamworth; papermaker 1851

**Walter.** b. High Wycombe, c.1832, son of John and Hannah; papermaker 1851

### **EMMERSON**

**John.** b. c.1843, Richmond, Yorks; marr. Sophia; bur. Snodland 1878, aged 36; paper maker 1871

**FAIRBURN, George.** b. Scotland, c.1830; paper maker; unmarried; 1871 census

**FENTIMAN, Frederick.** Papermaker c.1852-5; baptism of two children at All Saints, Snodland; died before 1881, when his widow Emma and children were living in Church Road, Chiselhurst.

**FISSENDEN, Mary A.** b. St George's Middlesex, c. 1820; papermaker 1851

**FOXWELL, Henry.** b. Trowaters, Herts., c.1826; millwright 1871

**FOWLE, Henry.** b. Horsmonden, c.1855; marr. Clara; rag boiler, paper mill 1881

### **GAY**

**George.** b. Watford (Abbots Langley?), c.1839; marr. Emma; bur. 23-07-1908, Snodland, aged 70; paper glazer (1861-7-); grocer/tea dealer (1870-1-); printer (1891-1901); retired printer at death. Congregational Church list: 28-02-1858; dismissed for immorality: 16-10-1859; printed Cemetery regulations (1894)

**Josiah (invalid).** b. Abbots Langley, Herts., c.1839; bur. 1861, Snodland, aged 22; parents: William Henry/Diana; sister = Rosetta [=Thwaites]

**Thomas.** b. Abbots Langley, Herts., c.1842; parents = William Henry/Diana; paper finisher 1861; 1871 at Stoke Newington; married

**William Henry.** b. Westminster, c.1819; marr. Diana; bur. 01-11-1879, Snodland, aged 62; paper maker/finisher; Congregational Church list: 28-02-1858; dismissed for immorality: 16-10-1859

### **GLOVER**

**Benjamin.** born Wrotham, c.1826; ag. lab. in 1851; Paper mill labourer at baptism of dau. Eliza at Birling on 6-12-1857 and of dau. Emma at Birling on 1-1-1860; living at Ham Hill; ag. lab. at Ightham in 1861

**John,** born Plaxtol, c.1823; died of cancer, 8 June 1872, aged 48; parents: Frederick and Sarah; engine driver at paper mill 1861-71; children: William; Sarah Ann

**Sarah Ann Glover:** born Basted, Wrotham, c.1854; buried 20-03-1866, aged 12; parents: John and Priscilla: 'Accident in the factory. Child crushed.' [to place sheets of

paper between zinc plates ready for rolling; her arms were drawn in.] (*Maidstone & Kentish Journal* 19 March 1866)

**GOLDSMITH, James.** b. Tunbridge Wells, c.1852; accident at paper mill reported 23-03-1867: burned when vessel containing molten zinc burst

**GOODE, Henry.** b. Blisworth, Northants, c.1840; paper mill labourer 1871; boarder

**GOODHEW, Frances.** b. East Malling, c.1838; papermaker 1861

**GREEN, Joseph.** bap. Ightham, 20/28? -07-1822; marr. Caroline; bur. 1874, Snodland, aged 52; engineer/paper maker 1871

### **HADLOW**

**George.** b. Snodland 1849; son of James/Mary; bur. Snodland 1871, aged 23; sheet layer in paper mill 1861; sleeping in outhouse at 1871 census

**Mary.** b. Plaxtol, c.1814; dau. of Thomas Terry; marr. James Hadlow at Snodland, 1837; rag cutter 1851

**HALES, George.** b. Hartlip, c.1833; marr. Harriet Godding 1861, Snodland; paper mill labourer 1861

**HARDEN, Susannah.** b. Bredhurst, c.1818; wife of Robert Harden; papermaker 1851

### **HAWKS**

**Henry,** b. Snodland 1847; son of John/Eliza; marr. Anne; Mill St (1861); sheet layer at paper mill 1861; labourer 1871; ?1881; coal heaver 1891; cement labourer 1901-11;

**Maria.** bap. Halling, 25-06-1843; dau. of John/Eliza; marr. James Crittenden 1863, Snodland; glazer at paper mill 1861;

**Mary Ann.** bap. 02-11-1845, Halling, dau. of John/Eliza; glazing room girl at paper mill 1861; witness to wedding: 21-2-1863

### **HAZELL**

**Ann.** b. Helmington, Suffolk, c. 1819; wife of Charles; papermaker 1851

**Charles.** b. Wilmington, c.1814; wife is Ann; papermaker 1851

**Charles.** b. Chiselhurst, c.1839; son of Charles and Ann; papermaker 1851

**HEATHER, Isaac.** b. Worlavington/Graffham, Sussex, c.1838; marr. Esther; paper mill labourer 1871; general lab. 1881-91

**HEMSLEY, Thomas.** b. Yalding, c.1858; paper layer 1871; nephew of John/Caroline LAURENCE

### **HOBDAY**

**Henry.** born Chartham, 1838, Chartham; engaged by CTH at £300 p.a. with free house [2 May Villa], coals and gas, and a bonus. [see 9-page life]

**John.** b. Great Chart, c.1831; marr. Marian; bootmaker and foreman at mill 1871

**HOLDSWORTH, Edward.** b. London, c.1847; paper mill labourer 1871; unmarried (boarder)

### **HOSBURGH**

**Harriet.** b. Cranbrook, c.1832; marr. James Hosburgh; bur. 1902 Snodland, aged 70; paper mill worker 1871; 1861-81, 1901 census; register

**James.** b. Scotland, c.; marr. Harriet; bur. 1902, Snodland, aged 67; paper mill labourer 1861-81; cement lab. 1891; Temperance Hotel keeper 1901; witness at daughter's wedding NJ: 13-08-1888

**HUNT, Mary.** b. c.1846; marr. Richard Hunt 1865 (he died 1870); paper mill worker 1871; witness at wedding: 17-05-1868

**HUNTER, Lucy.** b. East Farleight, c.1855; parents: John/Sophia; paper mill worker 1871

**IMMS, Walter. b.** Farningham, c.1830; marr. Harriet Hawks 26-12-1854, Snodland; engine driver in paper mill 1861; labourer 1871; paper maker 1881

### **JOHNSON**

**James H.** b. Sutton at Hone, c.1841; paper mill: labourer 1861; brother of John

**John.** b. Dartford, 27-02-1834; marr. Rebecca; d. 04-03-1894, Snodland, aged 60; paper mill: labourer in machine dept. 1861; paper maker and machine man 1871; paper maker 1881; unemployed jobbing carpenter 1891; 33 years a deacon in Congregational Church

**JONES, Albion.** b. in Kent c.1827; papermaker 1841; lodging with Boorman family

**JORDAN, William.** b. Boxley, c.1818; marr. Ann; bur. 14-06-1867, Snodland 'from East Malling', aged 49; paper maker 1861

**KELVIE, Edward.** b. East Malling, 1825; papermaker 1841

**KEMP, William.** b. Snodland, 1843; paper mill lab. 1861; accident at paper mill reported 12-11-1861- arm amputated; gas maker 1871; labourer 1881

**KIDWELL, Thomas.** b. Maidstone 1776; marr. three times; bur. Snodland 1860, aged 85; papermaker in Snodland from at least 1817 to 1841; 'pauper papermaker in 1851; non-conformist, whose house became the chapel in 1824; previous papermaking at Maidstone? and Tardebigge, Worcestershire.

**KING, Solomon.** b. c.1834, Wrotham/Maidstone; wife: Mary Ann; paper bleacher 1861; paper maker 1871

### **KNOPP**

**John.** b. Grays, Essex, c.1838; marr. Rosetta; labourer in chemical dept. at paper mill 1861; dead by 1868

**Rose[tta].** b. Snodland, c.1842; marr. (i) John Knopp; (ii) William Henry Edmeads on 17 May 1868; paper glazier 1861; in Malling Union workhouse 1881; in 1891 Wrotham census

**LAMB, Henry.** b. Snodland, c.1856; marr. 31-12-1881, St Luke, Holloway, to Sarah Plowman; parents: Jesse/Elizabeth; machine-cutter: paper 1871; paper finisher 1881; to Lambeth, then Islington, then Herne Bay

**LAMBETH, Thomas.** b. Snodland, c.1857, Snodland; marr. Icitt A. Wright; parents: James/Sophia; paper mill labourer 1871; general lab. 1881-91; cement lab. 1901;

**LATTER, Hannah.** b. Tovil, c.1844; paper glazer 1871

**LAURENCE, Eliza. B.** Snodland 1847; parents: John/Caroline; glazing-room girl at paper mill 1861; paper sorter 1871; unmarried

#### **LAWRENCE**

**Jane.** bap. Wrotham, 22-04-1838; papermaker 1851; marr. William Beadle, Snodland, 1857

**Mary.** bap. Wrotham, 20-10-1833; papermaker 1851

**LEE, James.** b. Shelton, Cambs., c.1839-41; marr. 13-05-1871, Snodland to Mary Ann Smith; bur. 16-10-1882, Snodland, aged 42; father: James [a labourer]; paper maker labourer 1871

**MANNERING, Sarah.** b. Maidstone, c.1839; marr. William Mannering; bur. 08-10-1904, aged 67; paper mill worker 1871; [in Maidstone to 1860-; in Snodland by 1864]

**MARSHALL, James.** b. Shorne, c.1835; paper mill labourer 1871

#### **MAYATT**

**Charles Henry,** b. St Mary Cray, 07-19-1845, son of Charles Henry/Ann; bur. 20-05-1903, aged 57; accident at paper mill reported 04-02-1860; sheet layer at paper mill 1861; paper maker 1871; paper glazier 1881; paper labourer 1891-1901

**Charles Henry.** b. Snodland 1822; marr. 25-07-1844, Bromley, to Ann Phillips; bur. 01-04-1899, Snodland, aged 77; parents: Joseph/Frances Elizabeth; papermill: machine man 1861; paper maker 1871-91

**Edward Phillips,** b. St Mary Cray, 1847; son of Charles Henry/Ann; marr. Ellen [...]; bur. 16-08-1913, aged 66; sheet layer at paper mill 1861; paper maker 1871; labourer 1881; machine man: paper mill 1891;

**Joseph Ravulus Phillips,** b. St Mary Cray, 1849; son of Charles Henry/Ann; marr. 03-04-1870, St Mary, Strood to Eliza Ellen Shayes; bur. 05-11-1925, aged 76; sheet layer at paper mill 1861; paper mill labourer 1871-1901; mill hand 1911

**William.** b. St Mary Cray, bap. 02-02-1854; marr. Amelia Monk; parents: Charles Henry/Ann; paper maker 1871; general lab. 1881; cement labourer 1901

#### **MAYGER**

**Alfred.** b. Leeds, Kent, c.1853; parents: Henry/Eliza; paper maker 1871

**George.** b. Milton, c.1835; marr. Harriet; papermill: straw boiler 1861; papermaker 1871; labourer 1881

**George.** b. Snodland, 1859; marr. Emily; bur. 11-10-1935, aged 77; sheet boy at mill 1871; navy: 'Northampton' 1881; mill worker; stationary engine driver 1901

**Henry.** b. Maidstone, c.1830; marr. Eliza; paper mill labourer 1871; general. lab. 1881;

**James.** b. Maidstone, c.1856; parents: Henry/Eliza; paper mill labourer 1871; accident at paper mill reported 11-10-1869: a 'knotter' fell on him

**John Frederick.** b. Leeds, Kent, c.1837; marr. 03-06-1860, Snodland, Amelia Moore; bur. 15-09-1917, aged 80; bleacher 1861; accident at paper mill 08-10-1861; labourer at paper mill 1871-81; cement lab. 1901

#### **MECOY**

**Elizabeth.** b. Ireland, c.1779; nee Hoblely; marr. William Mecoy, 1799; papermaker 1841-51; bur. Snodland 1856, aged 78

**Henry.** b. Snodland, bap. 30-11-1845; bur. 20-06-1906, Snodland, aged 60; parents: William/Mary; ag. lab. 1861; paper mill labourer 1871; general lab. 1881; gas fitter 1891; bricklayer's lab. 1901; unmarried

**Joseph.** b. Snodland; bap. 10-09-1843; marr. 10-03-1872, Snodland AS, to Alice Amelia Clark; d. Malling Union Infirmary; bur. 06-05-1915, aged 71; parents: William [a shoemaker]/Mary; ag. lab. 1861; paper mill labourer 1871

**William.** b. Maidstone, c.1777; marr. Elizabeth Hoblely, East Farleigh, 1799; papermaker in Snodland from at least 1815; bur. Snodland, 1854, aged 77

**MILLS, William.** bap. Cuxton, 22-08-1830; marr. Emma; bur. 28-12-1896, Snodland, aged 66; paper mill lab. 1861; beershop keeper: Wheatsheaf 1867-74; 'Late' Wheatsheaf in 1891

**MITCHELL, William.** b. Cuxton, c.1843; paper mill labourer 1871 (boarder); unmarried

**MONK, Amelia.** b. Halling, c.1855; marr. William Mayatt; mother: Susan; paper mill worker; 1871

#### **MUDDLE**

**Alfred James.** b. Isfield, Sussex, 30-09-1837; paper mill: engine boy 1851; coasting brig 'Glide' 1861

**James.** b. Isfield, Sussex, bap. 24-4-1796; marr. Phoebe Collins, Isfield 26-7-1828; bur. 18-8-1857 at Cuxton, aged 61; engine driver: paper mill 1851

**Jemima.** bap. 18-8-1833, Isfield, Sussex; dau. of James and Phoebe; marr. Charles Lutchford, Strood, 6-10-1851; bur. Halling 4-3-1898, aged 65; paper maker 1851

**Phoebe.** b. c.1807, Isfield, Sussex; marr. James Muddle, Isfield 26-7-1828; bur. Snodland 26-11-1854, aged 48; papermaker 1851

**NICHOLLS, Alfred.** b. Flackweel Heath, c.1848; paper maker 1871 (boarder)

**NORMAN, Daniel.** bap. Halling, 31-05-1830; marr. Sarah; died 03-02-1900, aged 69; parents: Edward/Mary; paper mill labourer 1871; carman 1881; straw dealer 1891

#### **NORRIS**

**George.** b.in Kent, c. 1826; papermaker 1841 (boarder with Thomas/Sarah Boorman)

**John.** b. Snodland, 1793; marr [2<sup>nd</sup>?] Sarah (b. 1818); paper mill: engine driver 1851

**OLIVER, Sarah H.** b. Buckland, Kent, c.1841; paper glazer 1861; unmarried (boarder)

**PADDICK, James.** b. Halling, c.1845; marr. Emma; parents: John/Elizabeth; undergroom 1861; paper mill labourer 1871; to Rochester by 1875 as greengrocer

**PALMER, Robert.** b. Hull, c.1844; marr. Eliza; paper cutter 1871; paper maker ruler 1881-91 in Dartford

**PATTERSON, William.** bap. Maidstone 13-02-1845,; marr. (i) 1870, Dartford, to Keziah Fisher; (ii) 1895, Malling, to Caroline Murphy; bur. 05-02-1921, Snodland, aged 75; paper mill labourer 1871; general labourer 1881; paper maker 1891; machine worker, paper mill 1901; brakeman 1911

**PATTON, Robert,** b. Warrington, Lancs., c.1820; wife Sarah; engine smith from 1857; civil engineer 1871; signed a letter in *Kent Messenger* 20-02-1877 thanking workforce for attending CTHook's funeral

#### **PENNY**

**Henry.** b. Canterbury, c.1829-31; marr. 01-01-1867, Chartham to Rebecca Collard; bur. 07-06-1884, Snodland, aged 55; paper maker 1861-81

**William.** b. Canterbury, c.1832; marr. (1) Eliza; (2) Charlotte; bur. 27-01-1909, Snodland, aged 77; papermaker storekeeper 1871-1901

**PETT, John Robert.** b. Margate/Walmer/Deal, c.1830; marr. Annie; bur. 23-11-1898, Snodland, aged 70; cement works labourer 1861; paper mill labourer 1871; stoker 1881; gas stoker 1891

#### **PHILLIPS**

**Ann.** bap. 08-02-1829, Snodland; marr 1850s to William Phillips; bur. 24-09-1864, Snodland, aged 37; parents: John/Frances; schoolmistress 1851; paper glazer 1861

**Mary A.** bap. Birling, 29-11-1829; papermaker 1851

#### **PHYALL**

**Edward.** bap. Snodland 14-02-1864; parents: George/Caroline; paper mill labourer 1871

**George.** b. Boughton Monchelsea, c.1838; marr. Caroline; paper mill labourer 1871; general labourer 1881;

**PLOWMAN, John W.** b. Swanton Morley, Norfolk, c.1832; marr. 27-03-1853, East Malling, to Mary Chittenden; paper maker; at East Malling 19 Dec. 1904) [father William also a papermaker]

**PLUMMER, Henry.** b. North Cray, c.1842-5; marr. 16-11-1862, Snodland, Sarah Hawks; bur. From King's Hill Institution, 30-05-1929, aged 90; father: William; bricklayer's labourer 1861; paper mill lab. 1871; lime burner 1881-1901

**PRIVETT, Joseph.** b. Cheltenham, c.1828; Aston, Warwicks. in 1841; Hythe, Kent. c.1853; much travelled. In Snodland by 30 Nov 1857 (marriage of dau. to Samuel Fryer, papermaker); built cottages in East Street; had moved on by 1871 census; New



Church member. b. c.1809, Cheltenham; marr. Mary Ann; Brook St (1861);  
Journeyman carpenter; one eye; founder member of Swedenborg church in Snodland -  
earliest meetings held in his house

**QUELCH, James.** b. St Paul's Cray, c.1842; marr. Emma; paper maker 1871; in  
Camberwell by 1881

**RADDAM, John.** b. Trowaters, Herts, c.1839; millwright 1871; married

**RALPH, Thomas.** bap East Malling, 24-01-1830, son of Joseph and Jane;  
papermaker 1841

**RAND, James.** b. Pendon, Essex, c.1842; marr. Phoebe; d. West Kent Gen. Hosp.;  
bur. 21-02-1920, aged 78; paper mill labourer 1871; cement labourer 1881; cement  
burner 1891-1901; cement works lab. 1911

**RANDELL, David Thomas.** b. Snodland, 14-03-1856; marr. 1880, S. Australia,  
Mary Hockham; d. 10-08-1920, Payneham, S. Australia; bur. 11-08-1920, Payneham,  
aged 64; parents: George/Elizabeth; machine boy 1871; arrived in Australia on the  
'Forfarshire' 8-2-1872 [or 2-8-1872]; worked as a repair man

**George.** b. Fisherton, 1816, s. of Edward/Rhoda; marr. 02-10-1843, Salisbury,  
Elizabeth Peach; d. 14-05-1887; bur. 21-05-1887, Snodland, aged 72; alkali maker at  
paper mill 1861-81; died from an accident in mill; obituary New Church Magazine,  
Aug. 1887

**Lucy.** b. Salisbury, c.1834; paper mill worker 1871

**William Charles.** b. Fisherton, c.1853, marr. Drusilla; bur. 13-07-1921, aged 69;  
parents: William Edward/Ann; paper mill labourer 1871-81; general lab. 1891; paper  
maker; paper maker's breakerman

**William Edward,** b. Fisherton, 04-04-1825; marr. 12-10-1850, Fisherton to Ann  
Curtis; d. 09-08-1897, Snodland, aged 72; bleacher in paper mill 1861; paper mill  
lab. 1871-81; chemical lab. paper mill 1891

**William Edward,** b. Fisherton, 08-01-1848; son of George/Elizabeth; sheet layer at  
paper mill 1861; paper mill lab. 1871

**RANKIN, Elizabeth.** b. Snodland, c.1843; marr. William Rankin; paper glazer 1881;  
paper sorter 1891-1901

**RUSSELL, Daniel.** b. Flackwell Heath, Bucks, c.1846; paper mill labourer 1871;  
general labourer 1881-1901

## SAUL

**Albert H.** b. Wells, Somerset, c.1857; parents: Daniel/ Mary A.; paper mill labourer  
1871

**Daniel.** b. Cullompton, Devon, c.1826; marr. Mary Ann; paper maker 1871

**Daniel Alfred.** b. Albury/Postford, Surrey, c.1853-4; marr. Mary A. Bramley; bur.  
09-03-1940, aged 85; parents: Daniel/Mary A.; paper mill labourer 1871;  
machineman 1881; paper lab. 1891; drierman 1901; paper mill lab. 1911

**William.** accident at paper mill reported 14-05-1866

**SMITH, David.** b. High Wycombe, c.1828; marr. Letitia; paper mill machinist 1861

## **STANDEN**

**Sarah.** b. Maidstone, c.1845; marr. William Standen; paper mill worker 1871

**William.** b. Frittenden, c.1845, Frittenden; marr. Sarah; paper maker 1871; paper labourer 1881

## **TANNER**

**George.** b. Chatham, c.1840; marr. Emma; paper mill labourer 1871; general labourer 1881

**Grace.** b. Maidstone, c.1838; marr. John Tanner; mother = Frances Constable; paper glazer 1861

**TAYLOR, Frederick.** b. Higham, c.1847; marr. 01-07-1871, Snodland, Eliza Wooding; bur. 12-09-1919, Snodland, aged 73; father = George [a labourer]; 'Charles Frederick' in burial register; paper mill labourer 1871; platelayer/railway labourer 1881, 1901; general labourer 1891;

**THORP, Elizabeth.** b. Mereworth, c.1855; bur. 09-10-1876, Snodland, aged 21; paper mill, shaving picker 1871; niece of William/Sarah Francis

**TYLER, John.** Accident at paper mill reported 15-09-1860: fingers

## **VIGOR**

**Sarah Jane.** b. Bladwich, Devon, c.1849; marr. Walter Vigor; paper mill worker 1871;

**Walter** b. Poplar, London, c.1848; marr. Sarah Jane; paper maker, labourer 1871

**WALKER, Henry.** b. Tonbridge, c.1826; marr. Sarah; paper mill labourer: straw boiling dept. 1861; lime works labourer 1871

**WALLIS, Ellen.** b. Barnet, Herts, c.1841; marr. Thomas Wallis; paper mill worker 1871

## **WEEDEN**

**Frances.** b. Snodland, c. 1819; marr. James Weeden; papermaker 1851

**James.** b. Sheepridge, Bucks, 22-10-1818; marr. Frances Kemp, Strood, 12-05-1839; papermaker 1841-51; lime lab. at Burham 1861

**WELDON, Walter,** FRS, FRSE. b. Loughborough, 31-10-1832; chemist at paper mill from c.1864 to ?; d. Burstow, 20-09-1885; a Swedenborgian [entry in *ODNB*]

## **WEST**

**James.** b. Tunbridge Wells/Chilton on Stow, Salop, c.1835; marr. Mary; bur. 26-02-1908, Snodland, aged 75; paper mill labourer 1871; straw boiler 1881-91; cement labourer 1901

**Mary.** b. Keston, Pembroke, c.1829; marr. James West; bur. 01-10-1914, Snodland, aged 84; paper mill lab. 1871; rag cutter paper mill 1881

**WHEELER, Thomas.** b. Shipbourne, c.1850; parents: John/ Mary Ann; paper maker 1871; general lab. 1881

**WHITEHOUSE, Robert D.** b. St Mary Cray, c.1848, son of Robert/Matilda; marr. Mary A.; bur. 23-12-1929, Snodland, aged 81; 18 Borrowdaile Rd., Wandsworth (c.1871-5); Chartham (c.1879), Sutton-at-Hone (c.1880); paper mill: sheet layer 1861; papermaker 1871-1901

#### **WILSON**

**James Walter.** bap. Snodland, 17-12-1848; landlord *The Victory* 1871; paper mill labourer 1871

**Maria.** b. Snodland, c.1852; father = George Perryman Wilson; paper sorter 1871

**John.** A 'paper mill labourer' at baptism of son James at Birling on 4-10-1857; not on 1861 census [page missing] although baptism of son Thomas was at Birling on 3-11-1861.

**WINGATE, John.** b. in Kent, c.1806; papermaker 1841

**WOOD, Jane.** b. Snodland, c.1834; papermaker 1851; marr. Richard Wooding, Snodland, 19-06-1854

**WOODGER, Augustus.** b. in Kent, c.1826; papermaker 1841

#### **WOODING**

**Bertha.** b. Snodland, c.1853; parents Isaac/Elizabeth; marr. 10-12-1871, Snodland, to Sydney Eyles; paper mill worker 1871

**Mary Ann.** b. c.1852; parents: Richard/Jane; paper mill worker 1871

**Richard.** b. East Malling; bap. 26-12-1830; marr. 19-06-1854, Snodland, to Jane Wood; bur. 30-11-1907, Snodland, aged 78; parents: James/Frances; paper mill lab. 1861; ironmonger, etc. 1871; general lab. 1891-1901

**Susan.** (Susannah Luck Wooding), b. Snodland; bap. 27-03-1853; parents: William/Eliza; paper mill worker 1871

**WOOLLETT, John.** b. Maidstone, c.1840; engine fitter at paper mill 1861

**WOOLLEY, Cornelius.** b. Preston, Kent, c.1837; marr. Sarah; bur. 17-12-1899, Snodland, aged 62; paper mill: engine driver 1861-91

**WRIGHT, Sarah.** b. East Malling; bap. 30-01-1820, East Malling; marr. John Wright; bur. 05-11-1892, Snodland, aged 77; parents: James/Frances; rag cutter 1871, already a widow

## FURTHER READING

Parish registers for Burham, Halling, Snodland and Wouldham can be seen online on the MALSC cityark web-site. Censuses are available on-line via family history web-sites and on CD. Newspapers have been accessed via the British Library Newspaper Archive and the South-Eastern Gazette digital archive at KentOnline.

Relevant area studies are:

James M. Preston, *Industrial Medway, an historical survey*, privately printed, 1977.  
Andrew Hann, *The Medway Valley, a Kent landscape transformed*, Phillimore, 2009.  
[*England's Past for Everyone* series]

Individual local parish studies are:

Andrew Ashbee, *A Little History of Snodland*, privately published, 1994.  
Edward Gowers and Derek Church, *Across the Low Meadow. A History of Halling in Kent*, Christine Swift, Maidstone, 1979.  
Derek Church, *Cuxton, a Kentish Village*, Arthur J Cassell, Sheerness, 1976.  
Margaret Collins, *Birling, a Backward Glance*, privately printed, 1982.

Relevant Snodland Historical Society pamphlets are:

No. 3: John Woolmer, *Historical Jottings of the Parish of Snodland* (Snodland, 1894), 1997.  
No. 8: Andrew Ashbee, *The Early History of the New Church in Snodland, 1855-1882*, 1998.  
No. 9: Michael Fuller, *Snodland and Holborough Watermills*, 1998.  
No. 13 Charles de Rocfort Wall, *Snodland and its History 55 B.C. to A.D. 1928* (Snodland, 1928), 2000.  
No. 17: Maude Midsummer Hook: *A Memoir of Agnes Darlington Hook* (Snodland, 1904), 2002.  
No. 18: Andrew Ashbee: *Early Snodland Papermakers c.1740-1854*, 2003.  
No. 20: Andrew Ashbee: *The Murder of P. C. Israel May at Snodland 24 August 1873*, 1984, repr. 2004.  
Nos 24-26: *Notes on Snodland by Henry Dampier Phelps, Rector 1804-1865*, I: All Saints Church and Churchyard; II: Rights of Way; Boundaries; Rules of the Brook; Charities; III: History; Flora and Fauna, 2005.  
No. 27: Andrew Ashbee: *Selections from the Log-Books of the National Schools, Brook Street, Snodland*, I: 1863-1877, 2005.  
No. 29: Debra L. Petty, *Victorian Philanthropy: A Case Study of the Hook Family of Snodland, 1854-1930*, 2007.  
Andrew Ashbee: *Snodland 1865-1882, a Selection of Newspaper Cuttings*, 1991.  
Andrew Ashbee: 'Parochialia': *Notes from Snodland Rectory 1865-1882*, 1992.

Published by Snodland Paper Mill:

Kenneth Funnell, *Snodland Paper Mill. C. Townsend Hook and Company from 1854*, Snodland 1979 and 1986.