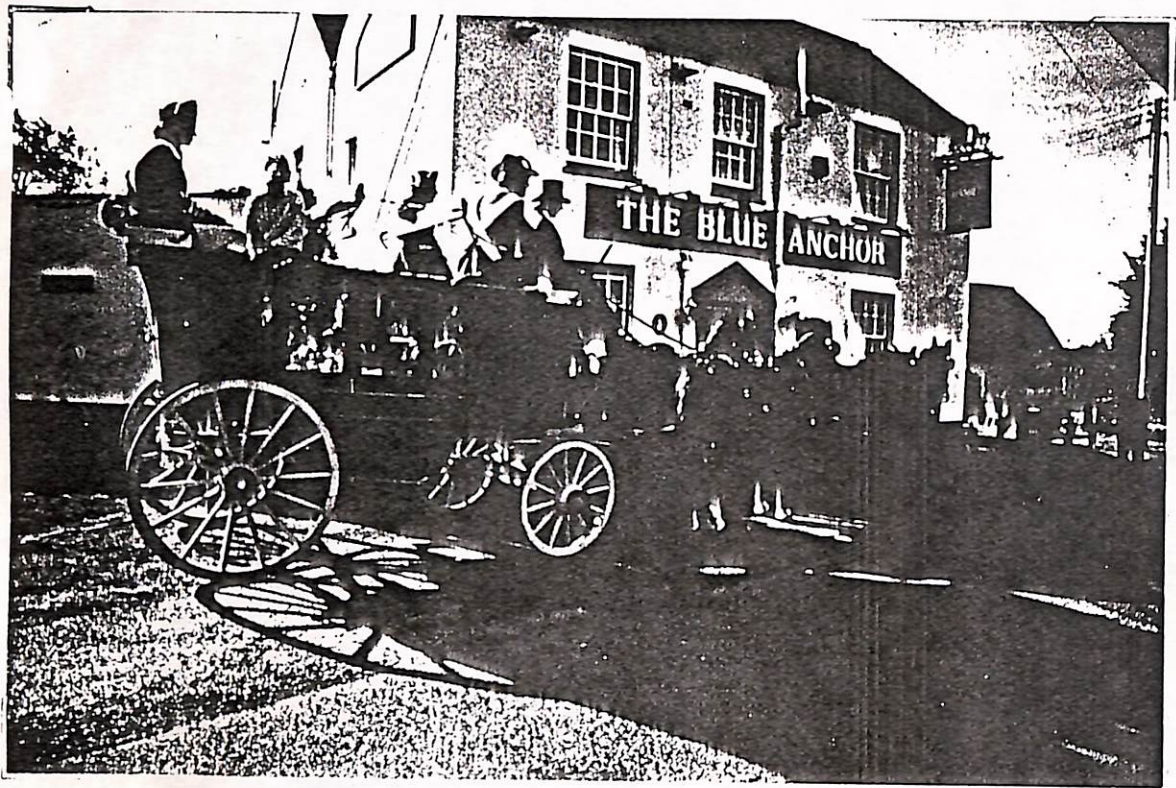


HAM STREET.

RUCKINGE & WAREHORNE.



THE RURAL POST

INTRODUCTION

This is not meant to be a comprehensive report of the Rural Post of Ham Street and surrounding villages, but just a glimpse of how people in this area communicated in the early days prior to sophisticated roads, motorised transport and the telephone.

My hobby of collecting (anything) started at the age of eight years when the postman accidentally left a neighbour's mail at our house. My mother, who was always trying to find ways of amusing me, sent me on my bicycle to deliver the letter and "not to forget to ask if I could have the stamp", which was Canadian. This did not solve the problem of boredom on my part at the time, but it did initiate me into the world of collecting.

The 'sixties introduced the vogue for collecting postcards, which I started to collect with relish. It was not long, however, before I found the backs as fascinating as the fronts and started collecting local postmarks. A stamp collecting colleague who also found local postmarks of interest, introduced me to the 'Kent Postal History Society'. Between us, we decided to try to record as much information of the Sub Post Offices of Ashford as possible.

Within these few pages I have tried to piece together some of the information which has been collected, and hope there is something of interest for everyone.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

English Provincial Posts, by Brian Austin. The Post Office archives, London and the Post Office museum, Ashford. The Pigot's and Kelly's Directories. Ashford library. Ruckinge parish magazine's, not forgetting the 'Locals' for their time and the loan of photographs. Members of the Kent Post for their encouragement, and Alan and Sylvia Clark for their time and energy travelling to London and sifting through archive material.

Front cover. The Post Office Royal Mail coach leaving the Blue Anchor, Ruckinge, to deliver First Day Cover's to Ham Street to celebrate the 200 years of 'Mapping'.

Front cover photograph. Betty Hurrell.

Barbara Ware 1993. *Barbara Stutchbury 1993.*

*Kinil regards.
Barbara.
P.S. I think I must go back to my maiden name for writing?*

HAM STREET RUCKINGE & WAREHORNE

Rural Post. A Brief History.

The Rural Post was not established in these parts until the comparatively late date of December 14th 1825 when a Mr Boys of Warehorne, submitted an application for an official establishment at a place called Ham Street for the adjacent villages:-

Mr Scott, a Post Office Surveyor, put in a request to the Postmaster of Ashford for Ham Street, Orlestone, Warehorne, Ruckinge, Kenardington and Kingsnorth. The letters amounted to thirty in one week and as;

"The distance from Ashford to Ham Street is six and a half miles, it is an impossibility of establishing a Penny Post through this line of country".

Prior to this time, Hasted in his History of Kent stated, that the roads were virtually impassable through this area, and then only in the driest of seasons. Even with the introduction of the Turnpike road through to Stockbridge in 1793, the roads were not greatly improved.

In personal notes from the diaries of John Lorden, who was interviewed by the Kentish Express February 20th 1909, says:-

"The roads seventy years ago were mostly of shingle, but prior to that were soft, and my father told me that faggots used to be extensively used to make them up and they were at times in a fearful state".

Hythe seems to have been the nearest Post Office which covered this area. In Pigot's National Commercial Directory 1832 says:-

"Charles Smith, Postmaster. Letters from London arrive (by mail-cart from Dover) every morning at 8am and are dispatched every evening at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 o'clock. Letters from Brighton, Bromley, Cranbrook, Hastings, Lewis, Romney, Rye, Seven Oaks, Tenterden and Tunbridge Wells arrive every evening at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 o'clock and are dispatched every morning at 8am".

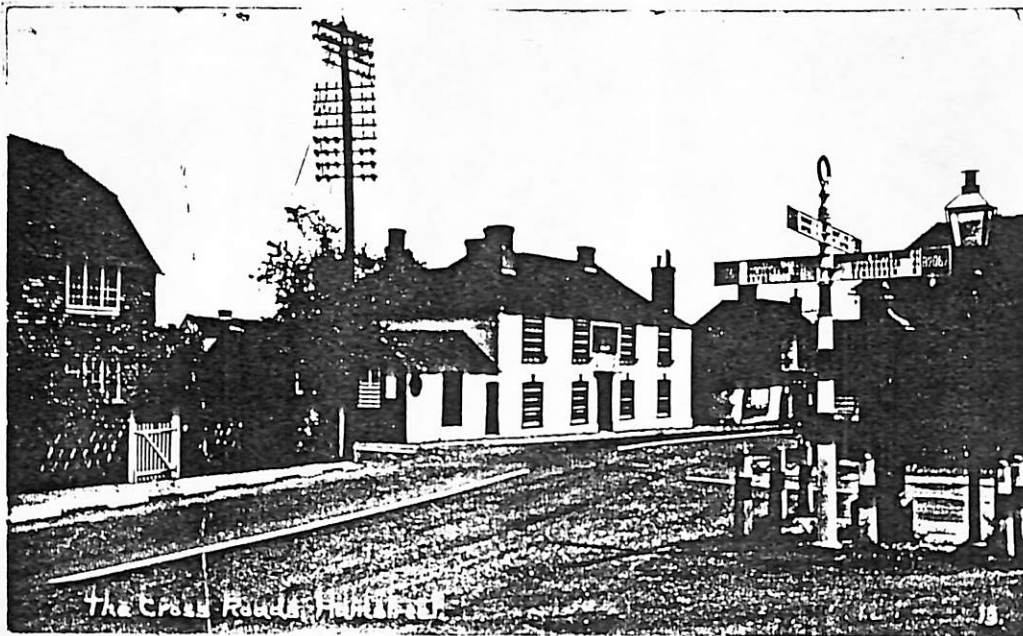
Orlestone, Woodchurch, Warehorne and Ruckinge were listed as being under the control of this office.

HAM STREET

Rural Post. A Brief History

By 1845 letters were being delivered from the Post Town of Ashford to Ham Street, but as yet we have no record of who was the messenger. Kelly's, in their Directory of Kent have indicated that the 'Old Dukes Head' was a Post Inn, which was probably so from the time of the introduction of the Turnpike Road. Mail then was delivered by private carrier.

The Dukes Head, Commercial & Post Inn.



The number of letters delivered by Rural Post prior to 1852.

Route;- Dormans (9) Epps Nursery (8) Beaver (47) Kingsnorth Pound (77) Bromley Green (1) Ham Street (114) Burr Farm, Warehorne (76). Number of letters to each place. Distance 9 miles out and 8 miles back, by foot messenger who delivers on the round to each village.

Annual revenue @ $\frac{1}{2}$ d per letter.

	Messenger 12/- per week	31. 5. 8.
Sub P.M of	Kingsnorth	3. 0. 0.
	Ham Street	3. 0. 0.
	Warehorne	3. 0. 0.
		40. 5. 8.

HAM STREET

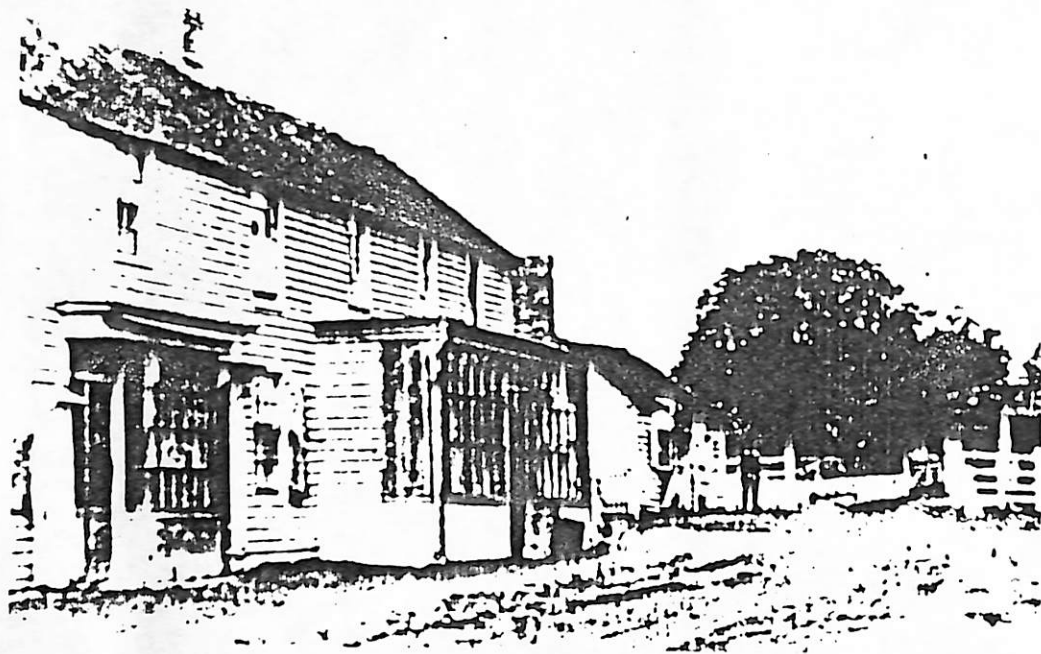
Rural Post. Post town Ashford

On 12th July 1848 Henry Potter was appointed by the Postmaster of Ashford as a messenger at Ham street. By 1852 Henry was the receiver of the mail.

Under a revision of "The Rural Mail" 8th October 1852 it is stated;

"That the Sub Postmaster of Ham Street should deliver mail to a portion of the village at present delivered by messenger, and in addition a part of the village not now delivered free, and the railway station. This would enable the messenger to reach Warehorne 15 minutes earlier".

Ham Street (81) Part of the cottages at the back (6) Railway Station (10) - A total of 97 letters - 2 miles in and out of Ham Street.



The Turnpike Gate, Ham Street.

The shop to the left of the photograph was the first Post Office receiving house for Ham Street. This was where Henry Potter (baker) lived with his wife and family of five children, when he became Post Office receiver in 1852.

HAM STREET

Rural Post. Post town Ashford.

In the mid 1850's Henry Potter moved from his small timbered shop in the main street to the large Tudor building situated on the cross roads. Henry, however, did not live to see the development of the Post Office. He died in 1859 and his son, Joseph, was appointed as receiver of the mail 1st January 1860.

Joseph seems to have been a business man. In another entry from the diaries of John Lorden he states that;

June 1874 "We're busy building Potters' new shop".

1st August, the entry reads;-

"I have finished off Potters' shop to-day and they have furnished it with sweets and loaves of bread for the first time". (This is the lean-to extension to the left of the building. The lean-to on the right was the original stable in which he probably kept his donkey, purchased from the Lordens.)

During the early 1860's the facilities for money orders, both granted and paid, were introduced and there were two daily deliveries of mail, 8.30am and dispatched 5.45pm. Sundays were also taken care of with an 8am collection, and dispatched 11.20am.

The year of 1879 saw the death of Joseph Potter at the age of 43 years and problems for Charlotte, his wife. The property which was surveyed at the time of Henry's death and valued at £400, was again valued. The property belonged to a Thomas Perkins and the whole comprised a row of four cottages, the bakehouse, shop and one single cottage. The whole was now valued at £900. On February 27th 1879 Charlotte agreed to buy the whole estate. It was not, however, until May 12th 1884 that she was appointed as Postmistress.

With the increase of mail the Post Office introduced new postmarks for Ham Street. On 22nd December 1885 a new postmark of the thimble type, 20mm, which included a date stamp was issued. This was followed in 1887 with the introduction of the Duplex postmark number 490. A number that was originally issued to Holkhan in 1844.

HAM STREET

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

Joseph Caffyn, Postmaster.

Joseph Caffyn, a relative of the Potter family, purchased the Bakery and Post Office and on 21st August 1893 was appointed as Postmaster with a salary of £12. 6s. 0d plus a 9/- allowance.



Joseph Caffyn outside the Post Office 1905.

Postman

Frank Rhodes was the first recorded postman and was appointed; 26.12.1894 and remained so to 12.10.1922. He rode from Ashford, daily, bringing the mail with him which he delivered between Ham Street and Warehorne. When the deliveries were finished he left his horse with the ostler at the Dukes Head, did a days jobbing gardening and returned to Ashford with the mail in the evening.

Frank Richardson was another of our early Postmen. (following in his fathers footsteps, not recorded.) In between his Army service 15.8.1907 to 30.5.1913, he served the community delivering mail between Ham Street and Ruckinge. An entry of 1907 gives one of his rounds as Wey Street walking. Quite a distance to walk on rough roads, and he must have been healthy to tackle the bleak marsh winds.

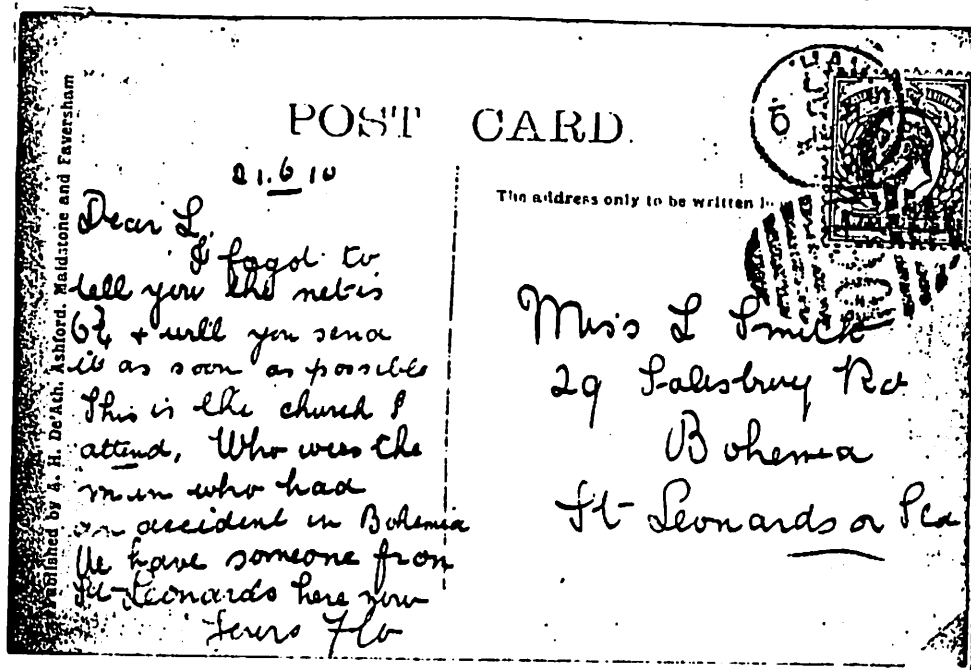
HAM STREET

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

Joseph Caffyn Postmaster

Ham Street was also a Telegraph Office and Don Collick, a grandson of Joseph, recalls a story his father told him regarding an early telegraph;

"The Tanton boys lived at Jenky Farm, two to three miles away, along the Long Rope. They sent their sisters a telegram telling them of an event in the village that evening, and to come down. After closing the shop Joseph and wife set off on foot to deliver the telegram which cost 6d then. On arrival at the farm, at dusk, the girls would not answer the door to them. They missed their evening out and Joseph was reported to the authorities for not getting the telegram to them on time.



The First Duplex of Ham Street No 490
Still in use June 21st 1910.

The accounts at this time are worth a mention. Ham Street is listed under 'Appointments Minor'

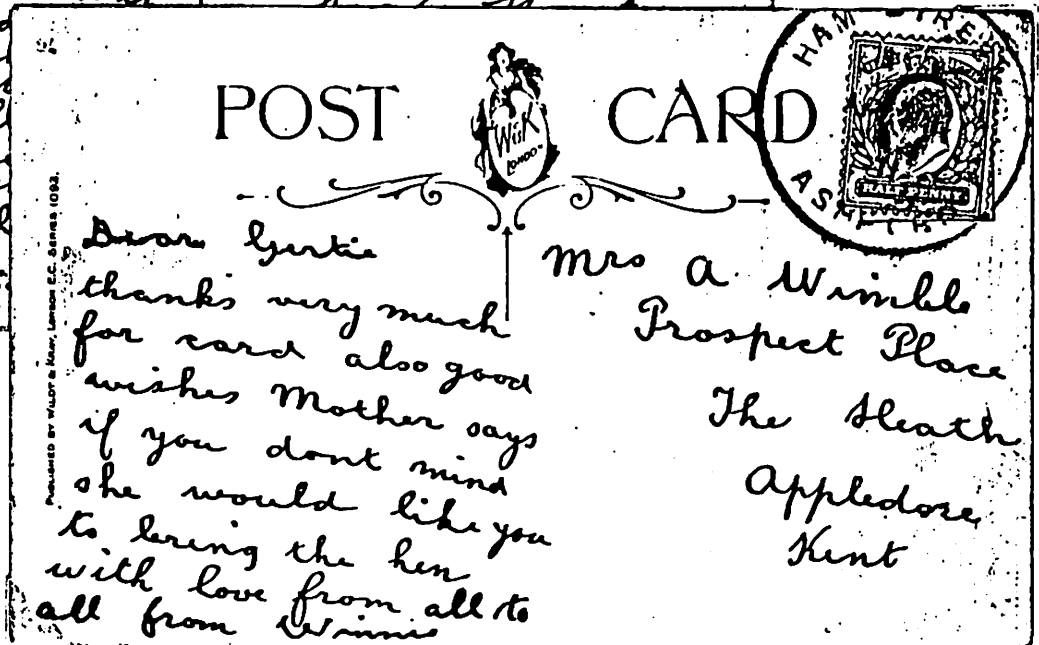
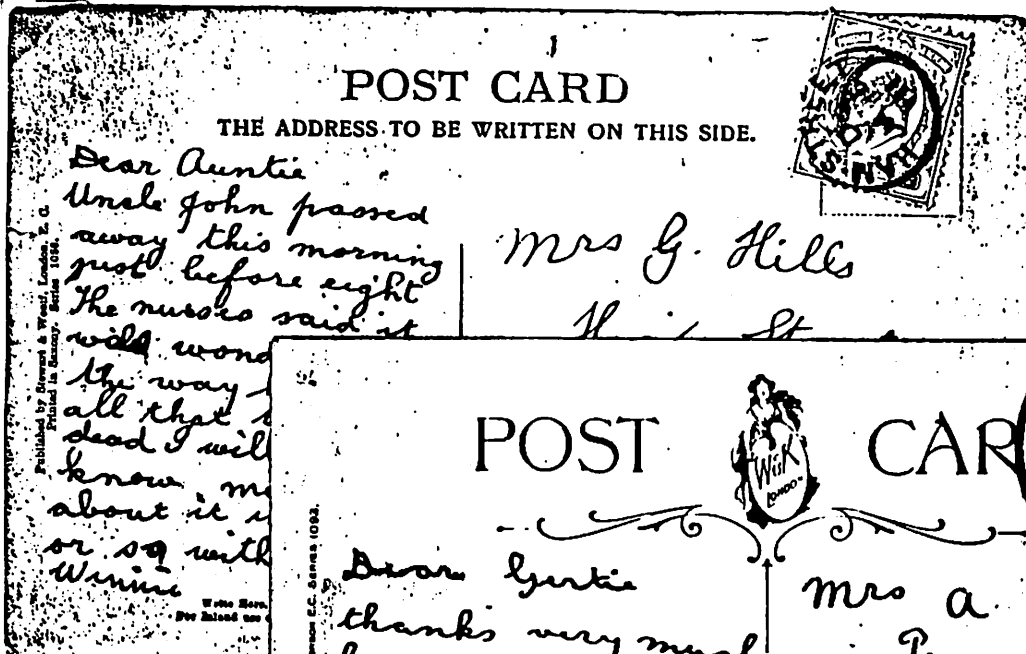
Delivery	No 1 @ 2/6	6. 10. 4.
	No 2 @ 4/6	11. 14. 7.
Daymail Post	19 @ 2/-	5. 4. 3.
Station Service	9am @ 1/-	2. 12. 2.

HAM STREET

A Sub Post Office of Ashford.

Thimble Postmark.

The Thimble Postmark, first introduced December 22nd 1885 size 20mm.
This example dated January 5th 1911, time slug D.



The Skeleton Postmark.

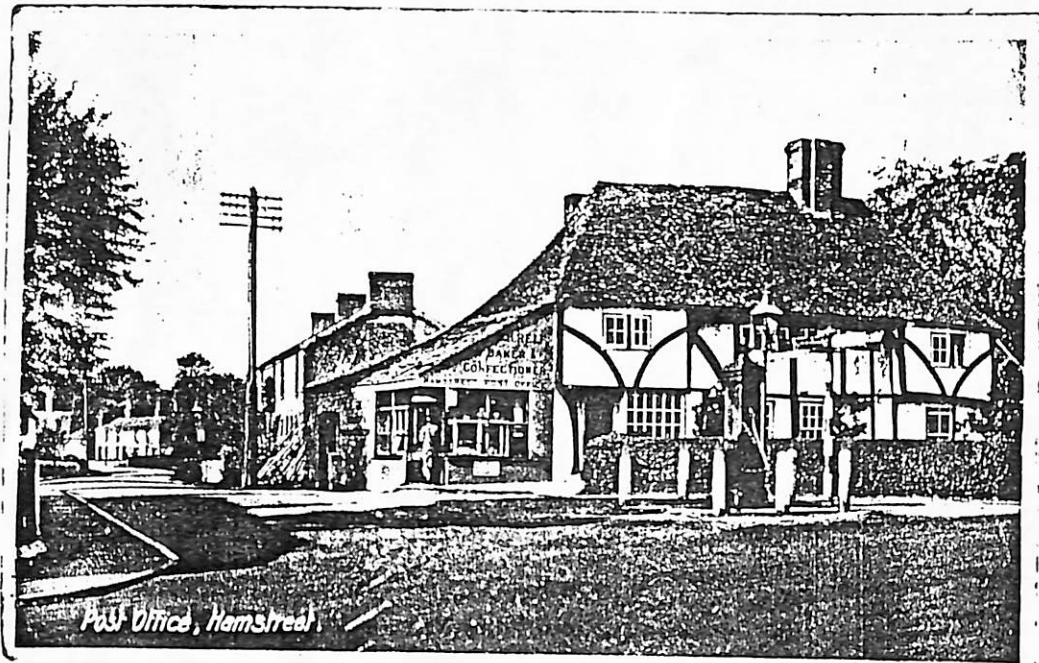
The Skeleton postmark was for emergency use only, when the usual stamp went for repair. The Skeleton was of steel construction with loose digits which were set as required. This is the only recorded date for Ham Street. April 1.11.

HAM STREET

A Sub Post Office of Ashford.

Postmaster William Henry Relf.

With the death or retirement of Joseph Caffyn, in the early twenties' the property was sold, and was purchased by Pledge's, millers of Mersham. William Henry Relf took over the lease and was now the local baker and Postmaster.



The Post Office in William Henry Relf's time.

William Relf was a business man employing five staff. This was virtually a twenty four hour business. The dough was put to rise at 8pm and was ready for the oven at 4am the following morning when the postmen arrived to meet the early morning train at Ham Street Station. The sorting office which was established in Joseph Caffyn's time, was put to good use sorting the mail.

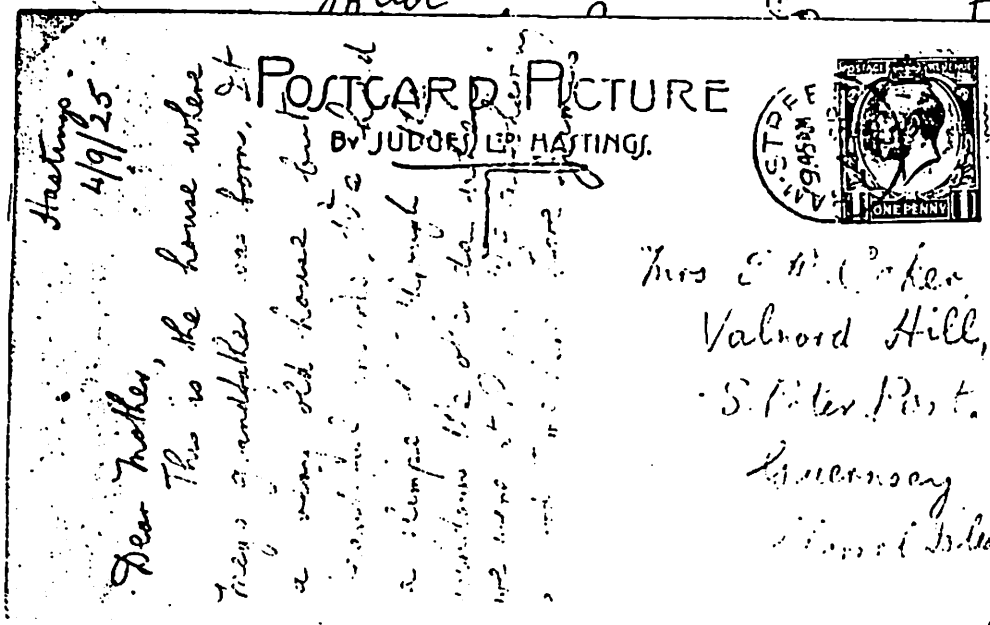
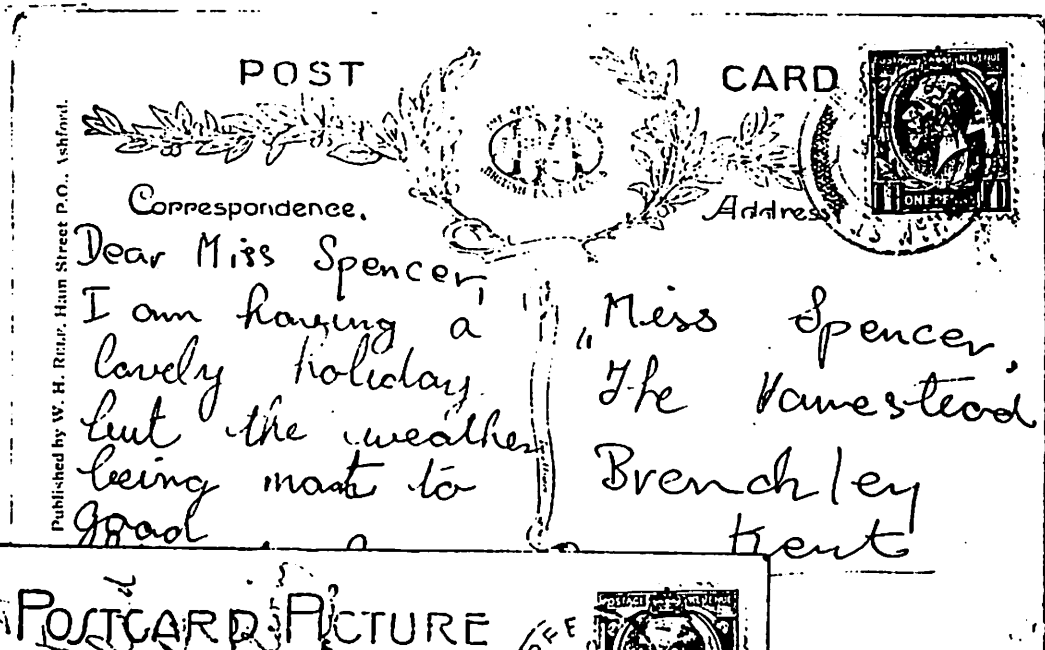
There was a large business in insurance stamps as most people worked on the land and were self employed, and a good turnover of money in the Post Office Savings Bank.

HAM STREET

A Sub Post Office of Ashford.

The Double Circle Postmark.

The double circle postmark with pair of thick arcs broken by post town and Ham St. abbreviated. Dated April 17th 1928.



The Thimble

A later example of the thimble September 4th 1925. Time introduced into time slug, 9.45am.

HAM STREET

Postmaster Mr Sam Shoebridge.

In 1950 Mr Sam Shoebridge took over the business of Baker and Postmaster.

There were three postmen, Ted Ovenden, Charlie Mount and Percy Godden. Ted Ovenden was at the age of eighteen, appointed Postman on October 30th 1910 and, I believe, he served the community for fifty years, retiring in the early 'sixties. His postal route was the village (walking) and one of his jobs in the latter years was the emptying of the post-box at Snave. Margaret his niece, said;

"His only grouse was that he would cycle, in all weathers, to clear the box only to find it empty on arrival".

In his spare time, Ted repaired shoes and boots in his shop at his home 'Stella House'.



The Post Office decorated for the Coronation 1952

In 1970 Sam retired from baking, and as the lease of the Tudor building had expired, he had a new Post Office with integral house, shop and sorting office built in the one-way street.

HAM STREET

Bournewood Stores Post Office.

With Susan's retirement came another move for the Post Office. The Bournewood stores was an ideal location and Sylvia Bowler was appointed Post-mistress. Life went on much as before until 1991 when the Post Office issued a set of stamps featuring a small section from Ordnance Survey maps over a period of 200 years, and Ham Street was the location selected.



Publicity to launch the stamps, 17th September 1991.

Geoff. Bowler, husband of Sylvia, on the forecourt outside the Bournewood Post Office on the 17th September, receiving 'first day covers' to be stamped, from the Ordnance Survey officials who were holding an exhibition at Ruckinge.

HAM STREET

Postmistress Miss Susan Shoebridge.

The last Postmark to be issued for letters at 5.15pm November 26th 1986, when automatic sorting was introduced and the sorting office closed.



Susan Post-mistress, before her retirement circa 1986.

The Post Office van was used to deliver the mail to the rural areas. The postbox, the original, was moved with the Post Office in 1970. This box went on its travels again when the Post Office moved and was situated on its new site at Bournewood, but with the increased volume of mail was not adequate so was changed for a larger one.

HAM STREET

A Sub Post Office Of Ashford

Certificates of posting. Issued at Ham Street from 1979.

The Post Office

Certificate of Posting

for inland ordinary letters and parcels
and overseas ordinary letters

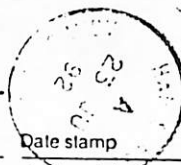
Received

items as listed

Accepting
Officer's
initials

JB

Date stamp



Enter below in ink the name and full address as written on each item, and present them in the order listed.

(For Cash on Delive

No compensation v

Name

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

1. LASSFTE

Inland Unregistered letters and ordinary parcels

2

Overseas Ordinary letters only

3

4

Certificate of Posting for Recorded Delivery How to post

- 1 Enter below in ink the name and full address as written on the letter or packet.
- 2 Affix the numbered adhesive label in the top left-hand corner of the letter (or close to the address on a packet).
- 3 Affix postage stamps to the letter for the correct postage and Recorded Delivery Fee.
- 4 Hand this certificate, together with the letter, to an officer of The Post Office.
- 5 This certificate will be date-stamped and initialled as a receipt. Please keep it safely, and produce it in the event of a claim.

Name: TINA HARRY HBA-REVISITAC

Address: BPP House

142/144 BXORIDH RD

STEPHANOS GUSH GREEN LONDON

Postcode: W12 8AA

**Recorded Delivery should not be used for
sending money or valuable items.**

For
Post Office use

Date stamp

Accepting
Officer's initials



JB

Recorded Delivery no

F 945539

P2297, July 87

(number) items listed overleaf.

Accepting Officer's initials.

Address of each item

Please fix postage stamps here

1p for each item. 10p for a batch

Certificate of Posting for Recorded Delivery

N 414588

Money must not be sent by
Recorded Delivery. See over for

Date Stamp

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Unregistered letters and ordinary parcels only

(number) items entered*
can be posted here today.

Initials

JB

Copy the address in full
items should be pre-
der in which they are



Accepting Officer's
initials

JB

In the event of loss, damage or delay, this certificate
will confer no title to compensation.

(2) Any items in respect of which this certificate is
issued will not be checked in the post, or afforded
special treatment.

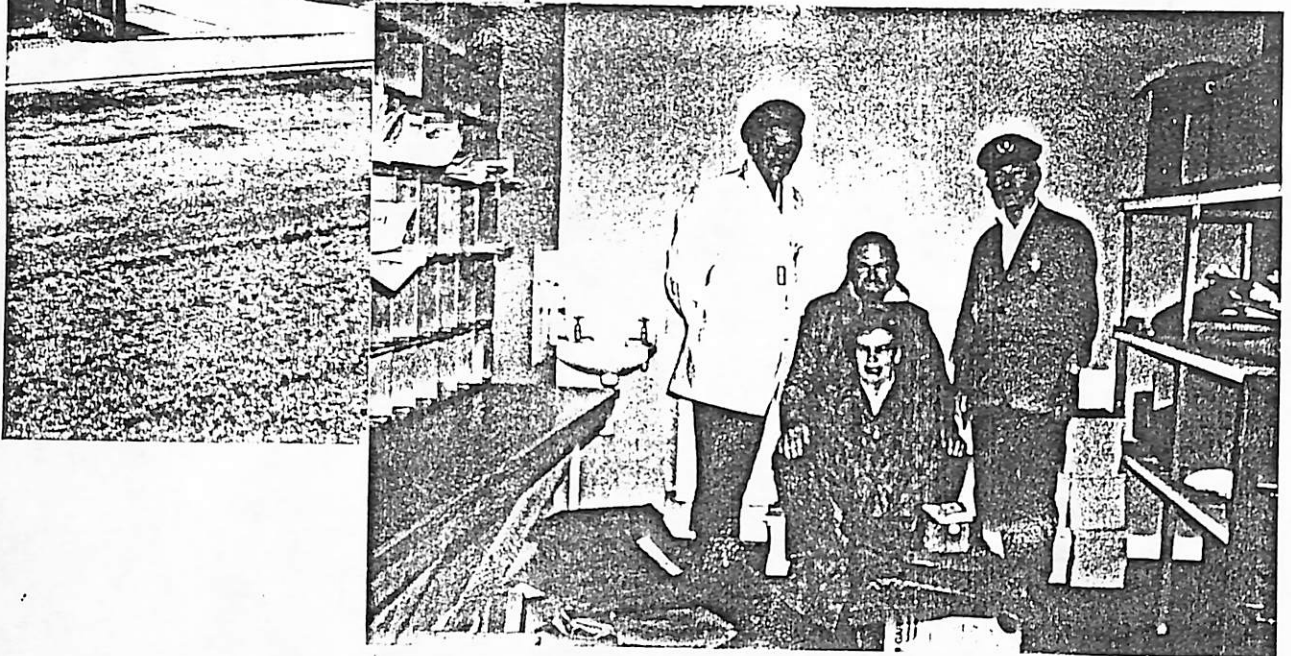
HAM STREET

Postmistress Miss Susan Shoebridge.

In the May of 1973 Susan took the position of Postmistress, on the retirement of her father, and enjoyed her next fourteen years as postmistress in the new Post Office, but when mechanised sorting was introduced in 1987 the sorting office which had been established sixty years or more became obsolete. Susan could see the wind of change and decided to retire.



The Post Office on its new site in the 'one-way street' 1970.



Postmen in the new sorting office, from left; John Harden, Mick Holdstock, Dennis Shorter and Mary Richardson.

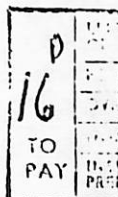
HAM STREET

Sub Post Office of Ashford.

Letter sent from New Romney to Ruckinge, back stamped New Romney, received through the Ham Street Post Office postage un-paid. A used stamp stuck down with sellotape is not acceptable. December 19th 1979. To pay 16 pence.



Messrs. A. J. Stutchbury. Ltd.
Oakhurst.



Upper Ruckinge.

LETTER CARD



B. J. WARE.
GREEN WAYS.
RUCKINGE RD.
HAM STREET.
ASHFORD.
KENT.

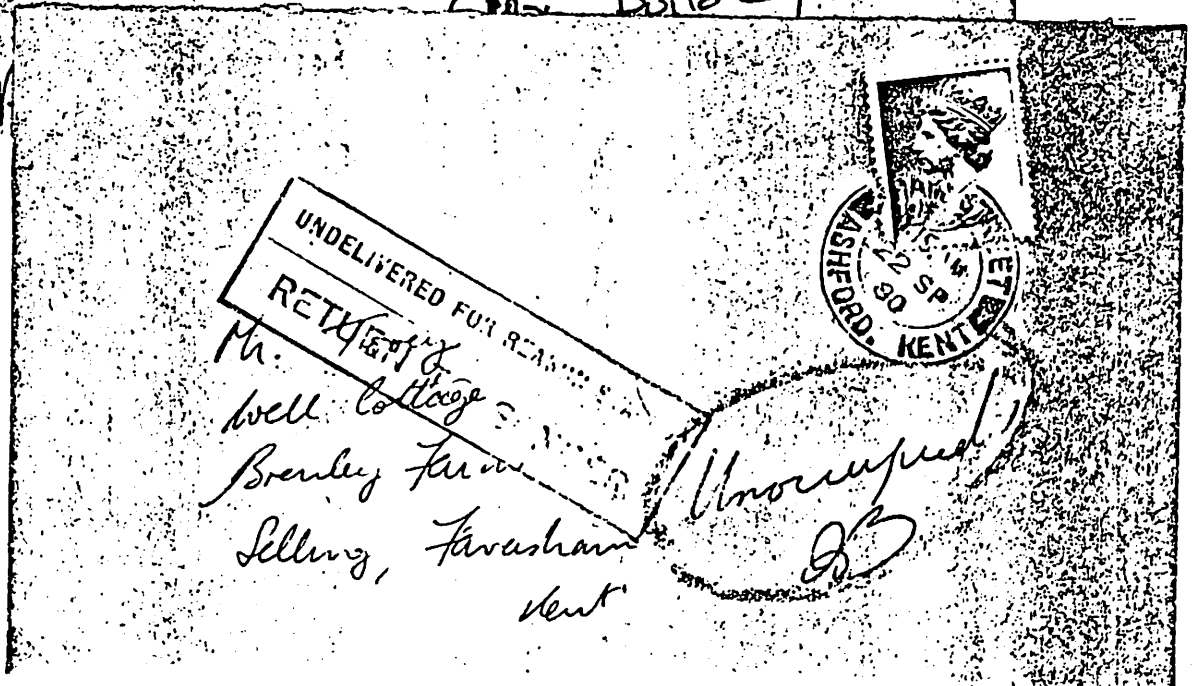
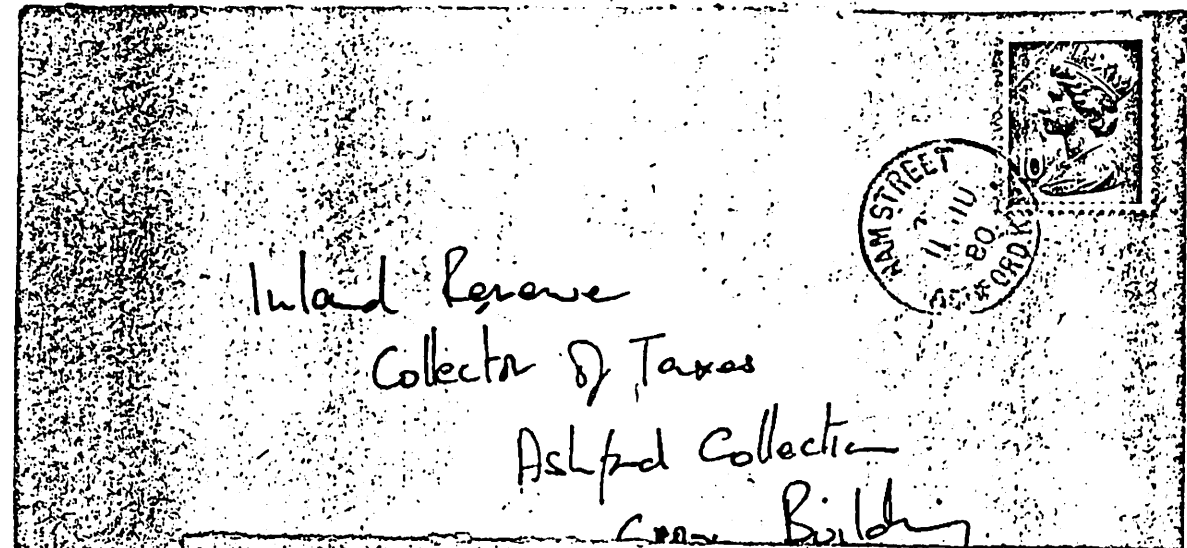
To open tear off the edge at the perforation

Modern single circle counter stamp on pre-printed letter card.

HAM STREET

Sub Post Office of Ashford.

Modern single ring date stamp, usually used for counter service. July 11th 1980.



Modern Double Circle Postmark with pair of thick arcs broken by Post town September 22nd 1980. Boxed purple undelivered for reasons stated. House unoccupied.

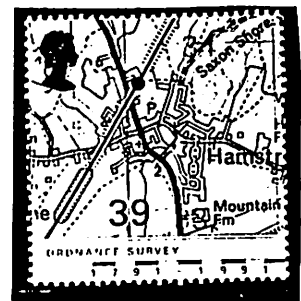
HAM STREET

200 Years of Mapping.

Ham Street was 'put on the map' when the 'Royal Mail' celebrated 200 years of 'Mapping Britain' by issuing a set of stamps to mark the bicentenary of Ordnance Survey,

The four stamps were issued September 17th 1991, and featured details of maps of Ham Street, which was chosen as an example of a village which has developed slowly over the past two centuries. The stamps show a variety of Ordnance Survey symbols, including the Royal Military Canal, the railway line, roads, buildings, woodland and water. Royal Mail Stamps favoured a location in Kent because it was the first county mapped in detail by the Ordnance Survey using triangulation, the framework upon which all scientific survey work is built.

The stamps were designed by Howard Brown, a freelance graphic artist, who trained in graphic design at Maidstone College of Art.



The four stamps are valued at 24p, 28p, 33p and 39p, and show how Ham Street appeared on the 1816 edition of the 1801 Kent map, which was the Ordnance Survey's first official map, and on the 1906, 1959 and 1991 versions. The same section from each of the three one-inch to one-mile and a smaller part of the 1991 map, which has a scale of two centimetres to one kilometre, is reproduced on the stamps.

Urch Harris & Co. Ltd. are proud to announce the acquisition of what is probably the most important item in Great Britain, or indeed world, philately this century.

26p 'HAM STREET' ERROR OF VALUE

On 17th September 1991 the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey was celebrated by the issue of a set of 4 values, 24p, 28p, 33p and 39p.

This set was initially prepared prior to a rise in the postal rates.

However, one sheet showing a face value of 26p instead of the issued 28p was sold over the counter at a Post Office in Hastings, Sussex.

The majority were sold for postage before the error was spotted by a philatelist. He of course purchased all available – a Block of 20, which are the only examples known.

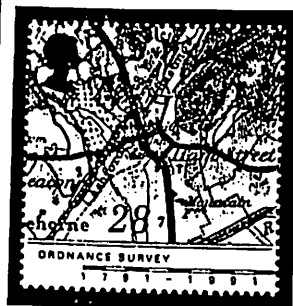
One is to be offered to the Royal Collection of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II leaving just 19 stamps available.

When compared with other major rare varieties in the world such as the 1918 USA Inverted Aeroplane, 100 of which are known and is now catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £85,000, and the 1959 Canada St. Lawrence Seaway inverted centre of which at least 230 are known, catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £10,000, the potential of this item is obvious.

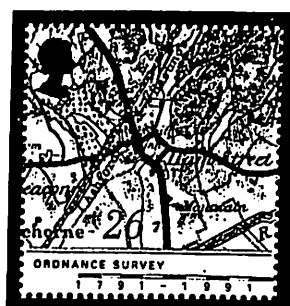
Although we cannot guarantee such meteoric price rises we genuinely believe that this item known as the 'HAM STREET ERROR OF VALUE' ranks above such famous errors as there is a much smaller quantity available.

We are offering this magnificent stamp on a first come, first served basis at £15,000.

Extended payment terms are available to known clients and all enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.



NORMAL



ERROR

ONLY 20 KNOWN TO EXIST AND ONE OF THOSE IS TO BE OFFERED FOR INCLUSION IN THE ROYAL COLLECTION



CANADA SG513a
230 known to exist
Cat. £10,000



USA SGA548b
100 known to exist
Cat. £85,000



Each stamp is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity indicating the position of the stamp in the original block.

Urch Harris & Co. Ltd

1 & 2 Osprey Court
Hawkfield Business Park,

Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 0BE

Tel: 0272 465656 Fax: 0272 465225



RUCKINGE

Rural Post. Post Town Ashford

Ruckinge was receiving mail by 'Foot Post' via a Post Office Guide by 1845-46. Thomas Mummery was appointed messenger on 13th April 1847, probably a Ruckinge man. His appointment barely lasted the year.

12th July 1848 James Wanstall filled the post and a few months later a J Norley, also a messenger, was dismissed.

26th July 1847 the Post Office at Ashford created a receivers post, the surveyor to select. The post was taken by James Wanstall who was, at the time of the 1851 census, living at Ruckinge Corner and was listed as a grocer. His salary was £3 per annum.



The first Post Office and General Stores, Ruckinge.

When James Wanstall died in 1852, his wife, Charlotte, took the position of receiver and was appointed 30th May 1852, her salary was also £3 per annum.

RUCKINGE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford.

Ruckinge had a number of different Receivers and Postmasters over the years. With the resignation of Charlotte Wanstall in 1857, the position of Receiver was again vacant.

Filled by	06/01/1858	Thomas Sharwood.
"	10/05/1877	John Barman.
Resigned	16/12/1901	" "
Filled	21/01/1902	Clarence Edward Walter Garner at £8.19s. per annum plus 4/- commission.
Resigned	15/02/1904	" "
Filled	26/04/1904	to 1919 Frederick W. Elliott at £9.9s per annum plus 9/- commission.

POST CARD.

Frith's Series.

This space may be used for communication—Inland Postage only.

The Address only to be written here.



*I am
Fred W. Elliott*

*John Barman
Charlotte Wanstall
Ruckinge
to Ashford*

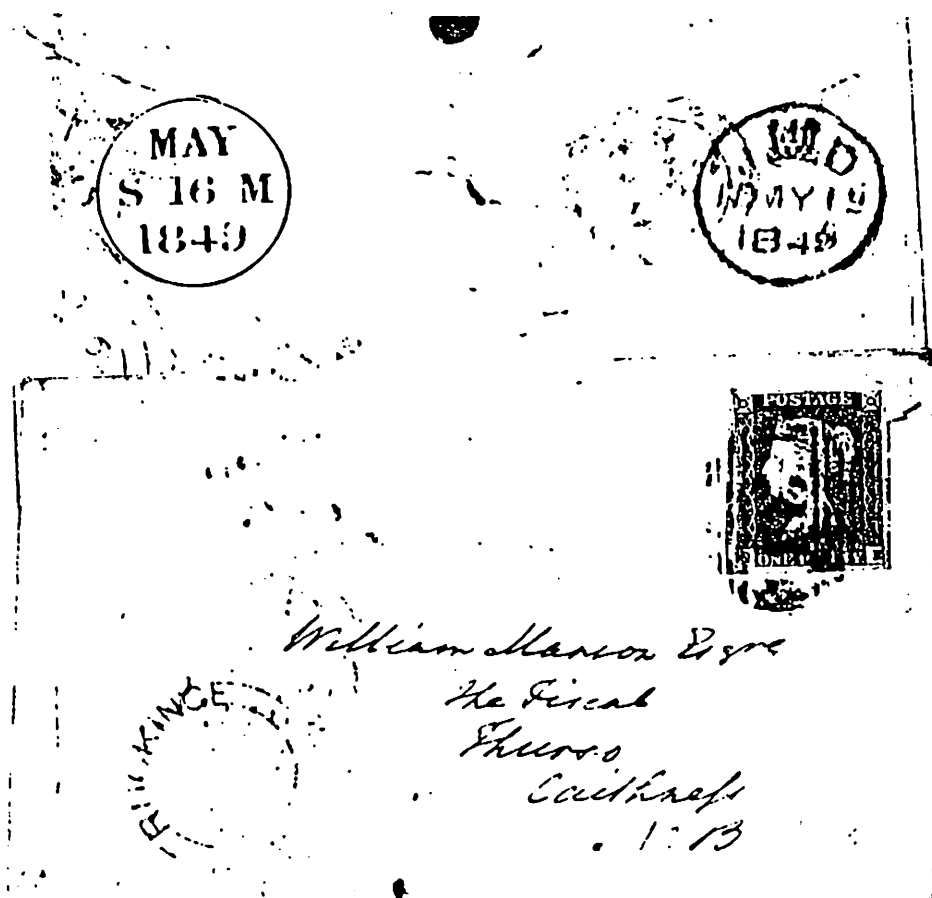
Early Rubber Date Stamp for Ruckinge 1904, (scarce violet).

Ruckinge along with other small Post Offices with a turnover of less than £1000 a year, did not have its own dated stamp. In 1883 every Post Office, however small was supplied with its own parcel label and a provision was made to apply for a dated stamp. In 1885 the PO's developed further services such as the sale of Postal Orders. Each sub-postmaster was supplied with a distinctive stamp, officially called a Climax Dater, bearing the name of the office with the necessary pad. In the interests of economy the stamp was made of rubber, 28mm in diameter.

RUCKINGE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

This is the earliest example of a letter posted at Ruckinge, and stamped with circular undated serif (blue) postmark. On reaching Ashford the letter was stamped on the obverse with the Ashford number 31 obliterator mark, and back stamped with the circular dated serif postmark MY 14 1849. The letter arrived at the London receiving house arrived on a Sunday and has a, not so common, Sunday mark, MAY. S 16 M 1849 on the reverse. The letter arrived in Caithness N B (North Britain) and bares a receiving mark (red) MAY 19 1849.



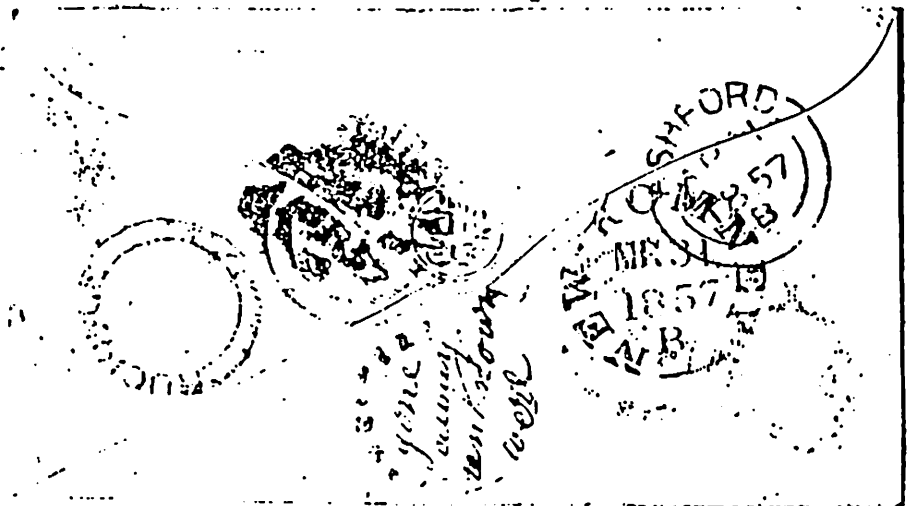
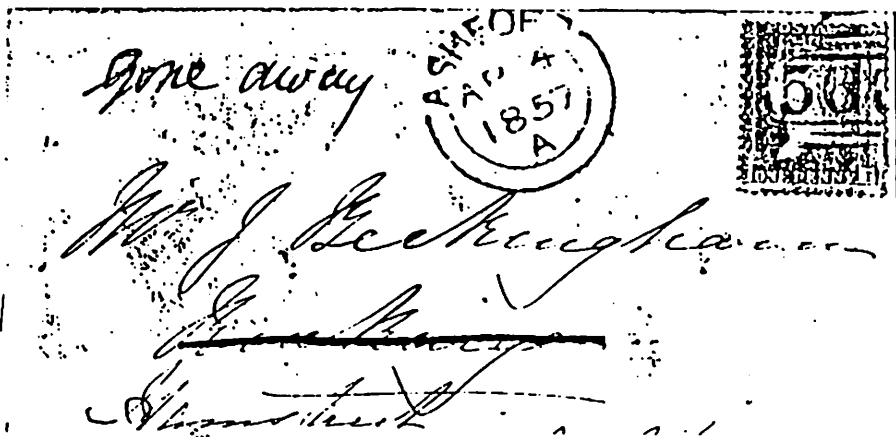
Letter sent from Ruckinge, imperf 1d red on blue paper.

This is a lovely example of early rural mail to find, thanks to the eagle eye of a Kent Post enthusiast. In the space of five days it was stamped by James Wanstall, Ruckinge receiver, carried by foot messenger to Ashford via Ham Street. Then to London by mail coach, finally reaching Caithness. A period of five days.

RUCKINGE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

The first recorded Post Mark of Ham Street, Ruckinge and Warehorne was issued 3rd June 1848, and was of the circular, undated serif type.



NEW ROMNEY to RUCKINGE to HAM STREET to ASHFORD

This is another early example of a letter sent to Ruckinge, Ham Street, Ashford sent to a Mr J Beckingham.

This letter was sent from New Romney, back-stamped 31st March 1857. The New Romney obliterator 566 on the obverse. It arrived at Ashford, back-stamped 1st April 1857 and was sent to Ruckinge. Finding that Mr Beckingham had gone, was sent to Ham Street where it was stamped with the double ringed serif Ham Street and "gone away unknown where". The letter arrived back at Ashford 4th April 1857.

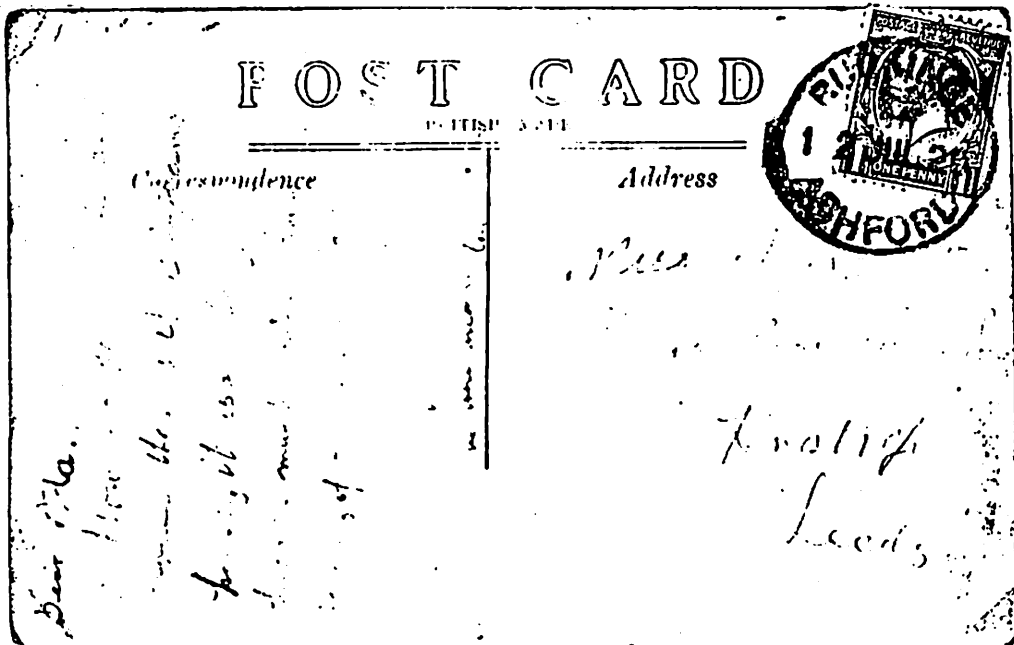
RUCKINGE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

With the death of Frederick Elliott in 1919 Minnie, his wife, continued as Postmistress until 1930. The job was then taken by Frederick Wilson, a relative of the Elliott's, who continued to serve the people of Ruckinge until he died in 1943.

Being wartime the position of Postmaster was not easy to fill so Mr and Mrs Bingham, who lived at 'Amhurst' half a mile down the road toward Ham Street, took the job over until a replacement could be found. They had just enough room in their hall-way to house the Post Office, and there it remained for eighteen months or so and it was there that the people of Ruckinge went to receive their wartime pensions.

At the time of the VJ celebrations the Post Office was re-established back in the village, but now at the Stores, under the management of Mr Randell.



A later specimen of the rubber datestamp of the more common black variety. Dated 12 July 20.

RUCKINGE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

The Post Office, at its new location, had over the next few years a variety of Post Masters. In the 'sixties William Reed and his sister ran the establishment. When William retired the Post Office changed hands and Reginald Gill and family took over the business.



The Post Office of Ruckinge in the 1960's

In 1993 the Post Office has changed hands many times and struggles to survive.

Ruckinge and the Ordnance Survey 17th September 1991

To celebrate the 200 years of Mapping the Nation, the Ordnance Survey had an exhibition at Ruckinge because it was there that the tip of the apex of the first triangle was drawn. By prior arrangement, official first day covers were stamped at the Ruckinge Post Office with the Ruckinge hand stamp. Other F.D.C.'s were carried on the Royal Mail coach from the Blue Anchor Inn, Ruckinge and received a special mail-coach cancellation, they were then delivered to Ham Street Post Office.

RUCKINGE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

Modern single ring postmark for counter use on a receipt for stamps.

Post Office
Post Office Counters Limited

9/4 19 90

14

Voucher No. _____

RECEIVED with thanks _____

Ten pounds

£ 10

from _____

for

Stamps

For
Post Office Use
only

Date Stamp



Additional details e.g. Office Code, Cheque No., Giro Acc No. etc.



Mrs J M O'Halloran
28 Gillingham Gardens
London SW5

Modern double ring postmark, Ruckinge separated by two small arc's,
Ashford, Kent. Time slot B, 24 MR, 71.

BROMLEY GREEN

In the Parish of Shadoxhurst

Bromley Green is partly in the parishes of Shadoxhurst, Ruckinge and Orlestone and its Post Office is quite interesting to the postal history historian. This Post Office not only changed hands quite frequently, but also its location.

On 16th August 1922 Gilbert James Hatton was licensed to sell stamps at The Nest. Bromley Green, (main road) Shadoxhurst.



James Gilbert Hatton, The Nest, Bromley Green 1922.

By 1924 the Post Office had transferred to Summer Road, Bromley Green, a distance of one and a half miles, where it remained until sometime during the 'thirties when it transferred back to the main road site.

Mrs Hatton (wife) continued as its proprietor for many years. When she retired the Post Office changed hands and in the late 'fifties and 'sixties was managed by Mrs Sturch.

BROMLEY GREEN

Summer Road, Upper Ruckinge.

Just to furnish the reader who may be new to this area, Bromley Green Road was in the early days, (1920's) known as Summer Road, because due to its wet location was only passable in the summer.

THE STORES

Summer Rd, Upper Ruckinge.

- - for - -

Grocery, Provisions, Confectionery & Tobacco

POST OFFICE

Proprietor; H.B. Humberstone.

Thanks to early Ruckinge Parish Magazines, we have a comprehensive record of early adverts for this Post Office. The Stores frequently changed hands and was under the management of; H.B. Humberstone April 1924. Then; R.L. Cotton Nov. 1924, and H.T. Hollis, Nov 1931.

BROMLEY GREEN POST OFFICE

Grocery, Confectionery, Drapery, Hardware, Corn Etc.

Lowest Prices for Cash.

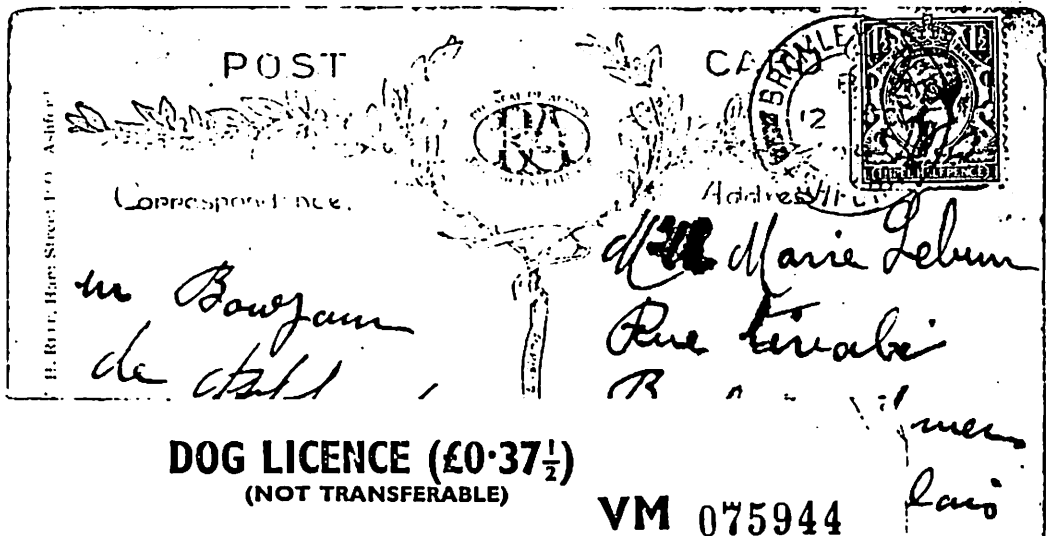
Public Telephone Call Office Telephone Ham Street 13.

Proprietor H.T. Hollis.

BROMLEY GREEN

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

Postmark's of Bromley Green are difficult to find. This is a modern double circle, dated October 12th 1929. This would have been posted at the Bromley Green Road Post Office.



DOG LICENCE (£0·37½)
(NOT TRANSFERABLE)

VM 075944

Full Christian Names...PATRICIA...ROSE
and Surname...DILLER
(IN BLOCK LETTERS)
Full Postal Address...BROMLEY GREEN P.C.
...HEPER...RUSKINLE
...ASHFORD...KENT...T.H.L. 12/10/29

is hereby authorised to keep **ONE DOG** in Great Britain, from the date hereof until and including the last day of*...JUNE...next following; the sum of THIRTY-SEVEN and a HALF PENCE having been paid for this Licence.

Granted at...3...hours...10...minutes...p.m. o'clock at the place, and on the date, indicated in the issuing office stamp, by...P. Diller



NOTICE.—Any permanent change of address should be notified to the appropriate Council: in England and Wales the County or County Borough, in Scotland the County or Large Burgh.

Penalty for refusing to show this Licence to any duly authorised Officer, or Police Constable, or for keeping a dog above 6 months old without Licence, £10

*Insert month preceding the month of issue of the Licence.

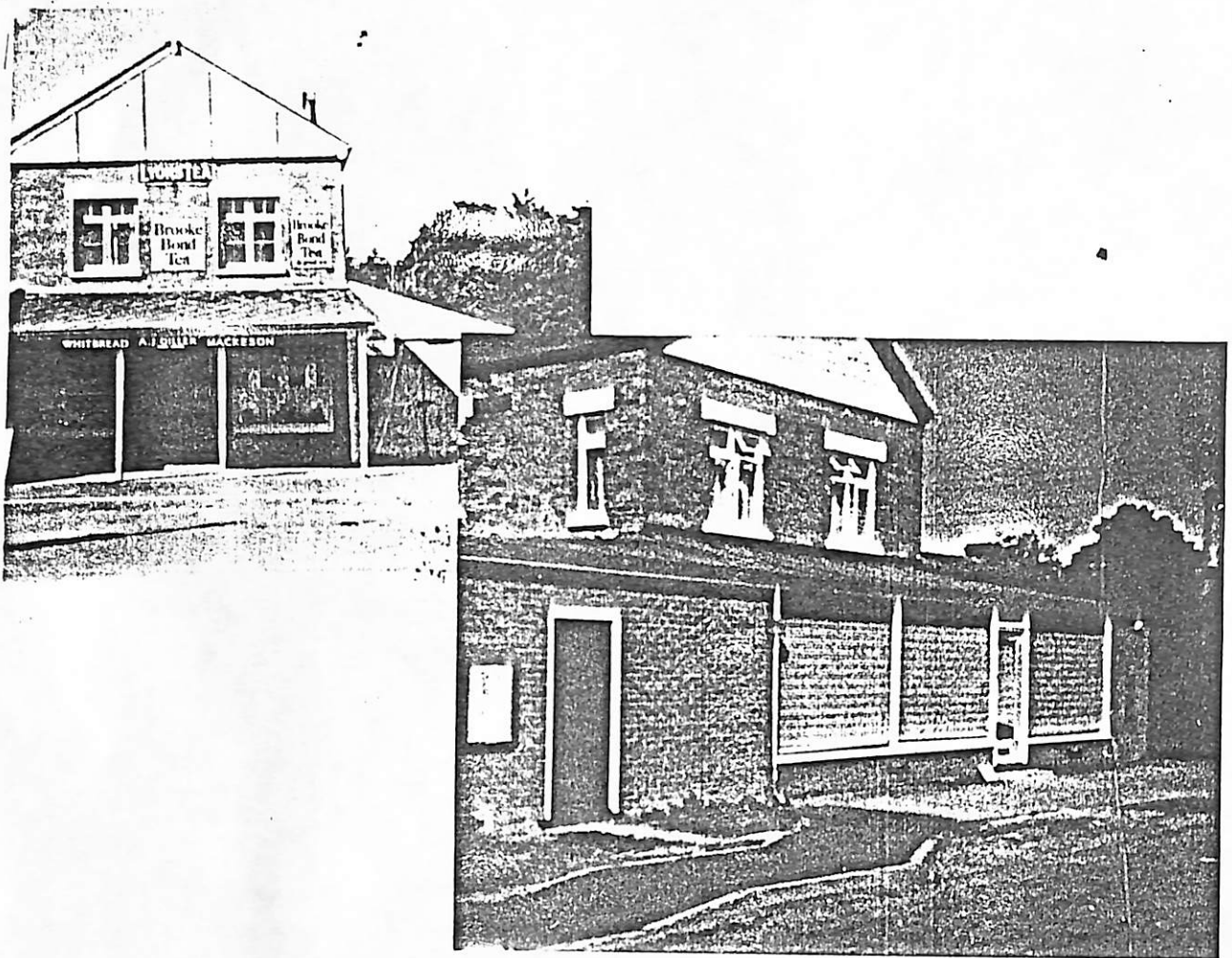
SEE NOTES OVERLEAF

This example of a circular date stamp was found on a dog licence issued July 1st 1974.

BROMLEY GREEN

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

By the 'seventies the Post Office moved, yet again, and was re-established back at its old site in Bromley Green Road, under the management of Mr & Mrs Oiller, after the retirement of Mrs Wally, who with her husband had served the people of the road with, not only quality provisions but also with 'colourful' village gossip.



*A view of The Stores when purchased in the 'seventies,
and as it looked at a later date as 'The Post Office.'*

The Post Office flourished, but after the death of Mr Oiller, Mrs Oiller retired (1970's). The Post Office closed down never to re-open and the property was converted into a private residence.

WAREHORNE

A Sub Post Office of Ashford

Warehorne, being another small Post Office of similar size to Ruckinge, was issued on June 3rd 1848, with the circular undated serif postmark.

With the development of the Post Office in 1885, Warehorne also with a small turnover of money under £1000, was likewise treated in the same way as Ruckinge and was issued with a rubber date stamp.



Warehorne Green.

ROULDFN A WIND S. SERIF ASHFORD.

Warehorne Post Office 1908

In 1845 Warehorne was receiving mail by foot post from Ashford and by 1852 Thomas Bourne was receiver. Mail was delivered at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 9am and dispatched 5pm. 1866 saw more change with the appointment of William Foster and Warehorne had the facility of the Money Order Office at Ham Street.

By 1879 Warehorne had a Postmaster. Mr Cork was appointed on November 10th 1879. A record of 1895 shows his wage for two deliveries as 3/- and 5/- respectively.