



HAMSTREET & ORLESTONE

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

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SPONSORSHIP

The publication of this booklet has been made possible through the sponsorship of the 'ROYAL MAIL' who are featuring maps of Hamstreet on four stamps to be issued on the 17th September 1991, to commemorate 200 years of the Ordnance Survey.

The reason why Hamstreet has been chosen to be featured on a set of stamps goes back to 1784 when the British and French astronomers had a dispute over the differences in longitude between the Greenwich and Paris observatories. They settled the dispute by fixing the relative positions by triangulation which has been the basis of map making (or cartography to give it its proper name), ever since. Hamstreet falls, geographically, very close to the apex of the first triangle of the first Ordnance Survey map that was made.

Hamstreet, like so many other villages, has altered quite dramatically over nearly 200 years but map-wise has stayed remarkably intact and is still easy to recognise on the Ordnance Survey map.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE HAMSTREET HISTORY SOCIETY would like to thank all the people who through their knowledge, or by allowing us to reproduce their material, either written or photographic, have made it possible to produce a history of the village in days gone by. We apologise in advance, if we have missed anyone out;

Mrs Beatrice Brissenden, Mrs Mary Brown, Rev C Coleman, Mr Bob Collick, Mr Bill Dorman, Mr Bernard George, Mr Ralph Harden, Miss Betty Hughes and friends, Mrs Maylam, Mr Sam Shoebridge and Miss Beryle Bell for her delightful illustrations.

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EDITOR	Barbara Ware
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS	Eunice Allen Betty Hurrell Ruth & George Stevens
PHOTOGRAPHY	Betty Hurrell
TYPING	Andrea Ware Barbara Ware
FRONT COVER & ILLUSTRATIONS	Beryle Bell

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INTRODUCTION

The village of Hamstreet is situated seven miles south of Ashford, where the A2070 road to Rye crosses the B2067 Tenterden to Hythe road and just nudging the edge of the Romney Marsh.

At present it has a population of approximately 1500 people, and there is a constant stream of traffic through its main street.

The school, with 286 pupils and 12 staff including the head teacher, can no longer be called 'The Village School' as it draws its pupils from a number of surrounding villages.

The village is served by a railway station and a bus service. There are two garages, a public house, a doctors' surgery and several shops supplying most of the needs of the community, but it was not always so. Like so many Kentish villages, it has grown rapidly in recent years.

The local history group was formed to delve into the past and produce this booklet for your interest and, we hope, pleasure.

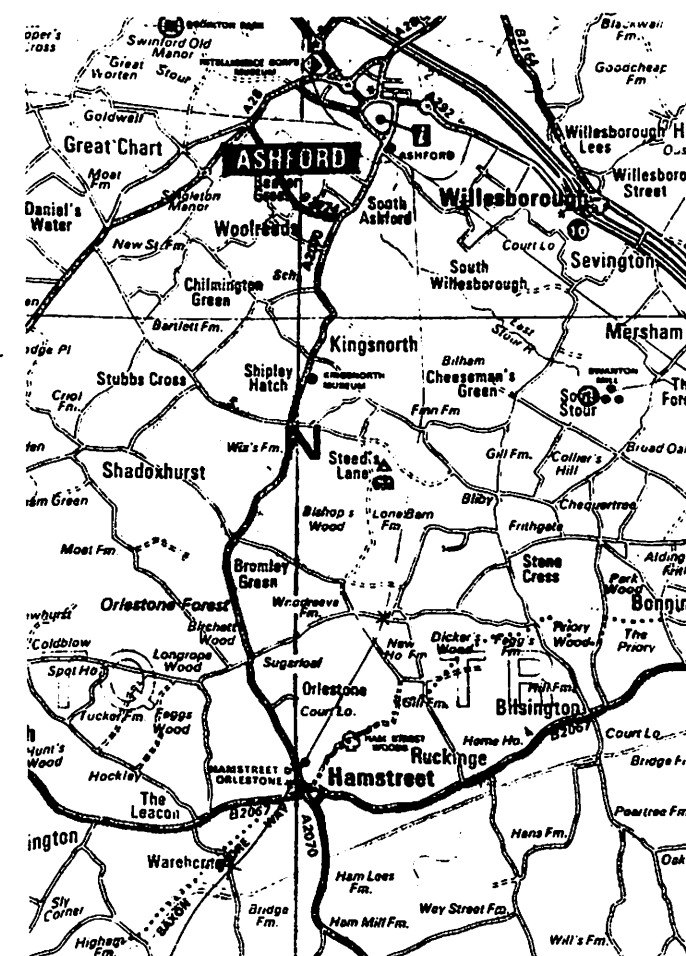
We would like to thank the many people who have lent old postcards and photographs and given us permission to reproduce them.

Our thanks also to all the contributors, whose articles appear in this edition, and to Andrea Ware for giving so willingly and freely of her time to assist with the typing.

Betty Hurrell

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THE TURNPIKE ROAD TO HAMSTREET

In 1663 Parliament passed an act introducing the Turnpike road, but it was not until 1709 that the first turnpike road was introduced into Kent. Up to 1711 the responsibility for the administration of the turnpike road fell on the Justice of the Peace. From 1706, however, the practice of appointing a special body of trustees began to supersede this method of administration. Many roads were too small to be economical but over all there was a vast improvement in the roads of Kent administered by the Turnpike Trust. With the spread of the railways in the late nineteenth century the trusts fell into decline with the development of an alternative form of transport.

The Turnpike Trusts derived the major part of their income by charging a toll for the section of road in their control. Some trusts did not control their toll directly but farmed out their collection rights at an annual auction. Some trusts made arrangements with parish authorities through which their roads passed to receive part of the cash commutation in respect of road repairs.

On January 11th 1793 a meeting was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Ashford, to discuss a proposal for a turnpike road between Ashford and Hamstreet. The participants agreed unanimously that such a road "will be of public utility". The road was eight miles in length and had eight gates or bars along its route, each having a distance of one mile. The road went down into the marsh as far as Stockbridge. Hamstreet had a Toll House which stood in the centre of the cross roads. There was also a pay gate at the entrance to the Warehorne road, and another along the Ruckinge Road. An interesting by-product of the turnpike era was the provision



The Toll Gate, Hamstreet

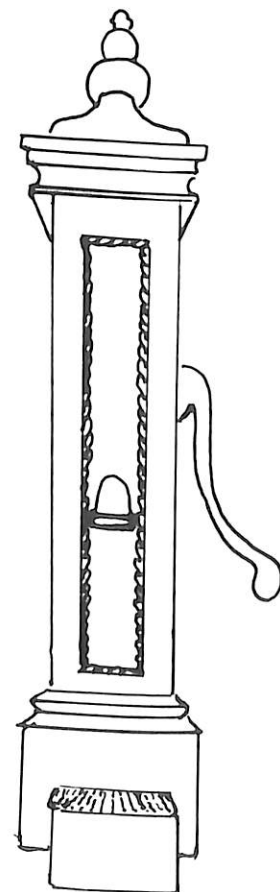
of milestones. Legislation in 1697 required stones and posts to be placed at crossroads and most trusts had their own design. These stones were also known as Handposts, Handingposts and Fingerposts. One such stone probably stood at Sugarloaf, formerly known as St Thomas Cross.

Sadly, most of the stones in Kent have disappeared, victims of early road widening schemes, of the war time need for secrecy, and of simple disregard of their historical value.

Barbara Ware

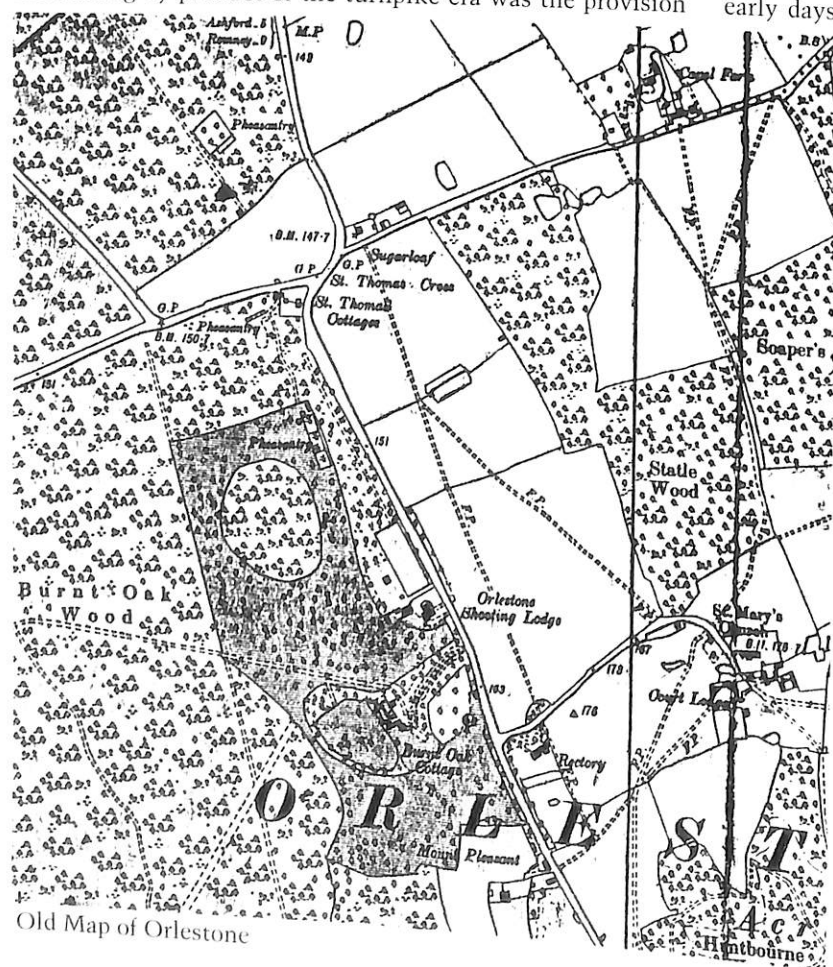
THE VILLAGE PUMP

The village pump also stood at the crossroads, probably behind the toll house, in the early days. This was of wooden construction. This pump not only served the people of Hamstreet, but in the mid nineteenth century, also supplied people from other parishes. It is recorded that the people of Bilsington walked to Hamstreet to collect water, a distance of three miles or so. In 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, a new pump named the "Jubilee Pump" was erected on the old site at a cost of 32.7s.6d.



The Village Pump

In Mr Ralph Harden's reminiscences, he says, "The ornate cast iron Victoria Jubilee Pump which stood at the crossroads, in a small square with posts and chains, on three sides, was the main supply of water for the village. People would be seen



Old Map of Orlestone

each evening with buckets fetching their water. In time of drought a pump with a wood casing, half way up the hill toward the railway bridge, would come into service. This was not used so much, but a special horse-drawn tank used to be filled from it and put at the back of Orlestone Villas for their use when their underground rain water tanks ran dry. There were many wells in the village then. There was one with a pump over, at the back of The Viaduct Terrace, one by the pond at Prospect Place and another at Spring Cottages and at Orchard Cottage. The one at Rest Cott was also shared with Oak Cottage, as was the privy. There was another at Harts Cottages and at Riverside and doubtless there were others too. Piped water came in 1930."

Some time in the 1940s, the pump was moved to the site at Hamstreet hill, replacing the wooden one. No one seems to know what happened to it thereafter but it is thought that it ended its days in the council yard, where it no doubt ended up as scrap metal. Hamstreet, in the early years, had no regard for its antiquities.

Ralph Harden



The Old Dukes Head Inn

THE OLD DUKES HEAD INN

The Old Dukes Head dated back to the 15th century. To quote the words of Charles Igglesden, in his 'Saunters Through Kent' "It was a large rambling building with many rooms, and there was evidence that it was one of the old timber framed buildings that stood in this part of Kent 500 years ago". At the turn of the century it still contained the original steps that led up from the courtyard to the bedrooms, the 'Quality' in those days held aloof from the roisterers in the bar and went straight to their bedchambers by means of these ladders. The Old Dukes Head, along with other houses in the village had associations with the smuggling trade. It must have been notorious in its day. In one old Kent directory that I found dated 1750, it said, "Down the hill, a mile or so from Orlestone, in a little known place called Hamstreet was 'A House of Entertainment'.

The Dukes Head was supposedly named after the Duke of Wellington who, it was said, stayed there while inspecting the building of the Military Canal at the

turn of the 18th century. In the 1700s' the inn was known as 'The George', in its time it has also been known as 'The Three Mariners' and 'The Duke of Cumberland', but unfortunately no dates are given. In the latter part of the 18th century the inn was owned by Finns of Lydd. It was also a 'Post and Commercial Inn'. In the thirties' it became fashionable to 'modernise'. It was a sad day when the old inn was pulled down, it would now have been the most historically interesting of any building in Hamstreet. The back half of the original inn, which was by far the oldest part, was pulled down first, enabling the new one to be built behind it. However, trading continued until the remainder was pulled down so that the new one could open in time for Christmas 1939.

The old Dukes Head stood on a large area of ground. Behind the main building was stabling for horses. The funeral carriage, an elaborate affair with drapes at the windows and pulled by two horses was housed there.

There was also a taxi service in the form of a very smart Brougham driven by Mr Harden, circa 1914-18 war.



A Brougham driven by Mr Harden, circa 1914-18.



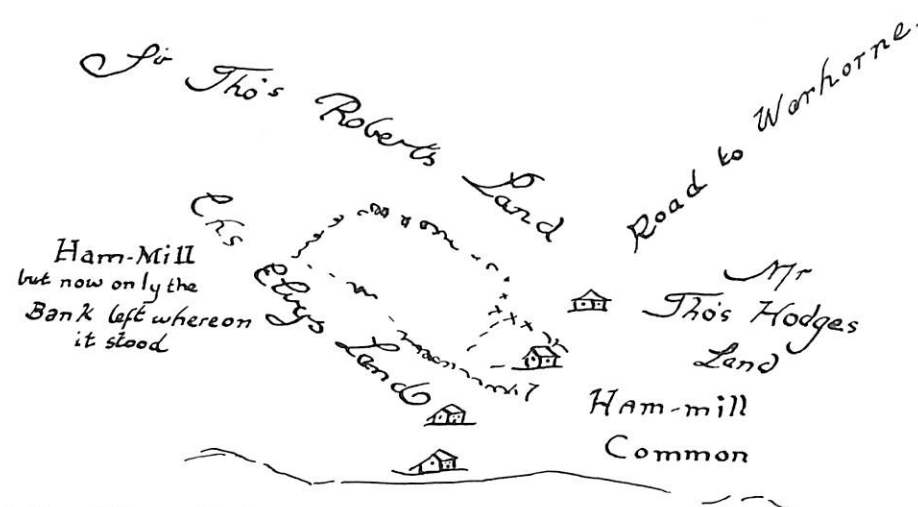
Sheep shearing behind the Dukes Head. Rowland Wilkinson (married a Caffyn), Will Brissenden, Percy Benstead, Bill Brissenden and Edward Maylam

Proprietors and Victuallers were:

1829 J Fagg
1839 Robert Fagg
1841 Mary Fagg (wife)
1843 Thomas Wanstall
1871 James Johnson, also farmer
and tax collector
1887 Mrs Ann Sarah Buss
1899 Joseph Timmins
1913 Clark Lonkhurst
1927 Mrs Edith Lonkhurst, wife
1938 Frank Hawksworth

Barbara Ware

A Map of Ham-mill, circa 1700

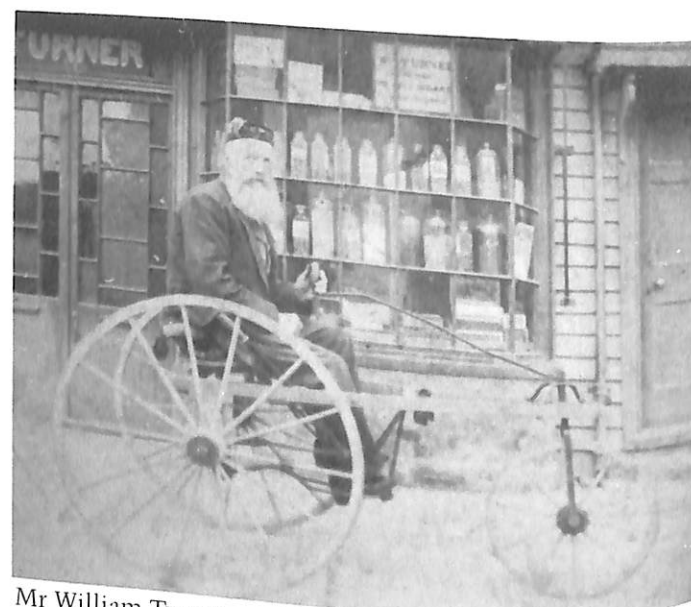


HAM-MILL 1660

The Ham-mill was situated approximately one and a half miles South of the village, or hamlet to be correct. By the time the Orlestone estate was surveyed for the Honorary William Bouverie "There was but the mound whereon it stood" left. It was, however, recorded on the map prepared for 'Dugdales, History of Inbanking and Drainage' 1660.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HAMSTREET BAKERIES (INCORPORATING THE POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGE)

The Old Bakery which stands at the Hamstreet crossroads was not the first of our bakeries. With the help of the 1841 census we are able to record with some accuracy where people lived and their occupations. The village bakery in 1842 was a very small brick oven in the back of the shop now owned by Peter Harden. The shop was owned at that time by the Thurston family.



Mr William Turner outside the village bakery premises now owned by Peter Harden

In the 1940's Peter Harden's father, who owned the property at the time, had an extension put on the back and when the wall oven was removed, large quantities of old clay pipes were found. There were so many in number that they had to be shovelled out. This bakery was still in use in 1908 managed by a very eccentric character, a Mr Turner, who has an old bicycle which he had ridden for forty years and it was twenty years old when he bought it.

In 1841 Henry Potter was baking bread here for the villagers. I have not yet established when he moved from the above premises to the larger premises of the Tudor house which we know as 'The Old Bakery'. Henry Potter was born in 1794 and his wife Margaret, a local girl from Warehorne was born in 1797. They had a family of five children. In 1857 Henry took over the role of 'Post Master', he had been receiver of the mail for some years, a position taken over from Mr Wanstall the proprietor of 'The Dukes Head'.

The first negotiations for a Postal service in the area came about in 1825 when a Mr Boys from Warehorne applied to a Mr Scott, the local surveyor of the day, to introduce a Postal Service into Hamstreet and surrounding villages. In one week only 30 letters were recorded so the idea was shelved. By 1839 the post was delivered by foot post from Ashford on horse back; on reaching the village outskirts he would blow his horn to alert the people to collect their mail. When he had finished his deliveries he stabled his horse at the Dukes Head and did a day's work jobbing gardening. At the end of the day he collected up the day's mail and rode back to Ashford.

In 1848 Hamstreet received its first double circle hand stamp which was applied to the reverse of the envelope, and the local town stamp of Ashford was used to stamp the front. In 1882 Hamstreet was issued with its own postal number. The combined business of Post Office and bakery prospered and it was about this time that the 10 bushel bread oven was installed. In 1867 Henry Potter died and the property was valued for probate. The surveyors report thus reads; 1867. "Valuation of property at Hamstreet belonging to the representatives of Henry Potter deceased.

Examined the property on 23rd instant and find it to consist of a very old but large rambling timbered house covering a considerable space of ground, and containing a large sitting room with brick pavement in an indifferent condition. Washhouse and Bakehouse with a 10 bushel oven newly built, but without recent improvements for heating it.

Bakers shop and two unoccupied rooms on the ground floor with three large bedrooms over. There is also a piece of garden ground partly covered with the roof of the faggot stack, there is also a stable attached to the house and a cartlodge. There is also a cottage occupied by John Morris at 2/9 per week, £7.3s per annum. The land lord paying the rates. This cottage is modern and contains a parlor, kitchen, washhouse and 3 beds but they are all small, however it seems in good condition and was purchased by Mr Potter for £125 which must be considered its extreme value.

The house occupied by Mr Potter has a good business attached to it and would freely let for £20 per annum, independently of the garden which is well adapted for the creation of adouble dwelling, and with site I should therefore value at £50 at the full depth of the property".

Value of property as follows; Mr Potters house	£200.00
Frontage at Warehorne road;	£50.00
John Morris house;	£120.00
In consequence of large frontage covered by property and eligibility for building an additional value may be added.	£30.00
25.2.1867.	£400.00

(It is not known at this time which property was occupied by John Morris).

After the death of Henry senior, his son Joseph, carried on the business as Postmaster while his mother, Margaret continued as baker. But by 1879, at the comparatively young age of 43 years, he too had died and the property was again surveyed. The survey reads:

"January 18 1879. Property belonging to Thomas Perkins; 4 cottages (Orchard cottages built on the ground mentioned in the last survey,) built of brick and with slated roof, each cottage containing a front and back room with a small wash-house on the ground floor and two bedrooms on the first floor with detached privy. The whole having a frontage to the public road of about 48 feet with depth of 29 feet. The cottages have a passage at the end about 4 feet wide common to the whole. The cottages are substantial and in fair repair producing a rental of £28 per year assessed value £400. Bakehouse-Shop in the occupation of Mrs Charlotte Potter. One end in good repair, the remainder of the house is in a very bad state. On one end and adjoining the house is an open shed leanto. On the other end and in good repair a building of 29 feet by 11 feet 6 inches which has been recently built (The Bakehouse.) The oven is getting in bad repair. The property is producing a yearly rental of £23. Assessed value £416.

The report continues: "Single cottage adjoining property of the late Archibald Stokes esq detached from the aforementioned property by a passage. Having a frontage of 21feet the front in timber and weather boarded, the back, brickwork up to about 7 feet, then a long leanto tiled roof. Contains washhouse, kitchen, small parlour and three beds. Rental £7.3s per year, being in very bad repair. Estimated value £85". (Stokes cottage stood where Banbury Villas now stand. As the report says, they were in very bad repair and were pulled down and rebuilt in the 30s).



Old Bake oven and loaves

Value of property as follows,

4 cottages;	£400.00
Bakehouse and shop;	£416.00
Single cottage;	£85.00
	£901.00

On the 27 February 1879 Mr Thomas Perkins received a letter from Mrs Charlotte Potter, wife of Joseph, agreeing to take the Hamstreet properties for £900. She also agreed to pay the rates and a bill from Mr Lorden the builder for £17 for repairs to the roof.

Charlotte remained Postmistress and baker until 1893.

In 1893 Joseph Caffyn, a relative of the Potter family and grandfather of Bob and Don Collick, bought the bakery for £600.

In Mrs Pelham Collick's memoirs, she says that the place was in a very bad state, with red creeper over the windows and the whole place infested with mice and rats. The old bake oven was fired with faggots which were raked out when the oven was hot and the bread placed in to cook. Cleaning the oven was a nightmare. To cool the oven down, pans of water were placed inside. These were changed when they became hot and the process repeated until the oven was cool enough to sweep. The chimney sweep lay on a trolley with wheels on and he was pushed into the oven. After brushing down the sides he was pulled out, no doubt covered with soot. Joseph Caffyn was an inventor and in between the baking, tried his hand at engineering. He made a motor cycle which he called 'The Orlestone Cycle'. Bob says that his grandfather tried it out but scared himself when it gathered speed. Joseph bought another cycle which arrived in a packing case and the cycle was built in the bake-house. He also had a boneshaker, which was very difficult to ride.

Properties in those days did not always have adequate facilities for cooking so Joseph, being enterprising, baked the villagers' food. He charged 1d and 2d for baking cakes and meat. No doubt the bakery was a meeting place for a chat whilst the food was cooking.

Being Postmaster in among his other activities, also caused him problems. The Post Office had now become a Telegraph Office.

Don recalls a story his father told him: "The Tanton boys lived at Jenky Farm, which was along 'Long Rope' and over the fields, two to three miles away. While working in the village they heard that there was to be a dance that evening and sent their two sisters a telegram to tell them to come down. After closing the shop, Joseph and his wife set off by foot to deliver the telegram which cost 6d then. When they arrived it was getting dark so the girls would not answer the door to them. Ages later they gave in, by which time the hour was late. They missed their evening out and poor Joseph was reported to the authorities the next day for not getting the telegram to them on time".



Behind the Bakery, 1905, about to deliver the bread.

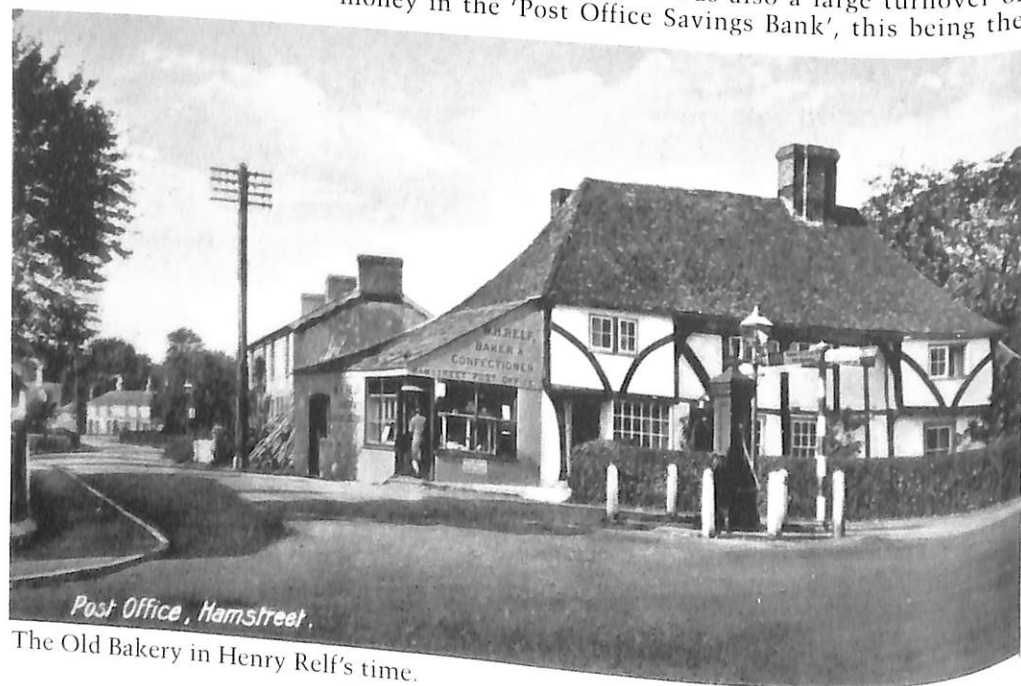
In 1923 Mr Caffyn retired and the property was on the market again and was purchased by Pledges the millers of Mersham. Mr William Henry Relf then took over the lease and was Hamstreet's baker and Postmaster.

The bread was still baked in the traditional way with faggots, but the oven was later converted to coal. There was a good trade in home made pies, especially when the sheep-fairs were on. These fairs brought many people to the village. Afternoon teas were served on the lawn, and also in the tea room beside the bake house.

Mr Relf was a business man employing five staff. He went to the bakers' exhibition yearly, and one year bought a cake mixing machine, enabling him to mix three cakes at a time instead of the usual one. He, along with others, fought for electricity to be brought down to Hamstreet after the authorities halted electrification at Bromley Green. Before that time the lamps were lit by hand by Mr Wanstall and others.

Mr Relf did most of the deliveries himself. I remember him coming to our house at 'May Cross'. He would bring the wooden tray of cakes in and place it on the table for us to select our 'baker's dozen' of fancies. The bread was still hot and I had it for tea when I came home from school.

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



Post Office, Hamstreet.
The Old Bakery in Henry Relf's time.

main way of saving money. It was nearly a 24 hour business. The dough was put to rise at 8 pm so that it was ready for the oven at 4 am the following morning when the postmen arrived at work to meet the early morning mail train at Hamstreet Station.

The Post Office also housed the Telephone Exchange. The exact date is not known but the exchange was installed while Mr Caffyn was still in residence, approximately 1923. To begin with there were 100 lines. There were extension lines to Ruckinge, Bilsington, Warehorne and Shadoxhurst. There was a switch board up in the corner and a trained telephonist, sent from Ashford daily, to operate it. If there were calls at night someone had to get up and put them through. The exchange soon became inadequate and a new one was built on the bank by the railway station.

The Postmaster General made an application to purchase a plot of land from the Haslett family who lived at Old Eastside in 1937, and bought the site measuring 20 feet wide by 105 feet deep for £35. The new exchange was built, and nearly complete, before the Second World War but was never used owing to a shortage of materials. This put a tremendous strain on the staff as the exchange was a threat to security. The local division of the Home Guard manned the exchange at night throughout the war sleeping on the premises. After the war the new exchange was put to use with many more lines and three figure numbers. At a later date an extension was built at the far end of the building. This exchange was used until 1972, when a larger, automatic exchange was built at the entrance to the station.

In March 1950 Mr Sam Shoebridge took over the business of Baker and Postmaster. The Post Office side of the business was busy. There were three postmen, Ted Ovenden, Charlie Mount and Percy Godden. The building still housed the sorting office. The mail was sorted here before being delivered, either by foot round the village or by bicycle for the outlying areas. The old fashioned Post Office grill made of brass mesh with brass knobs on the top, faced the door, as one entered the shop. The old oven, getting a bit ancient now, was still used, fired with coal. Sam called it a one sack oven because one sack of flour when mixed with water and yeast and set to rise, made enough loaves to fill the oven which measured 10 feet deep by 7 feet wide. Sam calculated that this was equivalent to the 10 bushels mentioned in the 1867 survey. The bakery business was busy too, giving five people employment. Tom Rose, Frank Timpson, Ted Beale and Arthur Martin were the bakers. Mary Richardson and Susan, Sam's daughter, served in the shop. In 1970 Sam retired from baking but remained as Postmaster, moving into the new Post Office which he had had built in the one way street. This new building contained a very smart shop with Post Office and sorting office to the side and living accommodation over the top. In May 1973 Sam retired as Postmaster and Susan took over the job. With the modernisation and the introduction of modern sorting, the need for the small local sorting office came under threat. In 1986 Susan retired as Postmistress, and all post is sorted at Tonbridge for first class mail and at Ashford for the second class. After 130 years, Hamstreet has lost its localised postmark. Parcels and documents such as pension books are the only items that now receive the Hamstreet stamp.

Mr Mellin took over the bakery from Sam and continued in the same tradition baking an excellent loaf. The old oven, now well over 100 years old, was converted to oil to give a uniform heat.

After some years Mr Mellin moved to Willesborough. From that time the bakery was doomed. The oven was not adequate for modern demand and was not cost effective. There



The Sorting Office

were other threats. The property, being old, was attractive and desirable for the property market and was put up for sale with an asking price of £125,000.

1987. The Old Bakery as I think it will always be known, has now been turned into a private house. The old chimney has gone but I am told that the old oven remains. Now, in 1988 the roof has been completely retiled, even the shop roof, which was slated, has been peg tiled.

The Post Office is now at the Bournewood Stores.

Barbara Ware



Tom Rose distributing loaves given by the Tinker Town Charity to Mr & Mrs Stevens at Lily Cottage, Ruckinge. Circa 1952



The Class as it looked in Edwardian times

HAMSTREET/ORLESTONE SCHOOLS

1877-1924

The first entry in the log book, dating from January 1877 reads -

"The first meeting of the Managers of the Hamstreet Board School, appointed January 13 1877 under Section 15 of the Education Act, was held in the classroom of the School on Monday January 22 1877 when the following appointments were made:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr Joseph S Butterworth | Master |
| 2. Mr Walter Purfield | Paid Monitor |
| 3. Miss Sarah Lorden | Pupil Teacher (Candidate)" |

and was signed by H Wiglesworth, Chairman of Managers, and dated January 25 1877.

The School, which occupied the village hall, was situated in the village, opposite Barwick's Joiners' shop and started with a roll of 100 pupils. Each child had to pay their "School Money" on a Monday morning. This was 3d for the first child, 2d for the second and 1d for the third, not exceeding 6d for a family. In addition parents had to provide books, slates and sewing aids:- cotton, needles, thimbles and calico. An entry in the log book dated January 7 1878 reads - "The children and many of the parents too I am afraid, have got the idea everything should be found free of cost in the shape of slates and books. Over 30 without slates."

Absenteeism was a major problem. Many children stayed away from school to work in the fields with their parents' approval. Some of the many jobs they undertook were: harvesting, preparing hop-poles, hop-picking, pea-picking, cherry picking, hay-making, bird-beating, herring-selling, black-berrying and gathering wild flowers. An entry in the log book dated November 2 1877 reads: "The parents in general in this village are remarkably careless about their children's education and future I have found this week most ludicrous excuses for scholars absenting themselves. One told me his brother had gone herring-selling. Another has to cook father's dinner, mother being out at work. Others have been beating-birds."

Mr William Rogers replaced Mr Butterworth in June 1878 and wrote on November 6th: "Better attendance; better order; more work; better manners; cleaner faces, shoes and clothes amongst scholars. Owing to my sharp and strict ways. I have every hope to get the children do a creditable day's work done at school soon. The parents of this neighbourhood care little for the interest of their children." But this changed on November 12 1878 - "Punished some scholars for bad conduct and careless work. Hope to make the children somewhat cleaner before the 28th inst. (Annual

Inspection by HMI). A dirtier class of children (with some few exceptions) I have never met with. It is the hardest task of my life to make them at all clean. Clean books is altogether out of the question. Some parents I know of a fact have no blacking or brush in the house."

Reference was made to the clock on November 27 1878 -

"Dr Wiglesworth came in school to wind the turret clock up. I cannot get the school clock to work - shall send it to Ashford for repairs." Then on January 13 1879, - "Lonkhurstthe Carrier left the clock pendulum, or I should say, the weight at the Watchmaker's when he brought the clock. The time piece is therefore at standstill."

Annual Report of HM Inspector for 1878

"The Arithmetic is weak in the first class, otherwise the elementary attainments are on the whole creditable. The Needlework has received careful attention, and the Geography and Grammar are very fair. There seems to be considerable irregularity in the attendance of the children. The Schoolroom floor should be scrubbed somewhat oftener than it is."

Charles Topham, Master from February 3 1879, wrote on August 28 1879 - "To-day being the Hamstreet Fair (sheep and lambs) the people seem to think their children should have a holiday. Have given holiday this afternoon."

In an effort to improve the untidy appearance of some of the scholars Mr Topham introduced a looking-glass and comb to the lavatory, chiefly for the use of the children who brought-dinner to school! On October 26 1880 he made the following comment: "To get the children to come neat and cleanly is a very great difficulty I have to contend with, and now that I have procured a comb and looking glass for their use, no excuse is allowed for untidiness. The offenders are called out in front of their fellow scholars and the attention of all is called to them; and if this is done more than once, corporal punishment is administered or they are kept behind the others, as the case individually requires."

Epidemics of Scarlet Fever, TB, Measles, Influenza, Chicken-pox, Diphtheria, Impetigo and Mumps regularly effected the closure of the school. Children also suffered from various ailments including Marsh Fever, the Ague and Ringworm. On February 24 1882 the Master, Thomas Warmington, was visited by Reverend Sarson and Reverend J B Mayhew who warned him not to admit any children from Warehorne School, which on account of Scarlet Fever would be closed for two weeks. Brothers and sisters of infected children were not allowed to attend school even if they themselves were well. In January 1891, after two cases of Scarlet Fever were reported at Harts Cottages, the Board held a special meeting and resolved to exclude all the children in Harts Cottages and the infected district till further notice.

On October 2 1882 a new school was opened, built on a piece of land leased from the Oliver Family for one thousand years from 11 October 1882 at a rent of one shilling per year, payable on 11 October. The land was leased for the purpose of a Public Elementary School and for the residence of the School Master. A condition was made that the building, based on plans approved by the Education Department and the Oliver Family, be completed by 11 October 1882 and that no other building be erected on the land without the consent of the Oliver Family or their heirs or assigns.

Thomas Warmington wrote on the day of the opening, "Commenced school today in the new school after a holiday

of six weeks. Three members of the Board were present at the opening viz:- Dr Wiglesworth, the Reverend G Sarson and Mr Purfield, also then each of the members delivered a short address to the children. The attendance was very fair for the first opening. Several children have not returned yet from hop-picking. This school will henceforward be known in Government Returns as the Orlestone Board School, and not as the Hamstreet Board School".

On April 17 1893 the building of a new classroom commenced and on May 1 the Board decided that no children be admitted in the mixed school till the building was finished. The new classroom was used for the first time on July 10.

Frederick Gudgin replaced Thomas Warmington on 31 December 1883, but only stayed until January 1886 when he was replaced by Harold Bryan. Mr Bryan left in August 1894 and Mr A H Major became Master in October of that year. Mr Major opened a Penny Savings Bank in the school and each child had a linen drawstring bag in which to bring his penny every week.



Empire Day celebrations at the Old School

Each summer, the school closed for a day for the church Sunday School excursion, for the Wesleyan Sunday School excursion, for the Annual Gathering of the Hamstreet Benefit Society, for the Annual Temperance Demonstration and for the Annual Flower Show. Usually, but not always, a day's holiday was given for the annual Stag-hunt. The children had a week's holiday on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 1897.

Mr E A Thomas commenced duties as head master in April 1901 and made the following observations; "There is little or no stock, and I was obliged to send to the Warehorne Board School to borrow a box of pens and pencils. Both the clock and the harmonium require attention and there is no key to the desk."

Mr Thomas introduced Elementary

Science into the school with great success. The school exhibited their collections throughout the country and won many awards. Mr Thomas also introduced Cottage Gardening, which was very popular with the boys. Entry from the log book dated August 1901:- "Mrs Oliver and her daughters noticing how very interested the children were in Elementary Science very kindly gave a good collection of shells, fossils, coral, crystals, sea-horses etc for the School Museum. Mr Oliver Junior also kindly lent a valuable and most interesting collection of local butterflies and moths containing some very rare specimens."

An unfortunate incident occurred one morning in December 1901 when a girl foolishly ignited a piece of paper at the red-hot part of the stove in the big room and caught her pinafore alight. She ran into the playground at full speed. Mr Thomas smothered the flames with a table cloth he managed to grab from the house. The pinafore and dress were completely ruined, but fortunately the child herself was not burnt severely. Mr Thomas dressed the burns on her throat and arm with flour and olive oil. A new stove and guard were installed in January 1902.

In January 1903 Mr Thomas wrote, "It is earnestly hoped from a sanitary point that the walls of the school will be limewashed." Also, "The school playground requires more beach before the rain falls. In wet weather the playground gets in a very dirty condition which causes the floors to become very dirty." On Monday October 28 1912 the two playgrounds, one for boys and one for girls, separated by a brick wall, were ready for use after having been asphalted for a considerable area of each.



The New School

Mr Farrar, Headmaster from 1908 until November 1922.

Mr Ainsworth took charge for the school on November 13 1922.

Entry from the log book dated 26 April 1923: "At the request of HM the King the school closed to-day, the occasion of themarriage of HRH the Duke of York." On 8 July, that same year, the Duke and Duchess of York motored through the village at 11.45. The children were assembled in front of the School with flags and rose-sprays, and they cheered heartily as the Duke and Duchess passed. Their Royal Highnesses smiled and bowed in acknowledgement.

Empire Day was celebrated on May 24, when the whole school, including the Managers, assembled in front of the school, raised the Union Jack and sang 'God Bless Our Native Land' and 'Flag of Britain'.

Carola Gosling

Particulars regarding the duties of School Cleaner at Orlestone Council Schools

WOMAN'S DUTIES

Every evening when school is used, to sweep the main room, class rooms, and lobbies, also the paths around the school.

Every morning when school is used, dusting of desks, ledge-setc and leaving the rooms tidy and lamps trimmed.

Light fires and prepare firewood for the same.

Prepare rooms for Managers meetings, and on other occasions when required.

Scrub floors four times every year.

Clean windows twice yearly; the windows to be cleaned both inside and outside.

Dusters and towels to be washed each week.

The school walls and rafters to be swept at least once a year, and the children's sewing bags to be washed annually.

MAN'S DUTIES

Remove refuse from Earth Closets every alternate night when the school is opened.

Flush urinals every evening.

Trim the hedges and cut the grass twice every year, and weed when necessary.

Lime wash all offices and WCs three times a year.

Clear snow away when necessary.

Fetch water for Master's house and School.

William J Spicer

Correspondent



The Hamstreet Station

HAMSTREET RAILWAYS

Hamstreet Railway Station is situated on the Ashford side of the village and is on the line which connects Ashford with Hastings. This railway was opened in 1851, and was for the first year of its existence the only route by which travellers from London could reach Hastings, as the direct route via Tunbridge Wells was not opened until 1852. This unusual situation was brought about by the government of the day, which sanctioned the building of the Ashford/Hastings line before that the route was via Tunbridge Wells, as the Romney Marsh was always considered the invaders route into England, and a line which skirted the Marsh was considered strategically important for the fast deployment of troops to meet the expected threat. The basic train service from the date of opening, until the opening of the New Romney branch in 1881 was 4 trains a day. The service to Hamstreet was then augmented by the New Romney trains.

The station consists of two platforms, which unusually for a British station are staggered, and connected by a footcrossing rather than a bridge. The platforms were originally 3 coaches long, but in the 1960s were increased to accommodate 4 coaches. The station building, situated on the 'up' or Ashford side of the line was designed by William Trees of Wilson Street, Fitzroy Square, London, who designed most of the stations on the concurrently constructed Tonbridge/Hastings line. The station building is in the Italianate style, built of red brick with courses of yellow brick as decoration, and large overhanging eaves. The building has not been greatly altered externally throughout its life, and remains in its original condition, though much changed internally. It was found on investigation that no plans exist for the Hamstreet station buildings, only those for the identically, mirror image station at Winchelsea, that-station building being on the 'down' or Hastings side of the line, and thus reversed. Copies of these plans, the originals of which are in the Southern Region Civil Engineer's Archives, are in the possession of the writer and may be examined if desired.

The building is on two floors, the ground floor of which consisted of a booking office with a counter, a clerk's room, ladies and gents toilets and a porters' room. The changes to this floor are the construction of a waiting room, made by partitioning part of the old booking office to make a new one, the rest becoming the waiting room. The clerk's office has now become part of the upstairs accommodation, and the porters' room has become a store. The first floor accommodation was the Station Masters flat, and is still inhabited at the present time, although not by the Station Master, as this post no longer exists. On the 'down' side there has always been a waiting shelter, which remained almost totally intact

until 1984/85, when the level of vandalism to which it was subjected, caused BR to remove the entire front, so as to provide less of a hideaway for the vandals.

The station goods facilities, when built, consisted of a siding on the 'down' side connected to the main line by a trailing crossover, and three sidings in a fan shape on the 'up' side connected to it by a wagon turntable across the main lines. The first siding was parallel to the main lines and was provided with a substantial cattle/sheep dock, about where the telephone exchange yard is now. The other two general purpose sidings spread fanwise across what is now the car park. The yard was operated such that traffic to and from the yard would be left in the siding on the down side by the goods train, and later moved over to the 'up' side by manpower or horsepower, as and when required. No goods shed was provided in the original layout, so perishable traffic must have been moved straight from the waggons to the consignees cart or van. In this first layout a small signalbox was provided alongside the main station building, but was probably just a points cabin. Between 1870 and 1910 the layout of the station was changed. A trailing crossover was put in on the up side, connecting to the sidings, and around 1910 the wagon turntables and spur sidings were removed leaving only the one serving the cattle dock. The siding on the 'down' side was retained, but can have been of little use, as it stands on an embankment. At this time a new signalbox of standard design was built at the Ashford end of the 'down' platform, and the old box converted to a parcels shed. This layout was maintained until the wholesale destruction of the railways in the late 1950s' when the signal box was closed and demolished and all sidings removed, along with the parcels shed. At much the same time the platforms were extended to their present 4 coach length, in anticipation of the diesel services. In 1969 BR was given consent to close the Ashford/Hastings line, but local pressure delayed the closure until changing times meant that it was forgotten, although the powers have never lapsed.

John White

"In 1969 we heard the awful news of the closure of our railway. The villagers were angry, we felt that we would be cut off from Ashford and those that worked in London would find it very difficult to get to Ashford in the mornings, having relied upon the trains to get them there. About thirty villagers, including my mother, protested about the closure. I can remember, one Saturday afternoon, all the protesters travelling to Rye with their banners saying 'Keep our railway line open'. We were joined by other commuters from other villages along the line. The event was shown on television when all the protesters went to Ten Downing Street, carrying their banners and making their voices heard. I think it could be true to say that we have all their protests and hard work to thank for our hourly train service, that is still running twenty years on".

Sheila Stevens organised this operation, and it is thanks to her that we still have a railway.

Melanie Spears

THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE

From the early 1850's Dr Wiglesworth was the resident doctor. He lived at the Willows, along the Romney Road. He was also a surgeon and Don Collick recalls the story of how he performed an operation on the kitchen table at the bakery to remove what they believe was Mr Caffyn's son's appendix. The poor boy did not live. Dr Wiglesworth's first wife died and he remarried. Judging from John Lorden's diaries, his second marriage was rather frowned on;

"June 3rd 1873 Dr Wiglesworth married to Liz Dorman. Wiglesworth aged 54 and the young woman 22 years, quite an unequal match".

When Mr Savanti was doing some renovations some years

back he found a letter under the floor boards written to a young girl from a Mary Wiglesworth, Ashford. The letter reads;

"Ashford Friday 14th February 1857.

My very dear child. I must send you a little note with Marys that you may not think you are forgotten. I have been waiting all the week to write to you to tell you what day when we are going to Hamstreet. I can not tell you after all but I think quite by the middle of next week. Are you ready to come home! Three weeks of your month are now gone. I saw Mr — yesterday, and he wished to know how you were getting on with your book, so do not forget it. I want to hear of you very much, it will be safer to direct to Hamstreet.

I was so busy today that I cannot write any more so you must give my love to your cousins.

Your loving mummy. Mary Wiglesworth"

Dr Phillip Moysey Toms M B was our next doctor, he also lived at the Willows. Mary Richardson's uncle, Frank Richardson, was his chauffeur driving a very fine gig and at a later date a Bullnose Morris.

We continue in Melanie's words, she remembers the surgery in the fifties. By this time we did not have a resident doctor. Dr Harvey lived in Brookland but 'The Willows' was still used as a surgery;



The Doctor's House

"Cock Lane had an attractive hedgerow as a border along the playing field. I can remember the dainty pink dog roses, and the abundance of wild flowers all along what was then a lovely country lane. We used to pick blackberries on our way home from the doctor's surgery, which was then two rooms in The Willows. This house is in the main street on the opposite side of the road from the car park next to the football field. As a patient in the surgery, I can remember a tiny waiting room with about enough space for four chairs. The doctor's consulting room was just as small, having shelves adorned with an array of corked medicine bottles. We spoke to the doctor in a low voice so that we could not be heard by the other clients in the waiting room. During the mid-sixties the doctor's surgery moved. (When Dr Edward took over Ed) it was then two rooms in a cottage along the Warehorne road.

In the early seventies we were lucky enough to have a new and up-to-date surgery built, next to the village green".

Melanie Spears

Grandpa Lorden's Diaries cont.

1872 Feb 3rd Planted in the orchard garden, 3 Mayduke cherry trees, 3 Biggareau trees. The bothering bullfinches are quite a nuisance among the trees.

1872 Dec 12th A stag turned out at Appledore for the hunt and went over the canal and down in the marsh before it was caught. It was quite a fine day.

1873 Nov 10th Les Downe of Kenardington and Jeremiah Dapson some time ago was going down the lane close to Hallis Farm, Kenardington and there was a pheasant flew up before them. Downe shot the bird. Mr Kingsnorth put in his appearance and they seem rather put out about it. This day they have their hearing and fined 40s each and their licences taken away.

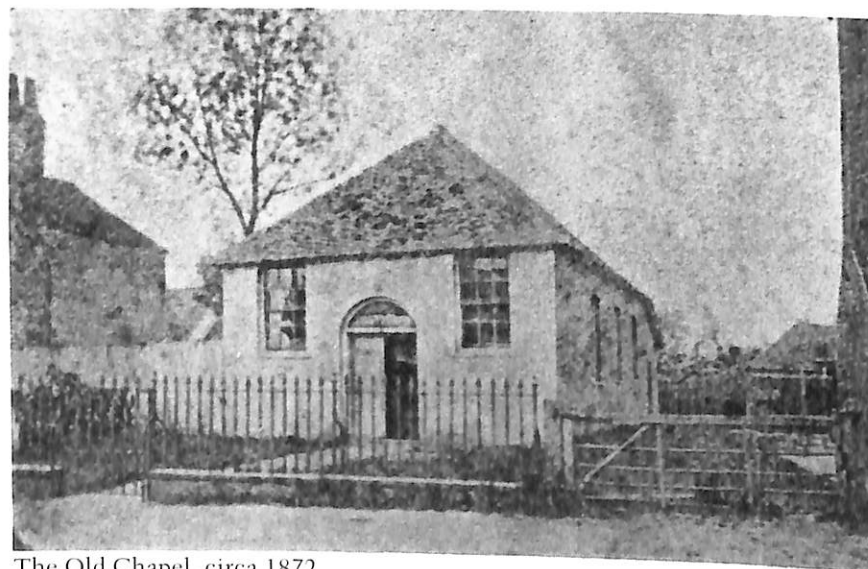
June Coltum

METHODISM IN HAMSTREET

The very beginnings of Methodism in Hamstreet are wrapped somewhat in obscurity. It is said that the first preaching services were held in an old cottage (now demolished) near the carpenter's shops in Messrs Lorden's yard in Warehorne Road, (by the art studio). The first chapel was built on the present site, opened by Rev Bumsted on October 20th 1814. This was enlarged making it 10 feet longer and the vestry was added in 1820 and it was known as the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. The gallery was added in 1879 and a clock put up. A stone was laid by A McArthur Esq, in September 19th, 1872 at the front of the church. The schoolroom was added in 1887, and the foundation stones were laid by Mrs John Scott and Alexander McArthur Esq, M.P, on July 19th 1887 and one over the door by Mrs R M Catt, on July 27th 1887.

The Sunday School was one of the first if not the first to be formed in this neighbourhood and began its meetings in an old cottage near Mr Godden's timber yard. Its work took shape in two ways:-

To provide instruction in Bible truths, always with a sincere desire and hope that such teaching should lead scholars to live a Godly and active life in anticipation of eternal life in the world to come. The teachers also gave instruction as best they could in reading and writing, to



The Old Chapel, circa 1872

some this was the only meaning of learning. The Sunday School anniversary services were held in the chapel and the Whit Monday festival at Burr Cottage (half way to Warehorne the residence of Mr Jeremiah Washford 'Pigtail Jerry'). This yearly festival grew to very large proportions and it was estimated that the numbers sometimes reached 1,000 persons as it was the holiday of the year in the neighbourhood. Since the death of Mr Washford, the

services have been held in the village. When the village Hall was erected in 1865 the Sunday School was held there on Sunday afternoons until the present schoolroom was built in 1887. The church was nicely renovated in 1902 by Mr Godden & Sons.

A Band of Hope was started by Mr H.T.Watts of Ashford about 1885. The young people met once a fortnight. In March there was the annual meeting and in November a public Demonstration, when the young people gave recitations and solos. Special speakers came from London, Rochester and Maidstone. Prizes for attendance were given. The average of attendance for the year was 45. There was also a Boys Brigade and this was invited to attend the Band of Hope public meetings. People from the Lydd section attended. There was a Junior Guild and Wesley Guild from about 1920-1950. Each year from 1932-1938 a Christmas Stocking Fair was held, when a Giant Stocking was hung in the pulpit reaching from the floor to the wall and roof junction, and all the congregation (a full house) adults and children, brought their toys and garments which were wrapped in paper parcels to fill it. These were sent to Camberwell to be distributed by the Sir John Kirk Mission. For many years the choir gave The Crucifixion or Olivet to Calvary on Good Friday evening, led by Mr Harry Godden. The Sunday School had their anniversary at Whitsun tide. The first time for well over 100 years. There would be a morning and evening service, and the afternoon service when the children did their recitations etc. On Whit Monday, games in the Pound Lees field, a tea in the school room and a service in the evening. The Harvest Services were held morning and evening with an afternoon service for the children. On the Monday a service was held at 7 o'clock and sale of produce after.

The church received some damage when a flying bomb fell in a field at the foot of Carter's Wood on the morning of 22nd June 1944. Services were held in the school room during the 'blackout', a canteen was run in the school room for the men in the forces, who were stationed near during the war. A Summer Fete was held in July for several years in aid of church funds this gave way to a Gift Day in June in more recent years. A Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of this church, incorporating the unveiling and dedication of the remembrance Memorial took place on Sunday 25th July 1948.

The communion table, brass cross and two vases were given in memory of Mrs James Godden 1948. On Wednesday 24th November 1948 a ceremony for the Re-opening was given with Organ Music by Mr Allan Brown. This was in memory of Mr and Mrs Harry Godden, and paid for by their daughter. In 1966 the iron railing and gate were taken away and a new forecourt made and given in memory of Mr James Godden and his son Wilfred. A plaque in the vestibule shows this. The dedication of the New Forecourt took place on 3rd July 1966. The centenary celebrations in 1972 were marked by special events during this year. A flower festival in June with the theme 'Rejoice' was very colourful with displays arranged by different people. In 1975 the idea of altering the church started. On April 15th 1978 the Shared Church was opened by Rev Norman Dawson, who was then Chairman of the

District. On the 21st June 1987 the Sunday School celebrated its centenary, and the children attended church wearing fashions of 100 years ago.

Betty Hughes

THE BUTCHER'S SHOP

The Family Butcher's Shop and adjoining house 'Woodville' which stands in the main street was owned for many years by J J Brett & Son. The high quality meat sold was from animals killed in the slaughterhouse at the back. This has now been converted into a dwelling house. One year Mr Brett won a prize with one of his bullocks at the Smithfield Show.

A room behind the shop was where Brett's famous sausages were made. Customers' orders were delivered to houses and surrounding villages by horse and cart and trade bikes and later by a Morris van.

Mr Brett gave a small field to be made into a bowling green for the village, on one condition that no games were to be played on Sundays. The green was opened in 1935 and Mrs Brett bowled the first wood. The Hamstreet Bowls Club has become very popular and attracts members from other villages. The old butcher's shop is now an Antiques shop.

BRETT'S SAUSAGES

Sing a song of sausages

Brett he makes them nice

And if you only taste them once

You are sure to want them twice

They are savoury and delicious

And made from nice young Pork

And fit to set before a King

Or any Mayor of York

You can get them fresh at any time

Straight from the little store,

And the prices give satisfaction

To rich as well as poor

When they frizzle in the pan,

The truth I'm bound to tell

That after you have eaten them

You'll say you've feasted well

We have had them very many times

And I really must confess,

That our little Village Butcher's Shop

We have good cause to bless

Also the wife and family

His praise they'll ever sing,

Long live the firm of Brett & Son

The Hamstreet Sausage King

William Higgins



THE BRICKMAKERS OF HAMSTREET & ORLESTONE

Not too much is known of the Hamstreet Brickyard, but I have with the help of others, pieced together a few items of interest. The Brickyard was owned by the Orlestone Manor probably for the building of the railway and was situated to the side of the station on the site of St Marys Close. William Thurston, in 1847, was the first brick maker on record. He was also a farmer and carpenter. At the time of the 1851 Census, a Thomas Thurston, son of William and wife Sarah and family, were living at Mount Pleasant, (two dwellings) an old weather-board property which stood on the left on the second part of Hamstreet hill. The field to the front of the property was known as 'The Gorhams'. (Gore meaning uneven piece of ground). This was where the clay was dug to make the bricks. Thomas Thurston was the foreman at that time and Daniel Jenner was the brickmaker and he lived in the other half of the property. In 1862 Hester Thurston was recorded as brickmaker, and in 1871 she was making tiles also. By 1887 James Purfield was the brickmaker of the 'Orlestone Brick and Tile Yard'. Some time

between 1887-99, Mr Jeff Harden's grandfather, Mr Spain came to Hamstreet as brickmaker, he lived at Stumbletree Cottages. He was the last brickmaker when the brickyard fell into disuse at the turn of the century. Mr Garner (Fairfield Terrace) father had the grazing rights to the land.

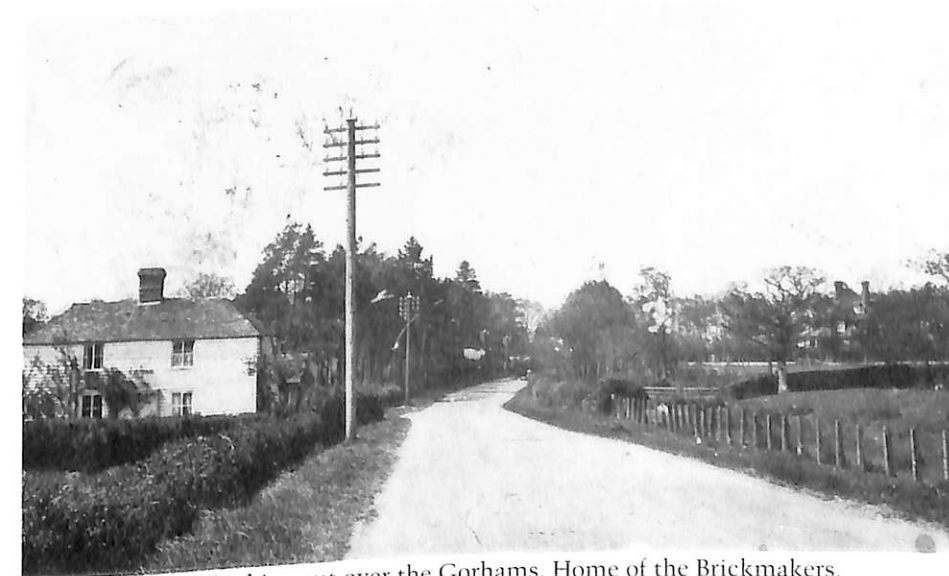
The Memorial Hall, Stumbletree and Harts Cottages are said to have been built with Hamstreet bricks.

Barbara Ware

Grandpa Lorden's Diaries cont.

1886 May. Stephen Foord has begun to build a new house where the Thurstons old paint shop was. All their property was sold, Gorhams to Olivers. House to John Scott, yard and carpenters shop to Tom Harden.

1902 Nov 5th. Very quiet about most places. A very large lot of faggots up near the Railway Station Hamstreet close to the Miss Olivers old 'Brick Kiln', was set alight by some one. A very large fire burnt all night. It was seen for miles around, people could see to read a newspaper at Warehorne. The Ashford fire engine came down but they could do nothing as there was no water near.



Mount Pleasant, looking out over the Gorhams. Home of the Brickmakers, last century.

D GODDEN & SONS BUILDERS

D Godden & Sons was situated behind the Hamstreet Garage. To the right, was a large builders yard, where a steam traction engine and large sawbench came in at times, converting large oak trees into planks of 2", 2+", 3" and 4" thickness. These were stored in their respective piles, in open sheds, with battens between each plank, to dry and season. Originally, this was a farmyard, full of corn and haystacks, owned by my great grandfather. My father told me that he had helped with the threshing, as a boy, in the barn there, with a flail. The house used to be known as 'Dog Kennel'. I believe the Sprowsons named it 'Quiet Haven' when they moved in, some time after the last war.



Dog Kennel (Now Quiet Haven). D. Godden sawing timber.

My working days with D Godden & Son:

I went to Orlestone Council School, as it was known, till the age of 14 (1925) I left to start an apprenticeship in the joiners shop of D Godden & Son, the local builders and contractors at the princely sum of six shillings a week for the first year, and rising by a weekly six shillings per year for five years equalling thirty shillings for the last year. Then I went on to improvers rate, of about three thirds of the full rate, which was a shilling an hour. There were no holidays at all, let alone paid ones. All Bank Holidays meant the loss of a days overtime.



D. Godden's annual outing

At the time I signed on, the firm was building the Lees Cliff Hall at Folkestone, with two hundred men working on the site. There was not much in way of mechanical aids then, just a motor-driven concrete mixer turning out about three yards at a time. The reinforced foundations under the front pillars were 12ft square and 32ft deep, down on to solid rock. The mixer was on top of the Lees and the concrete was tipped down chutes made of scaffold boards, to where it was required. The first job took two years. The old Ashford Hospital was the next to be built, Lloyds Bank at the top of Bank Street had various additions and a big gymnasium was built at Sevenoaks Grammar School. The original Cinema at Ashford was built in thirteen weeks and a new front and general re-modelling was done in the 30s', (both carried out by D G S.)

We apprentices attended the Technical School at Elwick Road on one, two and three evenings a week, for which we paid 10 shillings for each evening for the winter session. We had to buy our own drawing and compass outfits, scale rules, pens paper etc and also cycle to and fro whatever the weather. (It didn't do us any harm though!)

There were nine, and sometimes ten joiners in the 'shop', including two apprentices, and one improver, plus two machinists. There was quite a thriving undertakers business, too. We might get called back anytime to make a coffin. Some humorous situations arose, I once

helped to put a man in a coffin and he still had a pair of grey army socks on. Another time, there was no way of getting the box upstairs to the bedroom where the 'client' lay, so one big strapping man put the body over his shoulder and brought him down.

Timber Sales:

Every November there was a sale at the Dukes Head of underwood from the woods around. The wood was made into household faggots, lords, (a smaller type,) and sea faggots, known as sea frighteners, which had to be made to a certain length and size with two binders round them for extra strength. These went to Dymchurch and Littlestone and were buried in the sand at strategic places to stop the movement of sand. There were poles, sold in fifties and one hundreds, mainly for logging, thatchwood with which went stakes and binders, also lengths for laying hedges, beansticks and peasticks, for the garden. These used to be fetched from the wood in what was known as a tug, a sort of open-sided wagon, with a boarded bottom and a 'lades' along the side, which would be pulled by one or two horses. These would go to Dymchurch, New Romney, Littlestone and Lydd, there and back in a day. As a boy, I went with them on many a Saturday, walking most of the way there and riding home.

Ralph Harden

THE COAL TRADE

Although coal came into Kent as long ago as the 1600s' it did not arrive in this part of the Weald until the 18th century. This was because the roads were so notoriously wet and boggy, that to transport any great weight to this area was almost impossible.

The opening of the canal in 1805 must have been a great day for Hamstreet, not only for the transportation of goods but also for pleasure. From 1829 there was a passenger boat from Appledore to Hythe daily. A Mr Stickles in 1862 is recorded as a barge owner. The Oliver family (Lord of the Manor) had a pleasure boat on the canal, too.

By 1841 there was a coal house and yard on the West side of the canal bank owned by 'The Honourable Board of Ordnance' who also maintained the canal and its banks.

William Fagg was our first coal merchant on record. By 1862 Thomas Wanstall had a wharf there. How long this site was used is not known, but with the coming of the railway the canal fell into disuse.

1894 David Cobb was the coal merchant and he lived where the Hamstreet garage now stands in a house named 'Brooklands'. He also had a yard behind the house and a wharf at the station yard. All coal at that time was delivered by horse and cart. Others got in on the trade too. In 1913 Leonard Laslett was also dealing in coal but by 1924 had gone in with Lacey Collard at Eastside (now Old Eastside) in the fruit growing trade. In the meantime in 1927 David Cobb, who had been in the trade for well over thirty years, retired.

T M S or Turners Motor Service, was also dealing in coal, sand and ballast, he also had wharves at the Hamstreet and Ruckinge sidings. He was a very public spirited man. An entry in the Ruckinge parish magazine reads;

"I am able to equip the T M S van with a camp bed, for the use of an ambulance and would be prepared in cases of extreme emergency, to place the van thus equipped at the disposal of any parishioner, free of charge".

In 1927 Mr Turner put the business up for sale at an asking price of 200. This was bought by my grandfather, William Henry Stutchbury and was taken over by my father in 1932. He continued to use the wharf behind what is now the Hamstreet garage, and also the one at the Hamstreet station for some years, but at a later date all coal was shunted into the siding at Upper Ruckinge. This continued until the Beeching railway cuts in the early 1960s'.

Barbara Ware



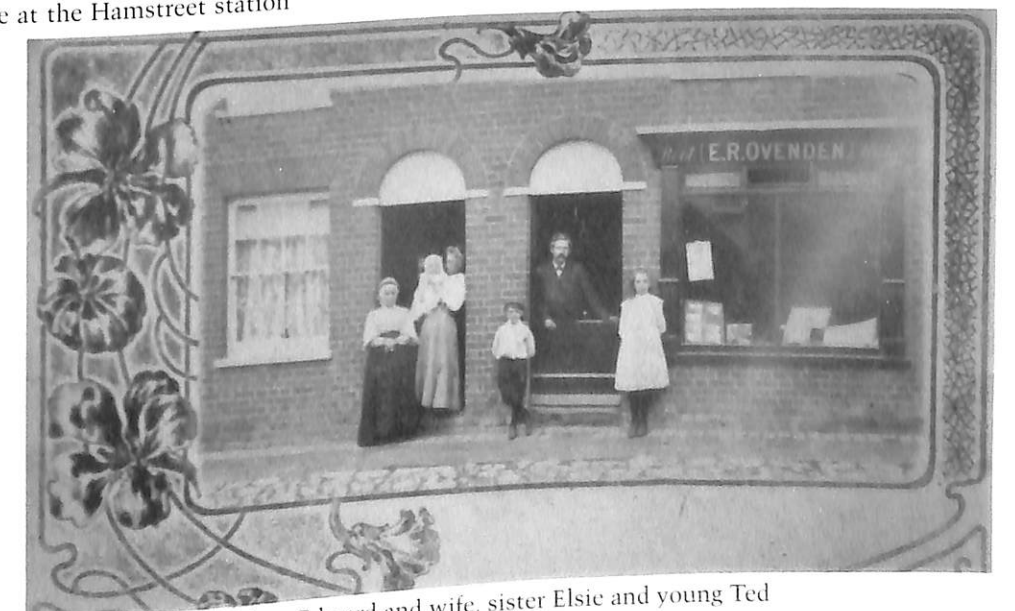
My father Alec Stutchbury, and his brother Syd with his A. Model Ford purchased from J Turner in 1932.

THE HAMSTREET SHOEMAKERS

Shoemakers are recorded as far back as 1829. John Ifield was the first one. By 1847 his wife Elizabeth aged 71 years, was still making shoes. This family was followed in 1841, by Joseph Pope and also his wife Frances, and then his son Joseph junior. By the turn of the century the Ovendens and Richardsons were the shoemakers. Mary Richardson's (our Post-lady for many years) grandfather Alfred was a shoe maker he lived beside the bakery in Stokes Cottages (now Banbury Villas). He was an active member of the community, being both parish clerk and sexton.

Edward Reely Ovenden as well as making boots and shoes, was one of our first photographers. He lived in Stella House, where he had his 'darkroom'. Ted, his son was Hamstreets last shoe maker and repairer. In later years when factory shoes became readily available, Ted became part time postman and mended shoes in his spare time. (1972)

grandmother Ovenden, Edward and wife, sister Elsie and young Ted, who was later to become our 'Cobbler' and in later years our Postman.



Grandmother Ovenden, Edward and wife, sister Elsie and young Ted

THE HAMSTREET SHEEP FAIRS

One of the big events of the year was the 'Hamstreet Sheep Fair' (sheep & lambs). It was held in the Fairfield, on the last Thursday in August each year. Buyers came from many parts of the country, even from the Midlands, which was a long journey in those days. One of the Auctioneers was the late Pelham Collick of Carter House, Ruckinge. Local farmers drove their flocks along the road to the Fairfield, each flock being divided off by man and dog. Local children turned out to help, sometimes to the annoyance of the sheep dogs, who rounded up the children as well as the lambs.

In the 1920's and 1930's, at the end of the sale, lambs were driven to Hamstreet Station and penned in the two fields there, (on one of which the Telephone Exchange now stands,) and finally loaded into railway trucks to make their final journey by rail.

In early times the fairs, (not necessarily sheep fairs,) were held behind the Hamstreet Garage, about where the allotments and a housing estate now are. This was the original 'Fair Green'. (Ed)

Mrs Maylam. -



Sheep Fairs

Grandpa Lorden's Diaries cont.

March 23rd. I went to Ruckinge then to the Good Intent, Aldington then to Mersham Church then to Smeeth then to Aldington Corner to Bilsington, right down to the Langdon Farm, and home. Walked all the way. James Marshall went with me.

1878 March 17th. Saturday afternoon about half past four James Orman and a lot of workmen was down close to old Mrs Tickners sheep house, Snaive in the fields going down to Gribble, (Wey Street) they was flaying willow trees and there came up a thunderstorm and they ran to the sheep house, Orman behind. The lightning struck him and burnt him and his close (clothes) partly off him melted his mack and tore his shoes off and broke his leg and yet he is still alive and they carried him to Ashford hospital and he is doing as well as can be expected.

1879 August 28th. Hamstreet Fair. It has been wet for this three day fair day, sheep and lambs 11'832, bullocks 118, horses 13 and lots of people got a little too much of the Barley corn juice.

JEREMIAH'S WIG

Extracts from the Ingoldsby Legends: by Thomas Ingoldsby Alias Rev Barham, Vicar of Warehorne.

Jerry Jarvis Wig, (Attorney at Law), employed Jeremiah Washford to do his garden. Feeling sorry for the man with his bald head, he gave him an old wig. This wig was eventually to be Jeremiah's downfall. In fact it was the piece of evidence that convicted Jerry of murder.

In the year of 1761 Jeremiah was tried at the court house at New Hall Dymchurch for murdering Humphrey Bourne a reputable grazier of Dymchurch a well-to-do who was apt to over indulge on a market day having sold his fat stock at the Ashford Market. He was found with dreadful lacerations to the throat. He had been dragged into the bushes at the edge of the cutting which led down into Hamstreet. His money gone, but in his hand clutching the fated wig which was to see Jeremiah swing. He was convicted, of course, and sentenced to hang. Not even the Dymchurch jury could resist such evidence, even though the gallowes (ie the expense of erecting one) stared them, as well as the criminal in the face.

The fearful black gibbet, on which his body clanked in its chains, groans no more upon the hill of Orlestone, it has sunk beneath the encroaching hand of civilisation. Perhaps the moral of this story is not to accept an old wig from a special attorney.

WAR TIME PILL-BOXES

- 1 Corner of Old East Side garden
 - 2 Opposite corner against Headley's General Stores
 - 3 Corner of Bournewood Lane (still remains)
 - 4 Where Nurse Holdstock's house stands, or near
 - 5 Corner of Cock Lane/Romney Road
 - 6 Warehorne Road, where the new house has been built
 - 7 Sugarloaf, in garden of left-hand cottage
 - 8 and one in Mr Hardens field behind still standing
 - 9 Across the road in Burchett Wood
 - 10 On the corner of Mr Stutchbury's garden at Maycross
 - 11 and across the field at Ladds Wood Farm, Upper Ruckinge
- Pill-boxes were built along the canal at each culvert. The canal bridge was mined.

There were four air-raid shelters in the orchard by Old Eastside, for civilian use. (They were used.) There were also 3/4 Nissen huts for troops in the same orchard, two along the Bournewood Lane and one or two at the top near Harts cottages.



Old Pill Box, Bournewood Lane.

LADIES AT WAR

Local ladies ran a forces Canteen throughout the war. These ladies also had sessions of bandage rolling etc, in the event of a First Aid post being needed. They also did a salvage drive, each in their immediate area collected tins, rags and paper which would be collected once a month and taken to Tovil, near Maidstone. The ladies were taken there to see the results of their endeavours.

Occasionally concert groups came to entertain the troops and gave a show in the Memorial Hall. Some civilians were allowed in, according to space, especially the helpers at the canteen, which was run on a rota basis.

CHILDHOOD DAYS

As children we had hoops and tops. The boys had iron hoops which, when broken could be taken to the blacksmith to be put in the fire and rejoined for two pence. The girls had wooden hoops and whip tops shaped like a mushroom made of wood with a metal stud, and used to be kept spinning with a whip. (A stick with about a yard of whip-cord tied on.) A top could be sent flying over a number of yards and kept spinning with this. We boys mostly had peg-tops, made of wood with an iron peg-round which you rolled a length of whip-cord and spun it from your hand.

At school boys and girls had separate play-grounds and woe-betide the boy caught 'over the wall' He found out where the cane could land a bit sharp.

Ralph Harden

MEMORIES OF MY CHILDHOOD LIVING IN THE FORGE HOUSE

Living at the Old Forge were the happiest days of my life. The house was owned by Jim Godden, builders at Hamstreet. We came down from Warehorne to live there in 1942 and remained until the autumn of 1953, eleven years. From a child's point of view the Forge was a wonderful place to live, unexpected cupboards, steps, odd corners and lovely places to hide. The completely walled garden made it entirely safe. The roof came down so low at the back that by standing on a chair I could easily climb on it, and often I sat up there. The working forge was an added attraction. The most unpleasant thing was the smell of burning hoof and hair, when the blacksmith placed the hot shoe on the horse's foot.

Looking back from the view of a housewife and mother, it must have been a nightmare for my poor mum, she was a London girl who had worked for a top fashion designer. Perhaps if I describe the house the reasons will be made more explicit. You stepped down from the street into a small hall, this housed the main staircase behind a cupboard door. There were two living rooms that led off either side of the hall, and at the back the kitchen which ran the entire width of the house. Upstairs there were two large bedrooms, above the living rooms, and above them two attic bedrooms, which we were told were unsafe and not to use. (Actually they were quite safe as long as you avoided the few rotten floor boards, and made a lovely play area for me in bad weather.) There was an electric light in each of the two main bedrooms, that was all. In the kitchen we had to use oil lamps or candles. The overall feeling when you entered the

house, was of coolness and dark, even in the mid summer. The ground floors were brick and very uneven and big old beams held up the ceilings. The kitchen was a very interesting place because it was enormous, running the width of the house, it was long rather than wide, and was made more so because there was no ceiling, you just looked straight up to the roof, which after all was three stories high. At each end of the kitchen were two rooms, one a pantry with a stone shelf all the way round, with iron bars at the small window. (To stop the cats getting in I suppose.) The other a store of some kind, the floor of these two rooms were of loose beach pebbles. We didn't have piped water, and had to pump it up from the well just outside the back door. There was no bathroom or toilet, the loo was a little brick building at the bottom of the garden with a bench seat and a hole cut in it. We had to bath by the kitchen stove. If you stood in the kitchen and looked up, you would think you were looking at solid whitewashed walls, that is until you realise that a wooden ladder secured to an inside wall, appears to lead nowhere. Climbing up the ladder you find the walls are not solid at all, but white washed heavy material like sacking, behind which is another staircase leading from the top of the ladder to the attics. Looking back I've often thought there must at some time have been a ceiling at the top of that ladder with perhaps a sort of trap door opening into more bedrooms. The two little rooms either end of the kitchen had ceilings and above them two fair sized rooms with doors which were used as storage places but there was no access to them, we had to use a ladder brought in from the shed to reach anything needed from up there. If there had been a ceiling with bedrooms above these second floor level cupboard like rooms could have been walk in wardrobes.

There was no entry to the back of the house everything had to come in through the front door, even the coal. In the front door, through the living room, through the kitchen, out the back door to the shed. After dark black beetles came out and covered the ground floors, if you had to get up during the night and go downstairs there were so many you could hear them squashing under your feet.

Water for washing clothes or for baths had to be heated in an old stone copper with a fire lit underneath it, and ironing of course with the old flat irons heated on the range, if it was too hot in summer to light the fire, mother cooked on two tiny oil stoves.

After we moved out in 1953, the house was done up and a bathroom put in, it then stood empty for some months. A preservation order was put on it. But it was suddenly pulled down, nobody having lived in it after us, a shame because it was a lovely old place.

June Coltum



Ashford Road, Hamstreet
The Old Forge House

THE 'SIXTIES'

The first five years of the sixties saw great change in Hamstreet, with lots of building work being done, Bournewood Estate being the first, followed a couple of years later by Dukes Meadow and Willow Farm Estate. The Victory Hall was built in 1961, and opened by the actress, Diana Sheridan. The village concerts and functions had up until this time been held in St Mary's Church Hall. Today it is better known as Harmony Hall. When the Victory Hall first opened, all the children living in Hamstreet went to Christmas parties each year. Father Christmas was always there, and we would come away with a gift, an orange and some sweets. Several times a year, dances were held in the hall for the villagers, and the members of the youth club in the sixties also held dances on several Saturday nights, dancing to live pop groups.

By 1966, the population of Hamstreet had grown considerably, and being a larger than average sized village, the inhabitants were lucky enough to have a variety of shops.

'The Chocolate Box' was then owned by Joan Jones, who married Ron Godden.

'The VG Stores' was a family run shop, owned by Mr Rumble. His daughter Tina also helped in the shop. People would leave their order with Tina and their groceries were delivered to their houses by Mr Rumble or his son John, who would bring them on a tradesman's bicycle. Next in the village was our cobbler, Mr Ovenden. I can remember being able to see him over the open stable door, mending and banging nails into shoes. Various sizes and fashions of shoes were piled up around his feet, and I can still remember the smell of leather which would greet us when we took our shoes to him to be mended.

On the opposite side of the road, in Marsh House, was a hardware shop, selling a variety of goods. It later became a café for villagers and passers-by. They called it 'The Black Cat'.

The antique shop has now taken over the village butcher's, which was owned by Stephen Barden and his son Mick. You could always be sure of an excellent joint of meat, which was trimmed and cut just the way you wanted it. Mr Barden, Mick's mother, would sit at a table in the room adjoining the shop, where we had to go and pay for our goods. Our newsagent's shop was run by Fred Harden, Peter Harden's father. Peter and his wife Clarice took the shop over, and a great change took place in the premises, eg a large variety of fruit and vegetables was displayed in boxes on the pavement outside their shop. Next to Hardens where there is now a house, we had another grocer's shop. It was owned by the Ashford firm, Headleys. Until recent years we were lucky enough to have a bakery. It was run and owned by Mr and Mrs Shoebridge and their daughter Susan. Susan worked in part of the shop which was then our Post Office, helped by Mary Richardson. Mary later became our well-known Postlady Opposite the bakery, on the other side of the Warehorne Road, was Mrs Florence Perkins' wool shop. She stocked a wide choice of goods from hair clips to clothes. We had a hairdressers shop which was then run by Margaret. Next to this was another confectionery shop, run by a husband and wife Mick and Audrey Knight. Alas thirty years on these two shops stand empty.

Melanie Spears

IVY DAVIES

Ivy Davies aged 10 years with Mother Esther and brother Bill, the photo taken off Bourne Lane, (1917) now the drive way to Rosehaven, known to local people as the Green Lane. Ivy's grandmother was born in Ruckinge in 1857. She married a John Hills from Hamstreet, he died in 1911, aged 54 years, from sheep dip poisoning, quite common in those days.

Mrs Hills was the village midwife (self taught). She lived at 1

Harts Cottages, Bourne Lane and grew many herbs in her garden to make remedies, lotions and potions for her patients. The GP at that time was Dr Toms.

Ivy was born near Folkestone in 1907. After her father, a soldier was killed in the First-World War. Esther returned to Hamstreet where she was born and where her family still lived. Ivy went to Hamstreet school until the age of 14 years. She worked at 'Fairlawn' the home of Goddens the builders (now Barwicks) before marrying Emlyn Davies in 1932. He was a coal miner who with other, had walked from Wales to Kent to hand dig with pick and shovel the trench of the water main from Aldington to Woodchurch. Emlyn met Ivy while digging his way through Hamstreet.

Mrs Ivy Davies, one of our oldest residents, still lives in Quince Orchard, Hamstreet.

Barbara Thomas



Ivy Davies, aged 10 years, Grand-daughter of Mrs Hills, Midwife, at the turn of the century.

MISCELLANY (pictures overleaf)

1. Warehorne Road. On the left is Prospect House and Workshop, built by Lordens. The white cottages were supposedly the workhouse and behind it was the jail-house.

2. Fruit tree spraying at Maylam's, some time in the Great War. Mr Maylam of Home Farm also had hop gardens and the old oast house had a roundle kiln attached until a few years ago.

3. Apple picking at Maylams in Edwardian times.

4. Road building outside Cyprus House. 1930-40's.

5. The Rev. Kick, Veal and Jolly Kick and Mr Whitehead outside the house now known as "Cherry Cottage", on the corner of Cock Lane. The house has been called "The Homestead" and "The Chestnuts" in the past.

6. The grocery and draper's shop of H.H. Harvey in the forties. This is now the V.G. Stores.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

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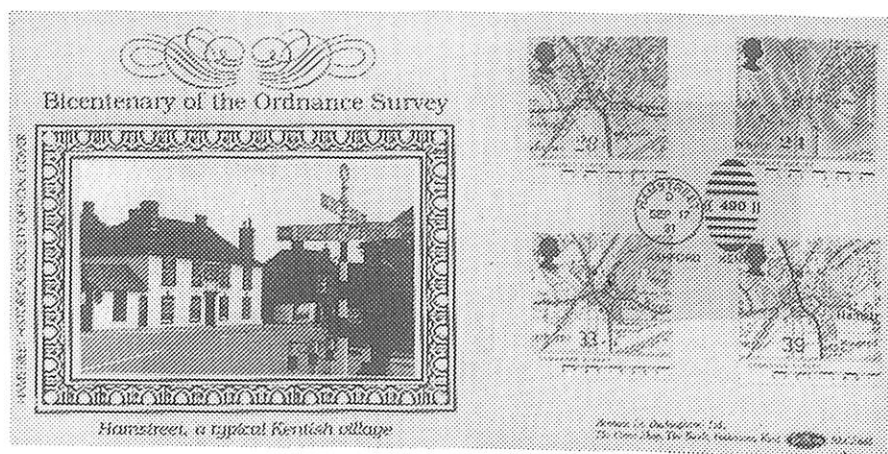
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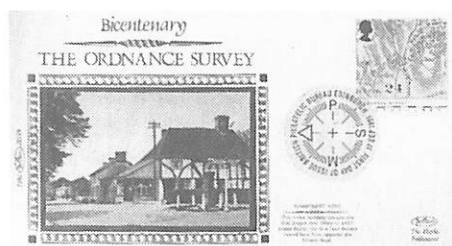
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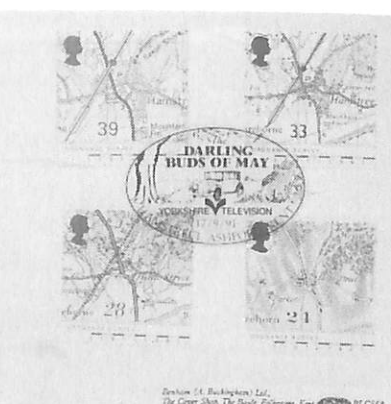


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