

Gazetteer

This follows a roughly geographical sequence starting from Tonbridge as the centre. The old parish boundaries are adhered to. The whole of Kent and parts of Sussex are included, but the main focus is on those parishes in the centre of Kent, nearly all either in the Diocese of Rochester and Deanery of Malling (Tonbridge, Brenchley, Hadlow, Horsmonden, Pembury, Shipbourne etc.) or in the Diocese of Canterbury and Deanery of Sutton (Maidstone, Goudhurst, Hollingbourne, Linton, Marden etc.). Details of properties should be read in conjunction with the genealogies of their owners.

Tonbridge Parish

The parish of Tonbridge was much larger than most others in Kent, though parts were only woodland and so sparsely populated. It included the main part of Tunbridge Wells, though that had its own chapel with its own incumbent. It was divided into Tonbridge Town, Hildenborough (to the N.), Southborough East (including Postern and Somerhill) and Southborough West (including Bounds and most of Tunbridge Wells). In the 1823 Poor Rates the respective rental assessments for each district were £6,865, £3,608, £7,785, £2,326. The population grew in our period faster than in other places with the growing prosperity of the town and as the Wells became a place of residence rather than just a seasonal resort: *1750*: c.2000 *1801*: 4,371 *1841*: 12,530 (Bagshaw gave 5,260). Later in C19 new parishes were created for Tunbridge Wells, Southborough and Hildenborough. In C20 boundaries were redrawn and Tonbridge lost Postern and Somerhill to Tudeley, but gained part of Hadlow (including Greentrees). The present district councils follow these, which means that Tonbridge is now part of Tonbridge & Malling, whereas the areas in Tudeley together with Pembury are in Tunbridge Wells district.

The patronage belonged to the Vane family by 1630 and in 1789 passed to Viscount Vane's heir, David Papillon. In 1795 Revd. John Rawstorn Papillon is given as patron, and in 1809 Sir Richard Hardinge Bt and by 1831 ... Deacon Esq. (Lewis). In 1841 the vicarage living was valued at £938; the vicarial tithes were commuted for £1,000 p.a. (Bagshaw). The comparable figures for Penshurst were £820 and £1,020, for Tudeley/Capel and Pembury less than half these figures. Some parts were exempt from rectorial tithes, which had been transferred to others. Hasted noted that Tonbridge town's belonged to Sir John Honeywood Bt., Postern's to James Eldridge, the area round Bounds to Thomas Hooker, etc. (II, 1782, p.351). The vicars 1617-1894 were:

1617-42	Edward Ashburnham, M.A., Oxon.	1756	Henry Harpur, B.A., Cantab. (1732-90)
1649	John Stileman, M.A., Cantab.	1791	John Rawstorn Papillon, JP, M.A. (1763-1837)
1685	Richard Higgins	1803	Philip Papillon (1759-1809)
1705	John Tristram, B.A., Oxon.?	1809	Sir Charles Hardinge Bt., JP, B.A., Oxon. (1780-1864)
1712	William Davis (will pr.1748)	1864	John Thomas Manley, B.A., Cantab. (1830-1901)
1748	Henry Hemington (will pr.1784)	1890	Thomas Howard Gill

Stileman and Hardinge were pluralists. William Davis had a farm at Shipbourne (will 31.12.1747; pr. PCC 13.5.1748). He and his wife Mary had a son, William, and 7 daughters, some of whom married into local families. (Mary m. Thomas Scoones; Sarah m. John Francis; ...) Only occasionally are curates named, eg. William Peckham Woodward (1795, becoming Rector of Plumpton 1796). During Sir Charles Hardinge's tenure curates occupied the vicarage.

Tonbridge Town

It is situated where the Medway crosses the town in 5 streams over which several bridges (hence its name) were built, including a new one in 1775 over the main stream. With a castle and priory it was a borough with an MP in the time of Edward I, but by C17 had dwindled to be no bigger than many other market towns in Kent. This changed after the Medway was opened for navigation in 1741, and both town and parish grew, the first as follows:

<i>1664</i>	<i>c.600</i>	<i>1739</i>	<i>c.800</i>	<i>1801</i>	<i>c.1,900</i>	<i>1841</i>	<i>3,115</i>
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However it remained "a quiet market town" which basically consisted of "one long and spacious street" (Bagshaw, 1847). It gained further importance through new roads and from 1836 the railways. It lay on the N. to S. route from London to the resorts of Tunbridge Wells and Hastings, while connecting W. to E. with the county town, Maidstone. The London to the coast road was

turnpiked, in 1710 between Sevenoaks and Pembury, and the Tonbridge to Maidstone one in 1765. Mail coaches were introduced on principal routes by the government in 1784. In 1790 the mail from London took 4 hours to reach Sevenoaks and 12 to get to Hastings. The stage coach left Tunbridge Wells at 8am (Tonbridge an hour later?) and reached London at 3pm (Sprange, 1797). The hills round Tonbridge slowed traffic up until cuttings were made after 1800. Thereafter there were half a dozen coaches from London and “it was quite possible to go to London, say, by the Morning Star, at 8.30, transact a good day’s business in Town and get back to Tonbridge, coming down by the Royal Mail arriving at midnight” (Neve, p.70). As there was a premium in getting hops to London quickly, many of these went by road.

The barges on the Medway took hops and timber downriver to Maidstone, Chatham and London and brought back coal, lime and gravel. A wharf was made in the town centre. The **Medway Navigation Co.** was created by Act of Parliament. (Farington in 1794 said that its 13 barges were “almost entirely employed in carrying Timber which has been purchased in the adjacent country and brought down to Tonbridge, to the Dockyards of Chatham & Sheerness.”) The company was involved in constant litigation over water rights. There was a lawsuit with Henry Martyr, owner of Branbridges Mill at E.Peckham (q.v.), which was settled in 1751. To Martyr succeeded Thomas Henry Boorman, whose nephew, Thomas Hugh Boorman, gained a controlling interest in the Navigation Co. The ensuing entente was broken after the Town Mills were sold by Messrs Jewhurst to Mr. Christie after 1800. Christie’s Bill was rejected by Parliament in 1836, when it passed an Act allowing a railway to be built. Decline was followed by the failure of Boorman, Wilde & Co. in 1868. The Navigation Co. went into receivership in 1910. (On Turner’s views see Appendix 7).

The Jewhursts seem to have come from Pembury Mill (q.v.) and one of them, William, was the first organist at Tonbridge church after the new organ was opened in 1788. The watermill was to E. of the town centre. Tonbridge did not have much industry, except for Tunbridge Ware, made from native woods, and based near the bridge from the C18 but by 1847 mainly made at the Wells. Cricket balls were made for many generations from 1797.

There were several inns, of which the **Rose & Crown** survives. This “has a long C18 brick front, mellowed to the loveliest of colours, chequered plum and blue with mottled orange rubbed-brick dressings.” Newman adds, “The porch comes right across the pavement and supports a splendidly large coat of arms of the Duchess of Kent.” The frontage used to include “not only the hotel as we know it, but also the premises now occupied by Mrs. Everard (fruiterer), the *Tonbridge Free Press* and Messrs. Neve and Son (auctioneers)” (Neve, p.71). Many notabilities stayed there. Horace Walpole in 1752 found “the inn [this one?] full of farmers and tobacco.” The Hon. John Byng came on a hot stormy 15 August in 1788. “...We were ill at ease, it being fill’d by a company of all sorts, belonging to the Medway navigation, who here held their annual dinner; and whom the hostler said were ‘prieters.’ Our luggage was not to be found ...our bed rooms dark and mean; and no appearance of civility: ... Mopingly we return’d to our sorry inn; hoping, however, that supper might make us happier; but every thing was wretched, and ill served ...” Six years later Farington stayed a night. It has also witnessed numerous events (meetings, sales of property, elections ...).

The *Kentish Gazette* was available in the town from 1769 and the *Maidstone Journal* from 1785.

The Parish Church and Vicarage.

The parish church of St Peter and St Paul lies back invisible from the High St. It is mediaeval (C13 and C14 and earlier) with an outer S. aisle added in 1820 and renewed and enlarged in 1877-9, when were removed the pulpit and panelled pews which had been in the church since 1733, when George Hooper left a legacy for them. Of Henry Harpur’s time are the white marble font 1766 (cost £16.16.0; at Tonbridge School c.1877-1930), cup 1760, salver 1785, plate paten 1784 inscribed with Harpur’s name and bells (the Tenor one also inscribed with his name, 1774, when cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, recast 1897). The church also has a silhouette of him dating to his last years. The Hon. John Byng on 15 August 1788 visited the church, “which has been newly repair’d, and within these few days, organ’d by a legacy; and therein were listeners, whom we join’d; but I was sorry to think that the old melody, so much for country work, would be done away; and here they were rich in having all kinds of sweet instruments.” The organ (since reconstructed) was given by a legacy of Henry Woodgate of Somerhill. William Jewhurst became the first organist and it was opened by Jonathan Battishill, one of the best organists of the day. In 1778 a new altarpiece was given at a cost of £138.2.10 by James Weller.

The **monuments** include those to **Harpur** (1801) and the **I’Anson** family on N. wall of Chancel. The latter refers to Harpur’s father (“of Gray’s Inn”) and commemorates his sister Mary, who married John I’Anson. The death of I’Anson in 1800 and his bequests to his partner, Harpur’s eldest son, may have encouraged the last to erect the monument to his own father. Next to the I’Anson memorial are ones to the Knoxes, headmasters of Tonbridge School. Their predecessor James Cawthorn has one in the Nave N.aisle.

The numerous monuments to the **Children** family include most notably, on the Nave N. wall, that to Richard (d.1753) by Roubiliac, a weeping putto and urn, with a long verse inscription by James Cawthorn. His son John (d.1771) and others have a slab in the Nave central aisle. His son George has a tablet on the Nave N.wall by John George Bubbs, who won the RA silver medal in 1805. This was erected by the inhabitants of Tonbridge to pay tribute to “a faithful friend, a social neighbour, a liberal benefactor to the poor, and in all respects, an exemplary Christian”. “His elegant literature, his urbanity and taste, his habitual self control, and unassuming manners, secured respect and at the same time engaged affection, as a magistrate, during the space of half a century ...”

The **Woodgates** are mostly buried at Pembury. Henry of Somerhill (d.1787) has a tablet by E.Peirce of Deptford on the Nave W.wall. Their successor at Somerhill, James Alexander (d.1848), is commemorated by a seated woman holding a cross by J.G.Lough (vestry).

There are seven **Austen** memorials, including one on the Nave N. wall to the Rev. Henry Austen, his wife and sons, and a memorial to his uncle William (Jane’s grandfather) on the floor of the N.aisle (not normally viewable). In the Nave N.aisle are more to George Hooper and the Wellers.

There are also **hatchments** to Francis Woodgate of Ferox Hall (d.1843) and Thomas Harvey (d.1779; he married the daughter of Harpur’s predecessor, Rev. William Davis) on the Nave S. Arcade, and on N. Arcade at W. end to John Children (d.1771).

The **Vicarage** was rebuilt on the same site in 1873 (Neve, p.213). It was demolished after 1945 and the present one built nearby in 1960. A Terrier of 1757 describes it as it was then with a cellar, ground floor with hall, parlour, kitchen etc., first floor with 5 bedrooms and study, and 3 garrets above (see Appendix 1). Its date of construction is unknown, but see the photograph of it c.1865 (Crouch and Bergess). In the 1664 Hearth Tax Assessment the Revd. John Stileman (vicar 1649-85) had 4 hearths. William Dyke Esq. and Dr Arthur Amherst MD each had 11, the Crown Inn 9, and 24 or so had 4-8. Parsonage houses then varied from 1 hearth (at Tudeley) to 5 or 6.

John Rawstorn Papillon was vicar 1791-1802. His family came from East Kent, where they knew the Knight family. Thomas Knight (d.1794) in his will said that Papillon should receive the living of Chawton when a vacancy next arose with Henry Austen, Jane’s brother, as the next choice if he refused. On going to Chawton Papillon pulled down the vicarage there and built a new one, though its elaborate grounds had later to be modified due to “too much expence.” Papillon was succeeded at Tonbridge by his brother, who died in 1809.

Sir Charles Hardinge did not reside in the Vicarage, but at Bounds, Southborough, (q.v.), and his curates lived in it instead. In 1841 Edward Vinall and in 1851 Henry J. Estridge were there with their families and 4 servants.

In 1780 Harpur was assessed at £35 r.value for the Land Tax as compared with George Children Esq. at £7.10 for himself and the same amount for two other properties. The next highest after Harpur was Henry Woodgate at £18 for Priory Meads etc. The Rev. Henry Austen was down at £2.10. That amount remained constant. Thus in 1814 the Rev. Papillon (but Rev. Hardinge occupier) was assessed at £35, as was Rev. Sir Charles Hardinge Bt as proprietor and occupier in 1828.

The Poor Rate varied. Harpur was assessed at £1.10 rents 1771-8, but thereafter was omitted. The Revd. Philip Papillon 1798-1808 was assessed at £78.1.6 in Tonbridge Town, £123.14.6 in Southborough East and £105.13.0 in Hildenborough. In 1809 the Rev. Charles Hardinge was scheduled at £88 in Tonbridge Town, £82 in Southborough West, £140 in Southborough East, and £120 in Hildenborough, but in 1824 at £30 for House & Premises in Tonbridge Town. Evidently assessments greatly increased after 1790. Some comparative figures are:

	1771	1787	1805	1810	1812	1824
Vicar (Harpur/Papillon/Hardinge)	1.10	-	78.1.6	88 (Tithes)		30
Ferox Hall (Children/Woodgate)	7.10	7.10	83.10	80	80	80
Rev.Hy Austen/Wm. Scoones		4		25		
Castle (Hooker/Woodgate/West)	1.10		102.10	74	74	36
Cage Farm (Simmons)	50	45		195		

To make full sense of the figures one would have to make various annotations, noting, for example, that the mansion in the Castle was not yet built in 1771 and that Papillon and Hardinge had other properties beside the vicarage.

Tonbridge School

The grammar school was founded in 1553 by Sir Andrew Judde, Lord Mayor of London and a member of the Skinners' Company, which governs it. In 1824 it was allowed to increase the original salaries for the master from £20 to £500 and of the usher (the post occupied by Jane Austen's father, to whom a plaque was unveiled in 2000 – *The Jane Austen Society Report for 2000*) from £8 to £200. George Austen had held the fellowship at St John's College, Oxford, founded by Sir Thomas Whyte. The selection of fellows was in the hands of the master, vicar (we find Harpur in this role) and others.

The C16 schoolhouse was pulled down in 1864. At the N. end of the present Victorian buildings is the Old Judde House, red-brick C18.

Dr J.I. Welldon in mid C19 transformed the school into a typical Victorian public school, drawing pupils from afar. Before that most had been local, about one-fifth being day boys. In 1763 there was a complaint that the Master was reluctant to admit non-paying Foundation pupils "a manifest injustice and contrary to the will of the founder." The townspeople took the opinion of their solicitor, William Scoones, and won their point, a fact still recorded on a board in the church. However the school remained a predominantly middle class one, all the pupils being called "young gentlemen". As the boys received a classical education, it only made sense to go to it if they intended to go on to university rather than in to trade.

Harpur did not send his sons, either because he could not afford to or because he preferred to educate them at home. It seems likely that Thomas Mercer sent his son Thomas. The school register identifies the Thomas listed under the years 1811-15 as from the numerous family of builders in the town called Mercer. But it sent none of their other members to the school, and it is far more likely that he was our Thomas. He appears in the visitation for 28 May 1811 (that for the preceding year is missing). In 1813 he was in Class 4th with some younger boys above him in Class 5th. Above them were the monitors William and Henry Woodgate, sons of Major Woodgate of Somerhill, the first, born in the same year as Mercer, to become the "Wellington of the Law". Thomas must have been taken away in 1815 when his father's bank collapsed. What happened to him thereafter we do not know, except that his niece recorded him as dead by c.1880.

With Thomas in Class 4th was Sir John Jervis (1802-56), who went on to Westminster School, Cambridge, Middle Temple and became MP (like his father), Attorney-General and Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Quite a number of people who appear in these pages had earlier been pupils: Bryan I'Anson (1714), Henry Austen (1733), William Dalison, head boy (1738/9-48), George Austen (1741), Maximilien Dalison (1743-53), John I'Anson (1744-8), George Children (1750-8?), William Woodgate (1751/2-9), Francis Motley Austen (1755), Henry Woodgate (1756/7-62), W.F. Woodgate, head boy (1780-7), Henry Woodgate (1781), John George Children (1786-90, and then to Eton). Later many members of the Mercer of Maidstone family attended, and Dr Welldon married one of them.

The masters at the school were distinguished. After James Cawthorn, 1743-61, and Johnson Towers, 1761-70, the post was held 1772-1843 by three generations of the Knox family, which married into the Woodgates. Vicesimus Knox II, master 1778-1812, published two anthologies in 1783 and 1789, a copy of the first of which Jane Austen gave to her niece Anna in 1801.

There were other schools, one established by the Rev. Thomas Jefferson, who published in 1808 *Two Sermons*, to which the Austens, Childrens, Wests, Woodgates, Moncktons, Mr Harpur of Hadlow, Mr H.Saxby of Tudeley, Mr Sweetlove of Leeds and Thomas Mercer Esq. of Greentrees subscribed, the last for 3 copies. The *Maidstone Journal* (11 February 1812, 7 and 28 September 1813) listed among supporters of the distribution of bibles among the poor George Children, W.F. Woodgate, Richard Allnutt, William Wells and Thomas Mercer (Chalklin p.154).

Peter Faber Hills (b.1925), sculptor and descendant of the Sweetloves and Nortons, has taught art at the school, of which he and other Hills have been pupils.

Ferox Hall

This is a red brick house of 7 bays and 2½ storeys. It had belonged to the Danvers and by 1736 to a Mary Saxby. John Children (1706-71) came into possession of it c.1750. John's father acquired Ramhurst Manor at Leigh (q.v.) from the Saxbys. In 1755 (the date, with his initials, is cut in the brickwork on either side of the front door) John built the Georgian front to the house. Added were the entrance hall and staircase with rooms on either side, the dining parlour on the left and the drawing room on the right with S. windows opening on to a small garden, known later as the Dutch garden, where the study wing is now (Hoole, *Tonbridge Miscellany*, p.35). The ground floor of the Tudor mansion, to the E. of the dining parlour, became kitchens and pantries. All this part of the house is panelled, mostly C18, though older in the dining parlour, now drawing room. In 1880 the interior was victorianised.

John Children was descended from Simon Children of Hildenborough in the reign of Richard II, and the family had been there in C13. George Children (1606-70) was educated at Tonbridge School and became curate of Tonbridge parish church.

John's son George also lived at Ferox. He was called to the bar and was long the senior magistrate in the area. He also penned verses (*Oxford DNB*). His son, John George, embarked on electrical experiments, inspired by the discoveries of Volta. Behind Ferox, in the small courtyard between it and the Priory, at 5 Bordyke (behind no.8) is the laboratory which the Childrens built c.1800. A cylinder electrical machine of c.1790 (photo in Chapman, *Yesterday's Town*, 1982, p.66) may have been used in it. John George constructed a galvanic battery, of which he gave an account to the Royal Society in November 1808, having been elected a Fellow of it the year before. He became a friend of Charles Hatchett, Dr Wollaston and Sir Humphry Davy. Turner, who was also interested in electricity, was a friend of Sir Francis Chantrey, who liked to quote Davy and Wollaston. Some other artists attended a lecture at the Royal Society in 1794 given by Hatchett. (James Hamilton, *Turner and the Scientists*). Davy injured his eyes testing a new chemical formula with John George Children here in 1812. They jointly were involved in a business to produce gunpowder at Ramhurst, Leigh (q.v.). The friendship partially collapsed as the Childrens' finances did.

When George Children became bankrupt in 1816, he had to sell the house, though H.R.Pratt Boorman in 1969 noted that "descendants of the original family have continued to reside in the town and to take a great interest in its affairs." It was purchased with 14 acres by John Luxford. In 1823 the Ferox estate was offered to Tonbridge School for £7,000, but it was deemed unsuitable, though the school has since acquired it. In the meantime it was occupied by Francis Woodgate, son of Henry of Riverhill. After his death in 1843 and by 1870 Arthur Thomas Beeching was the occupier before its being used as a school.

George Children died in 1818 at the small Chelsea house which had been taken by his son, who had got a post in the department of antiquities at the British Museum through Marquess Camden. J.G. Children can be seen in the painting of the Elgin Room in 1819 behind The Principal Librarian and Benjamin West PRA, with B.R.Haydon sketching at the side. He died just after Turner did, at Halstead Place (dem.), the home of his scientific daughter, Mrs Anna Atkins.

Tonbridge Castle

The main feature of the mediaeval building is the gatehouse of c.1300, which had a great hall on its top floor. (It was "said to be the finest specimen of Norman architecture now existing" (Bagshaw, I, p.387), and had belonged to the Clares, reverting to the Crown and passing to various families). The castle was bought in 1739 by John Hooker. In 1752 Horace Walpole found a vineyard in the grounds and commended the prospect and Hooker's taste, though regretted that he "is going to disrobe 'the ivy-mantled tower,' because it harbours birds." In 1792-3 his eldest son Thomas built a Gothick mansion within the walls. This he sold before it was quite finished to William Woodgate of Somerhill, who had married his sister. By an indenture of 20 February 1794 William gave the castle on trust for his son W.F.Woodgate for life with remainder to Anna Allnutt his intended wife as part of

her jointure together with £300 p.a. Farington on 26 September 1794 visited the “modern building and before it a small lawn, surrounded by a gravel walk & shrubbery.” He added, “Nothing can exceed the bad taste of the whole, yet it is clean and I daresay very comfortable to the Possessors Mr. & Mrs. Woodgate.” Hooker has been accused of originally contemplating spoiling the mediaeval part by building his house inside it. Mrs Montagu on her visit in 1745 had appreciated it as a ruin. Soon after his father died early in 1809, W.F.Woodgate moved to Somerhill. Since 1794 he had greatly improved the Castle and its grounds, the outer walls of which enclosed an area of 6 acres, which he had made into beautiful gardens. Horace Walpole’s friend Miss Berry, who had been before, in October 1811 recorded: “I drove with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and Lady Erroll to Tunbridge Castle. I had no idea of the beauty of the ruin nor of the goodness of the house that they have added or attached at the side of one of the towers, between which is the grand entrance gate. The enclosure of the castle down to the river is a lawn and shrubbery. It is at present to let, and we went all over, Mr. Gordon having some idea of taking it.” (G.Woodgate, p.373).

On Woodgate’s bankruptcy in 1816 it passed to J.H.West, who had married his sister, and who also had inherited a house at Postern (q.v.). It had some pictures by Baptiste, Otho Venius, Sir Peter Lely etc., and an organ by Joseph Walker of High Holborn (Greenwood, 1838, p.121). Between 1841 and 1851 West’s son James Eldridge West moved to **Rose Hill Cottage** or **Lodge**, Dryhill, at the N. end of town (the home in 1780 of the attorney Thomas Swayne). He had purchased Dryhill Lodge in 1808. At the same time his third son John Eldridge West was at **Hanover House**, Dryhill. His second son was to live at **Dry Hill Lodge**, and his youngest at Lavenderhill. In 1850 the castle briefly was the home of the architect and playwright Samuel Beazley (1786-1851), who died here. By 1870 it housed a military school and by 1932 the Town Council Chamber.

Might the Woodgates have entertained Turner here? He twice depicted the classic view of the bridge and castle c.1795 (See Appendix 7).

Banks

Children, Woodgate & Scoones were established 1792-1812. On George Children and William and W.F.Woodgate see above and below. Scoones came from the family of Tonbridge solicitors whose name appeared on so many documents. The bank got into difficulties, but Children refused suggestions that he should get out of the partnership. He declined to sell all his Kentish property, release himself from all liability and purchase an estate in Devon. In 1809, being in arrears with the interest payments, he had to give as security a lease for 2000 years at a peppercorn rent of the whole of the Ferox estate and much of the family land in Hildenborough. On 11 December 1812 Lord Auckland told Lord Grenville that “the Tunbridge bank, which had £90,000 in circulation and another Kentish bank, have stopped.” (Hist. MSS Comm., 30 Fortescue X). On 13 December 1812 the bank closed its doors, and the next day a meeting of creditors decided that they should accept payment in instalments over 2 years. Children instructed Murrell and Wilson to auction 1,400 acres of his properties in Tonbridge and Leigh. In 1815 he attempted to sell a new mansion house, **The Mount**, nearly completed (now **The Mountains**, Hildenborough?) and 700 acres. On 6 February 1816 a Commission of Bankruptcy was issued against Major W.F.Woodgate. In 1820 a dividend of 5/- in the pound was paid on Children’s estate and later a further 2/-. Children & Co. drew on Barclays in London.

When the first bank failed, Thomas Mercer and John Barlow established Tonbridge New Bank 1813-15. (See Appendix 3). It opened on 25 September 1813 (according to Allen Grove) and closed on 16 or 28 May 1815. A letter from W.Cheesman of Yalding, 14 December 1813, said Mr Mercer “has this Moment Sent me £300 of my Bill ...” and complained that “Money is so Scarse” (CKS U1094/E18). Mercer was “a man of considerable wealth and greatly respected in Tonbridge and the neighbourhood ... The assets took twelve years to realise, but ultimately the creditors received twenty shillings in the pound, with interest from the date of stoppage,” as promised in 1815 (Neve, p.49).

Thomas Beeching, who was a linen draper in the town from 1789 at the corner of Church Lane and the High St, was more successful when he founded his bank in 1815, though confidence had to be restored in 1826 by a manifesto signed by the leading inhabitants. He reconstructed the first floor for the bank. The building, 153 High St., in 1780 occupied by James Weller, was sold by auction at the Rose & Crown in 1920. In 1890 Beechings had amalgamated with Lloyds. In addition the Kent,

Surrey and Sussex Banking Co opened in 1836, from 1839 the London and County Banking Co., which became the Westminster Bank in 1923.

The Austens

Their connection with the town and with families in it such as the Wellers and Hoopers and Hookers has been fully related by Margaret Wilson, who has mapped their various residences. The Austens originated from Horsmonden (q.v.). Jane's great-grandfather married Elizabeth Weller of Tonbridge. Their third son, Thomas, became an apothecary at Tonbridge, and he had a son, Rev. Henry, who retired in 1780 to Tonbridge. Their next son, William, was a surgeon in the town, and father of George, who was usher at Tonbridge School before he married Jane's mother.

The Rev. Henry Austen, after being perpetual curate at Shipbourne (in the gift of Viscount Vane) and other livings, in 1780 went to live at **Fosse Bank**, 182 High St, now replaced by an office block, which had been the home of his brother-in-law, Thomas Hooker (owner of the castle). (Hasted referred to this and Ferox Hall on the other side of the street as "two handsome well-built houses" on the rising ground at the N. end of the town). He may have moved next door to 180, now offices of the solicitors Warners. Thomas Austen lived at 186 High St (now restored as offices, **Blair House**), while William Austen (grandfather of Jane) and his children were, 1736-68, at 174 High St, on the corner of Bank St. It was destroyed by fire in 1997.

Georgian Tonbridge survives better in East Street (previously Swan Lane) and even more Bordyke (Hadlow Road). At **Powells** (now **Lyons**) in East St. were Betty Hooper (née Austen) and George Austen. This has become the offices of Thomson Snell & Passmore, who claim to be one of the longest established law firms in Britain, going back to George Hooper (partner 1752-9, the fifth generation after the firm was founded in C16 by Nicholas Hooper) and then various Scoones for a century (Thomas 1759-71, William 1771-1811, William jr. 1800-36 etc.) In Bordyke at **Chauntlers** (divided into **The Red House** and **The Priory**), which may go back to C16, lived Elizabeth Weller before her marriage to John Austen. It had been acquired by her grandfather c.1631.

Dry Hill

Dry Hill Farm (C17) is behind 15 Shipbourne Road. **Cage Green Farmhouse** (C16-C17) is at 198 Shipbourne Road.

Hildenborough

Hilden Manor (C17) is at 109 London Road. It belonged to the Children family.

So did **Nizells**, which is nearer Sevenoaks than Tonbridge town. Samuel Cartwright (1789-1864) acquired the house by 1847. He was a rich London dentist, though was unable to help Turner late in life with his dental problems. He had a collection of English paintings, including some by Turner?

Southborough and Bidborough

Southborough was part of the parish of Tonbridge even after **St Peter**, by Decimus Burton, was built in 1830-1.

Adjoining to the East is the small parish (1,244 acres) of **Bidborough. St Lawrence**, superbly sited on the brow of a narrow spur, is small (Norman, C13 etc.). In the churchyard is a monument by Sir Richard Westmacott to Mary Countess of Darnley (d.1803). **Wyatts**, Rectory Drive, was built after 1788 as the Rectory. The living in 1847 was worth only £273 with tithes commuted for £173, and so was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty.

The Rev. Edmund Latter (will 1786, when he was living at Southborough, pr. PCC 1789 to his son Edmund), was at Tonbridge School and, like Henry Harpur II, a graduate of St John's College,

Cambridge. He was Rector of **Bidborough** 1732-89 and on 6 April 1775 was party to the signing of articles of Henry Harpur, son of the Vicar of Tonbridge, with Brian I'Anson, attorney of Cannon Row, Westminster. Henry subsequently became the partner of Brian's nephew, John, who had married his father's sister, as recorded on the I'Anson monument in Tonbridge church. John was born at **Little Bounds** on 1 September 1733 and baptised on 10 September at Bidborough (the I'Anson family history says Tonbridge, but it is not altogether reliable). In 1751 his sister Margaret was married at Bidborough to James Annesley, who claimed to have been sold into slavery by his Irish uncle and to be the rightful Earl of Anglesea, leading to sensational law suits.

Brian's father, Sir Thomas I'Anson, 3rd Bt., acquired **Little Bounds** (otherwise **New Bounds**), **Southborough**, after his marriage in c.1696 to Dorothy Rokeby, whose uncle, Thomas Bury of Gray's Inn, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, built Little Bounds in ? 1689 on land granted to him by the Smith or Smythe family, which was connected with the Stonhouses, later known to the Marshalls at Radley and Islington. The Smythes kept **Great Bounds**, which was in the parish of Bidborough, while **Little Bounds** was in that of Tonbridge.

The 3rd Baronet died in 1707 and was succeeded by his son Thomas (d.1764), whose widow, Mary Bankes, died 10 years later. Meanwhile the 1769 Andrews and Dury map shows the house as belonging to John. His uncle, Brian, was living at the house by 11 May 1768, when he made his will, "late of St Margaret, Westminster, now of New Bounds, Kent, gent., being weak in body." His long religious will left 25 volumes of Mr. Wesley's Christian Library and his grandmother's little Bible to his nephew, the 5th Baronet, who was Rector of Corfe, and to his nephew John "the colt which I bred and all my law books."

John Wesley recorded on 5 February 1762, "I rode on to Sir Thomas I'Anson near Tonbridge and between six and seven preached in the large parlour which opens likewise into the hall. The plain people were all attention." In 1764 he again "rode to Sir Thomas I'Anson (at New Boundes two miles from Tonbridge) just quivering on the verge of life, helpless as a child, but (as it seems) greatly profited by this severe dispensation. .. The hall, staircase and adjoining rooms just contained the people in the evening." On 14 December 1769 "we rode through heavy rain to New Bounds where Mr I'Anson and his family received us and I never saw the house so fitted as it was in the evening."

The year after Brian's death in 1775 John sold **Little Bounds** back to Sir Sydney Stafford Smythe, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, "the ugliest man of his day", who had refused the Lord Chancellorship. He had inherited Old or Great Boundes from his father Henry (1677-1706). Both he and his wife also were interested in the evangelical movement, and Lady Huntingdon and Hannah More were entertained here.

Sir Sydney died in 1778, leaving a long will, and his widow died in 1790. Her will of 1787-9 left to the Revd. John Venn the advowson of the parish of Bidborough. The Venns also had evangelical tendencies and succeeded the Stonhouses in the parish of Clapham. Her nephews sold **Great** and **Little Bounds** to the Earl of Darnley, who lived at the first, while his mother lived at the second. After her death in 1803 both were bought by Sir Charles Hardinge, who was to become Vicar of Tonbridge. He resided at **Great Bounds** until his death in 1864. The house (described by Greenwood in 1838 as an ancient Elizabethan structure in a well-wooded park with an elegant lodge) has been demolished and only the gateway on the main road just to the N. of Little Bounds survives. The house had been drawn by P.Amsinck and etched by Letitia Byrne. **Little Bounds** was sold by Sir Edmund Stacey Hardinge on 29 April 1892 to Henry Joseph Wood, who sold it soon after to Mrs Harland (d.1925). It is now divided into flats and has the addition of a later porch.

In 1838 Greenwood said that at **Southfield Park**, home of the Rev. William Wilkin Stephens, there were paintings by Reynolds, Lely, Spagnoletto, Romney, Hogarth, Francesca, Mola ...

Somerhill

The house is situated on a hill outside Tonbridge, in the parish of which it was placed until transferred to that of Tudeley. Dates of 1611 and 1613 appear on the rainwater-heads. It was part of the South Frith estate, which was purchased by John Woodgate of Chiddingstone in 1712. It then

consisted only of the mansion, park, home farm and woodland, about 600 acres. For Horace Walpole in 1752 “the house is little better than a farm, but has been an excellent one, and is entire, though out of repair.” Nothing much was added until 1785. Before then the estate passed to John’s unmarried second son, Henry, who handed it on in 1769 to his nephew William (1743-1809), who added to it besides acquiring the Pembury estate and Tonbridge Castle. Between 1785 and 1840 the owners bought above 20 farms in the parish of Tonbridge, the whole Somerhill estate covering 3,115 acres. (CKS U642/T1-27 and CTR 371A (Tithe Award)). On William’s death, it was inherited by his eldest son, Major William Francis, who “made great alterations on his accession, and adapted it to modern ideas of convenience” (G. and G.M.G.Woodgate, p.378).

William, according to Mr Humphry in 1809, “by his frugality and skill in agricultural concerns ... enlarged his original fortune very considerably, inasmuch that at his Death the Property he possessed is estimated at full three hundred thousand pounds. This large property he has not bequeathed to his eldest son, but has conformably to the practise of this country divided it, governing himself by the principle of gavelkind.” (G and G.M.G.Woodgate, p.372). This was just as well, as the Major, through his participation in the Tonbridge Bank lost all he had, though his three younger brothers also suffered financial loss.

On his bankruptcy in 1816, the house was sold to James Alexander (d.1848), an East Indian Director of great wealth. He too lost most of his money and had to sell the house to Sir Isaac Goldsmid, 1st Bart., in whose family’s occupation it remained 1849-1980, one of the family being commemorated by the Chagall window at Tudeley. Sir Julian Goldsmid, 3rd Bart., owned, 1886-96, an early Turner and also his *Rockets & Blue Lights*. Did they hang at Somerhill or at his house at 105 Piccadilly (home to the Arts Council a generation ago)? To Alexander there is a monument by J.G.Lough in Tonbridge church (a Grecian lady). According to John Britton it was Alexander who got Sir Jeffrey Wyatville to make the Jacobean library c.1824. Further alterations were carried out by Anthony Salvin 1828-33. The Goldsmids much repaired and altered the house, which was restored 1989-91 by the present Charitable Trust. It houses three schools, including Yardley Court School, established in 1898.

According to a Woodgate family tradition, all the early portraits of the family were collected into a great heap before the house and burnt, presumably by Alexander. At the sale of the effects of the house the more recent portraits were bought in, but not Turner’s painting of the house. As that was exhibited at the Royal Academy in April 1811, it must have been commissioned by the Major soon after he inherited the house. Turner’s drawing for his picture appears in his “Vale of Heathfield” sketchbook (TB CXXXVII), dated c.1810-16. The Major’s father had fallen out with William Harpur some years earlier, but the Major was on good terms with Thomas Mercer, and earlier we find both attending each other’s parties. (One could presumably have seen Greentrees, Hadlow, on the other side of Tonbridge, from the upper storeys of Somerhill). The picture was sold by the Alexander family in 1851 (?) to Wynn Ellis, who left his collection to the National Gallery, which was overburdened with the Turner Bequest. So it appeared in the Wynn Ellis sale in 1876 and in 1922 was bought by the National Gallery of Scotland. The late Lady d’Avigdor-Goldsmid tried to buy it back for Somerhill (Kenneth Rose, in her obituary, *Daily Telegraph*, 19 June 1997). In 1910 there were still apparently some ancient wooden four-poster beds with the Woodgate name carved underneath in the house.

Musical parties in the saloon were a great feature of life under the Major. Earlier cricket was also a passion, as the Major’s sister Anne wrote to their youngest brother in 1801 from Somerhill, referring to the Postern Club (The Postern being where the West family resided - see under Tudeley). “...They seem more chricquet mad than ever. On Whitsun Monday Summer Hill play’d against the Postern...Our People play’d so bad that they were beat, one *Hands Innings*.”

Pembury

Pembury parish comprised 3,627 acres (230 hops, 630 woods in 1847) and had a population of 742 in 1801. It consisted of 2 small villages, Upper and Lower Green, and was divided into two Boroughs, Tepperidge and Suningley. The first, to the N., is the one which concerns us, and centres on the parish church. To the S. is the modern village and the Borough of Suningley, where Earl

Camden (who inherited Bayham Abbey from his cousin in 1797) acquired Great and Little Bayhall c. 1800 and by 1832 there was a Camden Arms. The barn of **Bayall** ("an interesting house of the 1650s" - *Buildings of England* - demolished after 1908) survives. He erected a new church of St Peter in the S. By 1780 Earl Camden also had two properties in Tepperidge Borough, one being **Redwings**.

William Woodgate acquired the manors of Pepenbury Magna and Parva from --- Joanes esq. in 1788 (the sale advertised in the *Maidstone Journal*, 20 May 1788). These included **Great Hawkwell** (let at £66 p.a.; r.value £21, occupied by John George), **Little Hawkwell** (let at £80 p.a.; r.value £38, occupied by Mr Charles Crause), **Church Farm** (let at £30 p.a.) and **The Mill** (£16 r. value, in 1788 £15, occupied by Mr Jewhurst) besides the perpetual advowson of Pembury. In 1792 Wm. Harper heads the list of tenants, occupying the £38 property. From 1794 his name is spelled "Harpur", but by 1799 he is lower down the list. After that year no names of occupants of the Woodgate properties are given in the poor rates until 1821.

At first William Jewhurst appears as occupier of **The Mill**. Perhaps he was from the family which owned the Town Mills on the Medway at Tonbridge. In 1788 a William Jewhurst was appointed organist of Tonbridge church, perhaps through the influence of the Woodgates (Neve,p.41). In 1794 William Jewhurst is replaced at The Mill by Samuel Brook until 1798, after which no occupant is given in the Land Tax Assessment until Mr Ashby appears in 1821. However the 1820 Assignment (KAO U642 T7) said that it was held by Joseph Peckham "as tenant from year to year under yearly rent of £30, Land Tax deducted" (though that was deleted). By 1832 Richard Ashby (1795-1880) was occupier of **Great Hawkwell** (£21.10.0 r.value; burned down in C19) as well as of **The Mill** (still £16, in 1828 called "Hawkwell Mill"). In 1836 a lease of the mill and other lands was made by the Trustees of the late Henry Woodgate to Richard Ashby. In the 1849 tithe award some plots included: 734. House & Water Mill, 2a 1r 16p; 735 Stack Plot; 737. Lower Mill Field, 2a.21p; Upper Mill Field, 3a 1r. Ashby was there in 1851, farmer of 130 acres, employing 2 labourers and with his 22 year old son Frederick. By 1859 James Wallis was at Spring Grove Mill, and 1862-70 Edward Marchant, and 1874-8 Edwin Coppard, miller. After him the watermill evidently ceased to work. In 1881 William Cragg agricultural labourer was at the mill, and in 1891 Fred Lawrence, gas fitter. Richard Ashby of Hawkwell in 1873 had 12a 3r 9p (r.value £208.10.0) and died at Pembury on 21 February 1880. His will was proved under £12,000 and then in 1888 his widow's by their sons George, retired farmer at Brighton, and Frederick, hop factor at Southwark. Richard was said to have amassed £20,000.

Pembury Mill alias **Hawkwell Mill** alias **Spring Grove Mill**, is E. of the church and where Amhurst Bank Road runs into Redwings Lane. The former farmhouse, early C17 with mid/late C17 extension, and some C19 and C20 modernisation, survives, though the watermill (seemingly the subject of Turner's *Liber Studiorum* plate) does not. (See Appendix 8).

William Harpur was said to be at The Mill in William Woodgate's will of 4 March 1805. In that Woodgate bequeathed to his son Henry messuages "known by names of Great Hawkwell and Little Hawkwell situate ... in the several Parishes of Pembury otherwise Pepingbury, Brenchley, Tudley and Capel or some or one of them, late in occupation of Thomas Henham and Peter and John George, but now of William Harpur acting for me; and also all that messuage or tenement buildings and water corn Mill with the Tackle Stones Geer and appurtenances thereto belonging ... and now in the occupation of the said William Harpur acting for me ..." In October 1797 Harpur was assessed for rates at £65, second highest in the parish (after Thomas Woodhams, £105). (In 1792 William Woodgate Esq. and Jno. Taylor & Co. were each assessed at £65). In 1798 he was one of the two churchwardens. In 1798 John George and Samuel Brook disappear as occupiers of Great Hawkwell and The Mill, and in 1799 Harpur and Charles Crause disappear as occupiers of Little Hawkwell and Church Farm. Thereafter presumably Harpur managed all the properties as land agent rather than tenant. Probably he lived at **Little Hawkwell** and never at The Mill (and certainly not at that until after June 1797). By a codicil of 23 February 1808 Woodgate cancelled his bequest of £500 to Harpur because Woodgate had found himself under an engagement to pay to Harpur one thousand guineas as a remuneration for his time and services while he continued in my employment which sum I think far exceeds any sum that I ought to pay to him and consequently he can have no further claim in honour or equity on me." In 1810 we find Harpur at Hadlow, as we shall see, and so perhaps he ceased to live at Pembury in 1807-8. In 1807 documents for the mill coincidentally begin. With the

residence of Stephen and Henry Woodgate at Pembury from 1804/6, Harpur perhaps became superfluous.

Possibly his mother and sisters lived with him at **Little Hawkwell**, perhaps moving to Hadlow after 1796, when his sister married Thomas Mercer, or c.1806-8, when William seems to have moved there? However in his will of March 1810 (written at Hadlow) he referred to goods and chattels "at Hawkwell, Salebury, Taxly." When Turner visited Pembury, and whether he made more than one visit, is unknown. It could have been any time c.1792-1806.

In 1812/14 the assessment of the rental value of **Little Hawkwell** was reduced from £38 to £30.10.0. An Assignment of 6 November 1820 includes it and also the "Water Corn Mill" with its appurtenances (KAO U642 T7). This refers to grants of annuities by William Woodgate on 6 May 1807 to two gentlemen and with regard to Little Hawkwell to a lease of 10 October 1790 at a yearly rent of £80, though the latter part is deleted. Little Hawkwell was said to consist of 200? acres with garden and orchard, and to have been in the tenure of Iden Henham. In 1831 it was lately occupied by Thomas Smith and in 1832 Howard Smith was there. In 1878 Robert Messenger, farmer? In 1881 Frederick Messenger, farmer of 325 acres? In 1901 Edward Scott with family and 4 servants? The house, opposite Hawkwell Farm on Maidstone Road (A228) to E. of church, now contains a reset carved staircase of mid C17 moved from Great Hawkwell, when that was partly destroyed by fire and pulled down soon after 1829 (*Buildings of England*). It was acquired c.1990 by Ian Mitchell, who has restored it to near its original state. The house is basically late C16/early C17 with possibly an earlier core. The plain Georgian rendered front of 5 (?) bays faces N. immediately on to A228. Two powder rooms survive in which are the old pegs on which wigs were hung.

William Woodgate divided his property among his sons fairly equally, so parts survived the bankruptcy of his eldest son in 1816. Henry had in c.1800 been offered the choice of **Great Hawkwell** or **The Church Farm** (£4 r.value). The first was moated, large and ruinous, and the second much smaller, very pretty and on high ground. Henry chose the latter and the first was demolished and the timbers used for the construction of the Town Hall at Tonbridge. At his father's death he inherited the second, the Mill and Great and Little Hawkwell. **Church Farm**, to the N. of the church and off Pembury Hall Road, was also known as **Spring Grove** and was altered and enlarged by Henry. After Henry was killed in 1818 by falling from his horse, his widow in 1823 leased it to others. By 1829 Daniel Fowler was the occupant. A virtually (?) new house for Alex Brymer Belcher Esq.(c.1795-?), who appears in the 1832-47 directories, was designed by Decimus Burton 1829-30 and demolished in 1871 (KAO, U 1050). In 1838 Greenwood described it as "a beautiful modern mansion, in the cottage style, highly ornamented, and surrounded by grounds very tastefully laid out and planted." By 1852-9 the occupants were the Misses Kaye and in 1862 Lady Darling and 1866-7 Robert Courage Esq. By 1878 the Rev. Robert Stammers Tabor was the occupant and the house was known as **Hawkwell Place**. He ran a well known school for boys at Cheam. He bought and enlarged the house in 1890s and used it for his school. When that moved back to Cheam the house was used as a private residence for 40 years. Occupants included Sir William Lyle (sugar) and William Vernon (Millennium Flour - for whom Captain John Henry Turner worked). In 1939 Kent College for Girls, founded in 1886 by the Wesleyan Methodist Schools Association, moved there, and new buildings were added. The school grounds comprise 75 acres including the mill pond. A view of the house from a lithograph that belonged to Rev. G.M.G.Woodgate, seems to show it as it was in the day of Henry Woodgate? Has it been rebuilt twice since? Newman in *The Buildings of England* (2nd ed.) says that it was rebuilt in 1875 by R.H.Carpenter on the foundations of Burton's classical Spring Grove.

To his son Stephen (vicar 1804-43) William Woodgate left the Great Tithes (r.value £19) with the perpetual advowson of the Vicarage at Pembury, Pellet Gate farm in Pembury, Tonbridge, Tudely and Capel, occupied by James Wooley, Knights Place and lands at Pembury, late occupied by Nathaniel Chittenden but then by the Parish officers at Pembury and a woodland called Grimble Grove containing 14½ acres at Pembury occupied by himself. Stephen became the first of a series of Woodgates who were vicars of Pembury, the advowson and impropriation of tithes remaining with the Woodgate family. The vicarage was valued at £468 (1847). The mediaeval **church** of **St Peter** has many Woodgate memorials, including a marble tablet to Henry (d.1818). Stephen lived at **The Vicarage** ("a neat house, very pleasantly situated" – Greenwood; "a good residence" - Bagshaw), to the W. of the church in Pembury Hall Road. His son, George Stephen, continued as vicar and patron 1844-71. In 1878-81 Mrs Louisa Margaret Woodgate (widow of Rev. George Stephen) was living

there and her son, the Rev. Reginald Stephen Shaw Woodgate, vicar, at **Rumford House**. In 1873 Mrs G. Woodgate of Pembury had 96a 2r 23p (r.value £278.5.0) and Mrs F.Woodgate of Dover (widow of Francis and daughter of Henry?) 321a 3r 6p (r.value £539.15.0). The Rev. R.S.S.Woodgate was at the Vicarage 1882-7, which by 1891 was known as **Pembury Hall**. Mrs Woodgate had moved to **Gimble Grove**. **Pembury Hall** was badly damaged by fire in 1946/7 and only a small part remained fit for occupation. The property descended from the Woodgates through Major James Davidson-Houston to Sir Richard Butler Bt., now of London.

In 1829?-34 Stephen Tolhurst miller appears in the directories. Was he at **Keyes Mill**? This was near Albans Farm, off Romford Road. Major Lempriere owned it in the early C19. In 1837-47 John Homewood (c1790-?) was there, but 1855-9 at Brenchley. In 1851 Caleb Newnham. By 1859-71 Nicholas Styles, miller, was with 12 acres. The site is on the footpath WT 222. This connects with WT 248 from Little Hawkwell. In 1891 John Everest, waggoner. It was pulled down in the 1920s. There was a painting of it of c.1920 owned by a widow at Pembury c.1990. At that time several people could remember the mill house when last occupied in 1920 (Mary Standen in *Pembury Parish Magazine*, December 1993). It has been suggested that it was the subject of the watercolours of c.1795 by Turner called *Pembury Mill*. Keyes is not far from **Little Hawkwell**. Consideration has to be given also to a third mill, **Herrings Mill** (a name sometimes also given to Keyes Mill), which was marked on the 1801 Ordnance Survey map. This is at Bramble Reed Lane, Matfield, then in the parish of Brenchley. The two mills are not far apart and on different branches of Tudeley Brook. (See Appendix 8).

Mr Woodgate Durrant was at **Harcourt House** 1855-78 (described 1862-6 as Lodging House).

Other names found in the LTA for Tepperidge Borough are John Monckton (from 1790, by 1807 occupying and owning two properties, £11 and, late Amherst, £3) until 1832; Edward Mercer in his own £4.15.0 property 1814-21, assessor 1824, and tenant of Robert Bradshaw Esq. on a £5.10.0 property; by 1830 Thomas Bold Marchant of Matfield was the occupier.

Tudeley & Capel

The old parish of Tudeley fell into two parts divided by Capel. From early days they shared the same vicar and from 1885 were united. In 1934 the boundaries were extended to include Somerhill and The Postern. Today, to add to the confusion, there are polling districts of Tudeley and Capel with borders different again.

Hasted called Tudeley “a very obscure and unfrequented place” with “abundance of large spreading oaks throughout it.” In 1801 Capel had 314 inhabitants and Tudeley 417. Capel comprised 1,568 acres (120 in hops in 1847) and Tudeley 1,593 acres (140 in hops). Today most of the farmhouses (now often severed from farms) are ancient. **All Saints** Tudeley, rebuilt in 1765, has a memorial window by Chagall of 1967 to Sarah d’Avigdor-Goldsmid of Somerhill. **St Thomas of Canterbury**, Capel, is basically Norman with C13 wall paintings. It is usually closed. Ambrose and Thomas Mercer and Turner’s cousin, wife of the second, were buried at Tudeley, though they went to live at Hadlow, which suggests a particular attachment to the place. No sign of their graves has been found. The patronage of the joint parish in 1847 belonged to Baroness Le Despencer and the non-resident incumbent was Sir Francis Jarvis Stapleton Bt. A curate, Rev. R. Boys, lived at the vicarage. The vicarial tithes by 1847 were commuted for £114 at Tudeley and £55 at Capel.

There were two feudal manors, Badsell in Tudeley and Tatlingbury in Capel. Both passed to the Fane family, who became Earls of Westmoreland and built Mereworth Castle. The estates passed in 1762 from the Earls (one was Chairman of Sothebys 1980-2) to Sir Francis Dashwood Bt., Lord Le Despencer, and then, with the latter title, in 1788 to Sir Thomas Stapleton Bt., who got into financial difficulties and by 1807 had to sell land. In 1808 there was an Act of Parliament, 48 George III c.72, vesting part of the estate. From 1815/19 he had to reside abroad until his death in 1831. (In 1798 the estates included West Peckham Manor; Blackpitts Manor, E.Peckham; Burston Manor, Hunton; Woodfolde Manor, Yalding near Branbridges; Tubbins and Brooke Manors at Marden; beside Mereworth, Badsell and Tatlingbury; U55/T315, T498). Mereworth and the barony went to his granddaughter and so to the Viscounts Falmouth. The Stapleton title and estates went to his younger

son, and in 1951 Sir Miles Stapleton Bt. deposited estate papers at Kent Archives. Both manor houses had long been leased out, and by the time with which we are concerned there were no important residents in the parishes, just farmers. **Badsell Manor** is a late C15 or early C16 moated house with tall chimney stacks (*The Buildings of England*, under Capel; not to be confused with Badsell Park Farm to the South in Crittenden Road, Matfield), and, according to Hasted, “in a very wet and unpleasant country.” Also in Badsell Road is Badsell Mains Farmhouse (C16). The occupant of “Badsall farm” in 1847 was Leffroy Playfoot. **Tatlingbury Farm** (mid C15; Five Oak Green Road) was in 1790 occupied by the father-in-law, Thomas Mills, of Edward Monckton of East Peckham, whose eldest son, Stephen, inherited it? and lived at **Tudeley Grange**, now ?? **Tudeley Hall**, Tudeley Hale (C16). His son went to New Zealand.

The Mercers

Ambrose Mercer (1728-94) (see Appendix 5) came to Tudeley from Horsmonden c.1768. He was witness to two marriages here in 1768-9 and was churchwarden 1780-2 and appeared in records of church repairs and expenses 1769-72, 1775, 1780, 1782, 1785. However by 1780 he had acquired Greentrees at Hadlow and had moved there. In the Land Tax Assessments he occupied a property (r.value £28) owned by Lord Le Despencer 1780-4. In 1780 the land of Isaac Haton bordered on those of Ambrose Mercer, Lord Le Despencer and William Cheesman to the South of the road between Pembury and Tudeley (B2017) and immediately to West of Badsell Brook where the road crossed it at Crowles Bridge (*Land In Tudeley and Waterbury ... belonging to Mr Isace Hatch*, plan by John Bowra, 1780, Kent Archives, U47/55/P65; *Archaeologia Cantiana*, LVIII, 1946, p.77).

From c.1768 Ambrose occupied **Ploggs Hall** (r.value £41.10.0) and from 1770 in addition the smaller **Finches Farm**, both in Tudeley rather than Capel. The first, in Whetsed Road, is a building of C17 with a plain-looking Georgian façade at the N.W. end of the parish, not far from Badsell Manor. The details when it was offered for sale in 1985 at £200,000 (Ibbett Mosely Card & Co, Tonbridge) gave 5 bedrooms, 1 dressing room, 3 reception rooms, and gardens with a pond of 2 acres. (By contrast the details of Lambert & Foster, n.d., for Badsell Manor, sold by Lord Falmouth in 1917 to the “present owners”, and offered for £160,000, showed 8 bedrooms and 3 reception rooms). There are also an C18 barn and a mid-C19 oast. In 1742-8 the Earl of Westmorland was the occupier (r.value £31), and his successors (Dashwood, Le Despencer) retained ownership into the C19. Mr Weeks was in it 1752-7, Charles Rogers 1760, Ambrose Mercer 1769-84/5, followed by Mrs Mills (?) and William Wickham (c.1835-52). In 1842 (rate book) Wickham occupied 211 acres (£263.14 r.). In 1866 the occupier, Henry Crispe, was assessed at £175, and in 1873 had 3 acres of his own land.

In 1842 Ploggs was much the largest farm in Tudeley, followed by Badsell (112 acres, also owned by Le Despencer and occupied by Jeffery Playfoot) and Church Farm (109 acres, occupied by John Fagg, another Despencer property). In Capel the largest was Tatlingbury (231 acres, occupied by John Taylor) followed by Moat Farm (168 acres, occupied by Henry Southern), these both again belonging to Le Despencer. These relative sizes seem more or less unchanged since the time of Ambrose Mercer. In 1772 his assessment (£41.10.0) compares with the next largest for John Larkin (£26) and William Mills (£20) in Tudeley.

From 1770 Ambrose occupied also **Finches Farm**, owned by James Eldridge of The Postern and by 1795 James’s son-in-law, J.H. West Esq. In 1769 John Finch seems to have had it at £5.15.0 r.value. Ambrose was assessed 1770-6 at £5.5.0. From 1822 to 1844 or later the farm was occupied by William Potter. In the 1844 tithe map James West of Tonbridge Castle owned part of Finches Farm, amounting to 23a 2r 20p with an annual rent charge of £5.15.0. This comprised several fields used for meadow, pasture and hops and a house, garden and yards. The farmhouse, off Five Oak Green Road, is beside the railway and the Alder Stream which fed Pembury Mill. It is a well-preserved example of a small early/mid C17 farmhouse, with C18 or C19 outshots, renovated c.1985. It has a 2-room plan and is of 2 storeys with an unusual (for Kent) gable-ended roof. Title deeds for various properties and an indenture of 1894 mention it (U681/T139). It is now occupied by a former member of the Turner Society, who has looked in vain to see if Turner ever drew it. Thomas Mercer was the “occupier” (though resident at Hadlow) at the likely time of one of Turner’s visits to the area.

Sizeable though the two Tudeley farms were together (230 acres?), they were not that large. When Ambrose died in 1794, the obituary notice in the *Maidstone Journal* (441, Tuesday, 1 July 1794) said

he was “a wealthy farmer, and the largest hop planter in the Kingdom.” This is puzzling, as there is no record of his owning or renting great acreages, though further research in the hopgrowing parishes around Tonbridge and Maidstone might contradict that. Of course hops were an intensive crop and did not require vast areas. In 1818 Farington said that the greatest hopgrower then was Mr Ellis, near Maidstone, who had 600 acres devoted to hops and received £100,000 in just one payment from their sale (16 September 1818). Presumably Ellis had far outstripped the record of Ambrose, who might only have had a quarter of that acreage devoted to hops. Even so, and allowing for the growing profitability of agriculture after 1800, he must have had a large income in good years, and the whole of his wealth would have descended intact to his single child, Thomas.

Thomas Mercer continued to lease **Finches** after his father’s death (by 1795 the r. value was reduced from £9 to £8). But 1811-20 his cousin Henry Saxby II was the occupant, who with his brother John V lived and had children in the parish. Henry and John appeared as creditors of Thomas at the latter’s bankruptcy in 1816 and also in the Woodgate bankruptcy records (Appendix 3). Henry was the “surviving Guardian of the poor” of Tudeley and Capel to whom W.F.Woodgate owed £97.3.6 in 1816 (PRO, B3/5678), and at the same time John was listed as one of Woodgate’s debtors (£14.10.0 for hay and oats; £30.19.6 for Poor Rate of Tudeley etc.). Meanwhile a descendant of William “Todler” Mercer seems to have been living at Tudeley with his young family 1792-1810. They are not recorded in the Land Tax Assessments. Might they have worked Finches for Ambrose and then Thomas, then yielding to the Saxbys, perhaps moving to Mereworth?

On 3 November 1854 Henry Harpur IV (1791-1877), their great-nephew, said of Thomas Mercer and his wife, “I have been personally acquainted with her and her Husband and the latter had property at Tudeley” (PRO, C31/1049/1314). Perhaps he might have remembered visiting the place in his youth, but, if he stayed with them, that would have been at Hadlow. The remark might suggest that they had property at Tudeley later, though Thomas had none at the time of his bankruptcy and must have acquired it, if ever, later. Alternatively Harpur was muddled (unlikely in a successful solicitor), and trying to account for why they were buried at Tudeley. The reason for that may have been simply that Ambrose was buried there.

There are other Mercers recorded by MI’s or in the censuses. The best documented was Lawrence, born at Brenchley 1798, wheelwright and blacksmith at Capel by 1826-51, in the last year at 5 Oak Green, Spring Grove, Capel, employing 7 men, but in 1861 farmer of 60 acres at Potters Farm. The occupant of the latter had been David Turner, an agricultural labourer, with Thomas Mercer, 58, from Brenchley as lodger. Was Potter connected with the Potter who had Finches? Lawrence’s son William married a Scoones, and they had several children and grandchildren, among them Marcus A.Mercer, still a resident at Tudeley, at Lindow Lea, Old Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green. Meanwhile in 1841-51 there was David Mercer, agricultural labourer from Brenchley, in 1851 at Mercer Cottage, Upper Hamlet, Tudeley. These Mercers seem to descend from a Thomas at Brenchley by 1719, no known relation of our Mercers. However one, the eldest brother of David and nephew of Lawrence (?), was baptised Ambrose at Brenchley a year after our Ambrose died. There seems no reason for this choice of name, unless a connection with our Ambrose was being claimed. Later at Capel we find more MI’s to Mercers. John Fielder Mercer (1831-1909) was another nephew of Lawrence and is buried with his wife Ann (1830-1905). Thomas (1855-1913) might have been their son, and Mary Elizabeth (1858-1935) was his wife. This further attests to the bewildering profusions of Mercers in this part of Kent. There was a “Mercers” farm 1744-59 and a Jacob Mercer in 1762 in the Tudeley church records.

The Postern, Tonbridge

The Postern hamlet was in Tonbridge parish, but is now in that of Tudeley. It embraced about 400 acres S. of the Medway from Tudeley Stream on E. to Postern Heath on W. It is still “a charming and remote-seeming hamlet” (*Buildings of England*).

William Eldridge, yeoman from Bidborough, acquired 186 acres in the centre, to which his heirs added. (Margaret Stephen in Chalklin, 1994, pp.167-8, 183-6). In his will of 1706 (pr. PCC 1714) William left to his eldest son James the “new built messuage where I dwell” on the E. side of the

brook, and to his younger son John **The Postern House**, on the W. side of the brook. The history of these two houses and of the family is a little confused.

The Postern House (alias **The Postern**) was rebuilt 1752-7. It is of bright red brick, of 3 storeys, its entrance moved to the N. in the late C18. **Postern Farm** (alias **Upper Postern Farm**) is dated c.1700 and is less grand, of 5 bays and only 2 storeys. This is where William Eldridge, and then James, lived? Further to the E. there is also **Postern Heath Farm** (mid-late C18), where the Waite family, found already at Tonbridge in C18, still live.

James Eldridge is said to have made a will in 1742 and to have died much later. Maybe he left his house to his brother's family? John Hooker granted to James a lease of 7 years from 1740 of **Postern House** and for 21 years from 1754 with 70 acres. However was the second granted to James's nephew James?

John Eldridge in his will of 1759 (pr.PCC 12.12.1759) left to his son William the dwelling-house "now my own in Tonbridge, late father William's" (**Postern Farm**?) and to his son John the "dwelling house I now dwell in adjoining to the Postern Heath". (The 1769 Andrews and Drury map shows John at "Poston Haugh or Heath"). To his son James he left messuages at Tudeley/Capel and lands at Southborough.

The Eldridge name died out with the death of William in 1802. In his will (31 December? 1801, pr. PCC 4.4.1802) he left to his natural son, William Mugridge, who was at **The Postern**, another Tonbridge property **The Stair**. Mugridge seems to have lived at the first until his death in 1847 (will pr.PCC). William also left to his "friend", William Harpur, son of the late vicar, £50. William Mugridge's nominal father was John Mugridge, tallowchandler of Tonbridge, who married in 1772 Sarah Simmons, maybe sister of William of The Cage. Either that William or his cousin, William of Hadlow, granted a mortgage to Thomas Mercer on Greentrees in 1803 (see page 82).

William Eldridge's brother James had died a decade earlier (chest tomb in Tonbridge churchyard). Was he the eldest? At any rate he was the only one of the three brothers to leave legitimate issue, an only daughter, who married John Hartrup West, who is later found living at **The Postern**. He married secondly, in 1813, the sister of Major W.F.Woodgate, and on his bankruptcy succeeded in large measure to the leading position in Tonbridge. He also acquired Tonbridge Castle. His only son James Eldridge West succeeded to these properties in 1836. In 1838-41 he was at the Castle (Greenwood 1838, p.127, when still owning The Postern; census), but in 1851 at Rose Hill Cottage, Dryhill, Tonbridge, owning 200 acres and employing 15 men. He died in 1851 (M.I. in Tonbridge churchyard).

The Tithe Award in 1838 shows the tenants as John Chatfield, **Postern Farm** (central, including **Postern Heath House** and 212 acres); John Hatch, **Postern Park**; Jesse Heath, **Upper Postern**; William Mugridge, **Postern House**. **Postern Park** was the seat of J.H.West. **The Postern** is now (2003) occupied by Mr and Mrs David Tennant, its garden designed by Anthony du Gard Pasley.

Hadlow

The parish of Hadlow was divided into three wards: Stair (nearest Tonbridge), Coldwell and Hadlow. Part has since been hived off to Tonbridge, the conurbation of which has spread North to swallow the Greentrees estate. Since 1974 both parishes are part of Tonbridge & Malling Borough. Hadlow and Tonbridge were always closely linked. In 1847 Bagshaw wrote: "Hadlow is an extensive parish and considerably well-built village, ... The parish contains 5,877 acres of land, of which 800 acres are in hop cultivation, and 470 are in woods. The soil, in general, is a stiff clay, but good corn land." In 1847 there were extraordinary tithes on hops of 18s. per acre. In 1801 it had 1,115 inhabitants and in 1841 2,108 and 409 houses.

The Land Tax assessors were appointed by the same gentlemen from Tonbridge as those who performed the same office there (as indeed they did for other neighbouring parishes) - the

Woodgates, Children, Hookers, Eldridges, Wests, (and in 1820 Baden Powell!) etc. including, 1810-15, Thomas Mercer, who had married Turner's cousin in 1796. Some of the main properties were owned or leased by him and his relatives. Why he was not one of the overseers earlier one may wonder. Maybe the curmudgeonly William Woodgate (d.1809) did not quite accept him as one of the gentry, as his more liberal son did. Also a signatory 1781-5 was the Revd. Henry Harpur, who officiated at the weddings at Hadlow of Samuel Mercer of E.Farleigh and Sarah James in 1771 and of Elizabeth Saxby and Richard Mercer of E. Farleigh in 1775 (see below and the Mercer of Horsmonden, Mercer of E.Farleigh and Saxby genealogies).

The vicarage at Hadlow was less well endowed than that at Tonbridge, being worth about half at one time, but growing relatively in value in this period. The Revd. Fitzherbert in 1780 was assessed at £20 in 1781, and £34 in 1782. By 1808 and the Revd. James or Phillips Monypenny (vicar 1797-1841) it was £50. The Rev. James Isaac Monypenny in 1847 (when the vicarage was worth £789) had a curate, and was patron as well as incumbent. Previously All Souls College, Oxford, was patron. An inventory of 1628 details the property of the Revd. John Stanley. It is unclear whether that was the Parsonage ("a neat residence" in 1847 and by 1781 owned by private residents) or the Vicarage ("a good residence on the Maidstone road" a bit further from the church). In 1838 Greenwood described the Vicarage as the seat of the Revd. James Monypenny, "a modern structure, in the Elizabethan style of architecture" a short distance from the church; while **Hadlow House**, the seat of the Revd. Philip Monypenny was "a neat substantial modern structure, and surrounded by beautiful pleasure grounds" ¼ mile from the village. Philip was vicar 1797-1841, and inherited Maytham Hall, Tenterden, and married Charlotte, daughter of Sir Edward Dering Bt. The Revd. James Isaac Monypenny (1799-1881), son of Thomas of Idel, Sussex, was vicar 1841-73.

In the churchyard are tombs of the Saxbys. And also of Walter Barton May II (1783-1855), builder of **Hadlow Castle's** tower, which was reminiscent of William Beckford's at Fonthill. Had he seen Turner's depictions of that exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1800 and auctioned at Christie's on 2 May 1817, when two were bought by John Allnutt, brother of Richard of Penshurst and brother-in-law of Major Woodgate? Fonthill tower collapsed in 1825, two years after views of it were published. A design for the S.front of Hadlow Castle was exhibited at the RA in 1821. The tower was built c.1835 to the design of G.L.Taylor, and acquired in 2006 in order to restore it.

The Mercers of Greentrees

Ambrose Mercer (whom we encountered at Tudeley) moved to Hadlow by 1781, when he owned **Greentrees** (Stair Ward; £40 reduced from 1782 to £32 r. value). This is now marked by Greentrees Avenue between Higham Lane and Hadlow Road, Tonbridge, and by a C19 Greentrees house in Cuckoo Lane at the eastern extremity of the area once covered by Greentrees estate and bounded with a wall, perhaps built a century ago, along the road. The boundaries of the estate are marked by Cuckoo Lane, Hadlow Road East, Old Hadlow Road and Higham Lane. The house seems to have stood on the N.side of what is now Barchester Way. The S.half is now built up, so it is no longer possible to see Somerhill from there.

Mrs Elizabeth Daffey of Tonbridge leased it, 3 June 1712, to Nicholas Turley yeoman of Tonbridge, with 200 acres at a rent of £90. The latter sold the lease to William and John Simmons of Tonbridge, 6 June 1731. Thereafter it was occupied by William Simmons and then (?) John Wells. On Ambrose's death in 1796 it passed to his son Thomas. Somehow the Simmons family were still involved. In an indenture of 19 March 1803 Thomas and Maria Sophia Mercer conveyed the mansion house to Henry Headland. In another of 30 March William Simmons (of Tonbridge or Hadlow?) paid Thomas Mercer £4,000. When Thomas Mercer became bankrupt in 1816 the Green Trees freehold estate was valued at £16,620 and bought for £10,750 (plus £1,717 for farming stock and £215.17.0 for fixtures) with 180 acres by Thomas Kibble (1771-1838), a solicitor from Maidstone. Most of the price was swallowed up in repaying the £10,000 mortgage of William Simmons (see Appendix 3).

Kibble must have rebuilt it, as in 1847 it is called "a handsome and commodious mansion, in the modern style, just completed" (Bagshaw). This perhaps derived from Greenwood, who in 1838 said it was "a very handsome modern house, in the Grecian style, with pleasure-grounds and a beautiful paddock extending from the mansion to the road leading from Tunbridge to Hadlow. It contains some choice works of art, including a fine bust, and a collection of paintings by several of the great

masters of the Italian, Dutch and Flemish Schools". Kibble's eccentric son, Thomas (1817-95) inherited his art collection. Christie's sale catalogue of 2 June 1856 included some dubious Italian old masters and some Dutch pictures which fetched good prices, such as a Ruysdael bought by Thomas senior 1824/35, sold in 1856 for £1,270.10.0 and since part of the Beit Collection. Not listed was Canova's *The Reclining Magdalen*, bought by Lord Ward for £1,000. It had been bought by Lord Liverpool in 1822 for £12,000? Kibble later (in 1878?) gave to the Mechanics Institute, founded 1826, refounded 1850, and which from 1880 formed the nucleus of Tonbridge Free Library, a *Crucifixion* attributed to Tintoretto in a frame with the arms of a cadet branch of the French royal family, portraits of Queen Victoria and Disraeli, now in Tonbridge Castle, and marble busts lost by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

Greentrees was burned down in 1872 or 1878 and never rebuilt. Kibble lived in cottages on the estate and sank into decline. "The beautiful and finely timbered park ... was allowed by him to get into a very neglected state ... The lodge gate has latterly been appropriated by tramps as a resting place, and the coach road to the splendid mansion which formerly stood on the centre of the estate is not now discernible" (obituary, *Tonbridge Free Press*, June 1895). He died at Greentrees on 1 June 1895, and his nephews, Baron D'Este and his brother (related to HRH the Duke of Sussex?), provided a splendid wreath for the funeral at Hadlow church. Magnificent cedar trees flourished on the grounds until the site of the house was built over in the early 1960s. The estate was auctioned on 6 August 1895 at the Rose & Crown, Tonbridge, when it consisted of 220 acres and was purchased for £6,000 plus timber by George Manwaring. The whole of Kibble's estate was 600 acres. Green Trees Park was auctioned at the Rose & Crown again on 12 August 1919. It comprised 144 acres, of which 63 acres with two orchards, arable and grass land and a cottage on the site of the mansion, 44 acres of rich arable and pasture land (suitable for fruit and hop growing) with a cottage, and 35 acres adjoining Higham Lane with two cottages and orchards and plantations.

"We junket away at Green Trees", said one of the Woodgates early in 1801. In March Maria Woodgate wrote to Stephen Woodgate a dance there including "Will Mugridge and Harper." Mugridge we have seen at The Postern. Harper was Thomas Mercer's brother-in-law, William Harpur (whom we met at Pembury), and made his will at Greentrees on 8 March 1810, saying that he made Thomas Mercer his executor as, "if it had not been for him and Mr West [see under Tudeley] I should not have a farthing." He probably died there four months later. It is possible that his mother, Turner's aunt, after the Revd. Henry Harpur's death in 1790 and her daughter's marriage to Mercer in 1796 also stayed at Greentrees, if she had not with William Harpur at Pembury. She had died a year before William Harpur made his will. Did Turner call at Greentrees in Summer 1810 or earlier when sketching in the area? As he may have owed the commission to paint Somerhill (the painting exhibited in April 1811) partly to Mercer, it would not be surprising if he did.

Ambrose Mercer also leased a smaller property in Stair Ward (£8 r. value) from Lord Le Despencer, his landlord in Tudeley. Thomas gave that up after 1811, when it was taken on by John Saxby III (see below) until 1818. In c.1808 he acquired **Pinson's Gate** (r.value £3), which must have been at Pinson's Green, to the N. of the Greentrees estate, with which it was sold in 1816. (A farm estate map of 1741 has "Pinions Green" at the junction of Higham Lane and Cuckoo Lane, and the 1801 O.S. map names that junction "Finches Green" and has Pinsons Green in Ashes Lane near Hadlow Road). He briefly leased **Goblands** (Hadlow ward; r.value £26; an estate without any farmhouse) 1813-15, the same years as his Tonbridge New Bank existed, presumably when he had considerable spare cash, perhaps from his mill at E.Peckham.

What happened to him after 1816 before he is found at Harrietsham (c.1838)? Might he have stayed at Hadlow with relations? Major Woodgate is found leasing a £3 property at Hadlow from Thos. Hutton Esq. 1815-17 after the collapse of his bank followed in 1816 by bankruptcy and loss of Somerhill. In 1818 William Mugridge became the lessee. Various relations of Mercer are known to have been at Hadlow, notably the Saxbys, but also Mercer and Collison.

The Saxbys

John Saxby II (1715-90; from Penshurst) was at Hadlow by 1754, when he voted for Dering on a freehold at Cowden. By 1781 and until his death in 1790 he leased **Goldhill** (Coldwell Ward; r. value £54) from Robert Burges Esq. (d.c.1790/4). His eldest son, John III, continued to rent it until 1810. The freehold passed to Mr Harbro (1798) and Arnold Langley Esq. (1812), who occupied it

briefly and then leased it to Thomas Kipping. In 1821 it was advertised for sale with 173 acres. The Kippings were there in 1832, by when it belonged to Lucas MP. In 1847 William Kipping of Goldhill-green voted for Filmer and Austen. One of these must have built the house that exists today.

He also leased **Goblands** (Hadlow Ward; r.value £26), which Thomas Mercer had later, from the same owners. John III continued to lease that until 1810. In 1816 it was acquired by W.B.May. John Wells in 1697 provided that future owners should give 20s to the poor of the parish, which they still did, if not every year, in 1847. Then the owner was William Harrison. When advertised for sale in 1821 with Goldhill it consisted of 83 acres, 50 in hops.

John II had property elsewhere (Prinkhams and Aylands at Chiddingstone, Salmons and at Walters Green, Penshurst, near Pounds Bridge at Speldhurst, and at Witherham, Sussex). In Hadlow he owned **Allens** (Coldwell Ward; r.value £7), and leased **Prickleshams** (Hadlow Ward; r.value £3) from Mrs Hooker. From 1789 he also leased in Stair Ward an unnamed property (r.value £4) and **Crowhurst** (£6). In his will (1785; pr.PCC 1790) he bequeathed to John III messuages near Palmers Street, Hadlow, "commonly called ...Palmers or Friters", which he had purchased from the widow and sons of Henry Hodsall deceased. (Mrs Frances Hodsoll of the Greyhound Inn died in 1783). To Henry I he bequeathed 31 acres at Soule Street, Hadlow, occupied by John III with £1,000 and a farm at Leybourne. As he had three sons to provide for, they did not inherit such an accumulation of property as he had, and the history of the Saxbys at Hadlow is one of decreasing wealth as it got split up among children.

John III (1746-1820) added more small properties: such as **Barhams** (£2), **Parris's** (£3). From 1801 to 1816 he leased **Hartlake** (Coldwell Ward; r.value £53; late C17-early C18 farmhouse, Hartlake Road) from Sir William Geary, who 1781-97 leased it to Jacob Dartnal. Probably he shared it with his younger brother Henry I, who is given as the lessee in 1810, and whose wife and sons kept it. Henry had been left by his father a farm at Leybourne, in 1788 rented of Henry Hawley Esq. and occupied by Henry, who must have moved from Leybourne after 1797, when his youngest child was baptised there, as he and John III voted on Hadlow property in 1802 for Geary without casting a second vote, presumably to please their landlord. At the time of Thomas Mercer's bankruptcy in 1816 John III (?) had £1,356 in account with Mercer 1815-16. (See Appendix 3).

Did he live at one of the smaller properties from 1816? The first is unnamed but, valued at £4, may have been **Hodsolls**, and that may have been the house now called **The Hermitage**, at the junction of Tonbridge Road and Blackham's Lane. In c.1819 John of The Hermitage subscribed £10? for the parish pump. In his long will of 16.8.1809 (pr.PCC 25.5.1820), when of the Hermitage? (to which there is a marginal note of 14.5.1842), he left £100 each to 11 nephews and nieces, the Miles of Southborough and Mercers of E.Farleigh/Maidstone, which must have accounted for most of his £1,500 personal property.

His (all rather small) properties in 1820 passed to his childless wife Susanna (d.1831), who from 1826 appears as Mrs Eldridge, having remarried to George Wray Eldridge (see their genealogy). They went to Maidstone and the properties which were not sold were all leased out.

Henry I (1752-1813) had married Thomas Mercer's cousin Elizabeth Mercer (d.1832). Her mother Mary Mercer (née Norton) was buried in 1823 at Hadlow and so presumably lived with her. Henry's wife was twice over a first cousin of Thomas Mercer, and that may account for Thomas' particularly close connection with these cousins, as evidenced by occupation of the same properties at Tudeley and Hadlow. Thomas Mercer may have been in the habit of calling on them when riding to his properties at Tudeley and E.Peckham. In 1810-15 Henry I is named as the tenant of **Hartlake**. In 1811 he owned an unnamed property (£6) and also **Crowhurst** (£7), though the latter in 1810 and later belonged to his brother John III. He also made a will in 1809, on 5 May (with a codicil 3.3.1812, pr. PCC 17.7.1813), and left everything, including his £3,500 personal property, to his wife and children. To his wife he left £100 and £150 p.a. and the furniture of the best parlour etc. His son Henry, on the "farm at Tudeley with Thomas Mercer", gets a special mention. His sons John and Thomas received £100 each. The executors were his brothers John and Michael and good friend Thomas Mercer of Green Trees, gent.

Henry's widow continued to lease **Hartlake** from Geary until 1822, when until 1832 or later her sons Robert and Michael (sometimes Robert alone named) took over. Maybe it was here that Thomas

Mercer stayed after 1816? From 1821 until 1832 she owned another property (r.value £30), which she must have bought then. Perhaps this was the one in Hadlow Ward given for many preceding years as Government property, late Thomas Gibbs, for Boorman, officer of Excise, for his salary, etc.

Robert and Michael continued to lease **Hartlake** until 1832 or later. By 1835 Robert and Michael are found at **The Hermitage** (poll books 1835,1837,1847), which in 1832 was owned by Mrs Eldridge and leased to W.Carnell Senr. In the tithe apportionment (1842) Michael was the occupier and Miles the owner. In 1847 it was the residence and property of the William Harrison, gent., mentioned above and below. Was it at this time that the house was enlarged with new bay windows? It was advertised for sale in the *Kentish Journal* in 1836, when it was bought by the Miles family (related to the Saxbys?). The house is mainly C18 with early-mid C19 garden walls. There is an old well in the pantry. It has a walled garden and one or two trees and the tree walk might go back to the Saxbys' time. The house is now owned by Dr and Mrs I.M.M.Fraser, the latter as a child having a nanny who went on to be nanny of Rosalind Turner (see *The Turners of Devon*). The stable block and coach house were sold off by the previous owners.

Michael Saxby married in 1836 at Seal, where he is found, at Chart Farm, in the 1851 census, a farm of 225 acres employing 11 labourers (7 in 1861). Robert had also left Hadlow by 1851 and disappears. The John Saxby (1811-53) from Penshurst, miller, was no immediate relation. The Hadlow tithe records of 1842 also show Michael with cottages at Stallions Green occupied by Wilner, and occupying 2 cottages at Hartlake, a cottage in Victoria Road and a homestead at ? Hartlake leased from Geary. Robert leased a homestead in Ashes Lane from Porter (see below).

Their elder brothers John V and Henry II, as we have seen, occupied Finches Farm, previously leased by Thomas Mercer, at Tudeley from 1811. Where John V went after 1818 is unknown, but Henry II (d.1846) went to E.Peckham. In 1811 he had married a daughter of William Simmons, with whom he shares a table tomb in the Hadlow **churchyard**.

The Simmons and later Saxbys

William Simmons (1760-1802) had various properties in Hadlow, including **The Parsonage** (Stair Ward; r.value £25) and leased **Barn Street** (Coldwell Ward; r.value £83; "several good farm residences 1½ miles S.E. of Hadlow" - Bagshaw; Barnes Place 1280-1320 and 1490-1530) and **Percy Mill** (r.value £11) from Francis Motley Austen Esq. (first cousin of Jane's father). Previously they were leased by his father Esau Simmons (will 1785, pr. 1800 PCC). After William's death his widow Ann (d.1823) is found there. In 1803 she paid £1,000 in a document to which Thomas Mercer was party. Probably these Simmons were cousins of those at The Cage, Tonbridge. William Simmons 1794-7 was with other Tonbridge gentry an overseer of the Land Tax for Hadlow. In 1790 Wm. Simmons Esq. voted at Tonbridge on a freehold at Hadlow occupied by Bridgen (Esau had a messuage at Hadlow which he purchased from Nicholas Bridgen). And at Hadlow William Simmons voted on a freehold at E.Peckham occupied by H.Goridge (in 1785 Esau I had 15 acres at Branbridges, when they were occupied by Esau II and Hezekiah Gorringe). Were these the same William? In 1802 William of Hadlow died, leaving his "friend" Thomas Mercer as one of his executors and guardians of his children. His son William next year was party to the indenture concerning Greentrees. In 1847 Henry and William Simmons (farmers and, in William's case, brewer) of Barn Street voted for the conservatives Sir Edmund Filmer and Col.Thomas Austen. In 1873 Henry Simmons owned 294a 3r 8p (r.value £1,172).

Henry Saxby II's second son, William Simmons, became a chemist in London. His eldest son, Henry III (d.1871) was a draper at Hadlow, with William Harrison in 1841. His shop can perhaps be identified as being near the Greyhound pub in 1851-61, and so perhaps part of Lime Tree House, now an antique shop in the main street (there is a photo of the shopfront c1900). His sister Ann in 1844 married in London a decorator and plumber, Henry Soper, son of a tax collector at Hadlow. In 1851 they were near her brother at Hadlow with her sister Ellen ("annuitant"), children and a servant.

Henry III's eldest daughter, Frances Florence, in 1881 married at Hadlow Frederick William Edward Shrivell (d.1928) who lived at **Thompson's** (or **Old Farmhouse**, Golden Green, opposite Goldhill (1380-1420, refurbished in C17 and C19 and recently). He was a chemist, mineral water maker (Hadlow History Society still has some bottles) and insurance agent. His daughters married at Hadlow.

The Porters

These too are a confusing family. John Porter was one of the two assessors and collectors of the Land Tax with Thomas Kipping 1781-1810, when he must have died (will pr.1811 PCC) and was succeeded by Thomas, who lasted until 1815. Was his disappearance in 1816 connected with that of Thomas Mercer at the same time? In 1790 John voted for Knatchbull and Honywood and in 1802 for Knatchbull and Geary. He leased **Hadlow Place** (Coldwell Ward; r.value £56, decreasing to £46) 1782-1805 from William Petley Esq. and his heirs. From 1807 Walter Barton had it. This late C17 house now belongs to Mrs Chloe Teacher DL, daughter of the former owners of Somerhill and sister of the person commemorated by the Chagall window at Tudeley. In 1847 it was occupied as a farm residence and belonged to Sir W.R.P.Geary Bt, and Bagshaw wrote: "the present building is but a small part of the original edifice, the rooms are pannelled with oak, and one of the mantle pieces exhibits a most superb specimen of antique carved work, the door and other portions of the same room are richly carved; the whole has been decorated by some modern connoisseur of the fine arts, with a thick coat of blue paint." Newman in *The Buildings of England* (1969) implies there has been little change since apart from the paint.

John Porter had various properties. From Thomas Swayne he bought the historic **Gt.Fishall**, Hadlow Road, (Stair Ward; r.value £27; "a handsome modern mansion", seat of Mrs Porter - Greenwood, 1838 - "a spacious brick mansion" - Bagshaw, 1847; late C18 red brick house of 3 storeys and 5x5 bays - Newman, under Tonbridge - though probably timber underneath) and the neighbouring **Little Fishall** (£9; C17) 1791-1812, and by his heirs 1812-22, when the first was occupied by William Waite (John Waite was at Little Fishall in 1847; were these related to the Waites of Tonbridge and Tudeley?). In 1823 it belonged to Walter May Esq., who in 1821 married Mary Susannah Porter of Fishall. John's widow, Mary, died in 1822 aged 92, mother of Thomas, Samuel, Richard, Ann, Margaret, Sarah. Perhaps these were just the surviving children.

Henry Porter (1756/7-1806) could have been another son. In 1780 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs Sarah Collison (née Norton), sister of Ambrose Mercer's wife (last heard of in 1789). Maybe Sarah, at Hadlow 1789-91, was living there with the Mercers. Some months before she died at Hadlow, her son Daniel Collison "of Hadlow" married, going to live at W. Peckham, though dying at Hadlow in 1833. Was he visiting relatives then? If brought up with the younger Thomas Mercer, that may be why he was the only relative of the latter to witness his marriage in 1796 in London to Turner's cousin. Daniel's sister may have had only one surviving child, Elizabeth, b.1786, but it is not known if she married. Probably not, as Henry Porter in his will (25.5.1806, pr. PCC 24.9.1806, of Hadlow, yeoman) mentioned no children, and left all his messuages and mills to his brother Thomas, £500 to his brother Richard and £13 p.a. to his sister Elizabeth, wife of Spencer Lamb.

Henry Porter in 1790 voted for Marsham and Honywood and in 1802 for Geary. He owned **The Mill** (Coldwell Ward; r.value £6) by 1781, and was a miller. Perhaps this was Goldhill Mill, Three Elm Lane, Golden Green (C18; in 1743 a corn mill - KAO, U838). He also owned **Wakelins** (Coldwell Ward; £5), Buntinghall and Parkfield (Coldwell Ward; £5). These belonged 1805-27 to Thomas Porter (his nephew?), who in 1815 added **Ashes** (£8; see above). In 1790 Thomas Porter at Tonbridge voted on a freehold at Hadlow occupied by Bridger (Bridgen? see above). They continued to be owned by Thomas 1828-32, but were occupied by Richard (his brother?). The value of The Mill at the same time went up to £19. In 1847 voters at Hadlow included Richard Porter, Hursley, Hampshire, and Thomas Porter, Wrotham. The latter voted for the liberal Thomas Law Hodges. In 1873 Richard Porter of Hadlow had 13a 1r 6p (r.value £192).

Shipbourne and Plaxtol

The church of **St Giles** at Shipbourne was rebuilt in 1721-2 by James Gibbs and in 1880-1. It has a monument to 1st Baron Barnard by Gibbs. Under the patronage of the Vanes the Austens were curates. **Plaxtol** had been part of the parish of Wrotham. Church 1649. Monument to Thomas Dalyson (d.1741). Pretty village at Plaxtol, which also includes the mediaeval **Old Soar**.

The estate of **Fairlawne** (“a plain, and rather puzzling house” – *Buildings of England*) lies in both parishes. Mansion engraved by Kip in 1719. Great Room designed by Gibbs. Home of the Vanes and later the Cazalets, now of an Arab.

A vicar of Tonbridge, William Davis, had **Claygate Farm** at Shipbourne.

Roughway Mill at Plaxtol was occupied by Robert Sweetlove c.1860. It was a paper mill on the Bourne. It had a tall tower, c.1807, taken down in 1997.

West Peckham

The church of **St Dunstan** is Saxon C14 and C17. There is a brass to a Culpeper who died in 1457. There is a monument to Anna Woodgate, daughter of the Major of Somerhill, who married Henry Buttanshaw (of Nizells, Wrotham?) and died in 1829 at the age of 31. With her was buried her infant son. **Duke's Place** dates from 1408 onwards. George Stonhouse, from whom descended the family which became connected with Turner and his uncle, had property at Little (i.e. West) Peckham as well as at Radley and his second son lived at Boxley. Ireland (1829,p.509) said that the **Vicarage**, “a handsome brick house,” was built near the church by the bounty of Philip Bartholomew Esq. of Oxenhoath. The living in 1847 was worth only £301 p.a., but supplemented by a further £400. The small parish (1,700 acres, in 1847 117 devoted to hops) was divided into the Borough of Oxenhoath on the West and Upper Borough to the East. In the first is **Oxen Hoath**, the house built by the Gearys in the late C18, and altered by Salvin c1846 and and by others in 1878. The last of the Geary baronets died in 1944? The contents were recently sold.

In Upper Borough Daniel Collison occupied a £62 property (the most highly valued in the parish in the LTA) 1788-1820, and signed as an Assessor 1795-1812, after which year the assessors were not named. He had been Thomas Mercer's only cousin to act as witness to his marriage in 1796. In 1816 he was owed £268 by Mercer & Barlow (Appendix 3).

The property belonged until 1792 to William Daniel Master Esq. (will pr. PCC Jan.1793?), who had married in 1768 at St James Piccadilly Frances Elizabeth Dalison. Near Oxen Hoath **Hamptons** was designed by R.W.Jearrad (RA 1813) and completed in 1820, a classical building gutted in 1883. According to Quiney (who reproduces a photo of it), the cost was met by the profits on the mill at W.Peckham. (**Hamptons Mill** produced paper which Turner used in 1804 (TB LXXXIV). In 1825 it was assessed at £17 rental value, occupied by John Buttenshaw.) The design for Hamptons is described as for the Dalison family by Colvin. However in the LTA William Dalison Esq. (replaced one year, 1790, by Revd. T.Dalison) appeared last in 1811 as owner of various properties (between them the Gearys and Dalisons owned virtually all in Oxen Hoath Borough besides smaller ones in Upper Borough) and also occupier of a £17 one. These in 1812 belonged to Mrs Master until 1819, when Maximilian Dudley Digges Dalison Esq. replaced her. Greenwood in 1838, who showed a print of the house, said it had paintings by A.Caracci, Leonardo and Ruysdael beside a portrait of Col. W. Dalison by Reynolds. It was still occupied by the Dalisons in 1903, but in 1934 by Lady Dering. An auction was held by Bernard Thorpe & Partners, Tunbridge Wells, 1982.

William Daniel Master (né Daniel) was grandson of James Master (d.1689), who built **Yotes Court** at **Mereworth** c.1656, with a ceiling later painted maybe by Francis Hayman. (*Country Life*, 18-25 June 1964. On the Dalisons, Masters and Viscounts Torrington, see tree). William Daniel Master had no children. His sister Elizabeth had married Viscount Torrington. The 5th Viscount (1743-1813) was the diarist. The 6th Viscount (1768-1831) has a monument in Mereworth church. After William Daniel Master's death, his widow continued to own Collison's farm until 1819 as well as the mediaeval **Duke's Place** (£35 r.value; *Buildings of England*) and a £47 property which her husband, she and Lord Torrington in turn occupied themselves. In 1820 they (all in Upper Borough) had passed to Lord Torrington.

From 1821 John Carnell II (1765-1843), whose father John I (1732-1812) had owned properties in the parish from 1798, became the occupier of Collison's farm. John Carnell II was an attorney at Tonbridge (see Appendix 3) and married Ann Hosmer. By 1847 Frederick and William Alexander Carnell had succeeded to his freeholds, though Bagshaw gives Ann Cornell as occupier. According to

the family history (researched by Mrs Merna Kidgell of Australia), John II had a brother William I, who had a son John III (1791-1875), who lived at The Pinnacles, Cage Green, Tonbridge, and sold property in Hadlow to settle the property of his brother William II (1795-1855).

Can the farm occupied by Collison be identified? There are only a few which fit the location of Upper Borough. John Carnell I is thought to have inherited (from his cousin Richard Fairman) **Hazel Hall** (C15), occupied 1866-70 by Henry Boyle Lee Esq. This leaves **Vines Farm House** (C17), Matthews Lane, and **Court Lodge** (early-mid C18), The Green. Various farmers are listed in the 1860s, but at unnamed properties: George Clements, Joseph Larking, George Ongley, George Sanders, J.S.S.Godwin. Daniel Collison and his wife were buried at W. Peckham, she in 1825 from Ash, he in 1833 from Hadlow. Were they childless?

William Porter owned and occupied a £7 property in Upper Borough 1780-92, followed by Mary Porter 1793-9 or 1802. Daniel Collison's sister in 1780 married Henry Porter of Hadlow, and died in 1788, whether leaving any surviving children is unknown.

East Peckham

The parish was divided into the Boroughs of Stockenbury, East Peckham and Loan. In 1801 there were 1,327 inhabitants. It contained 3,359 acres of fertile land, 587 in 1847 devoted to hops. The vicarial tithes were commuted in 1842 for £979. The mediaeval church, **St Michael**, is 2 miles to the North of the village and Medway and is closer to West or Little Peckham. It has numerous Cheesman MIs and C17 monuments to the Twysdens of **Roydon Hall** (built 1535) close by. In our period Lady Twysden in East Peckham Borough leased **Court Lodge** (£62 r.value) and another property (r.value £68) to John Henham.

One of Thomas Mercer's creditors in 1816 was Edward Monckton (1768-1851; will pr.22.11.1851), yeoman and salesman, of East Peckham, who was also a cousin of the Walters of Marden. He had **Hale Place** (£1 r.value; a few yards N. of Branbridges; mentioned without comment by Greenwood in 1838, to whose work he was a subscriber) 1803-31 or later. It has a Georgian front (Margaret Lawrence, *Bridge Over The Stream*, fig.34). In the 1873 Survey of Owners of Land his son Edward of East Peckham appears owning 33a 1r 15p in Kent with a rental value of £138. Frederick Monckton of E.Peckham, a grandson, had 101a 1r 13p assessed at £260.5.0.

In Loan Borough John Saxby leased a £4 property from John Hooker in 1780. His son ? John owned and occupied it 1795-1825.

The Cheesmans

These (at East Peckham by 1559) were related, via the Covenys, to the Mercers. Or at any rate those descended from Henry Cheesman (1708-70), yeoman of Yalding and East Peckham, by his second wife were. They formed quite a large clan in the area. Estate papers exist (U1094/E18). Henry II (1747-1814) inherited property at Yalding from his father, but was of East Peckham when he died. There are two inventories of estate and release under his will (U1054/T149). A £2 property, increasing to £3, in Stockenbury Borough belonged 1780-1832 to ? this Henry and ? a son Henry.

The Cheesmans had properties in both Stockenbury and East Peckham Boroughs. In the first John owned and occupied **Bullen** (r.value £14) near the present village and another £14 property, at first leased from Lady Twysden and then owned by him. From Lord Le Despencer he leased a £42 one. These Johns were probably cousins of Henry. In 1847 William of Bullen voted for the Conservative candidates. Maps show both **Bullen** and **Bullen Farm**. At the latter are carved initials on the doorframe *J* and *E*, made by John and Elizabeth Cheesman? It is C15 and mid C19, at 88 Bullen Lane. In 1876 William Cheesman sold it to Jasper Wheeler, grandfather of L.A.Wheeler, owner in 1973.

William Cheesman owned and occupied a £22.10 property in East Peckham Borough in 1795. The next year it belonged to Iden Henham. Possibly this was the William who was the son of Henry by his first wife and who made a will in 1795, pr.PCC 1796, and had **Tan Yard Farm** at East Peckham.

He had inherited in 1771 messuages at Tudeley, Brenchley, Wateringbury and East Peckham (purchased of William Summer) from his father. In Stockenbury Borough a William owned and occupied a £17 one 1792-4, reassessed at £15 1803-31. In the 1873 Return of Owners of Land William Cheesman of E.Peckham had 47a 1r 36p in Kent (r. value £332.10.0).

In East Peckham Borough a £7 property was leased to John Boorman by John Porter and John Cheesman 1780-8, by Thomas Porter and John Cheesman 1789-1825. The second was sole owner and occupier 1826-31. In 1795 Mrs Porter in the same borough occupied **Home Farm** (r.value £14) and another, late Brenchley (£23).

Cousins of the Cheesmans were the Dartnalls. In 1796 Henry occupied a £29 property of William Selby. In 1803 Jacob Dartnall owned and occupied it.

Branbridges Mill

In Stockenbury Borough was included **Branbridges Mill**, by the bridge over the Medway. This was only assessed at £2, but was a large profitable linseed oil watermill. In 1816 it was capable of returning upwards of £20,000 p.a. (or about £1 million in today's very rough equivalent). It was owned jointly by Thomas Mercer and Thomas Hugh Boorman (b.in 1768 at East Grinstead; by 1847-52 living at Brixton Rise, Surrey) from 1803, until Mercer became sole owner 1812-16, when they were joint owners again until 1820, Boorman continuing as sole owner until 1832 or later. Boorman had a £8 property (his residence?) from 1796.

Thomas Henry Boorman had married the daughter of Henry Martyr, owner of the mill in 1751, which Boorman then came to own. His nephew Thomas Hugh Boorman became director and controller of the Medway Company, which came to be run from Branbridges. In 1868 Boorman, Wilde & Co failed and Branbridges Mill temporarily closed (Neve, pp.105-9).

Deeds for the mill at Kent Archives date back to the late C16. It was to the N.W. of the bridge leading S. over the Medway out of E.Peckham. Within a mile or two the Medway, Beult, Teise and Bourne rivers meet. Unusually the water supply was diverted from the Medway, which it rejoined downstream of the mill. To accomodate the difference in level between the portions of the river two locks were made. The head of water available to the mill was considerable, about 8-10ft.

What it looked like in 1816, when advertised for sale on Mercer's bankruptcy, is unknown, except that there were several buildings. Samuel Ireland's view of *Brandtbridge* in his *Picturesque Views on the River Medway* of 1793, concentrates on the bridge just downstream (see page 179). In the 1816 advertisements it was said to occupy 1¼ acres and to include counting-houses, cooperage, stabling for 8 horses, foreman's house and garden and 10 cottages for labourers, removed at a little distance.

In 1803/4-16 Mercer insured the property with the Kent Fire Institution (U2593/1320/1 and 2). Cover was given to a linseed oil water mill and furnaces (£900), water wheel etc. (£700), seed warehouse (£400), dwelling house and 6 cottages called The Barracks, near the Pound (£400), dwelling house and cottage (£100). In 1816 the mill was valued at £10,869 and the inventory of it at £296.15.0.

Its subsequent history has received not entirely compatible accounts. According to Margaret Lawrence, *A Bridge Over the Stream: East Peckham 1894-1994*, in 1890 the *Kent Messenger* announced that a tender had been accepted for alterations and additions to Brantbridges Mill, recently bought by Messrs. W.Arnold of Frant. However William Arnold & Sons may have had an interest in it earlier. Their works are marked "Wks" on the current Kent street plan, on the opposite side of the stream from the Branbridges Industrial Estate.

The water-wheel was replaced by a water turbine and then a gas engine, for which by 1897 there was a gasometer. The mill was then operated as two separate units. That for flour milling ceased c.1916, that for provender milling c.1946. Arnolds moved from milling to engineering, to which the buildings were converted. At its height the firm employed 500 people. They developed the Arnold car c.1895.

A photograph of 1898 is the basis for the drawing in M.J.Fuller and R.J.Spain, *Watermills and Windmills*, pp.25-7. They surveyed the site in 1982. In the photo the building on the left was the engine room and the single storey on the right was believed to house the water-wheel. It was listed Grade II, mill early C19. (*The Kent Historic Buildings Index, 1, Tonbridge & Malling Section*, April 1997, p.18). Refenestrated later C19; red brick in English bond with slate roof, 3 storeys and attics, 8 bays, 7 cambered window openings and off central loading door, gabled, weatherboarded lucan, mainly horizontally sliding sashes, but some pivoting casement windows set in recessed panels, roof of kingpost type (Kent Archives, TQ 64 NE).

The story of destruction is unclear. The old mill partly burnt down in 1917 in a fire of which German prisoners of war were suspected of being the instigators. The remaining massive 4 storey flour store (shown in the drawing by M.J.Fuller and Spain?) became unsafe and was demolished in 1994, when a new factory was built by Arnolds on the footprint of the old mill. The mill pond and mill stream survive, to which, after Arnolds cleaned up the site, fish have returned.

Hunton

The church of **St Mary** is C13 and later. Inside is a bust of Henry Hatley Esq. (d.1716, c.1730?). In the churchyard are Mercer memorials. In 1847 the rectory living was valued at £783 and the parish had 327 acres of hop grounds out of a total acreage of 1,940. In 1801 there were 583 inhabitants.

Mercers of Horsmonden and Nortons of Marden

William Mercer (1715-86) from Marden moved to Linton. Of his children James married in 1769 at Hunton to Mary Hickmett (the same name as his stepmother's?) and they had John and Stephen at Hunton, the latter buried there in 1800. James is not found as owner or tenant at Hunton, and so perhaps was employed by someone there. He continued to own a small property at Horsmonden and appears in the 1790 poll book at Hunton, voting on his freehold at Horsmonden, and was still at Hunton in 1802. He seems then to have moved to Horsmonden (q.v.). (In the 1861 census an unrelated (?) James Mercer, carter and agricultural labourer, his wife Harriet and children Ambrose, James, Harriet, Sarah, Edward and George are found at Barn Hill, Hunton. He was baptised at Hadlow in 1822, son of Edward and Elizabeth).

John Norton (1727-87) moved from Marden to Hunton. (In 1708 a Daniel Norton had married Mrs Jane Hatley). He and his wife Elizabeth (sister of David Tanner, gent. of Hunton) had children baptised there 1753-75. Ten died as infants, including the last, Ambrose Tanner Norton, in 1775, as the M.I. to the parents records. John too was buried there in 1787 (M.I.), leaving just John, Elizabeth and Mary. He too does not appear as owner or tenant, and so must have been an employee, maybe of the Tanners. His widow was at "Lotow" (Hunton? Linton?) in 1789. She moved to Leeds, where their daughter Elizabeth in 1771 married Robert Sweetlove, millwright of Leeds, who made her his executrix in his will of 1815.

Mercers of East Farleigh

The parish was divided into Lower Borough and Upper. In the second the Land Tax Assessments record William Mercer & Co occupied a £16 property from 1784. Later the description was William Mercer, though in 1825 William Mercer senior, in 1826 occupier of mill and land. This was presumably the property owned in 1781 by Lord Le Despencer and occupied by Robert Brattle & Co. In 1784 the owner is given as Sir Thomas Stapleton, but 1825-31 as Lord Le Despencer. Portraits of William (1756/9-1852) and his wife, Mary Ayerst, belong to descendants. A William appears in poll books at Hunton voting on a property at Marden 1790, 1835, 1847, 1857-9. In 1851 he was at West St., a miller with 250 acres, 3 servants and his niece Elizabeth Miller. The mill appears on maps on the River Beult, sometimes called Yalding Mill. **Riverside Cottage**, adjacent to the late C18 mill, was advertised for sale in 2003 by Ward & Partners Exclusive Homes, Paddock Wood.

Another property in Upper Borough was owned by James Hatley Esq., and assessed at £57. This was occupied by Mr John Day, but by 1825 by William Mercer Junior. He was the elder son (1790-

1880), and lived at **Grove House**, close to his father, with his wife (like his father he married an Ayerst). They died childless and wealthy. In 1851 he was a farmer with 104 acres, 8 labourers, and 2 servants. In 1861 he had 200 acres, 17 men, 6 boys and 3 servants besides three Howlett nephews of his wife. The 1873 Return gave the acreage as 183.1.30, yielding £375.9.0. By his will William left to his wife's nephew, Francis Ayerst of Hawkhurst, the portraits of the latter's grandfather and grandmother Ayerst. (These are similar to those of William Mercer and Mary Ayerst, who was the sister of grandfather Francis Ayerst). To his wife he left a house at Maidstone which he had bought from William Harding Bensted. To his godson and great nephew William Ayerst Mercer he left Claygate Farm, Marden, (90 acres, late in occupation of John Bartholomew, but in 1873 of Mr Henry Hammond), Reeds Farm, Marden (96 acres, late in his own occupation, but in 1873 in that of Mr William Hammond, miller) and a cottage in Knatchbull Row, Smeeth. The will was proved in 1880, £45,000.

In Lower Borough a Mr Mercer owned a £24 property 1780-1815. He was named as Thomas Mercer 1816-26. Was he one of the Mercers from E.Farleigh? Thomas (1796-1843) was the younger son of William, miller. Curiously he does not appear in the poll books, unless he did in 1790 with property at Marden. The occupier 1780-92 was Charles Walter and 1793-1826 Thomas Lambert. He is not found in the 1841 census?

Linton

The parish comprised 1,380 acres (200 in hop grounds in 1847) The population was 590 in 1801. The C14 church of **St Nicholas** was restored in 1860. Inside are monuments to Galfridus Mann, erected by Horace Walpole in 1758, and the son of Earl Cornwallis, Charles, Viscount Brome, (d.1835), a masterpiece by E.H.Baily R.A., who made other monuments here and also in London posthumous portraits of Turner. **Linton Park** was built overlooking the Weald by Robert Mann in 1749 and given a third storey a century later. "The effect is as if a section of Carlton House Terrace has been transferred to the hills" (Newman, *Buildings of England: Kent*). It passed to James Cornwallis, 4th Earl Cornwallis (1742-1824) - he married a Mann - and became Rector of Wrotham, Dean of Windsor and Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. He was son of the 5th Baron. Frederick Cornwallis, son of the 4th Baron, was Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (1750-68) and Archbishop of Canterbury (1768-83). He ordained Henry Harpur deacon in 1755.

William Mercer (1715-86), eldest son of Thomas of Marden, but baptised at Tonbridge, married Mary Gilbert at Marden in 1736 and they had 7 children there before moving in 1751/2 to Linton. In 1754 he voted on property at Horsmonden. He died there in 1786, but was buried at Marden.

His eldest son, William "Todler" Mercer, was baptised in 1739. He married twice, first, perhaps, in 1758 at Horsmonden to Mary Hickmot, and second in 1765 at Linton to Mary Cornwell. They had children baptised at Linton 1766-80. The eldest Sarah in 1783 married at Linton a farm labourer, Samuel Athawes, and their youngest child in 1825 married Charles Pettit at Linton, and from them descend Mrs Margaret Somers of Brisbane. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married William Suzan at Linton in 1795. "Todler" was mentioned by his cousin, Thomas of Greentrees, in a memo for his family. He appears in the 1790 poll book at Marden and again in 1802. It is not known when he died. The youngest son, James, was baptised in 1746 and in 1769 married at Hunton, but later moved to Horsmonden (will pr.1834?).

An estate of 4 acres in S. of parish called Sweetloves belonged to the heirs of David Tanner (map by R.Bowles, 1794, Kent Archives, U24 P12).

Marden

Marden is an extensive parish which had 1,660 inhabitants in 1801. The Teise, a tributary of the Medway flows down its W. boundary and the Beult along the N. Hasted said that "some few years ago" there were 300 acres of hop ground, but "now" reduced to about 200 (III, 1790, p.32). Of its 7,607 acres 640 were hop grounds in 1847. **St Michael and St Angel** is C13-C14. Attractive churchyard with Walter monuments with another (brass to John Amhurst Walter, d.1805, and family) inside the church. In 1847 the rectorial tithes had been commuted for £1,254 and the vicarial for £937.

Mercers (and Couchman and Collison cousins)

Thomas Mercer (1688-1757), yeoman, came from Horsmonden to Marden, where his second son, Thomas (1725-63) settled, having married Mary Norton at Horsmonden in 1757. She was still at Marden in 1780, when the Land Tax Assessments show her occupying three properties: one valued at £34 (increased to £37 by 1784) and a second at £4, "late Collisons & Peirsons", and the third at £11. The first two were owned by Nicholas Haddock Esq. in 1780, and by 1784 by John Cole Esq., heir to the Courthopes of Horsmonden; his family is commemorated by a monument in Marden church (erected after 1783?). The third was owned by Sir Horace Mann of Linton and was seemingly identified as **Roughlands** (off B 2079, near Marden Beech) in 1786. Thomas and Mary had an only daughter, who in 1783 married Henry Saxby. In 1787 the properties were in the names of Mrs Mercer and Mrs Saxby. The Saxbys on marriage had moved to Leybourne and by 1800 to Hadlow, where they and Mrs Mary Mercer were buried.

A £2 property occupied by William Dean was owned in 1780 by William Mercer, presumably the eldest son of Thomas I. William had moved to Linton and died in 1786. In 1791 it is described as owned by William's heirs. Dean had married in 1772 Mary Walter (see below on them). William's son William appears in the 1790 and 1802 poll books at Marden.

One of the daughters of Thomas I married William Couchman in 1745. (In 1601/2 a Marden clothier Cowtchman was said to be guilty of murder. Henry Couchman (1738-1803), baptised at Ightham, was an architect taken up by the Earl of Aylesford, as was his son Henry (1771-1838), reputedly the son of the Earl, as his descendant, the late Admiral Sir Walter Couchman, reminded the present Earl, who was tickled by the story and name). In 1780 their son William was the owner of a £2 property. In 1786 Richard, the next son, was occupier of a £3 one owned by John Cole Esq. A Mr Couchman owned a £5 (£4) one 1786-91. The third son, Thomas, had a younger son who is found as a railway porter at Marden in 1881.

Both the Mercers and Nortons married into the Collisons, and Thomas Collison (d.1781?), 1780-4, followed by Daniel (of Staplehurst? married at Marden 1778), 1786-91, occupied at £4/£5 property owned by Madm. Boverly, listed under "Foreigners".

Contemporaneously other Mercers are found at Marden in the Land Tax Assessments. Some of these may have been the Mercers of East Farleigh: Samuel (d.1808), who owned among other smaller properties one assessed at £66 (1780) or £52 (1784); Thomas (d.1805), who had **Mancers** (£42), listed under "Foreigners"; and Richard (d.1815), who had one at £24 (1780) or £22 (1784). In 1847 Mrs Mercer was stated to be one of the principal landowners (Bagshaw).

Nortons

The date when they came to Marden is unknown. A Thomas Norton had a £21 property in 1678 (when Henry Webbe had two – of £36 and £14 – and foreigner John Webb had one of £4). Thomas Norton I (d.1782), who married Sarah Webb II at Marden in 1724, was a miller at Marden, as was Thomas II (1739-88), his youngest child. The latter married Elizabeth Walter (1746-90). In her will (1789) she left land at Boughton Monchelsea to her sister-in-law, widow of John Norton of Hunton; to her brothers Stephen, John Amhurst I and Walter, three messuages in the occupation of widow Gilbert (£1), Thomas Beeching (£1) and William Brown (£2); and to Stephen Walter (1774-1847), son of the second, a farm at **Fountains Green**, Marden, occupied by Mrs Whyman, and three other messuages in the occupation of Mr Monckton (£2), Jos. Clout (£6) and Stephen Iggulden (£2);

previously Mr Larken) and the same Stephen to carry on the business of the Tenement **Mill** (“which I now occupy”), which she held on a lease from Nicholas Nicholas (or Nichols Esq.). Thomas Norton junior was the occupier of the last (£33 r.value) in 1780 until his death. In 1791 the occupant was given as the late Mrs Norton and the value as £31 and in 1792 Mr Hammond (£49). No doubt Stephen junior was too young to take over, and he went on to become vicar of Marden.

Where was the Nortons’ mill? The parish is flat, and so it was more likely to be a watermill than a windmill. There were two watermills on the Lesser Teise. The first was located by the present **Mill House Farm** (timber framed, C17 with late C18 or early C19 façade) to the NW at the junction of Hunton Road, Green Lane and Underling Lane. It was long occupied by the Hammonds (1822 or before-1924). They were corn millers until c.1874. It was called both **Marden Mill** and (Kelly 1859) **Pattenden Mill**. A map shows two farms at Marden, one in the occupation of Joseph Hammond and the other farm and mill in the occupation of Thomas Peerless, being the estate of Sir Roger Twisden Bt.. The **Mill Farm** comprised 21.0.1 acres, of which 1.2.11 were occupied by the house, mill, pond, yards, orchard and gardens. The 1841 Tithe Map shows the mill, house etc. and the adjacent farm of William Hammond. The **Mill Farmhouse** is C17 with a late C18 or early C19 facade, timber framed, the ground floor red and grey brick to left of door and red and grey on a stone base to the right (1967 report; TQ 74 NW). Norman Hammond says (2005) that the earliest record which he has is of Mrs Nicholas owning **Pattenden Mill**. This suggests that it was probably the mill leased from Nicholas by the Nortons.

The second watermill was to the SW at Sheephurst Lane or Beech Road, shown in a map of 1680. This is shown as **Old Mill** in Havicker Street at Marden Beach in Drury’s 1769 map. In a document of 1821 there is reference to Old Mill alias Elhurst Mill Bridge (CKS, Q/Gab3/25/6).

Nichol(a)s also had a £87 property occupied by Edward Osborne in 1780 and Osborne & Clout in 1792. Jos. Clout, or Messrs Clout, occupied one of the Norton properties, in 1792 described as “his house.”

In 1780 Thomas Norton Junior was occupant not only of the mill, but also of a property of Mr Collins (r.value £15; in 1785 called **B(r)eeches and Barhams**), and two properties owned by Mrs Hester Simons (r.value £9 and £14). The last two had different occupiers in 1783. Was the first the present **Beech Farm** at Marden Beech? Was it the farm at Fountains Green occupied by Mrs Whyman? After 1790 the Nortons disappeared from Marden, moving to Hunton and Leeds.

John Norton (1727-87) married Elizabeth Tanner, sister of David of Hunton. David had two properties in Marden, one being **Broad Forestal Farm**, Tilden Lane, with 73 acres (map of 1794, CKS). Elizabeth inherited some of David’s property. The farm, which still exists, belonged to Mrs Norton in the parish survey by John Adams of 1817/19 (CKS, PO44/28/14).

Walters

These were connected by two marriages (1763,1769) with the Nortons. They had long been established at Marden Thorn (see the headstones in Marden churchyard from 1703 onwards and the earlier C17 probate accounts in Kent Archives), where they owned **Widehurst**. Kent Archives have documents relating to their properties (U1094):

T72 (1804-29). Manor and mansion of **Widehurst** and **Widehurst Farm** (233a.); **Bridge Farm** and **Green Farm** (65a. together); **Bridge House**, parsonage and glebe, **Longridge Farm** (62a.) messuage and butchers shop.

T75 (1799, 1824). **Jewel House, Howland Farm and Longridge Farm** (140a. together), **Tilden Farm** (125a.), **Weavers Farm** (5a.); messuage and field called **Uptons** (9a.) barn and 16a., slaughterhouse etc.

In 1780 Stephen had both a £18 property (in 1791 £17) and a £6 one, **Shand Farm**, later called **Austens**? By 1791 he also had “late Mr Crittendens” (£18). John Amhurst Walter I had a £6 one (in 1791 £5, **Amhursts**). He also had **Osborns** and **Gaskoins** (£2). William had **Uptons** (£2) and others. At his death John Amhurst I was at **Bridge House** (which survives), as recorded on his monument in Marden church. It passed to his youngest son James. Later John Amhurst II lived at **Great Cheveney** (enlarged from the C16 house of the Maplesdens). William (1751-1809) was at the **Jewell House**, off Albion Road, at his death. In 1791 that was owned by John Cole Esq. (£33; £36

in 1792). He died in 1803 and left it to John Amhurst Walter I? It still survives. He also left the **Parsonage House** (now demolished, the site occupied by a housing estate) to the same. It was later occupied by Stephen Walter (1817-84).

The properties of Stephen Walter IV, late husband of Jane Norton, in 1803 are indicated by an insurance policy of that year:

Kent Fire Institution (Kent Archives, U2593/B20/1). Policy No.712. 24 June 1803. Property in trust for the children of Stephen Walter late of Marden at Marden and Staplehurst. Thomas Mercer of Hadlow, John Amhurst Walter of Marden and others trustees. (The second replaced, 3.11.1803, by Stephen Walter).

1804	Premium	£4.9.0	Duty	£2.17.10	
1805	do.			£3.12.2	
1809		£4.6.4	do		
1812	Expired				
1	Dwelling House of the late Stephen Walter at Marden Thorn		Timber & Tiled	£250	
2	Household Furniture. Linen. Wearing Apparel. Plate and Printed books therein			£150	
3	Barn and Stable			£150	
4	Stock and Utensils therein			£125	
5	Oast House			£200	
6	Stock and Utensils therein			£250	
7	Stable near				£ 60
8	Live and Dead Stock therein			£ 80	
9	Strood House two dwellings in the tenure of J.Smith and W.Wolger				£100
10	Barn only near thatched			£ 50	
11	Stock and utensils therein			£ 20	
12	Stock and utensils in the Cruttenden Barn near Timber and thatched				£ 60
13	House at Marden town in the tenure of Monkton Surgeon		Brick Tiled	£160	
14	Dwelling House in the tenure of Thomas Gilbert		Timber		£ 60
15	House and two dwellings in the tenure of Golding and Woodroath		Timber and Tiled	£ 80	
16	Dwelling House in the tenure of Richard Sampson of Little Pagehurst Farm		Staplehurst Timber & tiled	£150	
17	House Barn and Stable one Building		Timber and thatched	£100	
18	Further barn near Timber and Tiled			£ 40	
19	Oast House near Same materials			£ 40	
20	Brewhouse at Marden Thorn		Timber and tiled	£ 15	
21	Utensils therein			£ 15	
22	Household Furniture Linen and wearing apparel in the dwelling house at Grovehurst		Farm. Timber & Tiled	£150	
23	Stock and utensils in the Home Barn. Timber and thatched			£175	
24	Further Barn		Timber and thatched	£125	
25	Oasthouse near		Timber and tiled	£200	
26	Stable near				£ 80
			Total Sum Insured	£2885	
			Premium	£4.11. 3	
			Duty	£2.17.10	

There were other Walters, who may or may not have been related. In 1784 Charles Walter occupied a £22 property of Richard Mercer and Thomas Walter a £52 one of Samuel Mercer. In 1791 Charles owned an £8 one occupied by Thomas Baldwin.

The Walters married into the Moncktons of Brenchley in 1762 and in 1780 we find John Monckton (? John 1763-1845) as occupier of two properties, one owned by Mrs Hester Simons (£8) and another by Mr Burr (£4). In 1786 Mr Monckton occupied one belonging to Madm. Osborne (£9). And in 1792 a £2 one owned by Mrs Norton's heirs.

The Walters appear in the bankruptcy papers of Thomas Mercer of Greentrees (see Appendix 3), and in the Walter papers there is a letter from Stephen Walter to Mr White at Goudhurst, dated c.1820?

Dear Sir

Mr Mercer has again wrote to say that through particular business he wishes the meeting at Grovehurst to be postponed till Thursday next instead of Wednesday on which day I shall (if I hear nothing from you to the contrary tomorrow morning) expect you meeting us there.

Marden

Yours truly

Sunday afternoon

Stepn. Walter

Perhaps this was a meeting of creditors. Grovehurst is at Horsmonden.

Fields

Charles Field claimed to have married a relation of Turner (see below, Frant; Goudhurst). He was a farmer, in 1841 at Winchet Hill (to S. of Marden Beach), in 1851 at **Tanner House** (see map; this was just N. of Winchet Hill) and in 1881 at **Cannon Farm**, on Thorn Road on the way to Marden Thorn. His son Joseph was there in 1861. A map of *Cheveney, Estate of W.J.Campion Esq.*, shows Mr Charles Field's property bordering that.

In 1838 Charles Field, one of the Overseers of the Poor, complained that Thomas Mercer, labourer, and his wife should be settled at Horsmonden (Kent Archives, P192). Thomas was born in 1811 at Horsmonden, son of Edward, and remained an agricultural labourer at Marden until 1871 or later.

Horsmonden

The parish comprised 4,517 acres, of which 360 were in hop cultivation in 1847. There were 852 inhabitants in 1801. The church of **St Margaret** is some miles to the South of the village. The Revd. William Hassell (1695-1785) was Rector 1725-85. In 1838 **The Rectory House** was occupied by the Revd. William Marriott Smith Marriott JP and was an ancient house with modern additions, surrounded by extensive and well-wooded grounds of picturesque appearance. It commanded "a beautiful view of Goudhurst" (Greenwood) and contained paintings by Canaletti, Opie and others. The rectory living was valued at £1,000 (1847).

The Austens and Walters

The family of Jane Austen was long resident in Horsmonden, where they made their money as clothmakers. They had two substantial Wealden houses, which survive today. These were **Broadford** (r.value £32, LTA 1827), their first home, and the slightly smaller **Grovehurst** (r.value £60, LTA 1827). The first "attractively combines mid-C17 vernacular and C18 Gothick" with "delightful late C17 stables." In an inventory of 1708 the rooms included parlour, hall, little parlour, several bedrooms, brewhouse, bakehouse, milkhouse and stable. In a large room on the first floor carvings of the Tudor rose and Austen arms are over the fireplace. The second on E. side of parish, is "a lovely timber-framed house" with the date 1641 on one of the gables (*Buildings of England*). They were both owned by Francis Austen (1600-88). They descended to John (d.1807) and passed to his cousin John (1777-1851), Rector of Chevening. While the Austens continued to live in Horsmonden in our period, this was often in other houses, while they leased these two out. Their memorials are found at Horsmonden church.

Thanks to the wealthy attorney of the Red House, Sevenoaks, Francis Austen (1698-1791), money flowed back into the family long after it had ceased from its original business. John Francis Austen (1817-93) sold their house outside Sevenoaks, Kippington, and built **Capel Manor**, a large Italianate house at the North end of Horsmonden parish (1859-62 by T.H.Wyatt, demolished apart from lodge and service court). His great-grandson, Raymond Dodgson, was killed in 1940 and left £26,299, most of which went to Edward Knight of Chawton.

They leased **Grovehurst** to Stephen Walter V (1768-1807), who perhaps followed there in the steps of his Ollive father-in-law after he married at Horsmonden in 1793. His widow and eldest son continued there until well into the C19. Stephen V was son of Jane Norton, and so first cousin of Thomas Mercer of Greentrees, Hadlow. The Walters were long established at Marden, to which place one of the Mercers moved from Horsmonden.

The Mercers

The Mercers were at Horsmonden by the middle of the C17 and continued there into C19. Most seem to have been of very modest fortune, but William "Flea" Mercer (1656-1752), ancestor of Thomas (who left a note - in the 1840s? - about the family and that William), began to build up a bigger holding. His longevity suggests a person of unusual energy. Thomas records that he was "a little man." He signed the Overseers accounts of the poor rates in 1698 and 1702 as churchwarden.

In 1698 William paid rates on **Sherndon** (?=Shirrenden) (£4), another property (£15) and a third (£6). In 1705 on **Shornden** (£4), **Swigs Hole** (£6; on Hasted's map), **Hoath** (Heath?) **Farms** (£14). In 1716 on a £4 property and **Baybrooks** (£15). In 1719 for **Willards** (£3) and another (£5). In 1729 for **Daniells** (£4), another (£1), **Reads** (£2.10), **Furnace Lands** (£1) and **Tanner Austens** (£3). So he did in 1747, but excluding the last two. In 1734 he voted on a freehold at Horsmonden.

In 1698 his younger brother John Mercer (1659-1725), a grocer, paid on **Mr Holms** (£8/9), **Mr Day** (£8/9) and **Mr Days Wood** (£1), but disappears from the overseers' accounts by 1705.

In 1719 Richard Mercer (the nephew of the foregoing?) paid on **Coldharber** (£16) and **Baybrooks** (£16), on which William had paid in 1716. In 1725 he paid on just one £13 property, and in 1726 on just part of Baybrooks (£2), disappearing thereafter. On 22 October 1721 he and Mary Trice had a base born child baptised at Horsmonden, and the next day they married at West Farleigh. They had two more daughters baptised at Horsmonden in 1723 and 1726.

In March 1755 Thomas ("Flea") paid on a £4 property and on **Reads** (£2.10). In October 1755 his youngest son Ambrose ("Amberrosr Mearser") paid on the same. He continued to do so until June 1770. In 1757 he also paid on **Danels** (£15) and in 1760 on **Garrats** (£2) as well. He no longer had these two in 1766. Ambrose was one of four overseers for 1758, but never served again, and had moved his residence to Tudeley by 1768.

In August 1771 William Twort, grocer, paid on the shop (£3) and on **Mercers Land** (£11). In 1773 he still did for the first, but Joseph Tompsett paid on **Mercers Land** (£11). Tompsett continued to pay on both, in 1788 assessed for the poor rates at £22.

From 1780 we have the evidence also of the Land Tax Assessments (signed by Revd.H.Harpur 1781 and Thomas Mercer 1810, with other Tonbridge gentry). These show Ambrose Mercer 1780-4 owner of a £10 property and Joseph Tompsett as occupier. In the poor rates he latterly had two properties, one at £4 and another (**Reeds**) at £2.10. By 1782 Joseph Tompsett occupied both (£3 and £11 "Mercers land", overseers accounts). Probably Tompsett bought both from Ambrose, the first perhaps in 1770s, the second in 1784/5. The second was third from last in the LTA of 1781, a position similar to William Mercer's £4 property in the 1715 rate assessment, which was probably arranged geographically rather than in the usual alphabetical order. By 1811 the larger Mercer/Tompsett property was acquired by Courthope Esq. and valued at £11. It continued in his ownership until 1831 or later, occupied by David and then George Whibley, in 1835 described as a butcher and farmer. The 1845 rates show George Whibley occupying buildings and land in South Lane owned by G.C.Courthope Esq. (29a 2r 39p; £49.83 gross rental; £25 rateable value).

Title deeds of 1800 exist for 12 acres at Haisel Street in the occupation of Joseph Tompsett and previously that of William and Ambrose Mercer (U769/T45). It has been suggested that the farm in which, according to Thomas Mercer, "Flea" Mercer resided was **Hazel Street Farm**, as it was "the second house on the right on the road from Horsmonden Heath to the church and near Shrevvus." This farm is near to **Sprivers** (C15,C16,1756), the property of the Courthopes from 1704. Alexander Courthope, a banker, added the E. front Georgian wing in 1735, died unmarried in 1779 and willed the manor to his nephew John Cole. (There are monuments in Marden church). Thomas Marchant (1702-68) of Burrs Hill is said to have been a friend or steward of John Cole. Another John (d.1803) erected a monument to his family at Marden. He left a portrait to the Marchants, which belongs to Stephen Marchant in Australia. Sprivers was given to the National Trust by Miss Courthope (d.aged 87 in 1974). Sprange said that the grounds in front were "very neat, but the gardens put you in remembrance of the taste of King William's time" (1797, p.241). It is difficult to identify Hazel Street Farm in the 1845 rate, supposing the acreages unchanged. There were then only three properties of that size - one belonging to George Whibley, buildings and land near the schoolhouse (13a 2r 9p); house and land near Breckler (?) belonging to Widow Hoadley (12a 3r 11p) and woodland at Buckwood belonging to Thomas Wotton Roberts (12a 1r 15p).

In 1754 William Mercer (1715-86) of Linton, of the senior line, voted on a freehold at Horsmonden occupied by Thomas Gilbert. The poor rates in the C18 do not mention this, presumably because it was too small or because these Mercers were non-resident. In the Land Tax Assessments there was a £2 property, latterly described as cottage and land. This was owned and occupied by William ("Todler"?) 1781-96, by William and his brother James 1797-c1818, by Henry and James c1819-26

and Henry and William 1827-32. Was James the James Mercer gent. of Horsmonden, who made a will 15.3.1833, proved 20.6.1834 by his son John (PROB11/1833)? They are not found in the 1845 rates. In 1832 it was assessed at £3 and described as house, land, forge and chapel, occupied by themselves and D.Cheston. The 1805 poor rate lists Messrs Mercer, £2.5.0 (paying 6¾d).

The church tax includes:

1790	Joseph Tompsett	£8
	do for Mercers	£22
1800	David Mercer	£4
	do for Badcox	£5
	Messrs Mercer	£5
1807	David Mercer	£6.10
	James Mercer	£2
	Edwd. Mercer	£1
1810	David Mercer	£6.10
	Jno. Mercer	£2
	Edwd. Mercer	£1

The 1805 poor rate showed David Mercer assessed at £8.10.0.

John Mercer in 1832 had a freehold house situated near the tan yard. Presumably he was the John who appeared in the 1835 and 1837 poll books. He appeared on 5 July 1837 and 20 April 1838 to explain why he had not paid the poor rate. In 1845 John Mercer owned and occupied house and land, 2 acres, near the Heath (£15.0.9 gross rental; £9.12.6 rateable value). By 1851 there was a John Mercer (b. at Goudhurst 1828/9) at Rams Hill, labourer, and in 1881 farmer of 125 acres at Tanyard House. In 1873 he owned 7 acres.

Thomas Mercer (1792/3-1865), born at Capel, appears by 1861 as a farmer of 70 acres at Gate House, and T.G.Mercer's executors still had 6 acres in 1873. He seems to have been descended from the senior line of our Mercers.

In the 1770s and 80s the poor rates list among disbursements some to Widdow or Dame Mercer (e.g. 1776, 3 weeks, £1.11.0). In 1838 the Overseers of the Poor at Marden judged that Thomas Mercer, labourer, and his wife, Harriot, were settled at Horsmonden, where his father Edward was settled. He was baptised at Horsmonden in 1810, son of Edward, who married Mary Lambkin there 16.1.1789, and died in 1846 aged 80 in the Horsmonden Workhouse. In 1781 Edward Mercer was "in need". This throws into relief the wealth which Ambrose built up, perhaps reflected by the number of Mercers from the end of his life named Ambrose, but of doubtful relationship.

With so many undistinguished relations, it is not surprising that, according to Thomas Mercer of Greentrees again, his father Ambrose claimed to be related to the prosperous John Dunmoll Mercer (1737-1831), when as young men they often met at Edward Mercers at Horsmonden Fair. That was perhaps in the 1760s, though we have no indication of where Edward lived at Horsmonden. The relationship between Ambrose (1728-94) and Edward is not quite clear. Edward (1727-82) was presumably the son of William and Ann Selves. But of which William? The son of Stephen, baptised in 1680, or the son of "Flea" William, baptised in 1689? Age might suggest the second. However Thomas of Greentrees said that his grandfather Thomas was an only child, which was certainly incorrect, but suggests the latter's brothers may have died childless. The parish registers suggest that there was more than one Edward in the mid-18th century with families, but none appear in the poor rates as having property. One married Sarah Price (or Trice?) on 5 November 1749 at Horsmonden and maybe had five daughters baptised 1759-66 with names like Silvestra (married Richard Jarret at Peshurst, 11 April 1785?) and Priscilla. The confusion reflects the fact that Mercer was a very common name and it would require a lifetime to sort them all out.

A rarer name was Ayerst, a family of Hawkhurst, one of whom Ambrose's sister married in 1744. In 1774 William Ayerst was assessed at £56 on **Spelmonden** (sandstone and timber, part late C15), leased from the Revd. Dr Marriott, and signed as overseer in 1776 ("Willm. Ayerst"). He was still there in 1781, but not 1786.

Goudhurst

The village is splendidly set on a hilltop. **St Mary's Church** is C13-C14 with a tower of 1638-40. It has C16 Colepeper monuments. In the churchyard there is a gravestone to Ann Turner (putative relation of the artist), who married Charles Field of Marden in 1815. Several other families met in these pages had members who lived here – Bunnet, Collison, Coveney, Mynn. **Finchcocks**, 1725, may be by the same architect as the one who designed Matfield House.

Brenchley and Matfield

Brenchley village sits on top of a hill in the centre of the once sizeable parish (7,794 acres, with 1,844 inhabitants in 1801). The manor of Bayham in Sussex extended into this parish. **All Saints Church**, mediaeval, restored 1849, has monuments to the Courthops (mentioned under Horsmonden and who still had the patronage in 1847) and the Hookers. The one to Stephen Hooker (d.1775), whose uncle John built the mansion at Tonbridge Castle, is of 1788 and by Joseph Wilton RA, who is depicted with Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir William Chambers in the triple portrait which now at the National Portrait Gallery with the pendant which Turner once owned. In the attractive churchyard there are table tombs to the Moncktons and Marchants. Greenwood (1838) mentioned the yew trees, which still exist, either side of the path cut into fanciful shapes.

Ambrose Mercer's grandfather and uncle, both named Ambrose Coveney, were yeomen of Brenchley, probably modest tenant farmers. His wife's sister-in-law, Rosamund Walter, married Edward Monckton of Brenchley in 1762. Their youngest son, Edward, we have found at East Peckham and as a creditor of Thomas Mercer. The latter's granddaughter in 1869 married her cousin Robert Marchant of Matfield and T.H.Saunders & Co., of which the manager was Thomas Monckton (1836-after 1896 - see Monckton genealogy).

Moncktons of Brenchley.

The Rev. John Monckton, from a Yorkshire family, was vicar of Brenchley 1651-1708. His home, **The Parsonage** (now called **Brenchley Manor**) is a large C16 half-timbered house with a classical stone gateway of 1592 (*Country Life*, XCIX, 1946, p.1040). In 1847 the living was valued at £749, with the vicarial tithes commuted for £808 and the impropriate for £732. In 1826 Edward Monckton married the heiress to what had become the Old Parsonage House and inherited it.

Timothy, son of the vicar, was a surgeon and built in the centre of the village **Porto Bello** (called **Moncktons** in the 1st edition of *The Buildings of England*) in 1739, the year when Admiral Vernon captured Portobello. This continued in the family for some generations. It was remodelled and extended in 1839 and the interior sympathetically modified in 1970. It is stucco and of two storeys.

Timothy's youngest son, Edward, in 1762, as we have seen, married Rosamund Walter of Marden, whose brother and sister married Norton siblings of Marden. He lived at **Catt's Place** (C17 with 2 C17 barns and early C19 stables), Miles Oak Road, in the N. part of the parish, outside Paddock Wood.

When Sir Walter Monckton was created a Viscount in 1957, he took the title of Monckton of Brenchley, though his father and grandfather had lived at Ightham.

Marchants of Matfield

Matfield church was only built in 1874-6, by Champneys and with Marchant backing, and before then the hamlet was part of the parish of Brenchley.

On the N. of Matfield Green stands "a perfect Georgian group" (*Buildings of England*), consisting principally of **Matfield House**. This was built in 1728 for Thomas Marchant, yeoman of Burrs Hill. It has been supposed that the architect also designed Finchcocks at Goudhurst. The handsome two-storeyed house, over a basement, is adjoined by the contemporary stables with a clock and a weathervane with the date 1779. (*Country Life*, 14.9.1935, pp.272-7; CKS, U 1843).

In 1816 Jane Walter, granddaughter of Jane Norton, married Thomas Bold Marchant I. Their daughter Mary married Thomas Harry Saunders, creator of the large papermaking business at Dartford and elsewhere. Jane's brothers Stephen Walter I and Robert had a shared interest in Matfield House, but Robert became the main director of T.H.Saunders & Co and lived at Dartford. He married a fellow Walter descendant, Fanny Woodbridge Stickings, granddaughter of Thomas Mercer of Greentrees. The sons of Stephen Walter I became directors of T.H.Saunders & Co, until that was taken over, and shared in the ownership of Matfield House, which the youngest, Walter, sold after 1945

His older brother, Stephen Walter III, lived at **Gedges Farm**, to the N.

Another brother, Francis, played cricket for Kent, and yet another, Richard Ellis, was the model for the character of Jack Barchard in *Memoirs of a Foxhunting Man* by Siegfried Sassoon, who was brought up at **Weirleigh**, on the road from Matfield to Paddock Wood. (A booklet on Sassoon by Carole Noakes and published by Brenchley & Matfield Historical Society identifies all the other characters). The brothers are described as being tall and fair-haired.

For the descendants of Turner's cousins, see below (Dartford area).

Leigh

Ramhurst Manor is said to have been built in 1729. The S. front has wings. It was sold to the Childrens by a family of Saxbys, who also preceded the former at Ferox Hall, Tonbridge. Richard Children (bur. Tonbridge) lived here and it remained in the possession of his grandson George until his bankruptcy in 1816. It was then sold with 230 acres.

Gunpowder had been manufactured in Kent since at least the C16, and was particularly in demand in the Napoleonic wars. George Children and his son John George (of Harefield House, Middlesex) in partnership, entered into for 60 years from 26 June 1811, with James Burton of Mabledon, his son and Sir Humphry Davy, established a gunpowder manufactory by converting the old Ramhurst watermill into the **Ramhurst Powdermills**. The capital of £30,000 was provided half by the Childrens and half by the Burtons. George Children and Davy retired from the partnership in 1812. On 6 September 1813 a rating valuation of the Powder Mills, mansion etc. in the parish occupied by Messrs. Children and Burton assessed them at £102 p.a., with an additional £20 p.a. when the mill was finished. This included 12¾ acres of land taken from Ramhurst Farm and 1 acre from the mill and 2 powder mills "now in work" (CKS P223/18/2). A trial in October 1812 nearly blinded Davy. In 1814 in order to complete the mills George Children leased the site, including Hadlow Place, to the remaining partners (CKS U443 T8). J.G. Children in 1820 sold his share of the partnership, estimated at £16,740.14.6, to W.F.Burton for £6,000.

Burton died in 1856. After the Children collapse the works continued under the Burtons, and his brother Alfred sold the mills in 1859 to the Curtis Harvey explosive combine. The works were then estimated to be capable of producing 7,000 to 14,000 barrels of gunpowder annually and to be making a profit of between £2,000 and £3,000 p.a. The Medway Navigation Company's barges carried the powder to a magazine at Erith. In addition to the latter the firm had a leasehold wharf in Tonbridge. (CKS U443/T8). The machinery was worked by water power through a series of sluices. A small railway on the 40-acre site carried the manufactured explosive to deep bunkers. A small canal, which can still be seen (Chapman, 1976, p.62), linked the works to the Medway. It produced gunpowder for the armed services. In 1916 a big explosion caused pieces of metal to land on the streets of Tonbridge. Production of explosives continued until 1934, when ICI, the last owner, moved its operation to Scotland.

Penshurst

Penshurst was a large parish (4,526 acres with 1,128 inhabitants in 1801). It is known best for the mediaeval **Penshurst Place**, home of Viscount De L'Isle, descendant of Sir Philip Sidney. Farington,

4 October 1811, related how “Sir Bishe Shelly”, a cousin of the poet, had gained the house by marrying the heiress, and his son assumed the name of Sidney.

The restored **church** of St John the Baptist includes a heavy Gothic tablet by Salvin to the 1st Viscount Hardinge. It also has a memorial to Richard Allnutt (a marble tablet on N.wall) and another to his two daughters, Fanny and Susannah. The first died in 1820 aged 23 after catching a chill, when the family coach got stuck in the snow as she returned from a ball at Sevenoaks and she got out in her gown and satin slippers.

The Rectory beside the church, it has been said, provides “the classic view” of the two combined. It is early C18 with a brick front of seven bays masking an earlier structure. Farington, who dined there on 1 November 1811 with Allnutts, Streatfeilds and the Wells, records that the income equalled that of Tonbridge vicarage, £1,000 or £1,200 p.a., equal to the income of Prebendal Stalls at Canterbury. (Bagshaw in 1847 gave the figure as £820, and tithes commuted for £1,020). Then the Rector, the Revd. Hammond, was nephew to the steward of the Shelley/Sidney family, who inducted him to keep the benefice warm for one of their relatives, who then declined it (Farington, 19 October 1811). Its proposed sale by the church in recent years was subject to objections.

Saxbys

The extent of the parish was considerable, so that some houses are a fair distance from the pretty village, including **Salmons**, a half-timbered house owned from the early C18 to the latter part of C19 by the Saxbys (though Hasted, I, 1778, p.417, has Mrs Streatfeild there). This was on the edge of Hall Borough. The Land Tax Assessments for that (Q/RP1/295) indicate that in 1780 it (unnamed) was assessed at £28, and belonged to John Saxby (II of Hadlow), being occupied by Richard (from 1783 Matthew) Young. In 1788 it was owned and occupied by his son Michael Saxby, who had already had a £1 one in 1787, when John Saxby also had a £12 property occupied by Richard Wells, who was still there in 1796 (when owned by Michael; r.value £13). Perhaps because Michael inherited several properties, his rental assessment increased to £47 in 1806. Thomas Tyhurst occupied Salmons (?) as the tenant of Michael and then his widow 1817-24, the assessment reducing to £11, and by 1827 Richard Foster was the occupier. In 1796 John Saxby (III of Hadlow?) signed as one of the three Overseers with George Children and William Simmons.

For the Liberty of Peshurst Town (LTA Q/RP1/394) Michael Saxby was assessor 1808-12 and Charles in 1814. In 1798 Michael Saxby occupied a property owned by Henry Streatfield Esq. (r.value £37.10; assessed at £7.10). John Saxby had owned and occupied two properties (r.value £5 and £6 in 1789). In 1812 John Saxby occupied his own property (assessed at £2.3.0 rateable value).

Other Saxbys included William and Richard. Whether they were related to ours is uncertain. William was designated “gent.” in 1781, when there were both a William Sr. and Jr. By 1788 we find the Executors of William.

Woodgates, Allnutts and Hardinges

A branch of the Woodgates continued to own **Stonewall Park**, not far from Salmons, in the Parish of **Chiddingstone** (see below) until 1817. William left it, with Nunnery Wood and Pookden Wood, in Chiddingstone and Pembury, to his son John in 1809, besides Sussex House farm in Cowden and Hartfield etc. (It was about 2 miles from both Peshurst and Chiddingstone villages). For William Woodgate, eldest son of the Major, **Swaylands** was built in early C19 (*Buildings of England*). He was son of the Major of Somerhill, on whose bankruptcy he apprenticed himself to a solicitor. Lord Hardinge called him “the Wellington of the law”. One son was killed in the Boer War and another wrote an autobiography. In 1780 Revd. Mr Woodgate had a £31 property in the Liberty of Peshurst Town occupied by Edward Page.

Richard Allnutt, who married Frances Woodgate in 1793, the year before Major Woodgate married his sister, lived at **South Park**. This had been part of Peshurst Park until his father bought it in 1770. The house was built in 1797 (though Hasted shows “Lodge of South Park”, I, 1778, pl. opp. P.416)? In 1780 he was assessed at £66 on the property he occupied, in 1798 at £97. He also had a £62 one occupied by Thomas Nicholls. Richard died in 1827 and his widow sold South Park and built a smaller house in the grounds. This was designed c.1830 by Decimus Burton (about the same

time as Spring Grove at Pembury and Mabledon Park, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge) as a sandstone *cottage orné* and called **The Grove**, where Mrs Allnutt was in 1847.

South Park passed out of the Allnutt family by 1838, when it belonged to the Jones family and was occupied by Mrs Yates (Greenwood). Then Salvin rebuilt it for Viscount Hardinge. He was brother-in-law of the Rev. Stephen Woodgate of Pembury and so related to the Allnutts. It has been largely demolished. A small part, with an octagonal turret, survives with an addition of 1960 and a colossal bronze equestrian statue to Hardinge, 1858, by J.H.Foley in front. Was this the one made for Calcutta, described as “a masterpiece of art, one that for grandeur of design, for truth of action and for power and beauty of execution, has scarcely, if at all, a parallel in the world” (*Art Journal*, 1859, p.36). Perhaps that won him the commission for Prince Albert on the Albert Memorial.

Hardinge memorials are found at St Peter, **Fordcombe**, built 1847 as a chapel by Hardinge and now the church of a separate parish. In 1873 Sir Henry Hardinge of Penshurst had 771 acres with a rental assessed at £363.5.0.

Sir Edwin Landseer was a frequent guest of Hardinge at South Park, as he had been in the early 1830s at **Redleaf**. His man of affairs, Thomas Hyde Hills, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, was related to the Sweetloves of Leeds and Maidstone.

William Wells of Redleaf

Redleaf lies in the opposite direction, 1 mile to the N. of Penshurst village (Deeds CKS U1986). It was acquired by Thomas Harvey of Tonbridge in 1740. In 1780 Thomas Harvey Esq. (will pr. 1779?) owned and occupied it (r.value £40), besides having other valuable properties in the parish. Hasted (I, 1778, pp.418-19) said that Harvey (one of the subscribers to his work) at times resided here. Harvey was occasionally assessor of the Land Tax at Tonbridge and had married a daughter of its vicar until 1747, William Davis. His properties passed to his son, Revd. Thomas Harvey (c.1750-1835), Rector of Cowden 1785-1835 and Vicar of Pembury 1803-4, by 1798 (when the r.value was £44). He was still there in 1806 (assessed at £8.14.6).

By 1808 Redleaf belonged to William Wells Esq. (1768-1847), who left it to his nephew of the same name (1818-89, MP). Wells was son of William (1729-1805) of Bickley Hall near Chislehurst. He had commanded an East Indiaman and owned Green's Shipyard at Blackwall. He and his brother John (who became MP for Maidstone 1820-30) sold their shipyards for £140,000. His Kent estate he bought for about £50,000. Wells was a noted collector of contemporary art by artists such as Collins, Landseer and F.R.Lee and bequeathed a Guido Reni to the National Gallery, of which he was a Trustee 1835-47. He told Farington in 1811 that “he had provided by His will that this Collection [of old masters as well as drawings by Girtin] should be preserved together at least for a generation or two by making the whole an *Heir loom*.” The collection was sold c.1890 for over £100,000.

Farington on 27 September 1811 was met at Sevenoaks by Wells' carriage. Next day, “rose at 30 after 7. the weather pleasant - the situation of the House beautiful.” Wandering round the grounds, he was struck by the superiority of Claude's colouring to that of the Dutch. “Mrs Alnut spoke to me of Her late Uncle Stephen Woodgate of Sevenoaks, who died in March last, at the age of 65, after an illness of 6 months. She said He died very poor, not having above £2000 left, that He had expended £50,000 it was not well known how. As I was acquainted with Him in my youth I felt interested in what related to Him.” Next Farington hears that “Mrs. Motley Austin [Austen] of Kippington is afflicted with Paralysis.” On 14 October they dined at the Allnutts, where Major Woodgate was. On 16th the Revd. Mr Hughes and his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Knatchbull, came. Hughes had “the livings of Bermondsey, of Dunmow and 2 others not one of which has a parsonage House upon it and He is therefore not required to reside. He has a good estate in Hampshire. He holds a Curacy near Canterbury.” On 18th they discussed the difference in the annual cost of a carriage and horses in London and the country (£350 p.a.: £213 p.a.). After a visit to Tonbridge church on Sunday 20 October, and some more company, Farington returned to London on 4 November. On 17 January 1814 he was back, arriving at Tonbridge by the coach from Hastings and being met there by Wells' carriage. Socialising with the Allnutts and others followed. On 2 February news arrived of the death of Sir Richard Neave Bt. (whose house, Dagnams Park, Essex, was drawn in 1818 by a cousin of Turner's Nottingham cousins). Wells' mother was Neave's sister and had also inherited a fortune. Farington returned on 1 March to London in Wells' carriage with a fellow RA.

“Tiger Wells” did not patronise Constable, who called him “an admirer of the commonplace”, and on 3 April 1833 recorded his view that “Turner was ‘quite gone’ - lost and possessed by a yellow which he could not see himself, therefore could not avoid.” On 24 March that year the American wife of G.S.Newton RA dined with the Blakes of Portland Place, when Turner and Wells were there, the first asking Blake’s daughter to show her works. While Turner was “a rough looking man enough,” Wells was “a dear old man, little and slender, as neat as a pin, a close, brown wig; he is over seventy, and a widower.” On 3 June the Newtons went to Redleaf, and Mrs Newton declared, “The house is the most tasteful place I ever saw.” He does not seem to have been related to Turner’s great friend, W.F.Wells, though both laid claim to the same coat of arms and the latter was baptised at Chislehurst. Sir John Wells of Mereworth MP for Maidstone 1959-87 is descended from William’s brother, Vice-Admiral Thomas Wells. Nothing remains of the house, though traces of the grounds, laid out by William Wells or his great-nephew, William Wells MP (1818-89), do. The great-nephew in 1848 bought Turner’s *Sheerness as seen from the Nore* of 1808, which had belonged to Samuel Dobree and has more recently to Christopher Loyd (Richard Green gallery, October 2002). In 2002 it failed to reach its estimate of £5+ million at auction. Meanwhile *Fish-Market on the Sands - the Sun rising through a Vapour*, a later version of the picture at the National Gallery, may have been acquired by the uncle when it was first exhibited in 1830 and praised for its unusually “chaste, silvery style.” It was sold by 1857 and destroyed in a fire at New York in 1956.

William Collins RA was a regular guest at Redleaf, when he may have painted *Sketch in a Kentish Hop-Garden*, oil, exh. RA 1829, collection of Duke of Norfolk.

Greenwood in 1838 included a print of Redleaf and remarked that the house was “sumptuously adorned with works of art.” “The grounds are extremely well cultivated ... The mansion is ancient, with some modern additions.” Bagshaw in 1847 said that it was “an ancient mansion, situated on a bold elevation.”

Another Hills chemist acquired Redleaf from the Wells family and that Patrick Hills still owns the estate, living at **Hammerfield**.

James Nasmyth

Hammerfield, half way to Redleaf, was enlarged by Devey in the 1850s for James Hall Nasmyth (1808-90), of the family of landscape painters, inventor of the steam hammer and partner of Holbrook Gaskell, Turner collector. After retiring with a fortune in 1856 he painted landscapes as a hobby. A painting of the Weald of Kent by his brother Patrick is dated 1826.

Further afield

The arrangement is by rough geographic areas, not by local government divisions.

Chiddingstone

John Saxby II (1715-90) of Hadlow had **Prinkham** (half-timbered, 60 acres) and also 12 acres, **Aylands**. At the church is the M.I. of Michael Saxby of Southborough (d.1819) etc. Of **Stonewall Park**, to the E. of Chiddingstone Hoath, owned by the Woodgates from 1560 until John sold it in 1817 after the 1816 bankruptcy, only the lodge and an old oak remain (see above). The estate was broken up after the death of Col. Meade-Waldo in 1940s. “A handsome house, with beautiful grounds ... on an elevated site” (Greenwood, 1838). **Chiddingstone Castle**, former seat of the Streatfeilds (see Woodgate tree), is a late C17 house castellated c.1808-9, 1830s and now houses the Denys Eyre Bower Bequest. The village “in its way perfect” (Newman).

Cowden

John Saxby II had property here too, **Bassett’s Farm**, early C17. Thomas Harvey (d.1835) and his son Henry Thomas were Rector and Patron 1785-1878.

Tunbridge Wells area

Tunbridge Wells

A description in 1766: "At a little distance, it bears the appearance of a town in the midst of woods, and conveys to the imagination the soothing idea of a rural romantic retirement, while it actually affords all the conveniences of a city life." Still a hamlet in 1810, it was developed in the 1830s. Richard Cumberland, who wrote about Sir Joshua Reynolds and George Romney, came to live on the site of what is now **45-63 Mt Sion**, remarking "it is not altogether a public place, yet it is at no period of the year a solitude" (*Memoirs*, 1806, p.440). The church of **King Charles the Martyr** (1676-8; the altar in Tonbridge, the pulpit in Speldhurst and the vestry in Frant, according to parish boundaries of the time and to the unreliable Hasted) and The Pantiles survive from earlier days. The first was a chapel in Tonbridge parish in C18. It was built by subscribers, but was never a chapel of ease, and the income for the ministers was exiguous. In 1802 the Trustees included Earl of Abergavenny, Earl of Romney, Earl Camden, Francis Motley Austen, George Children, W.F.Woodgate. William Dowding (1706-70/1) was minister 1745-68 and Martin Benson (1761-1833), with other benefices, 1786-1829. In between there was a rapid turnover of ministers (Forster, Watts, Thornhill, Forster, Spurgeon, Forster, Stephens). It finally became a parish church in 1889. Sir William Ashburnham (1739-1823) spent much of his time here and in London as well as at his Sussex seat. Mary Benson Slee Jefferies, future wife of Turner's cousin Henry Jordan, stayed with her family at The Cottage of Content, **Mount Pleasant**, in mid 1818. Dr John Mayo (1761-1818) and his son Dr Thomas Mayo (1790-1871) lived at 66 Mt Ephraim (on the Heritage walking trail); Thomas wrote about madness and attended Turner's funeral. Charles Frederick Huth (1806-95), related by marriages to the Drake friends of the Harpurs, and who had Turner watercolours (Christie's 1895) was at Oakhurst, **77 Mount Ephraim**. A descendant of Turner, Norman Lewis Lockley Dalrymple De Garston, worked for the Borough Corporation and died at **6 Boyne Park** in 1978. His daughter continued to live in the town. The Rev. Henry Austen in 1850 was buried in the old **Woodbury Park Cemetery** (M.I.).

Eridge Castle, Sussex

The Nevills go back to mediaeval times and were related to the Earls of Westmorland and Barons Le Despencer of Mereworth and Tudeley (see Fane tree). The 2nd Earl of Abergavenny remodelled the house (dem.1939, replaced by present one) 1790-1830 (*Country Life*, CXXXVIII, 750, 818). The house was depicted in a watercolour by Turner of c.1815. Perhaps the commission originated in the renovation of the house for Earl of Abergavenny in 1810 (the present Marquess has the architect's drawings). In 1799 Turner exhibited two large watercolours of *Abergavenny Bridge, Monmouthshire*, one of which was later owned by John Allnutt (cf.Christie, 17.11.1992 (63)). If he made these in the hope that the Earl might buy them, he acted similarly later - e.g. with regard to George IV and Prince Albert. The interior of the Wyatt-esque drawing-room was depicted by Lady Hester Leeke, the 4th Earl having married Caroline Leeke in 1845 (John Cornforth, *English Interiors 1790-1848*, pl.57).

Hartfield, Sussex

Withyham, Sussex

Drawings of **Chestnut House**, High St., Hartfield and of **Buckhurst Tower**, Withyham, of c.1795 by Turner (see Appendix 6). The latter was the former Sackville mansion and in the church is the chapel of the Sackvilles, Dukes of Dorset, with monuments by Nollekens, Flaxman and Chantrey, and portrayed by Ozias Humphry RA. Part of John Saxby's Prinkham's property was at Withyham. There is a drawing of **Withyham Mill** by Turner at the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Turner also made a small early watercolour of **Sackville Cottage** at or near **East Grinstead**, which remains unidentified and seems distinct from the **Sackville Almshouse** there).

Frant, Sussex

Charles Field (1791-1884), who, it is claimed (so far with little evidence), married a relation of Turner, was born here, and farmed at Goudhurst and Marden.

Bayham Abbey

Mansion of the Pratts, inherited by Earl/Marquess Camden/Viscount Bayham/Earl of Brecknock, in 1797, rebuilt 1870-2, is just in Kent, while the C13 ruins, across the Teise, are in Sussex. Like the Earls/Marquesses of Abergavenny they had thousands of acres in Kent, Sussex and Wales. William Collins RA was here in 1820, and in 1822 exhibited a picture of the fête for the coming of age of Lord Brecknock.

Wadhurst, Sussex

Turner sketched here too (TB CXXVII), probably in 1810 after leaving Somerhill. A Monckton was surgeon here in C18 (tomb at Brenchley). **Wadhurst Castle** was designed by E.Buckton Lamb, who married into the Danby family.

Hawkhurst

A parish of 6,490 acres. The Kent Dyke, a branch of the Rother, separates it from Sussex. The Ayersts from the early C18 owned **Slip Mill**, Slip Mill Road, off A268, to the N. of the village (Fuller & Spain, 1986, pp.116-19). Their descendant, Rev. Henry Howlett, sold it in 1919.

John Dunmoll Mercer (1737-1831) lived further N. at **Attwaters**, a "long red-brick house" (*Buildings of England*). In 1808 at the RA designs for it (never executed?) were exhibited by Thomas Downes Wilmot Dearn (1777-1853), an architect of Cranbrook, who wrote books on architecture and the Weald of Kent.

Wittersham

A memorial stone at end of Nave, just before Choir, to Lucy Trimmer (1772-1813, one of Turner's Brentford friends), who married in 1799 James Harris (brother-in-law of the Rector, Rev. William Cornwallis). She had as sons Sir William Cornwallis Harris (1807-48), artist and explorer (DNB; portrait), and Capt. Robert Harris RN (1810-65).

Hastings & East Sussex

Hastings

In 1801 there were 3,175 inhabitants. More picturesque than Margate or Brighton, it was a popular resort for people in the Tunbridge area. Here came the widow of Turner's friend Walter Fawkes in 1825. Fawkes had Turner's 1810 watercolour of the Fishmarket. The old wooden "net shops" of the fishermen are still found on the Slade. Turner made other oils and

watercolours of the town 1810-35, mostly from the sea (as of other coastal towns nearby, Bexhill, Pevensey, Winchelsea, Rye), but his last sketches made on the spot are dated c.1815-16 and the earliest c.1804-6. If his eldest daughter was born here in 1801, it is likely that there were some earlier ones. Thornbury (2nd ed., p.299) relates an exchange between Sir Thomas Lawrence and Turner, who said, "When I got off the coach t'other day at Hastings, a woman came up with a basketful of your Mrs. Peel, ...", a portrait engraved in 1830, the year in which Lawrence died.

Turner's friend, James Holworthy, married at **All Saints** in 1821, Turner giving him two watercolours. Another friend, Rev. Robert Nixon, exhibited *Lover's seat, near Hastings*, at RA in 1808. Samuel Prout was at George St 1836-40.

Charles Turner ARA, who engraved the plate of *Pembury Mill* for Turner, in 1846 exhibited a watercolour of Hastings at the RA. A drawing by him commemorating the death of his son in 1826, when J.M.W. Turner shared his grief, is in **Hastings Museum & Art Gallery** (which had the exhibition *J.M.W. Turner in 1066 Country* in 1998 and in 2006 acquired a Turner watercolour of Hastings dated 1824). The husband of Charles' eldest daughter, Charles Savery MD, moved to Hastings in 1858. Some of their children lived here: William, solicitor, at **Turlan Lodge, Ore**, in 1881, retiring to Hove; Mary, who had a portrait of J.M.W. Turner, at **Roselands, 365 Battle Rd** (alias Hollington St, St Leonards on Sea). (See *Of Geese...*, II, *The Turners of Devon*).

An important collector of Turner's watercolours, John Hornby Maw (1800-85), in 1838 moved to **West Hill House**, adding a 30ft drawing room in front for his Turners. Now flats. He was mayor in 1845 and remained at Hastings until 1850/4. A drawing by him is in **Hastings Museum & Art Gallery**.

Turner's cousin, Harry Harpur Stickings (1839-1901), was an auctioneer in the St Mary in the Castle area in 1901.

Some of J.M.W. Turner's furniture was given by Miss M.H. Turner (1863-1954) of St Leonards on Sea (who left her house to her adopted niece Mrs Joanna Rowland Shott) and is now in the **Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Queen's Road**.

Hollington

The younger daughter of Charles Turner, Jane Wilmot, came from Kennington, Ashford, c.1875-81, to live with her sister, Anna Maria Savery (d.1890), at **Montague House**.

Guestling

Turner's eldest daughter, Evelina, was baptised here, "dter of William & Sarah Turner", on 19.9 1801 by (Sir) John Ashburnham, of **Broomham** (now a school; dated 1925 by Pevsner), a first cousin of Major W.F. Woodgate of Somerhill. She said she was born at Hastings. Turner returned here c.1810. "Guestling call'd 3 Oaks. Cook &c." (TB CXI). The Ashburnham family has lived at **Little Broomham** since 1945.

Brightling

In April 1810 Turner had a commission from Jack Fuller MP (1757-1834), visiting Tonbridge en route. Fuller, a Tory MP, was politically the antithesis of Turner's main patron at the time, Walter Fawkes, and was a noted eccentric. Turner painted Fuller's house, **Rosehill** (the oldest range, 1699, survives with Fuller's follies), sold by the family in 1879 and renamed **Brightling Park**. Turner also made watercolours, c.1810-15, of Rosehill and neighbouring seats: **Ashburnham Place** (home of the senior branch of Ashburnhams, who had a good art collection; a fragment of the mansion, altered 1813-17 by George Dance II, dem. 1959, survives amid Capability Brown's park); **Battle Abbey**; **Beauport House, Hastings** (Gen. Hon. James Murray; destroyed by fire 1923, rebuilt and now a hotel); **Bodiham Castle** (owned by Sir Godfrey Webster in 1788; bought by Fuller in 1828; drawn by Turner in 1810, TB CXXXVII); **Crowhurst Park** (which belonged to the Pelhams, who married into the Hardinges of Penshurst, and then the Papillons of Acrise, Fairlawn and Tonbridge; dem.; subject also of an unpublished *Liber Studiorum* plate); **Heathfield Park** (remodelled 1766 and again 1898-1910, for sale with 350 acres 2002; the daughter of George Augustus Eliot, 1st Baron Heathfield, 1717-90, married a cousin of Fuller; they were ancestors of Sir George Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick Bt. of Bodorgan, owner of Turner's painting of Rosehill); **Hurstmonceux Castle** (empty); its owner Hare Naylor had "stript; destroy'd, and pull'd down all the interior parts" (Byng, *Torrington Diaries*, 1788).

Battle

Turner made watercolours of **Battle Abbey** (c.1795) and the battlefield (c.1815). The former, now a school, was altered 1811-18 by Sir Godfrey Vassall Webster Bt, son of Lady Holland. In 1820 he paid F.W. Wilkin 2,000 gs for a huge painting of the battle, reinstalled 2004. The parents of Thomas Mercer of Greentrees married here in 1752. Harry Harpur Stickings died in 1930 aged 90 in the Battle area. One of the lodges to **Ashburnham Place** is in this parish, and another (with gates by Robert Adam) is in that of **Catsfield**, of which the Rev. Denny Ashburnham (d.1843) was Rector.

Mountfield

The father of John Dunmoll Mercer of Hawkhurst was at **Broadwell Farm** here? One of the vicars was the Rev. Francis Woodgate (d.1790). Another was Rev. Richard Jordan (1759-1833), brother-in-law of George Children of Tonbridge.

Hailsham area

Turner's cousin, William Coham Turner, grandfather of Miss M.H. Turner of St Leonards, acquired the Lordship of the Manor of Woodhorne, alias Arlington Rectory, and another cousin, Jabez Tepper, who challenged Turner's will, perhaps with Turner's money acquired **Bowles Farm** at The Dicker and **Hagley Farm** ? in 1860s. The Dicker was a hamlet in the parishes of Chiddingly, Arlington and Hellingly, and got its district church, Holy Trinity, in 1851. John Tepper (sic), farmer, is listed at Bowles farm in the 1867 Kelly directory. Countess de la Warr (baroness Buckhurst) was then Lady of the Manor of The Dicker.

Ashford area

Ashford

The houses at which the Foords and Stirlings lived have mostly disappeared: **1 Elwick Road** (survives?), **9 Church Villas** (dem.), **Belmont House**, New Town (dem.).

In Ashford Cemetery there are headstones to George Foord, James Stirling.

Kennington

Rev. Robert Deedes Wilmot, son-in-law of Charles Turner ARA, was vicar 1835-75.

Wye

George and Georgiana Stickings retired here from Lenham c.1869. Their headstone is near the church entrance. There is another to Harriet Lethbridge (1823-97), who was a boarder with the Stickings in 1881. She had a brother John Christopher Lethbridge (1814/15-80), a solicitor once in partnership at Westminster with John Laurens Bicknell, first cousin of John Constable's wife. The Stickings lived at Bridge St., 4 houses from the George Inn, now George House. After George's death in 1874 Georgiana was at **The Laurels**, Church St. This was No.6 (early C19) and passed to others c.1900, and survives.

Elmsted and Hastingleigh

Elmsted was the home of the Honywoods. The Rev. Gostwick Prideaux, who married into the Castle family (related to the Kent Turners), was vicar of Elmsted and Hastingleigh c.1833-80.

Smeeth

From Bircholt Forstal came the family of George Foord, who married Georgiana, daughter of George and Georgiana Stickings.

Woodchurch

Boldshaves, completed 1930, was designed by Robert Marchant II for his cousin Thomas Bold Marchant III (drawing exh. RA 1937). The present owner is Mr P.T.E.Massey. Robert W.Marchant lives in another house.

Egerton Forstal

Turner's descendant, Robin de Garston, moved here from Pembury and opens his garden to the public in the Spring.

Folkestone area

Folkestone

Watercolours of coast by Turner c.1822-45 and also a late unfinished painting, which belonged to Lord Clark of **Saltwood Castle** (itself drawn by Turner c.1795) nearby. Clark wrote about Turner and supported the campaign for a proper Turner Gallery (still unrealised) in 1975. The painting made an auction record after his death. The Castles (related to the Kent Turners) lived at **Ingle Farm**, which used to be near the centre of the town.

Acrise

Acrise Place, C16, late C17, C18, home of the Papillons 1666-1848; Mackinnons; Watneys; War Department 1938; from which acquired by Arthur W. Papillon for £5,000 in 1950. It was converted into several residences and sold in 1988. The Papillons were heirs to the Vanes of Fairlawn and Pelhams of Crowhurst Park; vicars of Tonbridge, in succession to Henry Harpur, 1791-1809.

Dover

Subject of early drawings by Turner (c.1792 and before) as well as of watercolours of 1820s. At **St Mary** is a vault for the Bazeley family, one of whom married Captain Henry l'Anson there in 1764, and two became admirals, the widow of one dying in 1835 at **18 St James St**.

St Margaret's at Cliffe

Turner stayed here in 1840s with Mrs Booth.

Deal

Depicted in two watercolours by Turner of 1820s (one belonging to Deal). In late 1840s Turner and Mrs Booth lived here (at **15, later 176, Beach St**, dem.), as did her nieces, Misses Green, c.1865-99. He made some late unfinished oils of the sea. See Whittingham, *Of Geese, III, Mrs Booth*.

Isle of Thanet

On Turner's association with this area, and particularly Margate, but also Dent de Lion, Minster and Ramsgate, as a boy and later, see Whittingham, *Of Geese....., III, Mrs Booth*. George Keate, father-in-law of John Henderson, exhibited views of Margate 1772 and Thanet 1784-6 at RA. John Nixon exhibited there a Margate view in 1781.

East Cliffe House (dem.1954), Ramsgate, "The Residence of the Marquis Wellesley," is depicted by Turner in a watercolour of c.1796-7. Built c.1800 by Boncey of Margate for Benjamin Bond Hopkins. Decimus Burton extended it for Sir Moses Montefiore 1831-2.

The **Margate Turner Centre** (so called) opened in part in 2002, and will be mainly devoted to modern art. It was renamed **Turner Contemporary** and the projected plan and site were changed in 2005 after a budget overrun.

Canterbury area

Canterbury

Turner exhibited drawings of the city in c.1793-4. There have been two Turner exhibitions at the Royal Museum & Art Gallery, which has a room permanently devoted to the paintings of Thomas Sidney Cooper RA (1803-1902), author of anecdotes about Turner. At **King's School** two pupils in 1898 were Stickings cousins of Turner. The headmaster, Rev. Thomas Field, was related to Charles Field of Marden etc. (see *Of Geese, II, The Turners of Devon*). Heirs of Turner's friend and patron, Munro of Novar, the (Munro-) Butler-Johnstones, were MPs for Canterbury 1852-78.

Sturry

Richard and Mary Knight (née Norton) died here c.1830. Their son Tanner James Knight was miller. There were 2 (?) watermills on the Great Stour, and there is still a Mill St.

Wickhambreux

John Sweetlove from Leeds was millwright here c.1771-86. The tall white weather-boarded mill is still in working order (*Buildings of England*).

Wingham

Memorial in the church to a member of a branch of the Turners of South Molton, also related to the Oxendens of C17 **Broome Park** (See Robert Turner, *From Oak Trees to Gum*; *Of Geese,II, The Turners of Devon*). John Sweetlove moved here from Wickhambreux, and his sons were millwrights here too.

Ash

Another Turner memorial, in the churchyard; and **Turner House** in the main street. \

Maidstone area

Maidstone

All Saints Church (1395) is the subject of a watercolour by Turner of c.1787 (V&A; another version, considered authentic by Ruskin, is in the Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs). The Revd. Henry Harpur went to school with a Mr Russell at Maidstone 40 years earlier. Turner drew the bridge with houses and shipping (TB XXVI.94, c.1795?). There are monuments to the Hills family (see below) in the church and outside the S.door.

The **Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery** has a collection of watercolours by Albert Goodwin (1845-1932), follower of Turner ("I sometimes wonder if the spirit of old Turner makes use of my personality") and protégé of Ruskin, and a portrait of William Hazlitt, an early perceptive critic of Turner's work. It has also two works by William Woollett, the engraver, who was born in East Lane in 1735; his father won a lottery and took over the Turk's Head public house. The museum has a wing at the back which comprises the half-timber **Court Lodge**, moved from E.Farleigh, where it had been home to the Mercers there. They also had a mill in Mill Lane on the Len. There were two mills there, **Church Mill** and **Little Church Mill**, which were demolished at the same time as the mediaeval bridge in 1903 (*Archaeologia Cantiana*, 71, 1957; 82, 1967; an insurance policy with the Kent Fire Office was taken out in 1822 by John and Thomas Mercer on the water corn mill, kiln, 3 dwelling houses, 5 cottages and outbuildings in Mill Lane – CKS B24/24). Richard Mercer succeeded Daniel Love. In 1832 he was said to have enlarged the mill pond, but that may have been done by William Purlis. The Mercers helped found **The Kentish Bank** in 1818. (A sister of Albert Goodwin married a William Turner of the Kentish Bank!). Their partner, Alexander Randall, has a statue in the town. The bank is now the branch of the NatWest Bank in Bank St. Maidstone was the centre of paper mills, especially of the favourite artists' paper, Whatman. James Whatman of **Turkey Court** (S. of Ashford Rd) in 1782 bought the adjoining property of **Vinters** (N. of Ashford Rd, C18 and 1849-50; "a large ancient mansion, situated in an extensive park, commanding delightful views" (Bagshaw, 1847)), remodelling it in the Wyatt style. Charlotte Bosanquet depicted the interiors in 1843 (Cornforth, pls.52-4). James Whatman II worked **Turkey Mill**, Ashford Road (now Turkey Mill Investments; brick house, 1736, C18 waterfall) until he retired in 1794, when Paul Sandby exhibited a watercolour at the RA *Vinters and Mr Whatman's Turkey Mill*. He was succeeded by a partnership of William Balston and Thomas & John Hollingworth. In 1805 the partnership was dissolved and Balston built another mill at **Springfield** (still operating in 1906; to the N.W. at Springfield Avenue, off Moncktons Lane) on the Medway on the other side of Maidstone. Both used the name Whatman and Turner used the papers of both. In addition Richard Turner & Letts had **Upper Tovil Mill** (to the S.) and Thomas Smith and Henry Allnutt had **Great Ivy Mill**. Thomas Hearne made a watercolour of a watermill a mile beyond Tovil towards Loose in August 1807 (Lowell Libson gallery 2003).

Thomas Norton (d.1854) was a millwright at **Tovil** and his widow died at **Loose** (see below). The descendants of the Nortons of Marden, who were millwrights at Leeds and manufacturers and gentlemen at Maidstone, lived at **25 Mote Road** (Thomas Sweetlove, c.1835-47, and then his daughters; an insurance policy was taken out with the Kent Fire Office in 1821 by Thomas, wheelwright of Maidstone, on a dwelling house and contents, workshop and utensils in Doctors Fields and 3 dwelling houses at Leeds - CKS B24/19) and **Mill St** (David Tanner Sweetlove, attorney, 1835). They sold their engineering firm to Weeks of Maidstone. The Hills family, who married into the Sweetloves, were tailors in **Week St.** (dem.) by 1800 and into C20. Walter Hills was mayor in 1832 and his son John Hyde Hills in 1871. The latter lived at **Knightrider House**, Knightrider St, now offices with a plaque to William Shipley, founder of the Society of Arts (whose medal Turner won). John Monckton (1802-86) from Brenchley (related to the Nortons) was Town Clerk and started **Monckton, Son & Collis**, solicitors, now Whitehead Monckton & Co at **72 King St.**

Mote Park was built 1793-1801 for 3rd Baron Romney (cr. 1st Earl 1801), Lord Lieutenant of the county. (W.Bowles, p.42, says it was rebuilt in 1799 on a slightly different site). A watercolour in the Museum & Art Gallery by William Alexander (1767-1816), born and died at Maidstone, is *The Dinner given to the Kentish Volunteers, Mote Park, Maidstone, 1799, (on the Occasion of the Review of the Troops by George III)*. George III left Kew at 5am, breakfasted with Earl Camden at Sevenoaks and arrived at the Mote about 12 (Bowles, p.44). **Kingsley House** (dem.) was the residence of John Brenchley and had paintings by Opie, Panini, Canaletto ... (Greenwood, 1838). It had belonged to the forbears of Rev.Charles Kingsley.

Loose

This is beyond **Tovil**, where Thomas Norton was millwright. His brother David was a miller at **Frogs Hole**, Loose 1830-41.

Leybourne

Saxbys were here in early C18. Henry Saxby I moved from here to Hadlow c.1800.

Wateringbury

One of Thomas Mercer's daughters married the brother of the surgeon, Henry Murton Gould, here, 51 The Street (1851), 45 the Street (1861, with his son-in-law Dr Selby Norton; ?= Warwick House). The street still has some good Georgian houses. His or his son-in-law's(?) surgery was remembered by Dr Kathleen Grace Norton (1899-1997). In 1847 Mary Sophia and Maria Sarah Mercer had a school here, having previously had one at Lenham.

West Malling

West Malling Abbey was the subject of a drawing by Turner c.1791-2 (*Daily Telegraph*, 11.8.2005). A drawing of the same appears in TB XXVI.98. See also Sotheby's 15.3.1984 (41). Sometimes mistakenly designated as East Malling Abbey. In 1797 Rev. Robert Nixon exhibited at RA *West Malling Abbey*.

East Malling

Bradbourne, Larkfield, was completed 1713-15 for the Twisdens. It had their portraits and studies from Turner, Van Eyck, Cuyp, Vandervelde, Rembrandt ... (C.H.Fielding, *Memories of Malling...*, 1893, p.132.). The house was bought in 1938 for E.Malling Research Station.

Aylesford

Drawn by Turner in 1790s (TB XXXII-H). **The Friars** (established by the Carmelites in C13, C15) was home to Countess of Aylesford (d.1805).

Allington Castle

C13, remodelled in C16. The architect James Wyatt RA (for whom Turner worked) bogusly claimed to be related to the Wyatts of the castle. Drawn by Turner in 1790s (TB XXVI.95). A watercolour by Thomas Hearne, c.1782 from drawings of 1777, is at V&A and was engraved in his *Antiquities*. The castle was owned by Lord Romney and occupied by tenants. In 1798 Rev. Robert Nixon exhibited a view of it at RA.

Boxley

Park House was until recently the home of the Best-Shaw family (related to the Dalisons). **Sandling Place**, built 1823/40, was a home of the Mercers of Maidstone 1859-1941, Richard buying it in 1890. **Vinters** was another of their homes.

Hollingbourne

Henry Harpur I was here 1738-48. He paid 7s on rates (his house so far unidentified). And Henry Potman paid 9s on Harpur's lands at Broad Street, a hamlet in the parish. Harpur had voted on the Broad St property in 1734 (= **Broad Street Farm**, C16, Grade II, with good barn??). In 1780 that was valued at £17 rental and owned by Henry Baker and occupied by James Russell, and in 1794, £16, and by Thomas Webb, who still occupied it in 1803, when Richard Goldridge was the owner. B.D.Duppa Esq. was the owner 1808-31, latterly with Thomas Lammer occupier). **Brushings Farm House** (C16) was the home of Ernest Greenwood PPRWS from c.1960. He signed the Turner Society petition for a proper Turner Gallery in 1975/6.

One of Harpur's clients was John Spencer Colepeper of **Greenway Court** (rebuilt 1786; C16 cellars; Jackson Stops Sept. 2000), at the end of Greenway Court Rd, and Manor of Elnothington (=Broad Street). Colepeper monuments in the **church**. JSC got into financial difficulties, involving a court case. Cousin Hon. Robert Fairfax owned **Leeds Castle** and bought Greenway Court 1748 and sold it c.1758? to the banker Francis Child (d.1763). His son Robert (d.1782) had in 1781 properties valued at £255 rental and (Greenway Court) £99. In 1827 his heir the Earl of Jersey had Greenway Court (£228) and another house (£120).

Another client of Harpur, Viscount Vane, held Murston Manor, which included the houses of **Clay Pitt** (dem?) and **Snagbrook** (C16, refaced C19, Eyehorne Street, almost opposite **Godfrey House**, 1587, occupied by Miss Adelaide Maude Mercer early C20). These passed on his death in 1789 to David Papillon, who sold them soon after. In 1781 Vane's properties were valued at £32, £108 and £31 rental. In 1827 Snagbrook was valued at £94 and was owned by Misses Cage.

The Paper Mill (r.value £48) belonged to Messrs Hollingworth in 1827. Turner used their paper occasionally. In fact there were two mills: Eyehorne Mill and Park Mill. Richard Barnard I (d.1825) was proprietor of the first since 1781-2. By 1819 he and his nephew Richard II were also operating the second.

Leeds

Robert Sweetlove, millwright, in 1771 married Elizabeth Norton of Marden. His eldest son Thomas had 3 houses at Leeds (see above, Maidstone). His youngest son, John, succeeded him at Leeds. Elizabeth Norton of Leeds, widow, (née Tanner) on 5.3.1816 made a will (pr.23.6.1818 PCC) mentioning her daughters Elizabeth Sweetlove and Mary Knight, her son John, deceased, and his widow Elizabeth. The last made a will (28.3.1832, pr.24.1.1842) witnessed by D.T.Sweetlove, attorney at law, Maidstone, and with executors including Alexander Randall of Maidstone. She mentioned her sons William (deceased, who was a watchmaker here c1818-32), Thomas and David. The last was father of Tanner Norton, later millwright of W.Kingsdown. There are headstones to the Nortons and Sweetloves in the churchyard, to the east of **St Nicholas** (C12 and later). **Caring House**, Caring Road (mid C16 with C19 alterations) was the home of the Saxbys of Leeds 1547-1877, one of whom married into the Childrens of Tonbridge. Witgar Hitchcock (a Sweetlove descendant) had a map, 1791, of the 16 acres of Richard Saxby, gent., in Upper Street. **Leeds Castle** belonged to the Colepeper family. Curiously both the Colepepers and Sweetloves have Layne descendants in Canada.

Harrietsham

The Nortons were here too in C18, early C19? Thomas Mercer lived c1838-50 at **Goddington Farm** (C17 with C19 extension, Strutt & Parker June 1999, 6 bedrooms, oast house, 2 storeys; Little Goddington 4 bedrooms), previously (c.1825-37; Igglesden p.96) home of Alfred Mynn's parents (they died 5 Feb. and 23 April 1837; Alfred's children were baptised at Harrietsham 1829-35; he then moved to Bearsted, then 1843/5 to Friningham House, Thurnham; his sister Mary married in 1820 an Owens Norton). The Parish Survey by G.Durey, 1839, gives Thomas Knight as owner and Thomas Mercer as occupier, 36 acres, of which 3 in hops. **Stede Hill** (refaced 1935-9) had been the home of Edwyn Stede, client of Henry Harpur I, until he sold it in 1725.

Lenham

George Stickings was surgeon here c1830-69. In 1841 at **Chequers**, the Square. In 1851-61 N. of the Turnpike Road, which ran through the Square. **Stanfield House** (early C19) on N. side was the surgeon's house later. Thomas Mercer of Greentrees died at the **Almshouse**, former Workhouse, a few yards away. In 1839 Mary Sophia and Maria Sarah Mercer had a school in Lenham before moving it to Wateringbury.

Boughton Malherbe

Boughton Place (C16) was owned by the Stanhopes, Earls of Chesterfield, whose seat in Nottinghamshire was occupied by Turner's cousins. They sold it with other manors nearby, such as Marley at Harrietsham, in 1750 to Galfridus Mann, son of Robert, who bought estate at Linton, and father of Horace Walpole's friend?

Boughton Monchelsea

Mrs Norton (see Marden) appears in the LTA owning a £5-£7 property (late Nash) 1790-1817. Occupied by Musgrave Tomkin 1811-17.

Rochester area

Rochester

Turner made numerous visits throughout his life. His "first oil" was of Rochester, painted for Rev.James Douglas, who married in 1780 the daughter of a local surgeon. Turner made several watercolours, c.1793,1795,1820s,30s, and drawings from c.1792 (TB VIII.C). The Bishops resided at Bromley, though several in late C18 were simultaneously also Deans of Westminster.

Chatham

Turner made watercolour views for engraving in 1830s.

Upnor Castle

A spectacular sunset (Ruskin thought it was a sunrise) view c.1830, based on a sketch of c.1821. It was built 1559-67 as a defence of the Medway, though in 1667 this did not stop the Dutch fleet.

Sevenoaks area

Sevenoaks

Jane Austen's wealthy great uncle was attorney at **The Red House** (1686), High Street. His son lived at **Kippington House** ("new and of red brick, which I abominate," Byng, *Torrington Diaries*, 1788), Kippington Road. Adam fireplaces. **Riverhill**, S. of Knole Park, was the home of Henry Woodgate (1746-1834), who latterly let it. Acquired by the

Rogers family, which still owns it. They enlarged the house of 1714 by 1842. Possibly *The Road to Tonbridge* by P. Sandby shows the turnpike road as it passed the house.

Seal

The brother of Ozias Humphry RA was vicar. **Dorton House** (formerly **Wilderness**) was remodelled c.1800 for 2nd Earl, 1st Marquis, Camden by George Dance RA. In the church are tablets to Rev. William Humphry and his wife, to two of their daughters and to his wife's nephew, Thomas Thompson of **Hall Place** (Chancel, S.Wall), and of 1832 by Turner's fishing companion Chantrey to the Camdens. Michael Saxby came to live at **Chart Farm** c.1860 from Hadlow. **Stonepitts** (C16, altered after 1928).

Wrotham

In the church are the monuments to Jane Austen's relations, Revd. George and Harriot Moore. He built **Court Lodge** (1801-2 by Samuel Wyatt) as the vicarage. An untraced drawing of the **church of St George** by Turner has been dated c.1792. In 1771 the Hon. James Cornwallis became Rector and Vicar, and did not resign immediately upon preferment in 1781. Robert Sweetlove (see the Nortons of Marden) moved to **Roughway Mill**, c.1860, now in Plaxtol parish. This paper mill, on the Bourne, had a tall tower, c.1807, taken down in 1997.

West Kingsdown.

The **windmill**, to S.of village, Pells Lane, by A20, was occupied by the Nortons c.1859-1920. Previously David Norton had a watermill at Loose, Maidstone. The smock mill, moved to its present site from Farningham in 1880, and named **Speedwell Mills**, by Tanner Norton (buried in St Edmund's churchyard), was given to Kent County Council in 1959. Norton's flour was remembered still in 1991 as having produced excellent homemade bread. Tanner's eldest son, William Morgan Norton, moved to Meopham Mill.

Meopham

The **windmill** was built 1801 and is similar to the W.Kingsdown one. It was acquired by the Nortons. J.F.Herring Sr. retired to **Meopham Park** (Georgian house with 9 bedrooms) in 1853 and painted views.

Chevening

Chevening Park (c1717), home of Earls Stanhope, by the last of whom given to the nation. Main block resurfaced by James Wyatt 1786-91. Turner sketched in the park c.1800. In the church is a monument to Lady Frederica Stanhope, 1827?, by Chantrey.

Knockholt

Turner's close friend, W.F.Wells, had **Ashgrove Cottage** (framed sketch at Bromley Central Library) 1801-10, thereafter sharing it with Miss Thrale, and apparently still owning it in 1831. It had Dr Johnson's Summer House in the garden 1826-1966. Here Turner is said to have planned his *Liber Studiorum*. He made sketches of the interior (Wilton, 1987, fig.62, identifies a watercolour by Turner of c.1799 as depicting the outside, though without evidence). "The beautiful rustic residence of Miss Susanna Arabella Thrale is situated near the north-west corner of Chevening Park, on high ground, commanding extensive and pleasing prospects" (Greenwood 1838, p.68; cf. Chittock).

Sundridge

The watermills on the Darent were left by John Saxby of Penshurst to his son Richard in his will of 1754. W.F.Wells' daughter, Clara Wheeler, (legatee of Turner) and husband retired to the parish.

Dartford area

Dartford

Phoenix Mill of T.H.Saunders & Co (dem.). Robert Marchant I, who became its chief partner, lived at Dartford Heath. Some Norton descendants were millwrights at Dartford by 1860s. In 1881 Owen David Norton, millwright, was at **134 Hythe St.**, while his 3rd cousin, brother-in-law of Marchant, George Frederick Stickings, a manager of the paper mill, was at **89**. A Norton descendant, Albert May (b.1920), was mayor of Dartford.

Sutton-at-Hone

Cedar Lawn (dem., Cedar Drive) was the home of Mrs Fanny Woodbridge Marchant. Robert Marchant had been at Hawley. Headstone in **churchyard**. In 1881 George Norton, millwright, was at **10 Hawley Terrace**.

Greenhithe

At **6 Cobham Terrace** (Italianate villas, 1845) two aunts of Fanny (above), and so 1st cousins once removed of Turner, died 1885-6.

Wilmington

St Michael's church. Nave and S.aisle rebuilt with Arts and Crafts details by Robert Marchant 1909-22.

Farningham

David Norton moved here c1841/51. He had had a watermill at Loose, but progressed to windmills, in which he was followed by his sons and grandsons. They moved the smock mill to West Kingsdown. The fine C18 watermill and house survive by the bridge over the Darent (*Buildings of England*).

Lullingstone

The park of the **castle** was depicted by Turner c.1790 in a watercolour (184x260mm) said to have belonged to his uncle Price Turner. It is inscribed *John Dyke Lullingston*. Sir John Dyke improved the estate and had an ancestor who lived at Tonbridge. In the church of **St Botolph** is a monument to Ann Dyke (d.1763). The Hart Dyke family still partly owns the castle.

Bromley & Bexley areas

The family of William Wells of Redleaf, Penshurst, had been here, after making money as shipbuilders at Deptford. They appear in the registers of Bromley church. They inherited **The Canister House**, Chislehurst, and built **Bickley Hall** ("a very substantial mansion, situated in a beautiful park... on elevated ground" (Greenwood, 1838)). Both dem.? Curiously W.F.Wells was baptised at Chislehurst. A drawing of his Knockholt cottage is in Bromley Central Library, which also has parish registers. **The Old Cottage**, Bickley Road, Widmore, Bromley, (c.1599, red brick and half-timbered, a small mansion) was the subject of a watercolour by Girtin c.1798 and seemingly one, 1803 (Tate Gallery), by Julia Gordon, the pupil of Turner and Girtin, inscribed "Wigmore" (which is near Gillingham). Charles Long, later Lord Farnborough, bought **Bromley Hill** (in

1978 a hotel) in 1801, and in 1816 Buckler depicted the library-drawing-room (Cornforth, pl.115). Long married the artist Amelia, daughter of Sir Abraham Hume, and became a Trustee of the British Museum and National Gallery.

North Cray

Joshua Kirby Trimmer (1767-1829), elder brother of Turner's senior executor, was living here for a while, as his eldest son was born here in July 1795. Portraits of the parents by Henry Howard RA are at Ipswich Museum. Rev. Robert Nixon was at **Vale Mascall** - see Appendix 2. The churchyard fits into the corner of the park of **North Cray Place** (dem. c.1945).

Foot's Cray

Turner's friend, Rev. Robert Nixon, was curate of this tiny parish 1784-1804. Turner is said to have finished his first oil painting at the Parsonage. *Bob Nixon's Study at Foot's Cray*, drawing by John Nixon (Christie's 17.11.2005 (13)). **All Saints** church was largely rebuilt c.1863, but has a font of c.1190. The Rev. Thomas Moore, Rector of Foot's Cray and North Cray, in c.1800 petitioned Queen Anne's Bounty for funds to rebuild the tiny Parsonage (Appendix 2). Both church and Rectory were to the N. of the village and on edge of the park of **Foot's Cray Place**, a Palladian mansion of c.1754 (engraving by W.Woollett. c.1759; dem. 1949), altered by Henry Hakewill in 1792 and later improved for Nicholas Vansittart, Lord Bexley (1766-1851), related to the Stonhouses of Radley.

Eltham area

Turner exhibited watercolours of **Eltham Palace** 1791-3. The Green family, related to the Mackey/Jordan descendants of the Harpurs, had 136 acres here in C19. Not related to Turner's patron John Green (1760/1-1824) of **Dell Lodge, Blackheath** (on S. corner of Dartmouth Row and Morden Hill; designed by Thomas Hutton 1806; dem. 1940s). The Newman descendants of the Harpurs and Jordans lived c.1850-1900 at Blackheath (**Shooters Hill Rd, Vanbrugh Park** etc.). Another early patron was Sir Gregory Page Turner, 3rd Bt., MP (1740-1805). The family had an estate at **Wricklemarsh**, Charlton. The ruins of their Blackheath house were the subject of a watercolour by Turner owned by Bishop Nixon, son of the vicar of Foots Cray (now at Leicester Art Gallery; John Brushe, *Burlington Magazine*, 1975). Turner made some early drawings in the Lewisham area (one is inscribed Mrs Elizabeth Davies, Lewisham; TB XXXII-L), where he seems to have had pupils. Descendants of John Spencer Colepeper were at **Brockley** in late C19.

Appendix 1: Terrier of the Vicarage of Tonbridge, 1757

The original Terrier is at the **Centre for Kent Studies, Maidstone (DRb/At/80)**. A copy of c.1890 is in the Tonbridge church records and was printed by Wadmore (1906, pp.49-50)

A True Note and Terrier Indented of the Glebes, Lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Houses, and Tenements, belonging to the Vicarage of Tonbridge Taken by the View of the Minister and other Inhabitants of the Parish of Tonbridge aforesaid whose Names are subscribed this twentieth day of August in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Fifty Seven.

In the first place. There is an House Usually called The Vicarage House consisting of the following Rooms (viz) One cellar Divided into Two parts, On the Ground floor, One Hall, One Parlour, One Kitchen, One Washhouse, One Buttery & One Pantry. On the First Floor above Stairs Five Chambers One Study, and One Closet, On the Second floor above stairs. Three Garretts.

Also... There is an Outhouse near the House, partly used for a Woodhouse and Coalhouse, and partly for a Stable.

Also... There is a Croft or Peice of Land, On part whereof the said Vicaridge House, and Outhouse Stand, other part whereof is used as Pasture land, and the Remainder thereof is used as Garden and Orchard Ground, And in The Last Mentioned part, There is a Pond of Water, and Severall Fruit Trees are there Growing, which said Croft or Peice of Land containeth by Estimation One Acre, and Boundeth and abutteth to the Churchyard – North, to the Boredike East, To the Mill Lane South, and to a Back lane Leading to the Churchyard West. And there are Growing thereon several Elms.

Also... There is a Parcel of Meadow containing by Estimation One Acre usually Called the Vicarage Acre, being in A Certain Meadow called East Mead, Containing in Breadth at the Coming in next the River, five Rods, and at the farther end against Swan Mead three Rods or near thereabouts and Lyeth in Length Cross the said East Mead, throughout between the Coming in through the River there, and the said Swan Meade, against the Lords Land in the said Meade called East Mead on the Southside and on the Northside, and is not Enclosed.

H Harpur	Vicar	
George Summerton)	
Willm. Waite)	Churchwardens
Thos. Dennis		Overseer
Henry Ashdowne		Sexton

Note

In September (?) 1745, when William Davis was Vicar (1712-47), the grounds were visited by Mrs Montagu, who first visited Tunbridge Wells in 1737, and was still going there in the 1770s. (Her mother inherited Mount Morris, near Hythe). She, Dr. Young and Mrs Rolt with 2 servants rode over from Tunbridge Wells on horseback to Tonbridge. She related in a letter:

“At last we arrived at the ‘King’s Head’ ... We took this progress to see the ruins of an old Castle; but first our Divine would visit the Churchyard, where we read that folks were born and died, ... In the Churchyard grazed the Parson’s Steed, whose back was worn bare with carrying a pillion Seat for the comely, fat personage, this ecclesiastic’s wife. Though the creature eats daily part of the parish, he was most miserably lean. Tired of dead and living bones, Mrs. Rolt and I jumped over a stile into the Parson’s field, and from thence, allured by the sight of golden Pippins, we made an attempt to break into the holy man’s orchard. He came most courteously to us and invited us to his apple-trees; to show our moderation we each of us gathered two mellow codlings ...

The good parson offered to show us inside of his Church, but made some apology for his undress, which was a truly canonical dishabille. He had on a grey striped calamanco night gown, a wig that once was white, but by the influence of an uncertain climate turned to a pale orange, a brown hat, encompassed by a black hatband, a band somewhat dirty that decently retired under his chin, a pair of grey stockings well mended with blue worsted, strong symbol of the conjugal care and affection of his wife, who had mended his hose with the very worsted she bought for her own ... When we had seen the Church, the parson invited us to take some refreshment, but Dr.Young thought we had before trespassed on the good man’s time, so desired to be excused, else we should, no doubt, have been welcomed to the house by Madam in her muslin pinnners and sarsenet hood, who would have given us some Mead and a piece of cake that she made in the Whitsun holidays for her cousins.”

(Emily J. Climenson, *Elizabeth Montagu: The Queen of the Blue-Stockings: Her correspondence 1720-61*, John Murray, London, 1906, I, pp.202-4).

She went on to say that they invited the Vicar to join them at dinner, which he refused, but appeared afterwards with a large tobacco-horn, with Queen Anne's head upon it, peeping from his pocket.

There was evidently no coach house in 1757. Henry Harpur is not recorded as having a carriage, such as Jane Austen's father later acquired in Hampshire, in the Carriage Tax Returns of 1760s. Apart from the expense, a carriage may not have been very serviceable until the approaches to Tonbridge were levelled after his death.

Appendix 2: Petition to rebuild the Parsonage, Foot's Cray, c.1800

Draft for a Petition to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty by Revd. Thomas Moore, Rector of Foot's Cray and North Cray, referring to the curate (who 1784-1804 was Turner's friend, Revd. Robert Nixon). **Bexley Archives, Bexleyheath, PA101/3B/1.**

To the Rt. Honble & Right Revd. & other Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, the humble Petition of the Revd. Thos. Moore Clk M.A.
Sheweth

That your Petitioner is Rector of the Parish of Footscray in the County of Kent & diocese of Rochester, a discharged Living belonging to the Crown and in ye presentation of the Ld. Chancellor to wch. He was presented in the Year 1769 [?]

That ye said Living was augmented in the years 1765 & 1766 with Four Hundred Pounds; Two Hundred Pounds part of Q. Anne's Bounty in conjunction with £200 private Benefaction given for that purpose; for which the present Incumbent receives your usual Allowance of 2 pr. Ct. till the Principal Money can be laid out with your approbation for the perpetual augmentation of the Living.

That ye present Parsonage House is a small Building of Lath & Plaister, about 20 ft. in front by 12 in depth, of Size & Condition of Cottages, & when let, has been usually estimated at £4.10s a Year. That it is capable of being rebuilt, of its present Dimensions & with ye same kind of Materials, for about £100, or made tenable sutable to its present Condition, for less, but in neither case wd. be competent for the decent residence of a Rector of the Parish, from the smalness of the size. That ye present Incumbent never received any thing for Dilapidations, (the 2 last Rectors being in possession little more than a Year each, & their immediate Predecessor who held the living 20 years dying insolvent) though He is now expending between 30 & 40 Pounds on the necessary Repairs of the Chancel.

That the present extended Value of the Living is somewhat above £100 a year, out of which besides Taxes, He pays £45 a Year & ye Surplice Fees, to a resident Curate, that divine service may be performed twice in every Sunday, & all the other Duties regularly attended, His own residence being in the adjoining Parish of North Cray of which He is likewise Rector, tho' by exchange with his Curate, the 2 Churches not being a mile asunder, He performs the Duty at Foots Cray Chch. every other Sunday.

From these Circumstances your Petitioner humbly conceives that it would be for the perpetual Augmentation & improvement of the Living of Foots Cray, (the purposes for which your & the private Benefaction have been granted) if the present Parsonage House was entirely taken down, & another Built of a larger & more convenient size & more durable materials during the incumbency of ye. present Rector (who is excused from residence by dispensation under ye Great Seal tho' performs the Duties alternately as aforesaid) --- & a comfortable & substantial Residence be thereby provided for his Successor. Yr Petitioner therefore humbly requests that (if it shd appear to yr Lordships in a same light) You would enable him to derive such lasting Benefit to the Living, by granting Leave for the Four Hundred Pounds (Queen Anne's Bounty & ye private Benefaction) to be applied towards erecting such a House in conjunction with Two Hundred Pounds, which your Petitioner in that case would engage immediately to lay out. And he is induced to his application to your Ldps & contribution of his own by a persuasion, that more real Benefit wd accrue to the Living in future as well for the present by providing such a House for ye residence of future incumbents as can never be built out of ye income of the Living, or by any improvement whatsoever of the present House, than by any other investment of the said Sum of 400 Pds or any purchase at all likely to be met with, convenient to be annexed to this Living. Yr Petitioner ... submits these Particulars to your Consideration, & is with the greatest respect

Yr most obliged & obedt. Servt

Tho. Moore

Joshua Trimmer (1795-1857, geologist, *DNB*), son of Turner's friend, Joshua Kirby Trimmer (who had married in 1794), was born at North Cray on 11 July 1795, and baptized at home on 1 August by Rev. Matthew Holsworthy of Elsworth, Cambridgeshire, and received into the Church at **North Cray** on 20 Sept, according to N.Cray Parish Register. The Revd. Robert Nixon (1759-1837) was curate of Foot's Cray 1784-1804, and exhibited watercolours at the R.A. 1790-1818. In 1798 he and Turner went sketching from Foots Cray along the Medway. On 31.1.1799 he married Anne Russell, and they had George Russell (1802-78) and Francis Russell (1.8.1803-7.4.1879, Bishop of Tasmania). In 1800 Nixon was assessed at £50 poor rates on **Vale Mascal** (a grand house like Mount Mascal, both a short walk up the road from the parsonage of N.Cray, and both owned by John Maddocks Esq), which in 1798 had been occupied by Sir Francis Burdett MP. (**Bath House**, Vale Mascal, c.1766, on island by River Cray, open to public). A letter of 13.7.1800 was sent by his father to Stephen Rigaud at the Revd. R. Nixon at Vale Mascal (*Walpole Society*, L, 1984, p.109). In 1795 Turner noted, "lent Mr. Nixon, 2.12.6" (TB XXV).

Appendix 3: Mercer & Barlow Bankruptcy Papers 1816-40

Two volumes have survived the weeding of documents at the **National Archives (B3/3380 and 3381)**, together with 4 volumes for W.F.Woodgate (B3/5677-80).

Mercer & Barlow (Tonbridge New Bank) stopped payment on 20 May 1815. Bankruptcy proceedings started a year later on 7 May 1816? (Austen & Co, London, declared bankruptcy 15.3.1816). The papers record stages in the proceedings, but do not confirm the claim that all money was repaid by 1827, nor do they indicate what happened to the partners after their bankruptcy.

Appearances at Guildhall, 22.6.1816; 7.7.1816.

Meeting of creditors, Crown Inn [Rose and Crown], Tonbridge, 21.9.1816.

Marked copies of *The Courier*, 14 & 16.9.1816; *London Gazette*, 11.5.1816; 29.6.1816, p.1257; 7.9.1816, p.1735; 18.1.1817, p.122; 8.8.1818, p.1430; 19.9.1818.

Court of Bankruptcy, 12.12.1840: £18.3.0 balance in hand.

On 7 May 1816 evidence was given that "John Barlow, late of Tonbridge, hath for several months last past resided at the House of his Brother on Fish Street Hill," and then absented himself in fear of arrest. John Alse of Fish St Hill, hosier, was a partner in Messrs Alse & Barlow of that address.

On the same day at 2 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, chambers of Edward Dowdeswell Esq., Edward Jones, clerk to Thomas Mercer from January 1814 until 20 May 1815, testified that Thomas Mercer stayed at Millers Hotel, Jermyn St, St James, for 3 weeks to secret himself from creditors for fear of being arrested. Millers, by 1830s the Orléans and from 1836 the Cavendish, was what is now no.81 by the corner of Duke St and opposite the shop of Louis Dupuis, whose son married Evelina Turner a year or so later. (Survey of London, XXIX, St James', I, pp.277-8; Daphne Fielding, *The Duchess of Jermyn Street*, London 1964). The Cavendish has been rebuilt since 1945 on a larger scale.

On 22 June 1816 Thomas Mercer produced books, papers, writings, securities for money etc. and a gold watch chain, 2 seals, 14 shillings in money, which were returned to him.

Property of Thomas Mercer valued and realised

Freehold Estate of Green Trees valued at	16,620	
Inventory of farm valued by Messrs Joy & Salmon	2,938.17. 2	
Household furniture do. Do. Boys & Salmon	1,109. 6. 0	
Thomas Kibble Esq. purchase money of Green Trees		10,750
do. for farming stock		296.15. 0
do. for fixtures		215.17. 0
Furniture sold at auction		295.16. 3
Labour & wages at Green Trees 7.5.1816-Feb.1817	326. 3. 8	
House expenses, same period	223. 1.11	
Mr Snitzek for plan of house	10	
Oil Mill at East Peckham valued at	10,869	
Inventory of oil mill valued by Boys & Salmon	296.15.0	
£100 in Wateringbury turnpike	30	
£125 in Tunbridge & Ightham Road	30	

Mortgages of Thomas Mercer

Mortgage on Green Trees of Mr Simmons	10,000	
Interest	500	
		10,500
Mortgage on Freehold Estate Old Mill E.Peckham		
Richard Jordan Esq. £800 5%	728	
5,000 3% Consols	3,150	
Interest	190	
		4,068

William Simmons Esq., mortgagee of Estate of Green Trees, brought an Ejectment to recover possession, and R. Jordan Esq., mortgagee of oil mills, might take legal proceedings, as there were no bids for either estate in August-September 1816. Affidavit signed by Peter Nouaille? The forced sale of Greentrees seems merely to have paid off the mortgage on it. The sale of Branbridges mill (to Mercer's former partner Boorman) took longer than the sale of Greentrees, and the price obtained does not seem to be stated.

Assets of Mercer & Barlow

Freehold of Brew house and house, Tonbridge	885
---	-----

Due to Thomas Mercer's Private Estate

Wm. & Jno. Chapman	Brenchley	1,132. 2. 2	
James Mercer [cousin?]	Hunton	295. 3. 6	
Richd. Nash	Kingston	105. 12. 8	
Messrs. Nash & Sons	London	5. 19. 9	
John Town	Tonbridge	43. 5. 6	
John Nash	Sevenoaks	4. 15	
Wm. Leonard	Hadlow	3. 13. 4	
Wm. Porter	do.	2. 18. 4	
John King [surveyor]	Tonbridge	2. 11. 9	
Wateringbury Turnpike		34. 7. 9	
Rents of Cottages at Green Trees	Hadlow	13. 16. 6	
Geo. Tibbs	Farnborough	4.	
James Couchman	Hadlow	1. 16	
John Norwood	E. Peckham	4. 5	
Ed. Monckton [related by marriage]	do.	28. . 6	
Henry Cheesman [cousin??]	Hadlow	9. 14	
Geo. Wells	do.	16. 6	
John Crundwell	do.	6. 3	
Wm. Carnell	do.	10. 10. 8	
Wm. Porter [related by marriage?]	do.	1. 2. 6	
Wm. Mugridge	Tonbridge	35. 16. 3	
John Carter	do.	2. 7. 6	
W.A. Morland	Lamberhurst	6. 3	
Robt. Were	London	2. 2. 6	
Rent of Cottages	at E. Peckham		21. 15
Wm. Bennett	Hadlow	9. 7	
James Arrow	Tonbridge	1. 2	
Fran. James	Maidstone	7. 14. 6	
Geo. Lansdul	Goudhurst	12	
Thos. Martin	E. Peckham	10	
Wm. Simmons	Hadlow	13. 6	
John Saxby [cousin]	Tudeley	2. 12	
Messrs Tilson & Boston? [Preston?]	London	69. 6. 4	
Geo. Pooley	Maidstone	43. 6. 1	
J.H. West	Tonbridge	11. 17. 6	
Revd. Monypenny?	Hadlow	12. 11.	
W.H. Barton	do.	3. . 3	
Cash in Mr. Jones' hands		4. 19. 11	
Marquis Camden		<u>20. . .</u>	
			<u>1,957. 2. 4</u>

Doubtful Debts to Thomas Mercer

Arnold Langley		1,059. 10. 8
Thos. Mercer	Tudeley	8
John Mercer		15
Peter Cornwell		10
Wm. Town		109.
Cha. Walter		10
Wm. Dudggen		5
John Smith		12. 12

Late Mercer & Boorman	[E.Peckham]	458. 7. 4	
J. & F.Collens	401.6.4 ...in £	22.18. 8	
Surveyor of the Highway of Hadlow		<u>29.17</u>	
			<u>1,740. 5. 8</u>

Bad Debts to Thomas Mercer

J. & F. Collins		378. 5	
The Estate of Lingard & Boston		<u>198.15. 3</u>	
			577. <u>0. 3</u>

22 June 1816

8,679. 6. 5

Debts Due by or From Thomas Mercer's Private Estate

Peter Nouaille Esq.	Greatness	1,771. . 6	
Oliver Garnon Esq.	London	1,633. 3. 7	
Richd. Jordan [brother-in-law]	Burstead, Essex	209. 3	
Do. Note of Hand		29.12	
Cha. Diplock	London	115. .10	
Wm. Simmons	Tonbridge	84.	
Mrs Mary Mercer [aunt]	Hadlow	225. 4. 4	
Mrs Parks	Marden	244.10. 7	
Danl. Collison [cousin]	W.Peckham	208. 6. 2	
Mrs Walter [aunt? or widow of cousin?]	Horsmonden	441. 7.10	
Wm. Simmons	Hadlow	500	
Miss Walter & Mrs Hesketh		125.11	
Messrs Children & Co.	Tonbridge	33	
Mrs Bratt	London	42.12. 6	
Revd. J. Knox	Tonbridge	41.13	
Hop Duty		114. 4.10	
Assess'd & Property Tax		52.14. 7	
Do. Oil mill	[E.Peckham]	13. 3	
John Mills Esq.	Tovil	30.16	
James Norton [labourer]	Capple [Capel]	15.	
J. & R. Hesketh	London	152.10. 1	
Servants' wages		58	
Messrs. Spooner & Co.		230	
Thos. Beeching [baker]	Tonbridge	821.15. 6	
Tradesmen' Bills		179. 4. 8	
John Wedge Carnell		19. 1. 6	
Messrs. Day & Pearce	London		4. 2
Messrs Skirrow & Sons	do.	2.16	
Messrs Burgess & Co.	do.	8. 2	
Moor & Sons	Maidstone	10.11. 1	
Assignees of A. Bishop		77.10	
Henry Woodgate Esq.	Pembury	7	
Messrs. Attwood Hunt & Co.		87.14	
Edward Jones		7.10	
Geo. Budgen		15.	
Wm. Earland		40	
Messrs. Scoones & Son	[Tonbridge]	30. 1. 6	
James North		<u>15</u>	
			<u>7,748. 8. 3</u>
Legacies to pay under Mr [William] Harpurs will		<u>400</u>	<u>8,148. 8. 3</u>

Debts due to Thos. Mercer & Jno. Barlow.

Wm. Morphen	Tonb. Wells	15.17. 6	
Thos. White	Tonbridge	11. 2. 8	
Wm. F. Woodgate	do.	46.19. 7	
John Monckton	Tonb. Wells	2. 3. 7	
John Chalfield	Tonbridge	1	
Henry Bryant	Canterbury		20.16. 6
Overseers of Tonbridge Poor		80. 9. 6	
Henry Saxby [cousin]	Tudeley	18. 8	
James Hosmer	Tonbridge	27.11.10	
Wm. Collens [see note below]	Brenchley	9. 7.10	
Thos. Stapley	Ton. Wells	15. 9. 5	
Saml. Waite	Tonbridge	20.	

John Hilden		do.	10
Cash in Hand Mr Ed. Jones			2. 1. 1
Stamps	4. 7. 0		
From Chest	16. 6. 0		21. 3
James Bourne			<u>20. 3. 6</u>
			<u>548.12. 6</u>

Doubtful Debts to Thos. Mercer & Jno. Barlow

Miss Barrs	10.14		
Peter Cornwell	145. 5. 6		
Fran. Collens	151. 5. 3		
Jeffry Munk	51.15 6		
Revd. James Sabbuns?	75. 8. 3		
			434. <u>8. 6</u>

Bad Debts due to Thos. Mercer & Jno. Barlow

Wm. White	24.17.10		
John Calls	37. 1.10		
Jacob Bradbury	5. 4. 7		
John Borman	20. 0. 0		
Dan. Donovan	25. 6. 0		
			112. <u>4. 3</u>

22 June 1816 1,095. 5. 3

Debts Due by or from Thos. Mercer & Jno. Barlow

James Ludgster		Tonbridge	15. 7.11
Revd. Cha. Harding		do.	10.18. 2
John Evelyn		do.	10. 2. 9
Wm. Mugridge		do.	27.14.
Messrs. Lingard & Carnell	[attorneys, Tonbridge]		10.10. 2
Wm. Collison		Hadlow	20.13. 6
Marquis Camden	[Lord Lieutenant of Kent]		401. 6. 7
Messrs. Curtis & Co.		Rye	62.
Peter Lelouef		Tonbridge	4.17. 2
J.H. West		do.	141. . 6
Wm. Neite			10.
Sir Wm. Bishop & Co.		Maidstone	44. 7.11
Edwd. Jardine		Sevenoaks	104.10. 4
Saml. Bates			12. 9. 1
Joseph Spencer		Wrotham	6. 5. 8
Henry Simmons		Hadlow	7. 1. 8
Thos. Knell		Yalding	67.13. 8
J.B. Hodgskin		Horsmonden	12. 2.
Robt. Joy		Brenchley	46. 3.11
John Miller		Tovil	159. 4. 6
John King [builder]		Tonbridge	21.19. 6
Committee of Messrs Children & Co.		[Tonbridge]	35.15.11
Messrs Penfold & Co.		Maidstone	242.19. 6
Committee of Messrs Children & Co.			35.15.11
Messrs. Tilden Sampson & Co		Hastings	210. 7.11
Geo. Osborne		Tonbridge	319.19. 4
Stepn. Sawyer		Tunb. Wells	30
Wm. English		Yalding	40. 2.
Lingard & Carnell			39.17. 6
Promissory? Notes outstanding			6,373.10
Bills			
Lingard & Carnell	5.10. 8		
Fra. Jones	8. 3. 1		
Geo. Wise	4.16. 6		
Wm. Eatland	3. 4. 4		
John King	25.11. 1		
Robinson & Co.	8. 3. 0		
			<u>55. 8. 8</u>

9,905.11. 9

Signed Affidavits 1816-17

John Sammell	shoemaker	Hatton Garden
George Sargent	shoemaker	Battle
Andrew Barlow	hosier	Fish St. Hill, City of London
Charles Dufleck? [Diplock?]	silversmith	Borough High St., Surrey [Southwark]
Thomas Harrison	draper	Ightham Mote
Sarah Brant?		Sloane St., Middlesex
Peter Reed	haberdasher	Whitechapel
Thomas Beeching	baker	Tonbridge
Robert Joy	wine merchant	Covent Garden
George Robinson	stationer	Fenchurch St.
Thomas Knell	coal merchant	Yalding
Etc.		
Richard Jordan [bro.-in-law]	esquire	Little Burstead, Essex
Edward Jones	clerk to Thos. Mercer	
Mr John Saxby	[cousin]	(£1,356.1.0 in account with Thos. Mercer 1815-16)
John Carnell		Tonbridge
Charles Bouvier		do.
Mary Mercer	widow	Hadlow
Thomas Knox	clerk & schoolmaster	Tonbridge
Sarah Walter	widow	Horsmonden
Sarah Walter	spinster	Marden
Daniel Collison	farmer [cousin]	W.Peckham
Daniel Wood	carpenter	Hadlow
Thos. William Carter	auctioneer	Maidstone
Margaret Parks	spinster	Marden
James Norton	labourer (his mark)	Capel
James Pearch	baker	Tonbridge
John Brenchley	brewer	Maidstone
John King [diarist]	surveyor	Tonbridge
Viscount Galway		Serlby Hall, Notts.
William Simmons?		Barn St., Hadlow

Notes

The foregoing is only a cursory summary of the 2 volumes.

Many of the people named can be identified as relations of Thomas Mercer, yeomen etc. of the Tonbridge area or tradesmen in London. In **London** directories c.1815 are found:

Attwood, Hunt & Wilson, ship and insurance brokers, 147 Leadenhall St.
Barlow & Alpe, wholesale hosiers, 47 Fish St Hill (1815); Alpe & Barlow, 8 Fish St Hill (1817).
Burgess & Co, oilmen/ oil and Italian warehouse, 107 Strand
Day & Pearce, oil, whalebone &c. brokers, 140 Upper Thames St.
J & R Hesketh, hop factors & oilmen, Half Moon Inn, Borough [Southwark]
R.Joy, wine & brandy merchant, Great Piazza, Covent Garden.
Thomas Nash & sons, hop factors, Nag's Head Inn, Borough.
Reed & Wilson, haberdashers, 114 Whitechapel.
G.& S. Robinson, station. & paper stainers, 114 Fenchurch St.
A.Sammell & Sons, boot & shoe warehouse, 9 Hatton Garden
Skirrow & Son, hop & seed merchants, 48 Borough [High St.].
Spooners & Co., woollen drap. & mercs., 35 Cornhill? Or warehousemen, 4 George yd., Lombard St.
Tilson and Preston (sic), attornies/solicitors, 29 Coleman St.
W.Were & Co, wholesale cheesem., 87 Lower Thames St.

5th Viscount Galway (1782-1862) was, like the Moncktons of Brenchley, descended from the Moncktons of Yorkshire. He was "a good topographer and antiquary" (Cokayne). He succeeded his father, a drunkard MP, in 1810.

John Brenchley lived at Kingsley House, Maidstone. By 1827 he had disappeared from directories, but **Brenchley, Stacey & Wise**, brewers, are listed at Stone St., Maidstone.

Sir William Bishop, Larking, Hughes & Co (The Maidstone County Bank) failed after Bruce, Simson & Co of Bartholomew Lane failed in July 1816. This followed the collapse in March 1816 of Penfold, Springet & Penfold (founded in 1792 as Brenchley, Stacey, Parker, Springet & Penfold, The Kentish Bank) consequent upon the suspension of payments of their London agents, Ramsbottoms & Co. Between 1814 and 1816 some 240 country banks failed.

Other country banks which appear are (as designated in the 1815 London Post Office Directory):

Curteis & Co, Rye (in 1827 Curties Croughton).

Edw.Jardeine Esq., Sevenoaks

Tilden & Co, Hastings.

Local tradesman: **Wm. Collens** was presumably related to John Collens, gunsmith, Matfield (Pigot 1827-8).

Children, Woodgate & Scoones

W.F.Woodgate's bankruptcy papers (PRO B3/5677-80) have some of the same names.
Edward Monckton of E.Peckham salesman had £674.1 witnessed by Thomas Mercer (B3/5677).
Among the Creditors to W.F.Woodgate were

Children Woodgate & Scoones	26,363. 2. 7
Mercer & Co.	48. 3. 1
E.Monckton	236. 2. 9
Wm. Simmons	300

Henry and John Saxby of Tudeley had claims with regard to the Tudeley Poor Rate etc.
Debts proved at 22.6.1833 amounted to £108,440. 9. 8
A solicitors bill of 1851 is included (B/5680).

The London agents were Barclay & Co by 1809 (directories). In Barclays' first surviving private ledger, for 1815-16, there is an entry (Barclays Archives 27/102):

28 Dec. 1815 to cash Tonbridge Bank interest £39.17.5d.

There is no entry in the 1816-17 volume. A set of balances taken in June each year states:

364/61	1809	Tonbridge	1,783. 6
62	1810	do	1,438. 8. 5
63	1811	do	15,080. 9. 8
64	1812	do	14,462.13. 2
65	1813	do	266.12. 8
66	1814	do	1,244.17. 2
67	1815	do	1,874. 7.10
68	1816	do	Dividends 31. 1.11
69	1817	do	do 22.19.11
70	1818-20	do	do 22.19.11

Appendix 4: Kent Elections 1734-1852

The following summary of how people referred to in this work voted is very incomplete. However it does indicate, what one might guess, that the wealthier tended to vote for the Tory or ministerialist candidates and the poorer for the Whig ones, especially when of the more extreme variety as represented by the Honywoods. Of course contests were not simple ones between Left and Right, and local loyalties and other factors complicated matters. Generally there was an attempt to have both the West and East halves (or dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury) of the county represented when the county, down to 1832, voted as a whole. The Vanes and Gearys were nearest to Tonbridge, and the Derings in the East nearer than the Oxendens and Knatchbulls.

At **Tonbridge** in **1734** we find the vicar, like Henry Harpur I (at **Hollingbourne**), unsurprisingly voting for Viscount Vane (the patron of his living and an opposition Whig) and Sir Edward Dering, a Tory from the East (5th Bt., 1705-62, MP for Kent 1733-54, of Surrenden Dering, Pluckley), the two successful candidates. The vicar of Bidborough, Edmund Latter, voted for Lord Middlesex, son of the Whig Duke of Dorset, and Sir George Oxenden, a Whig from the East. Henry Woodgate voted for Middlesex and Dering. At **Marden** Thomas Mercer and Thomas Walter voted for Vane and Dering, as did William Mercer at **Horsmonden**.

In **1754** at **Tonbridge** Woodgate plumped for Dering, as did other gentry (George Children – John also voted for Lord Fairfax -, John Hooker, James and John Eldridge), while the vicar, Latter, Sir Thomas I'Anson and George Weller chose Fairfax and Watson. At **Hadlow** most (including Esau and William Simmons, John Saxby) plumped for Dering. So too did John Austen and Alexander Courthope at **Horsmonden** and Stephen Walter at **Marden**, whereas Rev. Jonathan Monckton voted for Fairfax and Watson. At **Hadlow** voting was mixed: William Simmons for Marsham and Knatchbull, John Saxby and John Porter for Knatchbull and Honywood, Henry Porter and Walter May for Marsham and Honywood. Likewise at **Marden**: Jonathan Monckton and John Cole for Knatchbull, William Mercer for Knatchbull and Honywood, William, Stephen and John A. Walter for Marsham and Knatchbull.

In **1790** the candidates were Sir Edward Knatchbull, 8th Bt. (East; Tory), Filmer Honywood (East, being of Hull Place, Sholden, near Deal, but also of Essex; a committed Whig), who were elected, and the Hon. Charles Marsham (1744-1811, 3rd Baron, 1st Earl 1801, FRS, Lord Lieutenant 1794-1808, with a seat at Maidstone, for which he was elected MP 1768), son of Lord Romney (1712-94,

FRS), and brother-in-law of 3rd Earl of Egremont (West, anti-ministerial moderate Whig). At **Tonbridge** a few (William and John Eldridge) plumped for Honeywood, most backed Knatchbull and Marsham, including Revd. Vicesimus Knox, George Children, Thomas Hooker, William Simmons, William Woodgate, Thomas Porter). The Revd. Henry Austen and Thomas Swayne voted for Knatchbull and Honeywood, and Edmund Latter just for the first. (John l'Anson no longer had property in the area; his 1st cousin was the very Tory MP Henry Bankes (1757-1834) from 1780). At **Marden** Stephen and John A.Walter voted for Knatchbull and Marsham.

In 1792 Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, a prosperous lawyer, worked hard to get the people of Sevenoaks to affirm loyalty (Chalklin 1984, p.57). Lists of loyalists appeared in the newspapers in these years. On 8 April 1794 it was resolved that all gentlemen subscribing £10 should be on a steering committee for new volunteer corps. W.F.Woodgate formed his own corps of yeomanry (just as in Cheshire did another future patron of Turner, Sir John Leicester).

In **1796** the candidates were Sir Edward Knatchbull, 8t Bt., and Sir William Geary, Bt. (West, centrist), who were elected, and Filmer Honeywood, who was not. (Farington, 14 June 1796, lists how artists voted in Westminster/Middlesex: most for Gardner and Fox and only a few for Tooke.)

In **1802** the candidates were the same as in 1796, but this time it was Knatchbull who came bottom of the poll. At **Tonbridge** the pattern of voting remained much as before. A minority plumped for Honeywood (Henry and G.Wray Eldridge), but the wealthier voted for Knatchbull and Geary, including the vicar (J.R.Papillon), William and W.F.Woodgate, William Simmons. J.Hartrop West plumped for the local candidate, Geary, while Vicesimus Knox DD voted for him and Honeywood. At **Hadlow** Thomas Mercer, John Porter and William Carnell voted for Knatchbull and Geary, Henry Porter, Henry Saxby, Rev. P. Monypenny, Walter May plumped for Geary. At **Hunton** James Mercer voted for Knatchbull and Geary. At **East Peckham** Edward Monckton plumped for Geary, as did John and J.jun. Cheesman (Henry voting also for Knatchbull, as did Sir W. Twisden Bt.). At **Brenchley** Stephen Monckton and Bold Marchant voted for Knatchbull and Geary, Edward Monckton for just the first. At **E.Farleigh** Samuel Mercer plumped for Geary. At **Marden** Stephen and John A.Walter voted for Knatchbull and Geary. At **Leeds** Robert Sweetlove chose Knatchbull and Geary.

For the elections from 1806 until 1835 printed poll books have not survived. In **1806** there were the same candidates, except that William Honeywood replaced Filmer Honeywood, and in a low poll topped it, Geary coming bottom. Geary was returned unopposed in **1812** together with Knatchbull. In **1818** Geary came bottom, easily defeated by Knatchbull and William Philip Honeywood.

In **1832** Kent was divided into 2 constituencies, **East** and **West**, each again with two MPs. In 1832 Sir Edward Knatchbull, MP for Kent 1819-30, was elected for E.Kent continuing as MP until 1845. For W.Kent the Liberal Thomas Law Hodges of Hemsted was elected (he served 1830-41, 1847-52), but the Conservative Sir W.R.P.Geary failed to be. Thomas Rider, a Reformer from Boughton Monchelsea, was the second MP for W.Kent 1832-5.

In **1835** the candidates for the **Western Division of Kent** were Thomas Law Hodges (1776-1857; his portrait by Beechey exh. RA 1795; now at NG/Tate), Thomas Rider and Sir William R.P.Geary, the first and last being elected; in **1837** Sir William R.P.Geary Bt. (1810-77, MP 1835-8, his w/c portrait by A.E.Chalon at Abbott & Holder June 2005), Thomas Law Hodges and Sir Edmund Filmer Bt., the last, a Conservative, being elected in 1838 until his death in 1857; in **1847** Sir Edmund Filmer Bt., Colonel Thomas Austen of Kippington, Conservative (MP 1845-7), and Thomas Law Hodges; in **1852** Filmer and Hodges and William Masters Smith, a Conservative from Camer, near Gravesend, MP 1852-7.

It is indicative that of the candidates 1734-1852 only a few were members of the Whiggish Brooks' Club:

1766	3 rd Duke of Dorset	MP for Kent 1768-9
1770	Hon. Charles Marsham (Lord Romney)	not elected for Kent (but for Maidstone).
1816	William Philip Honeywood	MP for Kent 1818-26
1831	Thomas Law Hodges (of Hemsted)	do 1830-47

Others who were members of the club included 2nd Earl Camden (1780) and several Byngs.

There are still Honeywood baronets (at Hollingbourne), but the male line of Filmers of East Sutton died out in mid C20. Lord Brabourne continues the Knatchbull line in E.Kent.

Appendix 5: Hop Growing in Kent and Ambrose Mercer

In 1726 the Rev. J.F.Lawrence said that 1-2 acres of hops could yield more profit than 50 acres of arable land. One acre might yield half a load of hops worth on average £100. William Ellis in 1750 wrote that the largest hop plantation was 40 acres in 1738 and 100 in 1750. The overall acreage devoted to hops steadily increased to about 35,000 in 1800 and a peak of 72,000 in 1878. From the early C18 to the end production trebled from 84,000cwt to 228,000cwt. J.Mills in 1763 gave the cost of raising 1 acre of hops as £3 (husbandry), £4 (wear of poles), £5 (picking & drying), £1.10.0 (dung), £1 (rent) and £0.10.0 (tithe). A moderate return was £30 per acre, which might rise to £100. (Corran, chap. 15). In 1787 40 acres of hops at East Farleigh produced £4,873 at £10 per hundredweight. Two decades later W.F.Woodgate had 65 acres devoted to hops, which in a good year gave a profit of about £3,000. Farington on 16 September 1818 said that the greatest hop grower then was Mr. Ellis, near Maidstone, who had 600 acres devoted to hops and received £100,000 in just one payment from their sale.

Ambrose Mercer leased two farms at Tudeley, Ploggs Hall (211? acres) and Finches (23 acres). He had previously had farms at Horsmonden, but seems to have ceased to when he moved to Tudeley, and he is not known to have had others while there. Around 1780 he moved to Greentrees at Hadlow (180 acres), though keeping on Finches. William Marshall made several mentions of “the late Mr.Ambrose Mercer of Tudeley,” “a superior manager, and the largest planter in the district [of Maidstone]” (I,p.199). In autumn 1790 Marshall “was favoured with a view of his farm”. Ambrose had employed 20 or 30 hands that summer to destroy sodworms. Marshall adds that “Mr Mercer of Tudeley ... grew, in many years of his long practice, from fifty to a hundred tons, a year” (I,p.285).

Ambrose’s son in 1816 owed £114.4.10 in hop duty. If that was the amount payable for one year, it would appear that he had partly diversified out of hops into his other ventures. In 1711 hop duty was 1d per 1lb, by 1801 it was 2½d, being reduced in 1805 to 2d. (Corran, pp.175,239). On 22 May 1800 at a meeting at the Star Inn, Rochester, to oppose the suspending of the higher duties on imported hops, William Woodgate and Thomas Mercer each subscribed £20. In January 1803 at a meeting of landowners and hop-planters at the Bell Inn, Maidstone, to obtain the repeal of the additional duties on hops, a committee was formed which included W.F.Woodgate and Mercer. At first hop gardens were not classified as fields, and so they escaped tithes, but that changed, and they had to be paid as well. See also *A Letter to S.F.Waddington, Esq. in Reply to his Appeal to the British Hop Planters*, Southwark 1800; *The Case of the Hop Planters under the additional Duty of 1802*, by Mr. Longley, Rochester, 1803. The excise duty on hops was abolished in 1862. This tax had amounted to an average annual charge of nearly £7 per acre. (Clinch, p.51). Marshall calculated that, at a produce of ½ ton an acre, on average years Kent bore 5000 tons of hops. The duty payable, £50,000, represented 10,000 acres (I, p.285). 6 bags or 1 ton per acre represented a very great produce, and 12 bags was quite exceptional. That represented 1½ tons per acre and sold at £5 per cwt or £150 an acre. Annual expenses amounted to £20 per acre and another £15-£20 per ton for picking and drying. Duty in 1790 was about 24 shillings per bag, 13/6d per pocket or nearly £10 a ton. On the total yield from duty, see Hohn Bannister (gent. of Horton Kirby), *A Synopsis of Husbandry*, London 1799, Book III, Chapter VII.

See also William Randall (of Maidstone), *The State of the Hop Plantations*, London 1800; *The Hop-Grower’s Guide, by a Hop Surveyor of Maidstone*, Chatham 1822. Samuel Ireland in his 1793 tome (pl. opposite p.97) included a scene of hop gathering. In 1807 Joshua Cristall made a large watercolour of a hop-picking scene (Christie’s, 14.11.1989, lot 102). In 1811 Thomas Uwins said of hop-picking: “That it has never been made more use of by artists is altogether a mystery to me ...” William Collins painted a hop scene for William Wells of Redleaf (exh. 1816) and another (exh. 1829), which was bought by the Duke of Norfolk.

Appendix 6: A tour of Kent and dismembered sketchbook, c.1793.

A.J.Finberg, *The Life of J.M.W.Turner, R.A.*, 2nd ed., 1961, p.23, suggested that Turner made two tours in the summer of 1793. The first was to Herefordshire, Worcestershire etc. "Some of the drawings made on this tour are in the Turner Bequest, but most of them were at one time in Mr. Stokes's collection; these are now scattered far and wide in various private and public collections." In the second tour Turner seems to have visited "Rochester, Canterbury, and Dover, and going through Aylesford and Maidstone to Tonbridge and through Groombridge to Withyham in Sussex." On this tour, according to Thornbury, Turner was accompanied by Edward Bell (1768-1847). Tim Marshall has shown that Bell, a young artist, was probably nephew of John Bell (1745-1831), publisher in The Strand (DNB), and probably brother of James Bell (1763-1840), miller near Norwich. Edward's sale in 1849 included works by Turner, mill scenes by other artists etc.

A batch of pencil drawings of the same size and date (c.1790-5) once belonged to Turner's friend Charles Stokes. Some passed to his nephew Thomas Hughes and were sold at **Sotheby's, 28 November 1922**:

144. Gatehouse of Buckhurst near Wythyham, Sussex, 5 x 8. [Mrs Walter J.H.Jones, Hurlingham Lodge, London; bt. by, 1959; Sotheby's, 1 April 1993 (54)]
 145. South porch and tower of church, 8 1/8 x 5 1/4.
 146. Tollhurst Mill, Sussex, the water-wheel with overhanging buildings, 8 x 5. [Agnew; Christie's., 26 July 1957 (8) and 20 November 2003 (44); now identified as Tablehurst Mill]
 147. Wythyham Mill, Sussex, wooded hills rising in the background, 5 1/4 x 8. [Colnaghi's; from whom bt. June 1963 by Philip Hofer; bequeathed by Mrs Frances L. Hofer to Fogg Art Museum, 1979, 204x128]
 148. Groombridge Mill, Sussex, the water-wheel in the centre of foreground, 5 1/4 x 8 1/4.
- Others in the same sale were of similar size and date; 151-4 all exactly the same as 151.
117. A boulder and vegetation, 8 x 5, pencil and ink wash, c.1792-3.
 118. Waterfall in wood 5 x 8 do. do.
 122. Park scene: Autumn. Foreground and distance only finished, 5 x 8 1/4, pencil and w/c.
 138. Windsor Castle, 5 x 8 1/2, pencil. [Sotheby's, 14 November 1991 (11)? 130x210]
 142. Shrewsbury? English bridge with watermills against piers, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, pencil, c.1794.
 151. 2 leaves from a sketchbook. Staines Bridge under reconstruction (1792-7); Caversham Bridge, 5 1/4 x 8 1/4, pencil, c.1795.
 152. 2 leaves from same book. Chelsea Hospital; Pembroke College, Cambridge, pencil.
 153. 3 leaves from same book. Tower of London; 2 unidentified subjects, pencil
 154. 4 leaves from same book. Richmond Hill from Thames; the River Mole; 2 unidentified.

With 144-8 would seem to belong

1. Two drawings of *Pembury Mill* and another mill at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, (Charles Stokes; ...; A.J.Finberg, Cotswold Gallery, from whom bought by Douglas H. Gordon, 1925, and bequeathed by him to the museum, 1986).
2. *Chestnut House, High St., Hartfield*, 210x130 (Charles Stokes; Sotheby's 16 July 1992 (21); Christie's 7 June 2001 (130)). *
3. *Coleford Mill*, 209x128, (Charles Stokes; David Keppel, by whom given to the Fogg Art Museum, 1919). This was a watermill in Gloucestershire.

Other drawings, including two of *Rochester*, were sold by Stokes' niece, Hannah Cooper, to Thomas Griffith on 15 February 1858. These were all sold at various times by Griffith's descendants.

- The catalogue note on that says that there are other Kent and Sussex drawings of 1793-4 of the same dimensions in TB. However the size seems rare. *Half Timbered House with Gable Roof*, 8 1/2x5 1/2 ins, TB XXIIIc, c.1794, is about the same. Other drawings – of Wrotham and Malling – have been dated c.1791-2. Those of Maidstone and Allington (TB XXVI 94,95) are watermarked *J.Whatman 1794* and measure 10 1/2x8 ins, ie about the same as the *Tonbridge* at the Fitzwilliam and a drawing of *Rochester* which was the basis for the watercolour of 1795 at Manchester Art Gallery (Sotheby 14.7.1988 (53), 20x26cm, 8x10 1/4 ins).

Charles Stokes FSA FRS (1785-1853) was a friend of Turner (and Chantrey) and a financial adviser and collected watercolours and prints, not least Turner's. On the watermills at Groombridge, Withyham and Tablehurst see Stidder and Smith.

Appendix 7: *Tonbridge Bridge & Castle* by Turner and others c.1795

Samuel Ireland

1. Samuel Ireland, *Picturesque Views on the River Medway*, 1793.

Ireland dated his dedication 1 March 1793 from Norfolk St, Strand (just to the E. of Somerset House). It is quite possible that Edward Bell and Turner knew him personally. The illustrations were from Ireland's own drawings.

Paul Sandby

Bridge and castle:

1. *Tonbridge*, watercolour, 1782? An aquatint after this was published by T.Palser, 1812. (Cormack).
2. *Tonbridge*, watercolour, s&d 1794, without barge in l.foreground. Coll: Agnew; bt. S.L.Courtauld 1921. (Cormack).
3. *Tonbridge*, 210x290mm, 8 1/4x11 1/2 ins, watercolour, s&d PS/1794. Sotheby, 16.11.1989 (55), prop.of Mrs J.B.Walker. Barges on l. Different from 2.

4. *Tonbridge*, 483x699mm, 19x27½ins, watercolour and bodycolour, s&d P.Sandby/1794. Christie, 5.6.2007 (33). Exh. RA 1795 (414), *View of Tunbridge town and castle ?* A variation on 3, with a pleasure barge introduced at r.
5. *Tonbridge*, engrd. J.Walker, pubd. J.Walker 1.5.1796. In *Copperplate Mag.* (vol.III, no. LII, pl. CIV). Details different from those in 3 and 4.
6. *Tonbridge*, 9x15¼ins, watercolour. Coll. Geo.Stubbs ARA; his sale Coxe 27.5.1807 (48); RA, *Bicentenary Exh.*, 1968 (676); *Country Life* 21.9.1961, advert. Frank T.Sabin? Similar to 3 and 4.

Other Tonbridge views:

7. *Tonbridge Castle* (The Keep), 387x585mm, watercolour etc., sgd brc, dated 1787. Etched & aquatinted by PS 1787 and pubd. by him 1789. Stephen Somerville, *Watercolours*, 22 June-15 July 1988 (10).
8. *On the Road to Tonbridge*, 8¼x10½ins. Sotheby 29.4.1971 (137); Christie 18.3.1986 (67); Andrew Wyld 2007.
9. *On the Road to Tonbridge/ The Donkey Drives*, 10½x8 ins. Nottingham Castle Museum 45-163. Different scene from 8.

Sandby exhibited watercolours of Maidstone in 1794 (T.F. Harris and others).

Joseph Farington

1. *Tonbridge*, watercolour (S.P.B.Mais, *The Home Counties ...*). From a drawing made Sept. 1794.
 2. *Tonbridge*, aquatint, by J.C.Stadler, pubd. by Boydell 1.6.1795, in Combe and Farington, *An History of the River Thames*, II, 1796. The viewpoint is closer to the bridge than is Sandby's, but not as close as Turner's engraved view.
- Farington came on 26 September 1794, remarking, "I could not find a point near the castle from which I could make a view with. attaching to it many unpicturesque circumstances. - The situation I chose was across the river & below the Bridge, from whence both unite happily enough in the composition with the castle and surrounding objects."

Thomas Girtin

1. *Tonbridge Bridge & Castle*, pencil, c.1794? Girtin collection; A.J.Finberg. Formerly attributed to Edward Dayes. (Girtin & Loshak, wrongly describing it as at the Fitzwilliam).
2. *Tonbridge Bridge & Castle*, pencil, 8x10½ ins, c.1794. Sgd. "T.Girtin delt." And inscrbd. "Tonbridge Bridge and Castle, Kent". Based on 1. A barge with a man at tiller, foreground l. Coll: C.S.Bale [sale 14.5.1881?]; E.Cohen; Mrs Oswald; Girtin collection; Yale Center for British Art?? Girtin & Loshak 78.

Another drawing of same size and date, *Tonbridge Rocks* (opening in a cliff with a waterfall). Coll: Bale; Cohen; Oswald; exors. of Sir Edward Marsh. Girtin & Loshak 79. This is of the rocks at Tunbridge Wells.

Girtin also made watercolours of Rochester: distant views, 1791 and c.1792, and Cathedral and Castle, c.1793. It has been argued that these were probably made after unidentified works by other artists, as Girtin was tied to London by his apprenticeship to Dayes from June 1789 to an unknown date (Greg Smith and others, *Thomas Girtin: The Art of Watercolour*; Tate 2002, nos. 25-6). This seems a dubious argument.

J.M.W. Turner

1. *Tonbridge*, wash drawing, 7¾x11ins, 198x277mm, c.1795. Coll: John Ruskin; Arthur Severn; Sotheby 20 May 1931 (117), bt. by Cockerell for Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (1588), £46 (*The Times*, 31 May 1931, 9g).. From the same viewpoint as Sandby's in 1794, but omitting the nearside bank on the l. Ruskin wrote: An example of the constant method of Turner's study, in early youth... He cast all colour aside for a while, and worked only for form and light; not light *and* shade observe; but only gradated *light*, showing everything in the clearest and loveliest way he could. .. The little bit of reflected light under the bridge, and half tone over the boats in this drawing is worth any quantity of sensational etchings. The material is, I believe, Prussian blue with British ink." In 1932 Sir Sydney Cockerell and Vallance suggested this drawing might be by Girtin, and in 1933 Finberg doubted the attribution. T. Girtin suggested that it and a pencil study by Girtin (no.2 above, of exactly the same scene) were drawn at Dr Monro's "school", either by copying each other or basing their design on Sandby's. In 1959 it was included in an exhibition of watercolours by Turner at the Fitzwilliam. In 1975 Cormack accepted it as by Turner in his Monro School period and dated it c.1794. The viewpoint is closest to that of Sandby.
Lit: *Notes by Mr Ruskin on his Drawings by the late J.M.W.Turner, R.A., Exhibited at the Fine Art Society's Galleries, ... in the Spring of 1878*, no.2; Vallance; T.Girtin and D.Loshak, *The Art of Thomas Girtin*, 1954, under no.78, p.144; Cormack, p.27.
2. *Tunbridge*, engr. By G.Murray, pubd. 1 Sept.1795, in *The Pocket Magazine*, published by Harrison & Co. 2½x4½ins. Rawlinson 25. The view is taken from nearer the bridge than all the other views.

The classic view of the bridge and castle was also depicted in a print published by G.Wise, whose Tunbridge Ware manufactory is shown in the buildings on the far side of the river and to the right of the bridge, fronting on the High St and the river. A version of the view was also depicted on some of their wooden boxes etc. That business was started in these premises in 1746 by George Wise (1703-79) and continued down to George III (1816-99), being closed in 1883, and most of the buildings pulled down for road widening in 1886/8. Earlier changes had been necessitated by the construction of Robert Mylne's bridge 1775/6. The site comprised 3r 19p and was bought in 1804 by Thomas Wise, when it had 5 houses, workshops, yards and garden. These included a house for the family and a river wharf for the reception of timber. A later plan (1866 O.S.?) still showed the area of trees at the E.end of the site. Turner in the Fitzwilliam drawing seems to have extended the area of trees Westwards. According to Vallance, followed by Cormack, "the picturesque cottage" on the r. in Turner's drawing at the Fitzwilliam had been removed during works at the castle in 1793 and so "the drawing may not have been drawn on the spot." However the cottages by the river had nothing to do with the castle, as Sydney Simmons has remarked.

The views in Harrison and co.'s publications (*Copperplate Mag.* and *Pocket Mag.*) were to be drawn on the spot (Rawlinson, I, p.xix). Though Turner's sketchbooks omit Tonbridge, they include all the other places he drew for Harrison. Sandby seems to have visited Maidstone etc. c.1792-3, to judge from the ensuing exhibits at RA (see also T.F.Harris). If he visited Tonbridge then, that cannot have been for the first time. Other views in the *Copperplate Mag.*, of *Tunbridge Wells* and *Leeds Castle*, published 1799-1800, were after "original" drawings by J.Nixon Esq., presumably John, the elder brother of Turner's friend, Revd. Robert Nixon. *Tonbridge Castle*, 1796, by John Inigo Richards RA was exhibited by Guy Peppiatt Fine Art, 2005. This is a drawing of the keep? See also Brian Austen, *Tunbridge Ware*, 1989, pp.162-8.

Appendix 8: *Pembury Mill (or Mills)*

There were two watermills in the parish of Pembury and a third just outside it:

1. **Pembury/Hawkwell/Spring Grove Mill**, Amhurst Bank Road, on the Alder Stream (now diverted), with millpond. The millhouse survives after alteration. (Dept. of Environment 5/353). This was "occupied" by Turner's 1st cousin, William Harpur, c.1797/9-c.1805/7, though he probably lived at Little Hawkwell 1791/2-c.1805/7.
2. **Keyes Mill**, near Albans Farm, on Tudeley Brook. Demolished in 1920s. This is sometimes confused with
3. **Herrings Mill**, Bramble Reed Lane, Matfield, Brenchley, a little distance further away.

According to Miss Mary Standen (d.2002), Spring Grove Mill, and one other in the district, together with the Manors of Pepenbury and the advowson of the church, were given to Bayham Abbey by Simon de Wahull in the thirteenth century. Most of this was acquired by William Woodgate in 1788, though Earl Camden at Bayham Abbey was also a major landowner in the parish. In a couple of booklets on Pembury and in the Pembury Parish Magazine (December 1993) she discussed the identification of the mill or mills depicted by Turner. In the later accounts she reversed her earlier opinion in the light of an investigation by the Pembury History Group led by the late Mr T.F.Pettitt in 1991. Fortified with photocopies of Turner's views supplied by the Tate Gallery (which seemingly did not then know the drawing at Richmond, Virginia, though that was immaterial) and local knowledge, it came to the following conclusion:

It is known that ... Turner ... painted Somerhill House ... He also painted views of Pembury Mill. As there were two water mills in Pembury at this time the local history group obtained photo copies of the paintings to try to establish which mills were painted. Although there is very little left to identify Keys Mill we think it is the site of the two similar paintings [at the BM and V&A], showing the wheel to the left of the gable end of the mill. Several local people can recall the mill house when it was last occupied, in the early 1920s, and there is a painting of the house made at this time. The 1841 Census shows John Homewood, miller, as occupant, 1851 Caleb Newnham, farm labourer, 1871 Nicholas Style, farm labourer. The site is on Footpath W.T. 222 between Romford Road and Stone Court Farm orchards.

The second mill is Spring Grove Mill, Redwings Lane, and is still a residence with a large mill pond and was part of the Hawkwell Estate owned by the Woodgates of Somerhill. The group visited the house and talked with the owner [Mr Hermann Gruninger] who told us that originally the mill race ran along the front of the house. Evidence of this is a blocked aperture in the bank of the pond to the left of the house, which is in line with a bridge in the road and stream to the right of the house. He also said that the right hand side of the house was an addition which would put the front door which is in the old part, in the position of the door in the two sketches. We think this could be the origin of the two sketches [Turner's drawing for the "Liber" plate and the plate itself] of the door and interior, 1807.

A. Keyes Mill/ Herrings Mill (Pembury)

There are 3 works by Turner depicting the same view of a watermill:

1. A drawing, 127x210mm, 5 x 8¼ ins.
 inscr. b.r.c. *Pembury Mill Kent*; and on verso, in a different hand, *C.Stokes/Pembury Mill/2*.
 Coll. Charles Stokes; A.J.Finberg, Cotswold Gallery, from whom bt. Douglas H.Gordon, 1925, and bequeathed by him to Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, 1986, (86.243).
 A second drawing (86.244) has the same provenance and measurements, but is of upright format. It is called "Part of Pembury Mill" and is inscr. verso: *C.Stokes Collection*. It clearly depicts a different mill.
2. Watercolour, 203 x 277 mm, 8 x 10¾ ins. (W.130).
 Signed, b.r.c.: *W Turner*
 Inscr. (reverse of old mount in C19 hand): *Pembury [sic] Mill near Tunbridge Wells*
 Coll: Mrs Amy Venning; bt. from her by V&A 1901; V&A 1160-1901.
 Title: "Mill, nr. Tunbridge Wells" (when offered 1901); "Pembury Mill" (V&A 1908 catalogue and later).
3. Watercolour, 347 x 493 mm, 13½ x 19½ ins. (W.169).
 Not signed.
 Coll: Sir J.C.Robinson, sale, Christie, 19.4.1902 (), "Pembury Mill, Kent," framed?; C.P.Manuk and Miss G.M.Coles, bequeathed to BM 1948; BM 1948-10-9-9.

There is also a watercolour of a different mill in the A.G.F.Godden Bequest, 1933, at Brighton Art Gallery, called "Pembury Mill, Kent" and once attributed to Turner. It was reattributed to Girtin and retitled "Overshot Mill, Devon".

Mrs Amy Venning, 58 Perham Rd, W.Kensington, said in 1901 that No.2 had been in the possession of her family "since about the year 1825." She also had a view of Waltham Abbey which came into her family about the same time (Armstrong 1902, p.283; omitted by Wilton 1979, who in 1981 dated it c.1796). *Waltham Abbey* she seems to have sold in 1902 to T.W.Wright (his sale, Christie, 27.4.1923 (46), bt. Finberg) ; in 1981 it was with the Leger Galleries (English Watercolours, no.2), and measured the same as (2) and also was signed, suggesting that they may have been a pair. (Different views of Waltham Abbey appeared at Christie, 4.11.1975 (56) and 20.7.1976 (15) pl.12, besides others of Waltham Cross at Sotheby in

1978 and 1998). Amy's parents, James and Amelia Lawrence, married c.1823. He was a brewer of Colnbrook, Bucks., and she was born in Fulham. One of their grandchildren was called Robert Andrew Turner Stevens. Amy married c.1867 the Rev. Edward James Venning (Utrecht 1840/1-1893 Cassel). They had lived at Kensington 1868-73. Amy Venning was at 58 Perham Rd, Fulham, c.1901-3. About the earlier provenance I first proposed a hypothesis involving the weddings of Turner's first cousins in 1795 and 1796 in *Of Geese..., IV, Marshalls & Harpurs*, (1999), I, pp.68-70.

One confusion is that Keyes Mill appears in maps and censuses also under the name "Herrings Mill", which was also the name of a mill at **Matfield, Brenchley**, just off and to the W. of Bramble Reed Lane in Heys Wood. This was on another (Eastern) branch of Tudeley Brook, of which the W. branch flowed past Keys Mill. The brook flowed North just to the E. of Ploggs Hall, Tudeley, (home of Ambrose Mercer) and then into the Medway just upstream of Branbridges Mill, E. Peckham (taken over by Thomas Mercer c. 1800). The Matfield mill no longer exists, but Herrings Mill Farm on the other side of the road still does. Near the site of the mill is now Hayes View Farm (TN12 7ET)? It is on the parish boundary of Matfield and Pembury, which is why the 1881 and 1901 censuses give (?) two Herrings Mills in Pembury parish. There is also a windmill further S. at Kippings Cross, Matfield, called Keyes Green Mill. Herrings was the only watermill in Brenchley parish? At some point Herring may have owned both watermills.

Returning to **Pembury**, a painting of Keyes Mill in 1994 belonged to an old Pembury family which had once inhabited the mill, but was not then accessible. Were they the Curds or Lempriere (see below)? In 2003 the sister of Allan B. Curd said that she knew nothing about Keyes Mill.

Mrs Kathryn Franklin of the Pembury History Group commented: "...the name 'Herring' comes from a tenant of land in the mid 16th century in Pembury and Brenchley ..." (9.2.2005). Bernard Thompson confirms that the name Herring appears briefly in the Pembury registers then. When Keys appeared is unclear. In Pigot's 1829 directory no miller is named. In 1832/4 only Stephen Tolhurst. John Homewood appears in the 1837 W. Kent poll book, as in Pigot of 1840 and, "*corn miller & farmer*" in Bagshaw in 1847. In 1855 he is shown as a miller at an unnamed mill in Brenchley. Nicholas Styles, miller, was in the PO directories of 1859 and 1862 (and 1865?) at Keys Mill. In all these it is called Key's Mill. After that only millers at Spring Grove Mill were noticed. In the 1878 PO directory Wm. Curd appears at the neighbouring Albans farm (TN2 4BB). There are still Curds living in the area. (Allan B. Curd at Romford Farm; he and his sister are children of Ben Curd, who appears as an infant of 6 months at Keyes Mill in the 1881 census and lived to over 88 according to Mary Standen). Did they own (as opposed to tenant) the mill? Do the Land Tax returns indicate that? According to Mary Standen, Major Henry Lempriere RA (1820-1909) of Stone Court (1878 PO Directory) owned the mill for a time. Major Lempriere was from the Jersey family which ? produced Lempriere's Classical Dictionary. (Its author, John Lempriere (c.1765-1824), was head of Abingdon School 1792-1809, and so perhaps known to Turner personally). Major Lempriere married Imogen, daughter of Osborne Tylden of Torrie Hill, subsequently home of the Leigh Pemberton family. (On the Lempriere family see *Gentleman's Magazine*, 2nd ser., 2, 1834, p.333; *Burke's Landed Gentry*, 1972, vol.3). In 1881 "Herrings Mill" was uninhabited (0923.28.7) and William Curd was a farmer with 62 acres at Albans Farm.

"Many years ago (Mary E. Standen, *History of the Parish of Pembury*, 1984, related) the farmer of Three Towns asked the miller of Keyes Mill (which can be reached by the footpath opposite Haye's Wood) to help him to kill a pig." The miller obliged. "That night the miller went back to the farm and stole the pig, carrying it away on his back. All went well until he reached the stile in the footpath. He climbed over all right but ...he could not get the pig over. In his efforts to pull the pig over the [stile] the gamble, or piece of wood to hang the pig up by, slipped down under the miller's chin and choked him. After this the stile was known as 'Pig-Hangman's Stile.'" Which miller was that? Or was he simply the occupant of the mill? In the early 1970s Mary Standen's father recorded another anecdote: "A few months ago I spent an evening with Mr Ben Curd, a very active man of 88. In 1884 he was a small boy, living at Albans Farm. Early one morning in that year the family were wakened by the noise of rushing water – the mill race had broken away. Of the many sacks in the mill the one they took had no bottom to it and so the fish were still washed away." (*History of Pembury ...*, p.15). If Turner had already acquired a taste for fishing by 1792/5, that might have been another attraction to the mill.

In the 1851 census Keys Mill appears after Albans Farm. In 1861 Keys Mill (with Nicholas Styles, miller and farmer with 12 acres) appears between Bassetts and Albans Farms. In 1871 the route of the enumerator was Three Towns, Albans Farm, Bassetts Farm, Keyes Mill (Nicholas Styles, Ag. Lab.), Horse Pastures. In 1891 the Mill House (John Everest, waggoner) appears after Albans and Bassetts; Herrings Mill is shown on the Description of Enumeration District for Pembury.

There is a series of maps, but their evidence is patchy. Early ones do not show the mill? The first to do so are after 1862, by when it had ceased to function? The OS maps are not all clear about the position of the streams and the upper and lower mill ponds, though the latter appear considerably smaller than the Spring Grove one. The two ponds in the 6th? OS map of 1878 appear to have disappeared by the 25th 1897 one, and maybe now the ponds are in a different position? In 1878 the mill was clearly just to the N. of both ponds and not between them. One shows the stream branching above the lower pond, presumably creating a bypass channel which was reunited higher up? The maps are also unclear with regard to buildings.

Mrs Kathryn Franklin has said with regard to the site (9.2.2005):

Approaching Keyes Mill from Stonecourt [i.e. from W.] the upper pond is on your right and the lower pond on your left. Almost immediately as you enter the wood there is evidence of an old brick built bridge which must have taken the path across a watercourse between the two ponds. I think this was the overflow stream as the house/mill was on the left handside a bit further along, possibly in the middle between two watercourses. Looking at the two Turner pictures the present path goes behind the house and on a line about level with the upper storey and the wheel is on the far side of the house from the bridge.

In c.1793-4, when Turner made this view, William Harpur was probably living at Little Hawkwell to the N. The 1769 Andrews, Drury & Herbert's map of Kent shows a path running almost due S. from that into the wood and across the stream. The present path WT 248 follows that line. Beyond the branch to right (WT 215) it dips into a wooded area crossing the N. branch of the stream, and then rises. Just after crossing WT 217 (not on the 1878 OS map) it turns right (West) to Stone Court. Some yards further on WT 222 branches off to the left going S.E. and dipping down in the woods to the S. branch of the

stream, crossing it at possibly the mill site. This is confirmed as the location by Joe Upstone (below). A little further along WT 248 there is another turning on the left (WT 226) parallel to WT 222, and this too crosses the stream.

Turner's watercolours seemingly show an overshot mill with the water flowing towards the viewer. In that case Turner's viewpoint would have been to the NW. of the mill (ie from the direction of the path from Little Hawkwell), and the mill would have been on the W. side of the millrace (now gone?), but possibly to the E. side of the bypass (present?) channel, as noted by Bernard Thompson. Has the wood (indicated on maps since 1769) become denser since Turner's time?

In 2006 I walked over part of the area. The Pembury Bridge Club put a reproduction of the Turner at the British Museum and other details on their website. As a result in 2007 Joe Upstone of Pembury contacted me. He wrote (15.3.2007):

Well, my family has lived in pembury for around 200+ years as far as I know, ... Me and my Grandad, which has now died, ... showed me this site in the woods were the Mill once stood which is pritty hard to find however, I have rivisited it many times, not long ago I bumped into Grandads next door naboor who is now in his 80 [Mr Cross], ...he explained how he had lived in the villege all his life and he could remember as a child the Water Mill in its rewin before it was knocked down, we went to the site and he showed me some bricks laying around the site and from the picture shown on you website, you can see the bankment were the Water Mill used to sit, there is also still streams around the area of the Water Mill and about 20 metres away from the site is a small pond which contains thick iron water ... about 40 metres away from the site is also a dried up bridge with no water flowing under it, it is completely unoticble and clovered with mud and leaves ...

I can briefly imagine what it looked like when looking at what remains, I just looked at a map and I am 70% sure the picture on the site is facing in a NW direction as today behind the mill is a small bank then an apple filed, were the other views are in direction of woods.

This seems to contradict my supposition that the view is from the NW.

B. Spring Grove/Hawkwell/Pembury Mill

Here the problem is not about the site (at the junction of Amhurst Bank Road and Redwings Lane), but the changes since c.1800. It was on the Alder Stream, which also ran into the Medway, passing on the way right by Finches Farm, Tudeley, leased to Turner's Mercer and Saxby cousins 1770-1820. No drawing survives by Turner that he made on the site, so we cannot be certain whether he was relying on a drawing made in c.1792/5 or whether he made another later, though we do know that he visited Somerhill c.1809-10 (TB CXXXVII, Vale of Heathfield Sketchbook, watermark: J.Whatman 1808). Turner's drawing for the "Liber" Plate shows the sun coming from the right, which has been assumed to be in the evening; Luke Herrmann (*Turner Prints*, 1990, p.46) said, "the bright rays of the evening sun stream in through the open mill door...". However, on Mr Gruninger's theory, accepted in the first edition but now rejected here in my second, that the mill wheel was on the S.E. side of the house, the scene would be of morning.

Mr Herrmann Gruninger, a businessman originally from Switzerland, has owned the "Old Mill" since about 1983, when he sympathetically restored it. On the building as it is now there is a report in the Department of Environment's List of Buildings of Special Archaeological and Historical Interest (TQ 64 SW, Pembury, Amhurst Bank Mill, 5/353, The Old Mill):

Former farmhouse, once including a mill. Early C17 with mid/late C17 extension, some C19 and C20 modernisation. Timber-framed. Most of the ground floor is underbuilt with brick of various periods, e.g. some C17 English bond brick in the service block, C19 Flemish bond brick on the left (south east) end of the main block and, at the rear of the main block some original framing is exposed and is nogged with C17 stretcher bond brick. Framing above is hung with peg-tile. Brick stack with staggered chimneyshaft; peg-tile roof.

Plan: Basically an L-plan house facing north east. The main block has a 2-room plan with an axial stack between serving back-to-back fireplaces. The left room was probably the parlour, the other the kitchen. Front lobby entrance now incorporated into a C19 projecting stairblock. Secondary (but still C17) service block projects at right angles in front to the left (south east) end. It has a one-room plan and its front gable-end stack is a C20 addition. This service wing was probably the mill although there is no structural evidence showing for its use as such.

2 storeys with attics in the roofspace and secondary lean-to outshots on the right end of the main block and on the front to right of the stairblock.

Exterior: Doorway in the stairblock. It contains a late C19 4-panel door under a flat hood on raking struts. Window alongside and another above but most windows on the right (south east) end near the rear. Both have irregular 2-window fronts and all windows are C20, a variety of casements with glazing block roof is half-hipped both ends. Service block or mill and the stairblock roofs are gable-ended.

Interior: C17 carpentry is well-preserved in both blocks. In the main block the left (south eastern) room, the probable parlour, is larger. It and the chamber above have chamfered axial beams, the chamber one with scroll stops. Smaller rooms have plain joists. No carpentry is exposed on the ground floor of the service wing or mill. Wall framing is exposed on the first floor. The main block frame has large curving braces and large scantling wall posts. The service wing or mill frame is of lesser scantling and also includes evidence of ribbon windows round the first floor room. Main block roof is 3 bays of clasped side purlin construction and many common rafters are original. Some have an uneasy relationship with the stack and the right (north west) tie-beam has mortises towards the chimneybreast. These inconsistencies suggest that the stack was originally smaller or maybe was originally timber-framed.

This is a little confusing, as it is not easy to orient oneself without a plan. It has the house facing N.E., whereas the front today faces S.E.

Relying on a reproduction of the etching for the 'Liber' Plate, Mr. M.H.Fuller has made the following observations (12.2.2005):

1. *Many rural corn mills had three floors: a) the meal floor – at ground level, where the main gearing from the waterwheel, and to the millstones, was visible, and where the freshly ground flour was bagged up; b) the stone floor – on the first floor, where the grain was ground into flour; and c) the bin floor – on the second floor, where the grain was stored until it was milled.*
2. *There seem to be four types of wall fabric in a very small area: traditional brickwork, herringbone brickwork, weatherboarding, and plain or rendered. The dovecote, which seems to have a Roman tiled roof, is mounted directly above the waterwheel, without any obvious means of access.*
3. *The mill pond and headrace are out of view, to the right, but the rack fixed to the sluice gate controlling the flow of water to the waterwheel can be seen to the right of the dog. It seems that the gate was levered upwards using a pinch bar (shown to the left of the rack?), and was kept in position with a pawl/ratchet (shown engaging with the rack?)*
4. *The water admitted via the sluice gate flowed under the wooden plank bridge leading to the mill door, and thence to the waterwheel. The wheel is of the low breastshot type (where the water meets the wheel between 3 o'clock and 5 o'clock, say). It is made of wood, and is of the clasp arm construction – rather than having the spokes morticed into the wheel axle/hub. The wheel may have been raised, for artistic purposes, since the bottom seems to be almost at water level, instead of several feet below it. Alternatively, the wheel was drawn smaller than it was in reality. The flattened 'S' shape to the left of the large door seems to be something specific, but I'm not at all sure what – a pump handle perhaps??*
5. *On the meal (ground) floor the miller can be seen bagging up the freshly-ground wholemeal flour flowing down the vertical open chute above him. Open chutes like this are very rarely found. It was much more common for the flour to flow down a closed box-section chute, or hessian sleeve, so that dust generation and product loss were minimised. The sacks would usually be suspended from hooks around a frame, so that the miller was free to carry out other tasks whilst the sacks were being filled. Sacks and a sack barrow are visible, and these are in keeping with the setting. The gearing visible behind and above the miller exhibits several unusual features:*
 - a) *The use of inclined arms/ribs for the gear on the vertical shaft is not something that I have come across, so far, in any actual mill.*
 - b) *Also, I have never found this type of gear – called the crown wheel because usually it is at the very top of the vertical shaft – on the ground floor. It may well be found on the stone floor, where the pinions that mesh with it turn lay shafts carrying flat pulleys that, via canvas or leather belting, providing power for ancillary equipment (rollers, kibblers, graders, dressers, etc) on this floor, or the one above it.*
 - c) *The pinion shown meshing with this horizontal gear is of the most astonishing width, although its diameter seems pretty typical. All of the many pinions that I have seen in local mills are only a third or a quarter of the width of the one shown.*
 - d) *The pinion must sit at precisely 90° to the crown wheel, or else the uneven alignment would cause the cogs/teeth to destroy each other very swiftly. This means that the shaft on which the pinion is mounted cannot pass in front of the shaft carrying the crown wheel – it would have to pass through the centre of the shaft, and that is impossible. In practice, either the pinion would mesh with the left hand side of the crown wheel, or the shaft on which it is mounted would have to emerge from the right hand side of the pinion.*
6. *Lastly, the farm wagon shown in the picture appears to have steeply curved wheel arches – called 'hopped raves'. These are not typical of Kentish farm wagons, but they were common in the S Midland region, and in the areas to the south and west of this.*

This creates another problem, as Mr Gruninger's theory assumes that the mill pond is on the left and the water flowing the other way along the S.E. front, now the one by which the house is approached and entered. Indeed the Ordnance Survey 25ins map (3rd edition, 1904) shows the head race and tail race passing almost along that course (it has since been dammed up, leaving just the bypass channel to the NW of the house). If the mill had been a separate building to the SE of the head race, then this would be compatible with Mr Fuller's description. It would mean that the sun in Turner's view would be of the afternoon. Mr Fuller comments further (21.2.2005):

The details in the copies are not very good and, even now that you have referred to the incoming water flowing from the left hand side of the view, I cannot say with any great certainty that I can see a chute or flume carrying water to that side of the wheel. However, there is certainly some sort of timbering to be seen there, and I am quite prepared to accept that, in the original works, this can be seen to be a channel carrying water to the wheel. Assuming this to be so, and that the pond is on the left hand side of the view, we now have two puzzles to resolve: 1) why is there water flowing over the right hand face of the wheel? and 2) what is the purpose of the rack/pawl on the right of the bridge?

1 *...in the case of Pembury's high breastshot wheel, there shouldn't really be any water flowing down over the face of the buckets (whether the pond is on the left or the right), but this could happen with an overshot wheel. ...*

2. *I have not yet come across a watermill with a sluice gate and ratchet/pawl downstream of the wheel itself, and so very close to it ...*

Mr Fuller adds (7.3.2005):

Do you remember that I said that I had never seen a pinion gear as big as Turner had shown it? Well, the answer may be that the gearing was of a relatively early type, and used what is called a lantern gear. This consists of two horizontal circular disks of wood separated by a series of vertical wooden rods that act as gear teeth, as it were. The 'teeth' of the gear it meshed with consisted of wooden pegs...When the use of cast iron became more common (in about 1800? ...), these lantern gears were replaced with cast iron pinion gears ..." (See publication by John Harrison issued by the SPAB Mills Section).

After seeing the 25 ins Ordnance Survey map, 3rd ed., 1904, he added (28.9.2006):

There are certainly a few peculiarities about the map. Firstly, there is no mention of the mill itself, just the cottage. Even if a mill was disused, the cartographers tended to show it as 'Mill (disused)' [as in the case of Keys Mill], but this might not have been the case if the mill had been out of use for a long time. Secondly, the waterway seems to be an unusually long way from the building shown (assuming this is the mill). The wheel and waterway ought to be right against the building, and were shown as such in many of the OS maps I have examined. It is almost as if part of the building is missing. It is extremely unlikely that the water channel followed four 90° turns to take it alongside the mill – I have never come across such a feature....

[The views by Turner] *seem to show the water running down a wooden pentrough (or chute) and striking the wheel at about 11 o'clock. From here it must therefore have continued to flow to the right – beneath the boarded area in front of the doorway. The sluice gear shown in the right foreground of the pictures therefore must be on the downstream of the wheel (mustn't it?) but I cannot think of a single mill which has had this feature. After all, what use did it serve? There was no need to control the water flow on the downstream side of the mill, and if the sluice had been closed this would have flooded the immediate area. On the other hand, if we consider the opposing scenario whereby the water flows from right to left in Turner's works, and the sluice is in advance of the wheel, this would make the wheel an undershot one – with the sluice in a logical position, but mean that the pentrough is not what it seems. Rather more problematical is the fact that we now find that it is impossible to align the OS map and Turner's view so that the fabric of the mill remains on the same side of the waterway in both cases.*

That this was the mill depicted in the 'Liber' plate, **Pembury Mill**, is nevertheless probable. It is the only mill generally so-called. And on 4 March 1805 (will of William Woodgate) William Harpur was "in occupation" of it, comprising "all that messuage or tenement buildings and water corn Mill with the Tackle Stones Geer and appurtenances thereto belonging ...". Unfortunately the Land Tax and parish records are unclear about when Harpur was in occupation. In 1788 it was occupied by William Jewhurst (related to the millers of Tonbridge Mill?), and in 1794 Jewhurst is replaced by Samuel Brook until 1797. It had a rental value of £16 for purposes of the Land Tax. From 1798 only the name of the owner, William Woodgate, is given. He fell out with Harpur by 23 February 1808, when it must be presumed Harpur left Little Hawkwell, where he had been since 1792. Woodgate acquired the Hawkwell estate in 1788, and Harpur's father died in 1790, leaving a question as to where the Harpur family was 1790-1. Perhaps they were not turned out of the Tonbridge vicarage immediately after the Rev. Henry Harpur died on 5 October 1790, and they moved to Pembury in late 1791. His successor was a son of the patron of the living and it is not absolutely certain that the unmarried son resided in the vicarage – certainly some decades later it had become the residence of curates.

Only in 1821 is a tenant of the mill named in the Land Tax: Mr Ashby. However a 1820 assignment said it was held by Joseph Peckham "under a yearly rent of £30." Was he William Harpur's immediate successor? This document (U642/T7) refers to grants made by William Woodgate on 6 May 1807. The assignment is dated 6 November 1820. It concerns the manors of Pepngbury and Hawkwell and specifically Hawkwell, Little Hawkwell and the water corn mill. Little Hawkwell comprised 22a 1r 23p and garden and orchard and lands (200 acres?) which were in the tenure of Iden Henham *by lease of 10 October 1790 at a yearly rent of £80* (the italicised words deleted). The water corn mill with mill stones, gear and tackle, outhouses, gardens and orchard comprised (measurements in acres, roods and perches):

Mill Hous? & Mill	1.1.20
Upper Pond	1.2.18
Lower Pond	1.1.25
The other Lower Pond	2.36

and were held by Joseph Peckham as *tenant from year to year under yearly rent of £30 Land Tax deducted* (words in italics deleted). This is puzzling, as now there is only one millpond. The 1821 plan of the Manor of Hawkwell ("rights belonging to Samuel Lewin Esq., the present Lord") by T. Williams of East Grinstead (U1535/P3) is not altogether clear. However it does seem to indicate more than one building in the mill area, as did the Tithe Award of 1849 (CKS CTR286A), landowner Woodgate and Brisco (Musgrave Brisco had married Frances Woodgate):

734	House & Water Mill		2.1.16
735	Stack Plot	Waste	24
737	Lower Mill Field	Meadow	2. .21
738	Upper Mill Field.	Meadow	3.1.
£1.3.6 payable to vicar.			

Another plan was made of the Hawkwell Place Estate c.1930, showing the stream to the N. of Pembury Mill Cottage (U273/11). Presumably by then the millrace branch had been damned up. Everything points to there having been a mill separate from the cottage (as at Marden and as the records in 1821 and 1849 indicate) and on the opposite side of the millrace. That must have disappeared in the late C19 before the millrace was dammed up c.1904-30. Turner's view might then have been taken from the mill cottage and show an evening scene with the light coming from SW. The cramped space between mill and mill house might have dictated a close-up view. It would be desirable to have confirmation from early maps (not all of which I have seen, such as the OS 25" map 1st ed.).

By 1832 Richard Ashby (1795-1880; will proved under £12,000) was occupier of both Great Hawkwell and the mill. In the 1849 tithe award mill and house comprised 2a 1r 16p. An indenture of 7 December 1836 (U1050/E39) between the Woodgates and Richard Ashby, farmer, granted a lease of Pembury Mill to the latter. In Pigot's 1840 directory Richard Ashby Esq. is miller (John Homewood is plain Homewood). In the PO directory he is miller & farmer and in Bagshaw's 1847 one corn miller and farmer. In the 1852 PO directory Richard Ashby is described as farmer and Frederick Ashby as miller. (Frederick was his younger son and in 1880 at Sydenham and in 1888 a hop factor at Southwark). By 1859 James Wallis was at the mill, 1862-70 Edward Marchant and 1874-8 Edwin Coppard, miller. After him it evidently ceased to work as a watermill. In the 1878 PO Directory Richard Ashby was listed under private residents. In 1881 William Cragg, agricultural labourer, was there (and Henry Ashby, 87, retired miller, at Great Hawkwell), and in 1891 Fred Lawrence, gas fitter. Mr Hermann Gruninger, the owner since c.1983, has a mass of deeds in London. The Woodgate papers are at the Centre for Kent Studies, Maidstone, (U 2098; also U 1050). The summary at the front of the index states that there were three watermills at Pembury.

Sources: CKS U642 T7 Pembury Mill deeds 1807-50; DOE list on mill TQ 64 SW 5/353; CKS, U1535 P3 Manor of Hawkwell. Estate map 1821; U273/11 Plan of Hawkwell Place estate; U2098 Deeds of Hawkwell Estate 1539-1790.

Appendix 9: Thomas Mercer (1770/1-1852) and Greentrees, Hadlow.

Thomas lived at Greentrees 1781-1816 inheriting in 1794 and was there until the failure of the Tonbridge New Bank. Prior to 1781 his father Ambrose lived at Ploggs Hall Tudeley, also renting Finches Farm House (now the home of Gordon Hardwick and family). The Greentrees he knew seems to have been an L – shaped building, like Hazel Street Farm house of “Flea” Mercer at Horsmonden, and was perhaps in the Kentish vernacular style rather than the classical one of the Kibble extension (on the latter cf. Christopher Greenwood 1838, “A very handsome modern house , in the Grecian style”; Samuel Bagshaw 1847). The rebuild of Goldhill, Hadlow, c.1810, until then home of the Saxby cousins of the Mercers, shows the “modern” style. Thomas married Mary Sophia Harpur, daughter of the late vicar of Tonbridge and J.M.W.Turner’s aunt, in 1796.

Some of additional dates with still unanswered questions can be added to those given in *Of Geese*, ...IV.

1798 He leased lands and watermill, Bradbourne Mill, (Riverhill), Sevenoaks, from Thomas Lane of Bradbourne Hall (Canterbury Cathedral Archives U92/a/4/17). See below. By 1803 he had the larger Branbridges water oil mill at E.Peckham.

1803. He was Captain in the Woodgate Volunteers (*Kentish Weekly Post*, 14.10 1803).

1806 He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Kent (*London Gazette*, 24.5.1806).

1810 He attended a meeting at Maidstone to discuss uniting the Rivers Medway, Stour and Rother (*Kentish Weekly Post*, 30.3.1810)

1811-15 His son Thomas at Tonbridge School. Did he emigrate? Marry?

1817-33 His whereabouts unknown. (Possibly with his Saxby cousins at Hadlow of Tudeley??)

1832 He should have received, by the will of William Harpur (1767-1810; of Pembury) of which he was residuary legatee, the capital of the £5 annuity left to Mrs Catherine Turner (his wife's sister) on her death.

1833-5 Steward of James Stoddart Douglas (1793-1875), Conservative MP 1841-7, son of slave owner, at Chilston Park, Sandway, Lenham (now a hotel) (*South Eastern Gazette* 17.9.1833; 10.11.1835). c.1838-41 he rented Goddington Farm at Harrietsham, previously home of the "Mighty Mynn" and more recently of ...

A descendant was enquiring about Greentrees "not long ago" (*Tonbridge Free Press*, 18.9.1964). Also enquired at Harrietsham.

The bankruptcy papers of Mercer & Barlow record that "furniture sold at auction" fetched £295.16.3. The valuation of furniture by Messrs Boys & Salmon had been £1,109.6.0. The auction was advertised in the *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser* 28 January 1817 —

ELEGANT FURNITURE ~ 4 handsome Chariot and Plated Harness, Choice Madeira and other Wines, a large Assortment of Linen, and other Effects TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY MR. BOYS, At GREEN TREES, near Tonbridge, Kent, ON MONDAY, FEB. 3, 1817, and following days, by Order of the Assignees of Mr. Thomas Mercer, COMPRISING a handsome Chariot with plated mouldings, lined with morocco, in good preservation, and plated harness for a pair of horses j il dozen of fine old madeira, claret, and other wines ; a compleat set of drawing-room furniture, sofa, chairs, & c. carpets, rugs, and curtains ; an exceeding good set of mahogany dining tables with circular ends, side board, chairs, & c ; pier and other glasses ; mahogany four- post bedsteads-. villi various hangings, and others of different descriptions, capital goose feather beds and bedding, mattresses, and palliases ; about 50 lots of fine linen ; a large assortment of kitchen requisites, dairy and brewing utensils, china, glass, and earthenware", which will be particularized in Catalogues, to be had previous to the sale, at the Star and George Inns, Maidstone; the Crown, at Tonbridge ; Bull, Wrotham; Swan, Town ; Malling ; Greyhound, Hadlow ; on the premises ; and of the AUCTIONEER, Bower Buildings, Maidstone, The Sale to begin each Day at Eleven o'Clock. .

The Kibbles and Greentrees

Thomas Kibble I (1771-1838) acquired Greentrees in succession to Thomas Mercer. He was the son of Thomas Kibble and Sarah Martin and was baptised at Paisley on 28 February 1772. It is said that there were 17 children in all, one presumably the Sarah buried at Hadlow (Scriptor (*alias* Rob Sanders), "Mr. Este and Miss Smyth", *boston1775.blogspot.com* 2013, 2021). The Kibbles were a wealthy textile family, a cousin being the founder of the still existing Kibble charity for children. He was a collector of old master pictures, some sold in 1856 were said to have been collected 60 years previously. He sent his son, Thomas II, 1828-33 to Tonbridge School, where he followed Thomas Mercer's son Thomas. Thomas Kibble's death in *Gentleman's Magazine*, March 1838: "Jan.19. At Green Trees, near Tonbridge, aged 67, T.Kibble, esq." He has a monument in Hadlow churchyard along with inscriptions commemorating his sister Sarah (1785-1828) and son, Thomas II. Thomas Kibble II (1817-95), "a well known, wealthy but somewhat eccentric gentleman" (*Kent & Sussex Courier*, 12 September 1884), succeeded his father. The authority on the Kibbles, Rob Sanders, maintains that Thomas was not eccentric, but a serious philanthropist. However he appears as an eccentric recluse, except for biannual visits to London, in *Tales of Old Tonbridge*. His reputation may be accounted for in part by the fact that the Kibbles were Scottish businessmen from London, whereas the Mercers came from a line of Kent yeomen and so less alien to the villagers. He was a life member of the Royal Society of Arts from 1864 (1883 Register). In 1860-4 he had an address at L3 Albany (Boyle's London Court Guide).

A recent source is Andrea Fiore, "Un lungo equivoco: i 'Santi Giacomo Minore e Filippo' di Paolo Veronese da Lecce a Dublino", *Prospettiva*, 163-164, July-October 2016, [2018], pp.148-63; "Da Lecce a Dublino, un capolavoro di Paolo Veronese", *Il giornale d'arte*, 10 April 2015. The first has notes on Greentrees from a report of 1879 of the fire: "This mansion ... consists practically of two portions, an old part perhaps built nearly a century ago, which was no doubt originally the whole of the residence; and a modern part, considerably more extensive, having in the centre a fine oak staircase more than twelve feet wide, with a large and lofty picture gallery on one side and spacious reception rooms on the other ...Green Trees is noted for its extensive collection of high-class paintings, and nearly all of these - many of them being in the unfinished picture-gallery - were safely removed to the conservatory, some distance away but a few in the occupied apartments were destroyed, including ... a picture for which Mr Kibble gave two thousand guineas." Reports further added: "... The collection of pictures in the mansion was valued at £100,000. The old part of the mansion was gutted ... the new portion of the mansion was saved." (*Kent & Sussex Courier*, 4 April 1879). "At one time the place was kept up by Mr Kibble in first-rate style, but, as his old servants

left, part after part of the mansion ... went out of repair.” After the fire “Mr Kibble retired to the cottage where he expired. After the fire he presented several most valuable pictures to the Tonbridge Mechanics Institute ...” (*Kent & Sussex Courier*, 7 June 1895).

Fiore did not mention the evidence of Greenwood which fixes the date of the new part, which must have been built by Thomas Kibble I, except for the gallery. Rob Sanders has made a plan of the house as extended by Kibble based on maps of 1829 (W.Budgen) and 1880-95 (OS 25in). He estimates the size of the old part at 70 x 60 feet and of the new at 100 x 85 feet. The large conservatory by its size exhibited Kibble's ambition. It survived under the next owners of the estate, Mr and Mrs G Manwaring. (photo). I have noted the sale particulars with plans of the estate before it was largely built over in 20th century (remains of cellars have been discovered by residents).

An obituary, which follows to some extent other ones, is included in the albums of Baron Arthur d'Este at Pau (below). The one in the *Tonbridge Free Press* (8 June 1895) described the works he had given to Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, the ruination of the estate etc. The following week, 15 June, reporting on the funeral. By his will Kibble left all the proceeds of the sale of his estate to be divided equally between members of his d'Este relatives (I have made a tree of the family). Baron Arthur went to live at the chateau d'Este at Pau.

Mercer and the Bradbourne estate. ... the estate passed to Thomas Lane, as laid down in Henry Bosville's Will. Thomas died in 1805, leaving Bradbourne to his twelve year old son Henry Thomas. A list for Bradbourne Lands in 1814 shows them to have been little different to 200 years before. In 1826, Blackhall, which comprised nearly a third of the estate, was sold, half going to the Marquis of Camden and half to the Earl of Plymouth. It is probably that the estate was no longer prospering, for Henry Thomas' son was forced to sell in 1840. On the other hand, B.Hall Greenwood, writing in 1836, wrote a glowing description of Bradbourne. “This seat is the centre of a very noble neighbourhood having Knole to the south east ... Chevening Park to the north west, Chepstow Manor and the ancient manor of the Petley's at Riverhead, Montreal to the south ... some fine tapestry in compartments, supposed to have been given to Sir Ralph Bosville by Queen Elizabeth ... a large, handsome, substantial structure, surrounded by beautiful grounds.... the interior elegantly fitted up and ornamented by Poussin, Ostade, Sir Godfrey Kneller... in the drawing room ...” Bradbourne was bought in 1840 by Henry Hughes who restored some of the former life to the estate which had been lost by the reclusive lives of the two reclusive Bosvilles and the uneventful ownership of the Betensen and Lane families: the southern part of the estate consisted of picturesque woodlands through which he allowed the public to wander, on the brow of the hill overlooking the lakes and mansion he built a summer house known as Mount Harry. In 1858 he was amongst those at the meeting in the Crown Hotel to propose the construction of a railway line to Sevenoaks. Others attending the meeting were Lord Amhurst, the Marquis of Camden, the Earl of Brecknock and William Lambarde, but the Bradbourne estate was most effected by the coming railway. One Line approached Sevenoaks via the Darenth Valley, the other from Orpington. They converged just on the southern edge of the estate by Mount Harry, effectively splitting the Bradbourne lands into three portions. (*Bradbourne Lakes*). The mill no longer exist