

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

KENT'S CHANTRY, HEADCORN, 1565

Maidstone Museum has recently purchased a document which serves to round off the items concerning Headcorn Chantry quoted by the late Mr. Arthur Hussey in his *Kent Chantries*.¹ The document is really twofold for at the end of the 1565 document a piece of paper concerning later details is sewn on.

“ A Booke of the yearely Revenewes of Warham St. Leger Esq^r
Written by me Robert Stephenson Anno Dm̄. 1565

Lands in Hedcorne Chauntry

Imp^rmis the rent of Assise there of Divers persons
upon the Deā: of Thornhirst by the yeare xvij^s x^d

Item for a farme of certaine lands let to John
Homershem by the yeare xiiij^{li}

Item for a farme of certaine lands let to Tho: Little
by y^e yeere x^{li}

Item for a farme of certaine Lands let to Robert
Hopper by yeer ij^{li} vj^s viij^d

Item of M^r Cullpepper of Aylesford for rent or Fee
farme for certaine lands belonging to the Chantry
By the yeere xx^s

Item for a little house standing in the towne of
hedcorne let to a Basket maker by the yeere x^s

Item for a farme of certaine lands let to Stephen
Goldwell belonging to the same Chantry by y^e
yeere xl^s

Item Christopher Kellsham for the rent of certeine
lands of the Chantrey of Hedcorne w^h he bought
of me by y^e yeere vj^s ij^d

Item Ralfe Homershame for the rente of certaine
lands of y^e Chauntry of Hedcorne w^{ch} he bought
of me by y^e yeere xvj^d

Item Edward Newenden for such lands as he bought
of me belonging to the Chauntry of Hedcorne by
yeere xvj^d

(Join in paper)

¹ *Kent Records*, XII, 1936, pp. 144-6.

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The office for Feefarme rent for Kent is Kept at M^r Younges on the backside of Fether Taverne in Deane Court neare to Paules Church yard John Weston & John Troute Rec. Pay to either of them for Tenthes due to his Ma^{ist}: for one yeare ending at Micha: last for Landes in Hedcorne late M^r Beresford now W^m. Belcher two pounds one shilling five pence—02^u.01-05

Due for ye Acquitt more	ij ^d
Altering his name	iijs iiij ^d
Messenger	ijs

L. R. A. GROVE.

KENTISH FAIRS AND PREHISTORY

Readers of Hughes's *The Scouring of the White Horse* (1859) will remember the description of the two-day fair held within the pre-historic earthwork of Uffington Castle, Berkshire, and the sports which took place there. Amongst the prizes given at the Scouring of 1776 were mentioned :

1. A cheese to be run for down the White Horse Manger.
 2. A flich of Bacon to be run for by asses
- and 3. A good Hat to be run for by men in sacks, every man to bring his own sack.¹

It was reported that at the Scouring of 1785² " John Morse of Uffington, a queerish sort of a man, grinned agin another chap droo' hos collars, but John got beaat—a fine bit of spwoort to be shure, Sir, and made the folks laaf. Another geaam wur to bowl a cheese down the Mainger, and the first as could catch 'un had 'un. The cheese was a tough 'un and held together. . . . There wur running for a peg³ too, and they as could ketch 'un and hang 'un up by the tayl⁴ had 'un. The girls, too, run races for smocks. . . . There wur climmin' a grasy pole for a leg of mutton, too."

The games at Uffington have a long history and some authors hint at a prehistoric origin for them.⁵ It is well known that ceremonies concerning wheels have a connection with ancient fertility rites. "Wheels wrapped in straw or wooden discs which were trundled flaming over the fields to ensure their fertility continued to figure in the fire festivals of Europe until recent times."⁶ Barnabe Googe in

¹ *The Scouring of the White Horse*, p. 108.

² *Ibid.*, p. 111.

³ =pig.

⁴ See Frazer's *The Golden Bough* (1890 two volume edition), II, p. 42. "The virtue of the corn-spirit, embodied in animal form, is sometimes supposed to reside in the tail."

⁵ See R. Whitlock, "Cleaning up the White Horse" in *The Field*, 12th January, 1952. Also Stuart Piggott, *Antiquity*, V, no. 17, pp. 44-46.

⁶ M. D. Anderson, *Looking for History in British Churches*, 1951, p. 15. Frazer, *op. cit.*, II, pp. 273 ff.

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The Popish Kingdome, 1570, has a relevant section on the customs associated with the Feast of St. John the Baptist (24th June) :

“ Some others get a rotten wheele all worne and caste aside,
Which covered round about with straw and tow they closely hide,
And caryed to some mountain top, being all with fire light,
They hurle it down with violence, when darke appears the night
Resembling much the Sunne that from the heavens down should fall,
A strange and monstrous sight it seems and fearful to them all,
But they suppose their mischiefs all are likewise thrown to Hell,
And that from harmes and dangers now in safetie here they dwell.”¹

The present writer has been so fortunate as to be able to collect together at Maidstone Museum several handbills which illustrate the Kentish connections of traditional games with prehistoric antiquities. The first advertisement concerns Kits Coty House :

MIDSUMMER
ANNUAL FAIR,
WILL BE HELD
AT KITTS COTTY HOUSE, the 24th of JUNE, 1809,
AT WHICH WILL BE EXHIBITED THE FOLLOWING
DIVERSIONS.

.

A DONKEY RACE
For a CHEESE.

A CHEMISE
To be Run for by YOUNG LADIES

A POUND OF TOBACCO
To be SMOKED for.

GRINNING through a HORSE COLLAR
For Two Gallons of ALE.

A HOT HASTY PUDDING
To be Eat by Boys, for a NEW HAT.

.

FROM THE PRESS OF J. BLAKE.”

Quoted by Anderson, *op. cit.*, footnote to p. 15.

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From the same Maidstone press were issued two bills about the Branbridge Annual Fairs, held respectively on the 30th May, 1808, and the 29th May, 1809. Amongst the "diversions" were a jingling match, jumping in sacks for a good cheese, a holland smock to be run for by Ladies, a Donkey Race, and a pound of tobacco to be smoked for, "with several other *rational* Amusements, the whole to conclude with a Grand Ball." These fairs were held in the neighbourhood of The Rose and Crown, Branbridge,¹ at a short distance south of Milbays Wood hill-top camp, Nettlestead.²

Finally, from the Dunkin Press at Dartford come two bills dated the 23rd April, 1844, and the 23rd and 24th April, 1847. These concern the Fair held at the Cock Inn, Wilmington. The second bill is the more comprehensive and amongst the sports mentioned are Climbing the Greasy Pole for a Leg of Mutton (NB. The Ladies are respectfully informed that they cannot be admitted Competitors for this Prize), a Gingling Match, a Wheelbarrow Race, Jumping in Sacks, Grinning through Horse Collars (No Candidate will be allowed to open his mouth wider than Six Inches) and a Donkey Race. "A Grand Ball will take place in the Evening." Those who know the Dartford district will not need to be reminded that if a person at Wilmington looks to the west he will see Joyden's Wood.

L. R. A. GROVE.

A STONE HOUSE IN BURGATE LANE, CANTERBURY

Recent researches among the records of the Consistory Court under Queen Elizabeth I. have brought to light some interesting facts about an old stone building standing (the last on that side to escape the blitz) on the west side of Burgate Lane, opposite that bastion of the city wall formerly in use as a chapel.

This solid building was, it seems, erected between 1550 and 1560 by Mr. Stephen Thornhurst, familiarly known as "Mr. Thorney", and described as a "yeoman" or a "gentleman". The building was designed to be let for "romes"—as we should say for apartments or lodgings. One of the tenants was a Mr. William Morbred, who wedded in 1565 Mr. Thorney's widow, Agnes. Two ladies who married in succession Thornhurst's son and namesake, Sir Stephen Kt., have elaborate monuments in the Warriors' Chapel of the Cathedral, as well as his distinguished grandson, Sir Thomas Thornhurst, a gallant soldier, the captor, so his epitaph relates, of the Ile de Rè "till the Day of Doom."

¹ Now Brandbridges, on the River Medway a mile to the north-west of Beltring Halt.

² See Jessup's *Archæology of Kent*, pp. 159 and 260, and *V.C.H., Kent*, I, p. 399.

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The elder of Sir Stephen's wives had previously been married to Sir Richard Baker, uncle of the Chronicler, and secondly to Richard Fletcher, Bishop of London; Sir Stephen was her third husband. They had two daughters, who appear at the base of their mother's monument, Grisogon, Lady Dacre of Hurstmonceux and Cecilia, Lady Blunt.

In the wall of the Thornhurst building may still be seen a stone marking the parish boundary of St. George's and St. Mary Magdalen's—evidence given in the court tells us there was formerly an "iron ringle" at this spot, always visited by the parishioners of St. Mary's when they made their yearly circuit of the bounds—Thornhurst's "great house" replaced an older building (possibly the monkish St. Dunstan's Hall) which he demolished, but he took care to insert the correct boundary mark in his new wall.

His family, and that of Morbred, resided for several generations in St. George's parish.

One of the witnesses in the Consistory Court was Christiana Castreet, an old lady of 99 who had lived in Burgate Lane "these sixty years last past at the least", and lived on there till her death at 102.

As the pulling down of the west side of Burgate Lane (the watchman's lane beneath the city wall) is forecast in the new plan for the blitzed area, with considerable widening to follow, it seems well to place on record the history of Mr. Thorney's Elizabethan "rooming-house".

DOROTHY GARDINER.

Since the above description was written the "rooming house" has been completely demolished, as, in the opinion of the City authorities, it was unsafe.
D.G., July, 1952.

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE BRONZE SPEAR-HEAD FROM CHARTHAM

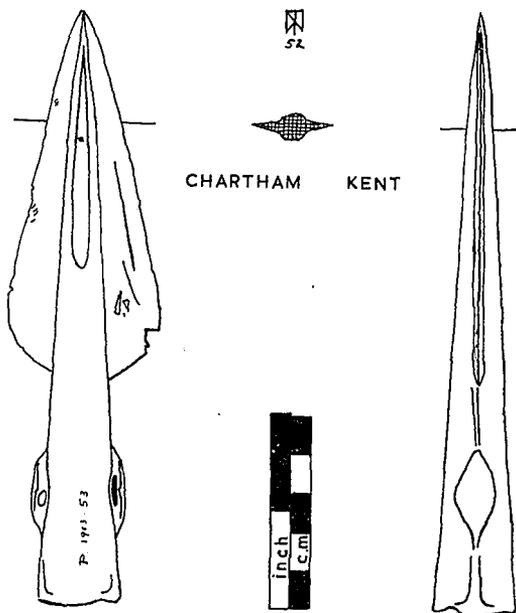
In Volume LXIII (1950) of *Arch. Cant.* it was noted (p. 148) by Mr. L. V. Grinsell that there is a socketed and looped spear-head of bronze from Chartham, Kent, in Cheltenham Museum. The following additional information has come to light from the examination of Museum records and other sources, and, as no illustration seems to have been published so far, a drawing is included, which, it is hoped, will be more eloquent than much detailed description.

The spear-head is leaf-shaped and has been cast in yellow bronze. It is exactly 6 in. long. The socket is $\frac{1\frac{1}{2}}{0}$ in. in diameter at the base, extends up the middle of the blade, and, as the drawing shows, has two lateral loops. It is, therefore, one of that type attributed to peculiarly British workmanship which is generally associated with the first phase of the Late Bronze Age. It was found in 1861 at Chartham Paper Mill, and, as Mr. Grinsell says, is more or less free from patina. Mr.

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Grinsell's inference, moreover, that "it might have come from a stream or river" is borne out, as it was in fact discovered while deepening the furrow of the water-wheel.

From this description it is obvious that this is the specimen which was exhibited by Mr. Cecil Brent at the meeting of the British Archæological Association on the 11th December, 1861 (*Journal of the British Archæological Association*, XVII, p. 334). It is, therefore, difficult to understand how it came to leave the County, for nothing



In CHELTENHAM Museum.

FIG. 1. Spear Head from Chartham.

further is known of it until it turned up in the large collection of bronze implements, weapons and ornaments purchased in 1913 by the authorities of Cheltenham Museum from the late A. J. de Havilland Bushnell, an antiquarian collector of that town. There is no information as to whether Mr. Brent actually made the find, or whether he ever even owned the spear-head. Likewise, nothing is known of how it came into the possession of Mr. Bushnell. By exercising the imagination, however, it is possible to make a conjecture at the probable course of events. It was probably found by a labourer who took it to Mr. Brent, the local authority, for an opinion. Mr. Brent probably borrowed it

for exhibition at the British Archæological Association meeting, and then, when it had been returned to him, the finder probably sold it to a local dealer. After probably changing hands several more times, it eventually found a home in Mr. Bushnell's cabinet, from whence it came to its present location in Cheltenham Museum.

This specimen is also listed in George Clinch's Topographical List of Prehistoric Antiquities in Kent (*V.C.H., Kent*, I p. 335) and in Sir John Evans's *Ancient Bronze Implements of the British Isles* (p. 322). Such lists and subsequent records show that very few socketed spear-heads with loops have been found in Kent. In fact, R. F. Jessup could only record three, *Archæology of Kent* (p. 103), including this one from Chartham.

Nearly a year after having written the above, the writer has been struck by the strong similarity between his conjectured history of the Chartham specimen and the actual fate of a bronze spear-head, of slightly different type, which was dredged up recently (1952) in Gloucestershire.

W. NEVILLE TERRY.

THE MID-THIRTEENTH-CENTURY STEELYARD WEIGHT FROM SUNDRIDGE,
AND A SUGGESTED EXPLANATION OF ITS PRESENCE THERE

The publication by Mr. L. R. A. Grove (in *Arch. Cant.*, LXIV, pp. 166-8, Fig. 7) of a thirteenth-century steelyard weight found at Sundridge in 1930, and the suggestion made by Dr. Curwen that it was connected with the "Teutonic Hanse merchants of the Steelyard", has prompted the writing of this note. A deed in the writer's possession, and which was, in 1918, amongst a number of documents which he managed to save after they had been turned out of a London office, may have some bearing on the matter. It measures 7 in. by 4 in., and is dated to the 6th January, 1262. Its text shows that there was a fulling mill, with associated buildings, at Sundridge at this date and that the industry was carried on by one, Richard the Fuller. By this deed, the mill, together with land and another dwelling, all held by service from Merton Priory, passed to a Henry de Apeldrefeld.¹ A further reference to this property in Sundridge is contained in the Merton Cartulary (Cotton MS. Cleopatra, C., vii) and is quoted here (as "Appendix B").

As it has seemed to the writer to be possible, or most likely, that such a steelyard weight as that mentioned would have been used in the

¹ I am indebted to Mr. J. H. Evans for kindly drawing my attention to the fact that the Apeldrefeld family bought up rents and services in "Sundrish" in the late XIIIth century, and for the ref. *Arch. Cant.* XLIV, 201.

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weighing of bales of cloth, and that such a steelyard might well have been required at a fulling mill, the evidence that a mill of this type existed at Sundridge, and at the very date to which the weight is assigned, appeared to him to be of some consequence. It is a pity that it was not possible to excavate the mediaeval foundations which are recorded as being at the site at which the weight was found, but that they were destroyed, by the erection of bungalows, without any proper investigation.

A. W. G. LOWTHER.

APPENDIX A. TRANSLATION OF THE SUNDRIDGE DEED

To all faithful Christians . . . (etc.). I, Bartholomew de Oveneye send greetings. Know that I have, in return for the rent of two shillings, conceded to the lord Henry de Apeldreferd (*sic*) the premises which the same lord Henry held of Geoffrey Olyver namely a fulling mill and the dwelling of Richard the fuller, in Sunderess. To have and to hold . . . (etc.). Similarly also with that remaining tenement which belonged to the aforesaid Geoffrey and which that Geoffrey sold to me and which is in Sunderess. Let him hold it in perpetuity for the rent of two shillings. Defending and acquiting me as regards the Court of la Merton [i.e. Merton Priory] in accordance with that which is contained in the charter which the same lord Henry has in this matter with the aforesaid Geoffrey. And I concede and agree, for myself and my heirs and assigns, unto the aforesaid Henry and his heirs or assigns . . . (etc. etc.). In witness of all which matters I have affixed my seal to these present writings.

Witnesses—Ralph de Herreforde, moront (?), Henry le feutres, Luca le ocse, Reginald pygun (? Pigeon) Gilbert de Icus, Gilbert le Wrig, William le stoyl, Sym(on) Ysely, Henry de Fedes, cleric, and many others. Given at the feast of Epiphany in the forty-sixth year of the reign of king Henry son of king John.

APPENDIX B. EXTRACT FROM "RECORDS OF MERTON PRIORY, SURREY", BY MAJOR ALFRED HEALES—1898

p. 143 : "1265, or 6. Gilbert, prior, and Convent, granted to Henry de Apeldresfeld in perpetuity, all returns, customs, suits and services, with reliefs, heriots, escheats, and all things pertaining to the tenement which he otherwise held of them in Sunderess." (It goes on to state that, for this concession, Henry granted the priory all his lands and tenements in "Apeldresfeld and Losted").

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MURAL PAINTING AND MEMORIAL RESTORED IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, FAWKHAM

Work of restoration and preservation has recently been carried out in Fawkham Church on two most interesting works of art.

The Mural painting, depicting Our Lord seated in Glory with hands raised, is enclosed by an elliptical border or Vesica piscis, and occurs on the North wall of the Nave. This is the only surviving painting of what must have been a splendid series of paintings which, no doubt, covered a large part or the whole of the north wall. The painting which is of thirteenth century date had become very faded and unless treatment had been carried out was in danger of being completely lost as the colour was in a very powdery condition.

Restoration has now been carried out, and treatment with a preservative has not only saved it from becoming a total loss, but has put back into the colour much of the richness it had lost through time. It is almost unbelievable that no new colour whatever has been added.

THE MEMORIAL TO JOHN WALTER (DIED 1625) SITUATED ON THE EAST WALL OF THE CHANCEL

The Memorial which is a very fine example of early seventeenth-century workmanship represents John Walter and his wife kneeling facing each other at a prie Dieu, their hands clasped in prayer.

The construction is mainly of cream-coloured alabaster with inlaid marble panels of various other colours. The figures and much of the ornamentation were richly coloured and gilded; this work, however, suffered under Victorian hands being repainted at that time in a very inexperienced manner.

The Monument has been carefully cleaned and repaired and where necessary adjustments have been made to the colouring where it departed from the original scheme. The work as it appears now is essentially the same as when it was completed in the early seventeenth century, which is a rich and pleasing piece of colour, adorning the east wall, as indeed those who placed it there intended it to be.

M. E. KEEVIL.

PROTESTANT REFUGEES AT MAIDSTONE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Miss Valerie Morant has written in *The Economic History Review*, Second Series, IV, No. 2, 1951, a most interesting paper describing the settlement approved by Queen Elizabeth's Letters Patent of 1567 in the borough of Wyke close by the thirteenth-century chapel of St. Faith which in 1572 was granted for the use of the Flemings. Most of the refugees were engaged in the making of fine woollen and silk cloths of such quality that both directly and indirectly the new settlement

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made for prosperity in the town. By 1620, the community was engaged almost solely in the manufacture of linen thread, and "grogreyn, mockadoes, sackcloth and woollen cloth" were no longer of such importance, the town in fact having the English monopoly of thread manufacture until about 1860 when a rival industry was set up in the west country. The settlement was dispersed, as were the others in England, by Laud's Act of Uniformity, and Miss Morant tells us that two hundred years after the foundation, all that was left of the Maidstone settlement were "a few Dutch surnames among the townfolk, and the survival of the name 'Dutch work' for the thread manufacture."

R.F.J.

DARTFORD DISTRICT NOTES

Among the most interesting items of archæological history in the Dartford District are the following:

DARTFORD PRIORY

Another important link in the history of this interesting building has been revealed this year. Mr. J. W. Kirby, B.A., has transcribed from the State Papers in the Bodleian Library a detailed account of the progress and cost of altering the Priory Buildings by Henry VIII into a residence for Anne of Cleves. This has been done for Messrs. J. and E. Hall, Engineers, part of whose works now cover the Priory site, though where possible portions of the early walling have been preserved.

DARTFORD PARISH CHURCH

It is particularly pleasurable to announce that this church has joined the band of churches which provide guide books to assist the visitor. In addition throughout the summer a rota of guides attended to help visitors to appreciate this fine old building.

DARTFORD BRIDGE HOUSE

Dartford Borough Council has bought this imposing mid-eighteenth-century house and suitably restored it for use as public offices.

CRAYFORD

A very useful addition to Kent local histories has been made in the publication by the Crayford Urban District Council of a short history of Crayford by Mr. W. Carr.

SUTTON-AT-HONE CHURCH

This church suffered severely from enemy action in the war and a somewhat dark church was made even darker when the broken windows had to be boarded up. This year the war damage has been repaired and the new windows make the church considerably lighter.

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FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

To celebrate the Festival of Britain a series of tableaux depicting episodes in local history was shown on an open air stage in the Central Park, Dartford. Each episode was separately produced by a local firm.

A. CUMBERLAND.

SIDNEY BERNARD, SURGEON, R.N.

Surg.-Capt. R. W. Mussen, R.N., tells the story of the ill-fated steam sloop H.M.S. *Eclair* in a paper published in the *Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service*, XXXVII, No. 3, pp. 125-133, and incidentally pays a tribute to the memory of a very brave man whose lonely grave is fast disappearing from sight beneath the tidal mud at Burntwick Island in the mouth of the Medway.

In 1845 the *Eclair* was engaged in anti-slavery duties in West African waters, where certain of the crew contracted what is now recognized as a very virulent form of yellow fever. Before the ship left these waters her Captain, Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon had died, as well as another Naval surgeon, Dr. G. M. McClure, who had volunteered his services from another ship. At Madeira Mr. Sidney Bernard, who was returning to England on the *Rolla*, similarly volunteered to serve on the *Eclair* and was so appointed her Surgeon *pro tempore*. The fever-ridden ship sailed for England and arrived at the Quarantine Station, Burntwick Island, on the 2nd of October, 1845. Mr. Bernard, worn out with work and anxiety, fell sick on the 3rd and died on the 9th, by which time 74 officers and men out of a complement of 146 had died.

Bernard's grave was originally marked by an upright inscribed stone, which afterwards fell and was broken; it was then set in concrete horizontally over the grave, and iron railings erected around it. A bronze memorial tablet set in oak was apparently fixed to the railings, and was found recently lying in the mud. It is now in the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, but the grave itself will soon be lost for ever under the silt of this marsh island. In order to preserve the name of this brave officer, Kent Oil Refinery, Ltd., have named one of their launches, now serving in the Medway, the *Sidney Bernard*.

C.S.C.