

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

THE CUSTUMAL OF KENT

It has been brought to my attention that in my paper on the above, which was published in *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1980), 1–15, there were certain errors of reading and interpretation. In particular, it is regretted that I had not fully appreciated the significance of the charter held by Sir John de Northwood nor the fact that Mr. Sinclair Williams had shown that it survived amongst the Close Rolls, and also that by some mischance the name H. de Batone, which appears in Lambeth ED 2086, was misread as J. de Bacon. These errors and any others which may occur are deeply regretted and apologies are made for any consequent misinterpretation and for any difficulties which may thereby have been caused to other scholars.

FELIX HULL

AN UNRECORDED ACHIEVEMENT OF EDWARD HASTED

The search for the truth about Edward Hasted sometimes turns up facts that are unhelpful to his reputation. It is pleasant, therefore, to report the discovery of a circumstance highly creditable to him, namely that he is the author of a work, not unknown to writers of seventeenth-century biography, which has hitherto been credited to another writer, Thomas Astle. The latter undoubtedly assisted Hasted in the production of the book, but in a practical rather than a literary way, and Hasted modestly declined to have his own name on the title page.

The name of this book is usually rendered as 'Familiar letters which passed between A. Hill and several eminent and ingenious persons of the last century.' Published in London in 1767, it is anonymous, but both the British Museum (now the British Library) catalogue of printed books, and various articles in the Dictionary of National Biography (including that concerning Abraham Hill) name Thomas Astle as the author or editor.

The new discovery results from the observation of two facts, each quite neutral on its own, but very significant when considered in association. In Hasted's autograph list of his MSS in the British Library there is an entry F. XIX 'Familiar letters to Abraham Hill Esqr from various persons.' Hill was a learned and distinguished man, a charter member of the Royal Society, and on his retirement he settled at St. John's Sutton-at-Hone, where, years later, Hasted lived for many years. The article on Hill in the Dictionary of National Biography asserts that a selection of his letters was edited by Thomas Astle 'from the manuscript in his possession' and published under the title mentioned above.

Hill's association with St. John's, and Astle's use of the word 'familiar', echoing Hasted's title for his collection of Hill's letters, suggested an inquiry to ascertain whether the published letters came from Hasted's collection, in which case it might have been Hasted who had drawn Astle's attention to them.

The introduction to the book does not mention the source of the letters, merely stating that they had come into the writer's hands. Turning to Hasted's F.XIX (Add. 5488), it is noticeable that, in spite of the title, the MS seems to contain relatively few letters addressed to A. Hill, and that such letters as there are can scarcely be described as 'familiar'; trade, money, legal matters, train oil and treacle are some of the topics. Item 56 is described in the MS catalogue as a list of letters in the hand of Hasted. It is indeed in his hand, and consists of a single sheet of paper, folded so as to provide four pages; it lists 71 letters from 17 different writers, but includes none of those which remain in the MS. After particularising a large number of letters by giving the writer, date (sometimes only the year) and occasionally the place of origin, especially if abroad, Hasted proceeds to list the remainder of the letters in batches, giving only the name of the writer, but numbering them, e.g., 'Let. 17-21 inc. Walter Pope; Let. 22-28 Aglionby.' At the end of the list Hasted has written the name and address of a printer: Mr. Griffin, Catherine Street, Strand.

The implication is that Hasted withdrew the listed letters from the collection and left a record of them in his MS. The obvious question is: Was there a connection between the letters on the list and the 'Astle' book? This was soon answered. In the 'Contents' of the book each letter is itemised, and all sixty-nine¹ are easily identifiable in Hasted's list. In some cases, the date, town of origin and writer

¹ The last letter is numbered LXX, but for some reason there is no LXIII.

coincide; where Hasted mentions a batch of letters from one writer between certain dates, the dates and numbers of letters tally exactly, and moreover the sequence of the writers is often the same in list and book. Conversely, all but two of the letters appearing in Hasted's list are included in the 'Contents'.

The numbers assigned to the letters are different in the list and the book; one reason for this is that certain letters about sea-fights with the Dutch, well down on Hasted's list, are given pride of place in the book, perhaps with an eye to customer appeal. The discrepancy at least shows that Hasted's list is not simply copied from the 'Contents'.

Space does not permit an attempt to recount the subject matter of the other letters; the writers, however, may be mentioned briefly. Two of them, Isaac Barrow, Anglican Divine and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Edmond Halley, the astronomer, were among the leading lights of the seventeenth century; of the remaining 15, seven, though less eminent than Barrow and Halley, have found their ways into the Dictionary of National Biography.

The text of the letters is preceded by a preface of 32 pages which is almost wholly devoted to a life of Abraham Hill. The writer (who significantly refers to himself as 'the editor', a practice familiar to anyone who has consulted Hasted's *History*) says that he obtained his information about Hill 'not only from his papers and correspondence, but from the mouth of one of Mr. Hill's friends, who died about three years since.' The friend is later identified as the Rev. Edmund Barrel, a prebendary of Rochester. '. . . the editor was particularly happy in the near neighbourhood and friendship of Mr. Barrel, from whom he received continual marks of kindness and regard . . .' The preface contains a detailed florid description of 'St. John's, but makes no mention of Hasted's occupation and reconstruction of it.

The book does not mention that Mr. Barrel, in addition to his prebendal stall, occupied for some 59 years the living of Sutton-at-Hone. He died aged 89, and only such a long tenure of life and living could span the gap between the days of Hill (*obit.* 1721) and those when Astle and Hasted were flourishing.

The enquiries in the British Library showed, therefore, that it is virtually certain that the letters of A. Hill printed in the book came from Hasted's collection, and that it is highly probable that the historian was responsible for the preface. That does not leave much room for any contribution by Thomas Astle – advice in selecting the letters, perhaps, and general encouragement.

But this is not the sum of the evidence of Hasted's authorship. We may now turn to his letters to Astle already published in this

journal (*Arch. Cant.*, xxvii (1905), 136) where there are references to some unknown publication in which both were concerned, of which the editor of the journal remarked 'We are unable to discover the nature of the publication to which Hasted refers.' Of this correspondence the items of interest are nos. 10, 11, and 12. In September 1766, Hasted writes:

'I Corrected the sheet you sent Me and told the Printer to send the others to me, but I have not heard from him Since, by What you sent me I think there remains Much of the Letters unprinted. There is a Paragraph in the first 10 Lines of the life, Which I must alter Before it is printed off, if I can do it in the Proof sheet. You Will be so kind to let me have it for that purpose when ready.'

Most of the next letter, written in March 1767, is concerned with the publication. For convenience the passage is here set out again:

'I received the favor of yours on Sunday, With a very Impertinent Letter to you from Dodsley on the back of it. I have no great opinion of the merit of the Letters myself, and yet I think I have seen more Insignificant than these Published, trifling as they are, he must be a most Impudent Puppy to offer to write such a one to you, a Stranger to him. I am very Sorry you have had so much trouble in managing of it, and did I not know your own Worthy Disposition and the pleasure you take in Serving your friends, I Should return you a Sheet full of Complaints for it, Which I shall change into my Sincere thanks to you, not only for this, but the many other Acts of Friendship I have so often received from you. The Least trouble I think Would be to Let Griffin have it, clearing himself Every Expense, and if any Profit should accrue from it, he should have the half of it; If he thinks that too much, then Let him take the Whole – in either Case; that we should have 6 or 7 Copies a piece half Bound gratis – and that the Title shall be approved by us before it is printed and neither of our names Mentioned in or about it – as Editors or otherwise – and if you Will be so obliging to see this Done, the sooner We get rid of it the Better – for the time for the Sale of such things Wears off apace.'

In a postscript Hasted adds: 'Whatever you agree with Griffin make him sign his name to it.'

In the third letter Hasted says that he is well pleased with 'your agreement about the letters' and continues:

'I hope by this time you have quite Completed the Whole of it. I thank you much for the Trouble you have had in it; Which I shall be Glad to repay by any like good turn in my Power.'

The dates in the correspondence fit perfectly with that of the publication of the book, and it will be observed that the printer Griffin, whose name is written at the end of Hasted's list is referred to by name in letter 11. In the event, the book was printed by W. Johnston, but the change is not surprising in view of Hasted's hints of possible trouble with Griffin.

It is submitted that there can be no doubt that the 'publication' which the editor of this journal was unable to trace in 1905 was 'Familiar letters addressed to Abraham Hill.' Hasted clearly thought

that the undertaking was one in which Astle was helping him, Hasted, rather than the other way round, and the absence of the historian's name from the title page resulted from his own express suggestion. There is no doubt that he was well entitled to have it there.

J. BOYLE

A CELTIC BRONZE COIN FROM THE CANTERBURY BY-PASS

A Celtic bronze coin was found during excavations at the by-pass site in Canterbury in 1979. The details of the excavation were recorded in *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1980), 267–89.

AE 1.77 gr. *Obv.*: Young male head or bust to right.

Rev.: Wolf springing to left, jaws gaping. Indistinct object below, perhaps an animal's head in profile to left. Annulet and pellets in the field.

This coin is of an unrecorded type, and has no visible inscription. A wolf as principal motif has little precedent in Britain (only the gold stater Mack 49a, which is much earlier), and no parallel at all in a bronze coinage. Its exact attribution must therefore remain a mystery until further specimens come to light.

It is, however, probable that it comes from a south-eastern British mint in the early first century A.D. At this time there were numerous bronze issues in Kent and Essex, particularly, whose range is continually being extended by freshly reported finds. Tasciovanus and Cunobelinus, for instance, experimented with unusual animal types, such as a goat (Mack 182) and a lion (Mack 253). In general style and execution, the reverse of this coin is not unlike certain issues of Dubnovellaunus and some of the uninscribed coinages of Kent, and some of the latter display a substantial repertoire of animal types, frequently associated with annulets and pellets. The obverse of the Canterbury coin is unfortunately almost destroyed by corrosion, but the head with its short, stiff hair and long neck is reminiscent of Mack 130 (Verica), 177, 183c (Tasciovanus), 200 (Andoco), 215, 220 (Cunobelinus), 308 (Eppillus), and 396 (Bodvoc). It may therefore be dated provisionally to the opening decades of the first century A.D.

DAPHNE NASH

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

THE ISLE OF THANET ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT, RECENT ACTIVITIES

During 1981 work was recommenced at the Lord of the Manor, Ramsgate (N.G.R. TR 357653). The site consists of a group of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age barrows or circular ditched enclosures, and superimposed, a part of the Jutish cemetery of Ozensell. Excavations have been carried out at intervals since 1976, and are made necessary by plough damage. This latest phase involves the last unexcavated barrow and graves north of the railway line.

Although many graves in this section of the cemetery proved to have been disturbed in antiquity, the grave goods discovered included jewellery, glass-ware, pottery, and weapons. Most of the latter material was of seventh-century type with a few sixth-century forms present.

Excavation of the barrow revealed a circular ditch of *c.* 30 m. in diameter; the remaining vestige of a mound has been ploughed off in the last five years. Internal features included the burial of a complete ox, and, in a small central pit, carefully packed skeletal material derived from two or more adult humans, with some animal bone (*bos*).

Publications relating to both cemetery and barrow group are in preparation.

Diving activities in 1980 commenced with an examination of Wreck Site II of 1979. It was at once discovered that this most interesting wreck had been covered with sand by the winter gales so that no work was possible. Subsequent exploration of the general area revealed two sites of interest, in each case the scattered wreckage of a large wooden vessel. Heavy cannon and material of the late-seventeenth-early-eighteenth century date observed on both wrecks suggest strongly that they are Royal Navy ships lost in the 'Great Storm' in 1703, comprising, with Site II, all three of the seventy-gun third rates of Sir Basil Beaumont's squadron. A few artifacts were lifted from the foregoing sites, among them a ship's bell dated 1701, and a ship's kettle of copper with a capacity of *c.* 84 gallons.

D.R.J. PERKINS

HALL PLACE, BEXLEY

Repairs have recently been made to the outer face of the west wall of the Tudor part of the house, now in the possession of the Local

Authority. This has involved cutting out many of the stones comprising the rubble wall and their replacement with new material more or less matching the old. Some of the stones removed were found to have mouldings on the concealed sides and in some instances reddish paint and gilding, the significance of which on other stones found in similar circumstances was mentioned in a description of the house in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxi (1957), 153–61. The renewal of stonework has included a vertical row of squared stones in the upper part of the wall between the two bay windows, mentioned in the 1957 report as evidence of a former quoin (see the plan on p. 154 and the notes on p. 158). Although the new stones have been set in approximately the same position, they only roughly represent the originals, and in any future assessment of their significance in relation to the architectural history of the building this must be taken into account.

P.J. TESTER

THE RUINED BUILDING ADJOINING NURSTEAD COURT

Nurstead Court is undoubtedly among the most remarkable examples of medieval domestic architecture in Kent, and its mutilation in 1837 was a major architectural tragedy. Fortunately, records survive to indicate its original state and the house has been the subject of several published descriptions. A plan and reconstruction by Sir Herbert Baker occurs in A. Oswald's *Country Houses of Kent* (1933), where the remains of a ruined rectangular structure are shown closely adjoining the north-west corner of the pillared hall. Hasted¹ noted this in the late eighteenth century as a chapel, and Parker in 1853 described it as a 'strong tower'.² On Baker's plan it is noted as being earlier than the hall and a twelfth- or thirteenth-century date is suggested, but this I am unable to reconcile with the evidence afforded by the remains as I observed them in 1974.

The internal dimensions were 22 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 6 in., the rubble walls being approximately 5 ft. thick. There had been two windows – now mere featureless gaps – on the south side and a semi-octagonal vice projected midway on the west face. At the upper floor-level, towards the west end of the north wall, there was a

¹ E. Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, iii (1797), 354.

² Parker, *Domestic Architecture in England*, ii (1853), 281.

single surviving stone bearing a rebate for a door or shutter, the former possibility suggesting an external entrance well above ground level and reached by a wooden stair or ladder. Most of the internal facing had fallen away but enough remained to show it had been of flint and chalk chequerwork, while externally the lowest courses of horizontal banded knapped flint and ragstone could be detected. Both the chequerwork and banding appeared to be integral with the construction of the walls and are therefore diagnostic evidence for the age of the building. They are most unlikely to be earlier than the fourteenth century and almost identical banding occurs in local churches such as Cliffe and Higham where its context is unquestionably of that period. Chequerwork is found in Cooling Castle (c. 1381) and continued in use into the sixteenth century, as at Hall Place, Bexley.

On this evidence, therefore, it appears that the ruined building is either contemporary with the mid-fourteenth-century hall or slightly later. Its purpose was probably partly defensive, and the political circumstances causing its erection could well have been the threatened French raids such as that in 1379 when Gravesend – only three and a half miles to the north – was pillaged and burnt.

Possibly, a chapel may have been located on the upper floor and the tradition of its existence was apparently known to Hasted. Early domestic chapels were usually on the first floor³ and Parker noted that in the later Middle Ages they sometimes formed the upper chamber in a separate tower standing at right-angles from the corner of the hall⁴ – a description in accord with what might have obtained at Nurstead. At Inceworth and Earth – among other examples – the entrance was reached by external steps.⁵ There may also have been a timber bridge at Nurstead Court connecting the first floor of the tower with the solar at the west end of the hall, but of this no trace remains.

Another possibility is that the building was a solar tower, similar to those at Lympne Castle and Stone Castle, the latter described by Mr. K.W.E. Gravett and Dr. D.F. Renn in the last volume of *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1981), 312–17, where information is included on the origin and distribution of this type of structure.

I am grateful to Major R.W. Edmeades, the owner of Nurstead Court, for permission to inspect the remains, and also to members

³ M. Wood, *The English Medieval House* (1965), 235.

⁴ *Op. cit.*, iii, 173.

⁵ Wood, *op. cit.*, 236.

of the Meopham Historical Society whose partial clearance of the ruins revealed some of the features described.

P.J. TESTER

EARLY WORK IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, KEMSING

In June 1982, I was notified by the architects, Messrs. Caroe and Martin, that the repointing of the west wall of this church, carried out under their direction, had revealed features of archaeological interest. On inspection, I observed that picking out the old mortar had emphasised the strongly coursed nature of the ragstone rubble and the inclusion of some herringbone construction characteristic of Anglo-Saxon and early Norman work. Obviously, the plain pointed-arched doorway and the traceried window above were later insertions; in fact, the whole central strip of wall in which these features are located appears to have been rebuilt at the time they were introduced.

The Buildings of England (1969) draws attention to the thinness of the south wall of the nave with the inference that it might be Anglo-Saxon. But by my measurement it is 2 ft. 10 in. thick which would be quite normal in post-Conquest work and agrees exactly with Paddlesworth and Dode, both described by Canon Livett as typical early Norman churches (*Arch. Cant.*, xxi (1895), 262).

Dr. H.M. Taylor has commented in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxi (1966), 241-43, on the possibility of the pre-Conquest age of Kemsing church, and in my view there is no doubt that the earliest parts may safely be described as belonging to the Saxo-Norman overlap.

In support of this it should be noted that the south-east quoin of the nave is composed of large stones set in the side-alternate manner. Very similar work occurs at Ridley, only five miles away, and in both instances the survival of Anglo-Saxon technique is apparent even if the actual construction was shortly after the Conquest.

At Kemsing, in the nave wall over the east side of the south porch, there is a curious opening, rather wide to have been a normal early single-light window, and too modified by post-medieval repair to allow positive identification of its age. The depressed arched head is turned in brickwork which could well be eighteenth-century, while rendering obscures the jambs. Nevertheless, its general form and position, high in the wall, suggest strongly that it represents a much altered early window. Mr. M.B. Caroe, R.I.B.A., has stated that in the event of work being undertaken to stabilise the head, he will

make a careful examination for any traces of rebates for window frames.

P.J. TESTER

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY GROUP

During the year to September 1982 we were greatly preoccupied with administrative matters. By January, there was a serious danger of the scheme having to be abandoned altogether due to lack of financial resources. Most fortunately, the problem was speedily overcome by Mobil Data Services Limited, a Sevenoaks-based member-company of the giant oil concern, who generously made us an immediate payment and guaranteed a basic annual bursary to ensure the future maintenance of the scheme. This spontaneous gesture reflects the admirable enlightenment of the Company, besides imparting the very encouragement and sense of underlying security that we so badly need.

By that time I had been joined by three suitably-qualified collaborators, and in February the Sevenoaks District Architectural History Group was formally constituted. Then followed much re-thinking about future methods of work and, in particular, the form our regular written output should take. As a result, the studies mentioned in *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1980), 366-7, were withdrawn for reproduction in an agreed standard form.

In May, copies of the following revised studies were distributed to the K.A.S. Library and the National Buildings Record, as well as to Sevenoaks Library and other local recipients.

Halstead Study No. 1: The Old Rectory, Church

Road (11 pp. text, 2 figs.)

See descriptions in

Riverhead Study No. 1: Cade House, Chipstead

Lane (20 pp. text, 8 figs., 8 pls.)

Arch. Cant., xcvi
(1980), 366-7.

Otford Study No. 1: Nos. 20, 22 & 24, High

Street (21 pp. text, 12 figs., 1 pl.)

This mansard-roofed building was constructed c. 1790 as the parish workhouse, the rooms of which are identified from an inventory of 1825. After becoming redundant in 1834, it was divided into three cottages. The original structure was notable for its integrated cart-house and for having five diagonally-placed corner fireplaces; two more of the latter were added in the cottage conversion. Between the mid-1950s and 1981, the dwellings one by one became shops.

Field work increased enormously, a total of 45 buildings in 10 parishes being inspected, though only a relatively small number were earmarked for further attention. Emergency recording during builders' operations was completed at The Manor House, Worships Hill, Riverhead; at no. 44, Station Road, Halstead; and at no. 101, High Street, Sevenoaks. The last constitutes a discovery of outstanding significance in which two separate timber-framed buildings, each jettied on three sides, have been partly exposed, throwing new light on the town-centre lay-out of pre-Georgian Sevenoaks. In addition a record has been compiled of Moat Farm oast, Chipstead (Chevening parish), an important eighteenth-century example of a rare type, unfortunately unlisted and demolished late in 1980; also of the seventeenth-century barn of The Bull public house, Otford, prior to extensive repairs. Studies of all these buildings will be made available in due course.

Otford Palace has at long last received its essential repairs to the surviving Tudor tower. After repeatedly deferring action since 1977, Sevenoaks District Council (as owners) eventually gave way to mounting widespread pressure and the work was carried out during the first quarter of 1982 at a cost, after allowing for inflation, considerably higher than if it had been done on receipt of the D.o.E. specification.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

AN EARLY DATED EXAMPLE OF CAVITY-WALL CONSTRUCTION IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

Cavity-wall construction, for purposes of thermal insulation, is familiar from inter-war and later houses.¹ But it begins at a much earlier date, and was frequently urged by the writers of nineteenth-century building manuals and text-books. As early as 1805 William Atkinson in his *Views of Picturesque Cottages with Plans* recommended the use of 6-inch (!) cavities with brickwork ties at intervals, and also showed an awareness of the thermal qualities of such walls.² In his *The Dwellings of the Labouring Classes* of 1850 H.

¹ ' . . . the larger firms tended to set the pace, Costains using cavity walls from 1924 onwards when they were still uncommon in modestly-priced houses . . .'. J. Burnett, *A Social History of Housing 1815-1970* (Newton Abbot, 1978, and London, 1980), 254.

² This and other cited manuals are from R.W. Brunskill's Appendix A to R. Brunskill and A. Clifton-Taylor, *English Brickwork* (London, 1977), 143-8, where full references are given. The material is followed in L.F. Cave, *The Smaller English House: its History and Development* (London, 1981), 221-2.

Roberts suggested an 11-inch cavity wall (*sc.* one with a 2-inch cavity, as now), though still using brick ties; iron ties had to wait, apparently, until Gilbert de Vaux's *Villas and Cottages* of 1867, an American publication. The same recommendations were made in Britain in J.J. Stevenson's *House Architecture*, volume II, of 1880, and Stevenson's own house at 8 Palace Gate, London S.W.7 had already put them into practice. The 1894 edition of J. Gwilt's *Encyclopaedia of Architecture* included references to cavity walls as now understood, using a 2-inch cavity with wrought iron ties. Dr. Bunskill comments that the technique was 'used, apparently, in Southampton' during the second half of the nineteenth century,³ and this *may* be borne out by the large number of houses of that date in Stretcher Bond in Southampton. Similarly in nearby Portsmouth and Southsea there are numerous examples of Stretcher Bond houses of a like date, whilst in Kent there are several examples in Canterbury, Faversham, Sittingbourne, and elsewhere. Not all are in towns, for there are a number of instances in Littlebourne, near Canterbury. In the city itself examples occur in mid- to late nineteenth-century terraces in Ivy Lane and Ada Road, whilst 'L'Ancrese', 81 Thanington Road is a larger, detached Victorian villa in Stretcher Bond. Caution is necessary here, however, for it is possible that such walls are of solid construction with expensive facing bricks forming a skin in front of an inner wall of (unseen) cheaper bricks but with no intervening cavity. Of course, such a facing would not be bonded into its inner skin, but there is no reason to dismiss this possibility on *a priori* grounds (*cf. infra*). Cheapness of construction could explain such a structurally weak method of building.⁴

The building which forms the subject of this paper, however, is certainly of cavity-wall construction, even though it is *not* in Stretcher Bond. It forms a terrace of eight houses known as Alexandra Terrace on the north side of Station Road East (nos. 5–12), Canterbury. At a later date, evidenced by a straight joint, a further house (no. 4), basically similar but of central-doorway plan, was added to the terrace at its western end. Most of the houses are now (1981) empty and derelict, and one was completely demolished *c.* 1970 during the construction of a footbridge leading from Canterbury East Railway Station to the Dane John Gardens. They

³ Brunskill and Clifton-Taylor, *op. cit.*, 145, citing J. Gwilt, *Encyclopaedia of Architecture* (Papworth edition, London, 1894), 564–5, 1210.

⁴ I am grateful to Alec Clifton-Taylor for his comments on Stretcher Bond at Southampton and at Portsmouth and Southsea.

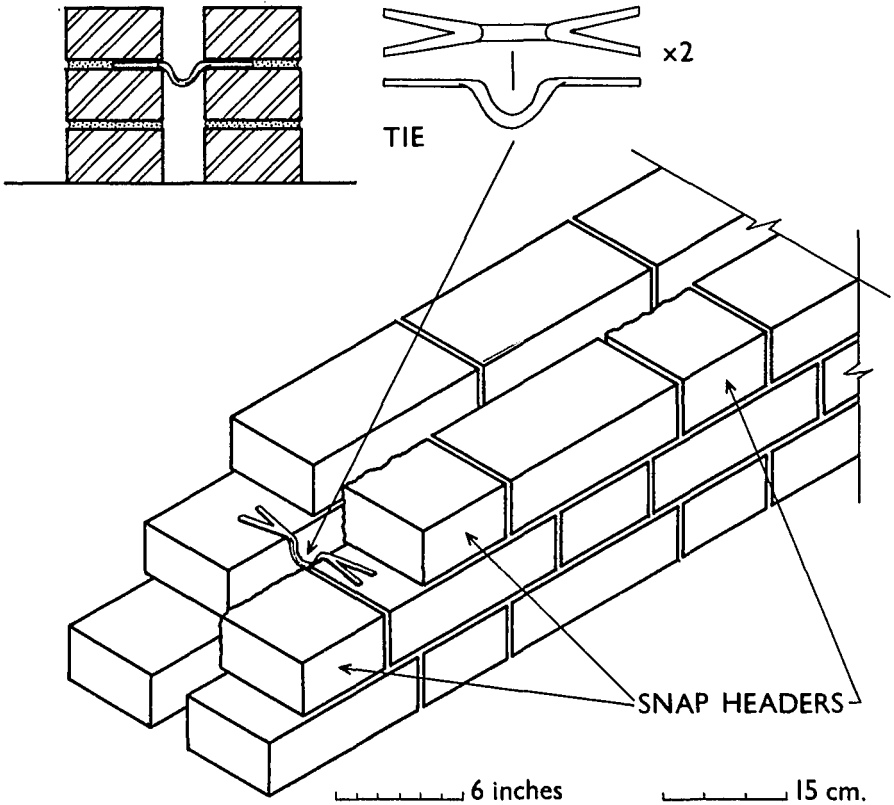


Fig. 1.

are houses of 'middle-class' status, perhaps the sort of dwelling that Mr. Pooter might have desired, of two storeys plus basement. Each house is separated from its neighbour at roof-level by 'fire-breaks' – that is to say, the party-walls are extended about 18 in. above the roof.

Each house has a canted bay window running through both storeys and the basement and finished with a balustrade comprising brick angle-piers, stone squared balusters of standard pattern, and stone copings. Windows in all three sides of the bay have flat segmental arch-heads with prominent 'keystones' of brick, and there

is a similar window above the doorway. The latter has a semi-circular arch-head, also with prominent 'keystone', and gives access to a small porch before the front door proper is reached. At the top of the building is a cornice made up of a dentillated course of bricks, a saw-tooth course of bricks, and, finally, a stone coping.

The fabric of the front face is of Stock 'greys' (sc. yellow-browns) with red brick trim around all apertures, up the angles of the bays, and for the bay-parapet piers and the decorated members of the cornice. The arch-heads of the doorway and windows are turned in gauged brickwork, quite finely wrought. The rear walls, party walls, and other internal walls are, expectedly, of 'grey' Stocks. The basement stage is rendered.

In plan each house is of double-pile type with a half-width wing, also of two storeys plus basement, at the rear. There is a small yard at the rear and a small 'area' at the front.

The terrace is firmly dated by a stone plaque between the central pair of houses and bearing the inscription 'ALEXANDRA TERRACE 1884'. It is thus not much later than Stevenson's London house already mentioned, and is important as being an early firmly-dated example of cavity-wall construction.

Cavity walling would not have been suspected prior to partial demolition, since the walls are in a perfect Flemish Bond, achieved by the use of snap headers in the outer skin – that is to say, bricks broken in half to form the headers in each course, their snapped ends of course being placed internally (Fig. 1). The inner (unseen) skin is of stretchers. The two skins are tied at regular intervals by yoke-shaped wrought-iron ties with V-shaped ends held in the mortar of each leaf of the wall. The ties were placed with the U-shaped section 'hanging' downwards – indicating an awareness of the possibility of damp transmission from outer to inner leaf: any moisture penetrating the mortar of the outer leaf onto the tie would collect at the bottom of the 'U' and drip harmlessly down the centre of the cavity. This would seem to argue some experience in the problems of cavity-wall construction.

The building is of value not only in being a firmly-dated instance of its type, but also as offering a warning that cavity construction may be present even when the bond appears to be *prima facie* unpromising. Indeed, a further example is provided by parts of the adjacent Pickford's Warehouse, also in Flemish Bond and of the late nineteenth century though not firmly dated by an inscription. Snapped headers are used in the same way as at Alexandra Terrace, and a further interesting detail is that the base of the building is slightly thickened to form a plinth or off-set: this has been achieved by backing the stretchers and snapped headers of the outer leaf with

a skin of stretchers laid on their sides – and, of course, unbonded into the outer leaf itself.

In such a case as Alexandra Terrace the use of cavity-wall construction must be connected with an awareness of thermal insulation (as urged by the contemporary text-books), and perhaps with an attempt to avoid transmission of damp through a solid wall. Certainly, it was not adopted for any reasons of economy, since the need to snap every third brick⁵ would have slowed down the work, even in the hands of a skilled bricklayer. There was presumably also a good deal of wastage. The point is emphasised by Dr Brunskill's discovery of a house in Alderley Edge, Cheshire, which is in Header Bond with a cavity, so that every brick occurring in it is a snapped header⁶ – a laborious piece of work indeed!

There seems some reason to think that practice in cavity walling was rather further in advance of text-book advice than Brunskill allowed for in his essay.⁷ As he has since remarked, demolition and alteration are demonstrating how often the Flemish Bond skin at the front of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century non-cavity-wall buildings was often a true skin with snap headers and with the very minimum of bonding to the structural wall behind.⁸ This situation was brought about by the use of facing and structural bricks which happened to be of different thicknesses, so that courses in inner (structural) and outer (facing) skins did not correspond and bondings between the two could be effected by a real (full length) header only where, at intervals, the courses happened to coincide. As Peter Nicholson wrote early in the nineteenth century: since the bricks of the two skins 'did not correspond in thickness, the exterior and interior surface of the wall would not be otherwise connected together – than by an outside heading brick, here and there continued of its whole length; but as the work does not admit of this at all times, from the want of agreement in the exterior and interior courses, these headers can be introduced only where such a correspondence takes place, which, sometimes, may not occur for a considerable space.'⁹ With this situation, Flemish Bond could be

⁵ Not every other brick, since one stretcher snapped in two gives, of course, two 'headers'.

⁶ R.W. Brunskill, personal communication, 10 August 1981; I am grateful to Ron Brunskill for comments on the use of cavity walling.

⁷ The judgement is Dr Brunskill's own (as n. 6).

⁸ *Loc. cit.*

⁹ P. Nicholson, *The New and Improved Practical Builder and Workman's Companion* (London, 1823), quoted in D. Cruickshank and P. Wyld, *London: the Art of Georgian Building* (London, 1975), 183.

produced only by the use of snapped headers, or else abandoned altogether and Stretcher Bond substituted – hence the caution urged in my first paragraph. That so many buildings *were* in Flemish Bond argues that appearance was of overriding importance; more relevantly to our present purpose, it indicates that the most skilled bricklayers were accustomed to the idea that the outer face even of a solid, non-cavity wall was indeed a skin.¹⁰ The transition to cavity-wall construction would have been rendered much easier by this familiarity. It is less easy to gauge how far the use of a hollow-wall construction using, say, Dearne's Bond¹¹ or Rat-Trap Bond¹² contributed to the adoption of cavity walling; both are fairly late developments and the former is largely confined to boundary walls and not to load-bearing walls.¹³ Rather than seeing direct influence here, it is probably preferable to regard these bonds as alternative manifestations of the concerns which led, along another path, to the development of cavity-wall construction.

Station Road East lies immediately outside the conservation study areas defined in 1979;¹⁴ the building is in an advanced state of decay at the time of writing and, despite the interest of construction and the (once) attractive appearance of these houses, there is now no way to reverse this heartless treatment.

TERENCE PAUL SMITH

¹⁰ I owe this point to Dr Brunskill (as no. 6).

¹¹ Brunskill and Clifton-Taylor, *op. cit.*, 68, 144.

¹² *Ibid.*, 72.

¹³ Rat-Trap Bond is often used for boundary walls: there are good examples in Hertford, Hitchin, Much Hadham, and elsewhere in Hertfordshire. But the bond was also used for structural walls, usually in smaller terrace houses: in (metropolitan) Kent there is a terrace of half-a-dozen examples in West Street, Erith, and there are several examples in eastern Bedfordshire; the latter are discussed in T.P. Smith, 'Rat-Trap Bond in Bedfordshire', *Bedfordshire Magazine*, 14, 112 (1975), 344–7. Much work is needed on the use of this bond, but I think I would still hold the opinions expressed in the article cited. The closeness of the Erith example to the former large brickworks at Crayford offers an interesting parallel to the Bedfordshire situation, where examples are close to the large Arlesey Brickworks; in both areas difficulty of obtaining bricks seems an unlikely explanation for the use of Rat-Trap Bond.

¹⁴ P. Jackson for Canterbury City Council, *Canterbury Conservation Study: Consultation Draft* (Canterbury, 1979), Fig. 17, between pp. 50 and 51.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

A SAXON ROYAL MANOR, BURR'S OAK FARM, EAST PECKHAM

The Domesday entry for East Peckham is remarkable in that it includes an entry so unusual that it caused comment by F.W. Maitland in *Domesday Book and Beyond*.¹ After the typical format entry the record continues with,

'Of the land of this manor a man of the archbishop holds ½ sulung and it paid geld T.T.E. with these six sulungs (of the manor) although it did not belong to the manor except for the payment of scot.'

The register of Christ Church, Canterbury, endorses this entry with,

'In Stontynbergha (one of the three boroughs of East Peckham) which Edric held of King Edward, ½ sulung which Edric himself gave scot to Peckham, of his own free will, not that it belonged to the monks or to Holy Trinity.'²

Maitland's comment is that here is a remarkable Kentish entry of land so free that the one connection between it and the manor to which it is attributed consists in the payment of geld. This free land, royal land, is also referred to by Elton who says that the tenant would have been a dreng or lesser thane.³

Stontynbergha, is recorded by Wallenberg as most likely derived from OE for burgh or fortified place,⁴ but Professor Dodgson after thoroughly examining all sources of the spelling is of the opinion that the second element is more likely to originate from OE beorge, a hill, and the first element from OE stoccinga, genitive plural of OE place-name element stoccing, place where the tree stocks are being/have been grubbed up: thus the hill of the stoccings.⁵ Where then was this hill which was to become a royal possession and to give its name to the borough of Stockenbury in which taxes were collected until 1835?

The author's suspicions rested on a prominent mound surrounded on three sides by a stream and situated on Burr's Oak (N.G.R. TQ 671497). Two of the present-day field names are The Hurst and Rye Field. As a result of documentary research these names were found in 1578, 'eight pieces called le Hurst, and Rye Field, Stockenbury meadow, Stockenbury Wood Field, Little Stockenbury field and

¹ F.W. Maitland, *Domesday Book and Beyond*, Cambridge 1897, 158.

² VCH (Kent) 1932, iii, 216.

³ G.I. Elton, *Tenures of Kent*, London 1867.

⁴ J.K. Wallenberg, *The Place Names of Kent*, Uppsala 1934, 166, 230.

⁵ J. McN. Dodgson, personal communication.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

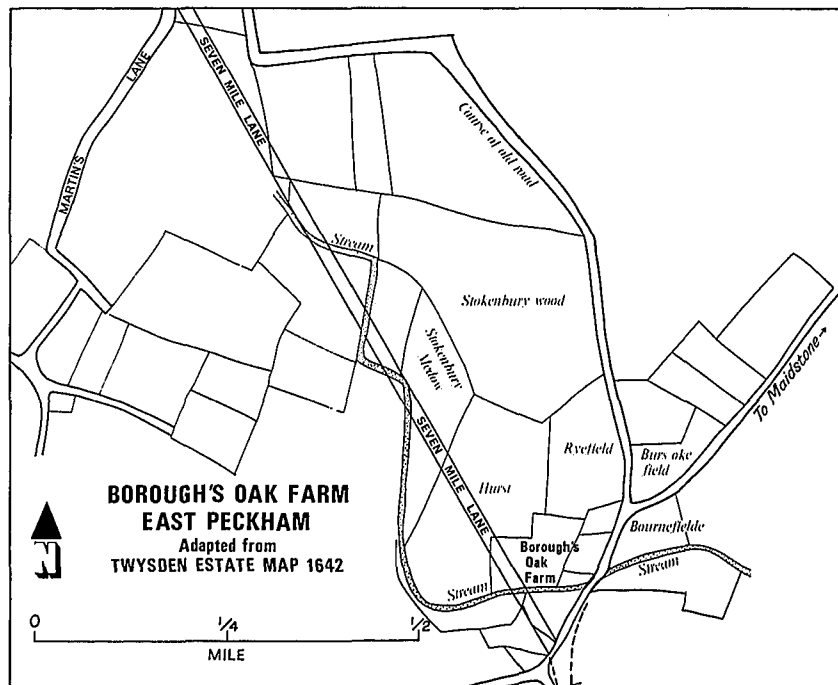


Fig. 1.

part of Stockbury wood – 58 acres.⁶ This document linked with another of 1578, being the sale of the above property by the Scott family of Nettlestead to Roger Twysden of Roydon Hall, East Peckham, giving the exact positions of the lands⁷ and which are later shown on a Twysden estate map of 1642 to be Burr's Oak Farm, which is exactly as it stands in 1982. Thus the position of the $\frac{1}{2}$ sulung of freeland is firmly established.

⁶ K.A.O. U 820 T 40.

⁷ K.A.O. U 1115T 100/1.

⁸ British Library, Add. MSS. 34155, Survey of Sir Roger Twysden's Lands, 1630–58.

⁹ Here is a definite acreage, 58 acres to $\frac{1}{2}$ sulung, a pointer to a sulung in this area being about 120 acres.

The property is previously recorded in 1497 when John Pympe of Nettlestead was seized of 'all that tenement called Stockenbury with its appertenances in East Peckham.¹⁰ Prior to this, in 1375, Sir William de Pympe of Nettlestead devised all his lands and tenements in East Peckham with the weir and fishery appertaining and pieces of lands called Gongespiche and Wrytthes to provide an annual payment of 10 marks to support a chaplain to perform divine service in the church of Nettlestead for a period of eighty years.¹¹ Once again the property is identified by a field name — Wrytthes — which is Rye field derived from OE *rið*, a stream with the plural form being a set of fields beside a stream which is where the present Rye Field stands.¹² The prominent mound, the beorge, field-name the hurst, is liberally strewn with iron stone slag, and the south-west point at N.G.R. TQ 498670 has an area of soil in complete contrast to the rest of the mound when ploughed. Banks at N.G.R. TQ 502673 appear to be man-made. The site lies about a mile from the river crossing at Brandbridges (on the B 2015) and was on the edge of a stretch of royal forest, known as Snade, the most notable support for this evidence being the earliest spellings of the hamlet Snoll Hatch, Snode, Snade, Snoade.¹³ (Fig. 1.)

No archaeological remains have been found on the site which has not previously been recognised. It was disturbed in 1810 by the cut for Seven Mile Lane and will again be disturbed by the Hale Street by-pass planned for the future. Therefore these notes, which Mrs. Sonia Chadwick Hawkes read and approved a royal manor of considerable interest, are recorded for such a time when evidence may be found.

M. LAWRENCE

LITTLE ROYDON, EAST PECKHAM

This property (N.G.R. TQ 662522) originally known as The Parsonage Farm¹ and in more recent years as The Dower House, has a long and interesting history relating to the original manor of Peckham given by the Queen Mother, Ediva, to the monks of

¹⁰ P.R.O., 12 Henry VII, Inquisitions Post Mortem. The Pympes and the Scotts intermarried.

¹¹ K.A.O. U 1115 T 59.

¹² See n. 5.

¹³ K.A.O. U 746 T 98. 1596 Snode Hatch and many other references. In recent years the owner, Mr. J. Luck, has given the farm its fuller title of Borough's Oak.

¹ K.A.O. CTR 284 A and B. Tithe Map and Award.

Canterbury in 961. It remained in their possession until the Reformation at which time the church property was separated from that of the manor and settled on the newly formed Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. At the same time the vicar was solely entrusted with church affairs and the rectory became impropriated, that is, leased by the Dean and Chapter to a layman who had the right of tithe and the right to nominate the vicar.

The property at the visitation of Archbishop Laud in 1634 shows the Parsonage House, two gardens, one orchard, two yards, three barns, one stable, one pigeon house, one granary and various pieces of land with Stephen Arnold as the tenant.² Another survey carried out by Parliament in 1649 provides the information that the house consisted of a hall, a parlour, a kitchen, a buttery, a larder, a brewhouse, a milk house, three little rooms adjoining the great parlour, with a cellar and nine chambers over them. The tenant was John Tucker.³ Documents further show that he sold the lease to Caleb Banks of Maidstone in 1654 who devised it to his nephew John Banks of Aylesford,⁴ who in turn sold it to Sir William Twysden of Roydon Hall, East Peckham in 1673.⁵

The Banks family had sublet the lease so their name does not appear on the Hearth Tax of 1664.⁶ In a dispute concerning tithe in 1675 it is stated that Thomas Somner was the occupant of the Parsonage Farm,⁷ and it is this name which appears on the Hearth Tax supplying the further picture of a house with four hearths.

At the time of the purchase in 1673 Sir William had only the previous year inherited the Roydon estate from his father Roger and the purchase of the Parsonage Farm Lease, lying opposite Roydon Hall, was part of his intent to consolidate the estate. He leased it to John Stone followed by Thomas Stone until two years after his son inherited the lease, the Twysdens themselves occupied the house. The heir Thomas records in 1699 'My brother William came into the Parsonage house,' and it seems likely that it was at this point that the old parsonage was demolished and replaced with a splendid new brick house.⁸

The house is almost square in plan and from external appear-

² E. Hasted, *History and topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, v.

³ K.A.O. U 48 E 2.

⁴ K.A.O. U 48 T 2.

⁵ K.A.O. U 1823/2 F 5.

⁶ K.A.O. QRTH.

⁷ K.A.O. U 48 Q 4.

⁸ British Library Add. MSS. 34165 and 8.

ances would appear to date from c. 1700. An examination of the interior by Mr. Michael Ocock, undertaken with the kind permission of the then owner, Mr. David McAlpine, has failed to produce any evidence of fabric surviving from an earlier building on site, although a quantity of re-used medieval timbers has been incorporated into the structure of the floors and in the roof which is of the staggered tenoned purlin type. The main staircase of three flights around an open rectangular well is of a type characteristic of the period. Inscribed in the brickwork on either side of the modern reproduction doorcase in the centre of the six-bay north-west front are the initials of the Twysden brothers, W.T. and T.T. Therefore, the documentary research and the building survey undertaken independently support each other.

The leases of the property give no indication of a new building; they continue unchanged in the Twysden family until 1788 when it passed to Thomas Henham of East Peckham whose family continued in occupation until 1866.⁹ At this time the Cook family of Roydon Hall secured the lease, and it was probably during the following period that the house became known as The Dower House.¹⁰

In spite of many enquiries there appears to be no record of when the old tenancy agreement was lifted. This required the tenant to pay ' . . . £40 a year to the Dean and Chapter . . . for the use of the vicar of the parish . . . at his own cost to repair all the said parsonage house, and the chancel of the parish church of East Peckham . . . to provide mans' meat and horse meat and lodgings twice a year, one day and one night, for the Dean Receiver, General Surveyor, Auditor, deputies, servants, horses, when they survey and oversee the said parsonage. . . .' The agreement was in the 1866 lease which continued in the Cook family until the death of Mr Arthur Cook in 1972.

M. LAWRENCE

⁹ K.A.O. U 1163 T 13.

¹⁰ K.A.O. 1508 T 3.