

SOURCES FOR KENTISH HISTORY: TRADE AND INDUSTRY

C.W. CHALKLIN

1. *Inland trade*

Markets and fairs were the principal means of trading in the Middle Ages. Markets were far more numerous than in the modern period, and were held in the countryside as well as the towns. There is a little evidence about the existence of markets, but none on the volume and character of their commerce. Extensive lists of markets are to be found in the First Report of the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls:¹ the Calendar of Grants of Markets and Fairs from 1 John to 22 Edward IV is probably a complete list of all royal grants for markets and fairs made between 1199 and 1483 (Appendix, pp. 108–31): it does not always name the county and there may be problems in identifying place-names, and the student should try to trace the market grant in the P.R.O. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, I–VI (from 1216). Fifty-nine Kent markets (far from a complete list) are noted in the First Report for the last quarter of the thirteenth century and beginning of the fourteenth century, from the Pleas of Quo Warranto (Appendix, pp. 77–80). Not every market appears in these sources.²

By the early modern period the number of Kent markets had shrunk to under 30 and were nearly all in towns. Lambarde (1570) notes only 19 active markets.³ There are several seventeenth-century lists of markets, though two or three of the markets in rural areas may not have been active. *A Direction for the English Traveller* (1635) mentions 24 market towns, while the author of *England's Remarques* (1678) names 29. Kilburne in 1657 lists 29, but almost certainly two or

¹ *Parliamentary Papers*, 1888, liii.

² See H.W. Knocker 'Sevenoaks: Manor, Church and Market', *Arch. Cant.*, xxxviii (1926), 51–68.

³ W. Lambarde, *A Perambulation of Kent* (Chatham, 1826), 53.

three were in disuse.⁴ Kent markets are also listed in John Adams, *Index Villaris* (1680 and 1690), R. Blome, *Britannia* (1672), editions of W. Camden, *Britannia* and J. Ogilby, *Britannia* (1675). Some of the eighteenth-century printed sources referring to markets, J. Harris, *A History of Kent* (1719), D. Defoe, *A Tour through England and Wales I* (1928, 1st edn. 1724), E. Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent* (1778–99) comment on the size and nature of market trade as well as sometimes noting if a market is disused. 130 fairs and 29 markets in 1792 are listed in the First Report (1888). Fairs and markets are mentioned briefly by J. Boys, *A General View of the Agriculture of the County of Kent* (1796). Among early nineteenth-century national printed sources, S. Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of England* (1831 and 1841) is useful on markets. Nineteenth-century trades directories refer to markets, and there are advertisements and comments on market trading in newspapers. There is much information on markets in the 1880s in the Reports of the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls. The First Report lists 12 municipal boroughs in which markets were held, naming the owner, how acquired, gross receipts in 1885, to whom leased, and a physical description, nine improvement act and local government districts and three rural sanitary districts with markets and similar information. The Second Report (liv) provides much detail about the markets of Canterbury, Gravesend, Maidstone, Rochester and Sevenoaks, and a later Report (1890–91, xl) again lists Kent markets, their owners and what they sell. Town histories also include references to markets, such as E. Jacob, *The History of the Town and Port of Faversham* (1774), 60–3. Exceptionally many documents about the important Maidstone markets are quoted in *Records of Maidstone* (Maidstone, 1926).

A search for MS. evidence in national and local archives should also be made, though the student investigating a particular market may be unlucky. There was the royal grant or lawsuit in Exchequer or Chancery or Court of Requests in the early modern period, and the indexes to each volume of the *Calendars of State Papers Domestic* should be examined, and also the P.R.O. *Deputy Keeper's Reports of Exchequer Special Depositions and Commissions* and *Lists and Indexes to Chancery Proceedings*. Borough records may contain information on markets, particularly from the sixteenth century, as the borough usually owned the market. Corporation minutes include

⁴ E.G. Box, 'Kent in Early Road Books of the Seventeenth Century', *Arch. Cant.*, xliv (1932), 4–5; R. Kilburne, *A Topographie or Survey of the County of Kent* (1659), 370–71.

occasional orders about the markets, and there are miscellaneous papers. A particularly useful guide are the catalogues to borough records in the Kent Archives Office relating to Deal, Dover, Faversham, Gravesend, Maidstone, New Romney, Queenborough and Sandwich. Bunce's MS. Abridgement to the Canterbury burghmote minutes, 1794 in the Canterbury Cathedral Library has many references to market orders. The New Romney records include a copy of a royal mandate for the destruction of an illegal market at Lydd (end of the fourteenth century), and papers about the abolition of New Romney fair (1880).⁵ Gravesend borough minutes from 1571 to 1624 include some market references, such as 'the Bocherie and market place, the market gates and gate house builded, the corn market finished' (1573), and the different quarterly charges for 'stranger' and freeman butchers in the market, 1588; there are papers about a new cattle market, 1850, and tolls, 1874-7, 1882-9.⁶ Maidstone borough records for the nineteenth century include market committee minutes 1824-35, and accounts, 1804-35, 1847-52.⁷ Modern market companies may hold records, such as those of Tonbridge Cattle Market since 1856. Markets owned by limited companies after 1856 and since dissolved have files in P.R.O. BT31, such as the Edenbridge Cattle Corn and Hop Exchange Company (1856) and the Tunbridge Wells Corn Exchange Company (1858).

In the Kent Quarter Sessions records the information rolls, 1637-55 include market offences, and there are returns of market prices of corn, 1770-92 for Ashford, Dartford, Maidstone, Milton Regis and Sevenoaks markets.⁸ Town manorial records may include material dealing with market nuisances or breaches of market regulations; Tonbridge manor court dealt with market offences in the 1690s and the beginning of the eighteenth century, such as forestalling.⁹ Exceptional items include notes of sales of animals in the open market at Queenborough, 1604-27, and the farming day book of Thomas Porter of Hadlow, with references to trade at Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Maidstone markets, 1816-24.¹⁰

Itinerant traders are seldom documented except when they came into contact with the law. Kent Quarter sessions records include a register of licensed badgers, 1753-68, and summary convictions of

⁵ K.A.O.NR/Fac2 f. 53 and AZ93.

⁶ Gravesend Borough Library, MSS. AC1, AT5, 6, 8.

⁷ K.A.O. Md/ACm2/1, FCa2/3, 4, FMa1/1, 2/1, FTb6.

⁸ K.A.O. Q/SRm and Q/RS.

⁹ K.A.O. U55 M386.

¹⁰ K.A.O. Qb/JBsl and U2093 respectively.

hawkers and pedlars, 1815–24.¹¹ More extensively, badgers were licensed on the earliest sessions rolls, 1600–04, and higglers were licensed in the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century quarter sessions papers.¹²

By the seventeenth century shopkeepers were common in country as well as town. The great collection of probate inventories for the diocese of Canterbury, 1565–c. 1750 (with about 30,000 in the larger archdeaconry group) contains innumerable shopkeepers' lists of goods valued by the assessors. There is a smaller collection of probate inventories for the diocese of Rochester from 1687, and another for the peculiar of Shoreham from 1664, both of which contain numerous traders' inventories.¹³ Tradesmen advertised in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century newspapers. They are listed in trades directories.

Account books for over 500 people, including bakers, grocers, wine merchants and many other tradesmen, 1757–1855, who came before the Court of Insolvent Debtors set up in 1824 are in the Kent Quarter sessions records. They have been the subject of a paper by Miss Melling.¹⁴ The Public Record Office holds the records of the Court of Bankruptcy for the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries: one group of early nineteenth-century MSS. has been listed and includes Kent grocers, linen drapers, booksellers and other tradesmen (B3). More recent archives will survive in private hands, particularly for family businesses which still exist. The Kent Archives Office holds grocery and general shop accounts for an Ashford business, 1870–1901 (U753) and various accounts of a Tunbridge Wells draper, 1885–1965 (U2584). A short history of a grocer's firm is R.F. Spicer, *A Speck of Spice (A History of Spicer's the Grocers of Hythe)*, published by Spicer's Stores, Hythe (1975).

Quarter sessions records are considerable for the licensing of victuallers between 1649 and 1828, inn signs often being noted in the eighteenth century MSS.¹⁵ Licensing was also dealt with at Petty Sessions, for which records survive from the early eighteenth century.¹⁶

¹¹ K.A.O. Q/RL and Q/RS.

¹² K.A.O. Q/SR and Q/SB.

¹³ All these inventories are in K.A.O.: PRC, PRR and PRS respectively.

¹⁴ E. Melling, 'Kentish Tradesmen in the Early 19th Century', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxvi (1953), 98–102; they are used by D. Alexander, *Retailing in England during the Industrial Revolution* (1970); Alexander also uses P.R.O. B3.

¹⁵ K.A.O. Q/RL; see *Guide to the Kent County Archives Office* (Maidstone, 1958), 26–7.

¹⁶ K.A.O. PS, see *Guide*, 40–2, and *Guide to the Kent Archives Office, First Supplement 1957–1968* (Maidstone, 1971), 2.

By the last decades of the nineteenth century there were some limited companies in retailing and distribution, including dairies, coal merchants and laundries: files of dissolved companies in P.R.O. BT31 include those of Darenth Dairy Co. Ltd. and Thanet Sanitary Steam Laundry Co. (1893), and the Kent Motor Co. Ltd. (1903).

2. *Waterborne Trade*

On account of the extensive coastline and partly navigable rivers, and the fact that bulky goods travelled more cheaply by water than by road, waterborne trade played a vital part in the history of the county's economy. Coastal and foreign trade and its ports are surveyed by the present writer in *Seventeenth-Century Kent*.¹⁷ Defoe, Harris, Hasted and S. Lewis, the nineteenth-century directories and histories of port towns should be searched for brief comments on waterborne trade.

It is a relatively well-documented subject. The Particulars of Accounts (P.R.O.E122) provide evidence for ports from the end of the thirteenth century to the 1560s on the arrival and departure of ships by name, the names of their masters, their home ports, the names of exporters and importers, and details of goods and official values and duty paid. Most of the Kent accounts are listed under Sandwich and its members, with some separate for Dover and a few for Faversham.¹⁸ The Exchequer Port Books (E190) cover the period from 1565 to 1799. They fall into two categories, those dealing with coastal trade and those with overseas trade. They include the name and tonnage of the ships, the masters, ports of destination or origin, and details of cargo. While these accounts have several defects, including the fact that many books were carelessly kept, and that an unknown quantity of produce was smuggled out of or into the country without ever passing under the eyes of the Customs officials, one may obtain an approximate idea of the comparative volume and character of the trade of each port. These sources were used by J.H. Andrews in 'The Thanet Seaports, 1650-1750' (*Arch. Cant.*, lxvi (1953), 37-44), and in 'The Trade of the Port of Faversham, 1650-1750' (*Arch. Cant.*, lxi (1955), 125-31), and by the writer in *Seventeenth-*

¹⁷ C.W. Chalklin, *Seventeenth-Century Kent: A Social and Economic History* (1965), chapter XI.

¹⁸ They are listed in *Exchequer K.R. Customs Accounts (E. 122), List and Index Society* xliii (1969), lx (1970); see N.S.B. Gras, *The Early English Customs System* (1918).

Century Kent.¹⁹ About 700 relate to Kent trade of ports round the coast between Rochester and Dover for the years 1565 to 1700.²⁰ About 1050 survive for the eighteenth century.²¹

There are also the Customs Outport records relating to Kent ports; these are listed and briefly described by E.A. Carson in 'The Customs Records of the Kent Ports – a Survey'.²² They are mostly nineteenth century, with a small quantity of eighteenth-century material, consisting mainly of series of volumes of recorded correspondence between the Board of Commissioners and local Collector. The finest records relate to Dover. Trade is naturally discussed extensively, but smugglers, wrecks and the enforcement of quarantine laws are widely mentioned. Among the MSS. to which Mr Carson draws special attention are a miscellaneous letter-book relating to Whitstable 1815–33, showing the vessels trading at Whitstable, their tonnage, crews and cargo (coal, stone and grain), and references to oyster fisheries. An early isolated letter book for Sandwich 1743–50 deals with the business of the port, including references to the French War and disposal of cargoes from wrecks. For Dover there are two volumes of reports of the Surveyor-General of Riding Officers, 1733–56, including numerous accounts of affrays with smugglers, sometimes by Customs ships.

By contrast borough records have little on waterborne trade. The catalogues in the Kent Archives Office in particular should be searched for the occasional document. Thus the Faversham borough records include a bundle of recognisances by shipowners about the transport of grain without the licence of the Corporation, with a list of hoys, their tonnage and owners, 1582 (JQR 6/1), a deposition about the loading of hoys with timber in the late sixteenth century (ZB63), and a port book for Faversham, Whitstable and Herne Bay, 1762, 1765 and 1793 (Z17).

For the nineteenth century the Parliamentary Papers have evidence on port trade. *P.P.* 1802–3 viii (Articles imported into England and exported therefrom) detail the overseas trade of Rochester, Milton, Faversham, Deal and Dover.

¹⁹ Also D.C. Coleman, 'The Economy of Kent under the Later Stuarts', London Ph.D. thesis, 1951, and J.H. Andrews, 'Geographical Aspects of the Maritime Trade of Kent and Sussex, 1650–1750', London Ph.D. thesis, 1954.

²⁰ P.R.O. *Descriptive List of Exchequer, Queen's Remembrancer, Port Books, Part I, 1565–1700* (Ed. N.J. Williams, 1960).

²¹ P.R.O. *Exchequer K.R. Port Books, Part II, South East and South Coast Ipswich to Barnstaple, 1701–1798* (List and Index Society lxvi, 1971).

²² *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, vol. 4, no. 1, April 1970, 35–41; the MSS. are at the Customs and Excise Headquarters' Repository at the London Custom House.

3. *Banking*

Records such as ledgers of the nineteenth-century Kent banks are normally held at the headquarters of the London clearing bank which absorbed them in the late Victorian or Edwardian period. K.A.O. holds the MSS. of the Cobb Bank at Margate, including early account books 1781–1834 and cash books c. 1802–80 (U1453). The bankruptcy records in the P.R.O. (B3) include the papers of bankers, such as William Dann of Gillingham, 1805 (B3/1277), and Richard Halford, William H. Baldock and O. Snoulton of Canterbury, 1841 (B3/2622–31). A recent survey which should be consulted about Kent bank MSS. is L.S. Pressnell and J. Orbell, *A Guide to the Historical Records of British Banking* (Aldershot, 1985).

4. *Industries and Crafts*

There was relatively little manufacturing industry in Kent during the Middle Ages. In the later sixteenth century and the seventeenth century industry was widespread, with the manufacture of broadcloth and iron in the Weald, textiles in several towns and the growing construction of warships in the north-west. Apart from naval work, industries were small and scattered in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. After 1850 large-scale industry developed in the north of the county, including cement, paper-making and engineering, and in the twentieth century coalmining appeared in east Kent.

The textile industry in various forms existed in Kent between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is surveyed by Miss Ethel M. Hewitt in the *Victoria History of the County of Kent*, iii (1932), 403–16, and by the writer in *Seventeenth-Century Kent*, 116–29. For Cranbrook there is C.C.R. Pile, *Cranbrook Broadcloth and the Clothiers*, Cranbrook and District Local History Society, 1967. Evidence about broadcloth in the Weald before the 1560s is relatively sparse. A few references in the P.R.O. Memoranda Rolls are noted in *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), (footnotes, 404–5). Fifteenth- and sixteenth-century wills of inhabitants of parishes in the Weald east of Tonbridge should be searched for references to clothmaking.²³ Contemporary title deeds and manorial records relating to property in the Weald may contain the occasional reference to clothiers and

²³ Wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are in the P.R.O.; those proved in the archdeaconry and consistory courts of Canterbury and Rochester are in the K.A.O.

weavers and possible cloth workhouses and fulling mills.²⁴ The indexes to the P.R.O. Calendars relating to this period should be searched, the Early Chancery Proceedings and records of the King's Bench will contain the occasional reference to clothiers and weavers and fullers.²⁵ From 1565 the great collections of Canterbury archdeaconry and consistory probate inventories contain many clothiers' and broadweavers' inventories, until the final collapse of the industry at the beginning of the eighteenth century: extracts from a few of them are printed in E. Melling, *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry* (Maidstone, 1961, 108–12). Title deeds contain references to clothiers, broadweavers, workhouses and fulling mills, providing locations within parishes.²⁶ Other records such as business accounts are almost non-existent.²⁷

The making of lighter 'new draperies' (especially bays and says) in Canterbury and Sandwich between the later sixteenth and early eighteenth centuries is documented in probate inventories of manufacturers and in the borough records. The silk industry of Canterbury, flourishing after the Restoration and in the eighteenth century, can be studied in probate inventories of silkweavers. The Canterbury Cathedral Library holds six typescript lists of Canterbury freemen between 1550 and 1837, naming over 500 silkweavers and about 2000 clothworkers and woolcombers, drawn from Canterbury City records. For the silk industry of north-west Kent there is S. Macartney and J. West, *A History of Lewisham Silk Mills* (Lewisham Local History Society, 1979). For Maidstone threadtwisters in the seventeenth century and other textile workers, there are again probate inventories and freemen's lists and other references in the borough records in the Kent Archives Office.²⁸

An exceptional survival for the history of the small iron industry in the Middle Ages are the accounts of the Tudeley bloomery, 1329–61,

²⁴ See the title deeds and manorial records relating to parishes in the Weald in the estate and family archives in K.A.O.: (e.g. U24, U120, U1311).

²⁵ P.R.O. *Calendars of Patent Rolls, Close Rolls, Charter Rolls, Liberate Rolls, Fine Rolls, Inquisitions Post Mortem, Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*; P.R.O. *Lists and indexes: early chancery proceedings*; Ed. R. Virgoe, 'Some Ancient Indictments in the King's Bench referring to Kent, 1450–1452' in *Kent Records XVIII: Documents illustrative of Medieval Kentish Society* (1964) has references to fullers and weavers.

²⁶ For examples of clothiers in title deeds, see C.W. Chalklin, 'A Seventeenth Century Market Town: Tonbridge', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxvi (1961), 157; examples of fulling mills in deeds are K.A.O.U522 T15 (West Peckham 1650–90) and U513 T1 (Horsmonden and Goudhurst 1586–1767).

²⁷ A rare survival is U1575 E2, Z4.

²⁸ See also list of freemen in the C.T. Smythe Collection in Maidstone Museum, 1598–1838.

edited by M.S. Giuseppi,²⁹ illustrated in *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 385–6, and used by E. Straker in *Wealden Iron* (1931), 34–6. A variety of sources exist for the great age of the iron industry in Kent in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the history of which is surveyed in *Seventeenth Century Kent*, (130–7), and there is much archaeological and historical detail on individual furnaces and forges in *Wealden Iron*.³⁰ In the Kent Archives Office the Filmer MSS. (U120) include documents relating to Hoathly Furnace, Lamberhurst in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, of which extracts have been published in *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry* (94–100). The transcripts of the Browne MSS. (TR1295) include material relating to Brenchley furnace. Title deeds survive for various furnaces and forges.³¹ The P.R.O. *Calendars of State Papers Domestic* should be searched. Proceedings in lawsuits involving ironmasters may be traced in P.R.O. *Lists and Indexes* for the *Court of Requests, Star Chamber* and *Chancery Proceedings*, and in the *Deputy Keeper's Reports* relating to Exchequer Depositions by Commission.

On the paper industry in Kent from its infancy in the early seventeenth century, A.H. Shorter, *Paper Mills and Paper Makers in England, 1495–1800* (Hilversum, 1957) and D.C. Coleman, *The British Paper Industry, 1495–1860* (Oxford 1958), both contain many references. T. Balston, *William Balston, Paper Maker* (1955) is a study of a notable manufacturer; he has also written *James Whatman, father and son* (1957). See also A. Dykes-Spicer, *The Paper Trade* (1907), and there is a survey in *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 416–20.³² Short studies of firms include *Reed Paper Group, 1903–53*, W.S. Shears, *William Nash of St. Paul's Cray, Papermakers* (1950), and K.J. Funnell, *Snodland Paper Mill – C. Townsend Hook and Co. from 1854* (Snodland, 1980). Fiennes,³³ Harris and Hasted,

²⁹ 'Some 14th Century Accounts of Ironworks at Tudeley, Kent', *Archaeologia*, lxiv (1913), 145–64.

³⁰ For the sixteenth century, see C.S. Cattell, 'An Evaluation of the Loseley List of Ironworks within the Weald in the year 1588': *Arch. Cant.* lxxxvi (1971), 85–92, see also D.W. Crossley, *The Bewl Valley Ironworks, Kent, c. 1300–1730* (Royal Archaeological Institute, 1975); J.H. Moon, *A Short History of Lamberhurst Iron Industry* (Lamberhurst Local History Society, 1977), 85–92, and H. Cleere and D. Crossley, *The Iron Industry of the Weald* (Leicester, 1985).

³¹ For example, K.A.O. U38 T1, U458 T2/1, U609 T3.

³² (Ed.) E. Melling, *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry* (Maidstone, 1961), prints building contracts for paper mills, 1740, 1765 (pp. 115–9); also, A.H. Shorter, 'Paper Mills in the Maidstone District', *The Paper Maker and British Paper Journal*, Mar. and April 1960, and 'Changing Factors of Location in the Papermaking Industry as illustrated by the Maidstone Area', *Geography* 52, part 3, (1967), pp. 280–93.

³³ (Ed.) C. Morris, *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes* (1947).

nineteenth-century trades directories and advertisements in the Kentish newspapers are among the principal printed sources. For the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Canterbury consistory and archdeaconry probate inventories include inventories of paper makers; the port books in the P.R.O. include references to paper dispatched by sea. The Kent Archives Office holds deeds and the occasional miscellaneous MS. relating to various paper mills, including the famous Turkey Mills, Boxley (U289).³⁴ They appear on estate and tithe maps.³⁵ The fire insurance policy registers from the early eighteenth century at the Guildhall Library include valuations for Kent paper mills, but they are not indexed.³⁶ For firms established or existing since the mid-nineteenth century as joint-stock companies and since dissolved, files of papers exist in the P.R.O. (B.T.41, 31 and 34) such as those of Dartford Creek Paper Mills Co. (1863) and the Tovil Paper Co. (1873); the Companies Registration Office holds annual returns and accounts for firms still existing. Enquiries should be made for records still in the custody of companies or firms, such as minutes, accounts, copies of correspondence and company reports. The lists in the National Register of Archives should be studied to help this search.

The copperas industry is mentioned briefly in secondary sources, apart from a paper by R.H. Goodsall on 'The Whitstable Copperas Industry' (*Arch. Cant.*, lxx (1956), 142–59. There are a few MSS. at K.A.O. relating to copperas at Queenborough from 1583 and at Minster-in-Sheppey, 1675–1763.

Gunpowder was made in various locations in the county from the seventeenth century. For the famous Faversham works see *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 399, E. Jacob, *The History of the Town and Port of Faversham*, 94, and other printed sources; the Dartford works are mentioned in Dunkin, *History of Dartford*, 307, and there are documents about the Ramhurst, Leigh mills printed in *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry*, 128–34. The Kent Quarter Sessions papers (Q/SB) include material about gunpowder manufacture for 1650, 1746, 1772, 1781, 1813.

The growth of engineering in the Medway Towns after 1850 is well described by J.M. Preston in *Industrial Medway: an historical Survey*

³⁴ K.A.O. U29 T1 (Bromley), U49 T20 (East Malling), U234 T7, E8 (Boxley), U352 T60 (Sutton at Hone), U956 (Boxley), etc.

³⁵ For example K.A.O. U78 P27 Benenden estate map 1779, Footh Cray and St. Mary Cray tithe maps, 1840 and 1844.

³⁶ For insurance policies as a source, see L.M. Wulcko, 'Fire Insurance Policies as a Source of Local History', *Local Historian*, ix (1970).

(Rochester, 1977), ch. VII; Preston has also written *A Short History: A History of Short Bros. Activities in Kent, 1908-64* (1978). Engineering has also developed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries at Dartford and in the neighbourhood of London, the factories including some making armaments. C. Trebilcock, *The Vickers Bros.: Armaments and Enterprise, 1854-1914* (1977) contains material on the factories at Dartford and Crayford. Records of Hall and Co., engineers of Dartford from 1883 are in the K.A.O. (U1570). On one company, Hall-Thermotank Ltd., there is *Hall-Thermotank Ltd., 100 years old, 1877-1977* (Dartford, 1977). Again the records of existing companies should be searched (with the possible help of the National Register of Archives), the B.T. files in the P.R.O., and the annual returns held by the Registrar of Companies.³⁷

Coal began to be mined commercially in east Kent about 1912. Accessible printed sources are the brief survey of the start of the coalfields in *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 380-4, and A.E. Ritchie, *The Kent Coalfield* (1919), but the student is referred especially to W. Johnson, 'The History of the Kent Coalfield' (University of Kent Ph.D. thesis, 1973) which includes a thorough bibliography: the thesis is based particularly on the records of dissolved companies in the P.R.O. (B.T.31, especially), returns and accounts at the Companies Registration Office, and the records of the colliery companies.

Oil seed crushing in the Medway Towns is surveyed by Preston (*op. cit.*, especially 134-8). H.W. Brace, *A History of Seed Crushing in Britain* (1960) has material on the Kentish works.

The modern development of the brewing industry in Kent is surveyed in *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 424-6; this may be supplemented by histories of Courages and Tomson and Wotton.³⁸ The availability for research in the Kent Archives Office of the MSS. of the Best family, brewers of Chatham between the mid-seventeenth and the mid-nineteenth centuries (U480) has led to several short publications, including R.A. Keen, 'Messrs. Bests, Brewers of Chatham' (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxii (1958), 172-81), papers by V. Salmon in *Cantium*, iv (1972), and documents in *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry* (122-6). The Best MSS. in addition to several hundred eighteenth- and nineteenth-century title deeds relating to public houses in the neighbourhood of the Medway Towns, are 'a

³⁷ The Registrar, Companies Registration Office, holds records for Aveling-Barford Ltd. of Rochester since 1896.

³⁸ G.N. Hardinge, *The Development and Growth of Courages Brewery* (1932); *Britain's Oldest Brewery: The Story of Tomson and Wotton's Brewery, Ramsgate* (1959-60).

comprehensive series of records dealing with all aspects of the brewery business, including ledgers, journals, stock and valuation accounts, vouchers, correspondence, customers' orders, rent accounts, agreements for leasing public houses, etc., 1746–1851, deeds of copartnership, 1754–1809, and agreement for sale of brewery, etc.', 1984. The Cobb MSS.(U1453) include the voluminous business records of Margate brewers 1761–1964, and the Tomson and Wotton MSS. (R/U7)³⁹ relate to Ramsgate brewers in the nineteenth century. The Courage, Barclay and Simmonds MSS. include 1300 deeds for inns in over 100 parishes in west Kent since the seventeenth century (U612), and the smaller collection of Fremlin, Brewers MSS deeds for inns in mid- and west Kent since 1663 (U896). The Kent Archives Office also holds deeds for breweries and inns and a few business papers for the firms of Flint and Co., Canterbury and Alfred Leney and Co., Dover (U933), and the predecessors of the former, Fenner and Flint, 1780–1801 (U1724), and deeds and a few other papers for breweries in other towns.⁴⁰ Inquiries should be made for surviving business records still in company hands, and the P.R.O. B.T. series should be investigated; for example, B.T.31 includes files on West Kent Breweries Co. (1888). There is little independent material on malting,⁴¹ but modern records of firms should again be sought.

Distilling in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is dealt with briefly by J.W. Bridge in 'Maidstone Geneva, An Old Maidstone Industry' (*Arch. Cant.* lxx (1952), 79–84) and by Preston in *Industrial Medway* (43–4). Preston also deals with mineral water manufacturing in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (145–7, 185–6); the Rochester Museum holds the business records of Dove, Phillips and Pett, 1902–18, and there are other modern records in K.A.O. Many mineral water manufacturers were limited companies about 1900, and P.R.O. B.T.31 should be searched for surviving files.

Tanning has been done in Kent from a remote period. A search should be made for wills and inventories of tanners and fellmongers and glovers in the Canterbury, Rochester, Shoreham and Prerogative Court of Canterbury collections. The K.A.O. holds a few bundles of deeds relating to tanyards, for the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.⁴² Nineteenth-century tanners and fellmongers may be traced

³⁹ *Guide*, 170.

⁴⁰ K.A.O. U47/11 T428, U47/17 B5, U47/22 B1, U55 T431, 504, 516, U442 B14.

⁴¹ A few deeds, e.g. K.A.O. U48 T6 (1708–14).

⁴² U31 T5 (Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone, 1658, 1669), U92 T12 and U229 T97 (Tanners St., Faversham, 1735–1823), U269 T41 (Mallet's Hill, Seal, 1621–96), U642 T6 (Tudeley, 1787–1850).

in the trades directories, and they will of course appear in the MS. census enumerations, 1841–91; tanyards for sale appear very occasionally in the newspapers.

Corn mills are mentioned in documents from the Middle Ages. They are mentioned in Domesday (see *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 203–52), and the various P.R.O. *Calendars* for the medieval period should be searched, using their indexes. There are lawsuits relating to mills in Early Chancery Proceedings and the Court of Requests (see for example P.R.O. *Lists and Indexes*, XX, XXI). The collections of probate inventories include, of course, inventories of millers, and the unindexed insurance registers at the Guildhall Library will contain valuations of mills. Harris, Hasted and S. Lewis should be examined for references to mills, and for the nineteenth-century directories and the MS. census enumeration returns name the millers; there are many newspaper advertisements for corn mills. The K.A.O. holds material for various dates in a number of estate and family archives. They include accounts for a mill in Boughton Aluph, 1374, and papers about mills in Smarden, 1586–1640 in Darrell MSS. (U386E); deeds for Hockeridge Mills, Cranbrook, 1511–1756 (U106); and ledgers and accounts for a flour mill (13 vols.) at Temple Ewell, 1869–1934⁴³ (U1320). Insolvent millers occur in K.A.O. Q/CI, for the early nineteenth century. Files of limited companies exist in P.R.O. B.T.31, such as those of Isle of Thanet Steam Flour Mill Co. (1864). There are physical descriptions of mills in J. West, *The Windmills of Kent* and M.J. Fuller, *The Watermills of the West Malling and Watlingbury Streams*.

For crafts such as shoemaking and tailoring, the food and drink trades and those connected with horses, references occur to the occupations in the medieval printed sources.⁴⁴ In the early modern period innumerable probate inventories and wills survive for people in these crafts. Seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century parish registers sometimes give occupations, and there are registers of freemen in the borough records, and apprenticeship MSS. in borough and parish records, from the seventeenth century.⁴⁵ All craftsmen are listed in the MS. census enumerators' books, and those trading are listed in the nineteenth-century directories. Accounts and papers of a

⁴³ There are valuations of mills for the 1670s in U214 E; a reference to the building of Otham mill, c. 1580 (U1044) etc. The Mannering MSS. (U2298) relating to a flour milling business at Dover include ledgers from 1849, and various other series of accounts.

⁴⁴ P.R.O. *Calendars*; *Kent Records*, xviii, *Medieval Kentish Society*, etc.

⁴⁵ Guild records survive in borough collections for the sixteenth to eighteenth century, but throw little light on the work of tradesmen and craftsmen.

wheelwright and carpenter at Faversham and Graveney, 1847–1949 are in K.A.O. U1601, and blacksmith's accounts, 1793–1805 in K.A.O. U2475. The account books of insolvent debtors (Q/CI) include many records of craftsmen for the early nineteenth century, and the list to bankruptcy records B3 in the P.R.O. should be searched.

5. *Building and Building Materials*

Building is not in general a well-documented subject. Title deeds and abstracts of title provide evidence on some aspects of house building such as names of land developers and building owners, prices of building sites and new houses. They have been used recently in a study of estate development in early nineteenth-century Tunbridge Wells.⁴⁶ Contracts and accounts for the building of typical houses in town and country very rarely survive. A few agreements and proposals for building and altering dwellings *post*-1500 are printed in *Kentish Sources V: Some Kentish Houses* (Maidstone, 1965). Local libraries and museums may hold photographs of demolished dwellings. One or two collections of records of building land development survive for the late nineteenth century, with plans and building leases, such as that of the Belvedere estate, Erith, 1859–1915 (K.A.O. U448), the sale particulars of the Mount Albion Estate, Ramsgate, 1838–59 (K.A.O.R/U5) and the deeds and papers of F.J. Castle relating to building at Southborough and Tunbridge Wells, c. 1860–1900 (U681). Family and estate collections may contain material on the building or alteration of country houses. An outstanding case is the vouchers and bills of the building of the Mote, Maidstone, 1796–1802, and 1812–23.⁴⁷ The Woodgate MSS. include estate papers about the building of Spring Grove, Pembury, with plans 1828–32, and builders' accounts for properties in Penshurst.⁴⁸

Accounts of the building of medieval churches do not survive. There was almost no building in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, though building accounts survive for Plaxtol Church, 1648, 1654–6.⁴⁹ Local histories and newspapers should be searched for material on the building of the few eighteenth-century and the very numerous nineteenth-century churches: parish records often include

⁴⁶ C.W. Chalklin, 'Estate Development and the Beginnings of Modern Tunbridge Wells, 1800–40', *Arch. Cant.*, c. (1984), 385–98.

⁴⁷ K.A.O. U1515 A227–93.

⁴⁸ K.A.O. U1050.

⁴⁹ K.A.O. P406C.

plans, minutes and accounts about new nineteenth-century churches, such as Hildenborough, Tonbridge, 1842–45, and Bromley, St. John, 1876–84.⁵⁰ Nonconformist MSS. include material on chapel building: thus the records of the Congregational Ebenezer Chapel, Ramsgate, include subscription lists and accounts concerning the enlarging and rebuilding of the chapel 1744–1894, and the Alkham Wesleyan MSS. contain a financial statement of the cost of building the chapel, 1880.⁵¹

For schools there are accounts of the building of Faversham grammar school, 1588–89, and of the rebuilding of Sevenoaks school and almshouses, 1729.⁵² The Kent Archives Office holds plans of 213 nineteenth-century elementary schools, 1839–75 (DE/S) and occasionally minutes about building (C/ES); parish records occasionally have material on the building of schools.

The introduction to the *New Maidstone Gaol Order Book, 1805–23* includes a survey of the history of the building of Maidstone county prison until the 1820s.⁵³ Minutes, accounts, contracts and plans of public buildings of various types survive, such as those relating to prisons and public halls. The Kent Quarter Sessions MSS. include records relating to both the building of the new Dartford bridewell, 1721, and of the new Canterbury gaol, 1804–11.⁵⁴ For the construction of borough prisons, a search should be made through the catalogues of borough records in K.A.O.: there are bills relating to a new gaol at Faversham, 1813–14, a contract with plans for erecting a prison in Sandwich, 1829, and especially Canterbury city records relating to the building of Westgate prison, 1830.⁵⁵

Kent Quarter Sessions MSS. include material on both the new Maidstone Shire Hall, 1817–70, and the Canterbury court house, 1808.⁵⁶ Faversham borough records include accounts about building the court hall, 1575; Deal borough records include accounts concerning the erection of the new court hall, gaoler's house and market place, 1802–32.⁵⁷ Printed works with useful material include R.P. Cruden, *The History of the Town of Gravesend* (1843).

There are a few architects' collections, such as the twentieth-

⁵⁰ K.A.O. P371C and P47B, respectively.

⁵¹ K.A.O. N1 (Ramsgate Office) and N/M (Folkestone Office), respectively.

⁵² K.A.O. FAG 1 and Sevenoaks Library MS., respectively.

⁵³ Ed. C.W. Chalklin (Maidstone, 1984).

⁵⁴ K.A.O. Q/SB 21, Q/AG.

⁵⁵ K.A.O. Fa/FV251, Sa/JQgl, Canterbury City records: sessions book, 1823–46, papers in boxes etc.

⁵⁶ K.A.O. Q/GA, Q/AC and Q/AG.

⁵⁷ K.A.O. Fa/AC 1, 2/2. De/F At 1–6.

century plans of buildings mainly in the Weald of H.J. Beniams, and the records of Messrs. Hinds, architects and surveyors of Ramsgate, comprising plans and specifications of public buildings and private houses in Ramsgate and neighbourhood 1832–1920.⁵⁸ Builders' records rarely survive. There are a few early nineteenth-century builders' accounts among the insolvent debtors MSS. in K.A.O.Q/CI. The listed bankruptcy records in the P.R.O. (B3) include a few papers about builders.⁵⁹ There are builders' estimates for the Isle of Thanet, 1825–39 at K.A.O. Ramsgate Office and the accounts of W.T. Crouch, builder from c. 1915 (K.A.O.R/U19). Estate agents may hold records, especially sale particulars. An outstanding collection in K.A.O. is the Henbrey MSS. of a Maidstone auctioneer, including over 4000 sale particulars, 1894–1952 (U1448 B1–7). Building craftsmen occur in Q/CI and P.R.O.B3; among the few surviving business collections of craftsmen are the MSS. of Settatree, carpenters and wheelwright, Faversham, which include customers' accounts, 1854–1948 (K.A.O. U1601).

Brickmaking is surveyed briefly in *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 393–5. For brickmaking in the Lower Medway Valley, see J.M. Preston, *Industrial Medway*, especially pp. 50–4 and chapter 5. Other recent works include F.G. Willmott, *Bricks and Brickies* (Rainham, 1972) and S.J. Twist, *Stock Bricks of Swale* (Faversham, 1984). *V.C.H. Kent*, iii (1932), 393 has references to the P.R.O. Ministers Accounts for the making of tiles at Nackholt in the fourteenth century. K.A.O. holds bundles of deeds to brick and tile kilns, such as brick-kilns at Cranbrook, 1630–1752, in Thurnham 1657–1858, and tileworks at Westwell 1828–1950, but accounts and other papers in local archives are few.⁶⁰ Records of brickmaking companies survive in B.T.31, such as files on Medway Brick Co. (1856), and Sandown Brickfields and Kent Joinery Works Co. (1908). Other firms supplying building material are to be found in these records, such as timber merchants (e.g. Chatham Timber Co., 1903), and suppliers of stone (e.g. Kent Stone Co., 1909). Lime burning is discussed in Preston, *Industrial Medway*, 54–7. Deeds of limekilns in K.A.O. include some for Northfleet 1664–87, Frindsbury, 1765 and Hollingbourne, 1775.⁶¹ For the cement industry see A.J. Francis, *The Cement Industry, 1796–*

⁵⁸ K.A.O. U1094 and R/U1561, respectively.

⁵⁹ For example B3/1826 William Fly of Herne Bay, 1836 and B3/2743 Thomas Jarvis of Chatham, 1829.

⁶⁰ K.A.O. U24 T249, U289 T42, 43, E5, U1293 T64; there are accounts for a brick kiln at Hollingbourne, 1757–86.

⁶¹ K.A.O. U55 T306, U145 T48/3, U120 T103.

SOURCES FOR KENTISH HISTORY

1914: *a History* (chapter 2) and Preston, *Industrial Medway*, 68–90, 164–77. A search should be made for the business records of dissolved or surviving companies at the P.R.O. (B.T.31, etc.)⁶² and Companies Registration Office respectively, in the lists at the National Register of Archives and by inquiry to existing firms.

There is thus much material in print on the history of Kentish trade and industry, and also many manuscripts which remain to be studied by historians, both in the Public Record Office and Kent Archives Office, and in private hands.

⁶² e.g. Wouldham Cement Co. (1865), and Bridge Cement Co. (1888).