



# Despatches

Issue 4

June 2011

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## Archive content:

- 4203 photos & documents etc
- Censuses 1841 – 1901
- Baptisms 1559 – 1903 (14852 records) inc Independent 1707 – 1738
- Marriages 1561 – 1950 (3787 records)
- Burials 1561 – 1892 (9957 records)
- Electoral registers 1939 & 1981 (4038 records)
- Cemetery 1932 – 2005 (1490 records)
- Poor Law 1654 – 1836 (1264 records)
- Trade Directories 21 (2384 records)
- Wills 133 medieval, 372 others (many transcribed)
- Tithe data (425 records only)

## New:

- Maidstone Journal extracts – 1831 to 1846

## Coming:

- In time – database of Parish Chest documents
- 1911 census
- Burials 1892–1986

## News from the Heritage Centre.

The snow managed to slow us all down although the Heritage Centre was open almost all the time & only closed when the library did. The Christmas season also slowed some of the inputting. However Colin & Alan are back to uploading data to the website so that you get a flow of new material coming on-line. The Maidstone Journals are a fascinating new source for you to discover, by courtesy of Pat Maynard who has transcribed the main details and who hopes to get these uploaded also. Another Patricia (Foskett) has been doing sterling work on transcribing the main details from the Parish Chest. This has so far been financed by a grant from Grass Roots. It will be uploaded when the work is complete, but you can see some samples in our feature article on the workhouse. Ian Newton, photographer, printer etc and myself (Eunice) visited the Centre for Kentish Studies, where they had discovered the latest Burials register. We had great fun using their super machine to digitally copy these records – now all we need is a volunteer/s to transcribe them! All the Electoral Registers that we have are now

complete – these were inputted by Jane Tipples. Jane is moving on to do the latest burials. Another large source of material came after the death of Jessie Wood. She and her husband Frank ran the Post Office for many years and were staunch Methodists. Thank you to Christine Pavey, their daughter, for this donation. Another fascinating cache of documents relate to Little Cheveney. They were discovered in a large dusty box by Kate after her father, Harry Tickler, died. We were also allowed to take photos inside this lovely old house. Next job is the conservation of these documents. The other important news is that Lester & Jane Cunningham, who run On-click, which manages our website, have spent much of their Christmas holidays renewing the website and how it functions. So you should soon be seeing a difference. As all our work has started from nothing we are constantly trying to improve things - a learning curve is a minor term for all that everyone has learned. So many people have enquired how the web site was set up that a formula which may help others is being worked on.

## Where in the world are our web members?



## The Poor Laws And The Workhouse Of Marden

In Medieval times the church, monasteries and nunneries were the main institutional carers for the poor or sick. After the Dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in the 1530s each parish was made to be responsible for its own poor, who were to be a charge on the parish by a tax levied on the ratepayers. The Poor Law Act of 1601 was to help those without work or those too poor, sick or needy to be able to work. As a charge on the taxpayer, its implementation was strict. Ratepayers were not happy about having to pay for those they thought to be lazy, profligate or irresponsible. In 1795 the Speenhamland Scheme was devised, which gave a subsistence pay to workers based on the size of their family. However, this led to abuses as it was felt that labourers failed to demand better wages because any shortfall would be made up, and employers could give tickets to be spent on their own premises and in their own shops, thus enriching themselves still further. The end of the Napoleonic Wars increased poverty, the traditional Wealden industries of iron and wool had decreased dramatically, and smuggling was being dealt with more severely (also smugglers were losing their image of dashing glamorous figures as their behaviour became more violent and therefore public support and admiration began to ebb away). The Game Law of 1819 meant even catching rabbits was a punishable offence. The 1832 Anatomy Act allowed unclaimed bodies from the workhouses to be used for medical research, causing widespread horror. Many reports of such stories were

exaggerated or false which led to public sympathy ebbing away.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, known as the New Poor Law, aimed to right some of the anomalies and difficulties that had built up over 200 years. The features of this system included parishes combining into unions, covering a radius of about 10 miles, to build cost effective workhouses. It would only be for those who asked for relief (in fact more people were given aid outside the workhouse than inside it). The regime inside would be harsh, with a small paid staff of Master and Matron, responsible to a committee of unpaid ratepayers, called the Guardians, provided from each parish.

One of the perennial problems has always been differentiating the deserving and undeserving poor, and the Poor Law 1834 hoped to encourage people to take control of their own situation by setting up friendly societies or insurance schemes to safeguard against ill health and poverty. Staplehurst initiated the Staplehurst Labourers' Employment Society between 1833 - 1837. This led to a *Society for the Purpose of Employing the Able Bodied Labourers of the Parish who from time to time are unable to obtain Work through the Winter season, and who are also in Agreement with the proceedings of the Society*. A man would be given a ticket asking an employer to give him work and he was paid according to a scale dependent on his family commitments. Local people were asked to employ the unemployed at the



MARDEN SOCIETY  
HISTORY GROUP CATALOGUE

MARDEN-U  
1719

Albion Road, Marden.

Pub by  
alley  
Marden.

## The Poor Laws And The Workhouse Of Marden



Workhouse Cottage  
Note woman washing and pump against wall

MARDEN SOCIETY  
HISTORY GROUP CATALOGUE:  
MARDEN-U  
0065

of the new workhouses were built in isolated areas, which increased the difficulties of looking for work and thereby escaping the workhouse environment. Once installed there, obtaining work or finding an alternative way of life, was very difficult with few roads, little transport, and no money. The Bastardy Clause, which was partially repealed in 1844, allowed putative fathers to escape responsibility for their children unless they were wealthy enough to be worth pursuing - this forced many women into the workhouses. Salaries for medical staff were low, which led to some unqualified people being employed. The use of qualified doctors would lead to the complaint that the poor were getting better treatment than those who worked. Medical treatment could be refused - in 1814 Ambrose Daws in Marden asked for a doctor to call on his wife. The overseers would not allow this and it was laid down that in future '*no pauper could be visited by the doctor without the prior approval of a Vestry meeting*'.

Education was also a bone of contention - the poor must not be seen to be getting a better education than children not in the workhouse. Sunday School education was also to be a reminder of the child's place in society. The labouring poor must have their minds improved, their vices repressed and be suitably grateful. They must not be distracted from any work so many recreational pursuits were stopped at the beginning

so many recreational pursuits were stopped at the beginning of the 19th century, including some traditional fairs. The laws affected all of the country, and this issue of Despatches is a synopsis of how the Poor Laws were felt in a village like Marden. Many records have been transcribed and will be available on line, giving more information. The Compton Census of 1676 cited Marden as having the largest population - with the exception of Maidstone - in this area of Kent. Marden had 669 Conformists, 1 Papist and 30 non-conformists. This contrasted with Staplehurst, 295 Conformists, 0 Papists and 160 non conformists.

Villages would insist on proof of occupancy in the a village before help would be granted, and failure to prove this would lead to 'Removal' back to where the person was judged to have come from. In the same way a Removal Order back to Marden could be implemented from other parishes, Marden then becoming responsible for the care of that person. Settlement Certificates would be granted to satisfy the authorities. In 1812 John Wilkins wished to move to Marden where he had obtained Settlement after a year's hire (he had lived in Ash for 26 years).

However as his property in Ash was worth more than £10 annually he was refused. Mr Cox, overseer of the workhouse at Ash, brought John and family to Marden and

## The Poor Laws And The Workhouse Of Marden

insisted on leaving them here. Wilkins obtained an Order of Relief on Marden Parish but the family was moved back to Ash, Marden demanding refund of their expenses of £30. Mr Cox was accused of Misconduct either for Inhumanity or Conspiracy, so he retaliated that Marden was making *'an impudent attempt to impose a charge'* and that he was innocent of any wrongdoing. Finally the best compromise was reached but the fate of the poor family in the middle of this is not known. Vagrants and Rogues were also sent on their way. Thomas Webb and wife Anneleis were 'apprehended in the parish of Lingfield as Rogues and Vagabonds in 1763 and were to be conveyed via Westerham to Marden. They had to be provided for on their journey and then onto Marden. In 1771 John Osborne of Marden forfeited 2s for *'cursing one profane curse which was given to three poor people'*. In 1775 Jonathon Monckton was nominated by the Vestry to be the parish doctor at a wage of £11.19s annually. However as a complaint had been lodged against Monckton before a Magistrate that a woman in the Marden poorhouse on oath had declared that he had used *'indecent and Wicked Behaviour towards her'*, and it was also decided that this was an improper manner of appointing a parish doctor and William Hunt, surgeon and apothecary of Goudhurst was appointed instead. Whether the said Monckton was guilty of the charges laid against him is never explained, or whether he was ruined unjustly is one of history's mysteries. There is a plaque to Jonathon Monckton in St Michael & All Angels Church, and he is buried in the grounds. He died in 1807, 30 years after the scandal. Was he innocent of all charges? He is recorded as the Marden doctor for 40 years.

Breaking the rules of the Marden poorhouse was not taken lightly - a certain Mary Freeman was sent to the House of Correction in Maidstone for misbehaviour in the Marden workhouse in 1817, she had also refused to attend divine worship. This was her second offence as the year before she received the same punishment for 7 days for *'wandering abroad and lying in the open air'*.

### CHARITIES

In 1722 Mrs Mary Allen, Widow of Marden, made provision for the Poor People of Marden, after she had donated her *'Flock bed and bedsted with pillows'* and other personal items to members of her family, while her children received her lands and the house.

The bequest was to sell *'land at Appledore'* - after disbursements the residue should go to the 'Poor People of Marden', with the resulting land purchased from the sale, or interest on the same of *'lawfull money'* to be paid yearly for those that *'did not receive Alms of the parish'*. By 1752 revenue was being raised and investments made in the South Sea Stock. Widows received 1s or 2s on Whit Tuesdays and Ash Wednesdays, but they had to

listen to a sermon first (for which a payment of 10s was made to the preacher). In 1807 the clerk was allowed 2s 6d for his dinner and 2s 6d for his journey to Horsmonden to collect money. A note in the Account in 1813 stipulates that the recipients should be of the *'most Industrious Poor and not having Relief'* but for persons showing *'Honesty, Sobriety, Industry of Marden'*. Anyone with less than 2 children and *'no Smugler'* could receive aid from the Charity.

In a Will dated 8th June 1792 Sir Charles Booth left £1,000 for the vicar of Marden and the Owner of Cheveney *'for the time being'* to provide a school master and mistress for teaching poor boys and girls. By 1836 200 children had been taught at the Marden School with some paying 2d if able to do so. There was also a donation of £50 from the National School Society of London and £20 from the Society in Canterbury. At this the Rev. Philip le Geyt of Marden told the Commissions that he wished to obtain a mortgage at 5% to produce an income for the continuation of the school - this was agreed. The Allen and Maplesden Charities, which funded charities in Marden and whose donations book is held by Mike Lutener, Trustee, lists all the names, donations and outgoings. Before money was handed out, 10s was paid so the recipients could listen to a sermon first - so no largesse until the full benefits of a sermon and being told exactly what your place in society was.

Marden was not always unfeeling in its treatment of its poor. Marden insisted in the early 1800s that the poor were paid at the current daily rate when working and even allowed the poor to retain the money for their own use. In 1823 a woman was sent to Whitstable to get some sea air, for one year.

Paternalism died out with the 1834 Poor Law and many historians agree that conditions were much worse after its inception. Many Kentish areas, including Marden, did make an effort to be compassionate prior to 1834 but once in the poverty cycle, improvement was very hard to achieve. In 1881 the workhouse at Coxheath/Linton had 16 paupers from Marden living there, the youngest only 1 year old - all described as paupers, 2 also as Lunatics while 2 others were 'Imbeciles'.

Outdoor relief continued for some time after the Poor Law - in Cranbrook casual poor were taken in each night when a bell was rung at 4pm to call the poor who wished to gain a bed for the night plus a meal. They had to leave by 10am the next day, but were given bread and cheese plus a job to go to on leaving.

In 1908 a Report was prepared on the existing help to the poor, but times were changing and men and women expected to make great sacrifices for their country in wartime were going to expect changes to their conditions.

*Researched and written by Maureen 'Mo' Clayton*



## A timeline of landmark care legislation

**1601. First Poor Law Act.** Under Elizabeth I the poor and needy were to be looked after by their parish of birth or settlement, following the breakdown of care provided by the church and monasteries before the Dissolution under Henry VIII.

As this became more and more onerous on local rate payers, and was thought to be liable to be managed in different ways in different areas, after much research and consultation the **1834 Poor Law Amendment Act** was passed. This saw the building of large Union workhouses, for up to ten local parishes, to which all the poor were to be sent. Outdoor relief did continue for some time.

**1847 Poor Law Commission** was set up because of escalating costs and scandals about care being provided in some workhouses. They were feared and universally unpopular.

**1848 and 1869.** Public Health Acts to try and provided sanitation and clean water.

**1867 Reform Act.-** Local Government Boards replaced the Poor Law Board in 1871. Outdoor relief was reduced, which led to a 33% drop in claimants, but resulted in increased numbers entering the workhouses by between 12%-15%. **Friendly Societies** began to be set up to give aid and some trade unions also provided assistance.

**1870 Education Act.** To provide state schools for all children.

**1876 Royal Commission** on the Factory Acts recommended that education be made compulsory in order to stop child labour

**1880 Education Act** made school attendance compulsory between 5-10 though by the early **1890s** this aim was short by about 82%.

**1891** education to be free.

**1882. Married Womens' Property Act.** Women did not lose the right to their own property on marrying, could divorce without fear of poverty.

**1885 Medical Relief Disqualification** - those who had medical care funded by the poor rate were still eligible to vote.

**1905 Unemployed Workmens' Act.** Under the Conservatives this was to look at changes to the Poor Law.

The Liberals followed and introduced Social Services including old age pensions and National Insurance contributions.

**1918 Representation of the People Act.** Women householders could vote. Equal suffrage did not happen until 1928.

**1919** Lloyd George introduced a Housing Act to provide council housing.

Means Tests were introduced between the wars, another hated measure. Numbers using the Poor Law system increased also at this time.

**1929 Local Government Act.** Workhouses abolished.

**1948 Poor Law system** abolished.

**1946 National Health Service** proposed, giving support from the cradle to the grave.

**1948 Modern NHS** created.

*Researched and written by Maureen 'Mo' Clayton*

## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

Many of the documents in the Parish Chest are connected with the Maidstone Union, which existed to facilitate the local parishes in carrying out their legal and moral obligations to help the poor in need.

*The following are extracts from the Parish Chest which are being transcribed by Patricia Foskett and more lately by Jo Fryer. This has been achieved by the aid of a grant from Grass Roots. They are just more than a half way through the thousands of documents, but we hope this will give a real insight to the gems that are lurking in the chest, with thousands of Marden names which give more idea of the lives of our Marden ancestors.*

Some documents are lists of charges against individuals in each parish – the poor rates.

**Document 23 (our database ref) - P244/12/183 (CKS Ref)** On the database is a table showing the number of males, females and children to receive relief either in house (in the workhouse) or outdoor for the year 1837.

Marden = 6 males, 8 females and 30 children receiving indoor relief and 72 males, 48 females and 201 children receiving outdoor relief. The parish was due to pay £63 16s 0d for these people.

### MAIDSTONE UNION.

Extract from the **QUARTERLY ABSTRACT**, shewing the number of Paupers relieved, the Amount of Money expended, and the Balances due to and from the several Parishes, for the Quarter ending 24th of JUNE, 1837.

PARISHES.	TOTALS.						GRAND TOTAL.	EXPENDITURE.											
	IN-DOOR.			OUT-DOOR.				Cost of Persons Migrating and Emigrating.	Repayment of Workhouse and Emigration Loans.	Amount of Relief advanced, by way of Loan, under 30th and 39th Sections of Poor Law Amendment Act.	Proportion of In-Maintenance.	Out-Relief.	Proportion of Establishment Charges.	Balance due to Treasurer last Quarter.	TOTAL.	Balance due to the Parish.	Balance due from the Parish.		
	Adults.		Children.	Adults.		Children.													
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.														
District No. 1.							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Maidstone .....	61	57	76	149	273	369	985	—	—	—	390 8 11	661 19 1	187 2 1	—	1189 10 1	—	294 3 3		
Bearsted .....	1	5	8	4	7	3	28	—	—	—	26 9 11	15 2 3	10 10 3	—	52 2 5	—	20 2 5		
Loose .....	4	7	8	4	12	10	45	—	—	—	30 7 11	20 14 7	6 19 9	—	58 2 3	—	19 15 2		
Otham .....	—	4	3	8	8	11	34	—	—	—	9 16 5	22 1 0	5 8 6	—	37 5 11	3 6 2	—		
District No. 2.																			
Boughton Monchelsea ..	4	3	6	19	20	61	113	—	—	—	25 19 3	101 13 4	20 1 1	—	147 13 8	—	22 11 4		
Linton .....	4	1	8	17	20	46	96	—	—	—	25 6 4	71 1 1	10 7 8	—	106 15 1	—	24 13 4		
Marden .....	6	8	30	72	48	201	365	—	—	—	75 2 8	241 10 4	63 1 7	—	319 14 7	—	63 16 0		
Staplehurst .....	12	9	18	47	20	57	172	—	—	—	64 16 3	181 0 10	51 7 7	—	297 4 8	55 10 9	—		

Those who were deemed to be too poor to be able to pay the poor rates were detailed in lists and signed off by the agreement of 2 magistrates and excused from paying the poor rate due to inability to pay.

Example **Doc 5 - P244/12/182** dated 1837.

“We two of His Majestys Trustees of the Peace for the County of Kent in Petty Sessions assembled do hereby with the consent of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Marden in the same County order and direct that the several persons within named shall be excused from the payment of the Rates set opposite to their respective names by reason of their inability thro’ poverty to pay the same, that their names be struck out from the rates wherein the same are charged, and that no person shall be charged therewith or liable to account for the same Rates or for omitting to collect the same.”

1837 March 2<sup>d</sup>. We two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Kent in Petty Sessions assembled do hereby with the consent of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Marden in the same County order and direct that the several persons within named shall be excused from the payment of the Rates set opposite to their respective names by reason of their inability thro' poverty to pay the same, that their names be struck out from the rates wherein the same are charged, and that no person shall be charged therewith or liable to account for the same Rates or for omitting to collect the same.

John L. L. L.  
M. P. R. R.

## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

Stephen Knight, Samuel Sharp, Richard Hunt, John Gaskin J<sup>nr</sup>, Thomas Martin, Thomas George Knight, John Knight, James Day and Walter James – to name just a few.

There was also allowance for ill health as shown for John Peirce's broken leg. **Doc 58 - P244/12/184**

Stephen Knight	6
Sharp Samuel	5-3
Hunt Rich <sup>d</sup>	2-3
Gaskin John Jun <sup>r</sup>	1 10-
Martin Th <sup>s</sup>	2-3
Knight Th <sup>s</sup> George	2-3
Knight John	3-0
Day James	3-0
Walter James	3-0

I hereby agree to pay of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of Maiden in the County of Kent, the Money which <sup>or has been</sup> ~~has been~~ advanced to me by the said Churchwardens or Overseers during the time that I am confined with a Broken Leg – Dated the Twenty Sixth day of March 1838

John Peirce

The Union paid out money through its bankers to parish overseers of the poor to support their poor and it also set out invoices requesting contributions to the Union fund from each parish poor rate fund.

**Doc 9 - P244/12/182** is a Maidstone Union instruction to pay a contribution from the poor rate towards the support of the poor. £300 was paid in 1837 by William Barnes and John Ranger, the Guardians.

**MAIDSTONE UNION.**

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of  
*Maiden* — in the County of Kent,

You are hereby authorized and directed  
to pay to Messrs. CORNALL and MERCER, on the *twentieth* day of  
*March* instant at Maidstone, the Sum of *three hundred*  
Pounds, ~~Shillings, and~~ Pence,  
from the Poor Rates of the said Parish, towards the Relief of the Poor thereof, and towards  
defraying such proportion of the general Expenses of the Union, as is lawfully chargeable  
on the said Parish; and you shall take the Receipt of the said Messrs. CORNALL and  
MERCER, for the said Sum of £300 —

Given under our Hands, at a Meeting of the Guardians of the said Union, held on  
*Thursday* — the *ninth* day of *March* 1837.

*A. B. Weston* Presiding Chairman.  
*Wm Barnes*  
*John Ranger* } Guardians.

*Wm Barnes*  
Clerk to the Board of  
Guardians of the said Union.

1837 March 23  
Cornall & Mercer



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

There are receipts detailing payment to various wardens/overseers for their part in collecting the poor rate, these also include payment of stamps.

Insurance also needed to be paid – here, in 1837, the overseer Stephen Hayes paid 7s 9d plus 9s 6d duty. **Doc 24b-P244/12/183**

No. *Marden June 9- 1837*

Received of Mr. *S. Hayes* <sup>Overseer</sup> for *Insurance*

the Sum of *Seven* ~~Pounds~~ <sup>Shillings</sup> and *9* Pence, being the amount of

PREMIUM for Insuring £ *300* from the

*9* day of *June* 1837 to the *24* day of *June* 1838 and

also £ *4 = 6* being the amount of the DUTY (at the rate of 3s. per

Cent.) imposed by Act of Parliament.

Premium, - *7.9.6*

Duty, - *1.17.3*

*Saml Osborne* Agent.

£ *-17.3*

⚡ Policies are void, unless renewed within fifteen days after becoming due.

FORM E.

To *Richard Southon, Thomas*  
*Hayes William Grant and*  
*William Simmons* } Overseers of the Parish  
of *Marden*

You are hereby ordered and directed to pay to Messrs. MERCEB, RANDALL, and MERCEB, of Maidstone, on behalf of the Guardians of the Poor of the Maidstone Union, on the *seventh* day of *August* next at Maidstone, the Sum of *two hundred and twenty five* Pounds, from the Poor Rates of the Parish of *Marden* towards the relief of the Poor thereof, and to the contribution of the Parish to the common Fund of the Union, and such other expenses as are chargeable by the said Guardians on the said Parish, and to take the Receipt of the said Messrs. MERCEB, RANDALL, and MERCEB, for the said Sum of £ *225* -

Given under our hands, at a Meeting of the Guardians of the Poor of the said Maidstone Union, held on the *eighth* day of *July* 1847-

**Doc 13 - P244/12/182** dated 1847 is a receipt in respect of James Day and Richard Southon collecting such money from inhabitants of Marden.

Lots of individual receipts show the suppliers providing goods and services to or in respect of the poor. Some examples are: Richard Couchman provided the workhouse with butter, 'suger', starch, 'sope', thread, bread and candles in 1790. Whatever was the ½ an ounce of worsted for Master Drinker? **Doc 149 - P244/12/185**

1790 March 31: The parish for to Richard Couchman

March 24: 2 p <sup>ts</sup> of Butter	£ : 1 : 2
29: 1 p <sup>ts</sup> of Suger 1/2 p <sup>ts</sup> of Starch and 1/2 p <sup>ts</sup> of Sope	0 : 3 : 0 1/4
14 p <sup>ts</sup> of Thread and 2 Quarters and 1/4 Yds of Lint	0 : 1 : 5
30: 2 p <sup>ts</sup> of Butter 1 p <sup>ts</sup> of Suger 1/2 a Quarter of Worsted	0 : 1 : 10
for Master Drinker	
3 p <sup>ts</sup> of Bread 1 p <sup>ts</sup> of Suger 1/2 a p <sup>ts</sup> of Candles	0 : 0 : 10 1/4
31: 1 p <sup>ts</sup> of Butter and 1 p <sup>ts</sup> of Candles	0 : 1 : 0 1/2
	0 : 9 : 4 1/4
	4 : 6 : 1 1/4
	4 : 15 : 5 1/2
	4 : 15 : 9 1/4
Total	£ 9 : 11 : 2 : 3/4



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

This bill came from E Couchman in 1797 and included more personal items – stockings, combs – large and small, thread, worsted, camblet, linden, wollsey and a 'bonet'. It is interesting that cloth was measured in ells and all the varieties of cloth, including plain cloth. It even mentioned who had what, as Tom Barton's 'gurl' had a pair of 'stockins' and Beaney Beaney had wollsey.

Worsted = close textured woollen fabric,  
camblet = possibly camlet, a durable waterproof cloth, linden – either linen or linsey- linsey wolsley is a coarse fabric of linen and wool.

June 7 to the House 2 Pair Stockins - 0..2..4  
2 Combs, Smalls Large & Small - 0..2..6  
one Piece of Tape & Worssted - 0..1..0  
4 a Pair of Shoues - 0..1..6  
June 7 Tom Barton's Gurl a Pair Stockins 0..1..6  
1 1/2 of Wallrey at 2/6 & 2 of Bindin - 0..2..8  
7 Lane Beaney Beaney 2 1/2 of Wallrey - 0..1..1  
4 3/4 of Cloth at 17 m lll - 0..5..4  
6 1/2 of Camblet & Linden at 8/6 - 0..5..4  
4 1/2 of Cloth at 14/6 - 0..1..5  
4 a Pair of Stockins & Bonet - 0..2..6

April 1810 Hrs. parish to Mr Bowles for Watch  
19 Done in the House - 8..2  
21 Soling in and Dams Lott - 2..4  
21 Soling in and Dams Maynard - 2..0  
25 Soling heel in and Ronster's gurl - 1..8  
25 heeling in and Mary Judges - 0..10  
27 Soling heel in and Dean Ray - 1..10  
27 Soling heel in and Haysmore gurl - 1..10  
28 in of Shon Eliz Gasken - 6..6  
28 in of Shon Dean Ray - 5..6  
30 in of high Shon Wm Izard - 13..8  
1:16:0

**Doc 126 - P244/12/185** Repairs in house/out of house, new shoes, repair of shoes etc  
Many of the bills pertain to the cobblers as no doubt shoes were of utmost importance when you had to walk everywhere on rough, muddy roads and paths. It looks as if William Bowles in 1810 actually went to the workhouse to do his cobbling. So he did 'soling' (soleing) 'menden' for Dames Lott and Maynard, 'soling, healg, (heeling) mend for Ronster's gurl, healing, menden for Mary Judges, soling, healg, mend for Dean Ray and Haysmore 'gurl'. Then there was repair of shoes for Eliz Gasken and Dean Ray (the latter must have been very heavy on his shoes) and William Izard had his high shoes repaired for 13s. (Whatever were these to have cost so much?) For this Mr Bowles was paid the princely sum of £1 16s 0d.

Samuel Osborne provisioned the workhouse in 1811 with leather breeches (sorted), boys' and mens' kerseys, patched men's kerseys and 'hatts' in 3 different sizes (boy's, youth's and men's).

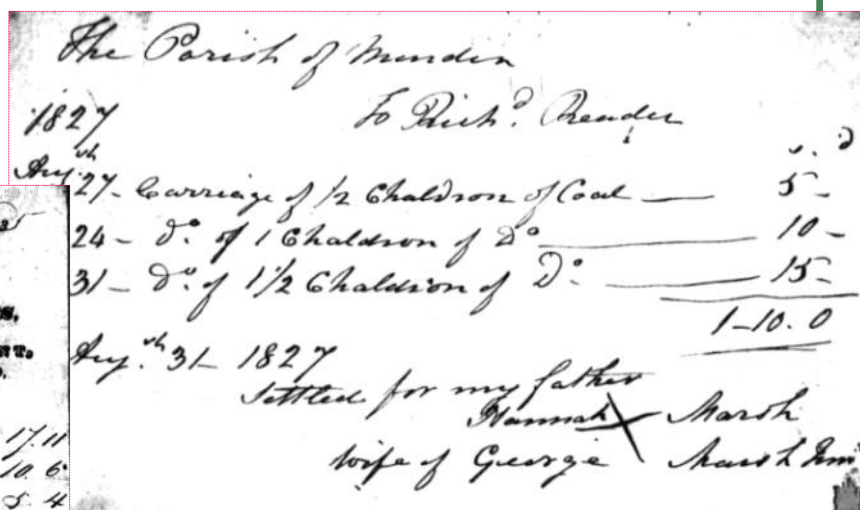
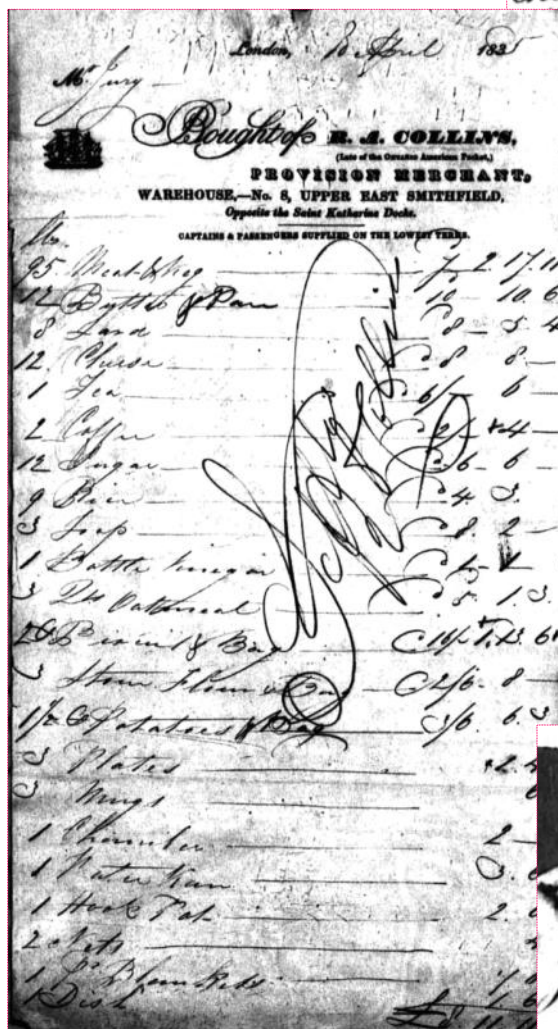
**Doc 152 - P244/12/185** a kersey was a garment made of woollen/cotton ribbed cloth especially used for work clothes

Sam<sup>e</sup> Osborne Nov<sup>r</sup> 23-1811  
Tender to serve the Parish of Morden with the following articles as under.  
3 Dozen Leather Breeches sorted @ 6/6 each  
Boys' Kersey Wts from 6 to 12 @ 5/3 each  
Mens' Do from 1 to 6 @ 7/3 each  
Mens' Do Patched from 1 to 6 @ 9/3 each  
Boys' Hatts  
Youths Do  
Mens Do } the price marked in the Hatts  
20-2/- 2/3 - 2/6 - 2/10 - 2/6  
6-6-12-6-6

## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

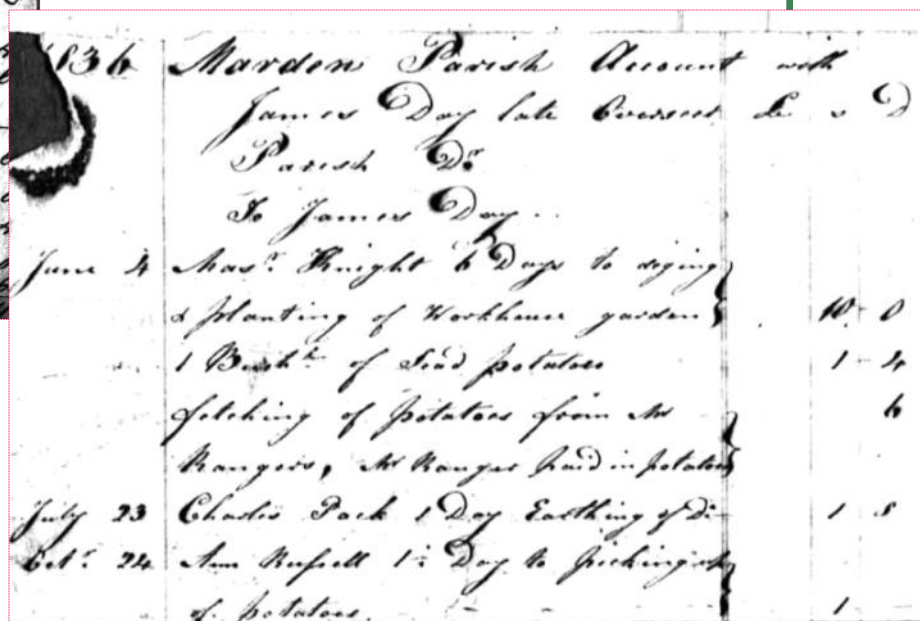
The inhabitants of the workhouse needed to keep warm. It's interesting how coal was measured in chaldrons in 1827.

**Doc 130a - P244/12/185**



It's perhaps surprising that some provisions came from Smithfield in London in 1835. As the provision merchant was opposite St Katherine's Docks, the order possibly came down river to Maidstone and from there to Marden. The items included meat, butter, cheese, lard, tea, coffee, sugar, beer, soap, vinegar, oatmeal, flour, potatoes, plates, mugs, dish, chamber, water can, hook, blankets, nets and a bag of biscuits. **Doc 138 - P244/12/185**

**Doc 27b 27c - P244/12/183** Bills for digging and planting workhouse gardens – they could be supplying seeds, setting up a garden or payment to residents doing work to provide food.



June 4<sup>th</sup> – Master Knight 6 days digging and planting of workhouse garden. For this he got 10s. Then a bushel of 'sead' potatoes cost 1s 4d, the boy got 6d for fetching the potatoes from Mr Ranger who was then paid in potatoes. In July Charles Pack was paid 1s 8d for earthing them up and in October Ann Russell had 1s for picking them up, all during the year of 1836.



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

Charles Beaufoy's establishment later became Crowhurst and Tompsett's. In 1838 he provided outfits for John Hunt, his wife and four children and also Henry Newick, his wife and two children, thereby clothing the two families for £19 11s 1d. **Doc 93 - P244/12/184**

**Doc 24a - P244/12/183** This was paid to William Stanley for 7 weeks board, lodging, nursing and nourishment of Ezekiah Fishenden, by order of Mr Perry (the local doctor and surgeon) who was not able to be removed to his parish of Horsmonden. Ezekiah cost 7s per week and Horsmonden refused to pay this, so James Day settled this account in 1837

1837 Horden Parish Ex. P. 10  
To Wm Stanley  
Amount for 7 weeks board lodging  
nursing & nourishment to  
Ezekiah Fishenden By order  
of Mr Perry not being able to  
be removed at 7/- per week 7 9 0  
This sum paid belonging to Horsmonden  
Parish who have refused to pay the Bill  
Settled for Mr Stanley By James Day Aug<sup>r</sup> 5 1837

Written notes/dockets allow specified persons or "the bearer" to collect gallons of flour, or other supplies **Doc 29 - P244/12/183**

July 22/1837  
I do please to serve William Sharp  
with four gallons of Flour 14/-  
To Mr Jude R. H. Howard Bursar

FUNERALS FURNISHED FAMILY MOURNING  
DRESS, GROOMING & COIFFEURS  
FINE TEAS & SPICES  
**C. BEAUFOY.**  
(Late Mr. J. Colborne)  
**BARRON.**  
Agreed to the  
Horsmonden Union Life & Fire Office.  
The Overseers of Horsmonden  
Apr 24. 1838  
Outfit for John Hunt 4. 19. 9  
John Hunt's Wife 3. 0. 10  
John Hunt 4 Children 3. 4. 11 1/2  
Henry Newick 4. 9. 6  
Henry Newick's Wife 2. 13. 2 1/2  
Henry Newick 2 Children 1. 2. 10  
£ 19. 11. 5  
July 9 for Bursar 19. 11. 5  
C. Beaufoy

Mr Jude was asked to provide William Sharp with 4 gallons of flour for 14 1/2s in 1837.

1837 Mr. Kennard  
July 8<sup>th</sup> To Mr Jude  
4 1/2 lbs Flour 13/- 4 6  
12 4 do do 14/- 4 10  
29 4 do do 14/- 4 10  
Aug 15 1 do do 14/- 2 5  
16 7  
August 15 1837  
Settled to Jude



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

There are receipts for conveying poor persons to their appropriate workhouses, Coxheath, Maidstone etc., and receipts to others for funeral expenses, bearing coffins, nursing the sick or elderly.

The payments for carriers etc. for conveying the poor eg. Ezekiah Tusenden returned to Horsmonden, Caroline Chalkline to Maidstone Workhouse. **Doc 11 - P244/12/182**

Receipt for payment to George Waghorn for treating 3 children for "the scaldheads" on the basis of no cure, no fee – pronounced cured and fee paid. **Docs 11a -P244/12/182**

**Doc 12a - P244/12/182**

The Parish of Marden in the Maidstone Union To Mr L. Roach  
 1837  
 Jan'y 28 Minister's fees at the burial of John Smith 1 6  
 Colver's D. 1 "  
 Digging the Grave 2 6  
 The Bearer 1  
 March 25 - 1837 6 "  
 Settled Mr L. Roach

**Doc 35 - P244/12/183** John Chalklin, a lunatic committed to asylum in Barming, was found to have been last legally dwelling in Marden; so Marden overseers were ordered to repay costs £13/04/0d and to take on future charge, again the year was 1837.

Marden Overseer Dr £ 5 0  
 To George Waghorn  
 Contract for Curing of  
 three John Price Children  
 and one of Will<sup>m</sup> Hopkiss  
 Childrens Scald Heads  
 Contract June 2<sup>d</sup> 1835  
 at a Vestry Meeting  
 No Cure No pay 3 0 0  
 We have Examined the Children  
 find they are Cured of the  
 Scald Heads  
 James D. Overseer }  
 Rich<sup>d</sup> Southern }  
 March 2<sup>d</sup> 1837 Settled  
 George Waghorn

under the Hands and Seals of Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County directed to the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Boughton Monchelsea caused to be conveyed to and placed in the County Lunatic Asylum established at Barming Heath in the Parish of ~~Boughton~~ <sup>Maidstone</sup> in and for the said County of Kent under the directions of the several Acts of Parliament made in relation to Pauper Lunatics in England and that the said John Chalklin is now confined under the said Order at the said County Lunatic Asylum and that the legal Settlement of the said John Chalklin has not been ascertained NOW We the said Justices having now enquired into the last legal Settlement of the said John Chalklin and having obtained satisfactory Evidence as to such Settlement do adjudge the Place of the last legal Settlement of the said John Chalklin to be in the said Parish of Marden in the said County of Kent



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

**Doc 12 - P244/12/182** - various receipts and invoices for issuing warrants and securing convictions.

**Docs 12a, 12b, 12c** - regarding Charles Tree - payments for warrants and conviction and payment for apprehending him for running away leaving his family as a charge on the poor rates in 1837.

Joel Godden had 5s for going to Farleigh and Loose and finding him. It also cost the parish another 8s involving the paper work.

The Parish of Hardon in the Maidstone Union — To Joel Godden £ 2  
1837  
Feb 28 Journey to Farleigh  
& Loose to apprehend  
Chas Tree for running  
away and leaving  
his family chargeable  
& keeping him in Custody  
one night } 5-  
Settled  
Mrs L. Crocker allowed the above  
Philip J. Justice of Peace

The Parish of Hardon in the Maidstone Union — To Mrs L. Crocker £ 2  
1837  
Feb 28 Comptrol of St. Day fees  
of Chas Tree for running  
away & leaving family } 2-  
Warrant 1-  
Conviction 3 6  
Mittimus 1 6  
Allowed the above £ 8-  
Philip J. Justice of Peace  
March 25. 1837  
Settled Mrs L. Crocker

1838 The Church Wardens &  
Overseers of Hardon Parish  
To Daniel French  
for Carpenter Work done at the  
Workhouse as follows  
rebuilding 2 doors  
putting new roof to oven  
removing & repairing privy  
removing window in floor above  
and door & frame from floor & seat to privy  
new roof to Bakehouse  
cutting through wall into coal hole  
rebuilding partition in garret  
new window boards to the kitchen & pantry  
repairs to Workhouse door & frame  
rebuilding & repairing the pump  
repairs to fence, gate & stile  
repairs to end of Cottage  
& of window frame plate Locks £ 17 6

**Doc 90 - P244/12/184** - repairs to Workhouse by Daniel French, carpenter in 1838. He did work on the doors, put in a new roof to the oven, removed and repaired the privy also providing it with a new seat and removed and repaired the pump. The bake house was given a new roof and a hole was cut through the wall into the coal hole. There was work on the partition in the garret, window boards to the kitchen and pantry. Finally there were plate locks added, work on the fence and repairs to the end of the cottage. This again adds to the picture of what the workhouse was like.



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

**Doc101 - P244/12/184** - This document gives a fascinating insight to the parish cottages with a bill for extra work / repairs to the parish cottage in 1838: these included lathe, plaster and render in one 'attick' in the alterations, brickwork to the foundation of the chimneys and to the foundation of a single cottage and boundary. Then there was slating and other work to the privy with 'tilen' on the piggery, heightening the chimney and work on the brick gutters to the chimney. Two ovens were repaired, the well was opened, filled up and paved and the drains were taken up and the cess pool.

1838  
Feb 26

The parish of Marden. To the Master  
for Extra work done at the Old poor House

To lathe plaster & render in one attick in alterations,  
To 29 feet of brick work extra in foundation of Chimneys,  
To 66 feet of the foundations of single Cottages and boundary  
marks to do. To laying brick gutters back of chimney  
mending the tilen and brick work at houses, slating  
on privy, tilen on piggery, To taking down brick  
work cleaning bricks making good brickwork and  
tilen to privy, lathe and plaster to secure crown  
of Oven, To 1/2 brick work to secure crown of other oven  
taking down the sink, cleaning bricks, making good  
the same, To opening the well filling up and  
paving to do, To taking down 1 1/2 brickwork in  
front wall and rebuilding it to 1 brick different  
from specification, to taking up drains and support  
and cleaning bricks, lowering the ground in single  
cottages and lathe & plaster the end of do, and  
Laying of four Cord of stones for foundation  
To taking down part of chimney and heightening the  
same, making good the tilen &c - To one new iron  
stay bar for do with nuts and screws &c for do.

The above work amounts to the sum  
of £ 8 - 11 - 10 1/2



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

This is what Maidstone union ordered for their workhouses in 1842. At least the bread was ordered to be reasonably fresh; although a 4 lb loaf probably wouldn't have gone that far with a large family on a limited diet. I don't fancy the description of the beef, "clods, stickings, rands and mouse pieces" - at least it was to be without bones. And how reassuring that the butter was well scraped and cleansed!

MHG cat. 710.

Many documents involve certificates and removal orders.

Certificates state that person living in parish A is actually legally entitled to settlement and support in parish B (generally due to having worked on a 12 month contract in parish B at some time or having a father who did. Certificates generally stated that if they were to become a charge on the poor rate they would be returned to parish B.

Removal orders generally stated a person had become a charge on the poor rate of Parish A so they must be removed to parish B and often stated an amount already incurred in expenses by Parish A which must be repaid by parish B.

Removal order in **Doc 915** (not pictured) is difficult to read because of water damage, but seems to suggest Mary Newman (child of un married mother also Mary Newman) is chargeable to New Shoreham and shall be removed there with her mother as nurse until she reaches the age of seven. I think the suggestion is that at that age if the mother and child are legally chargeable to separate parishes (probably because the father is known and is chargeable there) they would be separated. This may be heartless but bearing in mind the tiny amounts of money most people had scraping a ling/existence on self sufficiency basis it could be impossible for a single parish to support all the poor in hard times without some rules to spread the costs.

Bad behaviour in the workhouse was not tolerated as Lucy Mew found out being sentenced to 21 days in Maidstone House of Correction. She was also labelled as a rogue and vagabond. **Doc 1452**

In this document the Parish of Chatham is returning Boys and Martha Simons with their children Boys, Edward, James and Hester Mary to Marden.

**Doc 537 - P244/13/2bdl 2 of 6**

Yet earlier Boys and Hester Simons had impressive memorials inside the church. These records show how the prosperity of Marden families rose and fell.

Tenders, on THURSDAY, the 16th JUNE instant, for the supply of BREAD, FLOUR, and other PROVISIONS, at the Union Workhouse, and also in the following Districts of the Union, for the Quarter ending 29th September next.

DISTRICTS.

PARISHES.

No. 1.—Maidstone, Bearsted, Loose and Otham.

2.—Boughton Monchelsea, Linton, Marden and Staplehurst.

3.—Barming, East Farleigh, West Farleigh, Hunton, Nettleshead, Teston and Yalding.

BREAD AND FLOUR.

The Bread and Flour to be of good second quality; the Bread to be supplied in loaves of four pounds weight, and in such quantities as may be required for the use of the paupers of the workhouse, union or district, contracted for. The Flour to be scaled out to the out-paupers, and the Bread and Flour delivered at such times and places in the respective parishes as the Board of Guardians may direct, in exchange for Tickets to be produced by the paupers from the Relieving Officers; and no Bread to be delivered within twelve hours after the same shall have been baked.

PROVISIONS, &c.

Clods, stickings, rands, and mouse pieces of Beef, without any bone; Mutton for the Sick, and Suet, at . per stone of 14lbs.

Good second Cork Butter, well scraped and cleansed, at . per cwt.

Cheese, specifying quality, at . per cwt.

Yellow Soap, at . per cwt.

Candles, at . per dozen pounds.

Salt, at . per sack

Good Rice, at . per cwt.

Good moist Sugar, at . per lb.

Good Tea, at . per lb.

Pepper, at . per lb.

Vinegar, at . per gallon

Starch, at . per lb.

Stone Blue, at . per lb.

1842

MARDEN SOCIETY

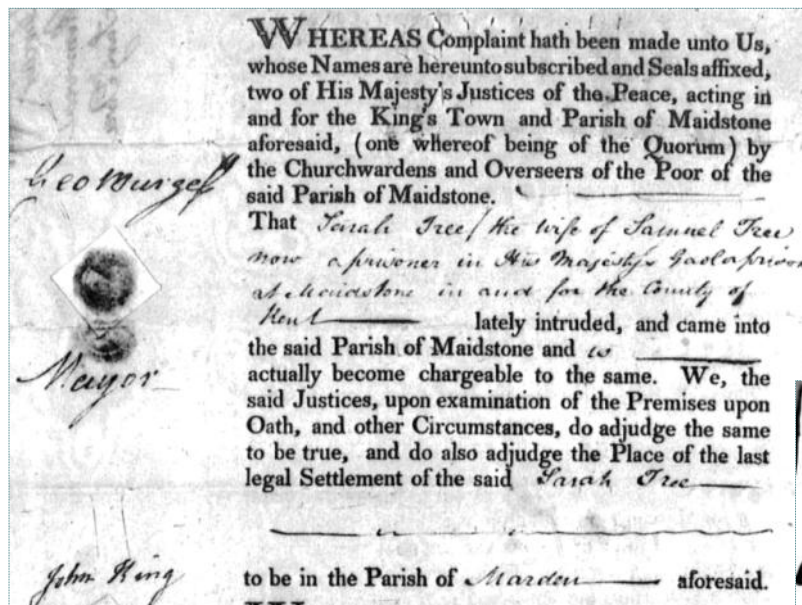
Whereas *Lucy Mew* on the *twenty fifth* Day of *June* last past was apprehended in the Parish of *Marden* aforesaid in the said County for misbehaviour in the Workhouse

And Whereas the said *Lucy Mew* hath been, by one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in and for the said County, examined, adjudged, and convicted to be a Rogue and Vagabond; and hath in consequence of such Conviction been committed to and confined in the House of Correction at Maidstone, in and for the said County, for the space of *twenty one* days, pursuant to the Statute in that case made and provided.

WHEREAS Complaint hath been made unto us, (two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the County of Kent) aforesaid (one whereof being of the Quorum) by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of *Chatham* That *Boys Simons* and *Martha his Wife* and *Boys* aged about eleven years *Edward* aged about six years *James* aged about five years and *Hester Mary Simons* aged about seven weeks their children have lately intruded and came into the said Parish of *Chatham* and are become chargeable to the same: We the said Justices, upon Examination of the Premises, upon Oath and other Circumstances, do adjudge the same to be true, and do also adjudge the Place of the last legal Settlement of the said *Boys Simons* and *Martha his Wife* and *Boys* *Edward James* and *Hester Mary Simons* and their children to be in the said Parish of *Marden*.



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse



Sarah Tree was committed to Maidstone prison, but Maidstone Parish was not going to pay for this as she came from Marden.  
Doc 626 - 244/13/2bdl 3 of 6

This family of Baughurst was evidently well known to the overseers of Marden.  
Doc 166c - P244/12/185

Date	Amount
May 21	2 - 0
28	2 - 0
June 4	2 - 0
11	2 - 0
18	2 - 0
25	2 - 0
July 2	2 - 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 14 - 0</b>

J. Baughurst

One of the saddest documents I have ever read - from CD of Poor Law records.  
The children of a faithful single mother are scattered when she dies. None are kept together

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Details | Ann Luff (19), illegitimate child of Catharine Luff, spinster, deceased (William Baughurst reputed father), removed from Marden to Ely, Cambridgeshire. 14 May 1807        |
| Details | Elizabeth Luff (13), illegitimate child of Catharine Luff, spinster, deceased (William Baughurst reputed father), removed from Marden to Boughton Mounchelsea. 14 May 1807 |
| Details | Joseph Luff (10), illegitimate child of Catharine Luff, spinster, deceased (William Baughurst reputed father), removed from Marden to Pembury. 14 May 1807                 |
| Details | Kesiah Luff (6), illegitimate child of Catharine Luff, spinster, deceased (William Baughurst reputed father), removed from Marden to Egerton. 14 May 1807                  |
| Details | Mary Luff (15), illegitimate child of Catharine Luff, spinster, deceased (William Baughurst reputed father), removed from Marden to Lamberhurst. 14 May 1807               |
| Details | Catharine Luff (8), illegitimate child of Catharine Luff, spinster, deceased (William Baughurst reputed father), removed from Marden to Chartham. 14 May 1807              |



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

There were several other ways in which the Parish tried to lessen the number of people dependent on the Poor Rate. If you were a young person you might be apprenticed. In 1782 Thomas Cloude (might this be Cloute?) a glover took on John Tompsett with a very detailed agreement. The parish paid for his board for 3 years and his first year's pay of 6d per week. Thomas boarded him for the next 4 years with the parish providing John with 'cloaths', but his master was responsible for the washing and mending of them. **Doc 1495**

Indentures were documents cut in half with a wavy edge and each half given to the overseer or Master.

The trades for apprenticeship were extremely varied – husbandry and housewifery (this was also for men), rope making, paper making, gloving and feltmongering, broad and linen weaving and tailoring. Other tradesmen who took apprentices were a coach wheelwright, ironmonger, blacksmith, cooper, bricklayer, cork cutter, thatcher, with a fisherman, waterman and mariner also. Strangely for such an agricultural district only one was taken on by a farmer.

In this indenture of 1720 Thomas Catt of Cranbrook, a cork cutter, promises John Shawe to “teach and instruct to the best manner that he can” and give sufficient meat, drink, apparel, lodging and washing as fit for an apprentice (whatever that might be!) until John is twenty ‘for’ years old. At the end of his time he was to be given double apparel good and new – a suit for Holy days and one for working days. In return John promised to serve according to his power, wit and ability, being honest, orderly and obedient. **Doc 1528**

Memorandum that this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1782 it is agreed between the Officers and Parishioners of Marden and Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude of Marden aforesaid Glovers (that is to say) that he the said Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude agrees to take John Tompsett a poor Lad of Marden afores. for the Term of Years upon the Parish's boarding him for the Term of the s<sup>d</sup> 3 years and paying the s<sup>d</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude for the first Year the sum of 6d<sup>s</sup> week And the said Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude agrees to continue the s<sup>d</sup> Lad for the space of 4 years more making together the Term of 7 years upon his the s<sup>d</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude's allowing the Officers to towards his last years Cloths and also upon the s<sup>d</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude's boarding him for the last 4 years; and the s<sup>d</sup> Officers agree to find him in Cloaths upon the said Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude's washing and mending for the time for the last 4 years. As witness their Hands the Day and Year above said -

Churchwarden *Step<sup>r</sup> Walter*

Overseers { *John Burr*  
*J<sup>r</sup>as<sup>s</sup> Cornwell*

*Tho<sup>s</sup> Cloude*

**His Indenture** made the sixteenth Day of February in the Seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno Domini 1720: Witnesseth, That James Allen and Thomas Mercer in the County of Kent Church-Wardens of the Parish of Marden And Daniel Colliton and Thomas Chambers Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, by and with the Consent of his Majesties Justices of the Peace of the said County whose Names are hereunto subscribed, have put and placed, and by these Presents do put and place John Shawe a poor Child of the said Parish, Apprentice to Thomas Catt of Cranbrook in the County of Kent

the said Apprenticeship with him to dwell and serve from the Day of the Date of these Presents, until the said Apprentice shall accomplish his full Age of Twenty years according to the Statute in that Case made and provided: During all which Term, the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve in all lawful Businesses, according to his Power, Wit, and Ability; and honestly, orderly and obediently, in all things demean and behave himself towards his said Master and all his during the said Term. And the said Thomas Catt for himself, his Executors and Administrators, doth Covenant and Grant to and with the said Church-Wardens and Overseers, and every of them, their and every of their Executors and Administrators, and their and every of their Successors, for the Time being, by these Presents, That the said Thomas Catt the said Apprentice in the Art or Trade of a Cork Cutter which he now useth shall diligently instruct after his best manner that he can And shall and will, during all the Term aforesaid, find, provide and allow unto the said Apprentice, meet, competent and sufficient Meat, Drink, and Apparel, Lodging, Washing, and all other things necessary and fit for an Apprentice. And also shall and will so provide for the said Apprentice, that he be not any way a Charge to the said Parish, or Parishioners of the same, but of and from all Charge shall and will have the said Parish and Parishioners harmless and indemnified during the said Term. And at the end of the said Term, shall and will make, provide, allow and deliver unto the said Apprentice double Apparel of all Sorts, good and new (that is to say) a good new Suit for the Holy-days, and another for the Working-days. In Witness whereof, the Parties aforesaid to these present Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year above-written.

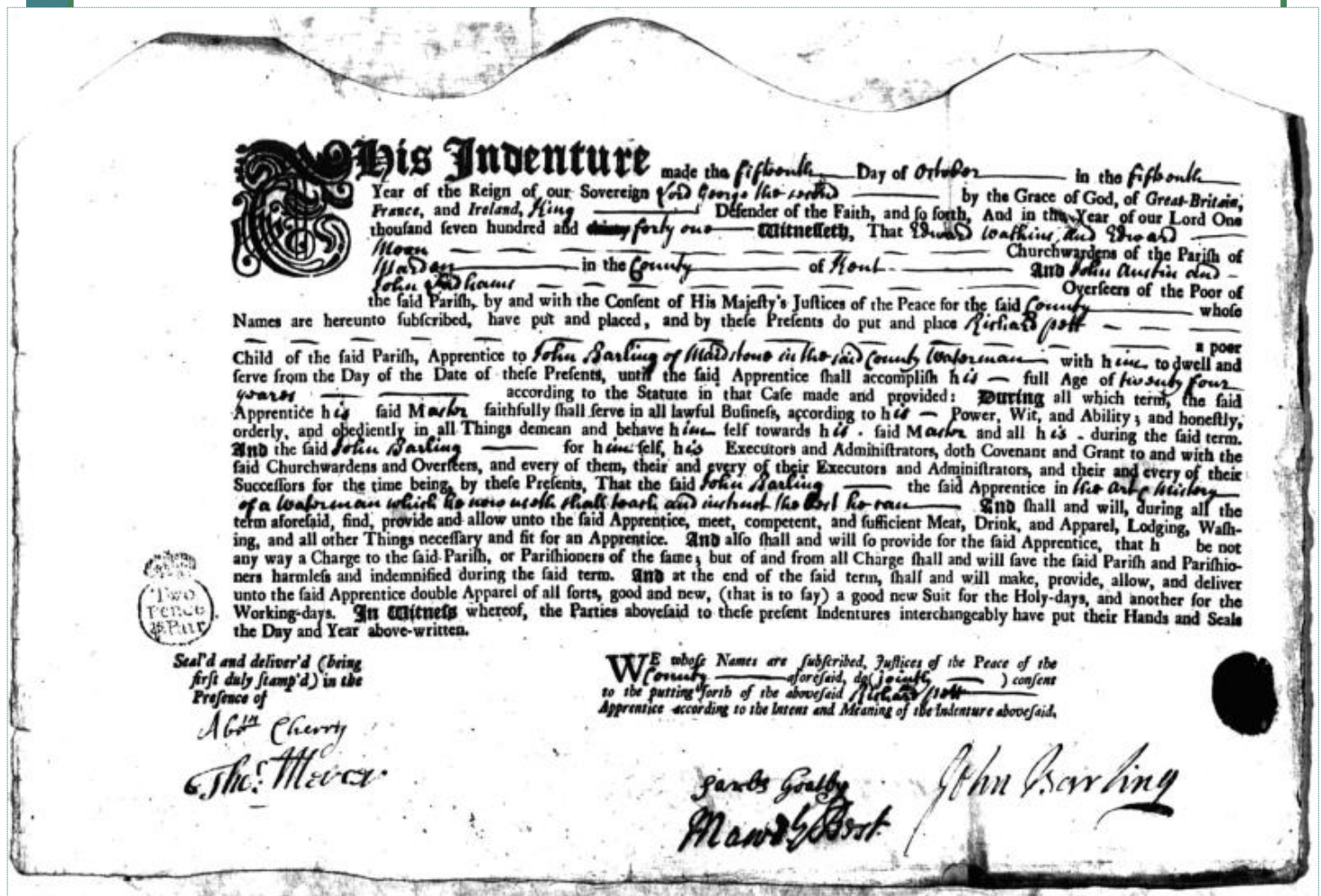
Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of *Edm<sup>d</sup> Cole* *Step<sup>r</sup> Walter*

Witness the Names of the Justices of the Peace of the County aforesaid by whom the putting forth of the above said Indenture is confirmed, according to the Intent and Meaning of the Indenture aforesaid.

*John Savage* *J<sup>r</sup>as<sup>s</sup> Cornwell*  
*Marriott Pitt* *of the said*



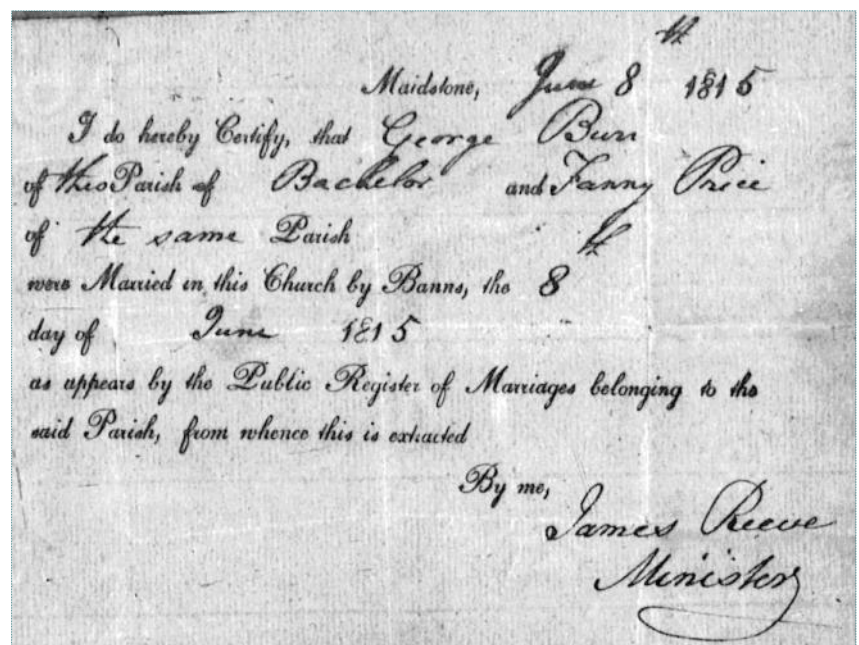
## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse



This indenture of 1841 gives the same standard format to apprentice Richard Pott and John Barling of Maidstone, a waterman. Doc 1546

The Parish would also pay for a marriage to relieve themselves of the responsibility of a young lady. Hence in 1815 Fanny Price became the responsibility of her new husband George Burr.

Doc 1442



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse



### To the Guardians of the Poor of The *Maidstone* Union, in the County of *Kent*

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of  
the Parish of *Marden*  
in the said Union;—

To the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions,  
held for the Division or Divisions in which the  
said Union is situate;—and to all others whom it  
may concern.

WHEREAS in pursuance of an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," the Rate-payers of the Parish of *Marden* being one of the Parishes comprised in the *Maidstone* Union, in the County of *Kent* and Owners of property in the said Parish, legally entitled to vote, assembled at a meeting duly convened for the purpose, have directed the Churchwardens and Overseers to borrow the sum of *one hundred pounds* as a fund for defraying the expenses of the Emigration of poor persons having settlements in the said Parish.

Then there were quite a number of families who had their passages paid to new countries – America, South Africa and Australia. (A whimsical theory is that this practice gave its name to America Street, home of the workhouse. Has anyone else any theories how it came by this street name?) Again this relieved the long term cost to the parish. Expenses allowed were set out

Travel to the port of embarkation 3d per person per mile.  
Clothing £1.00 but east of The Cape £2 10s  
Bedding and utensils 10s but again if you went further east £2.00  
Doc 278 - P244/12/186

1. The party emigrating shall go to some British Colony not lying within the Tropics.
2. The Guardians may expend a sum not exceeding three-pence a mile in conveying each emigrant above seven years of age to the port of embarkation; and a sum not exceeding three half-pence a mile in conveying each child under seven years of age.
3. The Guardians may give to each emigrant, the place of whose destination shall be not eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, clothing to the value of *one pound*; and may also expend a sum not exceeding ten shillings for each emigrant in the purchase of bedding and utensils for the voyage.
4. The Guardians may give to each emigrant proceeding to the Cape of Good Hope, clothing to the value of *two pounds*, and to each Emigrant to places eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, clothing to the value of *two pounds ten shillings*, and in either case may expend a sum not exceeding *one pound* for each person above fourteen, and *ten shillings* for every child above one and under fourteen years of age, and, in cases of free emigration, *two pounds* for every single man above eighteen years of age, in the purchase of bedding and utensils for the voyage.
5. If the emigrant be not conveyed by or under the authority of Her Majesty's Government to the place of destination, or provision be not otherwise made in a manner satisfactory to the said Commissioners for the maintenance of such emigrant on arrival at such place, a contract, to be approved of by the Commissioners, shall be entered into for securing a sum of money to be supplied to the emigrant on such arrival, according to the following scale:—

To each person exceeding Fourteen Years of age .....	£ s. d.
To each person not exceeding Fourteen Years of age .....	1 0 0
	0 10 0

6. If the emigrant be not conveyed by or under the authority of Her Majesty's Government to the place of destination, and the cost, or any part thereof, of conveying the emigrant from the port of embarkation to such place, shall be defrayed from the fund above directed to be provided, a contract shall be entered into for conveying the emigrant to such place, to be approved of by the said Commissioners.

By Patricia Foskett  
& Eunice Doswell

2011

Government Emigration Office,  
9, Park Street, Westminster,  
24 January 1849

Age	Contribution	Deposit	Total
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31	4	1	5
42	4	1	5
48	4	1	5
15	1	1	2
10	10	10	20
8	10	10	20
5	10	10	20
TOTAL	15	4 10	19 10

Doc 245 - P244/12/186



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse

**Doc 55 - P244/12/184** shows that it is possible for seizure of goods to be ordered in receipt of debt if the poor rate was not paid and the individual concerned had not been signed off as excused.

**Doc 222 - P244/12/186** shows an order for Jonathan Clark to pay for his illegitimate girl by Sarah Chittenden. The Child Support Agency is nothing new!

THESE are therefore to require you forthwith to make distress of the Goods and Chattles of the said *Thomas Osborne* and if within the Space of Four Days next after such distress by you taken, the said Sum, together with reasonable Charges of taking and keeping the said Distress, shall not be paid, that then you do sell the said Goods and Chattels so by you distrained, and out of the Money arising by such Sale that you detain the said Sum of *eight pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence* and also your reasonable Charges of taking, keeping, and selling the said Distress, rendering to him the said *Thomas Osborne* the Overplus on demand. And if no such distress can be made, that then you certify the same unto us, to the end that such further Proceedings may be had therein, as to the Law doth appertain. Given under our Hands and Seals the *fifth* Day of *April* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and *thirty eight*

Upon an Appeal unto this Court by Jonathan Clark from an Order of John Longley Esquire and the Rev.<sup>d</sup> William Hussey Clerk two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County - dated the first day of December 1803 made on the said Jonathan Clark as the reputed Father of a female Bastard child born of Sarah Chittenden in Malden and chargeable there now upon - reading the said Order and hearing Council and what could be alledged on both Sides. It is ordered by this Court that the said Order so made by the said Justices be and the same is hereby in all Points confirmed.

We are also told in the Malden Vestry Book that on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1836 the building used as a workhouse is now unoccupied and has outbuildings, garden and ½ acre of exceedingly good land. The vestry consented to the Union selling the premises and in February 1838 Stephen Walter, a mason and Daniel French, a carpenter, produced a plan for altering the workhouse which was to be completed by June in the next year. As we can see from the previous documents the workhouse did undergo refurbishment and people continued to live there. In later censuses the building is known as the parish cottages. It seems very fitting that the site was used to build The Allens, homes for retired persons.

*When all these documents have been transcribed they will be added to our list of databases viewable by members.*

A postcard showing Albion Road with the L shaped workhouse and cottages on the right.



## Parish Chest records related to the Poor Laws and Workhouse



The workhouse is shown on the right side of this postcard sent in 1916.



The sign post in the centre of the village shows the way to Linton Workhouse, which took over from the Marden one when the Union of Workhouses came about.

On 28 September 1835, as a result of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, the Poor Law Commissioners ordered the parishes that had formed the Coxheath Workhouse to become 'a union for the administration of laws for the Relief of the Poor' and thus the Coxheath Union came to be made up of Bearsted, Boughton Monchelsea, East Farleigh, West Farleigh, Hunton, Linton, Loose, Nettlestead, Otham, Teston, Yalding, Marden and Staplehurst. The next year, on 17 May 1836, Maidstone was added to the other parishes and the whole renamed the Maidstone Union.<sup>89</sup> Finally, by 1841, the old Poor House had been pulled down and the remains together with five acres of land sold off for £300.<sup>90</sup>

*This was Maidstone Poor House that was pulled down, not Marden's.*



Linton Hospital, formerly a workhouse, and the site of the avante development

Lastly I thought I would look at the censuses to see how they linked in with what we have learned.

1841 – There were 11 families living there. Charles and Mary Walter had six children with them and Ann Smith had five. And Lo and behold there is the shoe mender William Bowles aged 85.

1851 and 1861 give no indication of addresses for the workhouse.

In 1871 there only seem to be two dwellings with two lodgers sharing one of these.

Yet by 1881 there are 8 families listed, nearly all older people including Emily Ashby a deaf widow.

I know that quite a few Marden residents were listed at Coxheath workhouse, so presumably had been moved from the village.

By 1891 two of the dwellings were empty and there were five families and one single man, a chimney sweep living the yard. Once again they were of mixed ages.

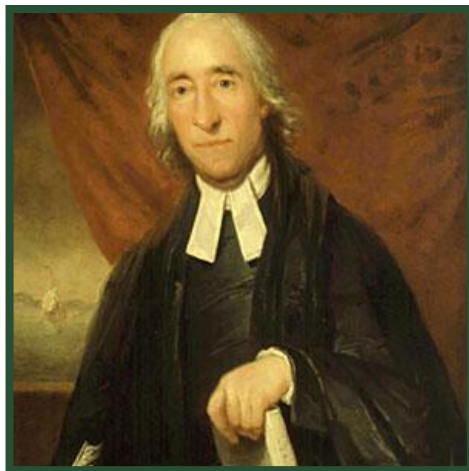
The eight dwellings were full by 1901, five of the inhabitants being widows or a widower. A boarder (not lodger) was a general hawker and Thomas Archer has now risen to being a masterman chimney sweep.

Unfortunately the 1911 census does not give precise addresses either. But I have heard of a story of someone who more recently lived in the room that was the mortuary. I must ask Mike Judd, the fount of Marden knowledge, if he knows.



## The Marden Society

The Marden Society was formed in the 1970s in response to concerns about a particular development near the village. After that was successfully resolved the Society has gone on to both represent the views of the village, as far as it is able, and to promote interest in Marden, in Kent and in the countryside in general.



James Ramsay 1733-1789

How many people today are enslaved, working in terrible conditions to produce cheap goods for more affluent nations? Pause for another thought.

\*Teston is 6 miles north of Marden

Web links:

A BBC clip about [Ramsay & Teston](#)

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## Some articles from The Parish Pump, newsletter of the Marden Society

From the Marden Society Parish Pump September 2008.

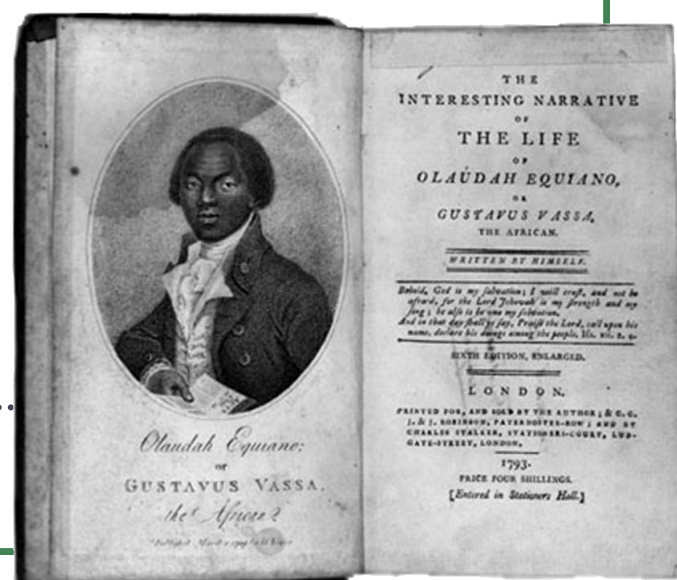
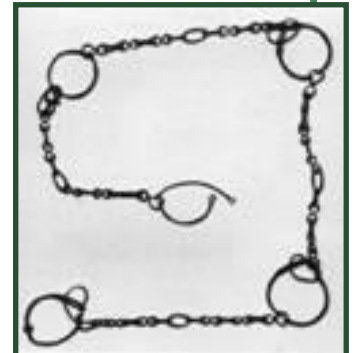
### Slavery In Kent

This time we had a more thought provoking evening provided by Ian Coulson (ex Mardonian), KCC History Advisor. Slavery In Kent being the title, although Ian preferred to replace "slavery" with "enslavement". When asked the date of a picture of slave manacles and chains, we were all surprised to discover they were of Saxon origin, buried in Bigbury Hill Fort when the Romans arrived. To put slavery into its context it has been carried on all over the world since time immemorial. Barbary pirates were notorious slavers and the Irish took slaves to N Africa.

In England we passed a law in 1102 forbidding the owning of slaves. However there were a multitude of indentured labourers who were definitely not free men. The word slavery fills most of us with horror, but we are not looking at the subject with the eyes of someone living in the 18th & 19th centuries. Pictures of slaving activities adorned people's walls as decoration. It was also surprising to know that not only were Africans enslaved by Africans to feed the demand by Europe, but also that Africans were sold by their own families. At first Britain had been sending certain prisoners to the W. Indies and Virginia to work on the sugar plantations; but this was a life sentence which didn't last long in such heat and working conditions. An African was expected to last between 6 and 8 years. As a manufacturing

nation we were exporting goods to Africa, there the ships were filled with slaves to sail west, where they would take on board barrels of molasses and sugar loaves to return home again. Sugar was a hugely valuable commodity.

We know that William Wilberforce was the political face of the abolitionist movement, but the centre for the campaign was Barming Court. One of the set to meet there was the vicar of Teston\* – James Ramsey, who had been in the navy & seen slavery at first hand. Later he became a vicar on St Kitts where he dismayed many by having a congregation of black & white. Other campaigners included Methodists and Quakers. Also a prominent speaker was Equiano, a Nigerian who had gained his freedom and come to England. Women did their part by refusing to add sugar to their tea – and not for consideration of their waist lines. Meanwhile slave resistance grew in the plantations. So although slavery was banned in 1807 it continued elsewhere. France even reintroduced it. Gravesend still saw the building of slave ships as late as 1850.



## Odd Spot

*THE UNICORN* has been a pub for at least 250 years, having originally belonged to a Thomas Kingswood. It stands at the junction with the Maidstone Road, and has therefore always been a prominent feature in the village. The old market used to take place behind the pub, which in turn became Tippens lorry site, then Tomkinsons lorry site, and is now a housing development. Sometime between 1930 and 1935 - the date is unclear - a fire broke out in the stables, situated next to the present entrance to the Old Market. The stables were used by Mr Couchman who had a shop and bakery in the High Street (now occupied by Munchies). The shop has also been a shoe shop and a butcher's. Mr Couchman delivered his bread using his pony and trap, stabling the pony in the stables adjacent to *The Unicorn*. Mr Couchman's usual practice on Saturday night, at the end of his round and the working week, was to take a drink and enjoy a relaxed social evening at the Stilebridge, Maidstone Road. He would normally walk

back to Marden, but the pony was his favoured form of transport if he knew he would be the worse for wear. On the evening in question a fire took hold in the stables. Maybe a hurricane lamp was used to put the pony in the stable, and perhaps the lamp was upset, which in turn set fire to the building and sadly killed the pony. The reason for the fire will never now be established.

The Maidstone fire engine was called to the scene, but they had to pump water from a distant pond. All this took time, and the fate of the pony was sealed.

The shop adjoining *The Unicorn*, now occupied by Radford's Estate Agents, used to be the outside toilet of *The Unicorn*. Before it became an estate agent it had in turn been a greengrocers, restaurant and antique shop. Soil pollution was an unknown source of infection in those days, so it can only be hoped that none of the customers of either of the food establishments suffered in any way due to the previous use of the area !

## Exhibitions at the Heritage Centre

The Clubs and Societies exhibition at Marden Heritage Centre opened on Saturday 26th February at 1 pm. The exhibition was opened by WI representative Jean Robertson and Horticulture representative Angela Durnford. Marden has a large number of clubs covering a wide range of interests.

We have chosen a representative selection including children's clubs, many different sports clubs; bowls, football, tennis, hockey and cricket, clubs for older people, amateur

dramatics and gardening. There is also be a section featuring groups connected to the church.

We have chosen to focus more in depth exploration of three of the older established clubs; the Women's Institute, started in 1920's, the Marden Motor Club which began in the early 1960's and the progress of the Horticultural Society from its beginnings in the 1920's as the Marden Cottage Gardeners Mutual Improvement Society.

## Meet the MHG: A snapshot of the Web secretary — Rob Spain.



Rob Spain moved to Marden in 1991.

Rob was born in Adelaide, South Australia and grew up in Melbourne. In 1985, he travelled to England on a working holiday. He met and married his wife Paula, a mid-Kent native in 1987. They moved to Marden as first time home buyers and have been there since.

Rob learned most of what he needs to know for producing Despatches while working as IT Manager for a magazine publisher in London, moved to specializing in computer networking and has worked in the City of London since 1999. He now works for an American financial company in Docklands, travelling occasionally to Paris & Frankfurt. Rob has been interested since childhood in history, particularly about technology and 20th century military.



## MARDEN HISTORY GROUP

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### This issue's reduced price offer for members:

## Frank Collins: Life Story 1905 - 1999

*"I have seen and done a great deal in my life. People ask if I had a happy childhood. My reply to that is: we had no time to be happy or unhappy, it was go to work, go to bed, eat and drink - but we always lived well".* Frank Collins' father Thomas was one of fifteen children and Frank was his third son of nine children. Frank's autobiography tells us the life story of a Wealden farmer for nearly a whole century, and at the same time embraces the practices and changes in Wealden agriculture from his father onwards. Transcribed by the author's son Alan, it comes alive on the page – you can hear the country speech patterns, you can picture all the rural scenes and characters. From charcoal burning to hops and fruit, from cows and pigs to corn and oats, we travel through two world wars and witness the arrival of electricity and tractors. Based mainly in Marden, together with the surrounding hop-growing villages hugging the railway line from Headcorn to Yalding, this booklet will prove to be an invaluable historical record of "everyday country folk".



"Frank Collins' Life Story 1905-1999" - the story of a Marden woodcutter, charcoal burner, hop and fruit grower spanning nearly a century; full of anecdote. 31 pages A4 with B/W photos. Normal price £6.00, **offer price £5.00**. Pick yours up from the Heritage Centre (bring any membership email printout) or order from the Selby Oast address (please add £1.50 P and P). Sterling cheques made payable to "Marden History Group" please.

### Event: Parliamentary Archives Research

Events – The main venture is a collaboration between the Parliamentary Archives, the Centre for Kentish Studies and ourselves. The first meeting was at the end of January and then we worked towards an exhibition in Maidstone library in March. We shall be examining all our respective data about the coming of the railway to Marden and the impact it made on the local area.



### Marden History Group

The Marden History Group aims to seek, preserve, inspire and transmit knowledge of the history of the village of Marden. It is a working group of eight who meet each month to plan the work, aided by a group of volunteers working on a variety of projects.

**Disclaimer** - All information in this newsletter is given in good faith and to the best of our knowledge is correct, however we cannot be held responsible or liable for its accuracy.

