

Mr. John Vincer Senior and Mrs. John Vincer. Statue Man stout, moderate size. Woman short and quick. Bricklayer, etc. Occupied a house adjacent that of Mr. Welch of his own and made an addition also to the same taking a portion of his storehouse into it. Mr. Vincer died some few years before his wife, but her son James conducted the business for her. John, who was the eldest son died at Maidstone. Edward removed to Chatham. Sarah married to Mr. Munns, tailor. Elizabeth to a William Prebble and kept the Farriers Arms at Mersham, but died in London. Mr. & Mrs. Vincer were both buried in Mersham at an advanced age. These were also good neighbours and had principally the business of Mersham in the way of building during Mr. Vincer's life. After this it was preceded by a Mr. Tournay, formerly workman to the same person whose father was also a foreman in his employ, very skilful tradesmen. Some years before this was a Mr. William Leeds in the field who carried on a similar trade who was considered a very clever experienced man in the way of business, walls, etc. some are now standing and bear testimony of his skill. One is at the Fellmongers at the bottom of the village and at the Stock Farm and at a Mr. Dunks at Smeeth and various other places but like most other clever men he abused much the talents committed to his use by indulging in that greatest of destroyers - drunkenness. He had 3 sons, but only one brought up to the same line of trade, but he did not make much progress in that. The other two were shoemakers and one is now living. Mr. Vincer was a just dealing man and at times employed many hands and was so engaged at the time the house at Scots Hall was being taken down when the young man John Stickels was unfortunately killed by the falling of some of the materials of the said building. (*A John Stokes is mentioned in the Parish Registers as having been killed in this way in 1801.*) He had accumulated a good deal of property which at his death devolved upon his wife and family. He was a regular attendant at his church as was also his wife and in receiving the Eucharist when administered.

Mr. Vincer was rather reserved in his manner not of much conversation unless with those he was intimately acquainted with, and perhaps might be commended for his quietness. He was jocular at times and I myself have had great pleasure in converse with him. Mrs. Vincer was a very quick and active person and a great Botanist.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Clarke. Stature Man moderate in stature. Woman short but ladylike. Butcher at the corner of Kingsford Street inhabited solely by themselves but after that by two ladies who had formerly been instructors of young ladies at the Joe Farmhouse, but I believe it was after the departure of Mr. R. Clarke rented to a Mr. Bridger, butcher, after the death of one of these ladies, a Mrs. Beach. The other one who was a sister to her lived some few years still in the house but her mental faculties failing her she left and went to reside with a relation of her by the name of Newport at Elmstead where I believe she died. Latterly she became very eccentric in her manners and occasioned some mirth amongst her neighbours.

Of this Mr. & Mrs. Clarke we cannot speak too highly particularly in my own family we have to express our gratitude. They were always ready to the calls and wants of the poor and afflicted rendering assistance and pouring in the balm of comfort, healing the brokenhearted, visiting the helpless. Yet misfortunes attended these good Samaritans. Unforeseen events encircled them. Business did not appear to multiply or to be profitable equal to the expenses and outgoings attendant upon his trade and probably at times from the want of judgement in the purchase of goods he may have embarked in. He was a contractor to the military while the Barracks were remaining at Brabourne Lees and perhaps losses coupled together with other unprofitable concerns may have in a great measure being the means of reducing his finances. He was not considered as a man guilty by indulging himself to any excess, however, his circumstances became into difficulties and he quitted Mersham and removed to London and embarked in some very obscure business and with great difficulty obtained but a precarious subsistence. In short, his affairs were totally changed from what they formerly were. They still had some feeling friends left at Mersham who had not entirely forsaken them or forgotten them. A person whom I do not mention here used all his influence amongst those of his

friends and acquaintances to form a subscription to collect a small sum annually to assist them. This was I believe done every year until his decease. He had one daughter who had received a good education and was received into a family and who acted as Governess - who as far as she was able assisted them thus rendering them a ray of consolation in their declining days. The house and land I think was purchased or partly mortgaged to Mr. G. Hughes, Esq. and rented to different tenants, a Mr. Stone and a Mr. Gurr were the last occupants. The house went through renovation at the time the Barrack was in building and presented a very neat appearance.

Mrs. Clarke was the mother of several children but died in their infancy only one living whose name was Louisa or Susanna. The house of Mr. Clarke was pleasantly situated being enclosed by several horse chestnut trees which kept the premises cool and agreeable according with his profession. At the time of blossom it was a rural retreat but it has since that time undergone a great change and the premises are now in great dilapidation. But the Street has in some measure increased its habitation. Nine cottages have been added to it which were much needed as the population was greatly multiplied. We observed but little improvements in the Street leading from it, namely Kingsford Street.

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, shoemaker. Stature Man stout, common stature. Woman tall and thin. This standing on an elevation from the road, strong brick built house steps approaching to the front door, a grape vine and pear tree adorned the front and the garden was kept in strict survey by its owner neat and in perfect order. It was well stocked with fruit trees and serviceable esculents and another addition to the comforts of life was a pig at the end of the garden - and a few other useful objects which in former years were considered of great value before the introduction of sugar - that is bees. In these pretty and industrious families Mrs. Lewis was perfectly acquainted with and their manner of management in the hiveing and taking their honey. The anointing the hive with the proper ingredient were peculiar to her. She was in fact the Bee conductor. She was ever ready to give her assistance to those whose nerves were not sufficient to encounter with so formidable a troop. The insects seemed to be aware into whose hands they had committed themselves. She was also clever in the distilling of herbs for medicinal purposes at that time the Excise was not so vigilant - if for thee own use. Very industrious people, good neighbours and punctual in their dealings, strict observers of the Sabbath and always ready to assist their neighbours, friendly in their converse. Mr. Lewis was generally to be found at his employ and by his studious application had reserved to himself a sound sum. He was enabled to purchase the house in which he lived after a few years industry and he was a good instructor to young men in the way of encouragement by making the most of their talents and the further improvements of their time - true and regular in his manners - considering the old adage viz. time for everything - our worthy friend was a great politician but decidedly a whig, taxes were held in abhorrence by him and at the time I am noting was when the convulsions of all nations were at their meridian and required the additional collection. England was engaged in warfare with most states - his small shop by the end of his house was where the counsel or cabinets were held here. After the labours of the day were over were discussed the eventful tidings gleaned from the news - which then abounded with battles at sea and land. The fear and apprehension of the intended invasion upon our coast, the cutting of the Canal and the building of the Towers and forts, these intelligences furnished the mind of the untutored villager and his spare hours glided away as quick as if they had been in a noisy city. Thus the shop of St. Crispin yielded some amusement without corrupting the mind or endangering the morals and it engendered sympathy to those who might have to mourn the loss of a friend or brother. The waiting for a shoe repairing or at the Blacksmith for your horse - or the Tailor for your coat does not linger on your time. The barber also gives you some dry jokes but then it would not be safe to make a great laugh. Our old friend was I believe never given to encourage volatile expressions or to use any obscene language to his visitors and therefore if they did not profit by his good counsel, he would not instill any immorality into their minds. Mr. & Mrs. Lewis both were buried at Mersham on the west end of the Church. They lived to a good old age. He lived some four years

after his wife and resided with his son at Ashford. His son has erected a stone to his memory. He also gave his assistance to the Singers at Church and occasionally at the Ringing.

The Lewis family consists his wife and 3 children, two daughters and one son, James, who resided in Ashford and kept the House sign of the Red Lion where he died and was buried at Ashford. The daughters were Mary and Elizabeth. This was the second wife, there were a son by the first wife who resided in Ashford and was a Malster. A continuation of debates by Mr. Lewis the Shoemaker, an honest and good neighbour, a great politician, had much antipathy to taxation and poor man often waged war in his imagination to any debate in the Houses Parliament but he stuck close to the wax and his trade.

Mr. Thomas Tournay and sons now occupying the same premises and a small tenement has been added which is rented by a Mr. Woodhouse, shoemaker. Mr. Thomas Tournay is the son of John Tournay, bricklayer and was generally employed by Mr. John Vincer Senior. He was a very quiet and inoffensive man, a clever workman, a kind husband, affectionate father and a good neighbour. He had a son John who died when a young man and was buried at Mersham.

Dr. & Mrs. Cole, Rector of Mersham. He kept his carriage and footman and a few other domestics. The coachman's name was Richard Potten, a son of the Potten, the Tailor. The footman's name was Edward Harris, whose father resided in a cottage at Hatch. The carriage it appeared to have passed ancient days. I remember it being once unfortunately upset but no injury sustained by the inmates. The roads were not in so good a condition at that time as the present. Dr. Cole was Rector of Mersham for many years and was a good man and had been a good preacher. He was also a prebendary of London where he used to go when he left Mersham for a limited time. Mrs. Cole was a charitable person but a singular character. She was fond of gardening and such like employment. The boys were a great torment to the old lady after the death of her husband. She lived in London where she died and was buried and I believe both in Westminster Abbey where a tablet may be seen in the Cloisters of the Abbey and also one to his memory in the Church at Mersham in the Communion Chancel. I believe he succeeded to the Dr. Chapman whose record is placed over the Vestry door and some record is also mentioned of him at the Abbey of Westminster. NB A Dr. Lawrence was Rector of Mersham some short time and made some improvements to the premises during his stay. He then was elevated some Bishopric of some consequence.

The next person to inhabit the house was a **Rev. R. Faulkner** as Curate, Dr. Cole still living. But he died during the curacy. Mr. Faulkner was much respected in the Parish and some of the parishioners petitioned to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to present him with the living. This was unheeded by him and it then was given to Dr. Richard Lawrence who made great improvements about the premises such as sinking a fish pond and planting shrubs, etc. I believe he was rather fond of the pastime of angling as a great many of the Revd. Prelates were. They were sons of Zebedee's children. Some have become Fishers of Men. He did not long retain this lucrative seat before he was removed by being ordained Bishop of (Cashel, Ireland) then translated Lord Archbishop. His loss was not much regretted by the Parish - he was thus succeeded by a **Rev. John Lonsdale** who after a few years was also removed to some other more profitable living and was at last ordained Bishop of (Lichfield *pencilled in - by Ralph Finn?*). He was highly esteemed by the inhabitants and was much regretted by them being deprived as they considered of a good and faithful pastor.

He was succeeded by a **Rev. Frederick Lockwood**, nephew to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury Manner Sutton and continued in this parish as Rector some years. He was a true zealous Christian. He was generated by the whole of his flock. He was one of the good Samaritans. He searched out the distressed, he passed not by the afflicted but administered the healing antidote. His chief delight was in doing his Redeemers will. His inviting voice drew many to Christ. He laboured

hard in the Vineyard of his Master and we hope he is now reaping the fruits of his toil. He was removed from Mersham some few years before his death by the presentation of a stall in Canterbury Cathedral which became vacant by the death of the Rt. Hon Earl Nelson and Duke of Bronlie and very soon after this gift he was also presented with the living of Minster in the Isle of Thanet, vacant by the demise of the Revd. Nicolas Simons - Chaplin to His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. This said reverend divine was a very eccentric person and was frequently called the doctor Syntax. He was considered one of the best Latin scholars. He was many years Chaplain to his Grace and was presented with the living of Minster and also to the Rectory of Ickham in Kent although of so singular a character he possessed a charitable disposition and was much esteemed by his parishioners. He seldom interfered in the parochial affairs. He was not as may be termed an eloquent preacher but his dispensing to the poor made up the deficiency. He was a goodmaster, a kind husband and father without ostentation. This is fully manifest by his last request to be buried by the side of his old and faithful servant James Walker in the Church of Ickham where are 2 stones erected to their memories. This said servant James Walker some years before lived as coachman to a Mrs. Hawkins at St. Stephens Canterbury whose daughter married to Sir Edward Knatchbull Bart of Mersham Hatch.

NB This Revd. gentleman's eccentricity and precise manner caused me no small amusement, his singularity of dress, his upright gait, his measured steps and loud hollow voice added greatly to the gaze of strangers and often led to an enquiry who he was and truly he was in fact the identical Dr. Syntax as no other man could approximate more closely to the character given of that Oddity of costume and manner than this worthy divine. The newspapers would not spare him in their description of him. He was the forerunner of the engine on the rail. He gave the signal before anything might approach too near to him by his stentorian sound. *(Dates given later by R. Finn: Simons b. Jan 5th 1754, died April 20th, 1839. Walker d. 1829)*

There were many curates employed during the Rectorship of Dr. Cole who was much in London. The **Rev. Dr. Hanking** officiated for a long period whose residence was at the town of Ashford. This Dr. Hankin by his attending his duty for Dr. Cole became enamoured of a Miss Mary Ann Goddard, eldest daughter of Robert Goddard Esq. before her father's death, but which was highly objectionable on the father's part and requested by him to dissolve the intercourse which was so far obeyed that not strictly obeying her affectionate father's mandate she still carried on this familiarity imperceptibly until her father's death which took place a short time afterward. He, his daughter Ann and grandson were visited by that pestilential fever called by the name of Scarlet fever which was then very prevalent and carried them off in a few days, they all three were closed in death within a few hours of each other. The poor old gentleman's predictions were soon verified, he had so explained his parental objections to his daughter seeing more clearly than lovers eyes that she would be deceived in her choice and she would not find in him that affection she expected and that it was the expectation of property that he was in search of and not her. This she found out to her great grief. They were thus married and there was a son but this was a great annoyance to him and it was put out to nurse in Ashford. They lived some few years together but not in that sort of harmony a happy pair would wish. At last a separation was the issue and after his death she resided in one of the Clergyman Widows almshouses near London. Thus was her worthy friend's counsel exemplified that he was after the loaves and fishes. He was not a man greatly respected. He had much of the pomp and overruling spirit. This was a great failing among those whose doctrine was that of a meek and quiet spirit. She was of a far different character and a respect and a high regard was always entertained of her. She in her later days became very deaf and it was with much difficulty to make her understand so that her years were spent in the viscissitudes of this unfortunate tenure one of trouble and perplexity. Her son died some few years ago, but in what capacity I do not know.

The Rev. F. Lockwood. Stature very tall and gentlemanly. He was a great walker. He married to a Miss Percy, daughter of the Lord Bishop of Carlisle. He died a young man from a disease of smallpox caught while attending to the spiritual and bodily comforts of the poor. *(Some confusion here as Lockwood is mentioned above as having moved to the living of Minster. A list given in another document confirms that this happened in 1830.)* He was succeeded at Mersham by the **Revd. Edward Norwood**, formerly vicar of Sevington and Willesborough, Kent, who still retains the living. A Mr. Button acted as curate for some time. Various others from the time that Dr. Cole held the Rectorship till the present time. The living is valued in the King's books at 687 pounds.

Mr. & Mrs. Hughes Snr. Stature man stout, quite the old English gentleman. Woman short and moderate size. Farmer and grazier and hopgrower. They both lived to a good old age and were buried in their family vault at the burial ground at Mersham the south side. He had formerly been Churchwarden of this parish and I am given to understand was very conscientious in his office - was a good master and indulgent husband and an affectionate parent, one of the old school kept long their domestics - humble in their demeanour, revered by their family, loved by their servants and respected by all who knew them.

These worthy people obtained as good a name as any in this parish and the remaining part of their family still maintained the same. Their delight was in removing distress where they saw it. They were parsimonious in their own comforts were great benefactors to their church and steadfast adherents to the same. They possessed some considerable property. I believe that Mr. Hughes' family carried on business as fellmonger at the lower part of Mersham. He married a Miss Sturt (?) and by this union came into possession of some property. He had a family; 4 daughters and three sons, Edward, George and William. One of the daughters married to a Major Wilkinson, the others are unmarried, one has lost her sight. George is dead - had some property at Smeeth, houses in Mersham Street. Edward and William married; Edward was the eldest son and William, the youngest son. William was sent for some time to Mr. Finn's School and thence to Ashford.

The Misses Hughes occupy that fine noble house at the extremity of the Street as fine a building to its size as any structure in Mersham. *(Newhouse)* The premises in the neatest order and regularity, quite the model of cleanliness. They keep a neat equipage and all was in unison and to judge from external appearances - we may rest assured a happy family - and may our good wishes and prayers be in accordance to their happiness when they quit this tabernacle of clay they may be received into the mansions of felicity. To do good forget not, for with such sacrifice God is well pleased. These ladies gave £100 towards the repairs of the church when under renovation and were great avocates and contributors to the schools. A repast or feast frequently the object of their solicitude for the encouragement of the juvenile branches whose conduct might entitle them to favours. Tea cakes fruit and tickets of reward were given to each and caused no small gratification to observe the eager applicant and the distributor equally happy and I have no doubt when many years are past away that the remembrance of these good people will be retained in the memories of these young people when these benefactress are disembodied in the dust. We may apply to their wise stewardship the Saviours comment: Suffer little children to come unto me.

Mr. Harris. The corner of Hatch Road on the left hand from the Hop Oast, in the adjoining apartment resided Mr. John Clarke called by the appellation of the Old Grocer, of this person we have given a description concerning him - but that he died at a very advanced age. Quiet man (*Mr. Harris*), he had a son, Edward, who lived as footman to Mr. Cole, Rector of Mersham, who removed to Canterbury and was employed in the trade of dyer.

Mr. & Mrs. Haycock, Blacksmith, on the opposite side the Forge House, removed from there to Braboume Street through some misunderstanding with Sir Edward Knatchbull on some account of apparel or adornment in his family withdrew his employment from them and was obliged to quit. These were very good quiet people and industrious. They had three sons and two daughters, Silas, Alfred and John, Heffel and Bennett who married. Heffel married to Thomas Castle of the Five Bells Public House, Braborne, who afterwards went to live at the Bockholt Farm at Petham but failed in business. The others married after leaving Mersham. Mrs. Haycock used to sell when at Hatch childrens books and ballads and gingerbread fruit, etc. etc. When the Forge was standing and when in full operation there were great hilarity amongst the young aspirants. The sound of the anvil was a cheering melody on a cold snowy day or night. The puffing of the bellows a pleasant employment. The sing song and the long tales made the time pass glibly even the animal was animated. Thus all seem to share its comforts. The sons were very clever in their business, one particular was very ingenious composing the pence and twopenny copper pieces into boxes.

Hatch and the whole was a very lovely village. There were a number of young men and lasses in the parish single. It is now much changed from its former appearance. I can scarcely think it is the same village. The old acquaintances are nearly all obliterated from our view and the young generally have taken their places and the spot thereof shall know it more. The avenue of trees and the sandy walks have all departed like a Scrole (*scrawl?*). The tumbledown Stilles (?) in the Bockham Wood have ceased their operative gambol. The Fir trees are all vanished. The premises are changed, the gardens have taken a different position and lastly the House and its inhabitants have undergone a complete change.

Mr. & Mrs. Castle employed as a yardman and brewer, etc. etc. Stature Man very lusty with one hand. Woman rather tall. The first wife died I believe of fever and left five children, one an infant or very young named George. The eldest was Samuel who lived at the house. There were three daughters. Mrs. Castle was buried at Mersham on a Sunday about the year of 1806 and on the same day was buried a child of Mrs. Harris. The funeral of Mrs. Castle caused great lamentation amongst her family and I believe she was a very affectionate mother. I remember my brother George and myself was sent to the Farm called Bonnington Pin with a message to Mr. Stead Goddard who had lately removed from Mersham to there as he had then taken the farm had recently married Mrs. Secker of the Bower farm and after old Mr. Goddard's death removed to Mersham. On our return the processions had just arrived and it was anything but pleasant to see a young family left motherless and there were more sympathy amongst our neighbours at that time than is now generally evinced. The whole of this family were instructed at the School in Mersham. Some were taken into the number of the Knatchbull Charity, a select number being chosen or nominated by the Patron of the Gift endowed in the year of 1698.

Mr. Castle's second wife's name was a Mrs. James, the houskeeper at Hatch House. Mr. Castle had lost one of his hands while in the service of the Knatchbull family when charging the piece of ordnance employed on the day of the review of the Yeoman troops in the Park - at the same time the keeper a Mr. Hollady (*Hallowday?*) lost his hand also, not understanding the operation of these dangerous weapons. After this they were both employed about the premises, the Keeper as long as he lived, but the other Mr. Castle having given some offence to the Baronet in some measure he

quitted the service and left his house at Hatch and took up the trade of higgler and therefore obtained his livelihood in that way.

Mr. & Mrs. Bourn Stature Common measure. Occupied the next house to the Castles. They had a son and daughter, Edward and Elizabeth. These people were employed about the premises. I believe them to be quiet people and industrious. They possessed a little curr of a dog of a shaggy black terrier which intimidated the little weak nerved juveniles.

Mr. & Mrs. Ferris employed about the premises. Middle stature. Woman thin. Mrs. Ferris was dairymaid at Hatch, a very brisk person. They had some children. I know of no impediment in their character - but was poor. *(The following two pages are missing from the manuscript.) (1st column, 2nd column missing)*. There were several domestics in this establishment and as far as we can recollect we will mention some of them. We will commence with the Head of the establishment, the Housekeeper, a **Mrs. Thurlow** who maintained as good and just a character as may be found in any family. She was looked upon *(as one)* who could regulate well the affairs of a large establishment. She was much respected by the servants. Mr. Thurlow, her husband, was Butler in the same family and much regarded by his acquaintance and friends. He was a very portly man. He died at Hatch House and was buried at Mersham. His remains were very weighty and he was conveyed (*rest missing*)

(next page mostly missing, talks of Knatchbull family. Mentions Grand Jubilee of George III) This Sir Edward gave a most entertainment to all the people of his parish and nothing spared in the comforts and of the Festival which *(took place)* in the year 1809..... had served the said family. They were very several (?) old people and enjoyed small portions of the good things of this life. The what may be termed - drops of comfort. They died and were both buried on the north east of the church at an advanced age. A **Mr. Hallowday** (middle stature) the Keeper who resided in the Park and had lost his hand in the sad event at the Review in the Park was also buried at Mersham. He was considered a quiet man. He was succeeded by a **Mr. Cornell**, very masculine, a North Countryman. He remained in this occupation many years. He had a family, his eldest son was as Underkeeper whose name was Thomas, was a stout young man, but was removed to some other situation in the North where he died. The father died some years afterward and was buried at Mersham. He was a great lover of Bacchus and would indulge in this baneful luxury even to the last. I believe he was a faithful servant and I know of nothing that might tarnish his character except this one vice.

(2nd column). This Sir Edward was the 8th baronet and was succeeded by his eldest son Edward by his first wife Miss He was elected Member of Parliament on the death of his father without opposition and served many years as member for the County. He was also appointed as Paymaster of the Forces which office he retained but a short while owing to state of health accelerated by the death of his beloved daughter whose amiable qualities had endeared her to all who knew her. She was indeed endued with all those Christian virtues rarely to be met with in one so young. She was buried in the family vault, much regretted by the inhabitants of her village. This same Sir Edward was the 9th Baronet. He was possessed of great understanding, was considered a great orator and a sound Justice of the Peace. *(Small portion of page removed)* ... aspiration did not procure to him the high veneration and esteem which condescension and affability entitles the affluent to. He was of rather a morose countenance. He was of tall stature, thin and of an unhappy aspect. He died at Mersham, but not buried there, but was interred at Norton. He first married to a Miss Honeywood of Evington. The second wife was a Miss Knight of Godmersham, a very amiable lady beloved by all who might be acquainted with her. This Sir Edward was half brother to the Dr. Knatchbull, Rector of Smeeth, the adjoining parish, but they were not on brotherly terms until a short time before his death. He had great alterations made on his domain, the walks removed, the trees cut down and the poor and their dwellings transplanted to another spot that they might not be offensive to him.

(next two pages missing)

Mrs. Gladman. Stature slight. Wife of the coachman was possessed of a very gentle appearance. She at last after her husband quitted Sir Edward lived in London where she unfortunately met with a fatal accident by falling down the steps leading to her room thereby causing her death. Mr. Gladman lived some few years after the death of his wife. I believe there were no children to mourn the loss. This same James Gladman lived some years from his youth in the family but requiring an advancement in his wages led to his leaving Sir Edward. Mr. Gladman who after many years lived to see unfortunately a reverse of fortune. He after quitting Mersham lived in London but became very much reduced in circumstances and needed that support which is so little heeded in the days of prosperity and well may we contemplate the following words: the wind passing oer the blades of grass and behold the place of shall know it no more.

Mr. Richard Friend Senior who was in the situation as the keeper of the Kennel, etc. at Quarrington. Stature. Short man. Mr. Friend lived in this employment several years, an honest and quiet man. Mr. Richard Friend Junior, his son, kept the Lodge Gate and was one of the oldest servants in the establishment. He is interred in the Churchyard of Mersham. This said Richard Friend married to a Miss Tunbridge, daughter of Tunbridge, farmer at Waltham. She was when younger a good looking person and a good neighbour. Her mother Mrs. Tunbridge lived with her until she died at the great age of 97 and retained her faculties and eyesight until nearly to her dissolution. She had a most wonderful and retentive memory, her latter years of employment being that of knitting in which she was quite an adept. She would unfold a long tale with the greatest of accuracy and precision. She was buried at Mersham. Her husband died at Kingsnorth where he formally occupied a farm. There was a son Thomas, who used to come to the school at Mersham. He was after this put as a prentice to a tailor in North Lane, Ashford, but he soon became unable to resume his employment and was taken home to his friends at Kingsnorth where he died in decline quite a youth. He was highly esteemed by his schoolfellows and regretted. He was buried at Kingsnorth. Mrs. Tunbridge was of a very quick gait and of sharpness of speech, quite a business person, lively in manner and amusing in her conversation.

Mr. Vidgeon (Stature short) was another person employed about the Estate. As I am not much acquainted with his pedigree I must only add this one thing, he used to be rather tricked by the boys and the cats. I believe he was a man of honest and sound principles.

Hatch House continued. Domestics in the establishment.

Butler & Housekeeper Mr. Thurston and Mrs. Thurston. He whom we have before mentioned, were in the family many years.

1. Under Butler The Under Butler's name was one by the name of Isac. The one who succeeded this.

2. Under Butler

Footman

The footman's name was James Conolly, an Irish Roman Catholic.

Postillion

Groom

Under Groom or helper

The Huntsman

The Whipper-in

The Gardener

Mr. Tull and a Mr. Major

Tally Man

Mr. Thomas Poulterer from Provender

The Coachman

James Gladman

The Land Steward

Mr. William Browning

The Groom	Richard Friend
The Under Groom or helper	William Higgins from Faversham, succeeded by Charles Cox.
The Huntsman	Stephen Rickards

Mr. Thomas Poulterer was principally the conductor of the affairs at Provender for many years and was a true and faithful servant. He lived to a good age. He was generally engaged at Hatch in the time of the hop season to conduct the management of the same and was I believe much approved by the labouring classes.

The whipper in was **William Braize** who committed himself by robbing the poultry yard at Hatch and taking the same down to have them dressed and served up at the sign of the Red Lion at the Ridgeway then kept by a person in the name of Kent whereby he subjected himself to seven years transportation - but through the instrumentality of his master Sir Edward Knatchbull being the Justice of the Peace he mitigated the sentence to six months imprisonment in the house of correction. He was succeeded by an **Edward Friend**, the Groom's brother.

The Postillion, **Isac Newton**, was succeeded by a **John Lacy** from

Thus these several servants formed the whole establishment of the Hatch mansion. Since it has been greatly curtailed and at times uninhabited. The property being divided. The last children by the second wife inherited most of the greatest portion of the funded property. The Scot Hall estates and lands contiguous fell into the hands of Hugesson Knatchbull Esq. Several portions of land were purchased by the late Sir Edward for the benefit of the second family, but the homestead, etc. to Sir Norton Joseph by the first wife as succeeding to the title.

Thomas Laws was tall, large-limbed and very quiet, not unpleasant in his demeanor but of an obliging disposition and I believe many years employed about the Estate. Was another man employed about the premises in various ways also as Binman at the time when the operation of gathering the hops was arrived. The Binman's name was then Richard Brett. John Leeds, Edward Stone, Thomas Law and occasionally some of the others. The Carter, Mr. Castle, The Dryer Brown, etc. The hop grounds were extensive and gave employment to many hands about the neighbourhood but I think they are now almost extinct. The boundaries of the parish of Mersham are extensive and much of the lands have of late years been purchased by Sir Edward so that we may venture to assert the principal portion of the said parish is invariably his. The Bockham wood formerly was on the roadside and the Fir Toll and garden walls, stabling, coachhouses and shrubbery, also three large white gates leading to the yard and its appurtenances, the second to the front entrance to the House, the third by the Wheelers shop at the end of the Heath leading down the valley into the Park. An avenue of majestic trees extending the whole length adorned with a fine sandy promenade with several protectors or wirley gigs erected on the pathway. These now are all departed like a scrawl and the whole of these pleasant walks are now enclosed within the park and the Turnpike road removed lower down towards the Street, also another long avenue of fine elms with a sandy pathway leading to the village street is vanished so that the whole has undergone an entire change and the place thereof is known no more. The Street of Mersham has undergone some little addition, a few houses added, not much alteration in the old buildings.

We are coming back to the Kingsford Street, why called by this name I at present am not able to give a lucid definition as I have never observed any account given of the same so that I am compelled to make my observations as brief as possible and shall confine myself to the few habitations in this far-famed Street. The first house which has been erected these later years is used as a butchers shop rented by a **Mr. Bridger** who I believe occupied it a short time and then took his departure for some foreign land and it was next inhabited by a **Mr. Prior** and lastly by a Mr.

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell inhabit the Box Tree and Wellhouse, the first house formerly in this street, a small but a very pretty, neat cottage quite select by its site. Mr. Mitchell was a drover of sheep and oxen for the different graziers. He had two sons, William and David, who were alike employed with their father for many years, but I think one of the sons unfortunately committed some misdemeanor and was obliged to quit the place, but what became of him afterwards I am not able to give any information. They were considered to bear a respectable character and was I presume to say possessed of some property for after having quitted the small Box Tree Cottage they removed to a large old house a short distance from this one which I think erected in the year 1667 bearing a date to that effect on the portico of the door. This I believe they purchased and caused to be renovated and also new stabling and outbuildings adjoining. Mr. Mitchell was of moderate stature. Mrs. Mitchell was very stout and tall. David, their son was deformed, an humpback. I think the three of the Mitchell family were buried at Mersham. This house was after this occupied by a **Mr. Kingsland**, a retired farmer from Smeeth, but whose this property was after the death or possession of the Mitchells, I am not able to decipher.

After the removal of this family it was then taken by a **Mr. Daniel Vincer**, brother to Mr. John and Charles Vincer, bricklayer, who had married a one Miss Strood of Ashford where they now reside. This property I think was purchased by Mr. John Vincer some years before and there is an apple orchard and a meadow or a field attached to the premises and a small barn. This cottage and its appurtenances lies on the south side, the left-hand of the Street. There are no other houses until late years on the right from that called Mersham Street until we arrive at the Workhouse, but at the present time is one small tenement established on a portion of the waste on the right hand.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Vincer, very just honest people and good neighbours. Mr. Daniel Vincer was chiefly employed by his brother John in the masonry. They had accumulated a little money. They are both advanced in years.

Another house on the left hand side. The front of this building has been altered. There was a very old fabric and it was deemed prudent for the safety of its inmates to take it down and rebuild it. It formerly was a double dwelling fronting the road and was tenanted by the two Tournays, who were also employed by Mr. John Vincer and I think this house was his property. It possessed a tolerable sized garden. These premises ought to have been mentioned before the last house was named on our passing through this street.

Mr. John Tournay Senior, the father of John Tournay Jnr. Stature Mr. Tournay Senr was tall. Was a good moral man, a constant attendant at his church. He was mostly to be seen with a sprig of green shrub in his mouth or either a flower. He was rather a terror to refractory boys in church. He was always equipped with a cane or stick and the threatening of the stocks which were placed at the end by the barn leading to the church. He was a good neighbour. He lived to a great age and was interred at Mersham. He occupied one end of the house and his son with his family the other part. Mr. John Toumay was a man possessing a noble figure and was generally of an obliging manner, a good workman he had a numerous family. Their eldest son whose name was John, he died when about the age of 21 or so. Thomas the second son and a William. There were some daughters but I know not how many they were. Some of the family are now resident in Mersham. I think Mrs. Tournay's maiden name was Marshall, sister to Mr. J. Marshall formerly of the Church Gate house.

Mr. & Mrs. John Leeds Master and Mistress of the Workhouse for many years who conducted it I believe with a just and humble deportment as far as their duty compelled them. Stature Tall man, moderate sized woman. Of these individuals we may say as regards to their condition and avocations

were very quiet inoffensive people and good neighbourly folks. They had some children I think as many as 4 or 5. One son whose name was John was apprentice to a Mr. Pellett, shoemaker at Willesborough Common. I have to make mention here of a very unfortunate circumstance happening while this son was serving his time with this same Mr. Pellett. His father on one Sunday took a walk over to see his son and during the time he was at the house, there happened to be a gun in one corner of the room where they were sitting and curiosity led them to examine the make and its utility as to the capability and further to prove and test its value the father cocked the piece and snapped it not knowing that it was charged. It unhappily went off the whole charge through the door, when the son exclaimed to his father how lucky it was that none of the children were in the house at the time to have received the contents when there were some of the children left under the care of this young man. They went to examine where the charge had perforated, they found it had passed through the door. They rejoiced at first to observe how providential it was that the children were absent, but no sooner had they opened the door but they there beheld the lifeless body of one of the children close by the door. Consternation was in very countenance. The father and mother had gone out for the day to see some of their relations and on their return home found one of their children a victim to the incautious use of that deadly monitor firearm. This sad event had much affected the originator of this fatal catastrophe although purely accidental The Workhouse was some years after converted into a more respectable edifice. It underwent a thorough renovation. It is now converted into a farm homestead and the occupant is a Mr. Long. This house was after the removal of the poor inhabited by the once high and lofty landlord of the Court Lodge Farm, Stead Goddard Esq. and his family. They remained here some time when Mrs. Goddard after experienced a reverse of fortune and also inaffection from her husband she quitted this uncertain tenure for that of a more permanent one eternal in the heavens where the weary are at rest and the wicked cease from trouble. She was, when young, called the pretty and humble Miss Secker, only daughter of Mr. Secker of the Bower Farm. Mr. Stead Goddard left this place soon after the demise of his wife but to what part he afterwards lived I am not cognizant with. Some of the family were married, one of the sons I believe got into some difficulties. The father at last died and so ended the pomp and parade of this unsettled being for behold all his vanity, for as the shadow of the rays of the sun and we may contemplate thereon many useful lessons. Let our meditations carry us back to those bygone days and we shall be able to glean some information that will enable us to be very cautious in our judgement or condemnation. We shall very soon arrive at another dwelling in *(piece cut out)*

Mr. & Mrs. Brett Senior Man tall, woman short. This premises was kept up very neat. The garden was much in order. It was well adorned with flowers such as hollyhocks, sunflowers and stocks and wallflowers. There was a neat and tasty summerhouse at the corner of the garden composed of quick in ornamental designs. This house has not undergone much change. It yet remains in the family. This house stood not some distance from the road and the avenue of hollyhock and sunflowers, etc. Mr. Brett inhabited the house contiguous. He as well as his wife was far advanced in years. The house and a small portion of land adjoining belonged to him and I think with the produce of this and a little money he had he was enabled to live upon. Mrs. Brett used occasionally to go out and assist her neighbours as Nurse or such employment. *(The following page has not been transcribed; it contained only religious moralising about the Goddards.)*

(Bretts continued) I remember an unpleasant affair happening to the poor old gentleman in the hay time in one of his meadows. He and a James Stone had an altercation and this Stone for it was as bad as a stone, he took up the hay fork and struck the poor old gentleman on the arm and caused it to break the bone and he was adjudged to pay all the doctor's and other expenses attending it. The poor old lady was at a Mr. Barker's at Willesborough at the time. Mr. Brett was some relation to a Mr. Brett, Esq. at Spring Grove at Wye. He was also very closely connected with the idol called Bacchus, the God of wine, he was frequently to be met with on his return from the Farriers Arms lying by the roadside and perhaps a little might overcome his strength as he was become aged - he also took a

quantity of snuff and the two elements connected with each other form no very agreeable odour. In addition to these unpleasant antidotes he had a great impediment in his speech that unwelcome guest stammering. The youths were a great annoyance to the Old Gentleman. He was defended by his walking companion, his stick, and this instrument of defence he was not over particular in trying its merits when his tormentors came within his scope. However indifferent his system might have been to me it would be very uncharitable to speak other ways but that he was an inoffensive man and a good neighbour. Thus much is mentioned on our old acquaintance which by these little incidents brings to our remembrance some of our juvenile days and wherein the aged make mirth for the young. (*This next in a shakier, older? hand*) Not forgetting myself but I was a great coward when by my own person.

Mr. & Mrs. Brett Jnr. Son of the last mentioned Thomas Brett. Stature man tall, woman moderately. Mr. Brett was a very respectable man and was much esteemed as was also his wife. They inhabited the same house as their father. Mr. Brett was sometimes employed at Hatch or about the premises. Mrs. Brett was a very pleasant and agreeable person, a kind motherly and friendly disposed. They are now numbered with the dead. Some of their family are now residing in the village.

Mr. & Mrs. Stone Senr Stature man short, woman tall and thin. Inhabited a small red house on the same side of the Street. There was attached to this an orchard containing apples and cherries and it was after the death of the old people much improved by his son James and converted into a pleasure and tea gardens at the time of the Brabourne Barracks were erected. This same James Stone now occupies it. Mr. Stone was rather of a blunt instrument, very uncouth in his dialect and ungentle in his manners, although not a bad neighbour. He was not taught in the school of refinement, his discourse was not at all times purified from the dregs of immorality. He employed himself by daily labour and also about his own premises. He was the principal swine dispatcher. He was possessed of a keen appetite and could spin a tolerable long yarn. These were about that epoch when course was adopted to the manufactory of barley bread when the high price of provisions had intimated a great scarcity in England and other provinces. Mrs. Stone was a quiet but appeared an unhappy woman. She was subject to fits and was not of a sound mind. These were both buried at Mersham.

Mr. & Mrs. Godden. Stature, both short. These people possessed the neat brick house and appurtenances with a few acres of pasture land together with some large walnut trees. They were possessed with some little independent property. They were both of the Society of Friends and their yeas and nays were fully bourn out. They were quiet and much respected amongst the inhabitants although at this time there then existed a great division between the several religious creeds such as Quakers, Jews and Methodists. Its doctrines used to be scouted at by the protestant clergy endeavouring to incite persons to molest them. Mr. Godden was I believe by trade a shoemaker, which business he at times used to employ himself. His dress was always very neat and exact, a kind of frock maroon coloured coat with large metal buttons, waistcoat of a lighter coloured material, small clothes similar, shoes with silver buckles, hat with three corners. The worthy wife was as precise in her adornments, her vestments composed of very light and neat texture with a kind of handkerchief over the shoulders, head dress or bonnet of light slate colour. These people appeared to have lived a very quiet and a happy domesticated life. They had no family, but one little animal, a black and white dog comprised this happy family. They all three used the same vessels for their food. They had some friends residing at Aldington which they frequently visited and of which forms part of a short anecdote I have to mention. This good woman with her faithful little companion were on their journey to pay a visit to their friend at Aldington when as they had passed through the churchyard leading to the Hill field the poor dog was taken in a fit and there died. The old lady, not liking to leave her faithful attendant to the exposure and insult of any who might pass that way, was resolved to have recourse to the following expedient. She adopted the measure of putting her loss aside and

returning to the churchyard where she had just before seen and conversed with the Sexton who was adorning and putting in order some of the graves. She quickly found him at the very spot. She related to him of the sad event and requested him if he would allow one of his boys to bury the poor dog outside the churchyard in the field for which duty a sixpence was tendered. The contract was entered into and the spade was instantly in motion and poor doggy was put into its last bed, a tear was shed over her poor faithful friend and she travelled on companionless to her friend at Aldington. The dog was at a great age. After the death of these people it was rented by several persons. Some years since it was occupied by a Major Wilkinson, but whose the property is at the present I am not able to say.

We shall now lastly come to that which stands last at the end of the Street and of which we have made some remarks. We will now commence with this much-noted house and its unhappy inmates and unfortunate family. This is a strong brick (stone - *pencilled in by ?Ralph Finn*) The building there is of long standing. The name of the family will consequently by its notoriety retain the stigma for many years to come.

Mr. & Mrs. Ransley and family. Stature The man tall, the woman short and stout. The name is in itself but of little importance it is deeds which makes it popular, whether of valour or of infamy of which it is our unpleasant duty to speak and remember former times. This family appears to be destined to Fate's decree to which we shall enumerate. Mr. & Mrs. Ransley appear to be the parents of an unfortunate and luckless in themselves. We might not trace in themselves any thing of a vicious or unjust character, yet how fostered under their charge was the offspring of their own children suffered to go on in every specious of fraud and dissipation.

There must have existed something very wrong that parents should have had no control over in their youthful days however secretly and invisible these workings were without timely correction. They at last brought forth with lamentable destruction upon the heads of those whose love and affection should have taught their children the paths of rectitude, viz. our sins will find us but the aged people to all appearance were quiet inoffensive people but no doubt after the sad event of their two sons, James and William, who were under misguided influences doomed to undergo the full penalty of their deeds brought into the most melancholy and abject dejection. They were no doubt dispossessed of their mental faculties and therefore all natural feelings were destroyed. These persons resided in this house many years after the execution of their sons and worked the little ground which I believe was their own property. There was one more son whose name was John and in whom we beheld a quiet and well disposed young man. He married and had a family. There were several daughters, some were married to respectable tradesmen and conducted themselves with propriety and decorum. One married to a Mr. John Epps by trade a blacksmith, another to a person at Willesborough by the name of Bean, a third to a Mr. John Addison, builder to the works then carrying on at Brabourne Lees Barracks, one daughter Elizabeth who was considered of unsound mind and whose mind was thought to have been impaired by the sad event of her unfortunate brothers, she some years after committed suicide by hanging herself in her chamber and the other unmarried daughter Sarah was unfortunately killed by the running of the train on crossing the metals of the South Eastern Railway onth day of 1853 about a mile or so from her disconsolate home and previously when one of her sisters, the newly married couple were after the ceremony returning from Church, in order to avoid a cart laden with materials standing in the road, the post chaise drove on to the footpath which was on an incline, it was turned on its side, the door of the carriage broken, but the inmates escaped without any material injury except fright. Such were the disasters in this unfortunate family. The destiny to this circle of acquaintances at one time all unseen to mortal eye are in these our days made visible.

These two brothers were fine looking young men. They had carried on a system of plunder for a long time and had subsequently become acquainted with many of a like profession neglecting the sabbath

day to keep it holy. The transaction of smuggling had by degrees initiated them into the vortex of every immorality. These young men at one time had stolen a horse which was but a short time before they were last taken, which they had concealed in a wood and had made it secure to a tree in order to reclaim it again when an opportunity should occur of disposing of it, but unhappily for the poor beast, they were taken and committed to prison and therefore the poor animal was perished with thirst and hunger. This they acknowledged a little (*time*) before they suffered. It had much affected them, much more so as there was no means to communicate with their friends that they might liberate the poor dumb animal. It was after the fall of the leaves discovered a mere skeleton. These young men were most times mounted upon high bred chargers and had often eluded the vigilance of the authorities. They had at last become so notorious that every watch was instituted that could be devised to secure these mighty marauders. The crime for which they were found guilty was that of shooting at a woman looking out at the window in the Weald of Kent. These young men had composed a song while in prison and under sentence of death which was to have been intended to have been sung by them on the fatal drop but in this I'm not certain it was. Thus were these two young men stout and tall cut off in the prime of their youth, when the bud of life had scarcely blossomed and the seeds of good and early instruction had been sown, viz. train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Much yea very much depends upon moral instructions by the parents in every family. The bible furnishes us with many wholesome lessons such as the conviction of Eli Samuel Chapter III verse 13th who restrained not his sons in their rebellion who had made themselves NB The arrival of this family was from Ruckinge where much illegal traffic was carried on and every species of vice nurtured, the sabbath day disregarded, heathenism and all immorality practiced, cards, dice, dominoes in these smuggling retreats were the general order of the sacred day. NB on the day of the final of these unfortunate and deluded men the Father travelled with some vehicle from his house, their former residence to that of execution, Penenden Heath, some miles distant in order to obtain the lifeless bodies of his two sons to convey them to their last and final resting place, Ruckinge. This was a melancholy spectacle for parent to behold who in their infant days he beheld them with delight? and fostered them with a father's love and affection, caressed them with all those endearing ties incident to human nature. The mother's embraces encircling their innocent forms and the prattling voices giving an impulse to the other's joys and delight. The pleasing tale told by the mother and the amusing song of the father by the fireside gave vivacity to the young spirits as they sit by the glowing embers. Now behold the contrast in this unlucky and changeable state of things. The father an unhappy spectator of the cold clay forms of his lifeless children, once the idols of his heart, ceaseless voices immured in the dark chambers of death. The mother a weeping witness of her once cherished affections. The joy and comfort of all her pangs and sorrows again renewed. The mirthful tale exchanged for that of a mournful sound. The glowing embers had been exchanged for that of a cold prison wall. The comforts for that of a prison diet. The freedom to that of a slave, a free intercourse with the family connection annulled. Communications have almost ceased. The time has nearly arrived when the parent is shut out, debarred from the tender embrace of filial affection. The grating of the prison doors, the bolts and bars sound through the gloomy avenue that leads to death, the night vision is all present, the warnings of the approaching mom sound within the ear and the anxious wish is often expressed that each minute might be an hour and each hour a day and to every day a month, that it may fill up a year to lengthen the few falling sands of our life's glass. Such is the lingering desire when the grim monarch's approach is so near. The morning the last morning, the fatal sun has now risen, but only to set on us thus early on us unhappy souls. Its lustre is faint, its glory bedimmed. Oh may it shine brighter in that place to which we are to be soon ushered. May God whom we have so often despised and neglected receive our souls into his everlasting kingdom through the blood of Christ, the Redeemer is the fervent wish of the Christian man. (*In a older, shakier hand*) In these incoming years will be found much said about a poor old honest man named Old Finn's School, the Schoolmaster who taught the children in honour their parents and reverence their superiors in their walks in life and so will their adorning the Gospel of our Saviour Christ - Amen.

The following pages are detached from the book *and* fragmentary.

... her house was in perfect order. The furniture was not allowed to keep company with spiders, etc. She always kept the in(dustn'ous?) bee as her monitor. She applied the labour of the bee as labour of her hands. Her drawers and dressers were alike subject to the same renovation not sparing the case of the chairs - all were the mirror of attraction - kettles, sk(illets?) and saucepans and bell metal utensils at a certain period of the year had recourse to the brick dust as the purifier. (*After?*) the precious metal next comes the display of the poor old garden. These articles were as much the pride and taste as were the things within the house. First the eye was directed to the spreading vine, the next to an apple tree, next your eye in an instant was directed to the ground to view some favourite flower - and all in a breath. The quickness and agility wherewith our worthy friend entertained us I can never forget and to say this was not quite the finish of our investigation. We were then summoned to take not the juice of nectar but the labourious toils, the fruit of the industrious bee, a glass or two of a pleasant liquor called mead. Age seemed to have taken its flight and youth had again appeared. Such was the scene the last interview with her - her beloved partner, her husband, was at the same time lying on a bed of sickness, but was perfectly sensible as to what was passing around him. He put many interrogatories respecting his children. He was a man of years this person, when in his former years was to be seen on his travel to his work with his wallets oer his shoulders with his implements in his basket ...

... employment and also attending persons in their similar honest avocations. She was very clean in her person, obliging, trustworthy woman. She was unmarried but nature had favoured her with two children, a son and a daughter nevertheless. She supported herself and children by her labour and I hope we have no cause to place any stigma upon her character. She lived to a good old age and was interred at Mersham. Her daughter died some years before was married to a person by the name of Bonnac ... was unfortunately transported for some breach of the law - her son John also married and had a family.

Thomas Law - lived in cottage by the South Tower (*Stour*) House and was a quiet neighbour. He was a man of general stature.

Mr. & Mrs. Elgar, Gregory Farm were both very industrious people and honest in every sense of the scrutiny. The old lady was quick sighted as an hawk and her movements were equally as brisk. She could almost scan the heavens at the same glance. She was extremely civil and obliging and was neat and decorious in her apparel. The fashions of the time would not vary - neither were there four changes a year of her costume. The former pattern was not rejected but treasured up from time to time and what the system or appearance had been in her grandmother's day the alike must be still venerated and respected viz

The family of **Mr. S. Greenhill**. This man was cast unlucky for him into Fortune's lap. He was blessed with a profusion of the comforts of this world's goods, but unfortunately he did not rightly esteem of value then. He lived an unbecoming life and acted the character of an insane man. He gave encouragement to inebriation and licentiousness to those placed under his charge and an unstable rule in his household and amongst his family and as he lived so he died a drunken and dissipated man. He was as we find expressed in the Psalms - Behold we see them flourishing as a green bay tree but those who sought him in after years the place knew him no more. Although we have observed in this unhappy character many defects, yet we are in duty bound to remark he was just towards the persons whom he employed, but there were debts and dues to whom we cannot make any restitution. The corruption of morals and the destroyer of souls - no attonement can be made or accepted. This unfortunate being was after many years indulging in his favourite enjoyments

subjected to an unforeseen event by his mad career killed and how forcibly does the Scriptures unfold to us - thou fool this night shall thy soul be required of thee. NB we condemn not for to his master he standeth or falleth and he was as all mortality are consigned into his hand who judgest righteously.

Mr. & Mrs. James Finn inhabited the old fashioned house adjoining the gate leading to the Church commonly called the Church House, part of the same was occupied by a family the name of Marshall and a portion of the same was tenanted by a very old lady in the name of Nower - a widow of a John Nower, butcher, whose shop was directly opposite the house then a thatch lodge but of late years was used as a wood lodge - to the Court Lodge house whose property is let under lease from the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Canterbury. Mrs. Finn's school for the instruction of young females was a room in the house. Mr. Finn's school for boys was the Vestry Room adjoining the Church where the instruction for arithmetic and ciphering was carried on for many years. The females had a gallery in the boys school for their further improvement in the way of writing for those whose parents were able to give them greater scope of erudition at stated times being so closely continuous to the house. But after some years thus - a new tenant occupied the Court Lodge Farm the name of Stephen Greenhill who succeeded Stead Goddard who did not quite possess the good opinion of his neighbours - ejected him which caused his removal from thence to the extremity of the parish so that the School was divided. The boys school was conducted as usual in the vestry or schoolroom until many years after - when it was considered more convenient for the instruction of the two classes to erect a building on the space of waste land leading to the Street in the village where it now remains. We believe that as far as literature was at the time we had made mention which was not as it is now termed the wise age - yet we may be bold to assert and do not appear to be any serious spots in their character as to their moral conduct in these two old-fashioned conductors of their establishment. NB in the boys department I do not remember to have observed any immorality, no vile expressions.

James Finn eldest son of John Finn of Finn Farm in the parish of Kingsnorth - farmer who died suddenly James Finn who for a very long period fulfilled the office of Parish Clerk at Mersham. He married a daughter of Edward Sheeafe of Aldington Freight, a small farmer etc. Mary Sheeafe by whom he had 10 children viz. Charlotte who died in infancy, James who married and had a numerous family, John who married a Sarah and had one daughter Harriot, who with her mother died of the scarlet fever within a few days of each other and buried at Beckingham. Richard who married an Elizabeth Hyder had a large family, George married a Hester Bolding of Faversham by whom he had a numerous family. Edward unmarried, a daughter Ann who married to a William Elgar of St. Gregory (*farm*), William who died in his infancy, William Johnson married Elizabeth Friend daughter of Richard Friend of Hatch and had one daughter. Jesse married a Mary Brett and had one son. Mr. William Johnson Finn who succeeded his father was Clerk and Schoolmaster of the Parish of Mersham... was afflicted very many years which he bore with exemplary patience to his final departure and although thorns in the flesh he frequently met briars in his path through life - he often had to endure the serpent like torture of the evil tongue - slander - he had to cope with malignant whispers. We may use some such words as these - when Christ was asked and who is my neighbour - the same reply might be here used. But and though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death I will fear no evil For thou art with me. Thy rod and thy....

. . . . and to my worthy reader ... will and my conclude by addressing a concise narrative of his life in gen some brief remarks thereon and I am sure you will (agree) with me viz. that he was not addicted to any intemper ... by language drink or vices of immorality not a slander lessen peoples esteem and regard of each other when not ... the like character no propagator of false tales to injure his neighbours - in these I believe we may conscientiously assent and in these I trust he remains secure. The banner of Christ - he will be fortified by the weapons of his glorify having on the following habilments of defence such as denoted the whole armour of God. NB your loins girt

about with truth and having on the breast plate of Righteousness and your feet shod with the prep ar.... of the Gospel of Peace and the Shield of Faith, the helmet of ... and the Sword of the Spirit which is the world of God. When the Almighty shall send his angels to gather from the quarters of the earth by the blast of the trumpet to summon to appear before him at the awful tribunal to hear their final destiny... Either the happy sound of Come ye the blessed of my father receive thy kingdom prepared for ye at? the foundation of the world, or the thrilling sound of dismal Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting misery with Satan and his angels.... bearing but a promoter to truth and to all innocent pastimes etc. to truth and honesty and we believe him to have had a great antipathy to anything which bare not the marks of just and uprightness a man who could always feel the distress of his neighbours - and that was the age when each used to accost his neighbour with an agreeable salutation asneighbour - a glorious day, this and such similar replies at meeting and parting. To refer to our Old Schoolmistress we are in duty bound to speak a few words. The Old Dame with her long stick to keep in subjection and perhaps to whose brains were not quite so pellucid as she could wish but some muddy and careless. She would sometimes have recourse to the cap of knowledge with small jingling bells attached to crown the dunce with although the chastisement was not a severe one as to cause any bruises, yet it produced a lasting impression although we would not aspire to works of embroidery, lace making or tambo arts we were taught a very useful and important lesson viz. to make a shirt or chemise to net stockings or gloves and many other suitable articles to make us useful wives. NB it was not the age for musick or dancing (except) to dance after the cows. We could understand the theory of milking, churning? or to feed the swine when necessary in our unemployed time we were inducted? in the art of marking upon some material of canvas to prepare ourselvesform letters with our family names. For linen was in former years made at home when aged women were employed by spinning with their wheels and jennies. Our ladies now a days are taught the more genteeler employments - the piano, etc., our music master will be here soon, we must practise for the Ball on Thursday. Betty must get our things ready and put plenty of starch? in our crinolines be sure of that beautiful composition that the Queen's laundress uses, etc. and let the hairdresser be told to call here on his way to the Hall as he dresses the Misses So and So's hair beautifully and be sure not to let me forget to order some of his new perfumes which her Majesty's wardroom woman has brought home from Germany and let Tom know we are going to the Assembly for him to have ready our .. Shay Cart and tell him to smart up Wistler and his best harness and be sure that the cushions are well aired and dusted as I saw the other day all the fowls on the seat and above all to get the whip from the that was broken about the hogs and now I think I have told you so I hope you will not forget for you are in general a very forgetful will now conclude my memoire concerning our Schoolmistress and trusting that she is now sleeping in peace in the.....

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