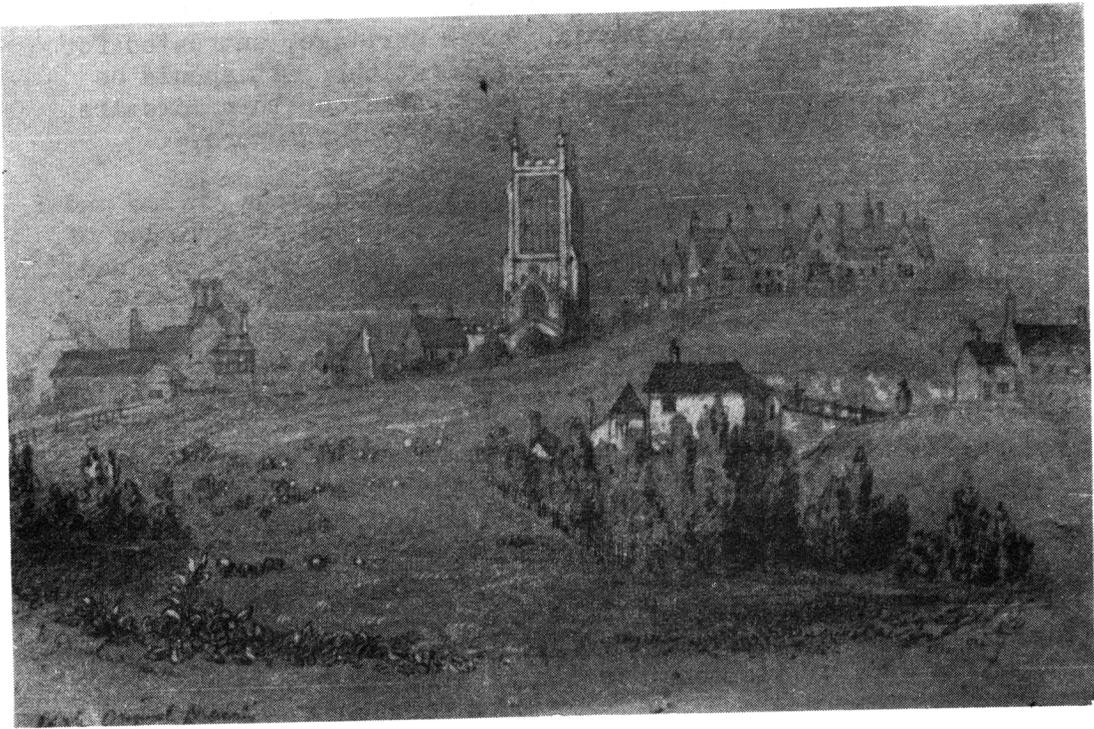


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The  
**BULLETIN**  
of the  
**EAST GRINSTEAD**  
**SOCIETY.**

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THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1968 to protect and improve the amenities of East Grinstead and its environs. The town has a long history and a unique architectural heritage, entrusted for the time being to the hands of our generation. It should be our concern that such contributions as we in our turn make are worthy of the past and a fitting bequest to the future.

The Society arranges regular talks, discussions, films and visits. It produces a Bulletin of its news and of articles of local interest two or three times a year. In 1969 it produced a Report on the High Street Conservation Area which was well received as the basis for future policy. It is also very active in making representations to the local authorities on planning matters. With the re-organisation of local government its importance as a watchdog has increased. It has held five exhibitions, published a booklet of reminiscences and two sets of postcards reproducing old views of the town, and established a Town Museum in conjunction with the Town Council.

The Society is registered as a charity. It is registered with the Civic Trust, a member of the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies and affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society. A copy of its constitution is available on request.

MEMBERSHIP

The strength of such a Society lies in the extent to which it can be seen to represent public opinion; the larger its membership the greater its influence. The subscription is 75 new pence a year (additional members in the same family 25), to be renewed on 1 January every year, except by those joining at or after the previous A.G.M. Subscriptions, preferably by banker's order, should be sent to the Treasurer, Barclays Bank, East Grinstead.

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All official correspondence should be sent to the appropriate officer, c/o Barclays Bank, East Grinstead. Applications for membership and subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer, notices of change of address and queries about subscriptions to the Membership Secretary (Mrs K. Jefferies), correspondence about the Museum, matter for the Bulletin and requests for publications to the Chairman, and all other correspondence to the Honorary Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS

Permission to reproduce anything from this Bulletin should be sought from the Editor. Unsigned contributions are the work of the Editor and officers. Opinions in signed articles are not necessarily those of anyone but their authors.

EDITORIAL

It has all been said before. The editor can only thank all contributors for their material and members of the Society and other readers for their patience and support: and so he commends to them the latest effort.

M E E T I N G S

TREES were the subject of 11 May when Mr W.E. Matthews of the Men of the Trees spoke and answered questions and Mr P.D. Wood introduced plans for our tree survey. The young associates of the Town Museum raised money for it with a small stall.

THE TOWN TRAIL was launched on 25 May at a meeting in the coffee shop. This provided a more sociable gathering than usual followed by the chance to put the trail to practical test. It is good to report that the trail has been so well received that the first printing of 1000 copies was sold out within three months and we have ordered another 5000.

SEAFORD MUSEUM was the goal of an outing on 18 June, a museum comparable to our own in scope but longer established. Not many members went but they enjoyed it.

FAMILY HISTORY was the subject on 6 July of Mr Michael Burchall of the Sussex Family History Group. Anyone interested in genealogy would find it worth joining (£3 p.a., apply to Miss J.L. Warren, 3 Westmorland Court, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, BN3 1QE).

HERONTYE was so popular for the visit on 20 July that we could have taken twice the permitted number. Everyone appreciated both the hospitality and the care with which a private house has been adapted for business use without violence.

MICHELHAM PRIORY was visited by a bus full of members on 6 August. Rain did nothing to dampen their enjoyment.

NEXT MEETING: 14 September, Mrs H. Edgehill on Royalty in Sussex.

THE COMMITTEE met on 18 May and 29 June. Next meeting 7 September.

A C T I V I T I E S

1977 EXHIBITION: As members will probably have realised, the number of special extra activities in which we have been involved for the Jubilee (on which see p.4) and holiday commitments made it impossible for us to prepare a worthy exhibition for the end of July as intended. It was thought better, therefore, to cancel it than to produce something half-baked, and to concentrate on a special effort for our tenth anniversary next year.

SCRUTINY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS: A system has been devised whereby a rota of members is able to see applications at the week-end in time to send our comments to Mid Sussex and a copy to the Town Council's planning committee which meets on Monday evenings. At a time when the Town Council is lamenting the lack of officers able to give specialist advice we are lucky to have among our members several trained in architecture, surveying and town planning, so that our comments can be reasonable and well-informed.

LISTED BUILDINGS: At the Town Council's request we have set up a sub-committee to report on the condition of listed buildings.

### JUBILEE ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITION: Our thanks are due to Mr D.G.Joyce for designing and preparing a very striking stand which earned us valuable publicity and several new members.

PAGEANT: Our thanks too to our junior members who took part in the historical pageant procession in the guise of the 1953 conquerors of Mount Everest and with their banner 'Follow us to the Town Museum' attracted so much attention that for part of the afternoon it was almost impossible to move in the Museum room.

GREENWICH MERIDIAN: Congratulations to our member Miss R.M. Willatts for suggesting and the Town Council for so promptly commissioning and installing a memorial slab on the terrace at East Court to mark the line of the prime meridian.

CHURCHYARD RAILINGS: A number of members and friends, organised by Mr D.G.Jefferies, has been working long and hard to prepare the path and existing railings. When Messrs Granthams are able to install the new rails our own public memorial of the Jubilee will contribute handsomely to the townscape. Our thanks to all who donated to the cost and all other helpers.

PUBLIC MEMENTO: How the £1300 proceeds of the town's celebrations are to be spend will be decided at a public meeting on 19 September. Our suggestion is tree planting at King George's Field, the creation of a worthy London Road entrance (with the gates returned and resited there) and a clean-up around the Hall. Any money left should be used for tree planting and the provision of seats in other parts of the town and for the funds of the Museum.

TOWN TRAIL: See under Meetings on p.3.

### MUSEUM

A policy has been taken out insuring for up to £2500 any items borrowed for temporary display in the cabinet in the entrance hall at East Court. The Museum contents are covered by the Town Council's insurances on the building.

For the next temporary display see p.13.

The Town Council has decided that it needs the Museum room for a furniture store and we have discovered that it is seriously affected by damp in the walls. We have accepted the offer of two rooms upstairs adjoining our existing store room, subject to our not being moved again for 5 years and the Town Council's satisfying itself as to any requirements of the fire authorities. The Museum Committee meets on 12 September to consider how to make the most of the opportunity for expansion and improvement thus provided.

### OTHER NEWS FOR MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP is now about 310.

NEXT BULLETIN: Bulletin 23 (January 1978) will be in members' hands as soon as possible in the new year. Special features will mark our tenth anniversary. Contributions should please be sent to Mr M.J.Leppard, Sackville School, by 16 December.

CIVIC TRUST CIRCULAR: Earlier this year the committee considered how to answer a questionnaire collecting information for the Civic Trust's twentieth anniversary. After much discussion it was decided that the most important single thing we have done since we started is founding a Museum.

'EAST GRINSTEAD FROM LEWES ROAD' BY W.G. MOSS

by L. Gayton

Like others who have seen this painting in the Council Chamber at East Court and admired the artist's delicate rendering of the pearly mistiness that so often hangs over the upper part of the town, I have been puzzled by the inclusion of the red coated soldiers in the foreground. As no plausible explanation was to be had locally I decided to seek expert opinion.

Having obtained permission to photograph the painting I sent a print to the 'Collector' Questions' editor of Country Life. This was passed on to 'an authority on 19th century paintings'. His reply included the information that the picture appeared in the Royal Academy in 1827 (No. 540 in catalogue) and that 'W.G. Moss was a popular and frequent exhibitor of his day - not a great artist but an attractive one - whose landscapes have a present day interest because of their careful topography'. But he added that he thought the soldiers had been included merely for 'the colour of their uniforms'. Very unconvincing, this latter opinion.

After the publication of the photograph in Country Life there were some interesting replies from readers.

The first was from a lady living at East Bergholt, Suffolk, saying that she had an exactly similar painting, dated 1820 or 1826, which had come to her from ancestors of hers in East Grinstead. These were the Palmers and the Jacksons. (The former are commemorated by an expensive tomb on the south side of the parish church tower and one of them was Warden of Sackville College.)

As this lady's painting is dated 7 to 13 years earlier than the one at East Court, it can reasonably be assumed that it is the original exhibited at the Royal Academy. But that at East Court, because of its obvious high quality, it almost certainly a copy - probably commissioned - by Moss himself.

As a postscript to her letter the Suffolk lady adds that her grandmother 'often stayed with the Jacksons in East Grinstead and must have been very fond of the Moss painting because she also made a very competent copy of it'. So it seems that, besides her original painting, three copies exist, one by the artist and the others by amateurs.

As to the inclusion of soldiers in both of the Moss pictures, a variety of explanations was put forward by Country Life readers. These were:

1 'There was severe agricultural distress in England, particularly in the south, between 1815 and 1830, reaching its height in the late 1820s with widespread "direct action" by labourers in the form of rick-burning, attacks on property of farmers and landlords, etc. In some districts there was complete chaos for a time, and nowhere was it worse than in Sussex and Kent. But the movement had no organisation and no proper leader, and when the government ultimately sent troops in, they met with no effective resistance. Conditions improved after 1830, more so after 1832. My suggestion therefore is that the picture refers to this time and condition of affairs (the late 1820s) and that the soldiers are there for protective purposes and the contents of the waggon need not have been of particularly high value.'

2 The waggon was carrying personal luggage of some wealthy family travelling, either ahead or behind in their own coach, from one country house to another or to London, and a military escort had been provided.

3 Soldiers moving on foot from one place to another sometimes commandeered passing waggons either for a lift or to relieve themselves of heavy equipment.

4 The waggon contained possessions of the Sackvilles en route for storage or use at Sackville College, more probably, being taken from Bolebrooke (Hartfield) or Old Buckhurst (Withyham) to Knole or London.

5 The trunks in the waggon contained personal belongings of high-ranking army officers.

The first of these explanations seems the most likely. Readers of the Bulletin may be able to contribute others.

(NOTE: A smaller and inferior copy of the picture, signed F.E.S. and attributed to 1780, is in the Society's collection in the Museum. It was given us by Mr Alec Barr-Hamilton of Hove who said he bought it some years ago in the Lanes in Brighton. I suggest that F.E.S. may be F.E.Sawyer, the late 19th century Brighton antiquarian. EDITOR)

#### OUR COVER PICTURE

by P.D.Wood

Our cover picture is a much reduced print of a picture which hangs in our Museum. The original is a pencil sketch on grey paper, heightened with white. The artist was a woman but her signature is almost illegible and there is no date. On style and internal evidence one would date it about 1820-40.

It fascinates me. It is a made-up composition: the viewpoints of the component buildings are mutually exclusive and must have been taken from different positions and assembled afterwards.

What was she trying to do? She had skill, whoever she was, and an elvish vision. The church is beautifully and accurately drawn, gleaming and substantial, while Sackville College has been sharpened and Gothicised until it stands like a witch's castle on its hill. The cottages are well drawn, too, but what is this Jacob's ladder of a footbridge?

There are no roads connecting the separate groups of buildings: perhaps no-one lives here. It is a dream landscape, East Grinstead as it never quite was, but one day might be.

(NOTE: The only record of the provenance of the picture is a note of it as about 100 years old, 'acquired by the Vicar from a firm in London', in the parish magazine for July 1935. ED.)

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PARISH MAGAZINES: The note above is only one of the testimonies in our pages to the usefulness in historical research of old parish magazines, especially in view of the lack of file copies of early local newspapers. We are grateful to St. Swithun's church for preserving them (right from their start in 1873), for allowing us access and now for entrusting to our care at the Town Museum duplicate volumes for 28 years (including a complete run 1874-94) and 8 odd numbers for 1873. However, the Church authorities failed to preserve copies for some of the more recent years, viz 1954-61 and 1964-66 and the issue for May 1975, and so we appeal to anyone who can supply even single numbers for the Church's collection for those years (or any others for ours) to contact Mr Leppard by whom they will be bestowed in the right place.

THE COLCHESTER PICTURES BY BOURNE

by M.J.Leppard

Some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years ago Mr E.C.Byford was permitted to have photographs made of 44 paintings once the property of the Lords Colchester but then in the possession of the late Mr I.D.Margary. He deposited one set of the photographs in East Grinstead Public Library where I was permitted to examine and list them.

The paintings are done with bold brushwork, for their picturesque interest rather than architectural and other detail. They have, nevertheless, considerable documentary value for local topography. Most have an original title in one corner.

Admiral Charles Lord Colchester in his Memoranda of My Life (privately printed, 1869) mentions, p.22, that in 1826 Bourne came to Kidbrooke, their home at Forest Row (now Michael Hall School), and gave sketching lessons and made 'the book of views of Kidbrooke and its neighbourhood which we still have'. This must be the origin of the pictures discussed here. Certainly the costumes in them suit a date around 1826. Lord Colchester adds that Bourne was a relative of his brother-in-law Lord Ellenborough.

My list, aided by Mr Byford's notes, is as follows (original titles, when existing, in inverted commas):

- 1 Kidbrooke from west.
- 2 Kidbrooke from south west, mill on horizon (? Pock Hill).
- 3 Kidbrooke from east showing lake.
- 4 Kidbrooke from east.
- 5 Kidbrooke drive, Eastbourne Road, showing large house.
- 6 'Gamekeeper's Cottage, Kidbrooke Lane'.
- 7 'Swan Inn, Forest Row'.
- 8 'Forest Row' village with butcher's shop.
- 9 Forest Row, Hartfield Road.
- 10 'Forest Row' from Burnt House Farm.
- 11 'Medway at Bramber Tye' bridge.
- 12 Brambletye, gatehouse of moated site.
- 13 Brambletye Castle from Court-in-Holmes.
- 14 Brambletye Castle from west.
- 15 Brambletye Castle from north.
- 16 'Brambletye from South'.
- 17 Brambletye Castle showing undercroft from south.
- 18 'Pilstye Farm'.
- 19 'Forest Row lane to Pilstye' seen from Pilstye.
- 20 'Tablehurst Farm House'.
- 21 'Tablehurst' with windmill on horizon (? Pock Hill).
- 22 Tablehurst Mill showing undershot wheel.
- 23 Tablehurst Miller's Cottage showing hand grindstone, etc.
- 24 'Stone House Park'.
- 25 'Cottage near Highgate Green'.
- 26 Cottage on Ashdown Forest.
- 27 'Priory Farm' with windmill on horizon.

- 28 'Ashdown Forest Mudbrooks Farm.
- 29 'Mudbrook'.
- 30 'Court in Holmes'.
- 31 Luxford Farm from Brambletye Rocks.
- 32 Luxford Farm with rocks.
- 33 Luxford Farm.
- 34 Luxford Farm with windmill on horizon (presumably Cuttons Hill).
- 35 'Stone Farm below Saint Hill'.
- 36 'East Grinstead' from due south.
- 37 'East Grinstead from Ashdown Forest' showing coach.
- 38 'East Grinstead old entrance', i.e. looking up Old Road.
- 39 'East Grinstead (illegible) Path to East Court, i.e. College Lane from south.
- 40 'East Grinstead road to East Court', i.e. Old Road and College Lane at their junction, seen from north.
- 41 'View of South Downs Road to Horsted Keynes'.
- 42 West Hoathly village.
- 43 Old Buckhurst tower.
- 44 'Withyham Church'.

The pictures numbered 38 to 40 are a valuable record of the old approach to the town (replaced by present Lewes Road in 1826) and vanished buildings along the south east edge of Sackville College grounds, particularly when taken in connection with the two pictures of approximately the same date discussed on pp.5f. above and one of 1795 by B.H. La Trobe Bateman reproduced in Sussex County Magazine, vol.12 (1938), p.329. The latter, which is erroneously titled 'Blackwell Hollow', shows the bridge commented on by Mr Wood in his note on our cover picture and suggests that that work must date from before those of Moss and Bourne.

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#### NEWS AND VIEWS

STANDEN GUIDE: Accompanying the opening of Standen to the public earlier this year the National Trust has published an attractive guidebook by Mr Arthur Grogan, its tenant. There are 2 plans, 4 photographs, a coloured reproduction of an 1896 watercolour of the house (on the cover) and a reproduction of one of the architect's annotated sketches for light fittings. Separate sections deal with the building of the house, Philip Webb its architect, the exterior and interior, later history, a tour of the house and the garden. The only information needed by visitors that has been omitted is the correct pronunciation with the stress on the final syllable. (40 n.p. from Standen or the Corner House.)

A SUSSEX HERITAGE TRUST to buy or lease historic buildings in need of repair and then offer them for sale on certain conditions in order to ensure their proper survival is being set up by a group of conservationists and architects. Among the trustees is our President, Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, M.P. A public meeting to launch the Trust will be held at the University of Sussex on 1 October.

BRICKBAT to those responsible for repainting Hampton Cottage in different colour schemes for each half of its facade.

by M.J.Leppard

In an article in Bulletin 19 (May 1976) I tried to show something of the large part leather working played in the history of East Grinstead. This article attempts to set out, in a similar way, the available evidence for a local cloth working industry.

Place name evidence from several Wealden parishes for such processes in cloth working as fulling, walking or tucking (i.e. cleaning and thickening cloth by treading it) and tentering (stretching) is set out by J.Pettitt in an article 'Fulling and Fulling Mills' in the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society's Newsletter no.5 (January 1975), pp.5-7. He notes Tainter Field at Cardinalls Farm (part of Imberhome Manor) in 1739 as the only East Grinstead example. No other such names have been found by me in a wide range of suitable local maps and documents, indeed there are only a few field names referring to sheep (all mid-19th century except the marvellously literal rendering of local pronunciation in 'Shipyard Pett' at Ashurst Wood on the contemporary 6' O.S.), none to hemp and only one to flax (at Mudbrooks in 1841 and 1865).

However, references to people engaged in the various occupations connected with the production, processing and marketing of cloth enable us to build up a tolerable picture of a fairly significant local industry.

Shearing sheep, spinning wool, etc. were not full-time occupations and so leave no such trace but we have one hempdresser (Thomas Herman buried 1658) and several flaxdressers. The earliest recorded, George Gander in 1657, sold 2 dozen of swingled (i.e. beaten and scraped) flax for 14s 6d to the Rev. Giles Moore of Horsted Keynes who had it spun in his parish. In the 18th century 8 names are recorded, two of whom survived until the 1811 census but not the 19th century directories (from 1823). In 1811 also James Serles, a tailor, bought a stone cottage near the Ship and converted it into a flax shop.

Trades connected specifically with hemp and flax were those of James Every sackmaker (and flaxman, several references from 1782 to 1811), John Langridge, netmaker (also paygate keeper and coal merchant, 1799) and Edward Hayward, rope and twine maker (also saddler, etc., 1823 and 1828).

Weavers (apart from our solitary silk weaver, Thomas Craford in 1604) might deal with hemp, flax (for linen) or wool; they do not specify. We know of several of them, from Thomas Fawconer, who made his will in 1575, to Charles Beard who was a party to a conveyance in 1834 and had been apprenticed to John Elvey in 1786 aged 14. Our references cover 13 names from 1575 to 1723 (including George Wood in 1694 who had been at Godstone in 1678 and was at Horsham later in 1694 and Nicholas Cooper who was buried as 'poor' in 1686), then a gap until 1786 when we have another 6 names, finishing with Charles Beard.

As the weavers die out, however, we get a succession of woolstaplers, from William Isard in 1794 (also a glover) to Henry Gatland in 1871-2 (also a corn dealer), about 8 in all, including in 1862 Robert Symes Lewis (also parchment manufacturer). Presumably mechanisation elsewhere made it more profitable to export the local fleeces and import ready-made cloth.

The original meaning of the word draper was 'one who makes woollen cloth' but we have no means of knowing if that was the sense in which it was applied to those who appear in our records, of whom one Harman in 1530 is the first. But in 1564 we certainly had at least two clothiers, for in that year John Parker was fined in London for selling 'a russett colour cloth being a deceitfull colour and dyed in the woole' and George Partrych for selling 'a sheppes coloure clothe lacking 1lb waizte'. In 1710 George Linn is described as a clothworker in a deed but there are no other such references, though we do hear of one specialist, Alexander Hiley, shearman, who made his will in 1613. His work was cutting off superfluous nap from woollen cloth. And in 1721 Thomas Chapman, our only recorded fuller, was buried.

One special use for woollen cloth was the making of felt. Two feltmakers are known: Thomas Bodle in 1714 and Joseph Gatford in 1715 and 1716. Bodle is also referred to as a hatter in several documents from 1680 to his death in 1718. No doubt he was 'the Hatter at Grinstead' to whom George Luxford of Hellingly paid £4 4s 'for my Hats' when Sherriff in 1679. An apparently flourishing hatmaking industry continued from his time. Between 1694 and 1803 we hear of 7, including a dynasty of Tooths. Edward Tooth, who died in 1762 aged 64, had been apprenticed to Gatford the feltmaker in 1715. William Tooth, who died in 1799 owing considerable property, had 52 hats valued at £13 stolen from him in 1776. Robert Tooth, who was working in the town in 1794, was at Cranbrook in 1809 but was buried here in 1827 aged 92. William's nephew John Tooth, who is recorded here in 1803 and 1809, sailed to Van Diemens Land and New South Wales in 1827 with hats from East Grinstead and rum, porter and hops from his brother, a brewer at Cranbrook. The hatters mentioned in the 19th century directories (from 1823) were also grocers, tailors, etc. and probably sold hats manufactured elsewhere (apart perhaps from John Isard in 1839, also a glover). The Tooth family changed to decorating, co-operation and finally retail stationery.

One may suppose, however, that most of the cloth was used by the local tailors, who seem to have been very numerous. After George Payne, mentioned in 1561, we have 4 names in the last decade of the 16th century, 20 in the 17th century (at least 3 in 1636), 13 in the 18th (5 in the 1794 directory) and 23 others up to 1885. Since there would have been no exporting of ready-made clothes we can imagine that a large area came to East Grinstead to be clothed. There are also references to 'manto makers' and others who made women's clothes.

It may be worth noting, finally, that for each of the years for which we have some reasonably complete list of names of people engaged in the occupations considered above (apart from the tailors) we have 6 in each: 1794 (Universal British Directory), 1799 (Palmer's Directory) and 1811 (draft census return). After that the directories (from 1823) give no names in any of these categories, except the woolstaplers, which confirms the impression that the local cloth industry was no longer viable in the 19th century, an effect of the 'industrial revolution'.

(NOTE: This can only be a scrappy introductory survey; amplification and correction will be very welcome. Detailed references to sources are not possible in such an article without swamping it, but as many as possible have been indicated simply and all can be named.)

A RARE BOOK

by M.J.Leppard

By the generosity of our member Dr P.H.Sandall the Museum has acquired a copy of 'Pious and Religious Advice of an Afflicted Father to his Infant Children...Written on a Sick-Bed of several Years Continuance. By W.Trice, East-Grinstead. London: Printed for the Benefit of a Family of Four small children. Sold by J.S.Jordan, No.166,Fleet Street; T.Palmer, East-Grinstead; S.Dunstone, Post-Master,Lewes; and J. Trice, Rotherfield, Sussex. MDCCXCIV.'

In the section 'To the Reader', dated 1 September 1794, the writer explains that he is 'only a poor mechanic', in fact a turner. This identifies him as William Trice, known to us in a variety of records in East Grinstead from the licence for his second marriage in 1783 (in which he describes himself as a chairmaker) to the Universal British Directory of 1794. He was buried in 1799 and two of his children shortly after. His first wife was buried in 1782 and two of his children by her in 1775 and 1777 but there is no record in our registers of their baptisms or his first marriage. Five sons and one daughter of his second marriage were baptised here between 1786 and 1798, one of them only living a month and two days. After his death others of the family continued to follow the same trade, living by the top of Hermitage Lane.

The substance of the book being very much as one would expect, the principal interest to us today is in the personal information in what he claims to have been written solely for the private use of the writer's own family, without the least thought of its being made public. A long history of illness and death in the family, including his catching smallpox and later some other illness which lasted four years to the time of writing, reduced the family to a state of poverty 'which some unthinking people have been so graceless as to turn to our reproach, and cruelly to insult over us on that account; and some have been so unfeeling as to endeavour to increase our misfortune, by taking from us the little means of support we had left, after I could work no longer myself.' 'My misery and extreme weakness requiring things very comfortable and nourishing, I have been accused of drinking to excess ... and my being confined to my bed, has been censured as the effect of idleness and whimsicalness' and his children have not been able to go about their business 'without being made a mock of on that account'.

Despite protesting that he is 'very sensible how unable he is to write anything fit for the public eye' Trice writes fluently, with references to a wide range of reading, and at the end of the book we read: 'Shortly will be Published, by the same author' Early Piety (6d each or 2 gns per 100) and Wisdom's Lessons (9d, or 8/- per doz).

I am grateful to Mr G.M.Smart for the genealogical information used in paragraph 2.

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WAS SHERLOCK HOLMES HERE: Bulletin 9 (May 1972) carried a note on the possibility that the small town visited by Sherlock Holmes in The Valley of Fear was East Grinstead. It is only fair to add that the distinction is also claimed by Rotherfield and, with more justification, by Groombridge, which has the advantage of being the only one of the three to possess a moated house. Since Conan Doyle lived at Crowborough he probably knew all these places and quite possibly intended an amalgam rather than a picture of one of them.

M.J.L.

AN INTERESTING OLD MAP

by P.D.Wood

The Museum Committee is much indebted to Mr Bunny Harrison of 'Now and Then', High Street, for bringing to its notice an interesting old map which has now been bought for the Museum.

It is a manuscript map on parchment, unsigned and drawn to the unusually large scale of 2 chains to the inch (half as large again as the 25" O.S.). It was evidently surveyed and drawn to illustrate a dispute about certain lands belonging to Anne Payne, once the property of the Allfrey family. Although undated, and executed in the comparatively primitive style of the 17th century, it can with confidence be assigned to about 1740.

The disputed lands comprised the Moats Farm, and the map covers an area now bounded roughly by the Post Office on the south, the Fire Station on the west, St Margaret's Convent on the north and Mount Noddy Cemetery on the east. The map shows The Moat, The Island and Moat Farm buildings, names of adjoining lands, owners and roads, 'Austen's House and Orchard' on the present site of the disused filling station, and Placeland fields but no house.

It forms an interesting comparison with Yeakell and Gardner's map of Moats Farm, 1776, both as to the similarity of the lands mapped and, particularly, as to the revolution that had taken place in the techniques of cartography in the interval.

The map will be on display when it has been flattened and mounted.

LOCAL HISTORY NOTES AND NEWS

OLD WELL-PUMPS: Newsletter 14 (April 1977) of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society contains a note of an early 20th century well-pump at Ashurst Wood of which it was notified through us and which it intends to preserve in store. The remains of an earlier one, recovered from a well behind Old Stone House by our member Mr C.W.Goolden for the owners had been given by them to us for the Museum.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL HISTORY CENTRE: Under this name an industrial museum is to be opened in disused chalk pits at Amberley. Prospective supporters are invited to contact the treasurer, P. Longley, Lackenhurst, Brooks Green, near Horsham. Annual subscription £2.50.

GUNPOWDER NIGHT, 1875: A cutting from a local paper of 8 November 1875 (in the Sackville College collection) makes one sigh for those more robust days. A great bonfire was lit on the Playfield and a large procession formed up at the White Lion. In due course it arrived at the Playfield, carrying banners inscribed 'No Popery'. The Volunteers' Band played 'Rule Britannia' by the light of blazing tar barrels, fireworks were discharged and a fire balloon race was held. The National Anthem closed the proceedings at 10 p.m. Besides the 5th Sussex Volunteers' Band in grotesque dress the Volunteer Fire Brigade was also in attendance but its professional services were not needed. The occasion drew large support, the crowds behaved in an orderly manner and every effort was made to discountenance and prevent wanton damage. And it sounds as if they had some fun with it all too.

P.D.W.

CHRONOLOGY OF CHEQUER MEAD AND SACKVILLE SCHOOLS

by M.J.Leppard

The history of Chequer Mead and Sackville Schools is to be the subject of our temporary display in the entrance hall at East Court in November and December. This is not the place to write their history, nor has enough work been done to make it possible, but it is thought that the following chronology may be of interest. The principal sources of information used are school log books, the programme for the official re-opening of Chequer Mead in 1967, recent newspapers and W.H.Hills, The History of East Grinstead (1906), pp.259-262.

- 1859 Public meetings led to the foundation of a National (Church) School. (Earlier National Schools had not survived, the (ex-)Grammar School was inadequate and Forest Row provided the only alternative.)
- 1861 1 Jan. School opened in buildings now easternmost block of Chequer Mead, girls at east, boys at west, master's house between (see photograph below).
- 1865 Infants' building (now Hall, possibly designed by W.M. Teulon) opened. (Another bay added after 1873; ?1882.)
- 1871 Boys' School extended by classroom on north.
- 1875 Subscriptions declined, School temporarily closed.
- 1876 24 Jan. Re-opened as Board (secular) School.
- 1882 New Girls' block on north of site (now Wallis Centre), boys occupied all original building and 81 De La Warr Road built as Master's house at about same time.
- 1920 Boys' School rebuilt to give present appearance.
- 1927 Re-organisation: Seniors in Boys' School, Juniors in Girls'. (Detached workshop by Boys' School at about same time.)
- 1948 Temporary buildings on the Playfield.
- 1951 Senior School renamed Sackville and Junior Chequer Mead after former adjacent field (site of Schools was Slaught-house Mead).
- 1958 Blackwell School opened and took juniors leaving Chequer Mead as infants only and more space for Sackville.
- 1959-62 Junior department built up again.
- 1964 Present Sackville School buildings occupied.
- 1966 Chequer Mead transferred into redesigned Sackville premises. Infants' School became hall and back block Wallis Centre, replacing former Youth Club hut in playground.
- 1970 First comprehensive intake at Sackville. Premises extended 1970-76.
- 1975 Chequer Mead transferred some children to Estcots as Inner Relief Road works took (temporarily) site of two classrooms in playground.

The Schools  
in 1911  
From Frith's  
postcard  
63088



LIBRARY NEWS

Recent accessions likely to interest members include

- 152.752 Hall, E.T. The Hidden Dimension (Man's use of space in public and private)
- 333.72 Christian, R. Vanishing Britain (The danger that threatens the familiar landscape, buildings and wildlife.)
385. White, H.P. Forgotten Railways of South East England (including closure and subsequent use of tracks)
- 500.9 Chinery, M. The Natural History of the Garden
- 500.94225 Haes, E.C. The Natural History of Sussex
- R609.42 Transport and Industrial Preservation Handbook (A guide to what, where and when)
- 711.4 Seeley, H. Planned Expansion in Country Towns
- 913.42 Lively, P. The Presence of the Past (An introduction to Landscape History)
- 914.2 Hoskins, W.G. The Making of the English Landscape (new edition)
- Richardson, S.A. Protection of Buildings (How to combat rot, woodworm and damp)
- PAMPHLETS West Sussex County Council  
County Handbook  
Transport Policy and Programme 1978/9  
County Structure Plan, various parts (in progress)  
Environmental Education Resources List  
Interim Countryside Policy
- Copthorne Residents' Association:  
Copthorne Village, a mini-study ('No more development')
- Cuckfield and Crawley Community Health Council:  
Annual Report (3 pp. on St Leonard's)

R.H.A.

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LOCAL REFERENCES IN SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS (cont'd)

- vol.34 (1886) ---
- vol.35 (1887) p.54, facing p.57 Anne Paine of E.G., 1647-91  
p.58 John Shery will 1552  
pp.112,116,120f. E.G. properties in Lewes Chartulary  
pp.127-162 M.P.s, 1685-1754  
p.192 Population 1724  
pp.193f. Confirmation of grant to Lewes Priory
- vol.36 (1888) p.66 Anne Payne (as vol.35, p.54)  
p.158 Chris.Snell at Ditchling (later at E.G.)  
p.187 Fairs and Market  
p.247 Licences to sell wine, 1635  
p.252 Town Arms, 1887
- vol. 37 (1890) P.124 Mr Chantler of Turners Hill, 1742 (Minister)  
also at E.G. in other records)  
p.452 Plawhatch deed, 1708
- vol.38 (1892) p.xxvii Brambletye House  
p.127 Wm Pellatt jun. of E.G., 1693  
p.139 Assizes, 22 July 1686