

The
BULLETIN
of the
EAST GRINSTEAD
SOCIETY

No 127

Spring 2023

Published by THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

Text copyright © The East Grinstead Society
on behalf of contributors, 2023

THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org



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 turn make are worthy of the past and a fitting bequest to the future. Key to this is an active role in scrutinising planning applications and regular liaison with planning authorities and our publications: of which the *Bulletin* is one.

The *Bulletin* was established and edited by Michael Leppard. The continuance of the *Bulletin* forms both a tribute to Michael's legacy to the Town and a source of future research on the Town's history, The *Bulletin* is an important tool for highlighting the rich and varied history of the Town and a key resource for the general reader, schools and researchers. As such we welcome suggestions for topics to be covered and, of course, draft articles for possible inclusion. We also welcome comments on the *Bulletin* and any aspect of the Society's role to: Chairman@eastgrinsteadsociety.org

Full information on the Society and updates on activities can be found on our website: www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org

The strength of the Society lies in the extent to which it can be seen to represent public opinion: the larger the membership the greater the influence. We are committed to expanding our membership by offering benefits such as a regular Newsletter and meetings and a social programme.

James Baldwin - Chairman

PRESIDENT **Mrs M. COLLINS, D.L.**

OFFICERS 2023

CHAIRMAN **James Baldwin**

VICE CHAIRMAN **Robin Whalley**

HON. TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY **Mike Lyons**

HON. SECRETARY **Alan Ward**

EDITOR OF The *BULLETIN* **Mrs Caroline Metcalfe**



Contents

Cover Pictures	3
Editorial	3
Martin Jennings, the McIndoe statue and the King Charles III 50 pence piece	4
Windmills	5
East Grinstead Common Windmills Revisited	5
Shiver Me Timbers	7
East Grinstead's Royal Quill Pen Manufacturer	10
The Palmer Family.....	13
Mr Warner.....	13
The Pools Winning Sackville College Resident.....	14
Broadleys.....	15
To the Present Day.....	17
The Tree in St Swithun's Churchyard	18
Anniversaries in East Grinstead	18
9 July 1943 The Whitehall Bombing.....	18
From the Archives	19

Cover Pictures

The statue of Sir Archibald McIndoe, created by sculptor Martin Jennings
New Benches on The High Street.

Pictures are the copyright of the article authors.

Editorial

I am very grateful to Mrs Olwen Broadley, Mrs Rosalind Crowther, Graham Edwards, Roy Henderson, and Robin Whalley for their fascinating articles in this issue. The High Street in East Grinstead has such interesting historic buildings or monuments that I want to write a series of short articles about each of them for the *Bulletin*. The Fountain and the War Memorial have featured already and in the last *Bulletin* I wrote about John Pye's Bookshop. I included mention of the 'tradition' that some of the timber used for building might have come from wrecked Spanish Armada ships. Rosalind Crowther has explained that this is not the case. Broadleys is a beautiful building full of interesting details. Mrs Broadley has very kindly shared with us the history of the business, from its inception in 1896. Roy Henderson has re-examined information on East Grinstead windmills. Robin Whalley has written about the quill pen maker, Thomas Palmer, at what is now 12 Middle Row. This prompted inclusion of research by Graham Edwards about former Sackville College resident, Mr T. F. Warner, who was photographed with a quill pen that he had made.

I would like to pay tribute to the late Mr Arthur Crawford. I am grateful to him for his generosity in sharing material connected with the Payne and Crawford families for inclusion in the *Bulletin*, in recent years with me, but in the past, he often gave information to Michael Leppard, too.

Martin Jennings, the McIndoe statue and the King Charles III 50 pence piece

On the new 50 pence pieces with the portrait of the head of King Charles III on one side, you may be able to pick out the tiny initials 'M.J.'. The portrait of our King was designed by the sculptor and artist, Martin Jennings. The initials 'MJ' can also be found on the McIndoe statue, designed and created by Martin Jennings to honour Sir Archibald McIndoe. This statue stands at the far end of the High Street, on the lawn below Sackville College. During the Second World War, McIndoe treated badly burned airmen using new methods, and he cared about his patients' whole lives, not just their treatment. The statue shows McIndoe and a young airman, who stares wistfully up at the sky because he may never fly again. Martin Jennings oversaw the installation of the statue, and sometimes came into Sackville College during that time, particularly on one day when water was needed urgently for the work and a long hose pipe was connected to the outside tap near the tunnel leading to the Office.

Martin Jennings was commissioned to create the statue of Sir Archibald McIndoe (see cover photo) but he had a personal connection to the pioneering surgeon, too. The father of Martin Jennings had been treated by McIndoe and, as part of his research,



the sculptor was able to see illustrated records of the various stages of his father's treatment at the Queen Victoria Hospital. Drawings were made during the long process of treatment because this was less intrusive for the patient than flash photography. The damaged hands depicted on the young airman may owe much to the sculptor's father. The Initials 'MJ' are visible on the statue.

The statue was unveiled on 9 June 2014 by HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, for whom a reception was held inside Sackville College. Her Royal Highness met the Residents of Sackville College and there are photographs of her visit on display there.

Before creating the portrait of our King for the new coinage, Martin Jennings apparently looked through a bag of old coins dating from the 1930s, given to him by his mother, and found pennies with the heads of King George V and King George VI. He saw that Kings in Britain usually appear uncrowned on coins. He was intrigued to think of those coins being used in the past, particularly in wartime, as if each old penny has a story to tell.

So if you find one of the new 50 pence pieces in your change, remember that there is a connection to the visit of the Princess Royal, and to East Grinstead, 'the town that did not stare' at the patients undergoing radical and complex treatment at the hands of pioneering surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe.

Windmills

Roy Henderson (AboutEG) has kindly submitted this piece, which builds on earlier exploration of the topic of windmills by the late Michael Leppard. Michael relished debate and he was always happy to write further articles in the light of new evidence. This piece is in no sense critical of Michael's findings. It will add to the body of work already carried out on Windmills, stimulate further research and it will encourage readers to draw their own conclusions.

East Grinstead Common Windmills Revisited

We know from documentary sources that at least four windmills have stood, at various times, on the common that formerly occupied much of the land between the town and Felbridge. It is possible that there were others, for which no records exist, as windmills were first built in Sussex in the mid-twelfth century. If so, they are likely to have been insubstantial structures, short-lived and prone to destruction by the elements. However, it is not helpful to speculate on the number, as it is unclear whether a rebuilt mill might be considered new, or the reinstatement of an earlier one.

To some extent this article represents a reprise of the information in 'Windmills on East Grinstead Common' by Michael Leppard in *East Grinstead Society Bulletin* 102, but it is presented with additional material included, and highlights some of the differences in assumptions made in the absence of clear evidence. In particular it considers whether the documentary mention of a piece of land associated with a windmill, should be taken as adequate evidence that a working mill had been in situ at the time. The article by Michael generally reflects the view that it could be, but the alternative view is that if such a windmill had been present, it would probably have been mentioned. This has significance for how the data are interpreted, as for example in the identity of the first known miller on the common.



*East Grinstead Common Windmill c1895.
Photo Credit: The Michael Yates Collection.*

The first record of a windmill on the common is found in Henry Duffield's will of 1523, in which he bequeathed 'the mill standing on the heath' to his son Edward, together with a house and land. The absence of a working mill some time later is implied by the use of the past tense in an entry in a 1564 survey mentioning 'a plat where a windmill stood, in the occupation of Richard Wynson, lying to the west side of Grinstede Common,' and in a boundary survey of 1579 cited by W. H. Hills in his *'History of East Grinstead'*, although Hills mistakenly gives the year as 1559:

'It is to be remembered that there is on ye common or heath one little piece of ground called the Windmill Place, which Henry Duffield purchased to him and his heirs...'

This refers specifically to the name of a piece of ground and is not clear evidence that a mill was extant or active there at the time of the survey, but it does

strongly suggest that one stood there in the past. A 1592 survey mentions 'the site of a windmill whereupon a mill sometime stood.'

The claim that John Wynson, a member of Richard Wynson's family (see above) was 'the first known miller on the site' seems unjustified in the absence of supporting evidence. Likewise, the 1593 sale by Edward Duffield of 'a parcel of land upon the Common of East Grinstead called the Wyndmyll Place' again probably refers just to the land. The statement that 'we have no reason to doubt that a mill was in existence on the site' seems unlikely to be correct.

The 1618 deed cited in the earlier article also refers to a parcel (of land), with the next clear evidence for the presence of a windmill not being until about 1645, when Nicholas Budgin is recorded as having owned it. In 1662 that windmill was described as 'downe and gone'. The absence of evidence should not, of course, be seen as evidence of absence, but there is no clear indication that one existed either earlier or later in the seventeenth century. The suggestion that one was in place again in 1669 is tenuous, and the conclusion that it is likely to have been extant on the basis of re-use of the same wording, and the seeming necessity for a windmill to have been present, seems unwarranted. The area had several watermills more than capable of covering any deficit, and they were generally more powerful and reliable. Brambletye watermill, for example, was recorded in the Domesday survey, and was working until the mid-twentieth century.

The 1718 Stewards' Accounts for East Grinstead record a payment of £1.6s. 8d., 'of John Heaver for a windmill newly erected on East Grinstead Common...'. This is likely to have been the one shown on Budgen's map of 1724. It was still there when Heaver paid land tax for it in 1751, but in 1757 it was destroyed by fire, the Duke of Dorset subsequently leasing 'Land called Windmill Bank' to the miller John Chantler, no doubt to enable rebuilding of the windmill to be undertaken. A Counterpart Lease of 1767 was more specifically for a 'piece of land called Windmill Bank, on the Common called East Grinstead, and corn windmill erected thereon'. The increase in rent for that year is likely to reflect the reinstatement of a working windmill on the site.

Chantler's will of 1779 shows that he also leased an unnamed watermill in the East Grinstead area, perhaps Dunnings Mill, as he was recorded there in the 1750s, and Hazelwick watermill near Three Bridges, too. The process of leasing and using more than one mill, and working different mills on different days, was quite common. On days when the wind's strength was inadequate to power the windmill, there would be enough water in the millpond to carry on the milling process. This also occurred locally between adjacent watermills, Woodcock Mill (also known as Woodcock Hammer and Wire Mill) and the nearby Hedgecourt Mill being worked on alternate days, by the same miller, to allow time for the water in the millponds to be replenished.

The post windmill that Chantler built is probably the one depicted on Figg's map of c. 1816 and on subsequent maps. This mill survived, with some modifications, for around 130 years, before falling into decline and decay, finally being dismantled and sold at auction on the site in 1900. The windmill's decline in its final years is apparent from photographs taken at the time, the condition also being noted by a writer on a journey probably made in 1896 from East Grinstead to Lingfield, via Baldwins Hill and Felcourt, and described in his book of 1898:

'Passing by an old wooden windmill on a height, deserted and left to picturesque decay, with its great outstretched arms standing forth dark and grim and gaunt against the sunny sky, our way suddenly

dipped down and led us through thick woods into a lovely, lonely country of undulating meadowlands, dotted with spreading oaks and shady elms, and bounded by a distance of fir-crowned hills. At one point graceful silver birches bordered our pleasant rural road, which we had all to ourselves, for we met not a soul till we reached the pretty and interesting village of Lingfield.¹

In the earlier article, it was suggested that a reference to a local windmill being severely damaged in the great storm of 1773 might have related to East Grinstead Common mill. It is now known that it referred to the windmill on Cophthorne Common.

There is a possibility that an even earlier East Grinstead windmill stood, not on the Common, but on land taken from one of the portlands behind the High Street, to the south of Judges Close. A literal interpretation of an entry in the Buckhurst Terrier of 1598, normally a reliable and accurate source of information, seems to imply this:

To Architects, Builders, Millwrights & others.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1900

**WINDMILL LANE,
EAST GRINSTEAD**
Close to London Road and St. Mary's Church.

MESSRS

ELLIS & PALMER

Are instructed by Mr. George Simmons, to sell by Auction on the above place and date the whole of the Materials and Machinery of an old

POST WINDMILL
Comprising a quantity of old

SEASONED OAK & OTHER TIMBER

Also the usual running and loose gear, including 4 Sail Sweeps with MASSIVE OAK SHAFING, and 2 Crown Wheels, FRENCH BIRK & PEAK STONES, Flour Dresser, etc., in the following

CATALOGUE.

LOT 1—The Mill Sail Sweeps with the massive oak shafting and 2 crown wheels.
LOT 2—Four 4½ French Burr Floor Stones, pair 4½ Peak honours stones, Flour Dresser, Iron Pulley, Iron Vice, &c.
LOT 3—The old seasoned Oak and other Timber forming the section of the Post Windmill, with brick and timber base, situated in field adjoining Windmill Lane, East Grinstead.

N.B. This Sale offers an exceptional opportunity for securing old and well-seasoned timber, some being of large dimensions, situated close to a hard road and within one mile of the Railway Station. All Lots to be cleared away on or before September 18th, next by the Purchaser, who shall cause no damage to the premises.

SALE WILL COMMENCE AT 3.30 O'CLOCK PRECISELY.
Catalogues may be obtained at the Auctioneers' Offices, London Road, East Grinstead.
F. Mapleden, Printer, Grosvenor Works, High Street, East Grinstead.

'Edward Drew, yeoman, of East Grinstead [sic.] holds by indenture dated 24 Sep, 36 Eliz. for 31 years, 2 ac. of land late enclosed out of the portland, and the windmill field in East Grinstead, lienge [lying] on the South side and adjoining the George...'

The George Inn is now Clarendon House. The location to the rear of the building would have been a prime position for a windmill, standing high on the ridge overlooking the Sussex Weald.

As with so many records, a fair amount of ambiguity is present, and the meaning of words can be open to interpretation. It is also true that archives are more readily accessible these days. The fact that two people looked at the same data and came to different conclusions on some matters is hardly surprising. This is in no way a criticism of Michael Leppard: his more liberal interpretation of the

*Sale notice for the dismantled windmill in 1900...
(About East Grinstead Archive)*

evidence may be correct, and this version may not be. Perhaps the truth lies somewhere in the grey area between. As with most things, what one sees depends on where one stands.

Primary references and resources:

Leppard, M.J. 'Windmills on East Grinstead Common' (East Grinstead Society *Bulletin* 102)

Original references as appended to the MJL's article in EGS *Bulletin* 102, pp. 9-13.

Additional resources:

Will of John Chantler, Miller of East Grinstead, Sussex. The National Archives PROB 11/1004/193

Hissey, James John. *On Southern English Roads* (Bentley, 1896). p. 116.

Shiver Me Timbers

Where there's an old wooden beam, there's often a rumour that it originated from an old ship. This folklore has been repeated time and time again and has ingrained itself into popular culture.

¹ John James Hissey, *On Southern English Roads* ((Bentley, 1898). p. 116.

There are some buildings in the British Isles that do contain ship timbers, but they are incredibly rare. These buildings are always found close to the coastline or a ship breaking yard. The only known possible examples in Sussex are in buildings near the shoreline. The nearest coastline to East Grinstead is approximately 30 miles away. In the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the difficulties of transporting heavy, weathered, salvaged timbers by cart, over hills, through the thickly forested Weald, were neither economical nor practical. This would have been totally unnecessary with the availability of an excellent oak forest so close to the town. The copyholders were permitted timber, upon a request to the lord of the manor, to repair an existing house or build a new one. The timber cut was acquired from the manorial woods.

In East Grinstead, houses were built using locally obtained materials: the local quarry, local brickworks and the nearest available woodland. Felled trees were generally used within a year; green oak was easier to shape (as opposed to hardened ships' timbers). Master carpenters were skilled craftsmen and trees were sourced for their size and shape. Old timber, often as hard as stone, would not have given the desired perfection of construction and would have damaged their precious tools.

The houses in East Grinstead and surrounding areas do, however, contain timbers dismantled from other buildings. Recycled or remodelled timbers are a very common feature in historic buildings. Architectural salvage with the reuse of structural and decorative timber can be found in all types of buildings, large and small.



A decorative dais timber

The presence of empty mortises that once housed pegged tenon joints is an indicator of the reuse or remodelling of a structure.



Empty mortise joints

Curved braces have also been wrongly identified as originating from the hulls of ships.

There are hundreds of public houses that claim to be built from timbers reclaimed from ships involved in the attempted invasion of England, in 1588, by the Spanish Armada. But the vast majority of the Spanish ships lost in 1588 were wrecked on the shores of Scotland and Ireland. These romantic tales lured customers in; they were often believed and over the years have become absorbed within the local oral history. There are numerous houses (even in landlocked areas) that claim to have timbers from naval battles including Nelson's flagship HMS Victory!

The loss of Henry VIII's flagship, *Mary Rose*, in July 1545 immediately led to a failed attempt at salvaging the ship, which lay only 12 metres below the surface of the Solent. A ship that sank whole was nigh on impossible to retrieve, but a ship that was wrecked leaving a trail of debris along a beach could be re-used. There is archival evidence in 1703, of a cyclone off the coast of East Anglia destroying ships anchored offshore and salvaged timbers being used in: *sheds, dovecotes, necessary-houses and fencing*.


Finally, are there any buildings in or around East Grinstead containing ships' timbers? The answer is no; these tales are indicative of the British social identity: we enjoy a good yarn!

By Rosalind Crowther

Architectural Historian and Warden of Sackville College. January 2023.

East Grinstead's Royal Quill Pen Manufacturer

TO THE CURIOUS IN PENS,




PALMER'S
Royal, Portable, and other Pens,
(Suited to Ladies as well as Gentlemen's Hands.)
 SOLD WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, AT THEIR
ROYAL PEN MANUFACTORY, EAST GRINSTEAD;
 THE SOLE INVENTORS OF THE ROYAL PORTABLE PENS.
These PENS from experience have given the most general satisfaction, and
Are now held in Universal Estimation;

Not only in the United Kingdom, but also in the East and West Indies, and on the Continent.
 The peculiar method of Cutting them, and the neat and convenient manner in which the Portable Pens are put up, have produced to the Proprietors many flattering testimonials from the ROYAL FAMILY, and many of the Nobility, and Gentry, of their superior worth and elegance; and the Public may be assured that every possible care will be observed to continue them WORTHY THEIR NOTICE AND PREFERENCE.

LARGE OFFICE PENS OF THE FIRST QUALITY,
And Pens for Drawing, and Ladies fine Writing:
 Also Boxes of various sizes, fitted up with every necessary Article for Writing.

Copies of Three Letters selected from several others.
 "To Mr. PALMER, Postmaster, EAST GRINSTEAD."
 "Lord Pelham desires the Postmaster of East Grinstead will send some more of his Pens, directed to him in Stratton Street.—The last he sent were so much approved by the KING, that it is probable His Majesty will continue to have them for his private use."
 Oct. 22, 1802.

S I R, *Blackheath, February 5th 1805.*
 "The PRINCESS of WALES is pleased with your Pens, and commands me to desire you will send an Hundred to Blackheath, when opportunity offers; and to say, if Her Royal Highness's Name will promote the sale of them, you are at liberty to make use of it."
 I am Sir, your obedient Servant,
 A. HAYMAN, Privy Purse.

D. 2. 1807.  *Phoenix Park, August 31st, 1807.*
 "The Dutchess of Richmond desires Mr. Palmer will send some of his Portable Pens, both for the Duke of Richmond's use and hers, the same as the last, which were very good."

Sold by

It is a little-known fact that East Grinstead once housed the workshop of the Royal Quill Pen maker!

Thomas Palmer carried out his trade from his shop at the end of Middle Row in the early 1800s. The poster opposite (courtesy of the British Museum) gives an indication of how well received Mr Palmer's pens were.

The poster notes: "The peculiar method of Cutting them, and the neat and convenient manner in which the Portable Pens are put up, have produced to the Proprietors many flattering testimonials from the ROYAL FAMILY and many of the Nobility and Gentry...."

Thomas Palmer gained a Royal Warrant for providing pens to the Royal Family.

It is thought that quill pens originated in Seville, Spain, around 600 AD. Their use quickly spread throughout Europe as they produced a finer writing on vellum than the older reed pens used before that time. Many of our most historic documents,

including Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence, were written with a quill pen. While it is true that a patent was issued in 1803 for a metal nib, it wasn't until 1830 that steel-tipped pens became commercially available. Their quality was further enhanced as technology allowed the steel to be tipped with harder metals, such as iridium and osmium, and by 1850 the quill pen was going the way of the Dodo.



But in the Regency era, "quill" was synonymous with "pen" in Great Britain (the Latin word for feather is *penna*). Goose feathers were the most popular, and it is said that the best ones came from Lincolnshire. Only the "flight" feathers are used. A single goose provides about five per wing during a moult, and perhaps 20 during the course of a year. In addition to domestic production, millions of feathers were imported from all over Europe to meet the demand. It is said that the natural curve of a feather, meant that right-handed people favoured ones from the left wing, and vice versa (because a writer does not want the feather to curve over the writing hand and obscure the line of sight to the paper).



A freshly plucked Regency feather was not immediately ready for its first dip into ink. It required an elaborate process by a quill dresser to turn it into a reliable writing instrument. Though tough, the barrel of an untreated feather is too flexible for writing. There's also a membrane inside it that needs to be removed in order for the finished pen to function more efficiently. So the quills were plunged into hot sand—a process called "*quill dutching*", as it is believed to have originated in Holland. This dries up the inner membrane, allowing it to be removed. It also hardens the barrel. For higher quality pens, the process was repeated several times.

Then it was on to a bath in diluted *aqua fortis* (known today as nitric acid). This gave them a uniform yellowish colour and made them easier to split. The quills were then shipped in bulk to stationery stores around the country. It was the stationer who would hire a pen cutter to turn a dressed quill into a pen. A good cutter could prepare about 600 pens per day. First comes a steeply angled cut to put a basic point on the quill. A vertical cut of perhaps 3/8 inch is added to give flexibility, and then the point is trimmed straight across and tapered to a fine writing point.

Swan feathers are larger and stronger than goose feathers. Their points tend to be broader, so they were used when large letters were required. Crow feathers became the pen of choice for ladies during the era because their smaller barrel tapers to a very fine point, which suited the style of tiny handwriting. They were also popular with artists and mapmakers for the fineness of their line.

Thomas Palmer came to East Grinstead as a schoolmaster in 1775, later transferring the school to his home at 51 High Street. By that time, he had opened a shop there, specialising in stationery and quill pen manufacture. In 1781 he became postmaster and by 1794 was operating as East Grinstead's first known printer.

Thomas Palmer's shop at the east end of Middle Row, showing the 'quill pen' windows.



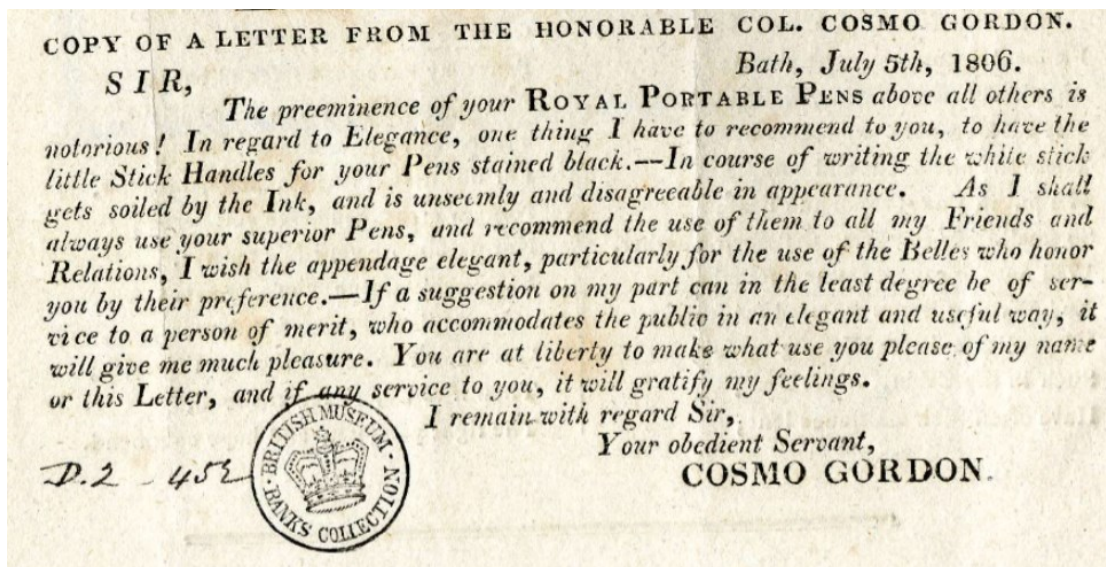
Photo around 1862 courtesy of East Grinstead Museum



12 Middle Row 2018

He was assisted in the quill manufacturing business by his son, also called Thomas, and later by Thomas Cramp, the founder of the temperance movement in East Grinstead. Three generations of Palmers ran the stationers' shop at No 12 Middle Row and the building even had its windows shaped like quill pen nibs. The windows were later removed when tailor W J S Mann occupied the shop in the late 1800s, but the decorative diamond shaped motif is still there today.

A fascinating article in the [East Grinstead] *Observer* by Cecily Webster, in 1975, shows that a Mr Warner was a resident at Sackville College in 1963, when the Queen Mother visited. He showed her photographs of her previous visit in 1946 'which she looked at closely'. The article then claims that quill pens were invented in East Grinstead – an early case of False News!! Or is it? The British Museum image at the start of this article records that Palmer and Sons were “.... the sole inventors of the **Royal Portable Pens**”.



However this extract from “Fountain Pen History” by George Pavalenko adds even more mystery to the subject:

“Joseph Bramah was already selling his “quill nibs” in the early 1800s, which he called “fragment forms” in his 1809 British patent no. 3,260. These quill slip nibs were the precursors of steel slip nibs. A quill’s shaft was split in half lengthwise and then four or five nibs were made from each half of the shaft. These semi-cylindrical nibs had to be slipped into a curved slot in the end of a pen holder, in the same manner that steel slip nibs later were, thus leading Knight to say, as mentioned above, “They were perhaps the first nibs, the progenitors of a host of steel, gold, and other nibs”. The article titled “Pen” in the 1962 Encyclopaedia Britannica states that it was Bramah’s invention that “first familiarized the public with the appearance and use of the nib slipped into a holder”, but Finlay cites an even earlier source. He credits Thomas Palmer with producing such nibs in 1806, cut by hand with a knife, but he does credit Bramah with producing the first quill nibs with the aid of a machine.”

Another factoid, (I have no reason to doubt this one) is that even with the use of steel pens growing in the early 1800s, the production of quills had been increasing year by year so that the British geese could not produce enough (only five feathers on each wing are suitable). So even by 1835 incredibly, 20 million feathers a year were imported from Russia and Poland!!

By Robin Whalley, April 2023.

[*Editor*] In an article in the *Bulletin* for January 1970, G.M. Smart suggested that William [sic] Palmer 'bookseller, stationer and pen cutter to the Royal family' or his ancestors may have acquired his warrant 'perhaps by filling some emergency epistolary need of the Sovereign when changing horses at the adjacent hostelry'. Michael Leppard found that the Royal warrant was used by Thomas Palmer from 1797 and thought this a good explanation.

The Palmer Family

Several generations of the Palmer family are buried in an elaborate tomb with an urn on top, at the southwest corner of St Swithun's church.

At the east end: Beneath this tomb are deposited the remains of Mr William Palmer, born 16 Feb 1784 Died 26 May 1861.

South side: Beneath this tomb are deposited the remains of Mr Thomas Palmer. Born 17 Nov. 1751 Died 13 Dec. 1821. Also Elizabeth his wife. Born 28 Feb. 1746 Died 26 June 1833.

West end: near this tomb are deposited the remains of Thomas Palmer Late Warden of Sackville College. Born 24 Sep. 1775. Died 4 Dec. 1844. Also Harriet his wife. Born [sic] 2 Jun 1786 Died 15 Jul. 1845. And of Henry Palmer son of the above Born 3 Mch 1814 Died 12 Mch 1830.

Thomas Palmer (1751-1821) was the quill maker, and **Thomas Palmer (1775-1844)**, was the **Warden of Sackville College** from 1813-44. We do not know much about him, but he persuaded the Patron, the Duke of Dorset, to appoint inmates of the College who could occupy vacant rooms without receiving the Sackville pension. He advised the Duke of Dorset that repairs over the previous 20 years had cost £13. During his wardenship the present Common Room was used as a schoolroom and a new doorway was constructed so that pupils did not have to enter through the quadrangle. The Common Room was also used for the elections of MPs and bailiffs and a £10 fee was charged. This practice was discontinued in 1832- the year of the Great Reform Act.

Palmer also reported that the Well was over 60 feet deep and some of the Collegians were too infirm to draw their own water. (This may have been when a pump was installed).

(with thanks to the compilers of the Notes for Sackville College Guides: Mr & Mrs G. Edwards, Mrs A. Humphries and the late Mrs Elke Wagstaffe).

John Mason Neale, who became Warden in 1846, employed a porter, William Wren, whose duties probably included drawing buckets of water for all the residents, daily. Neale also had the well house built over the well: designed by William Butterfield, it replaced 'an unsightly pump'.

Mr Warner

Robin Whalley's article on Thomas Palmer and quill pens mentions Mr Thomas Frank Warner, a resident at Sackville College who once had the good fortune to win the Pools. Despite winning £1,500, which was a huge sum at the time (c.1950) Mr Warner stayed on at Sackville College and became the Senior Brother.



An (undated) article in the East Grinstead Observer recorded

When an 'Observer' reporter called at the College to congratulate him on his good fortune, he found Mr Warner as unperturbed as if nothing unusual had happened. He said he was not even excited when he checked his coupon and found an all-correct line, or even when he opened a letter on Wednesday morning last week and found a cheque for £1,500 inside it.

Asked what plans he had for the future, Mr Warner, who has never been happier in his life than since living at the College said simply: 'I want to help some of my old friends who have been good to me. Money means nothing to me'. He also wants to be of a little assistance to some of his friends inside the College, the brothers and sisters who, in the twilight of their lives, live together as a happy community in tranquil old-world surroundings.

With only the undated article and the photograph with a quill pen to go on, Graham Edwards carried out research into Mr Warner.

The Pools Winning Sackville College Resident

Thomas Frank Warner was born in East Grinstead on 8 August 1872 and baptised in St Swithun's on 29 September. His parents were Charles and Elizabeth Warner.

His father, Charles Warner, was born in 1835 in Newington, then in Surrey. Charles was apprenticed to his father, William, who was a confectioner. By April 1861, Charles, now a journeyman confectioner, was lodging in Horsham. Later that year, he married Elizabeth Allwork and they lived in Horsham, where they had four children. The family moved to East Grinstead and, in 1871, were living in 11 & 12 Ship Street, where they had a confectionery business. After Thomas was born, they had three more children. Thomas probably helped in his father's shop once he had left school. However, there was a dramatic change in the family's life as Charles was admitted to the East Grinstead Union Workhouse before 1901 (presumably, he had some illness since it seems unlikely that he was destitute). His wife moved into a cottage in Imberhorne Lane with her eldest son, Harry, and his wife. Thomas moved into lodgings in Camden Town and took a job as a machinist. He didn't continue with this work as, in 1911 and still living in Camden Town, he gave his occupation as a self-employed confectioner.

The next record, I could find of Thomas was in 1939 when he had returned to East Grinstead and was lodging in 69, Queens Road and his occupation was given as "Nurse". He was still unmarried.

As Thomas was reported to be 78 when he won the pools, this would have happened in about 1950. It seems most likely, therefore, that he was resident at Sackville College when Queen Elizabeth visited in 1946. (According to the Bank of England's website, £1,500 in 1950 would be equivalent to £50,000 now!)

Thomas died in Sackville College on 28 January 1966 at the age of 93. His occupation was recorded as "Male nurse (Retired)". His death was registered by Mr B E Salmon, who lived at 28 Queens Road, East Grinstead. Thomas's body was to be cremated.

Graham Edwards 29 Mar 2021

Thank you to Graham for this fascinating glimpse of a life and for his extensive research work to bring Mr Warner out of the shadows. Mr Warner clearly met Queen Elizabeth twice, in 1946 when she first visited Sackville College, and again in 1963, when she returned as the Queen Mother.

Broadleys



BROADLEYS
SINCE 1896

This article has been kindly shared by Mrs Olwen Broadley and it is a speech written by John Broadley (1932-1997) which he gave to Rotary back in the 1980's.

(John was the father of the present owner, Simon Broadley. We are very grateful to the Broadley family for sharing the history of their business through the words of the late Mr Broadley).

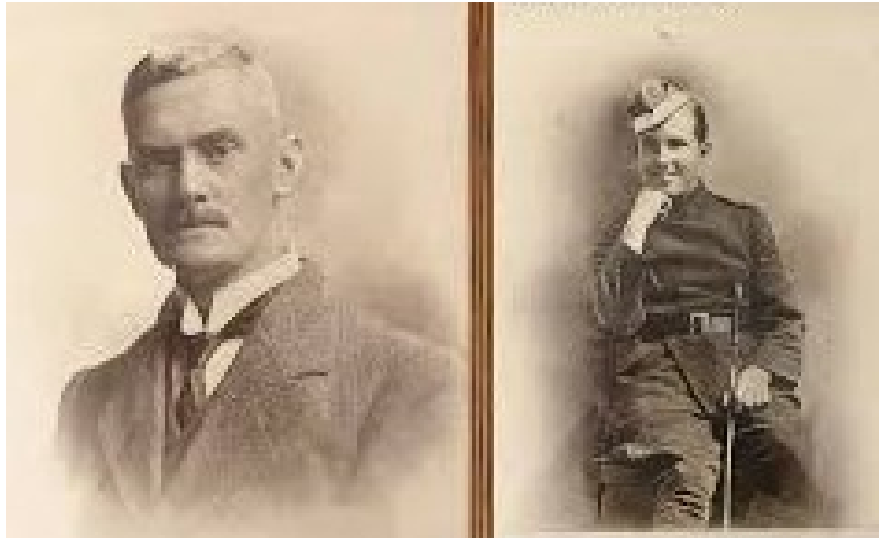
'Once upon a time there was a very thrifty parson, so thrifty that he never in his life bought a daily paper but instead went to the public library.



The Rev. Benjamin Broadley was a Methodist minister and Chaplain of the Fleet in Malta and India. Benjamin was married to Charlotte Harrison; they had several sons but we are interested mainly about two: John Broadley and George Herbert Broadley, my grandfather.

John Broadley had been apprenticed to a tailor and cutter. George had served some form of outfitting apprenticeship, I believe with John Lewis.

In 1893 their mother, Charlotte, who had wealth of her own, gave these two brothers £500 each to set up their own tailoring business which they did in Bromley High Street.



George Herbert Broadley

Thomas Harding Broadley

By 1896 they were established and were sufficiently successful that they decided to split up. George stood on Victoria Railway Station wondering where he should open his own business. On a noticeboard, he saw East Grinstead advertised, which he thought would be a good place to open a business, so he followed his intuition and caught a train there. After seeing a 'To Let' board, my grandfather opened a shop in the High Street, East Grinstead, in part of the same building we still occupy today.

In about 1910 he opened his second business in the Carfax, Horsham, and soon after that another business in the Broadway in Haywards Heath.

My father, who was very clever at school, had won a scholarship to the City of London School and intended to join the navy as a career. Then, in 1915, his father begged George to join him in the business since staff were already becoming difficult to find, possibly due to World War 1.

The Horsham business suffered when the cattle market was re-sited and the following year it was sold. Fairly late in the 1914-1918 War, my grandfather was bought a 'War Bond' and within three months he had a win and received, I believe, about £1000 and started looking for another business.

There was a very successful business called Coomers in Eastbourne, but due to the war and lack of staff, old Coomber was 'past it'. He had a busy shop with a popular trade and reckoned to turnover his stock seven times each year. So my Grandfather thought this would be a good investment and bought the shop and my father was duly installed to manage the Eastbourne branch.

Now 1919 was a very hot summer and Old Coomber lived in the flat above the shop. All that long summer he lounged in a deck chair on the flat roof of his flat. He grew stronger and fitter and the years fell off him. In the Autumn he approached my Grandfather and asked to work in the shop, so he became one of my father's employees. A few weeks later he wanted to buy his business back again. My Grandfather came down to Eastbourne and took my father out for a coffee:

'Old Coomber wants his business back again, if we don't let him it will kill him'.

He offered ten times what we paid him for it. My Father became an employee at Coomers until 1923, when he saw that Jos. Edwards at 157 Church Road, Hove (south-west corner of George Street) was for sale. My Grandfather told my father that Jos. Edwards was a well-established business and if he was interested, he should go and ask the price which would be fair, but 'don't ask to see the books-they will be at the auditors' (though in fact there weren't any!).

So in 1923 Broadleys established its Hove branch, which traded as Jos. Edwards until 1956, when we decided to use the East Grinstead name 'Broadley Bros'.

To complete the ancient history, the business in Haywards Heath was forced out of family control in 1926, when my Grandfather died. My Grandfather had made Mr Moon, his manager at Haywards Heath, a quarter partner and as a surviving partner he had the option to purchase. My Grandfather was a younger man than Moon, but in 1925 had cancer of the throat. He travelled up to Liverpool for a new lead treatment and the cancer was cured, but in 1926 he died, aged 56, of lead poisoning. The Haywards Heath branch passed out of family control and until the late 80's was still in business.

So now in 1938/39, his son George, my father, was in overall charge of the business in East Grinstead. In 1949 George bought the adjoining premises 34-36 High Street, East Grinstead and when he died in 1964, Tom, my elder brother, and I took over the running of the business.

Tom died in 1971 from a heart attack at the age of 42, so I took sole charge of the businesses and bought the freehold of 38-40 High Street from the Percy Dixon trust. The two branches of the family that had founded the family business in the 1890s now over the following many decades closed the various branches due to family deaths'.

To the Present Day

In 1997 Simon Broadley took over the running of the East Grinstead store, after the death of his father, John Broadley (1932-97). Simon's cousin, Christopher Broadley, eldest son of Tom, was in charge of the Hove shop until 2001 when the shop was closed.

So in 2023 Simon and son Alex continue to operate our East Grinstead branch, where it all began in 1896, and lease the remaining two properties, Hove and Portslade. As a business we have changed substantially over the last few years, and now offer more designer brands.

By Olwen Broadley. Pictures kindly supplied by the Broadley Family.

The Tree in St Swithun's Churchyard

The Cedar tree that used to stand very near the present Church Hall became diseased and had to be felled in January this year. I have not so far found any pictures of



the Church showing the Cedar tree in its heyday. Originally it would not have been planted so close to the (previous) Church Hall, nor perhaps so close to those graves and monuments. An approximate count of the tree rings (by us non experts!) gave a figure of a hundred or more, so the tree may date back to the early years of the twentieth century.

Nick Peaty took these photographs and I am grateful to him for permission to share them here.

Anniversaries in East Grinstead

9 July 1943 The Whitehall Bombing

On 9 July 1943 a German Dornier 217 aircraft crossed the Sussex coast bound for London. At 5.05pm the air raid siren sounded in East Grinstead. A notice went up on the screen at the Whitehall Cinema in East Grinstead. Few of the audience of 184, who were mostly children, watching a Hopalong Cassidy film, took much notice.

One plane became separated from the others, circled East Grinstead and dropped bombs which hit the cinema, the High Street and the London Road. As far as I know, the plane has never been identified. The reason for dropping the bombs is unknown: possible explanations have included mistaking the Queen Victoria Hospital for a military site.

As a result of the raid 108 people were killed and 235 injured. This was the largest loss of civilian life in any air raid in Sussex.

Most of those who were killed were buried in Mount Noddy cemetery. There are a few Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones for Forces personnel there. Some, who were perhaps visiting East Grinstead for treatment at the hospital, rather than being resident here, could not be identified.

There is a memorial in St Swithun's church to some of those killed. The most complete list of names is in East Court. I have heard of a farmer who, because it was a wet day, came into the town to buy a part for a machine, and was killed. Once an American came into the church to see the memorial because several members of his family had been killed at the cinema that day. Clergy and town councillors continue to honour the victims every year.

In 1944, on 12 July, a VI bomb was dropped and killed a further 3 people.

See :

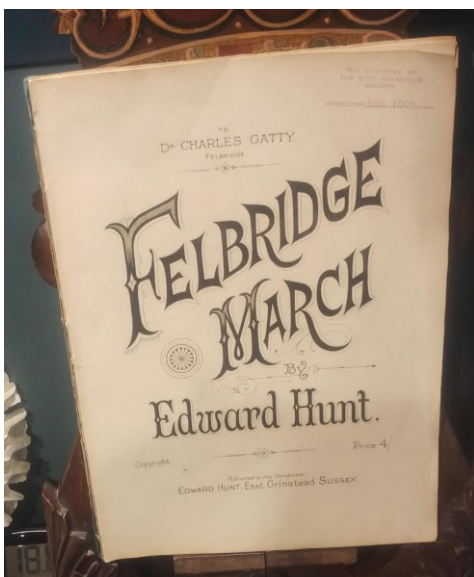
- <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Sussex/EastGrinsteadWW2Civilian.html>
- <https://spartacus-educational.com/2WWwhitehall.htm>
- <https://www.sainsburyarchive.org.uk/story/stories/bomb-damage-at-east-grinstead>

From the Archives

In *The Bulletin* of January 1970, Michael Leppard had a section called **Vandals' Notes**.

'Who removed the crest from the drinking fountain in the High Street [and] the sculpted feathers of the town's ancient coat of arms? The loss was noticed in July 1969'.

He also observed: Can anyone now read the inscription at the bottom of Blackwell Hollow? Is there even a record of what it once said?



Michael answered his own question in an article in the local paper in 1988, after the Great Storm of 1987 caused many trees to fall across that road. Dr Gatty of Felbridge bought the banks of the Hollow and presented them to the town in 1894 to forestall development of the area. A plaque, now illegible and impossible to find, was installed at the bottom of the Hollow in 1913, to commemorate his generosity.

Dr Gatty of Felbridge – photo of the Felbridge March by Edward Hunt, dedicated to Dr Gatty, displayed at East Grinstead Museum.