



# SNODLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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[www.snodlandhistory.org.uk](http://www.snodlandhistory.org.uk)

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## Correspondence

Correspondence and enquiries about the Society (including applications for membership) should be addressed to

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or to the Secretary:

Mr. Neil Miners, 13 Gorham Close, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EZ; e-mail: [neilminers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:neilminers@yahoo.co.uk)

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the present season became due on 1st September 2004. They remain at the same rates as before: £5 individuals (£2.50 aged 14-17); £7.50 joint adult membership; £10 family; £50 corporate. Cheques (payable to Snodland Historical Society) should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. Brian Tansley, 11 Godden Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5HF, or given to him at a Society meeting. Membership will cease if a subscription remains unpaid by 1 February 2005.

## Society Meetings

Devonshire Rooms, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Free to members. Visitors welcome at £1 per meeting.

**26 January 2005.** Bob Ratcliffe returns to give another of his much-enjoyed illustrated talks, this time about Barges and Paddle Steamers on the Medway.

**2 March 2005.** Philip Lawrence will give the second of his two related talks on 'A Kentish parish in the 1870's - Cliffe at Hoo'.

**6 April 2005.** A demonstration and slide-show about life in the Iron Age by the 'Cantiaci' Iron

Age Living History group. 'The group aim to represent life as it may have been from around 80 BC to the Roman conquest of 43 AD. Cantiaci members, wearing archaeologically correct clothing, demonstrate iron age crafts including metalworking, jewellery, spinning, weaving, natural dyeing, prehistoric cooking, basketry and pottery.'

**4 May 2005.** Lt. Col. Mike Martin, late of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, will give a talk on 'The history of the Victoria Cross and its many anomalies'.

## Advance notice of other meetings

**Civic Centre, Strood: Saturday, 30 April 2005: Local and Family History Open Day.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (This is the weekend of the Sweeps Festival.) Free entrance. Many local history societies will be present, as will the Kent Family History Society. We will have a stall and display.

**Maidstone Museum: Saturday, 29 October 2005: The History and Archaeology Show.** Following the success of the first show, another which draws exhibitors and societies from all over Kent. We will have a stall. Free entrance.

## Pamphlet No. 23

**A Stroll around All Saints Church, Snodland,** by Christopher Howick is now available: 30 pp., illustrated, £2. All profits from the sale of this pamphlet are being given to the fund of the 'Friends of All Saints', which contributes solely to the maintenance of the fabric and insurance costs of this beautiful building. The text takes into account some new findings from the notebooks of Henry Dampier Phelps (see below!)

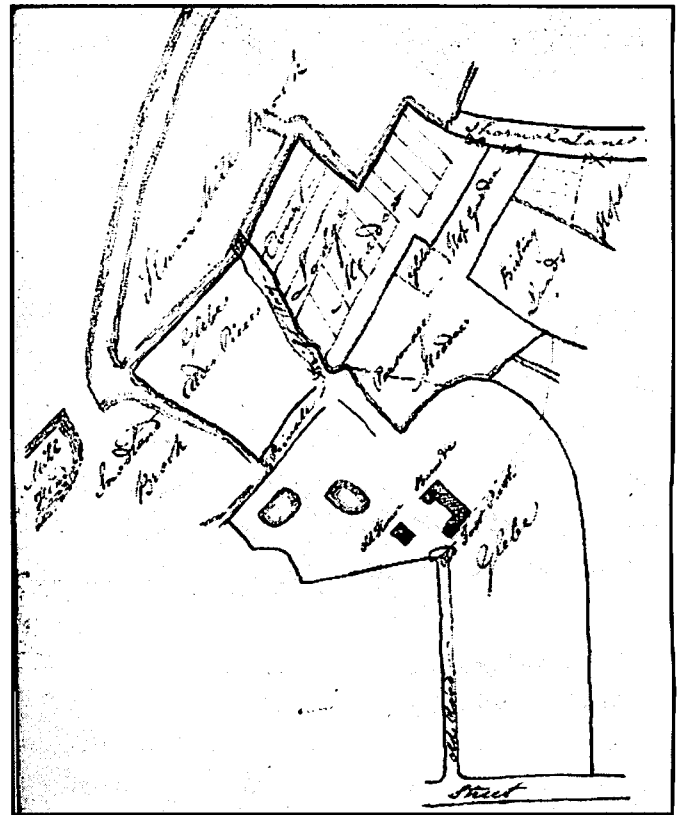
## A treasure-trove of Snodland documents

As many members already know, in September the Society was alerted to a group of Snodland documents on sale in a Tonbridge bookshop and advertised via the Internet. The description showed they were important and it was decided to buy them, even though the cost of £1,000 was very high. We are very grateful to Snodland Town Council for subsequently granting £250 towards the cost. (We have also applied to the Snodland Partnership for a similar amount.) It would appear that they were originally part of the archive once held at the Rectory, but had disappeared by 1961, when this was catalogued by the Kent Archives Service. One suspects that the culprit was Rev. A. E. Speers (Rector 1947-1954), since some years ago another group of parish documents was returned from him through clergy contacts and were placed with Snodland records in the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre. Because we have paid for them, we will retain the new batch at the Museum. The writings of Rev. Charles de Rocfort Wall indicate that he had seen them, but he makes little reference to their contents.

Most important are three notebooks compiled by Rev. Henry Dampier Phelps, Rector 1804-1865. The largest of them includes a detailed schedule of tithes compiled for him by a William Leonard in 1804 (to show the Rector what monies were due to him from this source). Further study and comparisons with other tithe lists will be needed before we can make sensible use of this material, but we will hope to publish our findings in due course. The rest of the text of the notebooks is being published in three small pamphlets, entitled **Notes on Snodland by Henry Dampier Phelps, Rector 1804-1865**, available from January 2005 at £1 each.

**Pamphlet No. 24: Vol. I: All Saints Church and Churchyard.** Contents: the path to the ferry; church windows; church seating; repairs and alterations made by Phelps; Rector's expences; removal of the market cross to the churchyard; some historical notes about the church.

**Pamphlet No. 25: Vol II: Rights of Way,**



*Phelps's sketch-map of the Brook, part of his evidence about rights of way. The building shown is apparently the old rectory, vacated for the new one he built in 1814.*

**Boundary, Rules for the Brook, Charities.** Contents: correspondence and sketch-map relating to the glebe and other land on Snodland Brook; the boundary marks at 13 June 1817 (mostly on trees!), with memories of some of them by parishioners; rules for the management of the Brook, 23 June 1817; copy of the commission's case against Brett Netter for not paying the Godden charity money, 11 April 1667 (the original document is now in the Museum); notes on May's charity; list of parish books, 1818.

**Pamphlet No. 26: Vol. III: History, Flora and Fauna.** Contents: historical notes on Snodland, largely gleaned from existing published histories: Domesday Book, Philipot, Hasted (see SHS Pamphlet No. 6), but with various additional notes by Phelps; lists of fossils, flora and fauna.

Other documents are:

The Charity Commissioners' document of 15 January 1868, following the sale of land in order

to rebuild the National Schools and revise the terms of May's charity.

A sworn statement by Edward Hawkes concerning the ownership of part of the land sold in aid of the National Schools: 20 July 1867.

Sale of a parcel of land from John May's Charity to Arthur Joslen.

Paper in Phelps's hand on the income of the Master of the School.

Two drafts of a letter in Phelps's hand about the footpath through the churchyard, duplicating the one in Notebook A.

A letter dated 11 March 1870 from George Lewthwaite of Adel, near Leeds, enquiring about the crucifixion on the pillar in All Saints which he had read about in the [Manchester] 'Guardian'.

A letter dated 8 December 1870 (signature illegible) on Kent Archaeological Society notepaper and from Maidstone Museum, concerning the identity of the figures in the 'Palmer' window in All Saints.

### Waghorn

*Answers  
Claremont  
Aug 8 1875  
Waghorn  
The date of  
my health has  
been very much  
improved since  
the departure of  
the Lieutenant  
General's presence  
one from attending  
to any further business  
but as my wife has  
written me and is  
so far as I am  
concerned, by  
my health and  
cooperation with  
a little more  
activity, I may be  
able to do more  
than  
the new campaign  
entirely, which  
by the way, I  
should be glad  
to hear of.*

The increasing availability of library catalogues on the Internet has led to further discoveries of documents concerning Waghorn. We are acquiring copies as far as possible to add to our Waghorn archive. (a) Nottingham University has a fine group among the papers of Lord William Bentinck, one time Governor General of India, and has kindly supplied photocopies. I thought Waghorn's usual hurried scrawl was difficult to read until I came across a note from

Bentinck on one of Waghorn's letters (reproduced here)! It states that he can't attend to any public business since he is going abroad to restore his health (the note is written at the 'Clarendon Hotel' (presumably Gravesend) to Waghorn at Snodland. (b) Two letters from Waghorn to Richard Cobden, MP, in 1848. (Photocopies supplied by West Sussex Record Office). (c) Southampton University is microfilming for us three of Waghorn's pamphlets, including one previously unknown, published in Liverpool in 1835. (d) our member Graham Crouch has been very helpful in acquiring copies of pages from *The Times* which mention Waghorn. Still to be explored are (i) a book by Agnes E. Waghorn: *The Pioneer of the short and rapid route to India and the East* (Royal Geographical Society Library), not known anywhere else; (ii) *Lieutenant Waghorn's lecture at Bath, by invitation of General J. S. Wood, Lieutenant-General of the Tower* (National Maritime Museum); also documents at NMM relating to Waghorn and the P & O Company. I was delighted to find the full text of Emma Roberts' *Notes of an overland journey through France and Egypt to Bombay, London, 1841* on the Internet at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org). This is a fine account of the trip she made in 1839 and mentions the help she received from Waghorn—and more particularly Mrs Waghorn, who recommended a particular servant and supplied beds and 'a very handsome canteen', the first real evidence that Harriet Waghorn accompanied her husband to Egypt and assisted him there. I have printed chapters III to VII which cover the journey between Marseilles and Aden.

As a contributor, I have had the privilege of three months' free access to the on-line *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Waghorn's entry is very disappointing and I have written to the editor to point out a number of errors and omissions. The contributor unfortunately relied on Margery Sankey's book instead of original sources, which led to the problems. I am assured (and believe) that my corrections will be investigated and the on-line version will be amended as appropriate. At £7,500 the printed



Numbered 123, this is an early postcard of Hambrook Brothers ('HB's), in conjunction with the as yet unidentified firm of 'F&L'.

version will have to remain as it is!

### Hambrook

2004 sees the hundredth anniversary of the first postcards of Snodland issued by Arthur Nethersole Hambrook, so we have mounted an exhibition in the Museum to commemorate the event. A. N. Hambrook does not appear in the 1901 census here, but had arrived by the time Kelly's 1903 Directory was issued. In the early years he had rivals like William Bateman and Mason & Sons and other photographers in local parishes, but his work continued for some fifty years. The last known prints are in the W.I. scrap-book of 1955, made from earlier issues. Hambrook had a printing works in May Street which supplied all kinds of local requirements. His brother Percy, coachman to the Hook family, lived in the coachman's house opposite 'Veles' and, at least in later years, the postcards were stored there. Regrettably, but understandably, all the plates and materials were destroyed about fifty years ago. Apart from the Snodland views, it appears that 'Hambrook Brothers' produced a vast series of pictures of Kent scenes.

At the Society's meeting on 1 December, we viewed a selection of both series. It is becoming clear that Hambrooks were major photographers of Kent scenes and we will endeavour to collect as many images and as much information as we can. After the meeting it was suggested that those

members who attend postcard fairs and the like could be armed with a list of the numbered Hambrook postcards which we already have, so as to help build the collection by filling the gaps. (We can scan/print the pictures for the Museum.) I will happily supply such a list to anyone who is interested, either by post or e-mail, and it can be revised and re-issued from time to time.

So far as the Snodland pictures are concerned, we are trying to catalogue and date them. We would be grateful for any information about Hambrook cards held privately so that

1. we can add images not in our collection
2. record any dates shown on the back of used cards
3. record the design on the back of each card
4. note the format of the captions

Again copies can be made for the Museum.

I meant at the time to thank the ladies who so kindly did the catering at the December 1st meeting. Our warmest thanks to Mrs. Brenda Ashbee, Mrs Janette Capon, Mrs Val Fiddes, Mrs. Julia Howe, Mrs Jeanne Pennington, Mrs Sue Tansley for providing all the refreshments, not forgetting the washing-up.

### Web-sites

The burgeoning Internet makes it increasingly difficult to keep up with local history. Members might be glad of a few addresses of particular interest to us.

[www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk) = Kent Archaeological Society. 'Research' gives access to lists of Visual Records, Monumental Inscriptions, Tithe schedules, Wills.

[www.kentarchaeology.ac.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.ac.uk) = Kent Archaeological Society: articles on Kent history on-line (including our pamphlet 19 on early papermakers).

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr) = National Monuments Record

[www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk) = listed buildings

[www.cvma.ac.uk](http://www.cvma.ac.uk) = stained glass in England (includes some of the lost glass from All Saints as well as present windows)

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue> = National Monuments Record excavation index

[www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk) = details of museums around the country, including ours.