

The Cole Collection



CC006

The “Crooked Billet” Public House, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey.

A snapshot of Edwardian life with a lady enjoying a bike ride, a gentleman on his gig and a sailor seeing if the pub is open.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC007

The “Crown and the Anchor” Public House on Sheerness seafront.

A busy scene on Sheerness sea front with ladies promenading, Thames barges tied up along side the jetty and dockers operating a steam driven crane.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC014

Trams crossing the defensive moat to Blue Town and the dockyard, Sheerness.

A scene that is now much changed with the guard house and barracks demolished many years ago. Naval Terrace and the church, which can be seen in the distance, still survive today.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.

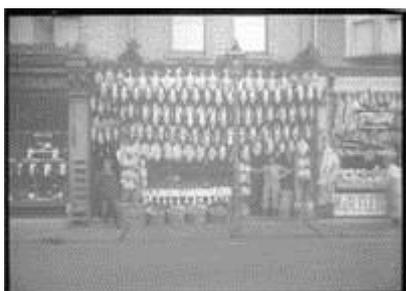


CC019

The Catholic Church on the seafront, Sheerness.

The photographer may have been trying to record the architectural splendour of the Catholic Church, but instead has captured a rare, un posed and relaxed image of Edwardian children at play.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC020

Shops in Sheerness.

The owners of a poulterers shop with their produce, either in Blue Town or in Sheerness High St. Both the poultry shop and the neighbouring butcher's shop think nothing of hanging their wares in the open on their shop fronts.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC022

The “Old House at Home” Public House at Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey.

This scene of fishermen drying their nets in Queenborough is a little unusual in that the only the elderly man on the right of the group is looking at the camera. Although not in its infancy at this time, a camera was still novel enough to get people’s attention.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC030

Children outside Holy Trinity Church, Sheerness.

Children in their Sunday best pose for the camera outside Holy Trinity church in Sheerness. The headless boy in the background must have moved as the image was being taken.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC036

A Horse Drawn Hearse.

The Victorians turned mourning and funerals into a high art and this fine example of a hearse and pair may have been taken outside one of the large houses in Sheerness Dockyard.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC037

A Horse-Drawn Carriage.

A nice example of a single horse and Landau photographed on a very empty road in Queenborough. The fact that the driver is well wrapped up in his rug and the roof is folded up suggests a cold winter’s day. Photographed in Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey

c.1890 Photographer Unknown.



CC038

A beach scene, Sheerness.

There was often little spare time for Victorian and Edwardian people to enjoy themselves and more often very little spare money. However the beach was free and easily accessible making it a popular leisure destination.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC042
A paddle steamer, Sheerness.

Pleasure boat trips were very popular in the Victorian and Edwardian periods with people enjoying trips up the Thames and around the Kent coast. The pier and cranes in the background is a reminder that Sheerness was a large and busy port.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC044
A procession, “Mafeking Relieved”, Sheerness.

A scene that was much photographed in towns all over the country. The relief of the besieged South African town Mafeking by British forces during the Boer war led to national public celebrations.

1901 Photographer Unknown.



CC051
A busy scene along the seafront at Dover.

A scene that would not be too out of place today with ladies taking the air, mothers pushing babies in prams and fishermen working on their boats. Note the two men to the right of the image who are hand winching their boat onto the beach.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC052
Fire damage at Queenborough pier, Isle of Sheppey.

With so many buildings being made of wood and energy being supplied by coal fired steam power, industrial fires were a constant threat. This fire completely destroyed Queenborough pier in only a few hours.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC054
Sea on Land

Fairs were regular feature in Victorian and Edwardian life and this particular travelling fair was themed as “Sea on Land”, with roundabouts and swing boats. Even for those who couldn’t afford the rides, the fair was still an enjoyable spectacle.

c.1890 Photographer Unknown.



CC057

A boy and dog outside a shop.

This portrait of a boy and his dog is remarkable not only because the image is so sharp and the detail so clear, but also because it was still unusual at this time to photograph ordinary people doing ordinary things.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC058

6d Row Out

If one couldn't afford to take the family out on a pleasure steamer then there was always the possibility of a row around the shore, courtesy of the local Sheerness fishermen.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC060

A young Victorian girl in a patio garden.

What makes this image so special is the simple fact that the little girl is smiling. Edwardian and Victorian photography was seen as a serious business and consequently smiles are very rare.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC067

A tram in Sheerness.

The tram moving past the clock tower has caught the attention of a number of small boys and the camera has obviously caught the attention of the tram driver who is standing very erect. The shop in the left background is probably one of the butcher's shops owned by the Penny family.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC070

A tram in the High St, Sheerness

The tram is driving past the premises of Samuel Cole who is listed in the Kelly's directory of 1895 as a "Printer, stationer, fancy dealer, and proprietor of the Sheerness times and registrar of marriages." Most importantly it was Mr Cole who commissioned all of the Isle of Sheppey photographs on display to use in his newspaper and to sell as postcards.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC074
The "Ship on Shore" Public House, Isle of Sheppey.

This pub, which can still be seen today, was partially constructed from barrels of cement that had been lost in a shipwreck. Once the cement had gone hard the barrels made perfect building blocks.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC081
Bethel Chapel, Sheerness.

This is one of the earliest images from the Cole collection and was possibly taken in the 1880's. Although it is a posed photograph it is a very interesting portrait of ordinary working people of the time. The Bethel chapel looks small, but it actually could seat five hundred people.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



CC083
Terraced Houses.

This Family were probably photographed outside their home in the 1880's or 1890's. The high wall to the front of the houses and the canons to the side suggest that this image was actually taken inside Sheerness docks.

c.1890 Photographer Unknown.



CC084
Alexandra Terrace on the seafront, Sheerness.

There is quite a lot of interest to see in this image. There is the Victorian Alexandra Terrace, curious children in the foreground and men with handcarts in the distance. Interestingly you can also see the photographer cast in shadow on the bottom left.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC087
Salem Chapel, Sheerness.

Cameras were still rare enough at this time to draw a crowd and the presence of the spectators may have ruined an intended shot of the chapel but it has left us with a remarkable early record of ordinary people.

c.1880s Photographer Unknown.



CC096
Eastchurch Church, Isle of Sheppey

An early photograph of the church at Eastchurch. Taken in the 1880's there is the usual gaggle of small children keen to be in the picture. The church was built in the fifteenth century and may well have been visited by King Henry VIII when he visited his friend Sir Thomas Cheyney at nearby Shurland Hall.

c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC097
The guardroom, Sheerness.

The guard room at the entrance to Sheerness docks photographed at the end of the nineteenth century. The guard has been called to attention for the benefit of the photographer. Note the bollards at the side of the road which are old cannons.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC104
View of Sheerness.

This image taken from the vantage point of the water tower provides a superb panorama of Victorian Sheerness, looking out towards the docks and the tall ships tied up in the docks.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC105
Alma Road, Sheerness

Alma road photographed just before the end of the nineteenth century. The presence of so many boys and the man on the right holding the newspaper suggest that the image may have been taken on a Sunday.

c.1890 Photographer Unknown.



CC106
The Broadway, Sheerness.

The Broadway in Sheerness photographed in the late 1880's. There is plenty to see in this image. The church of Holy Trinity to the right with groups of people congregating outside, the catholic church in the background and to the right the ghostly images of people who moved as the image was exposed.

c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC108
The Board Offices and Water Tower, Sheerness.

The water works buildings are a fine example of Victorian industrial architecture. The water tower to the left was a favoured vantage point for photographers who wanted to capture panoramic images of the Isle of Sheppey.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC118
The Coal Pier, Sheerness.

A very undeveloped Sheerness beach front taken possibly in the 1890's. The photograph was taken looking towards to the town with Victorian families enjoying the sea in the foreground with the landmark of the Catholic Church visible in the background.

c.1890's Photographer Unknown.



CC120
The Hippodrome, Sheerness.

This late Victorian provides wonderful detail of the type of clothes worn by a late Victorian man and boy. In the background it is possible to see both the waterworks and a windmill.

c.1890's Photographer Unknown.



CC121
The "Half-Way House" Public House, Isle of Sheppey

There were plenty of people around when this photograph was taken. There is a group of curious children in the foreground and perhaps the landlady standing just to the front of the entrance. Also notice to the rear left of the image a man unloading sacks from the horse and cart.

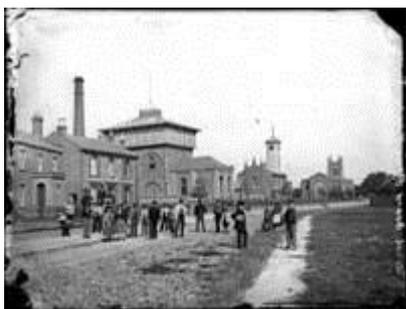
c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC123
Children in the graveyard of Minster Abbey, Isle of Sheppey.

The children in the graveyard appear to come from a mix of backgrounds with boys sitting on tomb being clothed in cheap, dark and patched clothes while the two boys sitting on the grass have clean, white expensive looking clothes

c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC125
Outside the Board Offices and Water Tower, Sheerness.

A large collection of children have gathered to have their photograph taken outside the waterworks building. Some of the children are carrying books so may either be returning or going to school. All of the children appear to be fairly well off as they all have shoes.

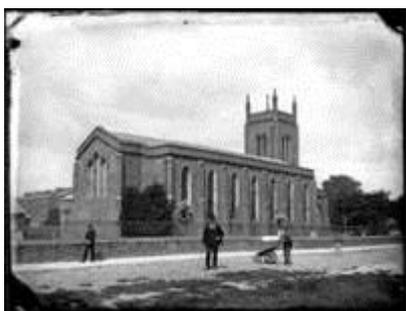
c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC133
A family outside the Queenborough Railway Station, Isle of Sheppey.

This family were photographed on the road opposite the railway station probably in the late 1870's or early 1880's. The buggy that the lady is pushing is remarkably similar to the three wheeled buggies that you see today.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



CC138
Holy Trinity Church, Sheerness.

This side view of the church was taken at the end of the nineteenth century and had been oddly composed with a gentleman in a bowler hat, a boy with a pram, a middle class youth by the railings and an urchin to the right. At this time the vicar of the church was the wonderfully named Rev. William Henry Galfridus Man.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC141
A Steam Traction Engine in a field, Isle of Sheppey

This fine photograph of a traction engine and its operators was probably taken near Minster on the Isle of Sheppey. Engines like this one would travel from farm to farm powering threshing machines and huge ploughs. Note the skilfully crafted hay ricks in the background.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



CC142
Naval Terrace, Sheerness.

This photograph from the late 1870's or early 1880's was taken just inside the docks and shows Naval terrace, which had been built to accommodate Royal Navy Officers. In the foreground are a group of adult and boy soldiers, one of whom appears to be holding a large pan or drum.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



CC150
View along the Broadway, Sheerness.

Look carefully at this wonderfully atmospheric image and you will see the ghostly images of people who were moving when the photograph was taken. What initially looks like an empty Broadway was actually teeming with people.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC153
Inside the Gun Battery at HM Dockyard, Sheerness.

This superb image of an unknown lady and gentleman was taken inside one of the gun batteries in HM Dockyard in the 1870's. The quality of the photograph is outstanding and when it is enlarged, it is possible to make out the design of the lady's earring and to count the number of buttons on her boots.

c.1870's Photographer Unknown.



CC159
Battery at HM Dockyard, Sheerness.

The young gunner is obviously very proud of his antiquated weapons, which are little changed in design from the time of Nelson. However antiquated the guns may seem, there were over one hundred of them defending the docks from attack.

c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC172

Photographer's horse and cart.

This is the mobile darkroom of the photographer T. Monk, New Road, Gravesend. It is in fact very likely that T.Monk was the photographer who took many of the Isle of Sheppey images on display.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



CC175

View of HM Dockyard, Sheerness.

A view of a by gone age when England ruled the waves. A magnificent old wooden man of war is in dry dock and there are a number of smaller ships tied up alongside the dock.

c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



CC178

A Victorian house and gardens.

This house belonged to Colonel Keen and the colonel and his wife can be seen on the balcony looking down on their servants in the garden below. The servants appear to be wearing unusual clothes, possibly to participate in a play.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



CC180

A picnic on the cliffs at Minster. Isle of Sheppey.

A group of women and children in their Sunday best enjoy a picnic on Minster cliffs on a very still summer's day. The clay cliffs on Sheppey are famously soft and are constantly falling into the sea.

c.1890's Photographer Unknown.



CC182

The Esplanade and bathing huts, Sheerness.

A large group pose for the camera with some poor children in the front, some without shoes and a better off group sitting to the rear in front of the bathing machines. In the distance is the familiar landmark of the catholic church.

c.1890's Photographer Unknown.



CC183
HM Dockyard, Sheerness.

This photograph is of the gun wharf and was taken in the 1870's. Just outside of the dock there is a small vessel getting up steam while the very still sea is busy with all types of craft. Unusually the dock itself is completely deserted.

c.1870's Photographer Unknown.



CC184
View of HM Dockyard, Sheerness.

A view of the HM Dockyard looking up the coast to Minster with a good view of the defensive batteries. The bathing machine on the beach belonged to the commander of the dock and was for his personal use.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



CC186
HM Dockyard at Sheerness.

One of the large circular forts that were constructed in the 1870's. The round shape gave a 360 degree field of fire but also made them very vulnerable to shells being lobbed into the fort from all sides. Note that the muzzle of one of the guns is just visible through a gun port.

c.1870's Photographer Unknown.



CC187
Admiralty House, HM Dockyard, Sheerness.

Admiralty house and gardens were in the middle of the dockyard and both were very beautiful. Sadly the house was pulled down after the war without being properly recorded and witnesses reported seeing labourers making bonfires out of exquisitely crafted doors, panels and mouldings.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.

The Marley Collection



MC001

View of King Street, Maidstone.

There was a lot of demolition of older houses in Maidstone between the wars as this scene in King St demonstrates. The Westminster Bank building can be seen in the background.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC004

The Pavilion Cinema, Pudding Lane, c.1920

Cinemas were tremendously popular in the 1920's and 30's and as well as The Pavilion in Maidstone there was also The Central Picture Playhouse in King Street, The Granada Kinema in Lower Stone Street, The New Empire Cinema in Earl Street and the Palace Theatre in Gabriel's Hill.

Photographer Marley



MC005

The High Street and Gabriels Hill, Maidstone

It is the eyes on the opticians, A.J.Rawlings that immediately grab the attention. It is a superb examples of the sign writers craft and must have got Mr Rawlings many extra customers.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC006

Lower Stone Street, Maidstone.

The fact that the shutters are all down on all of these buildings suggests that the photographer took the image either early in the morning or a Sunday when not many people were around. Curiously the Fisherman's Arms, owned by E. Mason and Co is not mentioned in any trade directories but is the only building to still exist.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC007

Lower Stone Street, Maidstone.

The building on the left is the premises of Cox Brothers (A.E.Palmar) who were general, builders and decorators. They were a very successful Maidstone firm and were busy enough to have two phone lines.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC009

The "Royal Albion" Public House on Havock Lane, Maidstone.

A view that is much changed. The Albion public house is still there but the Georgian house covered in advertising posters was demolished long ago and its foundations are now under the Fremlins Walk Piazza.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC012

The High Street, Maidstone.

This view of the taken outside The Haunch of Venison and Crowhurst the poulterers highlights the difference between two centuries. The middle aged coachman on his Landau is firmly of the nineteenth century while the fashionably dressed young couple are very twentieth century.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC014

Bank Street, Maidstone.

This building in Bank Street is now a shop and is one of a number of pargetted houses that Maidstone used to boast. There is another in Week Street, but sadly, the finest example of them all, known both as Astley or Blisse House was demolished in the 1880's.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC018

Gabriels Hill and Lower Stone Street, Maidstone.

Although this photograph shows a relatively empty street, this was a busy part of town. Just in this small view it was possible to have your clothes dyed, have a dainty fish supper, have a suit made, buy a baby carriage and have a pint.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC023

The Old Bee Hive Stores on Week Street, Maidstone.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC024

View down King Street, Maidstone.

It is still possible to see The Westminster Bank building in the back ground, but note that the demolition scene in the photograph on the left is now filled with the Post Office.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC026

The corner of King Street and Church Street, Maidstone.

This photograph of a corner news agent must have been taken some time after 1927 because that was when Douglas Fairbanks made one of his best known films, Robin Hood.

c.1927 Photographer Marley.



MC028

An alleyway between buildings on King Street, Maidstone.

In the days before modern town planning small courts and alleyways were a common feature in Maidstone. A few remain, linking the High Street with Bank St and the High Street and Earl Street, but most have been lost to new developments.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC029

A view of King Street, Maidstone, looking East.

What is striking about this and many of the images on display is just how quiet the streets are. The photograph was obviously taken during the working day as the shops are open, yet there are only a few people and a few carts to be seen.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC035

Flooding in Lockmeadow, Maidstone.

The River Medway bursting its banks was a common occurrence in the twentieth century. There is a dated flood post on display in the museum which has the dates and the levels of all the flood post carved on it.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC036
**The Lord Nelson Inn, St. Faiths Street,
Maidstone.**

Another view of the Lord Nelson Inn which is quite topical in the anniversary year of Trafalgar. The buildings to the right of what is now the Feng Shui Chinese restaurant were demolished to make way for the library and the photographer is standing on what is now a two lane ring road.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC041
Lilys House on Earl Street, Maidstone.

Another building that is no longer there. These old terraces which are just to the right of the Fremiln's brewery entrance stand on the corner of Earl St and Havock Lane, now underneath Fremlin Walk

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC043
Old houses on Earl Street, Maidstone.

Old Houses and Shops on Earl Street most of them still remain. The photograph was taken looking away from the fremlin Walk development.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC045
**Dignons House, Knightrider Street,
Maidstone.**

This fine house was once the home of the one of the fore fathers of the George Washington, the first president of the united states. Sadly as with many of the architectural and historic gems of Maidstone, this building was demolished.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC046
**An entrance to Dignons House, Knightrider
Street, Maidstone,**

Another fine piece of architectural photography of the Washington family house of Digons. There are a number of images of Digons that were taken by Marley at the same time. He probably asked permission to record it before it was demolished.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC048
The corner of Church Street, Maidstone.

The Clarke's Furniture Store located on the corner of Church Street and Kings Street looks old at first glance, but closer scrutiny reveals that it is a modern building built on the site of the shop in the image to the left.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC049
A half-timbered house located near Sandling Post Office, Maidstone.

This house is situated near to the Old Post Office in Sandling. The medieval house would have been originally one dwelling, owned by a wealthy family. When this image was taken it had been divided into two separate houses.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC050
View of Pudding Lane, Maidstone c.1930

This view looking down Pudding Lane captures a remarkably empty street. The blinds are down on Paynes, but they are up on the shop further down the street. Paynes were quite the entrepreneurs at different shops in the town - they were costumiers, druggists, fruiterers, butchers and even fishmongers.

Photographer Marley



MC051
Locomotive going crossing the high level railway bridge, Maidstone.

Looking at the river today with its expensive flat and pleasant river side walks it is easy to forget that at the beginning of the century it was both a recourse and a tool for the industry that teemed on Maidstone's river frontage.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC052

Usmar's shop on King Street, Maidstone.

The image is a little out of focus but it is possible to make out that the Edwardian group photographed at the beginning of the twentieth century are standing outside the grocers shop of Mrs Sarah Usmar. Both this shop and the ones to the left and right would soon be demolished.

c.1900 Photographer Marley.



MC055

Pudding Lane.

This view is a little confusing at first as it seems so familiar yet a little narrow. It is of course pudding Lane before it was widened. The road is flanked by Freeman, Hardy & Willis and Wickham furnishings and if you look carefully you can see the Fremlin's entrance in the background.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC056

The Widening of Pudding Lane,

When comparing this photograph with the photograph above, it is possible to see that in order to widen the lane, 'Freeman, Hardy and Willis' shoe shop had to be demolished. Also visible from the photograph is the Pavilion Picture Theatre, Wickhams, and F. Brown's shaving saloon.

c.1920s Photographer Marley



MC059

An alley opposite the Town Hall, Maidstone.

This ramshackle alleyway opens out onto the High Street and it has an air of Dickens and Oliver Twist about it. The alley way is still there, but at some point however the alley has been widened and the properties on the left demolished.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC060

A yard behind buildings in Maidstone.

It is possible that this old medieval yard with its cobble sets, handcart, packing crates is actually at the rear of a public house. If you look carefully to the left you can just see a sign reading "Dams" or ladies on the outside privy.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC063

The front entrance to West Kent Hospital, Marsham Street, Maidstone.

The West Kent Hospital was originally built in 1832 and was extensively altered in 1862. In 1927 it opened one of the first maternity units in the district, which had a direct and dramatic decline in infant mortality.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC064

Looking towards Maidstone Museum.

This is a good view Havock Lane with Museum Street spurring off to the right. In the background it is possible to see the entrance to what is now The Adult Education Building. This view is gone forever with Museum Street and Havock Lane now lying under Fremlin Walk.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC065

Looking up Museum Street.

Looking up Museum St it is possible to see the imposing tower of St Faith's church and the gabled roof of the museum. Also it is possible to see the fine museum gatehouse, which was very sadly destroyed by enemy bombing during the Second World War.

c.1930's Photographer Marley.



MC066

Cart in Havock Lane, looking towards the museum.

This photograph was taken before Museum Street was built in the 1930's. This section of the town has changed hugely over the last seventy years and not only because of modern development. For example the pretty Georgian cottages on the right were demolished years ago for car parking.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC068
A timber framed house, c.1910

This fine half-timbered house is in fact now the home of one of the members of the Maidstone Camera Club who made this exhibition possible.
Photographer Marley



MC072
Brenchley Village, c.1910.

A photograph of this quiet village taken from outside the church gates with 'The Bull' inn on the left.
Photographer Marley



MC076
'Thurnham Friars', c.1900.

This old house is situated opposite 'The Black Horse' on the crossroads of Thurnham Lane and Pilgrim's Way. Most of this building was non-existent prior to 1910 when an old house from Sussex was added to the existing Forge Cottages. Part was demolished after WWII to provide car parking.
Photographer Marley



MC083
Loddenden, Staplehurst c.1920

This photograph of Loddenden gives us an immaculate example of an Elizabethan timber framed house.
Photographer Marley



MC088
A timber-framed house at an unknown location

Bell House is located on Bearsted Green. This is a view that has changed very little over the years and clearly visible on the roof is the bell that gives the house its name.
c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC089
Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone.

The road leading to Hartz cottages and surrounding countryside at Boughton Monchelsea. The scene is strangely deserted. There are now cars, carriages animals or people. Could the lack of people be because it is an early Sunday morning or is it bitterly cold.

c.1910's Photographer Marley.



MC100
View of Biddenden High Street.

This view of Biddenden High Street looking towards All Saints church is little changed today. Perhaps the most striking difference is the lack of parked cars and moving traffic. Even at this date cars in the countryside could be relatively rare.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC101
Old Cloth Hall at Biddenden, Kent.

The cloth hall may appear to be one building, but it is actually a structure of four successive buildings extending eastwards. The last part of the building is dated 1672.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC104
Interior view of St. Laurence's Church at Allington, nr Maidstone.

This photograph of the wonderfully painted interior of St Laurence's church is a rare and interesting record. Images like this are very important to wall painting conservators who use them to help replace damaged or obliterated designs.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC110
View of an old House in Frittenden, Kent.

A very typical Kentish scene of old timbered farm house and oast. Possibly the only difference in the scene today would be that the oast house is now a very desirable residence.

c.1910's Photographer Marley.



MC112

The top of Bank Street, Maidstone.

Another deserted Maidstone scene showing the Library, advertising a campaign for West Kent Hospital, National Provincial Bank. Intriguingly the library also seems to be advertising leather, plated china and fancy goods.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC113

Rumwood Court at Langley, near Maidstone.

This photograph of the imposing Elizabethan manor of Rumwood Court was taken when it was still one property. The house is so large that it has now been divided into seven apartments.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC114

The "George and Dragon" Public House and Hotel, Ightham Village.

A sleepy view of the George and Dragon in the centre of Ightham in Kent with the church of St Peter in the background. The village is known for Ightham Mote and also Benjamin Harrison the grocer and draper who found fame as an amateur archaeologist.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC115

Upper Street in Hollingbourne, near Maidstone.

There is very little that can have changed in this view down a "carless" Upper Street. The road has certainly not got any wider, which can prove very frustrating to the modern motorist who has to negotiate large numbers of parked cars.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC118

View across the River Medway to the college.

The ecclesiastical college that neighbours the parish church of All Saints was established in 1395 by Archbishop William Courtney, and some of the original parts of the building still survive.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC120
The Locks and Weir of the River Medway at Teston.

This photograph of the locks at Teston, near Maidstone, have an air of tranquility and romance about them which is in no small part due to the pretty ivy covered ruin on the far bank.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC122
Cottages at Headcorn High St.

An image of Headcorn High St. The house to the left is "Shakespeare House", dates from the 16th Century and is timber framed while the cottages to the right have tiles hung on their frontage which suggests that they were built much later.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC123
Windmill at Headcorn.

It is quite possible that this was a working mill when this photograph was taken. It is sited on quite high ground and there are oast houses in the background. It was demolished in 1952 and was called White Mill.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC127
Vine Cottages in Leeds Village.

This an extremely fine example of a medieval timber framed building in the picturesque village of Leeds, near Maidstone. For a small village it has some grand residences including Leeds Castle, and at one point an Abbey as well.

c.1910's Photographer Marley.



MC132
Two people standing on Cannon Bridge over the River Medway.

These two passers by are caught on camera leaning over the fenced in bridge. The small bridge may be fenced in like that because it was frequent crossing point for flocks of sheep which occasionally may have ended up in the river.

c.1910's Photographer Marley.



MC135

The bridge at Wateringbury.

There is no traffic on the water to disturb the men and women fishing on the river bank in front of the old bridge. The increasing weight of road traffic in the age of the petrol engine meant that many of these old quaint bridges would soon be demolished.

c.1910's Photographer Marley.



MC138

The Lower Lake Bridge over the River Medway, Golden Green.

What is interesting about this photograph of the rather precarious looking wooden bridge is that it has caught the lady at the bottom left completely relaxed and un posed. The lady looks remarkably similar to the lady in the photograph to the left.

c.1910s Photographer Marley.



MC139

The Bridge at Teston.

This photograph was captured on a quiet summers day. There is a group of boys on the river bank who may be getting ready either for a spot of fishing or swimming.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC142

The Starre and Crowne Hotel at Goudhurst.

It is impossible to identify these photographers who have stopped for refreshment at The Starre and Crowne. It may well be that they were responsible for many of the images currently on display. If they are we have a great deal to thank them for.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC143

The Archbishop's Palace, Mill Street, Maidstone.

Built in fourteenth century, the palace was one a series of residences that were used by the archbishop's when they travelled between London and Canterbury. Now it is used as a registry office.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC144
The Stone Gate in Palace Gardens.

The trees may be bigger and the fences to keep people off the grass have gone, but that is all that has changed in this photograph of the path leading down to the stone gate and the river Medway beyond.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC145
Tractor in a field, unknown location.

Judging by the man's clothes, this photograph was taken in the 1920's. However the primitive tractor looks like it comes from another. The tractor is a *Mogul*.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC146
Lower part of Maidstone High Street and Bridge.

This photograph is a real reminder of the industrial nature of Maidstone's water frontage. On the far side of the are warehouses, while on the near side is Bridge Wharf Mills which belonged to corn merchants William Taylor & Co. The mill is now ring road and the warehouse law courts.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC152
Teston locks, near Maidstone

The only traffic on the locks is this photograph is the solitary man in his little boat. Perhaps the lack of traffic was because it was a day of rest or possibly it is due to the increasing use of road and rail.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC158
The locks at East Farleigh.

The two men in the foreground appear to be carrying out maintenance on the lock gate while in a third, possibly the foreman, leans on the farther gate and gazes down stream

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC161
Woman standing on bridge over the River Medway.

This appears to be one of the earliest photographs taken by Marley and it shows an Edwardian lady in a wonderfully voluminous hat, in her summer finery, striking a relaxed pose for the camera.

c.1910's Photographer Marley.



MC163
Bridge at East Farleigh with Oast Houses in the background.

A tranquil scene at East Farleigh captured in the 1920's. Through the arches of the ancient bridge it is possible to see a scruffy old working barge and a well kept pleasure launch. As the twentieth century unfolded barges on the Medway would become rarer and rarer.

c.1920's Photographer Marley



MC168
Barclays Bank on Maidstone High Street.

A good view of the Barclays Bank. To the left is Scott & Co the dyers and cleaners. Also note that the badge of Automobile Association is mounted on the façade of the bank and on the upper floor windows where they had their offices.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC170
The corner of St. Faiths Street and Station Road, Maidstone,

The half timbered medieval house on the corner is still there and this is one of a few views of Maidstone that has not changed in the last one hundred years. Note the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals to the right.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC171

Mill House Farm, Knightrider Street, Maidstone.

It has been a long time since this building was connected to any agricultural land. Situated on the corner of Knightrider street it is now a pub named The Thirsty Pig. On the left is the car dealer Rider Motor Exchange, which is now a funeral parlour and tattoo shop.

c.1920's Photographer Marley.



MC175

Number 1 and 2 The Tatt, at Yalding.

Today these cottages would be very sought after and expensive but when they were photographed at the beginning of the twentieth century they look like quite poor dwellings. Note the women on the left who like they are handling a milk churn.

c.1910 Photographer Marley.

The Old Maidstone & Kent Collection



OM002

View of Havock Lane, Maidstone

This image was taken from Chillington House in St Faith St. Now the offices for the curatorial staff, in the early 1930's it was the curators flat. Note the wonderful bill boards advertising items such as Guinness and Lifebuoy soap.

1931 Photographer N.C. Cook.



OM003

The Albion Public House.

A view that has been lost forever under the sprawling Fremlin's Walk. The houses on the left were demolished in the 1930's and all that remains of this view, from Chillington House, is the now dwarfed Albion public house.

1931 Photographer N.C. Cook.



OM005

View of Maidstone Museum from Brenchley Gardens.

This image was taken over one hundred years ago and it is one of the few views in Maidstone that remains almost completely unaltered. Even the iron gates are the same as they are today, lucky survivors of the drives for scarp metal from two world wars.

1898 Photographer H. Elgar.



OM006

Maidstone Museum with St. Faiths Church in the background.

Another photograph taken by curator H.Elgar. This time it is from what is now our car park looking towards the Long Gallery. The timber framed tower was designed as an observatory and was used to study the stars on clear nights.

1898 Photographer H. Elgar.



OM007
The Hook and Hatchet

The Hook and Hatchet public house in Hucking, nr Maidstone proved a welcome break for these thirsty photographers. And of course rural photography would have been much thirstier work in the days before the motor car.

c.1900 Photographer unknown.



OM010
All Saints Church, looking across the River Medway, Maidstone.

Taken from a very green riverbank this image gives a nice view of all Saints church as well as a slightly obscured view of the Master's House.

Note that the barge tied up in the river has taken its mast down so that it can fit under low bridges.

c.1900 Photographer H. Elgar.



OM013
Maidstone Museum.

This slightly confusing photograph appears to be taken from Brenchley gardens looking towards the rear of the museum before, what is now known as, the Adult Education building was erected to the right of the image.

c.1890 Photographer H. Elgar.



OM014
An unidentified public house, Hollingbourne, c.1900

This photograph of a public house taken at the beginning of the twentieth century remains a bit of a mystery. The sign is visible, but the name of the pub is obscured. It used to stand on the corner of the lane running to the church, but was destroyed by fire.

Photographer H. Elgar



OM015
The "Marquis of Granby" Public House

The Marquis of Granby was situated at no 10 middle row in Maidstone. As well as being a public house it seems that landlord George Camford made rooms available for the society "The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes." If you look carefully at the gas lamp you can see their initials RAOB.

c.1900 Photographer H. Elgar.



OM023
Tovil Court, Maidstone.

A fine photograph of the stately Tovil Court nr Maidstone which was taken by Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt Drake who was founder of the Carriage museum and was also twelve times mayor of Maidstone. At the time of the photograph this impressive building was in the possession of a Mrs Mackinnon.

c.1900 Photographer Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake.



OM030
Harts Cottages at Boughton Quarries, Boughton Monchelsea .

It would be difficult to conjure up a more idyllic image of rural England than these picturesque cottages with their well kept vegetable gardens. The lack of motor cars in the road completes the scene.

1909 Photographer Unknown.



OM033
Hop picking, near Maidstone.

A very Kentish scene of women and children working in a hop garden. Although the image appears picturesque, the work was often hard and the living conditions for the East ender's could be very poor this and often led to quite serious health problems amongst the pickers.

1907 Photographer Miss Tronsdell.



OM034
Women putting hops into a hop bin, near Maidstone.

These women filling their hop bins seem hardly dressed for the job by modern standards. The heavy clothes and long skirts must have made for a hot days work. Note the lady in the foreground who is picking hops into her upturned umbrella.

1907 Photographer Miss Tronsdell.



OM037
Adults and children in a hop garden near Maidstone.

Children are busy helping their mothers in the gardens and they would have to pick so many hops and then would have the rest of the day off to play. Slightly obscured behind the bins and the pickers is the tallyman who records the work that has been done in the day.

1907 Photographer Miss Tronsdell.



OM038
Hop garden near Maidstone.

Rows of women busily picking into bins from the uprooted hop poles. The tallyman is halfway down the row of women checking on their work. Note to the left of the photograph the babies pram in the shade of the upright poles.

1907 Photographer Miss Tronsdell.



OM039
The last pole, near Maidstone.

The rest of the garden has been picked bare, but the last pole is left standing. While the women are hard at work one small girl to the right of the photograph is smilingly resting in a pile of hops.

1907 Photographer Miss Tronsdell.



OM058
People on ancient stones in Chidlingstone.

North Kent is particularly rich in prehistoric stones or megaliths and they have proved a popular subject matter for photography over the years. Note the young man at the foot of the stones who is dressed like a young Sherlock Holmes.

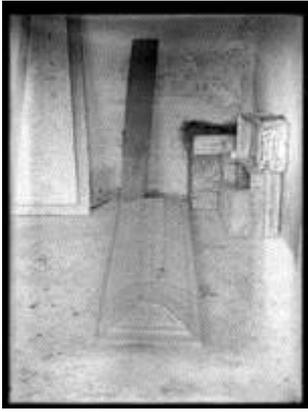
c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



OM064
The ancient stones of Kits Coty, Maidstone.

The most famous of the local standing stones is Kit's Coty, which is named after the shepherd who used to live in them. The stones themselves are still to be seen today and are still used in religious ceremonies conducted by druids.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



OM091

A lid of a Lesnen Abbey Coffin, dated c.1220, at an unknown location.

The coffin itself is a wonderful image, but it is the incidental social history on the packing cases which is equally fascinating. The crates held "Swifts Silver Leaf Brand Pure Lard" and bottles of "Watson's Matchless Cleanser" which was manufactured in Leeds.

1911 Photographer Unknown.



OM102

Woman standing at the bottom of high rocks at Tunbridge Wells.

This photograph is actually one of a whole series of the lady posing around and studying the rocks. The late Victorian and Edwardian eras produced an upsurge in interest in things geological and archaeological.

1904 Photographer Unknown.



OM125

Coppicing in the Loose Valley, 1909.

Another common Kentish scene of coppiced woodland. Trees are allowed to grow for a number of years before they are cut down and the poles used to produce all manner of items from fencing through to brooms. The stumps that remain re-shoot to be cut down again and again.

Photographer Unknown.

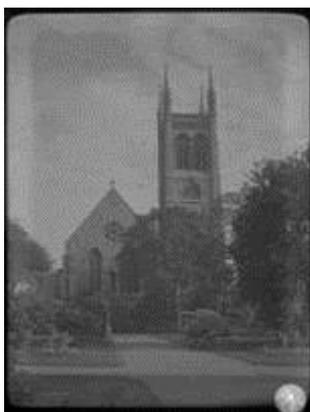


OM131

Houses at the corner of Faith Street and Market Street, Maidstone.

The Alms houses in the left of the image are still there opposite Brenchley Gardens. The attractive terraced houses to the right were demolished many years ago to make way for Museum Street, which has itself disappeared under the new Fremlin's Walk.

1931 Photographer N.C. Cook.



OM138
St. Faiths Church, as viewed from Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone.

This view of the church of St Faiths is little changed. Some of the trees will be bigger and the field gun has certainly been removed, but the garden itself remain a happy constant in a much changed Maidstone.

c.1933 Photographer Unknown, possibly C.E. Fisher.



OM150
The offices of Alfred Brooks and Company, Maidstone, c.1900.

Alfred Brooks was a branch of British Oil & Cake Mills Ltd. and their offices are a wonderful example of a medieval jettied building. Note the extraordinary length of the chimney pots.

Photographer Unknown



OM152
The entrance to Maidstone Museum.

This photograph of the front of the museum reveals a building that seems to have been sadly neglected for many years. The building had been a private residence for centuries before it became the property of the borough in 1855. It officially became Maidstone Museum in 1858 and has remained a free museum to this day.

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



OM160
Blisse/Astley House

This beautifully pargetted building was partly used by Flint and Son, Corn and Coal Merchants and was in King Street, Maidstone. There have been many crimes against heritage that have been committed in Maidstone over the years, but by far the worse was the demolition of this extraordinary building in the 1880's

c.1888 JH Bridges



OM162

The Pargetted Building of Betts in Week Street, Maidstone.

The pargetted frontage of this building in Week Street remains and the shop itself has had many incarnations over the years. In this image the premises are shared between Betts the butcher and a printing shop. More recently the shop has housed Boots the chemist.

c.1900 Photographer F.J.Argles.



OM163

Shops at the junction of King Street and Church Street, Maidstone.

A busy Maidstone scene captured at the end of the nineteenth century with King Street busy with children, a bicycle, a horse and cart and a dog. The shop on the corner is covered in posters advertising among other things a cricket match and a cup final.

c.1890 Photographer De'ath and Dunk.



OM166

A Victorian rural scene.

A relatively early photograph of what appears to be a Victorian picnic. The location and the event are unknown, but it is certainly well attended and the size of the boilers and the watering cans and the white jugs in the foreground suggest that tea is being made by the gallon!

c.1880's Photographer Unknown.



OM168

A Victorian family having tea in the garden, location unknown.

A rare image of a Victorian picnic in a summer garden. This type of image is very important to textile and clothing historians because the quality of the image is so good, that when you enlarge it you can almost see the stitching on the clothes.

c.1890's Photographer Unknown.



OM169
A military band.

The location and the unit of the band are unknown but it is probably a local militia and perhaps it is photographed in Maidstone's Moat park. The band itself is quite impressive and the twenty two members must have made quite an impression when they were marching.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



OM171
The "Bockingford Arms" and garden in Loose.

The impressively large Bockingford Arms and Gardens were kept by Thomas Avard at this time and perhaps he is one of the people who are gathered to look at the camera. If you look carefully you can see two people at the back door, a group of girls in the yard, a man to the right of the barn and a man leaning out of a window.

c.1890's Photographer Unknown.



OM175
Allington Castle.

Photographed as romantic ruin, Allington castle, now restored, was the birthplace of the Statesman, soldier and poet Sir Thomas Wyatt in 1503. The castle is now in private hands and beautifully restored, but at the time the photograph was taken it was derelict and belonged to the Earl of Romney.

1894 Photographer Unknown.



OM177
View of Aylesford, with the bridge and church.

A much photographed bridge in a much photographed village, yet this late Victorian image is very fresh and very sharp. If you look carefully you can see a horse between the shafts of a cart and smoke rising from the chimney of the passing barge.

1891 Photographer Unknown.



OM178

View of Aylesford across the river.

Another view of Aylesford from the other side of the bridge. This particular vantage point gives a nice view of the old houses on the riverside as well as the tower of the church which was at the time under the care of the Rev. Cyrill Fletcher Grant.

1891 Photographer Unknown.



OM180

A Chalk Pit and Lime Kilns at Blue Bell Hill, Maidstone.

There is something quite alien and almost Tolkienesque about these lime kilns. Lime was an important product in Victoria England as it was used, amongst other things, in mortar for the construction industry.

1894 Photographer Unknown.



OM182

A Quarry at Aylesford.

Maidstone has long been known for the quality of its rag stone, but there was also extensive sand and gravel quarrying in the area. As well as providing material for building, the quarries were rich in fossils and archaeology and many of these finds are now housed in the museum.

1894 Photographer Unknown.



OM184

The back of the Maidstone Muesum.

This photograph viewed from Brenchley Gardens was taken shortly after the art college was built. On its completion St Faith's Street really became a centre for learning with the museum, the library and the college, where all types of classes and lectures could be attended.

1894 Photographer Unknown.

The Ruck Collection



RS002

An old country woman.

It is amazing to think that the old lady coming out of the barn in Detling could have been born before the Battle of Trafalgar.

c.1890 Photographer J.S. Woodrow.



RS004

The Sittingbourne bus outside the Detling Cock.

When a carriage was facing a steep climb it was often too much for a pair and a third horse, the cock horse would be hitched to help draw the vehicle up the hill. When it reached the top it would be unhitched and returned to its stable.

1888 Photographer J.S. Woodrow.



RS012

The Crypt, Maidstone High Street.

Much of the High St initially appears to be Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian, but there is still evidence of earlier construction below ground like this medieval vaulted crypt at numbers 99 and 100.

c.1920's Photographer J.S. Woodrow.



RS015

The Maidstone Gas Company Building, Middle Row, Maidstone.

A fairly typical 1920's street scene with a confusion of tram wires above and a pair of policemen on point duty helping to direct the almost non-existent traffic.

c.1925 Photographer Unknown.



RS020

Middle Row, Maidstone.

This late Victorian photograph of Middle Row has been taken with the photographer standing in the back of a wagon. In the distance is the Town Hall, then Martin the cabinet maker, Vinson the druggist and The Marquis of Granby public house

1890 Photographer J.S. Woodrow.



RS022

The last Horse Bus in Maidstone High Street.

The last horse bus in Maidstone is loaded up outside of the Town Hall. It is loaded with people inside and out as well as baggage. The weight would have been considerable and any hill encountered would have required the help of a third horse, a Cock horse.

c.1900 Photographer J.S. Woodrow.



RS025

'The Royal Oak', Public House, King Street, Maidstone, c.1870

An early photograph of 'The Royal Oak' at 89 King Street, which at the time was kept by Mrs Ellen Usmar. It is a interesting and rare portrait of ordinary working men.

Photographer Ruck.



RS030

View of Mill Street, Maidstone.

A much changed view of Mill street. Some of the buildings were demolished in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and some destroyed by German bombs in the Second World War. Note the poster advertising Nestles milk on the side of the building.

c.1880's Photographer De'ath and Dunk.



RS035

The opening ceremony for the new Maidstone Bridge.

The view of the Victorian industrial architecture may have changed, but the bridge is still the same. The opening of the new bridge was a cause of huge popular celebration.

1879 Photographer De'ath and Dunk



RS047

Outside view of the Long Gallery of Maidstone Museum.

This photograph was taken from a vantage point that is now occupied by the Adult Education building. The gardener with his scythe would now find himself standing in the museum car park.

c.1880 Photographer De'ath and Dunk.



RS050

A house in Huntsman Lane, Maidstone, c.1890

This view down Huntsman Lane almost has a village feel and is certainly much quieter than it is today with its two large secondary schools and housing estates.

Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS051

People outside the shops of 97 and 98 High Street, Maidstone.

This group of Edwardians are standing out side of Robert Worley's wholesale grocery business at no 98 and at 97a is the premises of Goulden and wind, Pianoforte and music sellars.

c.1900 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS052

The corner of Mote Road and Stone Street.

Soon after this photograph was taken butchers W. and R. Fletcher Ltd moved their premises to the busier shopping area of Week Street, opening up shop at no 96a.

c.1890's Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS055

Bank Street, Maidstone, c.1900

A very quiet Bank Street with the Geisha Tea Rooms, Henry Payne's drapery and the shop of Mrs Elizabeth May who advertised herself as a "manufacturer of ladies abdominal supports and other surgical appliances".

Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS056

The Mill Farm House on Knightrider Street, Maidstone.

The Old Mill Farm house in Knightrider Street surrounded by the street furniture of Victorian England such as the tram tracks and cables, the impressive gas lamps and letter box.

c.1900 Photographer Ruck.



RS057

The “Lord Nelson” Inn, also known as the Weavers.

This Isherwood, Foster and Stacey public house was known as a haunt of smugglers. Located beyond the museum at the bottom of St Faith Street the pub is now a Chinese restaurant, but still little changed. What has changed is the wharfs and sheds beyond which are now the ring road.

c.1900 Photographer Ruck.



S061a

The ‘Dog and Bear’ Inn and shops, King Street, Maidstone, c.1880

This image shows a covered dray delivering barrels of beer to the ‘Dog and Bear’ at 37 King Street, a public house run by Frederick Goodbody.

Photographer Ruck.



RS061b

King Street

A row of shops in King Street. Note the delivery boy who is pulling a hand cart past C.R. Ayers and the small boy carrying a small billy can in the foreground.

Photographer Ruck.



RS065

The Court Lodge at East Farleigh, near Maidstone

This rather decapitated but once grand building was sadly pulled down in 1874 due to its poor condition. However all of it was not lost and the half timbered section was salvaged and incorporated into the Long Gallery and is now an office for museum staff and can be seen from Brenchley Gardens.

c.1874 Photographer De’ath and Dunk



RS066
Coppins Cottage in East Farleigh, near Maidstone.

Another Kentish picturesque scene that was spoilt by the demolition of Coppen's cottag in 1881. The photographer has nicely captured the three children in the image, especially the very dirty young boy in the road.

Thank fully De'ath and Dunk photographed a lot of buildings before they were demolished. Without their efforts it is very doubtful that any other architectural record would survive.

c.1881 Photographer De'ath and Dunk.



RS068
Building of the Chatham and Dover Railway.

A photograph of the actual construction of the Chatham and Dover Railway at the site of the station and Victoria Hotel in Maidstone reveals the heavy work of the navy. There are no JCBs and no pneumatic tools. Only picks, shovels and muscles.

1874 Photographer Ruck.



RS078
Maidstone High Street.

A very recognisable Maidstone High Street possibly photographed some time during the First World War. The scene is a little different today. Haynes corner shop is gone , as is the Castle hotel and the carriages have been replaced by taxis.

c.1914 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS085
Shop on the corner of St. Faiths Street and Station Road, Maidstone.

The building is still there but is no longer a corner shop. This general store is selling everything from Lipton's tea to lces. The premises are covered in posters advertising sales, religious meetings, and auctions as well national and international news.

c.1890 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS086
The Mill Pond on Mill Street, Maidstone.

If the date on this image is correct then it is one of the earliest photographs in the collection. The view is almost unrecognisable today, with the construction of modern buildings and road ways completely obscuring the view of the church in the background.

1860 Photographer De'ath and Dunk



RS087
Locks and Bridge at the Old College, Maidstone.

The Archbishop's Palace in the foreground give this image a pastoral feel, but the locks with the tied up barges and the industrial buildings in the background serve as a reminder that Maidstone was a highly industrial town.

c.1870's Photographer Phillips.



RS089
The Old College Lock, Maidstone.

The lock was demolished in 1881. This is an unusual and rare view as photographers generally chose to look the other way and photograph the palace and the town. The pleasant view to open country was lost years ago as Maidstone continued to develop.

c.1880 Photographer Ruck.



RS090
People in Maidstone Cemetery.

The Maidstone cemetery in Sutton Road was opened in the same year as the museum in 1858. This photograph taken of the elegantly dressed Victorians was taken in 1871 and shows a beautifully landscaped and very empty burial ground.

1871 Photographer Ruck.



RS094
The High Street, Maidstone.

This photograph must have been taken in the early 1860's as the two houses on the left were demolished in 1862. There are ghostly figures walking on the pavement and there is an ass driven cart being driven by a man in a very old fashioned smock. If you look closely you can just see the ass's long ears.

c.1860 Photographer De'Ath and Dunk.



RS097
The Old Bridge in Maidstone with Albion Wharf.

The photograph shows clear country to the rear right of the image and the old bridge still in place. The new bridge was not built until 1879. The barges on the right by Albion wharf could be continuing up river even though they have their masts up, they could be lowered and "shout" the bridge.

c.1870's Photographer Phillips.



RS098
The High Street, Maidstone.

A very busy High Street scene with all types of vehicle competing for space. The car and lorry are just starting to make their presence felt at this time, but they are still heavily outnumbered by the horse drawn carts and wagons that are parked in the middle of the road.

c.1910 Photographer Unknown.



RS099
The High Street.

Progress. The scene is little changed to the neighbouring image. The Queen Victoria memorial is still there as is the London County and Westminster Bank. What has disappeared are the horse drawn carriages, replaced by cars, taxis, motorbuses, delivery lorries and trams.

c.1918 Photographer Unknown.



RS100

View of the new bridge, Maidstone.

This image is titled "View of Maidstone New Bridge" and is taken from the Broadway. Curiously, this 1879 image shows an interesting street scene, but definitely no new bridge!

1879 Photographer Ruck.



RS101

View of Maidstone High Street.

A view of the High Street that shows the façade of the Star hotel and the Haunch of Venison public house, which was run at the time by Henry Arthur. Also to the right of the image is the Central Printing Works of Walter Ruck, who was responsible for many of the photographs on display.

c.1900 Photographer Unknown.



RS102

The Rose and Crown Inn.

Another early photograph from the collection showing Mr. Nightingale's Rose and Crown. The street may have been teeming with people when the image was taken, but the long exposure time meant that only the man leaning on the wagon is actually captured

c.1880 Photographer Unknown.



RS113

The Antiquities Room, Maidstone Museum.

How the museum used to look. Styles of display may come and go, but the fantastic artifacts remain the same. Many of the pots in the image are still on display in the same room. The lead coffins are now in the museum's chapel.

c.1920 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS116

The Great Hall and Artefacts, Maidstone Museum.

Many of the artifacts captured in this 1920 photograph are still on display in the museum. The Tudor chair to the left is in the Godiva Hall and the armour is mounted on the wall in the main entrance.

c.1920 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS121

A tram going through Loose.

The tram is traveling through a very quiet Loose. Now it is one of the busy approach roads into Maidstone. Note the gaggle of children walking along the pavement.

c.1900 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.



RS122

Betts The Butcher

The west side of week street showinh another view of the much photographed pargetted house. At this time it is occupied by Betts the butcher with an early Marks and Spencers to the right.

c.1900 Photographer J. S. Woodrow.