

Kent County Cricketers

A to Z

Part One: 1806-1914

by Derek Carlaw

This collection of biographies has been written, on behalf of the ACS, by Derek Carlaw. For those readers wishing to obtain more detailed statistical information, it is recommended that a search is undertaken on the relevant pages of the CricketArchive website (<http://cricketarchive.com/>).

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Introduction

Initiated by, and initially funded through a research grant from the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, the County Cricket A to Z project was launched more than ten years ago, although in the case of Kent some entries are founded on research commenced many years earlier. The aim is a biography of every cricketer who has appeared for Kent since 1806, the year of Kent's first match of the 19th century. Part One is confined to players who appeared for Kent in important matches from 1806 to 1863 and first-class matches from 1864 to 1914. Part Two will cover first-class matches from 1919 to 1939 (92 players). This will be followed with Parts Three, 1946 to 1999 (176 players) and – at some stage in the future – Part Four, dealing with the period from 2000 onwards, with these latter two also incorporating players who only appeared for Kent in List A and/or T20 cricket.

While concentrating on the subject's career as a cricketer, wherever possible biographies include the subject's life outside cricket, parentage, marriages, war service, profession/ or occupation etc. Where personal details are omitted this is, in most cases, because family members have asked for privacy, either directly or, more frequently, requests for privacy appear on one or more of the genealogical websites. In the light of the recent General Data Protection Regulation, personal information will be omitted from some of the entries in Parts Three and Four.

The original intention was to produce the A to Z in book form but, given the long history of cricket in Kent, it soon became apparent that, with 524 players covered in Part One alone and the overall total now rapidly approaching 900, a book would clearly not be viable. While to bring the starting date forward to the beginning of the County Championship or the formation of the present Kent County Cricket Club in 1859 would have resulted in something more manageable, to do so entailed leaving out the likes of Fuller Pilch, Alfred Mynn and other pivotal figures in the County's cricketing history. As it stands, we have been obliged to leave out a number of important Kent cricketers, notably James Aylward, the Duke of Dorset, Edwin Stead and Horace Mann, not to mention other early but less well-known stalwarts such as John Cutbush, George Louch, Dick May and Tom Pattenden, all of whom ended their cricketing careers before 1806.

The preferred option was an on-line data base in which each entry can be as long (or as short) as proves necessary with the added advantage that entries are relatively easy to update, expand or amend. Except in the case of brothers and of fathers and sons where there is some cross referencing, we have endeavoured to make each entry complete in itself. This means a certain amount of repetition but the A to Z is not intended to be read from, as it were, cover to cover.

A few of the entries for the early years have uncovered doubts as to player identity. In such cases we have attempted to present all known relevant facts leaving the reader to make up his or her own mind if so inclined.

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Sources

For the period covered by Part One research was necessarily confined almost entirely to written sources and most of those consulted are mentioned in the text. Extensive use has been made of Lord Harris and Ashley Cooper's official History of Kent CCC, originally published in 1907 and updated to 2002 in Appendices A to J, and of RJ Arrowsmith's *Kent, a history of county cricket* (Arthur Barker 1971) as well as of the Kent CCC 'Blue Books, the Home Gordon edited *Kent County Cricket Club Annual* 1933-1936 & 1939, the *Kent County Cricket Club Yearbook* 1947-1950 and the *Kent County Cricket Club Annual* 1951 to date. The Kent CCC Minute Books and the Trial Book, which have proved invaluable, have already been mentioned.

Much use has of course been made of standard works - Wisden, *Lillywhites* both 'red' and 'green', *Scores & Biographies*, ACS *First-Class Cricket Matches* and the *Cricket Archive* web site. Where there are differences in the scores or other figures printed in these publications, *Cricket Archive* has been accepted as definitive. Of newspapers, the most frequently consulted nationals have been *The Times*, *The Morning Post* and *The Daily Telegraph* while the main sources among the local press have been *The Kentish Express*, *Kentish Gazette*, *Kentish Mercury*, *Kent Messenger*, *Kent & Sussex Courier* and *Kentish Times*.

For biographical detail, no publications contributed more to Part One of the A to Z project than cricket specific journals of the period *Cricket* (1882 to 1913), *World of Cricket* (1914) and *The Cricket Field* (1892 to 1895). The latter was of particular value thanks to the number of, sometimes surprisingly in-depth, interviews with Kent cricketers it carried during its short life. Many of the historical and biographical articles featured over the years in *The Cricketer* under its various titles and in *Wisden Cricket Monthly* also greatly assisted research.

Biographies of Kent cricketers of the period, although relatively few in number, have, in varying degrees, been valuable sources of information and are generally named in the appropriate places in the text. Lord Harris' *A Few Short Runs* (John Murray, 1921) has been especially useful as have two more recent biographies in the ACS *Lives in Cricket Series*, Brian Rendell's on Fuller Pilch and Giles Phillips' on Edgar Willsher. For biographical information on lesser-known 19th century Kent players, John Goulstone's *Early Kent cricketers* (International Research Publications, 1971) and *More early Kent cricketers* (the author, 2002) are without equal.

Charles Fry's *Book of Cricket, a gallery of famous players*. (George Newnes, 1899) is a rich source of technical information on some players of the period as is *Cricket* by AG Steel & RH Lyttelton in the Badminton Library series (Longmans Green, 1888).

Until Kent began winning Championships, the era of the Town Malling-based 'Great Old Kent Eleven' was the most written-about period in the Club's cricketing history. William Denison's *Sketches of the Players* (Longman's Green, 1846), James Pycroft's *The Cricket Field* (Longmans Green, 1851) and *Oxford Memories* (Richard Bentley, 1886) together with Patrick Morrah's *Alfred Mynn & the cricketers of his time*. (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1963) are the main works consulted.

The entire A to Z project would have been stillborn without the treasure trove of biographical detail now obtainable on-line. The websites mainly used were *ancestry.co.uk* and *findmypast.co.uk*.

Conversation and /or correspondence with former Kent cricketers has been and will continue to be a major part of the research for the A to Z project but, while in Part One written sources inevitably predominate, we did have the advantage of notes taken of conversations stretching back almost half a century with first-class cricketers who had played with or against players of pre-1914 vintage. Howard Levett and Claude Lewis of Kent both loved to reminisce given half a chance and the writer learned much about past cricketers from Alf Gover, 'Lofty' Herman and Arthur Wellard in fondly recalled evenings in the bar of the Gover Cricket School in Wandsworth.

Kent County Cricketers
A to Z
Part One 1806-1914

Acknowledgments

Research for the following pages began so long ago it would be difficult to name everyone who has contributed in some way or other and so, with humble apologies to anyone omitted, no attempt will be made to do so.

Firstly, thanks must go to the Kent CCC Honorary Statistician Howard Milton who, involved with the project from the very first, undertook a substantial amount of the research, wrote the entry for Frank Woolley and provided invaluable advice and guidance as well as affording access to his records, his extensive library on Kent cricket and his large collection of Kent cricketers' birth and death certificates.

Thanks are also due to Kent CCC and particularly to Honorary Curator David Robertson for allowing unfettered access to Club records, especially the Minute Books and the Trial Book, for answering questions and for furthering the project in many other ways. We were fortunate too in having the aid of Paul Lewis who kindly allowed us to use the results of his painstaking research into the service records of Kent cricketers in the two World Wars. Another who shared his vast knowledge of Kent cricket history was Peter Henderson, Archivist of King's School Canterbury and historian of St. Lawrence Cricket Club.

Among others who have made valuable contributions to Part One are Derek Barnard, David Boorman, David Frith, David Kelly, Ian Lambert, the late Martin Moseling, Roger Packham, Philip Paine, Giles Phillips, the late Clive Porter and Peter Wynne-Thomas. Descendants of James Seymour kindly supplied much information on his life and career.

Thanks are also due to the Records Department of the Law Society and the archivists/historians of numerous other establishments including Bedford School, Brasenose College, Oxford, Charterhouse, Cheltenham, Dulwich, and Eton Colleges, Haileybury, Harrow School, Hurstpierpoint and Malvern Colleges, Repton Rugby, Sevenoaks, Shrewsbury, Sutton Valence, and Uppingham Schools and Wellington and Winchester Colleges.

A very sincere thank you is due to John Winnifrith who bravely read the first set of proofs, a task well beyond the call of duty and one the writer would hesitate to inflict on his worst enemy! Thanks also to Ray Greenall for a second read through before the content was published, and also to Peter Griffiths for converting the material into an online format.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to my eldest daughter Mrs Stefanie Hambrook who, despite no great interest in cricket, more than twelve years ago pioneered the research for the first 30 or so entries and, by demonstrating just how much biographical information could be gathered online, persuaded her father that the project was viable.

Kent Cricketers A to Z
Part One. 1806 to 1914

Aboyne, Charles Gordon. Sixth Earl of Aboyne (No. 54).

Born: 4.1.1792; Orton Longueville, Huntingdonshire. *Died:* 18.9.1863; Orton Longueville, Huntingdonshire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1827-1836.

Educated: St John's College, Cambridge.

Parents: George Gordon, Fifth Earl of Aboyne & Catherine, Fifth Countess Aboyne (née Cope)

Charles Gordon, Sixth Earl of Aboyne, who played four times for the Gentlemen of Kent as well as twice for Kent, seems to have been one of those cricketers whose enthusiasm for the game far exceeded ability. Nevertheless he has two unique claims to fame. First, at Lord's in 1819 he became the only member of the aristocracy ever to appear for the Players against the Gentlemen. Second, although a number of cricketers have appeared for both the Gentlemen against the Players and the Players against the Gentlemen, due either to a change of status as in the case of Walter Hammond and Bill Edrich, or as 'given men', according to *Scores & Biographies (Vol. 1 p 425)*, when Lord Strathavon (as he then was) turned out for the Players his presence among the paid fraternity came about because he had placed a bet on them. The tut tuts are almost audible as Arthur Haygarth, the industrious compiler of *S & B* adds that it 'would not now (1861) be allowed'.

This was only the third time the Gentlemen had met the Players and the first in which they had done so without one or more 'given men' but exactly what Strathavon's presence among the professionals was expected to achieve is unclear unless it was to weaken the side. Throughout his entire career in 'important' matches he only four times achieved double figures and never reached 20. On this occasion he batted number ten and contributed five (bowled) and six (stumped). He did not bowl. His second appearance, in what most no doubt deemed his proper place among the Gentlemen, was in 1827 when, batting No. 16 in a 17 man batting order, he achieved 0 and four, bowled on both occasions.

A member of MCC for approximately 50 years, his first appearance in an important match was for William Ward's Eleven v EH Budd's Eleven at Lord's in 1818. He played 16 times for MCC in important matches and it was for MCC that he reached his top score of 19. He also played for Hampshire, Middlesex and Surrey, all before any of them were properly constituted county clubs, and twice for Married v Single. He appeared for MCC in numerous minor matches – sometimes batting higher up the order – and occasionally raised his own team but the only time he did so in a match now deemed 'important' he failed, as they say, to trouble the scorers. He was President of MCC in 1821.

Lord Strathavon's first appearance for Kent was at Lord's in 1827 when MCC were beaten by 188 runs, his scores 14 and 0*. His second outing was nine years later by which time he had succeeded to the title. The match was Kent v England at Chislehurst where, despite his rank, he was still last in the batting order and was stumped for a useful 11. His four appearances for the Gentlemen of Kent between 1832 and 1838 were all on the Chislehurst ground of the West Kent club, three against MCC, one against England. His six innings (twice not out) produced 21 runs (avge.5.25) with a top score of 14 (run out) in 1837.

For those unfamiliar with the intricacies of the peerage it should be explained that Charles Gordon was Lord Strathavon from 1794 until 1836 when he became the Sixth Earl of Aboyne. In 1853 he became the Tenth Earl of Huntly. The family, linked to the Clan Gordon, claim descent from William the Conqueror.

In 1826 as Lord Strathavon he married Lady Elizabeth Henrietta Conyngham, one of the great beauties of her day who had caught the eye of George IV. She died in 1839. In 1844 at the age of 52 he married Mary Pegus (daughter of a clergyman and half-sister of the Tenth Earl Linsey) by whom he had 14 children, the youngest born almost five months after his death. A portrait of his second daughter Lady Harlech hangs in the National Portrait Gallery. He is buried in the church of Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville under a large black marble altar tomb.

Strathavon, as he was when elected, was MP (Second Member) for East Grinstead from 1818-1829 and Second Member for Huntingdonshire in 1830 until the constituency was reconstituted in the following year. He was Lord of the Bedchamber 1826-1830, Lord-in-Waiting 1840-1841 and Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire from 1861 until his death.

In 1873 the 11th Marquis of Huntly's Thirteen played MCC at Aboyne Castle. The Marquis batted No. 13 and finished 0*.

Charles Alfred Absolom (No. 256).

Born: 7.6.1846; Blackheath. *Died:* 30.7.1889; Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1868-1879.

Educated: King's College School & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Tests. One for England.

Parents: Edward Absolom & Elizabeth Absolom (née Canning).

Known to his numerous friends as 'Bos' and to a wider circle for reasons not entirely clear as 'the Cambridge Navvy', Charles Absolom was one of the best loved characters ever to play for Kent. In his autobiography *A Few Short Runs* Lord Harris wrote – 'Who that has played with him can forget him? Brown as a nut and bearded like the pard, he was the life and soul of a weak team, always confident and always cheery.' 'His versatile genius made him as good company in the pavilion on a wet day as in the field.' - WG Grace (or his ghost writer) thought him 'worthy of a place in any eleven for the excellent and stimulating example he showed of working heart and soul from the beginning to end of a match, whether he was on the winning or losing side'.

As a batsman he was totally unorthodox, said to be able to play 'every stroke not in the book and very few that were'. At a time when off-side strokes were considered the epitome of style and cross-batted leg-side shots off anything other than long hops frowned upon, he delighted in pulling balls pitching on or outside off stump at and over square leg or pull driving them over long on. In his Cambridge days, playing for Perambulators v Etceteras on the Trinity College ground in 1869 with an hour to play and despite having fielded all day in hot sun, he asked to be allowed to open the batting. When he was out in the day's final over the scoreboard showed 106 for one, last man 100.

As a bowler he was tireless and accurate, getting his wickets by a mixture of persistence, self-belief, minor variations in pace and an occasional faster ball, allied to a shrewd cricketing brain. At his happiest when bowling, he had asked to open the bowling at Canterbury in 1876 when Grace hit 344. At the end of a second successive swelteringly hot day when ten bowlers had been tried (including the wicketkeeper) it was Charlie Absolom who was still begging his captain for an over.

Hatless even in the hottest weather, in the field he was an asset in any position particularly at slip where he held numerous catches from left-arm pace bowlers such as Ned Willsher and George Hearne. He is one of the select dozen Kent cricketers who average over a catch a match. Only Martin van Jaarsveld, Justin Kemp and Carl Hooper have bettered his average of 1.38.

Absolom's father was a tea merchant living in Greenwich with his wife, three sons and two daughters. Subsequently the family moved the short distance to Lee and finally to Snarebrook, Essex. It was for the Gentlemen of Essex that 18 year-old Charlie played his first innings of note, 66* (plus three wickets and two catches) v the Gentlemen of Norfolk at Dereham in May 1865. Also in the Essex team was Charles Alcock who, if not quite the 'Father of Modern Sport' as sometimes claimed, certainly did more than most to establish Test cricket and the FA Cup as we know them.

Going up to Trinity College Cambridge in 1865, Absolom took six wickets and hit 17 (top score) and 19 (joint top score) in the 1866 Freshman's match which won him a place in the Cambridge Twelve who faced MCC at Lord's. Taking the field capless, unusual at the time, and in a red shirt – even more unusual though spotted shirts were not unknown - he scored eight in a debacle which saw the University dismissed for 47. In the second innings his 26* in a last wicket partnership of 74 with George Edward Willes (51) helped to avoid an innings defeat. This, together with four for 48 was enough to gain him his Blue, the first of four successive appearances in the University match.

In 1867 he achieved his career best with 94 from a powerful MCC attack at Fenner's, offset somewhat by a pair in the return at Lord's and another duck against Oxford. With 38 wickets at 13.24, he was the mainstay of the Cambridge attack, taking five for 64 and four for 45 when Oxford were beaten by five wickets, and five for 38 and six for 85 v Cambridgeshire at Fenner's. When Cambridge triumphed again by 168 runs in the 1868 University match he played a major role with five for 31 and three for 42 as well as a vigorous, hard hit 33. His 38 wickets, slightly more expensive at 15.50, included four for 68 and five for 40 v MCC at Fenner's where in the second innings he bowled unchanged with Charles Green (five for 44) to dismiss the visitors for 85.

Playing against Surrey at The Oval, he was unwittingly involved in a controversial incident. While running a sixth run on an overthrow, the ball struck his bat and, although the throw had come from behind him and he could not possibly have seen it coming, on appeal by wicketkeeper Ted Pooley umpire William Tanner gave him out for obstructing the field.

Without doing anything outstanding apart from a fiercely hit 30 v Oxford, Absolom remained a valuable member of the Cambridge team in 1869 when they went through the season unbeaten and achieved their third successive victory over the Dark Blues. In his four seasons in the Cambridge side his record was 101 wickets at 14.48. He was elected Secretary of Cambridge University CC in 1867 and Treasurer in 1869.

How he earned his living after University is unclear. He was enrolled at Inner Temple but in 1874 his name was withdrawn. He might of course have worked in the family business like his elder brother but there is no written evidence. Obviously he was doing something as, at least until 1876, he did not play the amount of cricket to be expected at the time from an old Blue with leisure to spare. He is said to have turned up to play on one occasion having walked twelve miles with his gear after what sounds like a flatulence inducing breakfast of a quart of beer and a pint of gooseberries. One anecdote has him hiring himself out to a farmer for haymaking for five shillings a day plus his beer. On the second day the farmer begs him to take ten shillings and find his own beer.

At any event, he does not seem to have been particularly prosperous and he may have been one of the amateurs Lord Harris had in mind when he referred to playing for Kent in the 1870s as being 'too heavy a drain on slender purses.'

In 1868 he was selected for Gentlemen v Players at both Lord's and The Oval, in pre-Test match days the highest honour the game had to bestow. He was chosen for both fixtures again in 1869 and in 1870 and for The Oval match in 1874. His best performances were 40* at The Oval in 1868 and five for 56 and two for 29 in 1869, again at The Oval, when the professionals were beaten by 17 runs.

He also played eight times for the Gentlemen of the South. Against Players of the South at The Oval in 1874 his figures were five for 31 & five for 82. In the same season and on the same ground he also took five for 78 for Oxford and Cambridge Universities Past and Present v the Gentlemen of England.

Absolom made his first appearance for a county in 1866 when he opened the batting for Essex v MCC at Lord's. His debut for Kent, the county of his birth, came in 1868 when, persuaded by the Honourable George Harris (the future Fourth Lord Harris), he played against Surrey at Gravesend. With scores of two and 0 and no chance to bowl it was an unmemorable beginning but he had the consolation of being on the winning side, a Kent victory by 111 runs which, in the words of *Scores & Biographies* 'did much towards reviving their drooping laurels'. Until 1875 his cricket after University was largely confined to Gentlemen v Players and Gentlemen of the South matches and a few minor games, mainly for the prestigious Southgate club and for the South London Club Northbrook. He did however make one appearance for Essex v MCC, his last for the eastern county, and played three times for Kent – v Surrey at The Oval in 1871, Sussex at Tonbridge in 1872 and Lancashire at Mote Park in 1874, each time picking up useful wickets but failing to reach double figures.

In 1875 he began to feature regularly in Kent matches. Opening the batting at Old Trafford, he was fourth out for 63 scored out of 89 and his six for 52 in Lancashire's first innings included three wickets in four balls. 1876 was his best season with the ball – 62 wickets in all matches including seven for 45 at Prince's when for Gentlemen of the South he bowled unchanged with Arthur Ridley (*qv*), who took three for 42 with under-arm lobs, to dismiss a strong Players of the North side for 91. His 41 wickets for Kent included five for 60 & six for 74 v Derbyshire at Derby, six for 56 v Surrey at Mote Park and five for 91 v Sussex at Hove. He also played in his first Canterbury Cricket Week – four & 0, four for 54 & two for 67 for Kent and Gloucestershire v England, ten, one for 43 & two for 105 for Kent v Gentlemen of MCC.

Bowling less in 1877 but now frequently used as an opener, he scored over 500 runs in all matches, 490 for Kent, without once reaching 50. Against Sussex at Hove he hit 30 out of 40 with 5 fours, v Derbyshire on Tunbridge Wells Common, 33 out of an opening stand of 42 and against Lancashire at Mote Park, 40 out of 70 with one six and three fours. Playing against Derbyshire at Maidstone in 1878 he reached his personal highest for Kent, 70 (eight fours) and shared an opening partnership of 110 with Charles Cunliffe (*qv*). Opening with Hon Ivo Bligh v Hampshire, on Tunbridge Wells Common, 50 runs were scored in half an hour. At Old Trafford he scored 41 in an all-out Kent total of 63.

Playing for 18 of Hastings and District under the captaincy of Lord Harris at the end of August 1878, Absolom had his first encounter with the Australians including the great Fred Spofforth. Scores of five (bowled Spofforth) and eight were disappointing but, although he failed to take a wicket, his bowling, described by the Australian cricketer cum journalist Tom Horan as 'useful but plain' was at least economical – 13 (four ball) overs for 14 runs.

He encountered the Australians again in the 1878/79 winter when he toured Australia with a team captained by Lord Harris. The tour originated from an invitation to the Middlesex captain Isaac Walker from the Melbourne Club to bring out a 'Gentlemen's team with all expenses paid. In the event, Walker could not tour, nor could or would most of England's leading amateurs and Lord Harris was saddled with taking a team cobbled together from such amateurs as could spare the time – including Francis Mackinnon, Frank Penn and 'Bos' Absolom from Kent - plus two Yorkshire professionals, Tom Emmett and George Ulyett. The batting was stronger than any previous English touring side but there was no regular wicketkeeper and only the 37 year-old Emmett and Ulyett were anything like regular bowlers. In short, it was by a large margin the least representative 'England' team ever to be (retrospectively) granted Test Match status.

For Absolom the highlight of the tour was the match at Melbourne with the Australian side who had toured England in the previous summer, a game subsequently recognised as the third- ever Test match. Absolom joined his captain immediately after Spofforth had completed his hat trick with the score a disastrous 26 for seven. With Absolom playing according to Harris 'his old, old game of knocking the ball all over the ground,' the total was taken to 89 when Harris was bowled. Absolom carried on hitting and was last out caught on the boundary for 52 (five fours). He thus became the first amateur to pass 50 in Test cricket. In the second innings he was caught and bowled by Spofforth for six and, presumably because of injury or a strain, was not called on to bowl.

In other matches his top score was 32 against Eighteen of North Tasmania at Launceston. In all matches he hit 224 runs (avge.16.00) and took 18 wickets (avge.17.16)

Absolom did not apparently enjoy his tour. He was lovesick and his father and younger brother had both died in 1878 which cannot have helped. In a letter to a friend he wrote 'I have a schoolboy's list of days until we return and religiously strike off one every morning – it's my one ray of sunshine'. Unfortunately his particular 'ray of sunshine' seems to have shone on another and he found himself rejected – perhaps a bigger blow at 32 than it might have been ten years earlier. Persistent researchers have since discovered not only the lady's name, but that she was the sister of a friend and that her beloved was in fact dead. It is a sad story but a very personal one to those involved and on the whole, for the sake of good manners if for no other reason, it seems better to intrude no further.

1879 proved to be his last English season. In a year of low scores and bowler- friendly pitches, he played in all but two of Kent's fixtures and totalled only 312 runs (avge.13.56) but his hitting often proved valuable – 29 in a total of 80 at Bramall Lane, 44* out of 59 for one against Lancashire at Canterbury. He claimed only two wickets, his last the highly prized scalp of Walter Read.

At the end 1879 he travelled to the USA. In 1880 he was in Charlottesville, Virginia staying with some farming friends named Harris and as late as 1888 he was playing for the Staten Island Cricket Club in New York. For a time he lived with the Spokane (or Spokane) tribe on their reservation along the Columbia River where he was reputedly given a name in the local language which was said to translate as 'The man who never wears a hat'.

He later worked as a ship's purser, first in the *SS Orinoco* and subsequently in the *SS Muriel* trading between New York and Trinidad. To people of the right temperament it could well have been an agreeable lifestyle and, contrary to what might be inferred from some of those who have researched his life, it seems far from certain that Charles Absolom was quite the broken-hearted unhappy wanderer sometimes portrayed.

He returned at least once to England. In 1887 he is listed as having sailed from London to New York in the *SS Gallia*. By then his mother had remarried and his two sisters were occupying the family house at Snaresbrook. In 1888, the year before his death, he played a complete season of cricket in the USA for Staten Island, Seabright and for All New York v the Gentlemen of Ireland. The latter, in which he scored 36 & two and took two for 54, seems to be the last cricket match he ever played in. With the Seabright club he took part in a four match tour of Canada and he also played at Germantown, Detroit, Chicago and Prospect Park, Brooklyn. In thirteen matches he scored 215 runs with a top score of 41 and claimed 40 wickets, twice six in an innings

His end was tragic. In July 1889, while supervising the loading of sugar on to the *SS Muriel* at Port of Spain, the crane broke, burying him and Mr JA Dupon the West Indies Superintendent for Quebec Line steamers. The latter died instantly, but 'Bos' lived on for three days in considerable pain.

In addition to his cricket, Absolom made a name as a footballer and was a considerable athlete. At various meetings in his Cambridge days he cleared 20ft 2in (6.14 metres) in the long jump, threw the

cricket ball 97 yards 8in (88.90 metres), put the weight 33 ft. 6in (10.2 metres), and threw the ‘cannon ball’ 32ft 10in (10 metres). He also won over 120 yards (109.72 metres) the Cambridge University handicap in 1868.

Charles Absalom should not be confused with another ‘character’ Charles Absolon with an ‘n’. Absolon, a master butcher by trade but clearly cricket mad, played well into old age and took part in a vast amount of minor cricket mostly in and around North London, often two matches on the same day. Bowling under-arm, between the ages of 50 and 80 he is reputed to have taken 8,500 wickets, twice over 500 in a season and including 59 hat-tricks. Born in 1817, he died in his 91st year.

Further reading:

Howat, Gerald. *CA Absalom. A Victorian Drama*. Article in *The Cricketer*. August 1989.

Thomas Miles Adams (No. 100).

Born: 2.5.1810; Gravesend. *Died:* 20.1.1894, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent: 1836-1858.

Parents: Thomas & Mary Adams

What might now be called a ‘bits and pieces’ allrounder, Tom Adams was an important component of the ‘Great Old Kent Eleven’ which dominated English cricket in the 1830s and early 1840s. He played right through the golden period and was still in the side during the days of decline in the 1850s. Although never achieving the fame of Alfred Mynn, Fuller Pilch, Felix etc., he actually played more matches for Kent than any of them and was five times picked for the Players v the Gentlemen, four times at Lord’s and once at Canterbury. He also played 14 times for ‘England’ Elevens and five times in representative South v North matches.

Although according to Fuller Pilch ‘never a first rate bat’, he was a very useful one, frequently opening the batting. As well as a strong defence, he could hit hard when in the mood. Playing for Kent v England at Lord’s in 1840 he made a square-leg hit on to the roof of the old tennis and racquets courts which stood on the site of the present Mound Stand. The mark remained until the building was demolished in 1898.

As a bowler he was ‘plain but straight’ the latter quality deriving from the fact that, with his arm at or slightly below shoulder level, he generally bowled over the wicket – unusual at the time when most right-arm bowlers delivered round the wicket and slanted the ball towards slip. He was rated one of the best fielders of his time, at point, long stop or in the outfield, noted for his powerful throw.

His first innings of note was in 1834 on Hadlow Common when he scored 32 in a total of 73 for Kent (with Marsden) v Benenden. By contemporary standards he was a consistent performer scoring twenty or more in one in five visits to the wicket, statistically at least better than Alfred Mynn, but it was not until 1843 that he registered his first half-century for Kent, 56 v Sussex on the Beverley Ground, Canterbury.

He totalled over 1,500 runs against Sussex and six of his seven half centuries for Kent were from their bowling. When scoring 78 at Brighton in 1849 he shared what was for the time a colossal second-wicket partnership of 173 with Alfred Mynn (92). His other half century for Kent was 51 v Yorkshire at the Hyde Park Ground Sheffield in 1849, the first- ever meeting between the two counties.

Adams was a more than useful bowler but generally he was used as support to the likes of Mynn, Hillyer and Hinkly. Playing as a given man for the Gentlemen of Kent v MCC at Chislehurst in 1838 he had a major share in the dismissal of the visitors for 42 and 49 with seven wickets in the first

innings and four in the second. Possibly his best performance was at Cranbrook in 1850 when he took five for 22 against a strong England Eleven. At Canterbury in 1845 he bowled unchanged through both innings with 'Topper' Hillyer to give Kent an innings victory over Nottinghamshire, Adams claiming seven wickets, Hillyer ten, with two run outs. At Gravesend in 1854 he not only produced his best figures for Kent, six for 39; he was joint top scorer with 29 in the first innings and top scorer with 23 in the second. It was not quite enough; Sussex won by three wickets.

For five years from 1851 he was a ground bowler at Lord's, claiming 21 wickets for MCC in 'important' matches and twice passing fifty in ten appearances. He was also employed for short periods at Southampton and Manchester and played once each for Hampshire and Lancashire before they were formally established as clubs.

In 1849 playing as 'given man' for the Royal Artillery against I Zingari at Woolwich he had a hand in every wicket to fall except for one run out and two who failed to turn up for their second innings. He bowled eight, one hit wicket, had three caught, caught one off his own bowling and caught four off other bowlers. Four years earlier in a single-wicket match at Gravesend he defeated ten Gravesend licensed victuallers by 23 runs. Scores Adams 8 and 24. Gravesend LVs 2 and 7 – 12 bowled, two caught and bowled, five run out.

Adams was born and died a Gravesend man, having lived all his life in the town apart from short coaching engagements at Oxford, Rugby and elsewhere. His mother was a laundress, widowed when Tom was a child. Her son was employed as a labourer in the local ordnance works for 12 shillings a week until prowess in local cricket earned him a reputation and his first professional engagement, with a gentleman from Town Malling (now known as West Malling) for five pounds a week.

In 1845, while still very active as a cricketer, he began work on what became and still is the Bat and Ball Ground, Gravesend, in its heyday one of the best batting pitches in England. Apparently in some sort of partnership with a man named Butcher (almost certainly one of the ten licensed victuallers referred to earlier), the work of levelling and preparation took three years, fenced with 'bushes tied together' according to his own account in the October 1893 issue of *Cricket*, and using turf imported from nearby Cobham Park.

Adams reputedly lavished much attention on pre-match mowing and rolling, not only at Gravesend but wherever he was playing, a fact deemed by cynics to be not unconnected with the fact that he wished to ensure the pitch would be at its best when he opened the batting. According to the distinguished Nottinghamshire batsman Richard Daft, Adams 'used to declare that he would achieve perfect happiness if he could play with a team who would stop at the wickets for three full days, keep the opposing eleven in the field and at the end of the third day, wish them good evening and thank them for a pleasant game'. True or not, the fact is that at Gravesend he averaged 21.50, considerably more than on any other Kent ground.

By his own account after 'two or three years' he appears to have disposed of all or part of his interest in the ground to William Smith, a local cricketer, but there seems no doubt that he continued to concern himself with pitch preparation. He had other interests. Like at least one other Kent cricketer, Walter Hearn, Adams became a pub landlord by marrying a widow, in this case Sarah the landlady of the *Russell Arms*, Gravesend who, 19 years his senior, used her expertise to help with the catering on match days.

Just under six feet (180cm), Adams was athletically- built with a distinctive gypsy or kiss curl on either side of his head and, according to the early writer on cricket Fred Gale (*qv*), 'looking as if he had eaten live birds for breakfast.' He was an expert shot and, at least in his own estimation, above average in running, the long jump and skittles. For some years it was his custom to walk from Gravesend to Epsom to see the Derby, stopping overnight in Croydon.

He was also handy with his fists. When he found it hard to get on with his new grown up stepson, they decided to fight, Tom won and they became firm friends thereafter. On another occasion he was more circumspect. A local prize-fighter challenged him to box, shoot and play cricket (in that order), the winner of two of the three to take the stakes. The fighter had reasoned that after the boxing, his opponent would be in no condition to do anything else but he reckoned without the streetwise Adams. Tom fell to the ground before a blow was struck, won the other two easily and pocketed the money. In 1846, in company with Hillyer, he was matched to play cricket and shoot pigeons against George Picknell and Ted Bushby of Sussex. The cricket was a tie when Adams was given out 'handled ball' when returning the ball to the bowler but Kent won the shooting.

Tom Adams umpired in important matches on occasions from 1852 till 1865 and in local matches beyond that. On the death of his wife he moved to 21 Prospect Place, Gravesend where he spent his last years in the care of his stepdaughter Sarah Whiffen, a milliner. He outlived all the great Kent cricketers of his day. His gravestone in Gravesend cemetery has a cricket motif and his portrait hangs in the pavilion at Canterbury

Benjamin Aislabie (No. 33).

Born: 14.1.1774; Newington Green, London, *Died:* 2.6.1842; Regent's Park, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1823.

Educated: Sevenoaks School & Eton College.

Parents: Rawson Aislabie & Frances Aislabie (née Reason)

There is no evidence that Benjamin Aislabie played cricket in his schooldays although it seems likely He is first heard of playing for the Homerton Club in 1795 and became a member of MCC in 1802. He was in the Homerton side against MCC in 1802 and appeared for MCC v Middlesex at Lord's in 1808, his first 'important' match. By the time he made his final appearance, for MCC v Cambridge in 1841, he was 67, weighed around 20 stone (126.98 kg.) and needed both a runner and a substitute in the field. In 56 'important' matches spread over 33 years he never succeeded in improving on his top score of 15* achieved in 1817. In his solitary appearance for Kent he batted number eleven and put the scorers to the minimum of trouble.

He did of course play in numerous minor matches but never had pretensions of being anything other than a very moderate cricketer. His primary contribution to the game was as the first Honorary Secretary of MCC, one who by his energy, personal popularity and business acumen did more than anyone to set the Club on a firm footing. Appointed in 1826 although he had been handling the Club's affairs considerably before then, not the least of his achievements was in being largely instrumental in discouraging the seedier aspects of gambling which threatened the well-being of cricket at the time. Together with the 11th Earl of Thanet (Henry Tufton), he was responsible for managing the Kent v England match staged as a benefit for Fuller Pilch at Town Malling in 1839.

A successful wine merchant based in the Minories, City of London, Aislabie was in partnership with William Meade & Benjamin Standring and numbered Lord Nelson among his clients. He also had holdings in the West Indies. He regularly took teams to play the major Public Schools and features in the cricket match at Rugby School in Thomas Hughes' once hugely popular *Tom Brown's Schooldays*. He thus became one of the few cricketers of note to appear in a major work of fiction. Essex and England captain JWHT Douglas is another.

Although always portrayed as a kindly man, in 1808 he gave evidence in the prosecution of one his employees, Richard Cowley a cellar man, who received three months in Newgate and a one shilling fine for stealing four bottles of sherry, three of port, one of brandy and a 'part bottle' of rum.

Aislabie also played for Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex. He wrote a number of poems and songs with a cricket theme, some of them preserved in Philip Norman's *Annals of the West Kent Cricket Club*. He died in office of an abscess in the throat and is buried in Marylebone Parish Church. There is a tombstone to his memory in Sevenoaks churchyard. He married Anne Hodgson who survived him by one year. There was one son.

Charles Dallas Alexander AMICE (No. 230).

Born: 25.12.1839; Calcutta (now Kolkata) India. *Died:* 22.1.1917; Tankerton.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1864.

Cheltenham College, Harrow School, King's College, London & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Stuart Douglas & Janet Bertha Douglas (née Dallas)

The son of an officer in the Bengal Civil Service, Charles Dallas Alexander played for the 'Next Eighteen' at Cambridge in 1862 but came nowhere near a Blue. He obtained his BA at Trinity in 1863 and made his solitary first-class appearance for Thirteen of Kent v England at Lord's in the following year. He had played a few games for the Gentlemen of Kent and for Town Malling but his only innings of note seems to have been for Cheltenham in 1861 when he scored 31 against the highly experienced travelling United All-England Eleven

In the Lord's match, the Kent Thirteen were completely outclassed by a strong England Eleven including Tom Hayward and Dick Carpenter, two of the top batsmen of the day as well as George 'Tear 'em' Tarrant and George Wootton, two of the most feared fast bowlers. Kent were dismissed for 87 and 45 and in their second innings: only George Bennett (ten) reached double figures. Bowled by Wootton for eight and by Tarrant for three, Alexander did no worse than most. This was the last time Kent played England at Lord's.

Alexander had an unusual career pattern. He was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1861 but switched to engineering and in 1868 became an Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He returned to Trinity for an MA in 1870 and shortly afterwards began work in the Locomotive Works of the London, Chatham & Dover Railway at Battersea. He served his pupillage under Sir John Fowler, a former President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, but by 1881 he had decided on another change of direction. In the 1881 Census he is Headmaster of Grange School, Mill Lane, Ewell where he is living with his wife Helen Kate (née Shuldham), whom he married in September 1874, four sons and one daughter. There are four resident masters, matron, housekeeper, eight domestic servants and 28 boarders, boys ranging in age from 11 to 17.

By 1888 he was back in engineering and had become an Associate Member of the Institution. During his engineering career he was concerned in a wide range of projects including the Edgware, Highgate & London Railway, Millwall Docks, dock projects in Birkenhead and railways and a waterworks in Western Australia.

He seems however to have suffered some sort of breakdown. In the 1901 Census he is one of two patients living with a medical practitioner in Keymer, Sussex. Ten years later he is living in a two-up, two-down house in Wincheap, Canterbury, with a mental nurse, Adsey Nellie Wood, as the sole patient. She is shown as head of the household. On his death, his estate was valued at £1,389 7s 6d, probate granted to his wife. His death went unrecorded by *Wisden*.

Charles Robert Alexander (No. 248).

Born: 8.11.1847; Westminster, London. *Died:* 17.2.1902; Down Street, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1867-1869.

Educated: Eton College & King's College, Cambridge.

Parents: James & Anna Maria Julia Alexander (née Dalison).

The son of a wealthy Sevenoaks banker and 'East India Agent', Charles Robert Alexander is described in *Scores & Biographies* as 'a very steady batsman with occasional fine hitting and an admirable field, especially at long stop'. He was in the Eton Eleven in 1865, missed the 1866 season due to illness but as captain in 1867 scored 38 and 26 against Harrow, 26 and 17 against Winchester and totalled over 1,000 runs in all school matches.

In August he was invited to play for Kent against the Gentlemen of MCC in the second match of Canterbury Week. In the first innings when Kent collapsed for 76 he had the satisfaction of being top scorer with 14. Elevated from No. 7 to No. 5 in the second innings, he was bowled by EM Grace for five, one of seven batsmen to succumb to WG's elder brother.

Going up to Cambridge in 1868, he played for Perambulators v Etceteras on the Trinity College Ground but seems to have indulged in no other serious cricket in his first year at University. He was however included in the Kent team which beat Cambridgeshire at Fenner's. In June during term time, against an attack including George 'Tear 'em' Tarrant, he scored 41 following a duck in the first innings. He played again when he was one of seven amateurs in the side against Sussex at Gravesend. Opening the batting, he failed to score in his only innings, bowled by James Lillywhite jun.

Alexander played in the Seniors' match at Cambridge 1869 and for Cambridge Quidnuncs against Southgate but there was no room for him in a strong University team which went through the season unbeaten. He made his final appearance for Kent at Brighton where he once more opened the batting and was once more bowled by Lillywhite for 0. He turned out again in Kent colours, for the Gentlemen of Kent v the Gentlemen of Buckinghamshire at Gravesend where he contributed two and 17*.

He played twice for the University in 1870, v Surrey at The Oval (first-class) and v Birkenhead Park at Fenner's. Although he never bowled in first-class matches, for Cambridge Quidnuncs v Southgate on the latter's ground he took eight for 102. In 1871, his final year at University, he took his BA and, now under the captaincy of Kent's Bill Yardley, made three appearances in the Cambridge Eleven – v the Next Sixteen, v the Gentlemen of Lancashire and v MCC at Lord's. Selection for the latter, the only first-class fixture, was often followed by a Blue but not in this case. For Cambridge Quidnuncs v Harrow he scored 52, his highest in a match of any significance.

Charles Alexander seems to have played little cricket of any consequence after University although his name turns up playing for Wildernes Park v I Zingari in 1873. He also performed on the running track. In 1867 he won the 150 yards (137 metres) handicap race at the Amateur Athletic Club autumn meeting at Beaufort House. Called to the Bar in the Middle Temple in 1874, he subsequently migrated to Lincoln's Inn. He was also a member of the London Stock Exchange. His estate was valued at £17,830, bequeathed to his widow Mary (née Evans). There were no children.

Henry Wych Andrews (No. 153).

Born: 14.10.1821, Eling, Hampshire. *Died:* 13.12.1865, Dulwich Common.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent: 1852-1863.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School.

Parents: Joshua & Elizabeth Andrews

Described in *Scores & Biographies* as a batsman who ‘hits hard forward and to leg’, Henry Andrews was unusual for his time in that he played in spectacles. Even more unusual, he kept wicket in them. Living in Blackheath Village when it was a genuine village, together with his friend Stephen Smith (*qv*) he helped to found the Blackheath Paragon Club, one of the strongest clubs in the area playing, as far as can be ascertained, on the Heath.

He played frequently for the Gentlemen of Kent and in 1849 made the first of a number of appearances for them against the Gentlemen of England at Canterbury. In the Gentlemen of Kent’s second innings of 95 he was top scorer with 35.

He made his Kent debut three years later at The Oval when, although run out in both innings, he was again top scorer, this time in the first innings with 28 in an all-out total of 116. Subsequent appearances were intermittent – one in 1854, two in 1855, three in 1856, four in 1857, two in 1858, one in 1859 and his last in 1863. His 23 and 58 in 1855 were important contributions to Kent’s 62 run victory over Sussex at the Brunswick Ground, Brighton but the following season was his best. He hit 23* in Kent’s second innings when MCC were beaten by five wickets at Gravesend, 48 (top score) for Kent and Sussex v England at Lord’s and 58 (again top score) when Sussex won by an innings at Brighton. In 1857 he again demonstrated his fondness for Sussex bowling on the Brighton wicket with an innings of 34 in Kent’s total of 177.

A member of the Stock Exchange, with his wife Harriet (née Terrey) he fathered 11 sons. One of them, Walter Hermann Andrews, played 37 times for Sussex between 1888 and 1892. On his death, Henry Wych Andrews ‘estate was valued for probate at ‘Under £120,000’, his widow the beneficiary.

Reginald James Hugh Arbuthnot (No. 370).

Born: 2.6.1853, Brighton, Sussex. *Died:* 19.9.1917, Brighton, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1881-1890.

Educated: Rugby School.

Parents: William Urqhart Arbuthnot & Elizabeth Jane Arbuthnot (née Taylor)

Reginald Arbuthnot was the son of, a member of the Indian Council and a partner in the Madras banking firm of Arbuthnot & Co. The family lived in considerable state in Brigden Place, Bexley with butler, private governess, sundry maids and footmen, a separate house for the coachman and family and live-in stable hands.

Described in *Lillywhite* as a ‘very steady and good bat’, Reginald was in the Eleven at Rugby in 1871 where he failed on the big occasion against Marlborough but scored 78 against Trinity College Oxford, 53* v Upper Tooting, an important club at the time, and 46 against Warwickshire.

His main claim to cricketing fame however is that he played twice for Kent with a nine-year interval between his two appearances. In 1881 at Mote Park when Kent were dismissed by Lancashire for 38 and 68 and lost by an innings, he batted No. 9 and scored 5 and 0. At Lord’s in 1890 he opened the batting for an under-strength Kent in a drawn match with MCC but with little success – 0 and 3, bowled in each innings by the Nottinghamshire medium-pace bowler Henry Richardson.

His nephew William Spottiswoode made his Kent debut in the same season. Spottiswoode was best known as a partner in the firm of Eyre & Spottiswoode, publishers of, among numerous other important books, the 1907 History of Kent CCC.

In the 1881 Census Arbuthnot was a coffee broker living in Bexley but some of the intervening years had been spent in India where Arbuthnot was a partner in the family bank, at the time in the charge of his cousin Sir George Gough Arbuthnot. Unfortunately, in 1906 the firm collapsed spectacularly, due largely to ill-advised investments in gold exploration and mining. Nevertheless in the 1911 Census Reginald was still described as of 'independent means' and was living with his elder sister and three servants in Ashley Gardens, Westminster where he died suddenly from a heart attack. His estate was valued for probate at £14,443.

Robert George Chadwick Armstrong (No. 193).

Born: 12.8.1836, Gravesend. *Died:* 9/6.1863, Peckham, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1859-1861.

Parents: Samuel Francis & Agnes Armstrong

The son of a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, Reginald Armstrong established a reputation as a young man in local cricket with Gravesend and later with the Albion and Standard Clubs who played on Peckham Rye. His Kent career began in 1859 with a pair against Middlesex at Southgate and although he was ever-present in the Kent side in 1860 and played twice in 1861, he only once reached double figures – 10* for Sixteen of Kent v England at Lord's in 1860.

A tall, spare built man according to *Scores & Biographies*, he was said to have 'batted in good style and at one time given promise of future excellence' but was judged slow in the field. In 1860 he was engaged as a professional by the Army at Chatham and in 1862 at Uppingham School. He lived most of his life in Peckham, then in Surrey now South East London, where he died young from that scourge of Victorian England, tuberculosis.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Ashby (No. 12).

Born: 12.1.1786, Linton. *Died:* 10.4.1847, Lambeth, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow right-arm, round-arm bowler.

Kent: 1815-1829.

Parents: Thomas Ashby & Frances Ashby (née Davis)

A carpenter by trade, William Ashby was among the best slow bowlers of his day. One of the pioneers of round-arm bowling, he had already established a local reputation when he came to live in Sutton Valence. Here he came under the influence of John Willes (*qv*), a prominent landowner and sportsman. Some accounts refer to Ashby living with Willes which presumably means employed on the estate. Although rudimentary round-arm bowling goes back to Hambledon days, Willes was instrumental in its serious revival and was the most important of the early practitioners. The probability is that it was Willes who persuaded Ashby to adopt the new method.

According to *Scores & Biographies* Ashby bowled slow with a 'not very high in delivery' but an 'unusual bias' and in 1807 he appeared with Willes at Lord's when Twenty-Three of Kent beat Thirteen of England by 12 wickets. These were the days when wickets from catches or stumpings were not credited to the bowler but Ashby claimed at least three including two of the leading batsmen of the day, John Small jun. and William Lambert. He also played in the return on Penenden Heath when Kent won by 27 runs amid rumours that the England side had 'sold' the game. It is unclear whether Willes, and presumably Ashby, bowled round-arm in the Lord's match but at Penenden Heath the *Morning Herald* refers to the 'straight-armed' bowling proving 'a great obstacle to getting runs'.

In the following year he made his debut in 'important' cricket, for England v Surrey at Lord's but, although he appears to have been regarded as the best slow bowler in Kent, no record of his activities within the County has survived until 1815 when he was in the Kent Eleven beaten by England at Wrotham Napps by 51 runs. His wickets included the most famous amateur batsman of the time, Lord Frederick Beauclerk who was also a leading opponent of round-arm bowling. In 1821 he made the first of nine appearances for Players v the Gentlemen.

In 1822 he played in the MCC v Kent match at Lord's, made famous when John Willes was no-balled for throwing at, it was said, the instigation of Beauclerk. Willes threw down the ball in disgust and abandoned the match but Ashby remained and in the second innings bowled Beauclerk. Kent won by an innings and four runs but whether Ashby continued to bowl round-arm history does not say. Possibly his 'not very high delivery' was enough to satisfy the umpires.

At any event he continued to play for Kent until 1829. Without full bowling analyses it is impossible to determine how many wickets he took but he clean bowled six batsmen for Kent v MCC at Lord's in 1823, five for Kent v Sussex on Hawkhurst Moor in 1826.

Ashby also played, sometimes as a 'given man', for Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey before they existed as formally constituted county clubs as well as for MCC. His last 'important' appearance was for Surrey with Pilch and Ashby v Sussex at Midhurst in 1830. In 1836 he appeared for the Camberwell Clarence Club where he was engaged as professional and continued in minor cricket for another ten years – a career lasting almost 40 years.

In 1819 he married Sarah Watson. There was one son and two daughters. He died from bronchitis and was buried in the churchyard of St Dunstan's, Stepney. A tombstone to his memory was erected in Tower Hamlets Cemetery, Whitechapel Road.

Frederick Mark Atkins (No. 371).

Born: 28.3.1864; Boxley. *Died:* 13.1.1941; Rochester.

Left-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1882-1897.

Parents: Mark & Ann Atkins.

If in the first-class game Mark Atkins seldom rose much beyond the useful category either as batsman or as a wicketkeeper, in club cricket he was a prodigious scorer, mainly for the Mote where he was the first batsman to score 1,000 runs in a season. Spread over a period of 15 years, his occasional appearances for Kent were generally at his home ground Mote Park and/or in the early part of the season before the top class amateurs were available

At club level some of his feats were positively Bradmanesque – 364 for Mote Park v Shorncliffe Camp at Maidstone in 1887 when he added 321 for the second- wicket with Alec Hearne (128), and three weeks later 238 for Mote Park v St. Lawrence at Canterbury. Again accompanied by Alec Hearne, he shared an opening partnership of 299. Other high scores included 196 v University Wanderers in 1883, 153 v Royal Marines in 1886, 225 v Band of Brothers in 1890, 226 v Old Cliftonians in 1894, 208 v Old Cliftonians in 1896, all for Mote Park at Maidstone, and 260 for Rochester v Cobham in 1897. In the latter year he hit six hundreds, two for Rochester and four for the Mote where he averaged 52.

Atkins, in best Kent tradition, made his living in the brewing industry. Living in Boughton Monchelsea, he eventually became a Master Maltster like his father and grandfather before him.

Playing as an amateur, he appeared for Kent Colts against Surrey Colts at The Oval in 1882 and made his first-class debut v MCC at Lord's in the following week. With Edward Tylecote in the side he played as a batsman but batting No. 9 cannot have done much for his confidence. His two innings, 16* and three were modest enough but on a pitch badly affected by rain only one batsman reached 20 in Kent's first innings and nobody achieved double figures in the second. He remained in the side for the northern tour but scores were low and he did little – 0 and 5 v Yorkshire, 2 and 0 v Lancashire. In 1883 he was called on three times, twice at Mote Park where, v Surrey, he opened and scored 31. His three other visits to the wicket that year produced only four runs.

Apart from a single appearance in 1884, he did not play again until 1887 when in his only first-class match, the last game of the season against Nottinghamshire at Mote Park, he top-scored in both innings with 26 and 32. He also played two non-first-class games against Essex. At Leyton, in the first-ever meeting between the two counties, his innings of 42 was described by *Wisden* as 'dashing'. Possibly on the strength of his performance against Nottinghamshire and his feats for the Mote, Atkins was chosen for five matches in 1888 but did little apart from an innings of 24, again from Nottinghamshire bowling, and again at Maidstone.

On his next appearance, v MCC at Lord's in 1890, he was Kent's wicketkeeper for the first time and, although he failed with the bat, he had the satisfaction of taking his first catch as county keeper. He played no more that year and appeared only once in 1891 when, against Sussex at Hove, he did not arrive until after lunch on the first day and, with the permission of the Sussex captain Billy Newham, Henry Nuttall (*q.v.*) who was not in the Kent side, kept in his place.

He was not in the side again until 1894 when he was picked as wicketkeeper in seven successive games before giving way to Manley Kemp. In addition to seven catches and one stumping, he contributed 155 runs which included his career best 52 v Gloucestershire and 21 and 35 v Middlesex at Tonbridge. Unfortunately 'pairs' against Lancashire at Tonbridge and Nottinghamshire at Mote Park reduced his season's average to a modest 11.92.

Two games in 1895, a year in which Kent used nine wicketkeepers, and one in 1897 concluded Atkins' first-class career. He continued to score runs for the Mote, averaging 42 in 1899 and scoring 45 & 30 against a strong Free Foresters side as late as 1908. His death was unrecorded in *Wisden*. With his wife Elizabeth (née Houghton) he had one son and four daughters.

Geoffrey Lewis Austin (No. 210).

Born: 11. 9.1837; Canterbury. *Died:* 29. 5.1902; Chelsea, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1861-1868.

Educated: King's School, Canterbury.

Parents: George Lewis & Eliza Lewis (*née* Pedder)

Probably best known as the Manager of Canterbury Cricket Week from 1888 to 1901, Captain Geoffrey Austin played for Fourteen of Kent against England in the 1861 Week. Batting No. 12, he scored 20 and 23 against among others, John Jackson, William Caffyn and Jemmy Grundy, some of the best bowlers in the country. He was less successful in the 1868 Canterbury Week in an 11-a-side match, for Kent v Gentlemen of MCC. He also played once for Gentlemen of Kent.

As well as managing the Week, he served for some years on the Kent CCC committee. The son of a solicitor, he was of independent means and lived for most of his life in the Cathedral precincts. He was one of the guarantors of the £2,500 loan taken out to finance the building of the pavilion at St Lawrence.

A Captain in the East Kent Mounted Rifles, he was a popular Manager of the Week and a far less abrasive character than his predecessor De Chair Baker (*qv*). He did much to raise and maintain standards but must however have put his popularity at some risk when in 1901 he seconded a proposal from George Marsham to exclude ladies from the pavilion in Canterbury Week.

He was one of the committee convened by the Mayor of Canterbury to plan the City's celebrations for the Jubilee Cricket Week in 1891. With his dog beside him, he is a prominent figure in the well-known picture of the 1877 Canterbury Week. A bachelor, in the year of his death he was still residing in the precincts with his sister, Elizabeth, two nieces Katherine Campbell and Evelyn Gardner and three servants although he actually died in Cheyne Gardens. His estate was valued for probate at £25,348. 8s.11d.

William Ayling (No. 1).

Born: 30.9.1768; Cocking, Sussex. *Died:* October 1826, Bromley.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1806.

Parents: Robert Ayling & Mary Ayling (*nêe White*)

A shoemaker by trade, William Ayling left his native Sussex to settle in Bromley, his departure possibly accelerated by his having been "a bit of a poacher' in his spare time' according to *Scores & Biographies*.. Presumably he changed his ways as he eventually became parish beadle.

As a cricketer, his primary claim to fame is that he participated in the first two Players v Gentlemen matches, both at Lord's in 1806 although his role in these two historic encounters was relatively undistinguished – one, eight, two and four. He played 13 times for 'England', the earliest in 1801. In 1802 he scored 25* in an all-out total 65 for Woolwich v MCC at Lord's

His only 'important match' for Kent, was in 1806 at Bowman's Lodge on Dartford Heath (now in the vicinity of the Crayford Corner Recreation Ground) where, opening the batting for Kent (with Beauclerk, Beldham and Hammond) against England he scored five and six.

He had played for Kent at Dartford in the previous year against the Bexley Club (with Lord Frederick. Beauclerk and John Hammond). Kent were dismissed for six in their first innings and Ayling's 12 at the second attempt was the only double figure score for Kent in the match. In the return at 'Judge's New Ground near Maidstone' he did rather better with 18 and 20. He subsequently played for Kent in a number of 'odds' matches as well as for a wide variety of scratch teams.

Batting techniques have changed a great deal over the past two hundred years but Ayling's seems stranger than most. Facing square to the bowler, he held the bat with his right hand only, adding his left immediately before playing the ball. Each to his own, but even with all bowling under-arm, it is difficult to imagine how this method could have made batting any easier.

He is possibly the William Ayling who married Elizabeth Longhorne at East Wickham in March 1825.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Reginald Sydney Habershon Baiss (No. 446).

Born: 6.3.1873 Belvedere. *Died:* 2.5.1955 Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1895-1901.

Educated: Tonbridge School and Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Sydney Standing Baiss & Caroline Emily Gillbee Baiss (née Habershon).

The son of a wholesale drug merchant with a business in Bermondsey, Baiss was in his school eleven from 1889 to 1892 where he gained a reputation as a sound batsman and an above average wicketkeeper, leading the side in his final year

Going up to Oxford in 1893, he hit 74 in the Freshmen's match but failed when picked for the Next Sixteen. In 1894 he was again unsuccessful in the Seniors' Match and for the Next Sixteen but was in the Eleven next year against Seventeen Freshmen when he caught two and stumped three. His chance in first-class cricket came against Kent in the Parks when regular 'keeper Richard Lewis was unavailable. Batting No. 9 he scored 52* and 0* and continued to show good form with 47 (run out) and 18 against MCC.

Kent had wicketkeeping problems in 1895 and Baiss made his county debut against Middlesex at Tonbridge, the fourth keeper so far that season. By September there would be another five. One catch and 13 byes in a total of 359 were supplemented by a useful 31 in the second innings and he retained his place in the second match of the week against Lancashire. Kent's next fixture was with Oxford University at Mote Park where, with Lewis again absent, Baiss found himself back in the Oxford team facing his county colleagues. As well as two catches, he hit 31 in an eighth-wicket partnership of 111 with GO Smith.

Francis Atkins (*qv*) was behind the stumps for Kent in the Oxford game but when Kent travelled north to play Yorkshire at Dewsbury Baiss was invited to join the party. Against an All-England attack of Hirst, Peel, Jackson and Wainwright, Baiss contributed 29 and 24. By August Kent's first choice 'keeper 'Bishop' Kemp was available but Baiss was selected as a batsman for the West Country tour and scored 38 against Somerset at Taunton.

In 1896 Baiss took his degree (BA) and appears to have played no cricket. He won Rugby Blues in 1894 and 1895. In 1901, the year in which he became a member of the Stock Exchange, Baiss returned to the Kent side as a batsman for two matches and scored 13 and 24 (second top score) on an Old Trafford a pitch described by *Wisden* as 'faulty'. Both matches were lost which meant that he ended his first-class career without having once been on the winning side.

Baiss was a prolific scorer for Lessness Abbey and Sevenoaks Vine and scored 107 for Band of Brothers v East Kent in 1900. He also represented Kent at Rugby and hockey. Before the First World War he was secretary of the London Playing Fields Society.

Reginald Baiss prospered as a stockbroker. Following his death at the Wellington Hotel, Mount Ephraim, he left £12,8078.10s 4d. In May 1908 he married Lucy Hope Hallows who predeceased him. His only son James was in the Eleven at Tonbridge and played three first-class matches, two for Oxford University, one for Free Foresters.

Edward Baker (No. 322).

Born: 9.2.1846 Plaxtol; *Died:* 30.6.1913; Maidenhead, Berks.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1875.

Parents: William & Mary Baker.

Six feet (1.83 m.) tall, Edward Baker bowled medium-pace with a 'high arm'. The son of a butcher and farrier, he was born, youngest of three brothers, in the village of Plaxtol, birthplace of the much better known Arthur Fielder. The family – and the business - later moved to Wrotham and by the time

Edward was 15 he was working with his father as a butcher alongside brother George. Cricket however was beginning to claim priority and in the 1871 Census, although still living with the family, he is listed as a professional cricketer. With more than a local reputation, in that year he was engaged with the Kersal club in Manchester.

It was at Manchester that he made his only appearance for Kent. In July 1875 he was chosen for the Players of Tonbridge v the Gentlemen of Tonbridge, a benefit game for another local cricketer, George Martin (*qv*). Little over a fortnight later, possibly on the strength of five wickets in the Tonbridge match, he was in the Kent side against Lancashire at Old Trafford. Coming on as first change, he bowled ten overs for one wicket at a cost of 19 runs. With George Hearne taking eight for 46, Baker was not called on in the second innings but had the rare experience of being run out without scoring twice in his only first-class match.

Subsequently Baker's cricket seems to have been confined to playing and umpiring locally but he later moved to Devon and became landlord of the *King's Arms* in Chagford where in 1879 he married Mary Jane Bolt. He subsequently moved with his wife and six children to the *Huntsman Hotel*, Maidenhead.

They appear to have been an entrepreneurial family. In the 1911 Census Edward is listed as 'cricket coach, huntsman and hotel proprietor', wife Mary Jane an 'athletics dealer and annual licensee for sale of fireworks'. Of their sons, William is a 'shop assistant & furniture dealer', Francis Edward is, somewhat mysteriously, 'jeweller & pawnbroker's assistant or electric light salesman'. Of the daughters, Beatrice May is a dressmaker, Ann a milliner and Rosa Evelyn a draper's assistant. No occupation is shown for Millicent Eleanor.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George Baker (No. 194).

Born: 31.5.1838; Cobham. *Died:* 2.6.1870; Lydd.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler (round-arm)/slow left-arm (under-arm).

Kent 1859-1863.

Parents: James Baker & Sarah Baker (née Inkpin).

The son of a wheelwright, George Baker started his working life as a gardener/stable hand in and around Cobham, the village of his birth, on the Darnley estate and for Thomas Baker, a local landowner and magistrate. In 1854 at the age of 16 he was chosen for 'The Bs of Cobham' against the rest of the Cobham Club in a side including elder brother William and Thomas Baker, his erstwhile employer, both established Cobham players. By the end of 1855 he was a regular in the Cobham side, primarily as a batsman, usually opening, but on occasions impressing with his left-arm quick bowling. A joint benefit, George Baker's Eleven v George Bennett's Eleven was played at Gravesend in 1863.

Baker's first county match, the first for the newly formed Kent County Club, was in 1859 against Middlesex at Southgate. Batting No. 10, he scored 0 and two and failed to take a wicket. Next year he was chosen for the 'Next Sixteen' v Kent at Town Malling and for Sixteen of Kent v England at Lord's where, at N0. 14 in the batting order and with Ned Willsher and George Bennett bowling unchanged throughout, he had little opportunity. He was not picked again that year but seven appearances in 1861 brought 27 wickets at 11.40 including three for 37 and six for 46 against Cambridgeshire at Parker's Piece and seven for 52 v Surrey at Mote Park. In September he was top scorer with 25 for 18 of Chatham & District v The All England Eleven.

Baker's first professional engagement outside Kent was with the Eastbourne Club and in 1860-61, following a move to Stepney, he was with the Upton Park Club. From 1862 to 1864 he was on the MCC staff. His final two seasons for Kent were less successful but for MCC in 1862 he claimed seven for 86 v Cambridge University at Fenner's.

Most of his later cricket seems to have been in and around London although his name appears playing for Sixteen of Southborough v the Gentlemen of Kent in 1867. In the previous year he had taken eight wickets for 22 of Charlton v the United South of England Eleven. By this time he seems to have been bowling mainly left-arm lobs.

Circa 1865 Baker, while still advertising his services as player and umpire, set up a 'cricket, newspaper and cigar depot' in Stratford. In the Autumn of 1866 he was founder/secretary of the short-lived United South and North of England Eleven but wandering elevens had almost had their day and after a handful of matches, one of them a benefit for Baker against Essex at Upton Park, the enterprise folded. Plagued by declining health, he forsook London for the more bracing climate of Lydd and died there at the early age of 32.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Herbert Zouch Baker (No. 493).

Born: 7.2.1880 Beckenham. *Died:* 26.8.1958 Orpington.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium- bowler.

Kent 1903-1904.

Educated: Wellington College.

Parents: Alfred John & Alice Baker (*née* Moody).

Zouch Baker is unique in having his first-class debut for Kent in the USA. He had played for Kent Second Eleven but never for the first team when he sailed for America in September 1903, one of a party of eight amateurs and four professionals under the captaincy of Cuthbert 'Pinky' Burnup. Kent won all four matches on the first ever overseas tour by a county side. Baker did little in the two matches against Philadelphia, the only fixtures ranked as first-class, but against New York, on a Staten Island wicket rated by Burnup as the worst he had ever seen. Baker was top scorer with 55 and his fast medium bowling brought match figures of seven for 39.

A batsman with a textbook technique, a strong defence and a wide range of strokes, an accurate fast-medium bowler with the ability to move the ball off the seam and a good all-round fielder Baker was a useful member of the side during his brief county career. Apart from his 11 appearances for Kent, his only other first-class match was for JR Mason's Eleven v Lionel Robinson's Eleven at Old Buckenham Hall, Attleborough in 1913.

Baker was one of eight children, six boys, including Percy (*qv*), and two girls and, like his father, he was a stockbroker by profession. The family lived in Foxgrove Road, Beckenham and later at the Red House, Southend Road. For many years he was a stalwart of the almost adjacent Beckenham club. In the club history (1966) he is described as 'the best all-rounder the club ever had'. He also played for West Kent.

On his death in Orpington Hospital his effects were valued at £5,734.19s.5d. There appears to be no record of any marriage but probate was granted to 'Alice Diana Pride Jones, widow and Albert John Loader, sports dealer.

James Bray Baker (No. 40).

Born: 1792 Hailsham, Sussex. *Died.* 30.1.1839 Hailsham, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1825-1826.

Sussex born and bred, James Baker played most of his cricket for the county of his birth but made four appearances for Kent through his membership of the Hawkhurst Club, one of the strongest in England in the early 19th century. The matches were played at Brighton and Hawkhurst Moor, two in 1825, two in 1826. Powerfully built and described as a 'capital but not very safe hitter and a safe field', at Brighton in 1825 he scored 23 in a total of 40, the only man to reach double figures; at Brighton again in the following year, he was once more top scorer with 27 in a total of 71.

Originally a farmer, Baker was subsequently the landlord of 'The George' in his native Hailsham.

Percy Charles Baker (No. 476).

Born: 2.5.1874 Bromley *Died:* 30.12.1939 Northwood, Middlesex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1900-1902. Cap 1900.

Educated: Uppingham School and Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Alfred John & Alice Baker (*née* Moody).

One of six sons and two daughters of a stockbroker, Percy Baker played in one match for Uppingham First Eleven and appeared in the Seniors' match at Oxford in 1895 but progressed no further and most of his cricket was for Beckenham alongside elder brother Alfred and younger brother Herbert Zouch (*qv*).

An aggressive, hard-driving batsman, who made full use of his height, Baker made his Kent debut against Essex at Maidstone, largely on the strength of his Beckenham form. On his fifth appearance, at Headingley against Rhodes, Hirst, Haigh and company, he scored a forceful 89 and in the following fixture at Trent Bridge hit 130 (11 fours) in 165 minutes. During an innings of 73 v Hampshire at Tonbridge, he added 77 in 25 minutes with C.J.Burnup. Only Mason and Burnup ended that season with more than Baker's 738 runs (avge. 26.35).

By now settled in at No. 3, the first two months of his second season featured scores of 89 v Gloucestershire at Gravesend (including 41 from three overs bowled by Arthur Paish), 53 and 95 v Hampshire at Bournemouth, 92 v Nottinghamshire at Catford and 66 v Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells but there followed a lean spell in late July/early August. A depressing sequence of two ducks and six single figure scores was broken by his second century, 108 against Hampshire at Tonbridge. His season ended on a high note with 44 and a match-saving 75* at Hove and fourth place in the Kent averages with 850 runs (avge.28.33).

Percy Baker's first-class career ended unspectacularly in 1902 with twelve runs in four matches. The Stock Exchange now took over his working life and his cricket was confined to Beckenham. 40 years old at the outbreak of the First World War, Baker was not called on to serve until June 1918 when he was posted to the 18th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, a home service unit and after the War served briefly as a driver with the Army Service Corps at Sydenham. He was demobilised in March 1919.

He died of bronchopneumonia.

S. Baker (No. 39).

Kent 1823.

There are doubts concerning the identity of this player who appeared for Kent v MCC at Chislehurst in 1823. *Scores & Biographies* shows 'J Baker' while *Kent Cricket Matches 1719-1880* by Lord Harris and FS Ashley-Cooper gives him the initials 'JB' The 1907 Kent history assumes this to have been James Bray Baker (*qv*), but this is unlikely. He was a Sussex player whose appearances for Kent were all as 'given man'. More likely he was S Baker of Lenham who appeared in the Leeds side in 1821 and 1823. In the 1860s a Samson Baker was landlord of the still much frequented '*Dog & Bear*' in Lenham.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

William Baker (No. 183).

Born: 29.2.1832. Cobham. Date of death unknown.

Batsman whether right or left-handed unknown

Kent 1858.

Parents: James Baker & Sarah Baker (née Inkpin)

Elder brother of George Baker (*qv*), William Baker was for many years a regular member of the Cobham team. In 1858 for Kent (with Jackson, Caffyn and Parr) against England at Lord's he scored three and 0 in totals of 33 and 41. Originally a bricklayer's labourer, he subsequently emulated his brother by moving to Stratford (then in Essex) where he worked as an engine fitter. He was still working at the time of the 1901 census and ten years later was living with his wife Eliza in Maryland Road, Stratford as a 'Pensioned Engine Fitter, Rly Co'.

William de Chair Baker (No. 117).

Born: 21.4.1823 Canterbury. *Died:* 20.2.1888 Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1841-1853.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School and Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: George Baker & Mary Ann Baker (née Andrewes).

William de Chair Baker, whose father was MP for Canterbury from 1796 to 1797, from 1802 to 1808, and subsequently Recorder of Dover, was one of the founders of Canterbury Cricket Week and Manager from its inception until his death. His first cricket of consequence was for the Beverley Club, formed in 1835 by his brother John Gerrard Andrewes Baker, playing originally in the field behind the family home (Beverley) at St. Stephen's, Canterbury. He became Club Secretary in 1849 and in 1850 scored 50* for the club v Boughton Aluph.

Baker made three appearances for Kent against England in 1841, played with limited success in all five of Kent's matches in 1842 and appeared intermittently up to 1853 but achieved double figures only four times and registered seven ducks including three 'pairs'. He played twice for his University in 1843 but was not selected against Oxford. In Gentlemen of Kent matches he did somewhat better, averaging 16.33, top score 29*. He also appeared on occasions for Yalding

As Manager, Baker was fiercely protective of Canterbury Week. Great as were his services, there can be little doubt that his opposition to amalgamation with the Kent County Club formed in Maidstone in 1859 and his total indifference to county cricket delayed by at least five years the formation of a genuinely representative county club and contributed to a prolonged schism between East and West Kent.

When in 1870 the union took place it was on condition that the Week remained unchanged and under Baker's management. Not until 1882 was an inter-county match included in the programme. In that year he was involved in an uncharacteristically progressive but unsuccessful attempt to have the scheduled Kent v Australians match changed to England v Australia. He was the enlarged club's secretary from 1870 to 1875.

Tact was not one of Baker's virtues. In the 1862 Week the Gentlemen of Kent came close to declining to play MCC because, when a late vacancy occurred in the MCC side, Baker had, without consulting the Kent captain South Norton, agreed to the inclusion of EM Grace, not then an MCC member.

In 1870 he refused to allow the 19th Hussars to start a scheduled match at St. Lawrence because one of their officers had 'neglected to see that his horse was taken proper care of when he was not riding it'. He summoned a full meeting of members to discuss the incident and demanded that no team including the officers involved in the subsequent altercation should be allowed on the ground. The Hussars' Colonel observed – one can sense a suppressed smile - that the cause of the 'misunderstanding' might be 'Mr Baker's manner of speaking' which seems to have had echoes of Alfred Jingle. Lord Harris in his autobiography gives a sample -: Friend: 'Good morning Mr Baker'. Baker: 'Morning, morning'. Friend: 'Lovely day for cricket'. Baker: 'Fine day, fine day'. Friend: 'I hope you are well?' Baker: 'Well, well. ' Friend: 'I hope your brother is too?' Baker: 'Dead, dead'.

Partner in a firm of engine fitters as well as farming 500 acres, Baker was President of the newly formed St Stephen's Cricket Club, giving them free use of the field behind his house. In the dining room of *Ye Old Beverlie* at St Stephen's there is a painting, probably once the inn sign, presented by Mrs Baker which, when subsequently cleaned, was found to show the cathedral, the Canterbury-Whitstable railway, tankards, bottles, cricket gear etc. and two figures in top hats and cricketing garb said to represent the Baker brothers. A new cross was recently erected over Baker's grave in St Stephen's churchyard, the wooden original having succumbed to wind and weather.

He was brother-in-law of Frederick Fagge (*qv*). On his death, his estate, valued at £2,142, was bequeathed to his widow, Charlotte Eliza Baker (née Abbot) whom he married in 1881.

Edward Richard Rupert George Banks (No. 126).

Born: 12.8.1820 Glamorgan. *Died:* 7.1. 1910 Sholden.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1842-1846.

Parents: Sir Edward Banks & Lady Banks (née Pytches).

Edward Banks' father was a civil engineer knighted for his work in the construction of numerous bridges including Southwark, Waterloo, Staines, London (the one now in Texas) and the Serpentine as well as other major projects including Heligoland lighthouse, the Huddersfield Canal and much of Sheerness dockyard. He also built Trinity Church Sheerness; part of the town was known as 'Bankstown'.

He married twice, Nancy Franklin in 1793 and, following her death in 1815, Amanda Pytches in 1821. Edward Banks jun. was brought at the age of two to live at Sholden Lodge (now known as Sholden Hall), near Deal where he remained for the rest of his life.

Described by *Scores & Biographies* as a 'good free bat,' Edward Banks was quick between the wickets and one of the best outfielders of his day, In the words of Fuller Pilch 'as sure as ever he got his hands to her, the ball was like a rat in a trap'. He fielded for Alfred Mynn in his single-wicket match against Felix at Lord's in 1846. Against Surrey at The Oval in 1846 he hit 24 in a total of 56, in a team including Mynn and Fuller Pilch; the next highest was eight. His career best was 30, opening

the batting with his younger brother William (*qv*) for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England on the Beverley Ground, Canterbury in 1845.

Although giving up the game early due to ill health, Banks lived to the age of 89. His uncle was the botanist Joseph Banks and in later life Edward Banks devoted himself to the development of the fuchsia, growing four or five thousand seedlings a year to produce eight or ten new varieties. Many of the modern varieties are the result of his work. On his death his estate was valued at £7,446.15s.3d.

William John Banks (No. 135).

Born: 25.4.1822 Swansea, Glamorgan. *Died:* 17.1.1901 Oxney Court, near Dover.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1846-1848.

Parents: Sir Edward Banks & Lady Banks (*née* Pytches).

Like his elder brother Edward (*qv*), William Banks came to Kent in infancy and displayed similar ability in the field and between the wickets. Although only once successful with the bat for Kent, he played several useful innings for the Gentlemen of Kent with a top score of 38 v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1845.

His 32 for Kent v Surrey at Aylesford in 1846 had an unusual sequel. The match was much affected by rain on the last day and in the second innings the Banks brothers, both not out at lunch, (Edward three, William 0), left the ground convinced there would be no more play. They were mistaken but fortunately William Carter and 'Topper' Hillyer (*qv*) managed to hold out with the score 29 for seven, still 28 in arrears.

William Banks opened the batting with Fuller Pilch in the latter's last match, St Lawrence v Penshurst in 1855. In 1858 he played for Band of Brothers against Torry Hill, in their first- ever match.

A talented raconteur with a rich fund of cricket lore, he was for many years a regular at Canterbury Cricket Week and was a member of the committee of the enlarged Kent CCC formed in 1870. After living in his father's properties in Herefordshire and Reading he eventually settled at Oxney Court, near Dover, another of his father's properties. As well as farming around 130 acres, he was a JP.

In recent years Oxney Court has attracted a great deal of attention as a centre for paranormal activity featuring the seemingly obligatory grey lady, strange fogs, and a coach and horses bursting through hedges. On at least one occasion EMF monitoring equipment was placed near Banks family graves.

Bernard Douglas Bannon (No. 448).

Born: 7.12.1874 Goudhurst. *Died:* 18.12.1938 Virginia Water, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1895-1900. Kent Cap 1898.

Educated: Tonbridge School and Oriel College, Oxford

James Norman Bannon & Kate Bannon. (*née* Mann).

A stylish batsman, strong in the drive, and an athletic outfielder, Bernard Bannon never quite lived up to his considerable schoolboy reputation. The son of a New Romney solicitor, he was in the Eleven from 1892 to 1894, captain in his two final years when he headed the averages, attracting wider notice in 1893 with an innings of 153* for the school against a strong MCC & Ground side. He made his debut for Kent Second Eleven in the same season.

Making his first-class debut for Kent against Sussex at Catford in 1895, he did nothing of note in two appearances that year and on going up to University in 1896, despite scoring 50 in the Seniors' Match, he did not progress beyond the 'Next Sixteen'. Next year, he played three times for the University and in 1898 received his Blue, scoring 69 against Somerset and 21 and 21* against Cambridge. He played twelve matches for Kent that year, contributing 433 runs (avge.22.74). Against Lancashire in Canterbury Week he opened the batting and scored 78, adding 118 for the second wicket with WH Patterson (52).

He followed his father by becoming a solicitor which restricted him for the remainder of his first-class career. He played twice in 1899, scoring 67 v Somerset at Tonbridge and found time for nine matches in 1900 but after a valuable 61 against Lancashire at Old Trafford, he failed to reach double figures in his remaining nine innings. He played club cricket for Hythe and was a member of HDG Leveson-Gower's Eleven against Ireland (not first-class) in 1905.

Bannon won a hockey Blue in 1897 and threw the hammer in the Inter-University Athletic Sports in 1898.

During the First World War he served from 1915 to 1916 with the French Military Health Service as an ambulance driver including a period at Verdun. He died in Holloway Sanatorium, his death unnoticed by *Wisden*. His effects were valued at £403.3s and administration granted to his younger brother Raymond Blennerhassett Bannon. Raymond Bannon had played fourteen games for Kent Second Eleven between 1902 and 1904 and, like his brother, drove an ambulance for the French Military Health Service.

Rev Henry William Barber (No. 211).

Born: 5.11.1841, Gower St, Bloomsbury, London. *Died:* 10.7.1924 Draycott, Cheddar, Somerset.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler (round-arm).

Kent 1861-1864.

Educated: King's School Canterbury and Queen's College, Oxford.

Parents: Henry Stroud Barber & Mary Barber (née Parker).

The son of a 'Colonial Broker', Henry Barber played against his University for the Next Sixteen in 1861 and in August that year appeared three times in Canterbury Week, for Fourteen of Kent v England, Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC and, when the latter ended early, for Band of Brothers v I Zingari. In the following year, for Fourteen of Kent against an England attack including Jackson, Tarrant, Wootton, Caffyn and Grundy, he was top scorer in the second innings with 45. His only other score of substance at first-class level was 37 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in the 1864 Canterbury Week when he was again second innings top scorer.

Barber took Holy Orders and was curate of Holy Trinity & St Philip (1865-69), of Rawmarsh, Rotherham (1869-72), Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire (1872-78), Houghton-le-Spring (1872), vicar of Ryhope (1880-1920), and Draycott (1920-28). While at Bristol he played for the Landsdowne Club and for West Gloucestershire. His death was from a heart attack and senile decay. His wife Kate (née Cartwright) pre-deceased him; there were two sons and one daughter. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £3,978.17s.9d.

Keith Barlow (No. 507).

Born: 27.8.1890 Kensington, London. *Died:* 5.4.1930 Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1910.

Educated: Private.

Parents: Edward Percy & Alice May Barlow.

Keith Barlow played several useful innings for Kent Second Eleven, including 22 out of a total of 66 all out v Middlesex Second Eleven at Lord's in 1910 and 56 v Wiltshire at Chippenham in 1911 but failed in his only two first team appearances. Both were against the Universities. He also played for Band of Brothers.

The second son of the Chairman of Wiggins Teape, paper manufacturers, ill-health in youth necessitated education by private tutor but in 1910-1911 he worked in the company mill at Dover. In 1913 he married Elsie Muriel Allen at Bridge; there were two sons.

In 1911 he had been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles and following mobilisation in August 1914, in October that year he was appointed Acting Captain. When 1/1 REKMR, the first-line unit, left for Gallipoli he remained in England and became Second in Command of 3/1 REKMR, a reinforcement producing and training unit. In November a Medical Board diagnosed chronic nephritis as well as hardening of the arteries and high blood pressure and he was graded as unfit for further service. In May 1917 he requested a further examination but was declared permanently unfit for service.

Barlow was appointed a Director of Wiggins Teape in 1912 and became Chairman in 1925. At the time of the 1911 Census he was living at Kearsney Court, River and was described as being of 'private means'. When he died, of uremia and chronic nephritis, his effects were valued for probate at £88,149.15s.6d.

Rev Henry Watson Barnard (No. 13).

Born: 10.1.1792 Chislehurst. *Died:* 9.7.1855 Granada, Spain.

Batsman and under-arm bowler, whether right or left unknown.

Kent 1815-1823.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Rev Edward Barnard & Mary Ann Barnard (*née* Beadon).

Best known for having played in the first Eton v Harrow match at Lord's in 1805 with Lord Byron among the opposition, Henry Barnard was dismissed cheaply in his two appearances for Kent. For Old Etonians v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1816 he hit top score, 40, and took at least four wickets.

He was Vicar of Pritton, Somerset (1816), Prebendary of Wells (1817-55), Vicar of Compton Bishop (1826-30), Vicar of Yatton (1830-36), Rector of St Cuthbert's, Wells (1833-55) and Canon of Wells. He was also a JP. His death in Spain was from cholera.

In 1819 he married Eleanor Clark. There were three daughters and two sons.

John Barnard (No. 14).

Born: 6.7.1794 Chislehurst. *Died:* 17.11.1878 Cambridge.

Batsman, whether right or left-handed, unknown, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1815-1822.

Educated: Eton College and King's College, Cambridge.

Parents. Rev Edward Barnard & Mary Ann Barnard (*née* Beadon).

The brother of the Rev Henry Watson Barnard (*qv*) and talented both as batsman and wicketkeeper, John Barnard scored 28, caught three and stumped two for Kent v MCC at Lord's in 1822 and was top scorer, again with 28, in the return at Chislehurst. For MCC v Godalming at Lord's in the same year

he caught two and stumped seven. He was chosen for Gentlemen v Players in 1822, 1825 and 1829. In the latter year he was also President of MCC. He made two appearances for Sussex.

A noted collector of old china and decorative porcelain, his collection was sold in Sothebys in 1879. A racing enthusiast, he reputedly attended the Derby every year for 50 years. At the time of his death he was Senior Fellow of King's College Cambridge. On his death his estate was valued at 'under £4,000'.

Amos Bartholemew (No. 187).

Born: 26.5.1825 Sevenoaks. *Died:* 4.11.1907 Sevenoaks.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler.

Kent 1858-1864.

Parents: John & Mary Bartholemew.

A lifelong resident of Sevenoaks, Amos Bartholemew was associated with cricket for over 50 years, 30 of them as professional, umpire and groundsman at Sevenoaks Vine. Subsequently he was groundsman at the Wildernesse, near Sevenoaks, at the time the seat of Lord Hillingdon.

Despite a considerable local reputation as a player, first with Penshurst, subsequently with Sevenoaks, Bartholemew performed only moderately in first-class or 'important' matches. His first of note was for Fifteen of Kent against the England Eleven at Gravesend in 1848.

On his first-class debut in 1853, in a match at Tunbridge Wells arranged by William Clarke, Kent & Sussex v England, he scored six and 0 but for Penshurst two years later he played two notable innings, 36 out of a total of 115 v Beverley and 54 against the 'Canterbury Club', a match reputedly Fuller Pilch's last. Shortly before he had appeared in another fixture organised by Clarke, Six of Kent & Five of England v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, playing with and against top players of the day such as HH Stephenson, Ned Willsher, Julius Caesar, George Parr, Jemmy Grundy and 'Foghorn' Jackson. For Sevenoaks against West Wickham in 1855 he contributed 46 to a total of 94.

He did little in his first appearance for Kent, v Sussex at Hove in 1858 but six years later, against Yorkshire at Middlesbrough, although again failing with the bat, he claimed two good wickets (Roger Iddison and Joe Rowbotham) for 11runs. This was the only time he bowled in an 'important' match.

He continued to play until well into middle age. Despite his long-term commitment to cricket, in census returns Bartholemew described himself variously as 'sanitary inspector', 'inspector of nuisances', 'house agent' and 'rent collector'. On his death his estate was valued at £875.6s.2. probate to his Reading-born wife, Julia whom he married in 1856. There were two daughters and one son.

Victor Alexander Barton (No. 405).

Born: 6.10.1867 Netley, Hampshire. *Died:* 23.3.1906 Southampton, Hampshire

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1889-1890. Kent Cap.1889.

Parents: Benjamin & Elizabeth Barton (*née* Pullibank).

Victor Barton played for Kent while serving as a Bombardier with the Royal Horse Artillery at Woolwich. Charles Fry in his 1899 *Book of Cricket* wrote 'on wickets that favour the bowler he (Barton) is one of the best bats in England.'

Kent did not see the best of him. Their policy of playing at least three amateurs – six if possible in Canterbury Week - made life difficult for any aspiring professional who was primarily a batsman.

Amateur bowlers of quality were rare and consequently, when an amateur came into the side, more often than not he was a batsman. Barton was in fact a useful change bowler with an armoury including a deliberate slow full toss which could be a valuable partnership breaker. In 1890 he headed the bowling averages for the Royal Artillery with 89 wickets at 9.60.

The son of a soldier and Chelsea Pensioner, Barton attracted attention with 91, 102 and six for 53 for the Royal Artillery v Gentlemen of MCC at Lord's in 1889 and several good performances in the annual matches at Woolwich against Band of Brothers. This resulted in a chance for Kent against Yorkshire at Mote Park where he scored 32. With six and sometimes seven amateurs available late in the season, he was in and out of the side but in the final fixture he played a vital innings. On a Foxgrove Road, Beckenham wicket made difficult by heavy dew, Kent bowled Nottinghamshire out for 35 in their second innings and needed 52 for victory. The score was 25 for six when Barton joined George Hearne. After early alarms, Barton played like a veteran and together the pair saw Kent through to a four-wicket win (Hearne 14*, Barton 12*).

In his second and last season with Kent Barton's appearances were again intermittent and with a top score of 17, he found no sort of form. At the end of the season he bought himself out of the Army in order to join county colleagues Alec and George Hearne and 'Nuttie' Martin on Walter Read's 1891/92 tour of South Africa. The final match, v South Africa in which Barton scored 23, was retrospectively awarded Test match status.

On his return he joined his native Hampshire, a 'second class' county until 1894. Topping their averages in his first season, he was their first professional batsman of genuine quality and, on their elevation to first-class status in 1894, he averaged over 40. Twice he exceeded 1,000 first-class runs in all matches and in 1900 became the first Hampshire professional to hit a double century. In 1901 he was chosen for Players v Gentlemen at The Oval.

Following a benefit he retired in 1902 due to eye trouble and after a brief flirtation with bat manufacture, became landlord of the *Alexandra Hotel*, Southampton where he died of pneumonia. His effects were valued at £551. 15s.7d. probate granted to his widow Annie Louisa (*née* Fuller, 1870-1947) whom he married in Southampton in 1896. There was one daughter.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a new gallery of famous players*. George Newnes, 1899.

Henry John Bass (No. 271).

Born: 14.10.1832 Canterbury. *Died:* 24.1.1904. Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1871-1875.

Parents: John & Mary Bass.

The son of a wood merchant, Henry Bass lived his entire life within a stone's throw of St. Lawrence cricket ground, Canterbury. He had a local reputation as a 'useful batsman' and scores of 12 and four for Eighteen Colts of Kent v the Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury on 1 and 2 June 1871 were seemingly enough to gain him a place in the Kent Eleven against Lancashire at Gravesend, a little over a fortnight later. He failed to score and fared only marginally better (one and two) in the following game against Sussex at Brighton.

Perhaps surprisingly, at Lord's in the following year he was among Fifteen Colts of England playing against an MCC side including WG Grace who caught him in the second innings to complete a 'pair'. One more chance for Kent, (eight and 0) against Lancashire at Catford in 1875 completed his career at top level.

Bass played for the St. Lawrence club and on at least two occasions appeared as a somewhat unlikely late replacement for Band of Brothers, one of few professionals to do so. In 1879 he was appointed groundsman at St. Lawrence where he remained until his death. During his time at St. Lawrence he maintained the ground's reputation for high quality pitches although he was on one occasion reprimanded for hiring casual labour for re-turfing and told he must 'do the work himself in the winter'. His death was from senile decay. Kent CCC contributed £25 to the Mayor of Canterbury's fund for his widow, Ruth who was two years his senior. There was one son.

Horace Bates (No. 34).

Born: 19.8.1793 Egerton. *Died:* 14.12.1879, Charing.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium-pace bowler (probably round-arm, possibly underarm).
Kent 1823-1826.

Horace Bates took 14 wickets in five appearances for the 'Bs' team which, containing leading cricketers of the day such as William Beldham, Edward Budd, Thomas Beagley, James Broadbridge and Lord Frederick Beauclerk, played a series of matches against England between 1805 and 1837.

For Kent he was rather less successful but against Sussex at Brighton in 1826 he claimed at least three wickets in the first innings. His first match of importance was for Four of Lenham v Four of Gillingham at Lenham in 1821. He twice appeared for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent, on Barham Downs in 1826 and Sevenoaks in 1827. For Leeds v Meopham at Leeds in 1829 he took eight wickets and five more in the return at Meopham. He also played for Bearsted. Tall, strong and heavily built, he was said to 'hit accordingly' but was 'by no means to be depended upon'.

Originally a miller and butcher, in later years he is an 'Annuitant'. His wife, Elizabeth, born in Charing, was 17 years his junior. There were three sons and four daughters.

Thomas Battersbee (No. 21).

Christened: 22. 6. 1794, Beddington, Surrey. *Died:* 20. 7.1865, Peckham, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1822.

Parents: Edward & Marie Sophie Battersbee.

By profession a schoolmaster (Chislehurst Academy), Thomas Battersbee batted No. 11 and was left 13* in his only appearance for Kent. The match was notable, not only for a Kent innings victory very much against the odds, but for the no-balling of John Willes (*qv*). Pioneer of round-arm bowling, Willes left the ground 'in high dudgeon' and another player (almost certainly Battersbee) was brought in to replace him.

He married Ellen (née Wyburn), Chislehurst-born, daughter of a schoolmaster and 16 years his junior. There were two daughters.

Rev John Robert Laurie Emilius Bayley (Later Sir JRLE Laurie Third Baronet) (No. 125).

Born: 16.5.1823 Bloomsbury, London. *Died:* 4.12.1917 Maxwelton, Dundee.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1842-1844.

Educated: Eton College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Sir John Bayley (Second Baronet) & Charlotte Mary Bayley (née Fector).

Elder brother of Lyttelton Holioake Bayley (qv), cricketing fame came early to Emilius Bayley by virtue of an innings of 152 for Eton v Harrow in 1841. This remained the highest in the fixture until 1904. He was in the Eton Eleven 1838-41, captain 1840-41.

In 1842, on his second appearance for Kent, he distinguished himself against a strong England attack at Canterbury by carrying his bat in the second innings for 17* in a total of 44 all out. Kent were a powerful batting side including Pilch, Mynn, Felix, Adams and Dorrington and the collapse spawned rumours of bribery. When reaching his top score of 33 for Kent in 1843, he was the only player on either side to progress beyond 17 and could claim a major share in Kent's victory.

Restricted perhaps by his choice of profession, Bayley seems to have played little serious cricket after 1845 but during his short career he was highly regarded both as a hard-hitting batsman, strong on the leg side and as a fieldsman at cover or long leg. Apart from Eton, most of his cricket was for MCC but in 1843 he played for England v MCC at Lord's. As well as six matches for Gentlemen of England and a few appearances for Gentlemen of Kent, he also played for Beverley and for the Updown Club. A useful change bowler, he was in the Fast Bowlers v Slow Bowlers match at Lord's in 1842.

While still in his mother's womb he had a piece of good fortune. His father – President of MCC in 1844 - had two runners in the Derby and declared that, should either win, the baby, if a boy, would be named after the winner. Fortunately for the baby's future career both as a cricketer and churchman, Emilius won. The other horse was named 'Lollipop'.

Bayley was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge in January 1846 but in the following year transferred to the 'List of Ten Year Men'. This was a curious system originating in the 16th Century and peculiar to Cambridge whereby a man under the age of 24 was able to achieve a Bachelor of Divinity degree without first gaining a BA or MA. He did not in fact enter Trinity College until 1861 by which time he had been an ordained clergyman for 15 years. Consequently, he never played for the University or for his College. He did however play three times for MCC against Cambridge (and twice against Oxford) and it was against Cambridge that he recorded his highest score in first-class or 'important cricket, 50 at Lord's in 1842.

Ordained in 1846, Bayley was Vicar of Wheatley, Nottingham (1847-49), Vicar of Woburn (1849-56), Rector of St George's, Bloomsbury (1856-67), and Vicar of St John's, Paddington (1867-88). In 1855 he married Marianne Sophia Rice whose father Edward Royd Rice played two first-class matches, for Middlesex v MCC at Lord's in 1826 and for MCC v Sussex at Brighton in 1834.

Succeeding his father as Third Baronet in 1871, Bayley assumed the name Laurie in 1887 by Royal License to secure his inheritance of Maxwelton House in Dumfries from his maternal uncle John Laurie. Maxwelton House, famous for its bonnie banks and braes, is the birthplace of Annie Laurie, the subject of the famous ballad. On his death the Third Baronet's estate was valued for probate at £100,630.2s.8d. He was succeeded by his son Lt Col Sir Claude Laurie, Fourth Baronet who was in turn succeeded by his brother Wilfrid Emilius Laurie, Fifth Baronet. There were two other sons and one daughter.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Sir Lyttelton Holioake Bayley KB (No. 137).

Born: 6.5.1827 *Bloomsbury*, London. *Died:* 4.8.1910. Parkstone, Dorset.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1846-1847,

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Sir John Bayley (Second Baronet) & Charlotte Mary Bayley (née Fector).

Although never matching his brother Emilius (*qv*), Lyttelton Bayley was a useful cricketer who, at the age of 14, was second highest scorer with 14 for Eton v Winchester at Lord's in 1841. He captained the Eleven three years later. His highest score for Kent, 18, was in the county's first match on the St. Lawrence ground. In one of his four matches for Gentlemen of Kent he scored 29* in a ninth-wicket partnership of 113 with HE Knatchbull (72) v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1846.

Like his elder brother, after Eton most of his cricket was for MCC but for a few years he played regularly for I Zingari as well as occasionally for Old Etonians and Peripatetics.

He had a distinguished legal career. He commenced studying Law in 1846 and was called to the Bar in the Middle Temple in 1852. In 1858 he emigrated to Australia and became a member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. As a relatively recent arrival, the appointment spawned some controversy as did his subsequent elevation to Attorney-General. Resigning following a change of government, he practised as a barrister in Collins Street Melbourne before returning to England. *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* sums him up as 'A sound if not great lawyer'.

In 1862 he was appointed Under-Secretary to the Government of Bombay and later became Advocate-General. From 1869 to 1895 he served on the Bench of the High Court of Judicature, on occasions acting as Chief Justice. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Bombay Volunteer Rifle Corps and for a short period was an ADC to the Viceroy. On failing to secure the Appointment of Advocate General, he retired and again returned to England.

In 1852 Bayley married Isabella Binny Macier who died in 1860; there were two sons and one daughter. In India he married Isabel Constance Gladstone who survived him. She was granted probate, his effects valued at £1,283.12s.

Lord Frederick de Vere Beauclerk (No. 2).

Born: 8.5.1773 London. *Died:* 22.4.1850, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow bowler (under-arm).

Kent 1806.

Educated: Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Aubrey Beauclerk, Fifth Duke of St Albans & Lady Catherine Ponsonby, Duchess of St Albans.

One of the greatest allround cricketers of his day. Lord Frederick Beauclerk played one match for Kent as 'given man' when England were beaten by 127 runs on Dartford Heath in 1806. He contributed 23 to Kent's second innings of 63; the next highest was ten. He also played on occasions for Prince's Plain, forerunners of West Kent. He appeared for Gentlemen v Players from 1806 to 1824, scored eight centuries at Lord's and at the age of 51 hit 99 for the Bs against England.

A descendant of Charles the Second and Nell Gwynn, he had an immense knowledge of the game and wielded great influence at Lord's where in his later years his word was virtually law, not always to the game's benefit. He reckoned to make £600 a year from cricket and, according to contemporary accounts, was not averse to a little chicanery if the result seemed to be heading the wrong way. His approach is summed up in the lines:

*My Lord he comes next, and will make you all stare
With his little tricks, a long way from fair,*

Further reading:

Thompson, Mike. *The Lord of Lord's. The Life and Times of Lord Frederick Beauclerk.* Christopher Saunders. 2018.

William Beldham (No. 3).

Born: 21.3.1766. Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey. *Died:* 26.2.1862 Tilford, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler (under-arm).

Kent 1806.

Generally regarded as the finest batsman ever to play the game until the arrival of Fuller Pilch, Beldham was one of four 'given men' when Kent played England at Dartford. The others were Beauclerk, Hammond and Lambert (*qv*). His first 'important' match was for England v The White Conduit Club in 1787 at the first Lord's on the site of Dorset Square and his last in 1821 for Players v Gentlemen on the present Lord's ground. Most of his cricket was for Surrey and for Hampshire/Hambledon. A strong forward player, he was one of the first, possibly the first, batsman to play the cut.

Charles Harris Belton (No. 138).

Born: 30.4.1821 Aylesford. *Died:* 1.1.1891 Chatham.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1847.

Parents: James Belton & Sarah Belton (née Nobbs).

Although according to surviving scores not a prolific run-getter, Charles Belton was a regular in the Town Malling side from *circa* 1848 to 1854. Batting for the most part in the middle or upper middle order, he played regularly against leading club sides of the period including Gravesend, Hollingbourne, Cobham and Penhurst facing quality bowlers such as Willsher, Hillyer and Hinkly. He played for Fifteen of West Kent against England at Gravesend in 1848, for 18 of Gravesend (batting No. 18) v England in 1852 and for 18 of Maidstone v United England in 1853.

In his two outings for Kent he had mixed fortune – 23 & 0 v Surrey at The Oval, 0, 18 and six catches, four in the first innings, against the same opponents at Aylesford.

The son of a farm bailiff, he worked variously as an agricultural labourer, 'beer retailer', coppersmith in Chatham dockyard and blacksmith's labourer. With his wife, also Sarah (née Usher), there were three sons and three daughters. He died from cerebral haemorrhage.

Colonel Ferdinando Wallis Bennet (No. 309).

Born: 13.12.1850 Newlyn, Cornwall. *Died:* 17.10.1929 Northam, Devon.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1874.

Educated: Sherborne School & RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Richard Galley Bennet & Mary Jane Bennet (née Hosken).

Although failing to score on his only appearance for Kent, against Lancashire at Maidstone, Ferdinando Wallis Bennet played with considerable success in Army cricket. The youngest child of a 'landed proprietor' and magistrate, he did not manage to get into his school eleven but, commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1871, he excelled both as a soldier and as a cricketer.

Until 1879 he played regularly for the Royal Engineers and for other Army sides including the School of Military Engineering at Chatham. Starting badly in 1871 with three successive ducks, in 1874 he hit three centuries with a top score of 165* for the RE v the Civil Service and in the following year

scored 90 and 29* against a strong Gentlemen of England Eleven at Chatham. In all he hit five centuries for the Sappers.

In a long Army career Bennet served in Sir Garnett Wolsey's 1882 Egyptian Campaign in command of a Telegraph Section for which he was awarded the Egyptian Campaign Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. Again under Wolsey, in 1884-1885 he served in the Telegraph Department on the Nile Expedition as part of the abortive attempt to relieve General Gordon in Khartoum. He was mentioned in despatches in August 1885 and was awarded the campaign medal with Nile clasp.

During the Second Boer War in South Africa he was Assistant Adjutant General on the Lines of Communications staff from October 1899 to January 1900 and Assistant Inspector of Lines of Communication from January to May 1900. He was again mentioned in despatches in September 1901 and for his services was awarded the Queen's Medal with two clasps. Among other overseas postings were Vice Consul, Anatolia 1880 and Hong Kong 1891. In September 1901, after 30 years, 247 days service, he was retired as a Colonel on half-pay of £450 per annum.

In 1896 he married Evelyn Mary Palmer. On his death his estate was valued at £57,898.19s.11d.

Further reading:

Phillips, Andy. *First in Last out. The Story of Sapper Cricket 1863-2016*. Institution of Royal Engineers, 2017.

George (Farmer) Bennett (No. 157).

Born: 12.2.1829, Shorne Ridgeway, *Died:* 16.8.1886, Shorne Ridgeway.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow bowler (round-arm).

Kent 1853-1873.

Parents: Thomas & Mary Bennett.

George Bennett is now probably best remembered for having spent time in prison for burglary. He deserves better. He was a considerable all-round cricketer who not only gave great service to Kent at a difficult time in the Club's history but his career had other, quite unique, features. Playing in the opening fixture of the first-ever English tour of Australia, at the MCG against 18 of Victoria on New Year's Day 1862, he conceded the first run in Anglo-Australian cricket when the Nottingham-born home captain George Marshall drove his second ball, the sixth of the match, for a single. In his seventh over he claimed the first wicket, Surrey-born James 'Jerry' Bryant lbw for eleven. When the tourists batted, Bennett faced the first ball and next day became the first of the English party to lose his wicket, caught Butterworth bowled Conway 11. Ben Butterworth was born in Rochdale but Jack Conway was a 'fair dinkum Aussie' born, Fyansford, Victoria.

Before the inaugural tour of Australia ended there was another 'first.' On 1 March a match began at Melbourne between a World Eleven made up of six of the tourists, including Bennett, and five locals, against a Surrey Eleven consisting of five tourists and six locals, all with Surrey connections. The World Eleven batted first and Bennett was top scorer with 72, compiled in three and a half hours with three fours. The match was judged first-class and, although his effort was overshadowed by a brilliant 75 by William Caffyn for the Surrey Eleven, Bennett has the distinction of having scored the first first-class half-century on Australian soil. He also took 14 wickets in the match.

When George Bennett came into the game most bowlers bowled fast, or at least as fast as they could, and slow round-arm bowlers were fairly rare. On the evidence of his contemporaries, Bennett was one of the slowest, relying on flight and slight changes of pace rather than turn.

To the onlooker his bowling appeared innocuous and he sometimes suffered against quick-footed batsmen but, although Lord Harris called his bowling 'ground bait', it attracted some pretty big fish. Their paths did not cross very often but he claimed the wickets of WG Grace and his brother EM three times each and seven times dismissed Richard Daft, generally considered England's best until the advent of Grace. Harry Jupp and Henry Charlwood, who played for England in the first-ever Test Match, fell to him on eleven occasions, the 'Cambridgeshire. Cracks' Richard Carpenter and Tom Hayward (senior) twelve and eleven times respectively.

Playing for the United England Eleven v 18 of Hastings, the Surrey left-hander 'Ben'Griffith famously hit all four balls of a Bennett over out of the ground but, if the bowler lost the battle, he won the war. In first-class matches alone he dismissed Griffith 13 times. At The Oval in 1863 he helped in the disposal of the cream of Surrey's batting in one (four ball) over – Heathfield Stephenson (stumped), William Caffyn (run out), Ernest Dowson (bowled) and Griffith (caught).

Whether, like other bowlers of his time, George Bennett raised his bowling arm higher after the Law was changed in 1864, contemporary accounts offer no clue. Since he aimed to beat the batsman in the air, it seems likely. Up to 1864, 9.48 % of his wickets came via stumping. Thereafter the figure rose to 13.09%. Caught and bowled dismissals too became more frequent. In three seasons he claimed over 50 wickets in all matches, 63 in 1863, 65 in 1865 and 58 in 1866. For Kent alone his best seasons were 1860 (47) and 1863 (40).

Essentially a defensive batsman, to quote Lord Harris again, Bennett was 'stiff as a block of wood' but, with little or no back-lift, he was less troubled than most by the shooters which were a regular hazard on many of the pitches of the day, not least at Lord's. What he lacked in style he made up in concentration and a gift for getting runs when it mattered, mainly by pushes, prods and nudges for ones and twos. In a 20-year career, he top scored 29 times or on 7.1% of his visits to the wicket, notably when reaching his personal best for Kent, 82 against a strong MCC side for the newly-formed Kent club at Maidstone in 1859.

A lively outfielder by the standards of the time and with a long throw, he was fast between the wickets but 23 run outs in 285 completed innings suggests that his reputation as a poor judge of a run was not unjustified. His only first-class century ended with a run out.

The son of a bricklayer, George Bennett, was himself a bricklayer and, although one of England's leading professional cricketers for some 20 years and never short of professional employment, he seems to have considered bricklaying as his main occupation. At least he appears as a bricklayer in every Census from 1851 to 1881.

In 1848, at the age of 19 Bennett was one of half a dozen men and youths who broke into a house in Meopham and after a confrontation with the occupants, escaped with some of their valuables. Possibly thanks to a guilty plea and a certificate of good character from the parish priest, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at Maidstone Assizes. Four of the party were sentenced to transportation for terms varying from seven to 13 years and he was perhaps fortunate not to have found himself in Australia some 14 years before he arrived there as a cricketer.

The burglary does not come across as a particularly well-planned enterprise but if it was alcohol related the fact did not emerge at the trial. It may or may not be significant therefore that, as late as 1870, Bennett was reprimanded by the Kent committee for arriving on the ground drunk.

As to why he was known as 'Farmer', according to one version it was bestowed on him simply because he looked the part. Another links it to a fist fight between Bennett and a team mate and relates the nickname to a Mr Bennett who was backer of the famed prize-fighter Tom Sayer. He does not

seem to have been over particular about his appearance. Before he embarked for Australia aboard the *SS Great Britain* in 1861 his team mates insisted that he have a shave and a bath.

Bennett worked for some 20 years on the Darnley estate in Cobham - possibly as a bricklayer although most accounts have him as a gardener – and it was with the Cobham club that he became established as a cricketer. By 1853, only three years after completing his gaol sentence, he was well enough established to be employed at Oxford University where in May that year, alongside names such as Fuller Pilch, Ned Willsher, Caffyn and Jemmy Grundy, he played against the University for ‘Eleven Players (engaged at Oxford as bowlers)’. In this exalted company he batted No. 11, remained unbeaten on 0 in the first innings, failed to score in the second and did not bowl but from this point he made rapid progress.

In a match commencing August 10th he scored 53 and 49* for Cobham v Gravesend and within five days he was making his debut for Kent against England in Canterbury Week in a team including most of the ‘Great Old Kent Eleven’ - Alfred Mynn, both Pilchs, Ned Wenman, Willsher, ‘Topper’Hillyer, Ned Hinkly, Tom Adams and the Hon Edward Bligh. Kent lost by an innings and Bennett’s contribution was modest - 0, eight not out and one over

Next season he played three games for Kent and in the last, Fifteen of Kent against a strong United England Eleven at Gravesend, he top scored in both innings with 21 and 53. From 1855 he became a regular member of the Eleven and in 1856 emphasised his allround credentials with 33 (top score again) and five for 58 against Sussex on the Royal Brunswick ground, Hove. Against the same opponents and at the same venue he had an analysis of 10-4-9-7 in 1857 and match figures of 14 for 82 in 1858 when he took 47 wickets in Kent matches alone but his greatest contribution would come in the following decade.

By the time Kent County Cricket Club was formed in 1859, apart from a few appearances by an ageing Alfred Mynn, the ‘Great Old Kent Eleven’ had gone, only Willsher remaining from the great days. With Kent cricket at times close to terminal decline, throughout the 1860s Willsher and Bennett virtually carried the Kent attack. In most years Kent had a relatively brief county programme, but in 86 matches between 1860 and the formation of the enlarged club in 1870 the pair shared 852 wickets, Willsher 497, Bennett 355.

Bennett was not one of the first choices for the Australian tour in 1861 but with most of the leading Northerners as well as prominent Southerners including Willsher declining to tour, the organisers were obliged to look further afield. At that stage Bennett had not been recruited by any of the wandering elevens but he was showing impressive allround form.

In May 1860 he scored 160 for the Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury (not first-class), in July he had match figures of ten for 104 for Kent v England at Lord’s and in August grafted his way to 66* & 42* for Kent v Surrey at Mote Park. In September he played (with moderate results on an execrable wicket) in the South v North match at Aston Park, Birmingham. It was after this latter match, at a dinner held at *The Hen & Chickens Hotel*, that the final tour party (ten from the South, two from the North) was agreed. The terms were £150 (plus travel and accommodation) and an additional £5 for use of the players’ photograph in advertisements.

Apart from breaking a passenger’s nose through losing his hold on a belaying pin he was using as a bat in a game of deck cricket, the journey was relatively uneventful and Bennett was one of the successes of the tour finishing third highest wicket-taker, 81 (avge.5.35) and fourth in the batting averages with 312 runs (avge.17.33).

Now a professional of some standing back in England, he became associated with four of the wandering elevens, the United England Eleven (1860-1863), the All-England Eleven (1864), the

short-lived English Eleven in 1864 and most frequently the United South of England Eleven (1865-1876). Predictably, his 'ground bait' proved highly effective against local 18s and 22s, notably in 1864 when he took 17 wickets in an innings for the English Eleven against 22 of the Southern Union at Bournemouth and 24 wickets in a match for the New All England Eleven v 22 of Oxford City. In the following year for United South he had a haul of 53 wickets in three matches against 22s.

He was chosen for Players v Gentlemen in 1865 at both Lord's and The Oval where he took five for 73 & three for 71 and was selected again for both matches in the following season. At Lord's he was the pick of the bowlers with four for 41 & four for 62

Between 1859 and 1866 he appeared in twelve of the other prestigious representative match of the day, South v North. In the match at Lord's in 1863 he had match figures of ten for 139 and top scored with 22 when the South were dismissed for 78 in their second innings. Two years later, on the same ground he scored 100, his only first-class century, sharing a partnership of 84 with Stephenson (54) for the third wicket and 103 with Tom Hearne (57) for the fourth. In the same fixture in 1866 he bowled the South to an innings victory with match figures of 12 for 50. This began a spell of 42 wickets in seven innings, 12 for 126 v Surrey at The Oval, 11 for 125 in the return at Gravesend and seven for 67 v Sussex at Gravesend.

Three times he took part in the annual showpiece match in London between the wandering elevens, for UEE v AEE at The Oval in 1860 and Lord's in 1862, for AEE v UEE at Lord's in 1864.

From 1870, Bennett's batting declined. Apart from an innings of 75 (top score) against Sussex at Crystal Palace in 1870, he only once passed 30 in the remainder of his career and in the closing years batted in the lower order. But he continued to take wickets. 1871, the first year of the enlarged Kent CCC, was one of his best seasons as a bowler – 34 wickets at 13.67 each including nine for 113 when Sussex won by an innings at Hove and six for 44 & four for 68 (and a pair) in the return at Mote Park.

Due to a sprain, he missed the last day of his final first-class match in 1873, appropriately against Sussex at Eastbourne. Kent lost by an innings but his final figures were 49-19-76-3. This was his 43rd match against Sussex, the only county against whom he did the double, 1,143 runs (avge.15.87), 183 wickets (avge.15.26). It was against Sussex at Hove in 1872 that he achieved yet another first. He was the first player to be given out 'handled ball' under the Law as it stood at the time when he removed a ball which had become lodged in his clothing. He was involved in another odd incident in a Sussex match. In 1866 George Wells hit his wicket and was given out before Bennett had delivered the ball.

In 1875 he appeared for 18 of North Kent v the United South of England Eleven at Gravesend and in 1879 played what seems to have been his last match of any standing, for Cobham v Royal Engineers. He had two benefits, G Bennett's Eleven v G Baker's Eleven at Gravesend in 1863, a joint benefit, Kent v WG Grace's Eleven at Maidstone in 1871 which raised £794.2s 4d 'with some sums outstanding'.

George Bennett married twice and outlived both his wives. Elizabeth Rebecca Baker, whom he married in 1851, bore him four children, three boys and one girl. *Circa* 1862 he married Fanny Ralph, a dressmaker by whom he had a further seven children, two boys and five girls. In the 1881 Census George, now a widower, is still a bricklayer. Seven of the children are still living with him in Shorne 'near the post office'. Georgianna (17) and Mary Ann (16) are domestic servants. The remainder Edith (13), William (ten), Emma (eight), Thomas (six) and Frank (four) are scholars. His death was from emphysema, asthma and 'exhaustion'.

Robert Bennett (No. 226).

Born: 1831 Tunbridge Wells. *Died:* 5.10.1875. Chichester, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1863-64.

Parents: George & Mary Bennett

Robert Bennett had a varied career both in and outside cricket and in some years his movements are difficult to track with accuracy. A common surname and only one forename does not help. Born on the Nevill Estate where his father was a gardener, he was at different times, labourer, gardener to the Rev EV Bligh (qv) in Rotherfield – lodging with the curate where his wife Sarah was housekeeper - an employee at Preston (Brighton) Waterworks and just possibly, a baker.

His first game of importance was in 1851 for Players of Tonbridge v Gentlemen of Tonbridge. In 1854 he appeared for 18 of Tunbridge Wells v Kent, in 1858 for Rotherfield v Tunbridge Wells, in 1860 he made his first-class debut for Sussex against MCC at Lord's and in the following year he was in the Tunbridge Wells Eleven

In 1863, although apparently still living in Sussex he made his debut for the county of his birth for Thirteen of Kent v England in Canterbury Cricket Week. At a time when Kent were without a regular wicketkeeper, he batted No. 12, scored 0 and nine, held one catch and allowed 29 byes. He was left out of the team for the first four fixtures of 1864 but, restored for 13 of Kent v England at Lord's and remained for a run of five matches - ending with 13 of Kent v England in Canterbury Cricket Week. His best performance was v Nottinghamshire at Crystal Palace, scores of 12 and three, three catches and a total of five byes in two innings. He also appeared that year for 18 of Tunbridge Wells v Sussex on Tunbridge Wells Common.

Comfortably built, he was considered a large man for a wicketkeeper (5ft 10½, 166 lbs). Opinions seemed to differ as to his skill but Lord Harris appears to have been unimpressed. In his memoirs he remembers 'a big man named R. Bennett playing, rumour said, only because he was bigger than Tom Lockyer'. 'Certainly on that occasion he did not justify his selection on any other ground.'

When he died in Chichester the cause of death was given as 'phthisis/chronic fever'.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Anthony Burlton Bennett (No. 129).

Born: 25.11.1807 Calcutta, India. *Died.* 20.2.1886, Westminster, London.

Batsman.

Kent. 1844.

Educated: St John's College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Robert Burlton Bennett & Diana Burlton Bennett (née Wroughton).

Playing most of his cricket intermittently between 1831 and 1846 for MCC, William Bennett gained a place in the 'Bs' side v England at Lord's in 1832. The team, although fairly strong on paper, was dismissed for 18 and 35 and lost in a single day with twelve ducks, two laid by Bennett. His solitary appearance for Kent, v Sussex at Brighton in 1844, was marginally more successful; 1* & 0* batting No. 11.

Away from cricket, Bennett led an eventful life. At the age of 17 he fought a duel in Boulogne, in 1833 he eloped with Miss Marion Cregoe-Colemore, and married her at Gretna Green. Subsequently, while he was away hunting in Scotland the lady left him, taking the younger of their two sons with her. In the course of pursuing her to the Continent he was arrested in Valencia for assaulting his wife's supposed lover, a Mr Touchett. The case was dropped when, following the discovery that he had been

travelling under an assumed name, Touchett was deported. The resultant divorce case was taken to the House of Lord's. In 1850 he resigned his membership of MCC. He married again, Julia Maria Rayneau by whom he had a daughter,

His top score in important matches was 37 for MCC, v Oxford University at Lord's in 1842. Well known in the hunting field, he hunted with the Quorn. He died in Albany Street, Regent's Park but for most of his latter years he lived in Clarges Street, Mayfair. His estate was valued for probate at £321.1s.3d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Finlay Best (No. 416).

Born: 30.5.1865 Smarden. *Died:* 3.8.1942 Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1890-1892.

Educated: Grove House School, Faversham.

Parents: John Best & Ann Gill Best (*née* Gipson).

A genuine allrounder, William Best played most of his cricket for the Preston Club in Lancashire for whom he scored 10,550 runs and took 597 wickets between 1890 and 1905. The son of a farmer who originated from Durham but settled at Nettlestead, Best made his debut for his native county at Trent Bridge in 1890 where he bowled one over and did not bat. Opening against Middlesex at Tonbridge on his second appearance, he scored 20 and ten in a low scoring game.

If his debut was uneventful, his only appearance in the following season was quite the opposite. At Taunton he again opened the batting without doing anything remarkable but, brought on as third change in Somerset's second innings, he took his first wickets in first-class cricket, dismissing George Nichols (caught at point), Ted Tyler (bowled) and Sammy Woods (caught at the wicket) with successive balls.

Although after a hat-trick anti-climax was probably inevitable, Best performed usefully on his two final appearances for Kent in 1892. At Old Trafford his 26 was top score in Kent's first innings; at Bradford he claimed the wickets of top scorer Bobby Peel (50) and John Tunnicliffe for figures of 5-2-4-2.

While with the Preston club he was twice dismissed without scoring and failed to take a wicket for Sixteen of Blackpool and District v the Australians in 1893, a game *Wisden* considered 'ill-advised' and 'quite devoid of interest'.

Playing for Tonbridge against Pallingswick in 1887 he sent a bail 41 yards (40.08 m.) behind the wicket. A hop factor based in Preston, in 1892 he married Preston-born Ellen Anne Westwell. He died from mitral valvular disease, his estate valued for probate at £33,369.10s 3d.

George Betts (No. 94).

Born: 1809 Bearsted. *Died:* 7.10.1861 West Tilbury, Essex.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm bowler (under-arm).

Kent 1835.

Parents: George Betts & Anne Betts (*née* Goodwin).

Although he played for Kent only twice (one non-first-class), George Betts was a regular for Leeds and Bearsted and later for Gravesend on moving there in 1835. He also played for Maidstone

Artichoke. In 1832 he was picked for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, probably as a late substitute when five of the original selections failed to turn up. This was the match in which the Gentlemen defended wickets five inches (12.7cm) lower and two inches (5.08 cm) narrower than those of the Players.

Because wickets were at the time credited to the bowler only when batsmen were bowled or lbw it is difficult to evaluate bowlers of the period with any accuracy. More so in the case of lob bowlers who relied heavily on their fielders, but Betts clean bowled leading batsmen of the day for the two first-class wickets he is known to have taken - Fuller Pilch playing for England v Kent at Lord's, Ned Wenman for Players v Gentlemen. On at least one occasion he took five in an innings, for Leeds & Bearsted v Town Malling. Although by then round-arm was well established, in 1832 *Bell's Life* thought him likely to 'become equal to the first rate bowlers of the day'.

Betts failed to score in either of his two first-class matches and was 0* on his only other (non-first-class) appearance for Kent, v Town Malling at Gravesend in 1836. On one occasion however he shone with the bat. When Leeds & Bearsted were dismissed for 55 by Hawkhurst at Leeds in 1832, Betts (14) was the only batsman to reach double figures. Five other members of the Betts family played for Leeds & Bearsted. In 1829 George and his brother Tom played James and John Rayfield of Tovil in a two-a-side match.

The son of a butcher, George Betts owned a butcher's shop in West Street, Gravesend, and a farm in West Tilbury, Essex where he employed 13 men and boys. He had extensive cattle dealing interests and was reputedly the leading dealer and salesman of cattle in South Essex. According to the *Gravesend Reporter* 'He was the Tilbury Cattle Market, such was his dominance.'

He died a fortnight after a shooting accident on his farm from lockjaw (trismus), a variety of tetanus, leaving a wife Jemima (*née* Smith, 1812-1887), seven children and £4,000. They had married at St. John's, Clerkenwell in 1843.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Morton Peto Betts (No. 283).

Born: 30. 8. 1847 Bloomsbury London. *Died:* 19. 4.1914. Villa Missa, St Anne, near Mentone, France.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1872-1881.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: Edward Ladd Betts & Ann Betts (*née* Peto).

Morton Betts is notable as one of the seven originators of the FA Cup and scorer of the first ever goal in a Cup Final, In the 1872 Final when Wanderers beat Royal Engineers 1-0 Betts played (and scored) under the pseudonym 'AH Chequer' (a Harrow Chequer). The reason for the assumed name is not clear. He seems to have been a member of the Harrow Chequers Club and they were drawn against Wanderers in the First Round but they 'scratched' giving Wanderers free passage into the next round. Under the rules of the competition as they stood at the time, so long as he did not 'play for more than one competing club' there was nothing to stop him playing under his own name. Betts was one of three Kent cricketers in the Final, Edgar Lubbock (*qv*) played for the winners, Henry Renny-Tailyour (*qv*) for the losers.

The son of the wealthy railway entrepreneur Edward Ladd Betts who lived in some state in Tavistock Square and subsequently bought, demolished and rebuilt Preston Hall Aylesford, Peto Betts acquired a considerable reputation as a batsman with clubs such as Harrow Wanderers, Bickley Park, West Kent, Incogniti, Band of Brothers, Streatham and Burghley Park. In 1880 he scored 199* (in a total of 534 all out) for Bickley Park against Plaistow.

At first-class level he was less successful but had the rare, probably unique, distinction in 1872 of not only playing for two counties in the same season but doing so within a period of six days – for Twelve of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week on 7, 8 and 9 August and for Middlesex v Surrey at Prince's on 15 and 16 August.

Although his father's firm, Peto & Betts went bankrupt in 1866, by the time of his second appearance in 1881 Morton Peto Betts was established as a civil engineer and living in Plaistow Road, Bromley. Against Sussex at Hove, he came in at 267 for five and was left high and dry with 39*. He had been playing club cricket for Ravenscourt Park

Betts was Hon Secretary to Essex County Cricket Club from 1887 until 1890, a time when the club was struggling financially. He resigned to become Secretary of the newly formed British Baseball Association. He was capped for England against Scotland at Association Football in 1877 and when his playing days were over was highly regarded as a referee. He was a member of the FA Council for twenty years and joint founder, first Secretary and later Treasurer of the Kent FA.

He married twice, Jane Bouch in 1879 and Jane Morgan 1901. On his death in France his effects in England were valued at £40.8s.8d.

John Bickley (No. 162).

Born: 16.1.1819 Keyworth, Nottinghamshire. *Died:* 15.11.1866 Nottingham.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm fast bowler (round-arm)

Kent 1854.

Parents: Samuel Bickley & Mary Bickley (née Howard).

Although like Alfred Mynn he walked up to the wicket, Jack Bickley was for a few years rated as one of the best fast bowlers in England. His solitary appearance for Kent was as one of four 'given men' in the 1854 Canterbury Cricket Week. Born in Nottinghamshire, in fact he appeared only 14 times for his native county, much of his cricket being for Eighteens and Twenty-Twos against the travelling All-England and United England Elevens. For England v Kent and Sussex at Lord's in 1856 his figures in the second innings were 14-9-7-8.

Strongly built, in his youth he was also a noted athlete excelling as a sprinter, jumper and in 'feats of strength'. Originally a silk glove weaver, he later became landlord of *The 'Sawyers Arms'* in Nottingham and, with his wife Selina, also owned a linen draper's shop but on his death his estate was valued at 'under £300'.

Albert Edgar Birch (No. 439).

Born: 11.8.1868 Bethnal Green, London. *Died:* 1.12.1958, Hastings, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1894.

Parents: Joseph & Emma Birch.

In the 1890s Kent were seldom able to field a strong side in May and Albert Birch came into the team against MCC in 1894 for his only match when the amateur Leslie Wilson was unable to play. Kent were dismissed for 67 and 62, Dick Pougher (five for 60), Jack Hearne (14 for 66) bowling unchanged throughout. MCC totalled 261 but Birch was not called on to bowl.

Some aspects of Birch's life are something of a mystery. Although he played as a professional, there is no record of his having been on the Kent staff and it is not clear on what grounds he was qualified for the County. In the 1891 Census he is a stationer living in Stoke Newington with his father, a tax collector. Two years later he played twice for Kent Second Eleven against Surrey Seconds and took three for 46 in the second match at The Oval. Subsequently he was briefly a professional with Formby in the Lancashire League.

In 1894 he married Ann Milligan Douglas and by 1901 he was back in in Stoke Newington and like his father, he is now tax collector and assessor. His wife died in 1907 and in the following year he married Margaret Arthur Douglas by whom he had one daughter. Both wives were from Ayrshire. He was at the same address in 1911 and 'tax collector (retired) appears on his death certificate. His estate was valued for probate at £5,096.15s 9d.

He appears to have followed very closely in his father's footsteps. In the 1861 Census father Joseph too was a stationer. Not until 1881 does he appear as a collector of Her Majesty's taxes.

Rev Henry Brydges Biron (No. 182).

Born: 13.6.1835 Hythe. *Died:* 7.4.1915 Derringstone.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1857-1864.

Educated: King's School, Canterbury and Cambridge University.

Parents: Edwin Biron & Elizabeth Biron (née Viny).

An archetypal Muscular Christian, Henry Biron got no nearer a Blue at Cambridge than the Next Twenty-Two in 1857 but for Cambridge Quidnuncs against the Gentlemen of Sussex at Brighton in 1864 he scored 214 with 22 fours and three fives, an innings characterised by hard hitting and 'a just contempt for the wicketkeeper'. He tended to flourish on Brighton's Brunswick ground. His highest score for Kent (30) was there against Sussex and for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex he hit 59 and 68 in 1862, 67 and 52 in 1863.

Although his performances for Kent were relatively modest, Biron played several other valuable innings for Gentlemen of Kent including his highest first-class score – 53 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC at Canterbury in 1860. As early as 1852 he played for Elham and between 1859 and 1870 for Band of Brothers. In 1870 he also appeared for Twenty of Ashford v the United South of England Eleven. For no obvious reason he also played once for Gentlemen of Hampshire against Gentlemen of Kent.

Biron was on the Managing Committee of the Kent County Club formed at Maidstone in 1859 but did not take up the offer of a Vice-Presidency when the enlarged club was formed in 1870. Educated at King's School Canterbury, he obtained a BA at Cambridge, was ordained in 1858 and became Curate of Mersham, Curate of Harbledown, Rector of Biddenden and finally emulated his father by becoming Vicar of Lympe and West Hythe where he was greatly admired, not only for his work for his flock but also for his expertise as a rose grower.

In 1841 he married Jane Elizabeth Blest. There were two daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £2,086.4s.2d. His brother Robert was a noted barrister.

Arthur Blackman (No. 355).

Born: 13. 10. 1853; Dartford. *Died:* 6. 4.1908 Preston; Brighton, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1879-1880.

Parents: William Blackman & Priscilla Blackman (née West).

Arthur Blackman was notable (in his day) for having played for three counties, Surrey, one match in 1878, (qualified by residence while at the National Society Teacher Training College at Battersea), Kent, three matches 1879-80 (qualified by birth) and Sussex, 15 matches 1881-1887 (he was now living permanently in Brighton). Described as a 'good and free hitter' his 36 for Kent v Sussex at Town Malling was a valuable innings – in a low-scoring game he added 60 for the fourth wicket with Ivo Bligh - but Blackman's greatest contribution to Kent cricket was in arranging a trial for his nephew Fred Martin in 1882. The great 'Nutty' Martin went on to take almost 1,000 wickets for the County.

The son of a foundry worker, Arthur Blackman was a teacher by profession and became Headmaster of the Central Boys School in Brighton. In 1881 he scored 255* for Brighton & District Teacher's Association v Eastbourne. For Sussex against Kent at Hove in 1881 he hit 89 in 55 minutes. He played one first-class match for Gentlemen of Kent in the 1879 Canterbury Week and also played for the Gentlemen of Sussex and Sheffield Park. In 1894 he scored 28 for Lord Sheffield's Eleven against the touring South Africans and 71 for Brixton Wanderers v The Gentlemen of the Netherlands at Denmark Hill (neither match first-class).

In 1908 he married Sarah Hardman in Finchley. There were two sons. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £602.14s.

Major General Everard McLeod Blair CMG (No. 429).

Born: 26.7.1866 Bangalore India. *Died:* 16.5.1939 Northampton.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm leg-break bowler.

Kent 1893-1900.

Educated: Cheltenham College & RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Gustavus Frederick & Mary Blair (née Blair, possibly a cousin).

One of a number of distinguished professional soldiers who played for Kent, Everard Blair was in the Eleven at Cheltenham in 1883 and 1884, a batsman with a strong defence and at school level an often highly effective leg-break bowler. A prolific scorer at Woolwich in 1885 and from 1886 to 1905 for Royal Engineers for whom he scored eight centuries, he was invited to play for Kent after impressing in several innings against Band of Brothers and for Free Foresters.

He was top scorer with 61 against Gloucestershire at Bristol on debut in June 1893 and followed with scores of 26, 26, 14, 11, 25 and 26 over the next six weeks but effectively this was the end of his first-class career. He failed on his two subsequent appearances in 1896 and 1900. For unspecified reasons, he sometimes played under the name 'J Forrest'. In 1890/91 while serving in the Far East he played for Hong Kong and on at least one occasion captained them against Straits Settlements.

The son of a Colonel in the Royal Artillery, Everard Blair entered the Royal Military Academy Woolwich in 1884 and was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1886. Following a series of overseas postings which included Hong Kong, he returned to England in 1891 and was appointed Assistant Instructor in Fieldworks at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Promoted Captain in 1896, from 1898 to 1903 he was an Instructor at the RMA Woolwich. After twelve months sick

leave while suffering from neurasthenia, he was promoted Major in 1904 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1912.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, in 1915 Blair was posted to Egypt, initially as Chief Engineer, Cairo District, subsequently, Chief Engineer, Number Three Section, Suez Canal Defences and promoted Colonel (temporary Brigadier General). In February 1916 he was Mentioned in Despatches.

Appointed Chief Engineer of the Eastern Frontier Force with the rank of Brigadier General in October 1916, in the following month he was made responsible for water supplies which involved the construction of a 120 mile water pipeline across the Sinai desert prior to the advance into Palestine and a later 30 mile extension. Despite numerous difficulties with terrain, weather and materials, the work was successfully completed which earned Blair the congratulations of the GOC, General Sir Archibald Murray, a second Mention in Despatches and the award of the CMG.

In early 1918 Blair returned to England and was initially employed on London's defences but he was again suffering from neurasthenia and in February he was granted six months sick leave. Following a Medical Board in July 1918 Blair was retired on half pay.

During his time in England, Blair played cricket for MCC as well as for Royal Engineers. In addition to cricket, at both Cheltenham and Woolwich Blair excelled at gymnastics and rackets, winning the doubles for the Military Challenge Cup at Prince's in 1895 with Captain Hamilton.

In 1908 Everard Blair married Nora Gladys Dorothy Albertina Benenke in Tientsin, China. Most of his retirement was spent in Bath. On his death in Northampton Hospital his estate was valued for probate at £4,952.1s.9d.

Further reading:

Phillips, Andy. *First In, Last Out. The Story of Sapper Cricket 1863-2016*. Institution of Royal Engineers, 2017.

Richard Norman Rowsell Blaker MC (No. 467).

Born: 24.10.1879 Bayswater, London. *Died:* 11.9.1950 Eltham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1898-1908. Cap 1900.

Educated: Westminster School & Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: Harry Blaker & Mary Blaker (née Roswell).

Gifted with the ability, not only to drive the good length ball, but to drive the ball just short of a length, figures do not perhaps give a true picture of the value of Dick Blaker's aggressive batting. Often in the lower middle order when Kent had their full cast of amateurs, he had a flair for making runs when it mattered and for making them quickly. His first century, 120 (20 fours) against Gloucestershire at Catford in 1905, came in 85 minutes. At Trent Bridge in the same year when Kent needed 258 in 200 minutes, he hit 51 in 35 minutes. Batting with 'Pinky' Burnup against Somerset at Taunton in 1906 he scored 35* in twelve minutes in an unfinished sixth-wicket partnership of 58. An over from left-arm spinner Albert Bailey went for two, six, six, two, four and four.

At Lord's that same year he was last out for 86 (one five, ten fours) out of 157 in 105 minutes, breaking five bats in the process. Making a rare appearance as an opener when Kent needed 81 in three quarters of an hour against Worcestershire at New Road in 1904, Blaker hit 35 in a partnership of 47 in 16 minutes with Sam Day.

Equally good at slip or in the deep, he was reputedly able to throw the ball further and harder than anyone with the possible exception of Kenneth Hutchings.

Blaker was captain for two of his four years at Westminster and also captained the School at Association football. He had already played for Kent before going up to Cambridge where he won Blues for both cricket and football in 1900, 1901 and 1902. In 1901/02 he toured West Indies with a team captained by RA Bennett, scoring 55 against Jamaica, 100 in a non first-class fixture in Barbados and taking five wickets with his rarely used pace bowling. In a short career with Kent Blaker four times exceeded 500 runs in a season, his best years 1905 -786 runs at 39.30 and 1906 - 672 runs at 39.32.

The son of a solicitor and a solicitor by profession, after coming down from University Blaker was a regular member of the Kent team whenever available but from 1908 when he joined the Chancery Registrar's Office and thus became a Civil Servant, he was largely restricted to club cricket. In 1911 he was promoted to Principal Clerk in the Registrar's Office.

An enthusiastic club cricketer, his principal clubs were Band of Brothers, Blackheath, where he was captain for many years and President at the time of his death, as long serving captain of the Butterflies, for Civil Service, MCC and Sou' Westers (President 1932-33). He played football at centre-forward for the Corinthians.

During the First World War Blaker enlisted as a Private soldier in December 1915 and in the following March was posted to the 10th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment. In July that year he joined an Officer Cadet Training unit and in November was commissioned in the Rifle Brigade. Almost immediately he was taken ill with 'influenzal pneumonia' and it was not until September 1918 that Blaker, by now a Lieutenant, joined 13th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade (111 Brigade, 37th Division) in France.

In one of the closing battles of the War, Blaker, by now a Captain, was awarded the MC. According to the citation 'For most conspicuous courage and good work on 4 November 1918 near Louvignies. While leading his platoon in the attack, he was temporarily cut-off and came single-handedly on two machine guns in action. He dashed between the guns, capturing them both and their teams. Seeing his men a short distance ahead and held up by machine gun fire from a house on their flank, he again single-handedly took them in the flank, clearing the house and capturing two officers and 28 other ranks'. Few MCs can have been more hard won. According to an eye witness, he shot at least five of the enemy with his service revolver and captured between 80 and 90. Under operational conditions, most ordinary mortals would be lucky to hit the barn let alone the proverbial barn door with the standard service revolver of the time.

Demobilised in February 1919 he returned to the Civil Service and progressed to Principal Clerk to the Supreme Court. In 1908 he married Mary Kenyon Godby, the couple spending most of their married life at The Courtyard, Eltham. There were three children including twin daughters, Barbara and Joan who were prominent members of the Kent women's team.

Blaker was President of Kent in 1950, the year of his death in Eltham Hospital following an operation for peritonitis. He had been a member of the Kent CCC committee since 1946. His estate was valued for probate at £3,216.13s.

Lieutenant General the Hon Edward Bligh (No. 4).

Born: 19.9.1769, Co. Meath Ireland. *Died:* 2.11.1840 Thames Ditton, Surrey.

Batsman (probably right-handed)

Kent 1806.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: John, Third Earl Darnley & Lady Mary Darnley (née Stoyte).

Considered one of the best amateur batsman of his day, Edward Bligh, known as 'Skirmish Bligh', was the second son of Third Earl, brother of the Fourth Earl and great uncle of EV and Henry Bligh (qv). Although he only once passed 20 for Kent, Bligh hit two centuries for MCC, 132 v the Bullingdon Club at Oxford in 1796 and 105 v Middlesex at Lord's in 1797, the first by an amateur on the ground. In a single-wicket match in 1791 he single handedly beat Humphrey Hopkin and Joseph Gilbert, two noted Nottinghamshire cricketers of the time, by 40 runs. He played in the first two Gentlemen v Players matches, both staged at Lord's in 1806, appeared for Hampshire and was a member of I Zingari. He claimed to have had every finger broken at the game.

Originally commissioned into the Coldstream Guards, he subsequently commanded the 33rd Foot (later the Duke of Wellington's Regiment) and the 107th Foot (later 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regt.). He attained the rank of Major General at the early age of 32 and served in the Low Countries campaign in 1793 when British, Austrian and Hessian forces under the command of Frederick Duke of York unsuccessfully laid siege to Dunkirk during the early stages of the war with Revolutionary France.

Cricket remained close to his heart; while campaigning he wrote to his mother enquiring after the welfare of his cricket bats. He represented Athboy in the Irish Parliament until The Acts of Union in 1801. Unmarried, his portrait was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds and in his youth he was an intimate of the Prince of Wales (the future George IV).

The Hon and Rev Edward Vesey Bligh (No. 146).

Born: 28.2.1829. Belgravia, London. *Died:* 22.4. 1908 West Malling.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow bowler (round-arm), occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1849-1864.

Educated: Eton College & Oxford University.

Parents: Fifth Earl Darnley & Lady Emma (née Peel).

The second son of the Fifth Earl, brother of the Sixth Earl and Henry Bligh, father of LE Bligh (qv), Edward Bligh had a varied career. On coming down from Oxford he joined the Diplomatic Service and from 1850 until 1855 was successively Attaché at Hanover, Florence and Berlin. Subsequently he resigned and settled for life as a country clergyman.

Together with his brother Henry and Henry Brenchley (qv), he played a pivotal role in the formation of the present Kent County Cricket club in Maidstone in 1859 and subsequently served on the General Committee.

He had a long playing career, giving useful service as a hard driving batsman, occasional bowler and wicketkeeper. In 1850, by which time he had already appeared in one game for Kent, he played for Oxford University against MCC and against Cambridge University on Cowley Marsh. In that year for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week, he played the best innings of his career. With his side needing 165 to win, Bligh joined Felix at 70 for six. He ran his partner out at 129 but atoned by scoring 44* and seeing Kent through to a one wicket victory.

In 1862, piqued at being asked to bat No. 10 for Fourteen of Kent v England at Canterbury, he hit a rapid 53 (his highest for Kent) against Wootton, Jackson, Tarrant, Caffyn and Grundy, five of the best bowlers in England.

He played several other valuable innings for Gentlemen of Kent notably 33* in a total of 79 against the Gentlemen of England at Canterbury in 1848. He also played for MCC, Cobham Court, the

Cobham Club and one match for Middlesex. For Cobham he scored over 2,000 runs between 1850 and 1865 including a century against Town Malling in 1858. In 1853 he took 13 wickets in a match for Cobham v Gravesend and ten in a match at Hollingbourne in the following year. He was a member of I Zingari.

One of the original trustees of the Alfred Mynn Benevolent Institution, Bligh was Rector of Rotherfield, Sussex in 1861, where he employed Robert Bennett (*qv*) as his gardener, and in 1866 Rector of Birling. He subsequently lived as Clergyman without Cure at Fatherwell Hall, West Malling where he was a JP and Chaplain to the Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry.

In 1854 he married Isabel Frances Mary Nevill. There were two children. On his death his estate was valued at £2,432.18s.1d.

Further reading:

Bligh, Hon & Rev EV *Former Kent Cricketer*. The author, 1896.

Wingfield-Stratford, Esme Cecil. *This was a Man: the Biography of the Honourable Edward Vesey Bligh*. R.Hale, 1949

The Hon and Rev Henry Bligh (No. 160).

Born: 10.6.1834 Belgravia, London. *Died*: 4.3.1905 Winchester, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1854-1860,

Educated: Rugby School.

Parents: Fifth Earl Darnley & Lady Emma Darnley (née Peel).

The youngest of the five children (three sons, two daughters) of the Fifth Earl and brother of Edward Vesey Bligh (*qv*), Henry Bligh achieved little in his few appearances for Kent but he was a steady batsman and capable wicketkeeper for Gentlemen of Kent and the Cobham Club, for the latter particularly when keeping to 'Farmer' Bennett's 'groundbait'. For Cobham at Town Malling in 1853 he scored 28* in a total of 60. The next highest was six.

His debut in first-class cricket was in 1853 when he played alongside brother Edward for MCC v Oxford University on the Magdalen College Ground.

An ardent supporter of cricket and a member of I Zingari, with brother Edward, he was one of the founders of the 1859 Kent CCC, serving on the Managing Committee, on occasions as Chairman, and from 1859 to 1862 as Treasurer.

He was Rector of Nettlebed, Oxfordshire (1866), Vicar of Hampton Hill, Middlesex (1881) and Vicar of Holy Trinity Fareham, Hampshire (1893). In 1902 he resigned the living due to ill health and retired to Winchester.

He married twice, Emma Armytage in 1858 and, following her death in 1881, Ann Elizabeth Dobre Butler in 1883. There were two daughters by the first marriage. The second Mrs Bligh survived him. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £11,260.16s.

The Hon Ivo Francis Walter Bligh (Later 8th Earl of Darnley) (No. 341).

Born: 13.3.1859 Westminster, London. *Died*: 10.4.1927 Puckle Hill, Shorne.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1877-1883. Cap. 1883.

Tests: Four for England

Educated: Eton College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: John, Sixth Earl Darnley & Lady Harriet Darnley (née Pelham)..

Second son of John Sixth Earl, Ivo Bligh is best known for having led the team which recovered the Ashes in 1882/83 but at school and university he had already established a reputation as one of the leading allround sportsmen of his day. With an easy-going manner and equable temperament, he was immensely popular, excelling not only at cricket but at racquets and tennis and as well as being President of the Cambridge Amateur Dramatics Club.

Coached in childhood by George 'Farmer' Bennett who was employed on his father's estate, Bligh's strength was in driving, making full use of his 6ft. 3in. (190.5cm). He was fast in the outfield with a strong throw – at Eton he threw the cricket ball 95 yards 1ft. (87.17 m.) – and equally good at point but it was a short playing career. Plagued by injury and illness - his biographers hint at a touch of hypochondria – he played only seven first-class matches after his return from Australia.

Bligh's early cricketing success at Cheam School was as a bowler but in 1875 at the age of 16 he scored 35 for 18 of Kent at Gravesend against United South of England including WG Grace, James Southerton and James Lillywhite. He was in the Eton Eleven in 1876-77 and in the latter year made his debut for Kent v Lancashire at Maidstone.

Going up to Cambridge in 1878, he began with 70 in the Freshmens's match and was awarded his Blue, the first of three. Later in the season he registered his maiden first-class half-century, 60 for Kent v Surrey at The Oval. He also had his first encounters with the Australians, scoring 21 for Cambridge University at Lord's and 43 and 0 for Eighteen of Hastings and District.

In 1879 came his first century, 113 for Cambridge University v Surrey at The Oval, and he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players. Next year he started badly for Cambridge with a pair but followed with 70 and 57* v Yorkshire and 90 v Gentlemen of England at Fenner's. There followed his only century for Kent, 105 v Surrey at The Oval, and two appearances for Gentlemen v Players. He ended 1880, his last full season, with 1,013 runs (avge.30.69.).

Appointed captain of Cambridge in 1881, ill-health restricted him to three games and for the first time he was on the losing side against Oxford. For Kent he played seven matches, leading them in Lord Harris's absence.

Bligh's historic 1882/83 tour of Australia originated in a letter written as Cambridge captain to the Melbourne Club suggesting what was then seen as a 'good fun' trip for him and his Oxbridge friends, originally to be led by Alfred Lyttelton. Arrangements, including the addition of four professionals, were completed more than a month before England's Oval defeat and only later did it become a mission to recover the Ashes.

Bligh injured his hand in a shipboard tug-of war and in first-class matches his top score was 19 but he won fulsome praise from all quarters for his leadership on and off the field. For the first time amateurs and professionals shared meals and hotel accommodation.

During the tour Bligh met, courted and, despite parental opposition, subsequently married Florence Morphy, youngest of seven children of a widowed mother. A remarkable young lady, when Bligh met her she was governess/piano teacher to the daughters of the wealthy Clarke family. A woman of considerable culture, she wrote music as well as played it and her wide circle of friends included Rudyard Kipling and Clara Butt. She ultimately became friend and confidante of the formidable Queen Mary and was created a Dame of the British Empire for her work for charity and as matron to the military hospital set up at Cobham Hall during the First World War.

A member of I Zingari, Bligh played only a little minor cricket after 1883 but remained closely involved. He was first elected to the Kent committee in 1881, President in 1892 and 1902, President of MCC 1900. In 1888 he was President and Hon Secretary of the short-lived Cricket Council.

Golf became his main sport; he was President of the Mid-Kent Golf Club and Captain of St George's. In public life he was Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, served for almost 20 years on Kent County Council, a JP, and in 1905 was elected as a representative peer for Ireland in the House of Lords.

The Darnleys had three children, Esme, the future Ninth Earl, Noel Gervase, who became a landscape artist and Dorothy known as 'Dolly'. Their granddaughter Jasmine was an announcer in the early days of BBC Television. Her third husband was Howard Marshall the fruity-voiced pre-war BBC cricket commentator.

Although the upkeep of Cobham Hall and maintaining his position as the Eighth Earl, he inherited the title in 1900 on the death of his elder brother Edward (*qv*), was a formidable financial burden, at the time of the 1911 Census he was residing with the Countess at Number 31 Cadogan Square with eleven servants. On his death the 8th the Earl's effects were valued for probate at £237,030.9s.3d.

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Lodovick Edward Bligh (No. 349).

Born: 24.11.1854 Dover. *Died:* 16.5.1924 Minehead, Somerset.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1878-1884. Cap 1883.

Educated: Eton College & Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: The Hon & Rev Edward Vesey Bligh & Isabel Frances Mary Bligh (née Nevill).

Lodovic Edward Bligh made no impact as a cricketer at school or university and did nothing remarkable in his occasional appearances for Kent but had success with bat and ball at club level. His batting was described as 'sound but not ornamental'. His clubs included Band of Brothers, Chilston Park, MCC, the Mote, where he served on the committee, Town Malling and I Zingari. In 1876 for Town Malling v Mote Park he was top scorer in the match with 33 plus four wickets and in 1885 he hit 131 for the Mote v Band of Brothers. His highest for MCC was 55 v Norfolk in 1884.

Private means enabled him to become well known in the hunting field; he was at different times MFH of the Dulverston, South Berkshire and East Kent packs and Master of the Minehead Harriers. In 1886 Bligh married Marion Louisa Stewart-Saville, the daughter of a clergyman. There were four sons and one daughter. On his death, Bligh's effects were valued at £112,781.16s.1d.

Colin Blythe (No. 475).

Born: 30.5.1879, Deptford. *Died:* 8.11.1917, Forest Hall to Pimmern military railway line near Passchendaele, Belgium.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1899-1914. Cap 1900.

Tests: 19 for England, nine against Australia, ten against South Africa.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year 1904.

Educated: Duke Street School, Deptford.

Parents: Walter Blythe & Elizabeth Blythe (née Dready).

Colin 'Charlie' Blythe's standing as one of the greatest exponents of classical left-arm spin has diminished over the last hundred years or so. Few of his contemporaries seem to have had doubts. To Ranjitsinhji he was the best left-arm bowler he had ever faced, to Gilbert Jessop 'the best left-handed bowler of my time, the most difficult and probably the most accurate'. One of his opponents, Charles Macartney, thought him 'the best left-hander on English wickets I have ever seen'. 'His remarkable flighting of the ball and his deception in pace are the best I ever met. Pelham Warner was more circumspect 'Peel, Briggs, Rhodes and Ferris were in their day great bowlers but he would be a rash man who would aver that even Peel was a greater bowler than Blythe'. Writing in 1909, Philip Trevor, manager when Blythe toured Australia with MCC in 1907/08 and one of the more technically knowledgeable of the pre-1914 generation of cricket pundits, put it simply 'better than any other bowler on a good wicket and much better than any other bowler on a bad wicket'.

By the turn of the century, all had changed. When the 2000 *Wisden* published its 'Five Cricketers of the Century', Blythe, did not receive a single vote from the 100 assorted 'experts' who made up the electorate. Blythe took his 100 Test wickets at 18.63 each. In Test cricket, of the 28 bowlers nominated, only Sydney Barnes (who received 11 votes) had a better career average and strike rate. Blythe's hundred wickets came in just 19 Test matches. Shane Warne needed 23, Muttiah Muralitharan 27, Wilfred Rhodes 44.

Leaving aside that many in the modern media appear programmed to ignore anything prior to the latter part of the 20th century; more recent writers may be relying over much on the rather curious obituary in the 1918 *Wisden*. Editor Sydney Pardon wrote 'Blythe's reputation will rest on his doings in England. His two visits to Australia scarcely added to his fame and when he went to South Africa in 1905/06 and again in 1909/10, he did not find the matting wickets altogether to his liking'. He ends 'Nearly all his finest work was done for his county'.

Although it is true that Blythe did nothing exceptional in his six Test matches on Australian pitches, in half of them he was bowling with an injured hand and his record in all first-class matches in Australia, 75 wickets at 21.94, compares favourably with those of Rhodes, 114 at 24.68 and Hedley Verity, 72 at 21.65. As to matting wickets, on his two tours to South Africa his record was 33 Test wickets at 21.69, twice ten in a match, and 107 in all first-class matches at 17.09.

In the *Wisden* obituary Pardon discusses the relative merits of five left-arm spinners, Ted Peate, Johnny Briggs, Peel, Rhodes and Blythe, and concludes 'judging by the practical test of results a good case could be made out for Rhodes as the best bowler of the five'. When war ended Blythe's first-class career in 1914, he had 2503 wickets at 16.81. At this stage, Rhodes had 2735 wickets at 17.31. In Test cricket, compared with Blythe's 100 wickets in 19 Tests at 18.63, Rhodes had 105 wickets in 47 Tests at 24.90.

In Kent v Yorkshire matches and other occasions when they were on opposite sides, Blythe's record was 161 wickets (avge.18.39), Rhodes 104 (avge.19.00). When they were in the same team, Blythe took 121 wickets (avge.19.40), Rhodes 58 (avge.21.00). For the MCC Australian Eleven v a strong England Eleven at Hasting in 1908 they bowled unchanged together throughout the match (Blythe the five for 77 & two for 33, Rhodes five for 78 & four for 54). Against each seasons' Champions (or

runners-up in years when their respective counties won the Championship) Blythe's record was 138 wickets (avge.18.09). Rhodes' 105 (avge.24.98).

When attempting direct comparison between the two there are, however, pitfalls. Rhodes began his career a year before Blythe and was already an experienced cricketer when he did so. On the other hand, in the three or four years immediately prior to the outbreak of war he played for both England and Yorkshire primarily as a batsman. Admittedly, he took 100 wickets in 1914 but he hardly bowled at all above county level. And of course Rhodes' career continued until 1930. Judging by Pardon's 'practical test of results', i.e. statistics, Blythe appears to have a very slight edge.

Some more recent writers have helped to muddy the waters. Clearly echoing the Wisden obituary, in his 1971 history of Kent the historian Bill Arrowsmith wrote that Blythe's Test record was 'not outstanding'. The prolific and much respected late Christopher Martin-Jenkins, in his *The Complete Who's Who of Test Cricketers (London 1980)* wrote that Blythe 'bowled to a full length so could be driven on good wickets', a strange judgement which must surely apply to most spin bowlers who have made the grade in first-class cricket.

The subject of two biographies as well as a book in the ACS *Famous Cricketers Series*, rather more is known of Blythe's method than most bowlers of the period. Anyone interested can see his run up and action described at length complete with diagram in the *Kent Messenger* of 31 July 1909. Several sources refer to unusually long fingers, strengthened, according to Blythe himself, by hours practicing the violin.

One of his greatest assets was accuracy. Sir Home Gordon, who in his long life saw more cricket than most, wrote that Blythe 'kept down runs on a batsman's wicket more skilfully than anyone since Alfred Shaw'. In a long career, Shaw bowled more (mainly four-ball) overs than he conceded runs. In the nets Blythe could reputedly land five balls out of six on a football placed on a length.

His supreme quality however seems to have been flight - Jack Hobbs thought him one of the greatest-ever exponents. Numerous batsmen were lured into playing good length balls as half volleys or offering catches from balls pitching a foot shorter than expected. A deep thinker about the game, he was, to quote the cricketer/journalist Teddy Sewell, 'One of the last of the dying race willing enough and far seeing enough to give away two or three boundaries to get a wicket'.

On wet or worn pitches he could be unplayable but as well as the left-arm spinner's stock delivery spinning away from the bat and the ball that went with his arm, on benign wickets he bowled a full medium-pace in-swing, often a yorker. He believed in bowling faster to quick-footed batsmen and if a batsman looked like settling he would bowl from a yard or more behind the crease. If there was nothing in the wicket, he would sometimes switch to leg-theory with six or seven on the leg-side. To a batsman reluctant to play strokes he would on occasions try an in-swinging full toss aimed at the off-bail. 'Long Leg' in the *Kent Messenger* rated an afternoon spent watching Blythe from behind the arm 'an intellectual treat'.

Although he arrived with 'no idea of batting' according to William McCanlis, he developed into a competent batsman, sharing in several valuable late- order partnerships. At Trent Bridge in 1904 he put on 106 for the ninth wicket (Blythe 82*, Fairservice 50) and against Sussex at Canterbury in 1906 he assisted his captain Marsham in adding 111 in 35 minutes (Marsham 119, Blythe 53).

Colin Blythe was born in Evelyn Street, Deptford, the eldest of 13 children, seven boys, six girls, all but one of whom lived beyond infancy. His father was an engine fitter at Woolwich Arsenal who, far from being poor as often asserted, was well enough off to afford violin lessons for his eldest son and in later life help him to buy a house. Eventually, he set himself up as a bookmaker.

On leaving school in April 1892 Charlie Blythe joined his father as an apprentice fitter and turner and appears to have nourished hopes of a career in engineering. According to his biographers he began studying for a Whitworth scholarship but gave up on doctor's advice when his health broke down, possibly under the strain of combining work with spare time study in a crowded household.

There are conflicting accounts of when and how cricket entered 'Charlie' Blythe's life but most agree that it was when he was aged around 11. According to some accounts he played for his school; others refer to 'boys' clubs' on Blackheath. Either way, his first cricket was almost certainly on primitive pitches on the broad expanse of Blackheath which could and did easily accommodate 20 or more matches at a time.

There are indications that he had experienced a higher standard of cricket before he became established with Kent. In his *An Unconventional Cricketer (Harold Shaylor 1930)* Albert Kinross, who played for Plaxtol, includes Blythe among well-known cricketers who have played village cricket – 'Blythe and his fiddle performed at our village concert long years before that gifted hero had figured in the London newspapers'. Kinross does not link Blythe to any particular club but young players were regularly 'farmed out' by Kent to nearby clubs and he could well have played at Plaxtol during his early years on the staff.

There is another possibility. The Woolwich Arsenal's Gun Factory, Torpedo Factory and Ordnance Stores all ran teams and, given the size of the Arsenal work force, it would not be surprising if there were other 'in-house' sides although research has not so far found them.

The story of Blythe's joining Kent is well known. Christopher Sandiford in his *The Final Over. The cricketers of summer 1914. (Spellmount, 2014)* asserts that Blythe 'applied for a county trial largely to avoid working alongside his father as a fitter' but this is at total variance with every other account, including Blythe's own. On Saturday 17 July 1897, he was at Rectory Field, Blackheath for the last day of Kent v Somerset. Some accounts suggest that this was his first county match but this seems unlikely given his age. Rectory Field and another regularly used Kent venue, Catford Bridge, were in walking distance (or a short tram ride) of his then home in Wotton Road, New Cross.

Before play started Walter Wright (*qv*) came out to practice and asked Blythe to bowl to him. In Blythe's own words, 'I don't think there were more spectators than players' but looking on was William McCanlis (*qv*), Manager of the Tonbridge Nursery. He was impressed. 'I spoke to him and arranged for him to come and bowl to me one evening'. This he duly did in the nets of the Charlton Park Club where McCanlis was captain and the outcome was an invitation to a trial at the Nursery. The result appears in the Trial Book at Canterbury 'Bowls slow left. A very useful bowler.'

Blythe was taken on the staff in August 1897, carrying on at the Arsenal in the winter. Despite the absence at the time of a structured programme of Second Eleven or Club & Ground matches, Blythe, coached for the most part by George Webb (*qv*) proved himself a quick learner and in 1898 took over 100 wickets in all matches.

On 21 August 1899 he made his first-class debut, against Yorkshire at Tonbridge. Brought on as second change, he bowled Frank Mitchell leg stump with his first ball and retained his place for the remaining four matches of the season. On his third appearance, against Surrey at Blackheath, his figures read 5.1-1-15-3 in the first innings, 24-16-24-3 in the second and included the wickets of Bobby Abel (bowled) and Tom Hayward (caught). In the final match of the season at Hove he added the even more illustrious scalp of Charles Fry. With the bat he was less successful; after four visits to the wicket (twice not out) he had yet to score a run.

Wisden was non-committal, 'he has not yet done enough to justify one predicting a great future for him' but the 1900 season saw Blythe make, to quote *Wisden* again 'a sudden jump to the front'. With

114 wickets at 18.47 each, he was Kent's leading wicket taker. Eleven times that year he claimed five or more in an innings, twice ten or more in a match. To *Wisden* he was 'clearly one of the best slow bowlers in England.' He excelled in his first Canterbury Week with 11 for 72 against Lancashire and six for 73 in Surrey's only innings; two weeks later on the same ground he took 12 for 123 against Worcestershire. His season's bag included the cream of English batting – Abel, Reginald Foster (twice), Fry, William Gunn, George Hirst, Jessop, Archie MacLaren (twice), Ranjitsinhji, John Tyldesley (twice) and Pelham Warner.

During the 1900/01 winter Blythe returned to Woolwich Arsenal as usual but missed several weeks work due to an unspecified illness. In March the Kent Managing Committee, in a rare but not unique gesture, decided that 'because Blythe has wintered badly he should be examined by a doctor and then 'sent to the seaside for a fortnight'. Whether due to illness or the effect of an exceptionally dry summer on a young and still inexperienced bowler, 1901 proved to be the only season in Colin Blythe's career in which he failed, albeit narrowly, to claim a hundred wickets – 93 at 23.12. Among his best efforts were seven for 64 & four for 57 at The Oval and at Taunton where with Jack Mason he bowled unchanged through the match (Blythe four for 37 & two for 48, Mason four for 26 & eight for 29).

After an early taste of Test cricket in Australia (see below), Blythe returned to English cricket in 1902 fitter, stronger and probably wiser and, although Rhodes was preferred for the Test series, he excelled on the numerous rain-affected pitches in a very wet summer. For the first time he claimed 100 wickets (111) in Championship matches alone and by the end of 1903, another wet one, he was firmly established in the very front rank of English spinners. 13 times he claimed five or more in an innings including his best analysis to date, nine for 67 against Essex at Canterbury. *Wisden* chose him as one of their Five Cricketers of the Year.

There can be little argument over Blythe's status as a county cricketer. He was Kent's leading wicket-taker in 1900, 1902 to 1905 inclusive and 1908 to 1914 inclusive. Between 1900 and 1914 he headed the Kent bowling averages eight times and in each of his final two seasons he led the national averages. Apart from 1901, he exceeded 100 wickets in every season between 1900 and 1914. In his eight final seasons his haul only once fell below 150, his highest 183 in 1907, 197 in 1908 and 215 in 1909. His most economical season was 1912 when his wickets cost 12.26, his most expensive the dry summer of 1911 when the cost rose to 19.38.

While statistically his most remarkable bowling was at Northampton in 1907 when he bowled Northants to defeat with ten for 30 & seven for 18 in a single day, given the quality of the opposition, he rarely bowled better than in 1903 when, in the space of five days, he took seven for 41 & five for 26 v Surrey at The Oval, bowling unchanged throughout the match, and six for 35 & seven for 26 v Yorkshire at Canterbury. Possibly the best of many notable performances on bland and unhelpful wickets was at Old Trafford in 1914 where, as Lancashire compiled 475 from 148.1 overs, his figures were 52.1-14-138-7.

In addition to his 17 wickets at Northampton in 1907, he took 16 for 102 at Leicester in 1909 and 15 in a match three times of which perhaps the most significant was 15 for 99 for England v South Africa in 1907. He claimed nine in an innings five times, nine for 67 v Essex, Canterbury 1903, nine for 30 v Hampshire, Tonbridge 1904, nine for 42 v Leicester 1909, nine for 44 v Northampton 1909, nine for 97 v Surrey, Lord's, 1914.

Blythe's two hat-tricks were both in 1910, v Surrey at Blackheath and Derbyshire at Gravesend. Against Surrey he actually dismissed four in five balls and five in ten - Hayward from the first and Andy Ducat from the last ball of one over, Herbert Strudwick, William Abel and 'Razor' Smith from the second, third and fourth of the next.

Linked as it is with what is now widely assumed to be Blythe's epilepsy, his career in Test cricket is worth examining in some depth. Test cricket came to him earlier than he or anyone else can have expected. In 1899 when, MCC having turned down an invitation to send a team to Australia, MacLaren was faced with raising one as a private venture. It was hard going. Not only were most of the leading amateurs unwilling or unable to make the trip; half a dozen top professionals also refused.

The upshot was that Blythe, with only 48 matches and a little over 1,800 first-class overs under his belt, was chosen in place of Rhodes. He had not had an outstanding season in 1901 and the selection was not without its critics. Ranjitsinhji, soon to be one of Blythe's greatest admirers, predicted he 'would never get a wicket'.

On the outward journey the team amused themselves and their fellow passengers with 'musical entertainments', a feature of which was the popular sentimental ballad 'The Blind Boy' sung by the Somerset all-rounder Len Braund, accompanied by Blythe on his violin. The song was not to everyone's taste. Poor Jessop, enduring agonies with sea-sickness, wrote 'I had 'Blind Boy' before breakfast and at regular intervals during the day for so long that in the end ophthalmia seemed to me a small infection as against the dreadful fate of a listener condemned to constant reiteration of the plaints of that visionless individual'. Whether Jessop objected to the singer, the song or both is unclear but apparently he attached no blame to the violinist. He judged Blythe's performance with the ship's band 'quite one of the features of the tour'.

Blythe began well with five for 45 v South Australia at Adelaide and three for 26 & four for 30 in the First Test at Sydney, the latter earning him an engraved gold pocket watch. Despite the handicap of a split spinning finger, his good form continued with four for 64 in the first innings of the Second Test at Melbourne but he suffered further injury to his bowling hand and was advised by a doctor to rest. However, MacLaren, never the most considerate of skippers, was short of bowling and a handicapped Blythe played for the rest of the series. According to Jessop in his *A Cricketer's Log* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1922) in the third Test Blythe delivered the ball from the palm of this hand and in the fourth bowled with two fingers strapped together.

His figures make instructive reading –12 for 205 in the first two Test matches, six for 265 in the remaining three. Even so, Blythe dismissed Victor Trumper three times in Test matches and his other victims included Monty Noble (three times), Joe Darling and Syd Gregory (twice each), Reg Duff and George Giffen.

Charlie Blythe experienced cricket overseas again at the end of the 1903 season when Kent broke new ground by touring the USA, the first county to tour outside the UK. He was one of four professionals who for 'expenses and a ten pound note' offered to join what was originally envisaged as an all-amateur venture. Although unwell for much of the tour, he nevertheless took 23 inexpensive wickets, ten of them now recognised as first-class.

In 1905 Blythe tasted Test cricket in England for the first time, when chosen against the Australians at Headingley as a replacement for the injured Rhodes. Little used in the first innings, his three for 41 from 24 overs in the second gave England a brief hope of victory as Australia played out time. In the winter he toured South Africa with MCC under Pelham Warner. The team was not fully representative and England lost the series by four matches to one but, while most of the batsmen struggled on matting wickets, Blythe contributed hugely to England's only victory with six for 68 & five for 50 in the Fourth Test at Cape Town. He was second in the Test averages with 21 wickets (avge.26.09) and 57 (avge. 18.35) in all first-class fixtures. During the tour Blythe was impressed by C.J.Nicholls, a young fast bowler of Malayan extraction who bowled to MCC in the nets, but family opposition prevented the young man from accepting Blythe's invitation to come over for a trial.

When South Africa toured in 1907, Blythe played in all three Test matches, selected for the first time ahead of Rhodes. Split webbing on his left-hand acquired in attempting a catch at mid-off in the first Test at Lord's meant bowling throughout almost the entire match under the handicap of strapping and in the circumstances two for 18 & two for 56 was a satisfactory return. In the second Test at Headingley, played throughout on a rain-affected wicket, Blythe produced his, statistically at least, finest performance in Test cricket. After England had been dismissed for 76 he bowled them back into the game with eight for 59 although, interestingly, *Wisden* judged 'he was not quite so accurate in length as he might have been'. On the last day with the tourists needing only 129 he skittled them for 75, his figures – 22.4–9–40–7. The only spinner in the side, he bowled unchanged except for one over and suffered at least three dropped catches. Ten of his victims were caught, three lbw, two stumped. In the light of *Wisden's* comment it is worth noting that Fry in his autobiography *Life Worth Living* insists 'from start to finish he never bowled a single ball except of impeccable length'.

Blythe had, to quote *Wisden*, again, 'almost bowled himself to a standstill'; Fry described him as 'completely knocked up'. In 1907 epilepsy, if such it was, was little understood and seldom spoken of and it seems likely that this was its first semi-public manifestation. Fry says as much in his autobiography (see above) published in 1939. Although Blythe joined Kent for their next match at Worcester, one for 143 suggests he was some way off his best and he was rested from the following fixture, the first of Canterbury Week. When he returned for the second, against Lancashire, his three wickets cost 170 runs but normal service soon resumed with five for 69 v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham and seven for 45 v Somerset at Taunton.

The Oval Test match was also affected by rain. On a drying wicket, Blythe was below par on the first evening finishing one for 47 but returned to his best on the second morning with four for 14 as the last five South African wickets fell for 29. He headed the bowling averages for the series with 26 wickets (avge.10.38).

Both Rhodes and Blythe were chosen for the 1907/08 MCC tour of Australia but after playing in the First Test in which he took only one expensive wicket Blythe was not picked again. In all first-class matches he took 41 wickets at 22.80 including 11 for 83 against Queensland and actually ended with a better record than Rhodes – 31 at 27.00. Chosen presumably by virtue of his superior batting, Rhodes' seven wickets in the Test series cost 60.14 apiece.

In 1909 Blythe marked his benefit year with 215 wickets in all matches, 178 in Championship matches –his personal best in both cases. Both Blythe and Rhodes were chosen for the first Test match against Australia at Edgbaston but in the event the Yorkshireman bowled only one over, Blythe (six for 44 & five for 58) and Hirst (four for 28 & five for 58) bowling unchanged through the first innings and all but five overs of the second. Given the opposition, this was arguably Blythe's greatest Test match but the aftermath would reverberate for the rest of his career.

In the next fixture, against Middlesex at Lord's, he felt faint after bowling one over and was taken off although he remained on the field. After an hour or so he was back to normal and finished with six for 37. He again started shakily at Old Trafford but, carefully nursed by Ted Dillon, he returned after a rest to bowl superbly for seven for 57.

Blythe was in the 13 for the Second Test at Lord's but Dillon and the Kent committee were clearly worried and called in a specialist. The outcome was a telegram from Lord Harris to the acting Chairman of Selectors, 'Shrimp' Leveson Gower. 'Specialist strongly advises Blythe ought not to play on Monday but is quite hopeful he will be fit for the remaining Tests if wanted'. The specialist concerned was Sir William Gowers (1845-1950), at the time the foremost authority on epilepsy and author of several books on the subject. His *Manual of Diseases of the Nervous Systems*, known as the 'Bible of Neurology', is still widely- read. The Sir William Gowers Centre in Chalfont St Peters, part

of the charity the Epilepsy Society and now run by the University Colleges London NHS Foundation Trust, is named after him.

In the period between the First and Second Tests Blythe had taken 26 wickets at 15.65 but in the match at Tonbridge against Worcestershire, starting 14 June and played over the same three days as the Lord's Test, he apparently had a 'fit' on the second evening and returned home. At that point Worcestershire had batted twice, Blythe had bowled 65 overs and picked up nine wickets. On the final day, as Kent declined from 51 for one overnight to 108 all out, Blythe, batted and was bowled for one. Over the next two days, still at Tonbridge, he bowled 61 overs and took four for 226 against Lancashire. If this was some way below par, three days later he bowled unchanged with Arthur Fielder to dismiss Gloucestershire for 61 at Catford (Fielder six for 34, Blythe four for 20).

Meanwhile, for reasons which need not concern us here, the selectors, Leveson Gower, Fry and MacLaren, were on the receiving end of a storm of vituperation from the press and others. At the end of the season *Wisden* joined in, accusing the selectors of decisions that 'touched the confines of lunacy' 'Never in the history of Test matches in England has there been such blundering in the selection of an England eleven'. In defence of the selectors but with sublime disregard for patient confidentiality, Sir William Gowers' report was made public:

Mr Blythe, whom I have seen this morning, suffers from the strain on his nervous system caused by playing in a Test match, and the effect lasts for about a week afterwards. It is desirable that he should take a temporary rest from the work, and should not play in the coming match at Lord's. If this can be arranged there is good hope that with treatment his difficulty will pass away. It does not exist in the case of county matches.

At the time the press and others seem to have accepted the report calmly enough but some 90 years later, with all those involved safely dead, Peter Mahony would have none of it. In his account of the 1909 Australian tour *Mary Ann's Australians*, he wrote 'The autocratic Lord Harris, keen to preserve Kent's Championship chances, jumped on the medical board bandwagon. How any 'specialist' could judge the degree of strain on Blythe's nerves so that spearheading a county attack was tolerable but appearing in Tests insupportable defies credibility'. He thereby labelled Harris, Blythe and by association the Kent Committee as liars or worse and blackened the reputation of Sir William Gowers, a man described as recently as 1949 as 'probably the greatest clinical neurologist of all time'.

Although it seems unlikely that the decision to publish was taken without some discussions, if formal permission was sought or obtained from Kent CCC, the specialist or Blythe himself, there appears to be no documentary evidence. What cannot be much in doubt is that the publicity affected what remained of Blythe's England career. Although fit for the Third Test match at Headingley, he was not chosen. While England were losing by 126 runs, Kent were beating Northants by 125 runs at Gravesend (Blythe six for 49 & one for 41)

Whatever his state of health, in the nine matches in the period between the end of Tonbridge Week in which he suffered his 'fit' and the next time the selectors called on his services Blythe garnered 72 wickets at 12.77 apiece, eight times five in an innings, three times ten in a match including five for 48 & seven for 55 for Players v Gentlemen at The Oval, the only time he appeared in what was then still in the eyes of many, the high point of the season.

In what proved to be his last home Test match, Blythe returned to the team for Old Trafford and, in tandem with Sydney Barnes, bowled superbly in the first innings (Barnes five for 56, Blythe five for 63) but did less well (two for 77) in the second innings when Rhodes (five for 83) was the pick of the bowlers as the game subsided into a draw. He was one of the 13 for the Fifth Test match at The Oval but was left out of the final eleven

Blythe was selected for the 1909/10 MCC tour of South Africa but the captain, Leveson Gower revealed in his memoirs that he did not want him, ostensibly because there were two other left-arm spinners, Rhodes and Frank Woolley, in the party, both better batsmen. Despite seven for 20 v Natal and five for 21 v Eastern Province, Blythe did not get into the Test side until the Fourth Test match but he emerged with far the better record - in Test matches: 12 wickets (avge. 14.00), Rhodes, two (avge. 73.50), Woolley seven (avge.35.85). In all first-class matches; Blythe took 50 wickets (avge.15.66), Rhodes 21 (25.47), Woolley 15 (avge.30.53). Together with the batting of Hobbs and Rhodes, Blythe's seven for 46 & three for 58 in the final Test match at Cape Town was decisive in England's nine-wicket victory and, if nothing else, ensured that his Test career ended on a suitably high note.

Blythe's problems were not it seems entirely confined to Test matches. In a much publicized incident during the 1911 Canterbury Week he was accused by Charles Fry, quite wrongly according to all the evidence, of deliberately bowling full tosses out of the sun (a full account can be found in the *Kent County Cricket Club Annual 1992 pp 41-44*) Although virtually the entire cricketing community supported Blythe, the incident affected him and he missed the second match of the Week against Lancashire, his friend 'Pip' Fielder's benefit.

Although arguably still the best spinner in the country, Blythe was not chosen for any of the six home Test matches staged in the four years remaining before the outbreak of war or for the MCC tours to Australia in 1911/12 or South Africa in 1913/14. In the early years of the 20th century mental health, nervous disorders and related matters tended to be swept under the carpet and rarely talked about outside an enlightened minority which makes it difficult to avoid the suspicion that his health may have had a bearing on selectorial decisions.

Oddly enough, it seems to have been generally overlooked that, other than Lord's in 1909, Blythe never actually turned down an invitation to play in a Test match. Apart from a remark to his violin teacher, Leonard Furnival, and a statement by the South African all-rounder Gordon White that 'Charlie Blythe hated Test matches' there seems to be no actual evidence that the man himself ever expressed a view one way or the other.

In the *Wisden* obituary Sydney Pardon referred to a 'tendency to epileptic fits' and the consensus now seems to be that some form of epilepsy was the problem. Not everyone agrees, notably his biographer John Blythe Smart, a member of the extended family, and it has to be said that, as far as can be discovered, no suitably qualified medical authority ever used the word.

Some authors since have preferred 'nervous disposition' 'highly strung' 'temperamental' etc. Simon Sweetman in his *Dimming of the Day*, (ACS Publications), published in 2014, described Blythe as effective at Test level 'when he could bring himself to play. Patrick Morrah, in his *Golden Age of Cricket* published in 1967, went rather further. To him Blythe was 'sensitive, shrinking, neurotic'. Shrinking violets do not flourish in Deptford's soil and these were odd words to use for a man who volunteered for the Army when experience at Woolwich Arsenal could have kept him at home. Still less for one promoted Sergeant after little more than a year in the Army.

Somewhat different but equally puzzling, Christopher Sandiford in his book published in 2014 (see above) without naming his sources, asserts that Blythe 'would sometimes work himself into a state approaching hatred of the batsman.' Fielders if they watched closely enough, could hear him muttering to himself and see him clenching his jaw. .

None of this seems to bear any relation to what was written of Blythe during his career and immediately following his death by those who played with and against him. Dick Lilley, who played against him on numerous occasions and toured Australia with him, in his *Twenty Four years of Cricket* (Mills & Boon, 1912) writes 'He is also one of the most pleasant fellows it is possible to meet. He never seems to mind if a batsman hits him for a few fours but on the contrary does not

always discourage him from attempting this, as he knows it often gives him a better opportunity of getting his wicket. I have never, under any circumstances seen him lose his temper; he is always too keen on getting as much pleasure out of the game as possible'. When Hampshire's South African allrounder Charles 'Buck' Llewellyn hit him for five sixes, Blythe was reported as saying 'Charles. I would give all my bowling to be able to bat like that' and a similar story is told of his reaction to suffering at the hands of the supreme stylist, Reggie Spooner.

Another who batted against him, Harry Altham, wrote in his *A History of Cricket* (Allen & Unwin, 1926) 'here was bowling raised from a physical activity on to a higher plane. The very look on his face, the long sensitive fingers, the long last stride – all these spoke of a highly sensitive and nervous instrument, beautifully co-ordinated, directed by a subtle mind'. From his Kent colleagues, -'even tempered', 'genial,' easy-going' 'sterling character', 'heart & head of a lion', 'calm, reflective and unflinching' were just some of the terms used.

Nor do Charlie Blythe's off-the-field interests fit the 'shrinking' image. As well as a love of boxing - 'he would pay five guineas to see a good fight' he was no stranger to the race track, played football and, after he moved there, turned out on occasions for Tonbridge Town. On his first tour of Australia he formed a formidable half-back line with John Tyldesley and Willie Quaife when England beat Freemantle 4-0. He also skated; his last holiday was for winter sports at Chamonix in early 1914.

In the days before radio and television, the ability to play a musical instrument was not an uncommon skill but, as a violinist, Charlie Blythe was clearly well above front parlour standard. In his latter years from October to March he practiced every day for two hours and owned two violins, one made in Italy for which he paid £80. One of his bows was by the celebrated bow maker Alfred Tubbs who presented it to him in recognition of his bowling at Leeds in 1907.

In March 1907 at Greenwich Registry Office, Colin Blythe married Janet Gertrude Brown from Tunbridge Wells, almost ten years his junior. Up to that time he had lived with his family in New Cross and, when not touring, worked in the winter at the Arsenal or at the Maxim Gun Company in Crayford. On his marriage he moved to Tonbridge, eventually settling in Goldsmid Road in a detached house for which he paid £800 with the aid of a mortgage and help from his father. In his *The Final Over* (Spellmount 2014), Christopher Sandford suggests that the house was a 'modest detached house' without a bathroom and that there was a 'zinc bath his family placed on the kitchen floor each Saturday night'. It is apparent from the 1911 Census that there were eight rooms (excluding scullery, hallway etc.) and there was no 'family' other than Mrs Blythe. The suggestion that what was then a modern house – it still exists - of that size, at that price and in that location would not include a bathroom seems, at best, highly unlikely.

While living with the family, he had played with the orchestra at the long defunct New Cross Empire but after moving he was able to indulge his love of classical music as a first violin in the Tonbridge Symphony Orchestra, conductor the former Kent batsman Dr Haldane Stewart (qv). After one performance of the final movement of Mozart's Sixth Symphony, Stewart named Blythe as 'the nimblest player in the orchestra'. Blythe's services were much in demand by other local musical societies, notably the Rochester Orchestral Society with whom he worked closely.

Blythe played his last first-class match, against Middlesex at Lord's on 27 and 28 August 1914, taking five for 77 & two for 48 as Kent lost in two days. Following the outbreak of war, married men were in the early days under no great pressure to enlist and, with his health issues and his experience in the armament industry, he could easily have avoided military service. Nevertheless, Blythe, alongside Henry Preston, David and Tom Jennings and Frank Woolley's brother Claud, enlisted in a Territorial Army unit, the Kent Fortress Engineers, and he missed Kent's final game of the season at Bournemouth. He joined Number One Reserve Company in Tonbridge.

In October Blythe and his fellow recruits were posted to the Woodlands depot in Gillingham. According to the *Tunbridge Wells Advertiser*, who sent a reporter to see them off, Blythe was the life and soul of the party'. Promoted Corporal at the end of 1914 and Sergeant in the following year, he remained at Gillingham for two years with 2/7 Reserve Company working on coastal defence and construction tasks.

While at Gillingham, Blythe was involved with Woolley and Bill Fairservice in the formation of the KFE cricket team which, with seldom less than four county cricketers, proved too strong for most local opposition. In their first game, when a RE side was beaten by an innings he took three for 33 & four for 3, followed by seven for 36 against a South African Eleven at Gravesend and match figures of 14 for 85 v Chatham Garrison.

Following the introduction of conscription in 1916, all Territorials were obliged to sign Imperial Service Forms and became liable for service overseas. Early in 1917 Blythe and Woolley were among a party posted to Marlow for further training. While there Blythe, Woolley, Jennings and others played for Royal Engineers (East Anglia). Unsurprisingly, Blythe was too much for the opposition – nine for 33 v RNAS (Transport), seven for 26 v RE (Regent's Park), seven for 13 v Royal Naval Division. He also played his last match at Lord's, for Navy & Army v Australian & South African Forces in aid of Lady Lansdowne's Officers' Families Fund. Not fully fit, his figures were 14-2-54-1, his last wicket, Charles McCartney.

In September a party of Kent Fortress Engineers from Marlow, including Sergeant Blythe and Corporal Woolley, were among 277 soldiers who sailed to France as reinforcements for the 12th (Pioneer) Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (31 Division). In John Blythe Smart's biography it is suggested that, following his younger brother Sidney's death on the Somme in September 1916, Colin Blythe had asked for a transfer to an active unit but as some 30 others from the KFE were posted at the same time, this seems unlikely. However, the local Marlow paper carried a story that he had offered to take a step down in rank to ensure he was not left behind which might indicate he was not an original choice.

Arriving in early October, the new draft was posted to Watou for a course in light railway construction and maintenance, an activity in which the 12th Battalion specialised. On rejoining the Battalion, B Company began work on the Wieltje (Forest Hall) and Bedlington lines near Passchendaele. On the night of November 8th a shell from a long range gun burst above a working party killing three, wounding six with one missing. Sergeant Blythe was killed instantly by shell splinters, Corporal Woolley was among the wounded.

Colin Blythe is buried in Oxford Road cemetery and is commemorated on the memorial at the St. Lawrence ground in Canterbury as well as on a plaque in Tonbridge Church. In every Canterbury Cricket Week the memorial is the site of a simple wreath-laying ceremony. His estate was valued for probate at £2,828.13s 8d.

Further reading.

Blythe Smart, John. *The Real Colin Blythe*. Blythe Smart Publications, 2009.

Croudy, Brian. *Colin Blythe. (Famous Cricketers Series No. 27) ACS Publications*, 1995.

Scoble, Christopher, *Colin Blythe. Lament for a legend*. Sportsbooks Ltd. 2005.

Maurice Bonham-Carter (later Sir Maurice) KCB KCVO (No. 486).

Born: 1.10.1880 Paddington, London. *Died:* 7. 6.1960 Bayswater, London.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1902.

Educated: Winchester College & Balliol College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Henry Bonham-Carter & Lady Stella Bonham-Carter (née Norman).

An important figure in the Liberal Party, Maurice Bonham-Carter had strong family associations with cricket. His maternal grandfather George Warde Norman and uncles Charles Loyd and Frederick Henry Norman (*qv*) all appeared for Kent while a third uncle, Philip Norman, played for Gentlemen of Kent and wrote histories of Eton Ramblers and the West Kent club. A nephew, Philip Bonham-Carter, represented the Royal Navy in first-class cricket. Through the Norman family there are links with the Barnards, Hart Dykes, Jenners, Nepeans and Wathens, all families with strong cricket and Kentish connections.

The 11th son of Sir Henry Bonham-Carter, Maurice Bonham-Carter was in the Eleven at Winchester in 1898-99 where *Red Lillywhite* considered he kept wicket 'well above public school form'. From 1897 to 1899 he was in the Association Football Eleven. On going up to Oxford in 1900, despite scoring 96 in the Freshmens' match, he did not get into the University side until 1901 when he was picked for three matches, primarily as a bowler. Awarded his Blue in 1902, he scored two half-centuries but against Cambridge had the misfortune to be twice bowled without scoring by EM Dowson. As some consolation; brought on as fifth change, he took two for 2 in 18 balls and one for 61 in the second innings.

His solitary appearance for Kent, v MCC at Lord's came in the middle of the University season. He represented his college at cricket, hockey and both codes of football. After coming down from university he played cricket for I Zingari and Band of Brothers.

Called to the Bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 1909, Bonham-Carter, known to his intimates by the Wodehousian name 'Bongie', was Private Secretary to Prime Minister Herbert Asquith (1910-1916), a family friend, Assistant Secretary Ministry of Reconstruction (1917), Assistant Secretary of the Air Ministry (1918). He was a director of Blackburn & General Aircraft, Chairman of Hanworth Securities and a partner in the bankers Falk & Partners. At the latter he was instrumental in backing Sir Frank Whittle's development of the jet engine.

In 1915 he married Asquith's daughter Violet (later Baroness Asquith of Yarnbury), one of the most gifted and influential women of her generation. During the Second World War he served as an Air-Raid Warden. His son was the MP Mark Bonham-Carter and his granddaughter is the actress Helena Bonham-Carter.

Stephen Hovey Botting (No. 252).

Born: 5.11.1845 Higham. *Died:* 23.1.1927 Shorne.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1867-1875.

Parents: Stephen Botting & Mary Ann Botting (née Parker).

Stephen Botting's first game for Kent, played at the Ashford Road ground in Eastbourne, was strictly speaking, 'unofficial'. Low in funds, Kent had already played Sussex twice and the match was arranged, not by the club committees, but by Edgar Willsher and John Lillywhite. Unofficial or not, although Sussex were below strength, the Kent side included seven who had appeared in their last fixture against MCC in Canterbury Week and was captained by their Honorary Secretary William South Norton. No. 7 in the first innings, Botting opened with Edmund Henty (*qv*) in the second innings and was run out for 20 out of an opening partnership of 24. Botting was a regular with Cobham and had distinguished himself with 34, second highest score, for 16 of Southborough v Gentlemen of Kent.

In the following season Botting opened for Colts of Kent against the county at Blackheath and batted number three for Colts of England v MCC at Lord's but, apart from 23 in the first match, he achieved little. Although he continued to open for Cobham, his second call- up, eight years after his first, must have been a bit of a surprise. Again the opponents were Sussex, again he opened with Henty and again he was run out. With scores of one and four, he was one of seven Kent players who, facing a total of 414, failed to reach double figures in either innings. Sussex won by an innings and 266 runs.

Although a professional, Botting does not seem to have played the game full time. At various times he was an agricultural labourer, worked on the railways and as a gardener on an estate. One of six children of an agricultural labourer, in 1870 he married Jane Stevens. There were 13 children of whom three did not survive beyond infancy.

Herbert Edward Bouch (No. 420).

Born: 15.4. 1868 Bickley. *Died*: 28.7.1929 Keston.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1892.

Educated: Eastbourne College.

Parents: John Bouch & Helen Bouch (née Carey).

Herbert Bouch played most of his cricket as an allrounder for Bickley Park where he was also Treasurer from 1892 to 1899. His one wicket for Kent was that of the distinguished Middlesex and England batsman Timothy (later Sir Timothy) O'Brien. Following his one appearance for Kent against MCC he played one more (non first-class) representative match, Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham in July of the same year. The Kent History asserts with unusual confidence that 'Had he been able to play regularly for the County he would assuredly have made a name for himself'.

In early census returns his occupation is shown, somewhat ambiguously, as 'Warehouseman'. By 1911 he is a stock jobber living at Bankside, Keston with his family and three servants. Like his father, Bouch was a member of the Fishmongers Company and in 1893 was made a Freeman of the City of London as had his father some 30 years previously. In 1903 he married Mary Watson Anderson. There were three children, one son and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £3,104. 8s 8d.

John James Boys (No. 314).

Born: 17.8.1856 Titchfield, Hampshire. *Died*: 1.8.1883 Woolwich.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper, occasional right-arm fast bowler (possibly round-arm).

Kent 1875-81.

Parents: William & Sarah Ann Boys.(née Churcher).

Had Army duties not prevented him from accepting several invitations from the club, John Boys might well have achieved more in first-class cricket. He signed on for 12 years service with the Royal Artillery in 1872, five months short of his 16th birthday.

Serving in the band, Musician Boys played his first game for the RA in 1874, opening the batting with another Kent cricketer, Bombardier George McCanlis (*qv*). In the 1870s and early 1880s the Royal Artillery had one of the strongest service sides in the country and within a year Boys was a regular member of the team, normally batting in the top six despite being outranked by several talented batsmen among the officers, including at least one Colonel. He hit half-centuries against MCC, Rifle Brigade, Gentlemen of West Kent, I Zingari and Household Brigade and in 1878 scored two centuries in the Royal Artillery's most important fixture, against the Royal Engineers, 173 at Chatham, 110 at

Woolwich. Four years later he hit 145 against Cambridge Quidnuncs. Other centuries included 189 for Royal Artillery NCOs v North of Thames Licensed Victuallers Assn, 104 for the Royal Gun Factory, Woolwich and 160* for Erith. Although not much used as a bowler, in 1876 he took five for 45 against Household Brigade.

Boys played without success for Kent Colts at Catford Bridge in 1875 and scored only eight on his debut against Hampshire on the same ground. On his second appearance, six years later as wicketkeeper against MCC at Lord's, he scored 21 when Kent collapsed in their second innings for 53 but his final game, the last of the season, he suffered the indignity of a pair at The Oval.

Within two years he was dead, dying suddenly from what was then called apoplexy on what should have been his wedding day. The carriages were already waiting when his intended bride, Susan Annie McKay, heard the news. On the previous day he had been helping to lay out the tables for the wedding breakfast. There was one year of his service engagement to run.

Boys was one of ten children. In the 1871 Census his father is a master carpenter living in Titchfield and employing eight men and four boys but ten years later, he is living in Fareham and although still a carpenter, he is no longer shown as an employer.

Whether Boys had any musical ability before joining the RA is unclear but he appears to have played both violin and cello. This may seem strange in a military band but the Gunners not only had one of the finest military bands in the country. They also ran a full orchestra, much in demand for balls and dinners etc. as well as for concerts. Whether Boys also played any of the more traditional band instruments is unknown but presumably he was trained in the usual wartime duties of stretcher bearer.

His Army record shows a number of relatively minor military crimes and misdemeanours including striking a fellow bandsman and failing to report a damaged violin bow. At different times he was confined to barracks or suffered loss of pay but he never seems to have suffered any of the more serious punishment to which soldiers were liable in Queen Victoria's Army.

On his death, his effects were valued at £212 6s 6d. Probate was granted to his stepmother Susan Boys whom his father had married in 1882.

Further reading:

Walmsley, Keith. *Brief Candles.one match wonders*. ACS 2012.

Walter Morris Bradley (No. 451).

Born: 2.1.75, Sydenham. *Died:* 19.6.1944 Wandsworth Common, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1895-1903. Cap 1895.

Tests: Two. Both against Australia.

Educated: Alleyn's School.

Walter George Bradley & Emma Amelia Bradley (née Morris).

'Bill' Bradley seems some way removed from the archetypal Public School / Oxbridge amateur of his time. Much of his working life was spent as a clerk in a City office and his father would, in the jargon of the time, have been classified as being 'in trade'. Described on his son's birth certificate as a 'grocer and wine merchant', he was also a Post Master in Sydenham, living two doors away from the still extant *Golden Lion* in Sydenham Road.

Speaking, according to his friend the cricketer cum journalist Teddy Sewell, with a pronounced South London accent, Bradley was, again according to Sewell, 'a dedicated conversationalist' and used his

own 'inimitable, profuse and varied' private vocabulary' in which a duck was a 'moon' and a ball finding the shoulder of the bat a 'percher' This he combined with an encyclopaedic knowledge of pubs, beer, brewers, opening times and pub landlords. His interest was shared, fortunately one might think, by his Sussex-born wife Alice Elizabeth, whom he married at St George's Hanover Square in 1904.

Bradley was in the Eleven at Alleyn's for two years and captained in his final year. Originally bowling medium pace, it was not until he started work as a clerk at Lloyds and began playing for the Lloyds house team, that he began to bowl fast. Entirely self-taught, he described his early efforts as 'just trying to lump them down'. While undoubtedly fast and very fast on his day - as far as can be judged from contemporary accounts probably only Charles Kortright was quicker - in his early career he relied for his wickets solely on pace and bounce. He had the reputation of rarely pitching short but later, without apparently knowing how he did it, he developed the ability to bring the ball back from outside off-stump.

If his bowling lacked subtlety, Bradley did not lack stamina. In 1899, his first full season, he bowled over 1,200 (five ball) overs, four times over 50 overs in an innings and between 40 and 49 overs per innings on another 12 occasions. He did not spare himself in his action. Taking a long, fast and angled run, his action was, according to his obituary in *Wisden*, 'aggressive' with 'both arms flung back prior to the delivery from the full reach of his six foot height'.

Charles Fry in his *Book of Cricket* has Bradley 'swinging his arms about in a manner calculated to inspire a nervous batsman with apprehension' and finally making 'a loop of his arms above his head, pulls up short and lets fly'. It sounds tiring and looks it in such photographs as exist but others compared his action with that of Surrey's Bill Lockwood which sits better with Bradley's gift for bowling long spells. To *Wisden* in 1902 'Among the fast bowlers of this generation there has been no more strenuous and willing worker'. To the *Times* obituarist he was 'the best and fiercest of fast bowlers,- 'a glutton for work who could maintain his pace for long periods' - great-hearted and staunch'. Like Lockwood and several of more recent memory, he emitted a grunt at the moment of delivery. Due to an injury he was unable to throw; most of his 79 catches were taken at point.

Bradley had been playing for Lloyds Register for some four years when in June 1895 he attracted wider notice by taking six wickets in six balls against Mitcham Second Eleven. According to an interview Bradley gave to the magazine *Cricket* in 1898, shortly after his double hat-trick he was invited by Alfred McAlpine (qv) to play for the Mote against MCC. Nine wickets in the match for 'around 70' led to an invitation to play for Kent against Somerset at Blackheath. One wicket, (George Nichols) for 25 runs and a pair was uninspiring but, retained in the side for Canterbury Week, he contributed to Kent's innings victory over Warwickshire with four for 35 & five for 51, followed by five for 92 from 49 overs against Yorkshire.

Possibly his most noteworthy performance was against Surrey at The Oval, 42-11-130-4 & 38-13-98-4, his wickets including Bobby Abel, Tom Hayward, Walter Read and Maurice Read (twice). He ended his first season with 32 wickets (avge.27.09). Among his season's haul were several other Test batsmen of note, Charles Fry, Andrew Stoddart, Billy Murdoch and Yorkshire's Jack Brown. With the bat he lived up to his own estimation of himself as 'the worst batsman in the country'. His first eight innings were 0, 0, 0*, 0, one, 0, one, one, and his final record - 35 runs (avge.2.91) with a top score of 20.

Over the next three seasons, Bradley played for Kent whenever he was available which generally meant during his holidays, for the most part in the latter half of the season. He managed only six matches in 1897, 11 in 1898. In 1896, when his 38 wickets cost 22.44, he had match figures of 10 for 115 against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham including the wickets of WG Grace, Gilbert Jessop and Charles Townsend twice each. In the following season he was picked for Gentlemen v Players at The

Oval, the first of six appearances in the fixture between 1896 and 1903, four at The Oval, two at Lord's.

Belying his reputation as a batsman, against Yorkshire in the 1897 Canterbury Week, Bradley came in at 75 for nine and shared a last wicket partnership of 95 in 45 minutes with Walter Wright (37). Missed before he scored, Bradley's share was 67*; the next highest score was 14. When Kent followed on, he opened the batting and scored five. The match was also notable as the only time Bradley is known to have injured a batsman, when Bobby Moorhouse was reported as 'badly knocked about' and retired hurt after scoring a single.

Thanks to Lord Harris, Bradley was able to play four full seasons from 1899 to 1902. By arrangement with his employers, Consolidated Goldfields (Chairman Lord Harris), Kent paid half his salary 'on condition that he was always available to play when wanted.' Purists might maintain that the arrangement infringed Bradley's amateur status but Kent gained a fair return for their investment, 356 wickets in four seasons.

In 1899 his haul in his first full season was 156 wickets, 129 (avge.17.91) in Kent matches alone. The club got its money's worth in Tonbridge Week. 148.3 overs and 22 wickets in six days – v Sussex four for 58 & eight for 122, v Somerset four for 104 & six for 71. In the Sussex second innings he delivered 54.3 overs. Against Notts on the placid Trent Bridge wicket he took 12 for 83. He claimed two hat-tricks, against Essex at Leyton and Yorkshire at Tonbridge where his three victims were Yorkshire legends George Hirst, Lord Hawke and Wilfred Rhodes. For Gentlemen v Players at Lord's he took five for 93 in the second innings.

Picked for the Fourth Test Match against Australia at Old Trafford, he distinguished himself on the first day by scoring 23* in a last-wicket stand of 35 with 'Sailor' Young (43) and having Frank Laver caught at the wicket from his first ball. Next day he claimed four more wickets to finish with figures of five for 67 in 33 overs but in the follow-on he was called on for another 46 overs and his one wicket cost 82. Having two batsmen (including Victor Trumper) missed at the wicket cannot have helped and some, including Kent captain Jack Mason, considered Bradley seriously over-bowled. The England skipper, Archie MacLaren had form in this respect.

Picked again for the Fifth Test at The Oval, he failed to take a wicket. This was the end of his Test career but he enjoyed considerable success in his other encounters with the tourists – four for 39 & four for 42 when Kent won in Canterbury Week and four for 41 & three for 80 for the South of England at Hastings. Among his victims were Joe Darling three times, Trumper and Monty Noble twice each.

In 1900 his haul of wickets fell to 89 and at 26.97 each he was relatively expensive but he achieved his third hat-trick, against Somerset at Blackheath. In 1901 he bowled 984 (six ball) overs for 128 wickets, 112 for Kent including six for 60 & eight for 74 v Lancashire at Old Trafford and seven for 55 & five for 87 v Surrey at The Oval. Against Hampshire at Tonbridge he bowled through Hampshire's first innings for 26.5 overs and a personal best nine for 87. 1902, was a wet and a relatively lean one for fast bowlers and, with spin predominating, his haul fell to 51.

For reason or reasons unknown, 1903 was Bill Bradley's last season with Kent. Before the season started Consolidated Goldfields had asked for, and Kent had given, a guarantee that their half share of his salary would be 'not less than equal to £50 for 14 months, £3.15.0 for each month after that'. If there were fitness problems, nothing seems to have appeared in print. Admittedly Arthur Fielder had now established himself but Bradley still seemed to be in reasonable form. He began with three inexpensive wickets for HDG Leveson Gower's Eleven v Cambridge University at Fenner's and another five for the Gentlemen of England v Oxford.

For Kent he took five for 49 & two for 43 v Nottinghamshire at Catford, and two for 7 & three for 32 v MCC at Lord's where he opened the bowling with Fielder. In the next match, v Essex at Leyton, he claimed only one wicket and, despite six for 82 (and an innings of 26) for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, never played for Kent in England again. With a game for Grace's London County and a festival match at Bournemouth he took his tally for the season to 32 wickets at a respectable 18.17 each. There is no evidence of any disagreement.

When Kent embarked on their ground-breaking tour of the USA, Bradley was one of the party and although, due to the poor quality of some of the pitches and consequent safety issues, he was used sparingly, he took 28 wickets (avge.8.57) and in the two matches against Philadelphia rated first-class, 17 (avge.13.41)..

At a Kent CCC committee meeting shortly before the end of year it was confirmed that Consolidated Goldfields were prepared to 'continue with the Bradley arrangement' but in August 1904 they reported that Bradley wished to join another company. After consultation with Lord Harris and Harry Patterson, the committee agreed that Bradley was 'released' – a curious word to use for someone who, as an amateur, was presumably free to work where he liked.

Bradley had in fact decided on a career change and gone into property management. For much of the remainder of his working life he managed the massive Britannic House, in Finsbury Circus.

There was one more first-class match in 1904 and it ended on a high note. At Fenner's for Gerry Weigall's Eleven against the University he took four for 88 & five for 103. Thereafter he confined himself to club cricket. Although his final career figures are not spectacular, 23.5% of his wickets were opening batsmen and of these, 48.3% were dismissed for single figures. Of Test batsmen, Bill Brockwell (ten) was his most frequent victim but Abel and Hayward were each dismissed nine times and Jack Brown eight.

When he first began playing for Kent Bradley joined Forest Hill where practice facilities were far better than those available to Lloyds Register. He played minor matches for MCC and continued with Forest Hill until shortly before the war. He appeared in a few non first-class matches for London County and carried on after the war with MCC, Lloyds and, when he moved to Wandsworth, Spencer and Heathfield. Troubled by his heart in later life, he retained his interest in South London club cricket until his death.

In his younger days Bill Bradley played Rugby for Catford Bridge. He had served as a Sergeant in the 1st Surrey Rifles and was a prominent member of their Old Comrade's Association. Highly convivial and an inveterate cricket watcher, he was the centre of an eclectic group of friends from within the game and from the wider world whose musings on cricket and on life were a feature of the Long Room at Lord's between the wars.

Emma Bradley died shortly before the outbreak of war. There were two sons, one of whom, Robert, had a trial for Surrey but was taken ill with appendicitis during his only match. He later made a career in the RAF. Bill Bradley's estate was valued for probate at £13,330.4s1d. He is buried at Elmers End, quite close to the grave of WG Grace but not, as has been suggested, 22 yards away.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a gallery of famous players* pp.104-105. George Newnes. 1899.

Wisden Cricket Monthly, June 1980. pp 45-46.

James Bray (No. 51).

Born: 11.10.1790 Waldron, Sussex. *Died:* 31.1.1869, Waldron, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman.
Kent 1826.

A gamekeeper by occupation, James Bray was for 15 years a member of the Hawkhurst club. He played twice for Kent against Sussex in 1826, at Brighton and at Hawkhurst Moor, and twice for Sussex against Kent in the following season, at Sevenoaks and Brighton. He also appeared twice for the Bs against England at Lord's.

James Bray (No. 354).

Born: 18.1.1853 Limehouse, London. *Died:* 30.8.1898 St. Pancras, London

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1879-82.

Parents: James & Mary Bray.

An accurate bowler 'capable of turning the ball both ways', James Bray was spotted by George Hearne (*qv*) bowling in the nets at Lord's during his 'dinner hour'. Brought into the side against Yorkshire at Sheffield wearing trousers much too long for him borrowed from Lord Harris, he took five wickets in an innings in each of his first three matches – five for 35 v Yorkshire, five for 62 at Old Trafford and five for 24 at Hove. In the return with Sussex at Town Malling his match return was nine for 102 and at The Oval his figures for Surrey's only inning were 92.3-57-108-8. At the end of the season he headed the Kent averages with 49 wickets at 15.18.

Bray never again approached the success of his debut year. There were suggestions that he tried to spin too much. He claimed 24 wickets (avge.18.04) in 1880 but lost his place and made only two appearances in each of the two subsequent seasons. Against Sussex at Hove, his penultimate match, he took three for 45 and seven for 88. In 1880 he was engaged at Eton and at Cambridge University. In minor matches he had figures of six for 1, six for 4 and five for 9 for Limehouse in 1881. For several years from 1884 he was professional to the Beckton club and in 1887 played twice for Essex (non first-class).

With Lord Harris at the helm, for Kent to field an unqualified player would seem unthinkable but in Bray's case it looks likely. In *Scores & Biographies*, the Kent History and *Lillywhite 1880-1881* his birthplace is given as Sandwich but census returns seem to indicate that it was Bray's father, also named James, a 'hammer man for a blacksmith' in the 1861 Census, who was born in Sandwich. There is little doubt that Bray junior was born in London. In the 1871 census he was living with his mother, now a widow, and siblings in Mile End Old Town. In the 1880 and 1881 *Lillywhites* his address is given as 3 Rowsell Street, Bow Common and the 1881 census shows his mother and siblings living at that address. James himself has not been identified anywhere in the returns for that year.

If George Hearne saw him at Lord's in his 'dinner hour' in 1879 (or possibly 1878) he was clearly working nearby. If he was not born in Kent it is difficult to see how he could have managed the requisite two years residence. Possibly he stretched the truth about his birthplace. He certainly seems to have been less than frank about his height. In both *Scores & Biographies* and *Lillywhite* his height appears as 5ft. 6in. The information would have been provided by the player himself but Lord Harris describes him as 'an extraordinary little terrier of a man' while to Sir Charles Igglesden in his *66 Years. Memories of Kent Cricket* he was 'the shortest man I have ever seen on a cricket field'. There are doubts too about his occupation. In the 1871 Census he appears as a blacksmith; in 1891 a general labourer.

Henry Mellor Braybrooke MBE (No. 417).

Born: 11. 2.1869, Kandy, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). *Died:* 28. 10. 1935 Hawkhurst.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1891-99. Cap 1892.

Educated: Wellington College and Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Philip Watson Braybrooke FRGS & Mary Braybrooke (née Brown).

The son of a 'political agent' in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) who on retirement came to live in Speldhurst, Henry Braybrooke was in the Eleven at Wellington in 1886 where *Lillywhite* described him as 'a small but dangerous bat' and 'the surest catch in the eleven'.

Going up to Cambridge in 1888, he had a curious career in university cricket. Not picked for any of the Trials in 1888-1890, he scored 26 and 38 in the 1891 Seniors' match and made his first-class debut in the opening fixture against CI Thornton's Eleven. Despite scores of 24 and 20 at No. 6, on his second appearance, against AJ Webbe's Eleven, for no obvious reason he batted No. 10. In all, he played in six games, relegated to No. 11 in the final two. Not perhaps all that surprisingly, in his last, v MCC at Lord's, he registered a pair. He captained the University at golf in 1890 and 1891.

Between his fourth and fifth appearance for the Light blues he scored 39 and eight on his debut for Kent v MCC at Lord's. On coming down, he played five more matches with a best effort of 40* when he shared a partnership of 56* with Alec Hearne to give Kent a victory at Taunton. In 1892 he was capped and played regularly until a strained muscle in Canterbury Week ended his season. Promoted to open after a couple of matches, he batted usefully, twice passing fifty – 52 v Yorkshire at Bradford, 53 v Somerset at Taunton – and finished with 371 runs at 18.55.

In 1893 he played once (against the Australians) and played four first-class games in 1899 – one of them for an England Eleven v the Australians at Eastbourne. Although his top score in these latter matches was only 22, he was a heavy scorer in club cricket. As early as 1889 he had shown a penchant for what are now called 'big hundreds' with 202 at Sidmouth for the Visitors v the Residents. In 1899 he hit 256* for Blue Mantles against Eastbourne College, adding 403* with JH Kelsey (136*) and in 1902 scored 166 for Tunbridge Wells v the Wanderers. For Blue Mantles in 1898 he hit three centuries in a week and for Tunbridge Wells averaged 83 in the 1901 season. He frequently opened the batting for Wellington Blues.

In 1919 Braybrooke was awarded the MBE for services as Commandant of Oakfield Hospital for wounded servicemen at Hawkhurst. Of 'independent means', in addition to his interests in cricket and golf, he also reputedly won trophies for running and tobogganing. He died from stomach cancer.

Henry Brenchley (No. 166).

Christened: 30.9.1828, Milton, Gravesend, *Died:* 24.2.1887, Dover.

Batsman, whether right-handed or left-handed, unknown.

Kent 1854-57.

Parents: William & Mary Brenchley.

Although his record as a player for Kent was modest, Henry Brenchley contributed significantly to Kent cricket through his leading role in the formation of Kent County Club. At a meeting held at the Mitre Hotel, Maidstone on 1st March 1859 he seconded Sir Edward Filmer's original motion which led to the club's formation. He served on the Managing Committee, frequently as Chairman and, after amalgamation in 1870, he was on the committee of the enlarged club until 1877.

He made his first county appearance for Fifteen of Kent v the United England Eleven at Gravesend and both his subsequent games for the county were on the Bat and Ball ground. The son of a former

Mayor of Gravesend, he played frequently for the Gravesend club and did much to promote cricket in the area. He also appeared on occasions for Gentlemen of Kent (in non first-class matches) as well as for West Kent, Cobham and Bearsted.

The son of a distiller, he was commissioned in the Royal Navy, and transferred to the Army, serving in the 33rd Foot (subsequently the Duke of Wellington's Regiment [West Riding]). He retired with the rank of Captain and for a while was reputedly the youngest and heaviest Captain in the British Army. When stationed at The Curragh in Ireland he is said to have jumped 16 feet eight inches (5.08 m.) while weighing 232 pounds (105.23 kg.)

Thomas Harman Brenchley (No. 147).

Christened: 7.5.1822, Milton-next-Gravesend. *Died:* 19.9.1894, Glanwierw House, Tan-y-Groes, Blaenporth, Cardigan.

Batsman, whether right-handed or left-handed, unknown.

Kent 1849-51.

Parents: William & Mary Brenchley.

Like his younger brother Henry (*qv*), Harman Brenchley was an influential figure in Gravesend cricket and played most of his cricket for the Gravesend club. The two shared a house in the town and did much to maintain the standard of cricket in the area.

His first-class debut was for Gentlemen of Kent v Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1848 and he made his first appearance for Kent at the Brunswick Ground, Hove in the following year. Although relatively unsuccessful, in all he played six first-class matches for Gentlemen of Kent including four against the Gentlemen of England, twice at Lord's, twice at St. Lawrence. He also appeared for Gentlemen of Kent in a number of non first-class matches against sides such as Gentlemen of Surrey, Gentlemen of Sussex and IZ. He played twice for West Kent v East Kent. Unlike his brother, he never played a first-class match on his home ground Gravesend.

The son of a distiller, in later life he moved to Wales where he was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Cardiganshire.

James Broad (No. 167).

Born: 9.5.1814, Cobham. *Died:* 27.12.1888, Cobham.

Batsman (right handed or left handed not known), slow under-arm bowler.

Kent 1854.

Parents: William & Sarah Broad.

A butcher by trade in his native village of Cobham, James Broad was a useful allrounder for the strong Cobham club from around 1849 to 1861. Although often overshadowed by George Bennett (*qv*) who, as one of relatively few round-arm spin bowlers, could be devastating against club batsman. Broad had considerable success with his seemingly innocuous under-arm slows. At least four times he took six wickets in an innings, three times against Town Malling, once against Hollingbourne.

As an opening or middle-order batsman he could be valuable, especially when wickets were falling at the other end – 25 out of a total of 42 at Town Malling in 1855, 43 v Dartford and 42 v Rochester, both in 1853. He also appeared for the Cobham Bs and for the Mid-Kent club.

In his only first-class match, for Fifteen of Kent v the United England Eleven at Gravesend, one of his four victims was the Kent all-rounder and local hero Tom Adams. In *Scores & Biographies Vol. IV* the game is misleadingly titled Fifteen Young Players of Kent v United England Eleven. In fact the team

contained seven amateurs (including two 'Hons') and four professionals over 30; Broad himself was over 40.

In 1840 he married Mary Bradbear (1817-1894). There seem to have been no children.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

James Broadbridge (No. 76).

Born: 25. 6.1795 Duncton, Sussex. *Died:* 12.2.1843, Duncton, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman (possibly also left-handed), right-arm, medium-pace round-arm bowler and wicketkeeper.

Kent 1828.

At his peak rated the best allrounder in the country, 'Jem' Broadbridge occupies an important place in cricket history. Together with his fellow man of Sussex William Lillywhite and Kent's George Knight, he was largely instrumental in the 'round-arm revolution' which led to the establishment of the method in the face of fierce opposition from reactionaries among other players and the game's grandees. His solitary appearance for Kent was as 'given man' against Surrey as replacement for William Ashby (*qv*), another exponent of round-arm. He also played as 'given man' for the Gentlemen of Kent.

As a batsman he began as a 'slashing hitter' but developed an ultra-defensive method which often riled spectators, not helped by an apparent inability to keep still at the wicket. His long career covered four reigns, George III, George IV William IV and Victoria. A farmer in his native village, he was said to have been so attached to his cricket bat that he often carried it around with him as a walking stick.

Stevens William Brown (No. 469).

Born: 15.4.1875 Cliffe, *Died:* 21.10.1957, Watford, Hertfordshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1899.

Parents: George & Harriet Brown.

There must be some slight doubts about the precise identity of this cricketer. There can be little or no question that he is the 'Stephen' William Brown, born at Cliffe, who, still living at Cliffe, appears in the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census returns. In 1881 his father George is a builder. By 1891 mother Harriet is a laundress and a widow and Stephen is working as a cement labourer as are his two elder brothers. By 1901 Harriet has no occupation, one brother has left home, elder brother George is a bricklayer and Stephen is a professional cricketer. So far all of this fits.

Brown came to the newly formed Kent nursery in 1897 and was judged a 'useful fast bowler' but, rather than being allowed to develop at Tonbridge, he was farmed out to the Mote for the 1898 season. Here he was an immediate success with 102 wickets including a match analysis of 13 for 99 against MCC but the first doubts arise because in the history of the Mote published in 1990 Brown is described as having been 'spotted whilst in the Royal Artillery at Chatham'. He does not seem to appear in Army records and there is no mention of the Royal Artillery in the Kent Trial Book as there is in the case of several other players who trialled while with the armed forces.

Given a chance in the Kent first team against Essex at Gravesend in May 1899 he took two good wickets for 36 runs in the first innings but did nothing of consequence in the second or in two subsequent outings against MCC at Lord's and Sussex at Tonbridge. In truth, with Bradley, Mason,

Martin and Alec Hearne, Kent did not particularly need a fifth bowler on helpful, early season wickets and the Trial Book carries a note 'Tried in 1899 without success'.

For the Mote, Brown continued to provide good service with 61 wickets in 1899 and 73 in his final season, 1900. He made a number of appearances for Kent Second Eleven without achieving anything outstanding and remained on the Kent staff until 1902.

In the 1911 Census 'Stevens' Brown, born in Cliffe at approximately the right time, is a licensed victualler, married to Emma and landlord of *The Halfway House*, Chatham.

In July 1916 Stevens Brown was conscripted, not into the Army as one would expect especially if he had previous service. Instead he went into the Navy who were not at that stage of the war short of men. Not only that, he was recruited into a 'technical' branch of the service. As Second Class Mechanic Brown he was stationed at the RNAS Experimental Station at Stratford where the main development work was on smoke screens. He was demobilised in January 1919 and seems to have spent the remainder of his working life in engineering. At least on his death certificate his occupation is shown as 'engineer'.

If Stephen William Brown and Stevens William Brown were in fact the same person, it is not easy to see, with a career path embracing cement labourer, professional cricketer and, as late as 1911, pub landlord, where and how he could have acquired his engineering training. According to his death certificate, cause of death was senile decay.

Further reading:

Osborn, T. *The history of the Mote Cricket Club 1857-1981. The first 125 years.* Kent County Council, 1990.

Franklin Doughty Browne (No. 470).

Born: 4.3.1873, Tufnell Park, London. *Died:* 12.8.1946, Ticehurst, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1899-1903.

Educated: Dulwich College & Trinity College, Oxford.

Parents: George Browne & Mary Blanche Browne (*née* Hill).

A solicitor by profession and son of a solicitor, Franklin Browne was a noted club cricketer with Beckenham, for whom he scored four centuries in 1899, Bickley Park, Cobham, Incogniti, Sevenoaks Vine and Band of Brothers. He was in the Eleven at Dulwich from 1889 to 1892 and captained in his final year. At Oxford he failed to gain selection for the Trials but skippered his college Eleven in 1895.

For Kent, Browne scored useful runs for the Second Eleven in 1894 –1895 and in 1899 received his chance in first-class cricket, scoring two and 10 in a low scoring game against MCC at Lord's. He failed to reach double figures at Trent Bridge on his second appearance and no further opportunity came his way until 1901 when in Kent's opening game of the season against MCC at Lord's he scored 32 and 53*, sharing a fifth-wicket partnership of 104 with Jack Mason (141) in the first innings. There followed 31* against the South Africans at Beckenham and 42 v Essex at Leyton but this proved to be the limit of his success. At the end of the season seven matches had brought 214 runs (avge.23.7). His final game was in 1903 at Foxgrove Road Beckenham against the Philadelphians in which he scored three and 30.

In November 1918 he married Grace Russell at St Mary's Church, Putney. He died in a nursing home from chronic hydrocarditis/arteriosclerosis.

Bull (No. 274).

Lower order batsman, change bowler.

Kent 1871.

Virtually nothing has so far come to light about this player. In his only match he batted No. 11 and came on to bowl as third change. He was not among 18 Colts of Kent who played against the Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury three weeks earlier or the 22 Colts who played against the county at Blackheath in the previous season. Probably he was a late replacement in a notably weak Kent Eleven beaten by an innings.

George Humphrey Burke (No. 336).

Born: 18.8.1848 Greenwich. *Died:* 21.7.1920, Peckham, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1877.

Parents: Edmund & Harriet Burke.

The son of a dock labourer, George Burke appeared only once for Kent despite taking wickets on his debut. He was in considerable demand as a ground bowler and rated sufficiently highly to be listed with the professionals in the 1876 green *Lillywhite*. His engagements included Dudley (1871), Prince's (1874-1877) and The Oval (1878-1879). He also played for Farningham, St Mary Cray, Sevenoaks, Shoreham (Kent) and possibly for Eynsford where he lived for some years.

He may be the 'JH Burke' who opened the bowling for Seventeen Colts of West Kent v Kent at Maidstone 1877. He umpired in eight first-class matches between 1875 and 1887.

One of four brothers, George Burke had a varied career away from cricket. Although his father was a dock labourer in the 1851 census the family is living in the Plaistow district of Bromley. Ten years later they are in Greenwich High Road which obviously fits in better with the father's occupation. By 1871 there has been a change. Harriet, who was born in Westerham, is a shop keeper in Eynsford and George, by now aged 23, is a domestic servant (unemployed). Husband Edmund does not appear but Harriet's marital status entry 'widow' has been crossed out and 'married' substituted.

In 1879 George Burke married Mary Elizabeth Rivett (born Great Yarmouth) in Camberwell and by 1881 he has taken over the shop in Eynsford and is a 'grocer'. Subsequently, he worked as a painter for one or more railway companies. This seems to have involved a somewhat itinerant lifestyle. His eldest child, Edith was born in Eynsford in 1880. There followed Kate (Wimbledon 1882), George (Rotherhithe 1885), Helen (Peckham 1887), Christine (Cambridge 1891), Walter (Cambridge 1892), and Alfred (Bermondsey 1897).

In the 1911 Census George is still a painter for a railway company but there is a rider 'when in work' He is living alone in Penge but is shown as married. He died from chronic nephritis.

Cuthbert James Burnup (No. 452).

Born: 21.11.1875, Blackheath. *Died:* 5.4.1960, Golders Green, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1896-1907. Cap 1896.

County captain 1903.

Wisden Cricketer of the Year. 1903.

Educated: Malvern College & Clare College, Cambridge.

Parents: James Morrison Burnup & Laura Burnup (née Brown).

Cuthbert 'Pinky' Burnup has the mixed blessing of belonging to the select group labelled 'the best batsman never to play for England'. Lightly built and quick on his feet, unlike most public school/Oxbridge batsmen of the period he held the bat low down, his first movement, according to Charles Fry, back and across which sounds very modern. Playing the ball late, he excelled in scoring from good length balls pitching middle and leg, many of his runs coming in the arc between mid-on's right hand and backward square leg, highly profitable territory at a time when field placings were often stereotyped with an off-side bias.

Keeping the score moving without taking risks - he was said to have scored his century before lunch against Nottinghamshire at Gravesend in 1897 'almost without anyone noticing' - he provided the quick-scoring but not always consistent Kent batting order with an important element of solidity. On the off-side, he cut well and drove hard past extra cover with the unusual habit of raising his right foot off the ground as he completed the stroke. An outstanding fielder with safe hands and a fast return, in a period long before third man went out of fashion he was rated by many the finest deep third man of his day. His medium pace out-swingers were now and again useful and on occasions rather more than that.

Many of Burnup's contemporaries rated him highly. Frank Marchant (*qv*) thought 'There probably never was a batsman whose smallness of stature was discounted so much by his style' while Gilbert Jessop considered him 'a most consistent run-getter and, in more than one season, inclusion in Test matches would have been thoroughly justified'.

The son of 'a merchant', at Malvern Burnup was in the Eleven from 1892 to 1894, played primarily in his first year as a bowler. Described in *James Lillywhite's Annual* as 'promising but curiously unsuccessful', he developed as an allrounder and captained in his final year when he scored 93 against Repton.

In 1895, his first year at Cambridge, he made a somewhat unlikely first-class debut, for Gentlemen of England v I Zingari at Lord's, a match staged to commemorate the famous wandering club's Jubilee. Playing, aged 19, with or against giants of the game including WG Grace, Andrew Stoddart, Allen Steel, Stanley Jackson, Sir Timothy O'Brien, Gregor Macgregor and Charles Fry, he scored 66* and took three wickets. In the Cambridge Freshmen's match he scored 20 & 41 and took six wickets but apart, from one first-class match, against Dublin University in Dublin, and a non-first-class game v Liverpool & District, he was never in serious contention for a Blue. He did however win a Blue for Association football.

Next year he won Blues for both cricket and football as he would in each of the following two years. Beginning with 98 in the 1896 Seniors' match, he hit 92 against CI Thornton's Eleven, 95 & 93 v MCC at Lord's, 80 in the University match and led the Cambridge averages. Without ever reaching three figures for Cambridge, he led the averages again in 1898.

In 1896 Burnup also made his debut for Kent, scoring 54 (top score) against Gloucestershire in the opening game of the season. Rejoining the side in July, he scored 101 against the Australians in Canterbury Week, a memorable maiden century, one of only three hundreds scored against the tourists that year. Kent were dismissed for 196, only one other batsman exceeding 20. By now a regular in the side, he followed with half-centuries against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham and Yorkshire at Tonbridge and at the end of the season had totalled 1,295 runs (avge.35.97) in all matches.

Over the next decade he would prove to be among the most consistent batsmen in the country. In 1904 he was on a football tour with the Corinthians and missed a lot of cricket, and played very little serious cricket in the following year due to business commitments, but in every one of his nine full seasons between 1896 and 1906 he exceeded 1,000 runs in all matches and averaged over 30. In 1902

he became the first Kent cricketer to exceed 2,000 first-class runs in a season with 2,048 runs (avge.39.38) in all matches.

Other particularly fruitful years were 1899 (1565 avge.40.12) and 1906 (1207 avge.67.05) when he headed the national averages. From 1899 to 1903 and again in 1906, he exceeded 1,000 in Kent matches alone. Appointed captain in 1903, Kent finished mid-table with seven wins, seven draws and six defeats.

At Old Trafford in 1900 he became the first Kent batsman to score a first-class double century with exactly 200 against the full Lancashire attack including Johnny Briggs and Arthur Mold. According to Neville Cardus in his *Days in the Sun* Burnup was 'on view from midday to the time of shadows, working away as quietly as a mouse. The surprise of us all when the scoreboard announced his 200 was tremendous.' Burnup scored his runs out of 390 in 310 minutes with 28 fours and with Thomas Perkins (88) added 221 for the fifth wicket in 110 minutes. If in truth the Old Trafford faithful were 'surprised' when he reached his double century, they seem to have been remarkably unobservant. On the other hand, Cardus is not always the most reliable eye witness; he was only nine at the time.

Although Burnup's reputation was primarily as an accumulator, there were several instances of fast scoring. Reference has already been made to his hundred (108 in 105 minutes) before lunch batting No. 3 against Nottinghamshire at Gravesend in 1897. Against Hampshire at Tonbridge in 1901 he shared a second-wicket partnership of 210 in 135 minutes with Sam Day (Burnup 144, Day 118). When scoring 169* against Somerset at Taunton in 1906 he added 51 for the first wicket in 20 minutes with Frank Woolley (25), 70 in half an hour for the fourth wicket with Jack Mason (46), 116 in 35 minutes for the fifth wicket with Ted Humphreys (49) and 58 (unfinished) in twelve minutes with Dick Blaker (35*).

Among other notable performances were 171 & 65* at Tonbridge in 1899 which, together with Bill Bradley's hat-trick, severely damaged Yorkshire's Championship ambitions, 103* v Surrey at The Oval in the same year when he carried his bat in a total of 209 and 179 in 230 minutes v Hampshire at Bournemouth which went most of the way to clinch Kent's Championship in 1906. He participated in two double-century opening partnerships with Ted Dillon - 243 v Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells in 1902 (Burnup 102, Dillon 137) and 210 v Worcestershire at New Road in 1901 (Burnup 102, Dillon 99). For Kent against the South Africans at Beckenham in 1901 he shared century opening partnerships with Humphreys in both innings.

In his year as official captain in 1903 only an hour and 50 minutes play was possible on the first day against Yorkshire at Canterbury in 1903 and none at all on the second. Unfortunately, Burnup was persuaded to end play at 4.45 on the final day (Saturday). By 4.45 Yorkshire had been bowled out for 79 (Blythe six for 35), Kent had declared at 181 for seven (A Hearne 51, Burnup 45) and the visitors finished at 51 for eight (Blythe seven for 26), depriving Kent of what must surely have been a memorable victory. At the end of the season he led the side on their visit to the USA, the first time a county team had embarked on an overseas tour.

Although never finding favour with the England selectors, Burnup was chosen six times for Gentlemen v Players, at The Oval in 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, at Scarborough in 1902 and Lord's in 1903. He scored two centuries, 123 at The Oval in 1900 when he became the first amateur to hit a century on debut in the fixture, and 102 at Scarborough.

He took part in four overseas tours - to the Netherlands with the Gentlemen of Worcestershire in 1895, Canada & the USA with Pelham Warner in 1898, New Zealand, Australia & the USA with Lord Hawke in 1902/03 when he hit 103 v South Australia and the previously mentioned tour of the USA by Kent in 1903. He was an active club cricketer with Band of Brothers, Ashford, Blackheath and Old Malvernians.

As an Association footballer Burnup played 79 games for the Corinthians mainly on the left-wing and scored 29 goals. In 1897 he toured South Africa with the Club, the first football tour outside Europe, and was a member of the team which that year won the London Charity Cup. He also played for Old Malvernians. In 1896 he was outside left for England against Scotland in Glasgow.

For most of his playing career Burnup was a stockbroker but from 1906, his last year as a first-class cricketer, to 1946 he was a tax assessor and collector. Curiously, apart from the 1881 Census when, with his parents absent, he is shown as head of the household, he and his younger sister in care of the servants, he seems to have missed the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses or his details are there somewhere but wrongly transcribed. He is ever present in the voters lists. Post University, he seems to have lived almost all his life in the Twickenham area. On his death his effects were valued at £423 0s 7d, probate to his solicitor.

For reasons unknown, at Oxford and for all or most of his playing career Burnup was known as 'Pinky'. He had red hair but it is not clear if this had any relevance to his nickname.

Further reading:

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a gallery of famous players pp.70-71*. George Newnes. 1899.

Anthony Frederick Augustus Burton (No. 22).

Born: 1785. *Died:* 5. 9. September 1850, Wimbledon, Surrey.

Batsman and wicketkeeper.

Kent 1822.

A maltster by trade in his home town of Westerham, Anthony Burton first attracted attention with the Leigh club. Subsequently he played for the Westerham town side and as late as 1834 scored 51 for Westerham v Godstone. It is possible, although unlikely, that he was the Burton who batted No. 11 and failed to score for England v Twenty-Two of Nottingham on the Forest ground Nottingham in 1818.

His first appearance for Kent was in the famous match against MCC in 1822 when the Kent captain and pioneer of round-arm bowling John Willes was no-balled for throwing and in the words of Harry Altham – 'threw down the ball in disgust, jumped on his horse and rode away out of Lord's and out of cricket history' leaving his side to look after themselves. Burton's second match was the return at Chislehurst.

Burton played without over taxing the scorers for West Kent and Surrey v East Kent and Surrey at Chevening in 1822, for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent on Barham Downs in 1826 and at Sevenoaks Vine in 1827 with a top score of nine. He was probably the Burton who appeared for 'Kent' v Hawkhurst at Wrotham Napps in 1816 and Four of Lenham v Four of Gillingham at Lenham in 1821. In his will he bequeathed property and approximately £900 to his wife Sarah.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

John Chambers Burton (No. 214).

Born: 7.5.1837, Oare. *Died:* 19.2.1887, Sittingbourne.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1862-64.

Parents: John & Mary Burton.

Although according to *Scores & Biographies* at one time a whitesmith, for most of his life – when not playing cricket - John Burton was a blacksmith like his father. In 1859 he attracted attention with an innings of 57 for Milton against a Bearsted team including the 52 year-old Alfred Mynn.

In May 1862 he opened with moderate results for Colts of Kent v Colts of Surrey at The Oval but did better in the return at Mote Park with 24 and 19, top scorer in both innings. In June he scored 17 and one for Colts of England v MCC at Lord's and in the following week made his debut for Kent against Cambridgeshire. In both innings he got off the mark but that was all and in one further match that year and three in 1863 he only twice achieved double figures with a top score of 17 v Sussex at the Royal Brunswick ground Hove.

1864 was a disastrous season for Kent – played nine lost nine. Burton began promisingly with 31 for Colts of South of the Medway v Colts of North of the Medway at Town Malling, top score in a low scoring match, and he was picked for six of the seven county matches and for Thirteen of Kent v England at Lord's. Opening in the second innings against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, a match in which only two other Kent batsmen passed 20, he was top scorer with 40 out of a total of 124. Against Surrey at The Oval, he top scored again with 18* in a total of 104 but eleven times he failed to reach double figures and this proved to be his penultimate appearance.

As a club professional he was in considerable demand, his engagements including Lord Harris' Belmont, Chilham Castle, Gore Court, Lees Court and St.Lawrence. Outside cricket, all his working life was as a blacksmith in High Street East, Sittingbourne, with his father and subsequently with his mother Mary when she took over the business on her husband's death. Ultimately he ran the business on his own account. On his death his effects were valued at £343.6s 1d, probate granted to his widow Frances (née Dove).

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

John Edmund Byass (No. 300).

Born: 8.5.1854, Upper Clapton, London. *Died:* 6.6.1936, Shepperton, Victoria, Australia

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler, specialist slip fielder.

Kent 1874-76.

Educated: Christ College, Finchley.

Parent: Julia Helen Byass.

John Byass had a harsh introduction to first-class cricket – bowled without scoring by William Mycroft as Kent were dismissed for 25. In the second innings he was run out for two. As well as his three appearances for Kent (none on a home ground), Byass played a number of matches for MCC, the majority against public schools but including one first-class fixture, against Nottinghamshire at Lord's. Much of his cricket was for the St John's Wood Club for whom he scored 133 v Ravenscourt Park in 1875.

In the 1861 Census, the first after his birth, his mother Julia Helen is already a widow, living at Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells with two sons and one daughter. In the 1871 Census John Byass is a clerk lodging with a doctor's widow in Willesden. He emigrated to Australia shortly after his marriage to Alice Palmer Braby in 1876. On his death, his effects in England were valued at £1,322.1s.6d. His mother died at Tunbridge Wells in 1911 aged 93.

Caesar (No. 77).

Kent 1828

It is unlikely that this player will ever be identified. He is clearly not the well-known Surrey batsman Julius Caesar who toured Canada and the USA in 1859. Julius Caesar was born in the right town, Godalming, but not until 1830. Julius's father Ben (a baker) and several of his relatives played a lot of cricket in the area and in all probability it was one of these who played for Kent in 1828. Although Caesar's 47 was top score in the match – the next highest was 29 – in *Scores & Biographies Vol II* Haygarth makes no comment, merely describing the team as 'Kent with Broadbridge for Ashby and Herbert Jenner Esq. who could not play.' Clearly Caesar was another substitute, probably recruited locally [or someone playing under a *nom-de-plume*].

William Caffyn (No. 184).

Born: 2.2.1828, Reigate Surrey. *Died:* 28.8.1919, Reigate, Surrey.
Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium- pace, round-arm bowler.
Kent. 1858.
Parents: William George Caffyn & Elizabeth Caffyn (*née* Gates).

One of the leading allrounders of cricket's middle-ages and one of Surrey's greatest cricketers, William Caffyn's two appearances for Kent were as one of three 'given men' against England, at Lord's and in Canterbury Cricket Week. The others were the equally illustrious George Parr and 'Foghorn' Jackson. At Lord's Caffyn bowled unchanged with Jackson as England were dismissed for 33 (Jackson nine for 27, Caffyn one for 28).

In 1864 He married Plymouth-born Selina Charlotte Williams in Melbourne. There were three daughters and two sons.

Further reading:

Caffyn, William. *Seventy One Not Out*. William Blackwood, 1899.

William Henry Caldecourt (No. 65).

Born: 28.2.1802, Blisworth, Northamptonshire. *Died:* 21.6.1867, St John's Wood, London.
Under-arm bowler.
Kent 1827-1828.
Parents: John & Mary Caldecourt.

Will Caldecourt joined the staff at Lord's at the age of nine and remained there for 40 years. Most famous as the leading umpire of his day - known as 'Honest Will' - he was a good enough cricketer to appear six times for the Players and 14 times for 'England'. A hard hitting batsman, in a practice match at either Watford or Norman's Land in Hertfordshire he reputedly hit six successive balls of a six-ball over out of the ground. Why it was a six-ball over in an era when four balls was the norm is unexplained. He was also a highly regarded coach and had a second string to his bow in the form of a successful bat manufacturing business.

His first appearance for Kent at Brighton was as a late replacement for an unnamed absentee and it is probable that the remaining two, in 1828 against Surrey at Godalming and Sevenoaks in the following year, were similar as he does not appear to have had any Kentish connection. He also played once as a 'given man' for Gentlemen of Kent at Brighton where he was top scorer with 33. This was the first occasion in which wide balls were recorded in the score.

In 1832 he married Jane Kilby at St James' Church, Bryanston Square. There were two daughters and one son.

Rev Thomas Gunston Calhoun (No. 66).

Born: 1795, Chichester, Sussex. *Died:* 6. 9.1861, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex. Kent. 1827.

Educated: Magdalen College, Oxford.

Parents: Thomas Gunston & Elizabeth Mary Calhoun.

Thomas Calhoun's only match, against Sussex at Brighton, was also Will Caldecourt's first (*qv*) and it is probable that Calhoun too was a late recruitment from players available on the ground. Like Caldecourt, he had no apparent Kent connections and at the time was curate at nearby Ferring. The son of a substantial landowner, he was ordained in 1817 and subsequently became vicar of Goring. On his death his estate was valued for probate at 'under £8,000'.

William Candlett (No. 361).

Born: 1847 Newton Moor, Lancashire. *Died:* 20.6.1904, Salford, Lancashire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1880.

Parents: John & Ann Candlett.

The son of a shoemaker, William Candlett played for Kent while working at the Royal Gun Factory Woolwich. In minor cricket for the Gun Factory team he produced some impressive performances – six for 11 v Crown & Volunteer, seven for 4 v Star and in 1879 four for 22 for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at Maidstone. In 1880 he again excelled in colt's matches with three for 33 and three for 10 v Surrey Colts at The Oval and four for 11 and six for 33 for William McCanlis' Eleven v Lord Harris' Eleven at Mote Park. In his only first-class match he played only a minor role in Kent's 64 run victory over Yorkshire.

It is not clear why Candlett was given no further opportunities although Edward O'Shaughnessy (*qv*) who had played alongside him in colt's matches and bowled in similar style, had possibly done enough to gain preference. Or perhaps, working for the Royal Gun Factory paid better. O'Shaughnessy received a pound a week plus a six pound match fee but no expenses. In later life Candlett returned to his native Lancashire and, while working as a house painter, died as a result of a fall from a ladder.

Tom Caplen (No. 458).

Born: 23.11.1879, Rusthall. *Died:* 17.4.1945, Hove, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1897.

Parents: Walter Caplen & Sarah Scovell Caplen (née Tribe).

A mining engineer by profession, Tom Caplen was the privately educated son of an elementary schoolmaster and had not reached his 16th birthday when he played his first game for Kent Second Eleven in 1895. In the following year, still not 17, he had the remarkable figures of eight for 39 and five for 67 against Middlesex Second Eleven at Tonbridge.

In his only first-class match, while a strong MCC team totalled 370, he claimed the wickets of two distinguished allrounders, Derbyshire's George Davidson and Middlesex's 'Turkey' Rawlin. He subsequently played for Cornwall while studying mining in the county, returning to Kent for one more Second Eleven appearance in 1899, the year in which he also claimed all ten wickets for Tunbridge Wells against Old Cholmeleians.

Caplen's profession took him all over the world and in 1902 while working in India, he played against Oxford University Authentics for Madras Presidency. The home captain was CT Studd the famous Middlesex and England allrounder of 20 years earlier, subsequently a missionary. Caplen opened the bowling but, presumably due to injury, bowled only one over. On his death his estate, valued at £6,442.15s.7d, was bequeathed to his wife Irene whom he married in India.

Douglas Ward Carr (No. 504).

Born: 17.3.1872, Cranbrook. *Died:* 23.3.1950, Sidmouth, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, leg-break and googly bowler.

Kent. 1909-1914. Cap 1909.

Tests: One for England.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year 1910.

Educated: Sutton Valence School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Thomas Arnold Carr & Mary Carr.

As a leg-break and googly bowler, Douglas Carr – known to his friends as John – was the latest of late developers. The eldest son of the vicar of Cranbrook (and later of Marden), he began his cricket career as a batsman and useful medium-pace bowler. At Sutton Valence he played for the school from 1887 to 1889, in the latter year as vice-captain when he was second in the batting averages and first in the bowling. On going up to Oxford in 1890 his cricket was restricted somewhat by a football injury and, although he took three inexpensive wickets in the 1891 Freshmen's match, he progressed no further. At this stage of his career he included both the off break and a (presumably) finger-spun leg break in his repertoire.

On graduating with a BA, Carr chose teaching as his profession, much of it at Stanmore Park School in Middlesex where the Headmaster was the Rev Vernon Royle (Oxford University, Lancashire & England) who toured Australia with Lord Harris in 1878/79. School holidays afforded time for good quality club cricket with Band of Brothers, Blue Mantles, Free Foresters, Linton Park, the Mote, where he was a member for more than 20 years, Oxford Authentics and Wildernesse. While still at Oxford he hit a century for Free Foresters v Boxley House and in 1897 scored 105 for Free Foresters v Royal Engineers. In July of that year he was invited to play for Kent Second Eleven against Sussex at Hove where he scored 39 in his only innings but his two wickets cost 145 runs.

In 1899, playing for Band of Brothers v Eton Ramblers, he encountered Bernard Bosanquet for the first time but it was not until the winter of 1905/06 that Carr began his own experiments with the googly, initially, in his own words, 'just for a rag'. Bowling in his original style for Blue Mantles v Newbury in 1905 he achieved a hat-trick with the last three balls of the Newbury first innings and took two more wickets with his first two balls in the second, thus taking five wickets in five balls. In his early attempts at the new method, he not only found himself unable to turn the ball at all, he completely lost the ability to bowl his original leg break but he persevered and by 1908 was baffling enough good club batsman to attract the attention of his County.

In May 1909, at the age of 37, he was invited by Kent to play against Oxford University. With Frank Woolley, he bowled unchanged through the first innings (Carr five for 65, Woolley five for 56) and claimed another two wickets in the second. His victims included three of the four future Kent cricketers in the Dark Blue side, John Evans, Charles Hooman and Charles Hatfield.

There was no more immediate interest from Kent but he was a surprise choice for Gentlemen v Players, at The Oval where he took three for 58 & five for 80, and at Lord's where his six for 71 & one for 57 included the wicket of John Tyldesley twice. He puzzled all the professionals, only Ernie

Hayes reputedly playing him with any confidence. His other scalps included Tom Hayward, George Hirst, and Kent's 'Punter' Humphreys.

Still without having played a county match, Carr was in the 13 for the Fourth Test match at Old Trafford but left out on the morning of the match. For Kent he took two for 36 & four for 49 v Essex at Leyton, three for 47 & five for 59 v Middlesex and one for 57 & five for 42 v Hampshire in a highly successful Canterbury Week. Called up by England for the Fifth Test at The Oval, he began by dismissing Syd Gregory, Warwick Armstrong and Monty Noble for 18 runs but, as was his wont, Archie MacLaren bowled him into the ground, his final figures 34-2-146-5 & 35-1-136-2. Of the other six bowlers used, only Syd Barnes (46) bowled more than 30 overs in the match.

MacLaren notwithstanding, Carr recovered and again troubled the Australians with four for 27 & four for 78 when Lord Londesborough's Eleven won at Scarborough and 61 wickets at 16.50 placed him second in the Kent bowling averages with a best effort of eight for 36 v Somerset at Taunton.

Although heavily-built, looking more than his age and generally only available in the school holidays, he claimed 50 or more wickets at under 20 runs per wicket every year from 1910 to 1913. His best season was 1912 when he headed the Kent averages with 56 wickets at 9.21 which included seven for 46 v the Australians at Canterbury and eight for 36 v Gloucestershire at Dover when, with Colin Blythe, he bowled unchanged throughout the match (Carr 13 for 74, Blythe seven for 81). Twice more he took eight wickets in an innings, eight for 86 v Somerset at Taunton in 1910 & eight for 67 v Surrey at The Oval in 1911.

Bowled with a low arm action, the leg break was Carr's main weapon. In his own estimation, leg breaks accounted for around 75% of his wickets. His googly was bowled with a higher arm and generally tossed up more, the spin derived from a dropped wrist and cutting under the ball with the third finger. He normally set his field for the leg break, using the threat of the googly 'as an incentive to the batsman to get himself out to the leg break'.

The end came suddenly in 1914. Against Surrey at Blackheath in 1914, his final first-class match, the ability to spin the ball deserted him and his final analysis was 28-1-134-0. He carried on bowling leg breaks in club cricket but the googly hurt his shoulder and was abandoned.

On the outbreak of War, Douglas Carr was too old to volunteer but he managed to secure a commission in the Army Ordnance Department, forerunner of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and now part of the Royal Logistic Corps. In November 1914 Carr was posted to the Ordnance Depot in Egypt where he served for more than two years. By now a Lieutenant, he returned to England on leave in August 1917 and subsequently served in AOC depots in the London Area and in Didcot. In 1918 he was classified as only fit for sedentary duties due to varicose veins and was finally demobilised in January 1919. He returned to teaching and died in a nursing home. His estate was valued for probate at £4,852. 9s.7d.

For further reading, there is a brief biography in *Cricket 1909*, p 465.

Lewis Carrick (No. 69).

Christened: 27.4.1806, Dover. *Died:* December 1872, Croydon, Surrey.
Kent 1828.

Parents: William Carrick & Celia Carrick (née Ready).

Positive identification of this player has not so far proved possible but he is probably the Lewis Carrick who, born in Dover in 1806, the son of a bricklayer and subsequently worked in a brewery in

Croydon. He died there in 1872. He played for Updown, a club formed by John Bayley (1794-1874), a landowner who lived at Updown House, near Sandwich.

Recruited from the local agricultural community, the club came close to beating an MCC team in 1828 and later that year defeated Sandwich Town. In 1840 the club, without Carrick but reinforced by Fuller Pilch and Ned Wenman, was sufficiently important to play MCC at Lord's with a return on their own ground.

As a player Carrick appears to have been highly regarded. On his only appearance for Kent he batted No. 4, above, among others, Richard Mills, Percyvall Hart Dyke and John Deedes. In the 1907 *History of Kent County Cricket* he appears as 'Garrick'. In 1841 he married Sarah Terry in Bromley. There was one daughter.

James Thomas Carroll (No. 234).

Born: 18.3.1843, Gravesend. *Died:* 1.4.1926, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent. 1865-1869.

Mother: Jane Carroll.

Brought up by a widowed charwoman mother and a maternal uncle, James Carroll is shown in *Scores & Biographies* and other reference books as a plumber by occupation but in census returns he is variously listed as plasterer, house painter, decorator and paper hanger. Whatever his house maintenance skills, as a cricketer he was seldom short of employment. Professional engagements included Lancing College, Mid-Kent and Gravesend and Milton, the club with which he was chiefly identified. He also played for Bexley, Farningham and Dartford.

Described as a 'free hitter batting in good style', a useful bowler and a 'wonderful field at long leg or cover', his first representative match of sorts was in 1863 when he took five first innings wickets for Professional Colts of Kent v Gentlemen Colts of Kent at Mote Park. In the same season he played for Kent Colts Under 25 against Surrey Colts Under 25 at The Oval. In the following year he opened both batting and bowling for Kent Colts South of the Medway v Kent Colts North of the Medway at Town Malling and also appeared for a colt's team against Gentlemen of Dartford & Neighbourhood.

In 1865 he picked up two wickets for Thirteen Players of Kent v Thirteen Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend and after one more colt's game gained a place in the Kent team against Sussex at Hove. Opening the batting, he was top scorer with 48 in the first innings. This proved to be his highest but over four seasons he played a number of useful innings, particularly in low scoring games, either as opener or in the lower middle order. Against Hampshire at Gravesend in 1867 he took part in a then record ninth-wicket partnership of 77 with Edward Henty (Carroll 36*, Henty 45). Six times he scored over 30 and in all reached double figures in 40% of his first-class innings, a respectable return on the wickets of the time. In 1868 he made one appearance for the United South of England Eleven against Twenty Gentlemen of Hampshire at Fareham.

Carroll was a shade unlucky not to play for Kent after 1869. At a meeting at 1 Stone Street, Maidstone in 1870, the Kent Managing Committee decided that the team would be chosen from a list of six named amateurs and five professionals. If any of these first choices were unavailable, vacancies were to be filled from another list of five, of which Carroll was one. In 1871 he hit 100 for Mid-Kent v Gore Court.

With his Gravesend-born wife Elizabeth he had one son and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £450.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Carter (No. 133).

Born: 1822, Southfleet. *Died:* 10.10.1847, Southfleet.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1845-1846.

William Carter achieved little in his three appearances for Kent but from 1845 to within months of his early death in 1847 he bowled with considerable success for Dartford, Gravesend and (probably) Meopham. At least five times he took five or more wickets in an innings, ten in a match for Gravesend v Cambridge Town on the Bat & Ball ground in 1847. Normally a confirmed tail-ender, two years earlier for Gravesend against the same opponents on Parker's Piece he was top scorer with 44 and claimed eight wickets in the match.

Little has emerged about his life outside cricket but by occupation he was a miller in his native Southfleet. Although the age is about right, he is almost certainly not the William Carter, a labourer living in Gravesend, who appears in the 1841 Census

Sidney Castle (No. 414).

Born: 21.1.1864, Westminster, London. *Died:* 5.12.1937, Plymstock, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent. 1890-1893.

Educated: Rugby School.

Parents: Sidney Nash Castle & Helen Margaret Castle (née Downey).

Although failing to get into the Eleven at Rugby, Sydney Castle had a reputation as a technically correct, stylish and free-scoring batsman, a reputation hardly reflected in his record for Kent. In a handful of Second Eleven matches he fared only marginally better. In club cricket however it was different. Playing mainly for Blackheath and Charlton Park but on occasions for clubs as widely scattered as Hythe and Surbiton, he was credited with over 50 centuries. In 1892 he hit 200 for G.Street's Eleven v the Gentlemen of Surbiton and District and in the previous year, 181 for Blackheath v Crystal Palace. In 1901 he hit four successive centuries – 126 for Charlton Park v St. Lawrence, 108* for Charlton Park v Woolwich Garrison, 107 for Surbiton v East Molesey and 105* for Charlton Park v Hampstead.

In business, he followed his father into his firm of Thames-side ship breakers. His last appearance for Kent was against the Australians. In 1888 he married Katherine Cornforth Batho. There were three children, two daughters and one son. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £2,334.13s.6d,

Arthur James Ceely (No. 168).

Born: 14.10.1834, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. *Died:* 31.12.1866, at sea off Point de Galle, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Right-handed batsman.

Kent. 1854.

Educated: Charterhouse & Caius College, Cambridge.

Parents: James Henry Ceely & Elizabeth Ceely (née Parker).

The son of an eminent surgeon, one of the founders of Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury – the first hospital to be laid out in accordance with Florence Nightingale's recommendations – Arthur

Ceely was in the eleven at Charterhouse 1851-53 and in 1851, against Westminster at Vincent Square, top scored in both innings – (18 out of 40, 26 out of 84). At Cambridge he failed to get into the side against Oxford but in 1855 played for the University v I Zingari and v Gentlemen of Cambridgeshire.

In July 1854 while still at University he played for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's and in August scored eight and 15 in his only appearance for Kent, an odds match against a strong United England Eleven. The game was notable in that the England Eleven, 41 behind on first innings, scored the then remarkable fourth innings total of 279 for a two-wicket victory.

It is unclear what, if any, qualification he had to play for Kent but he made several further appearances for the Gentlemen of Kent, scoring 50 and winning praise for his fielding at long-stop against the Gentlemen of Sussex in 1855. In July 1857 he scored 13 and 35 against the Gentlemen of Hampshire at Canterbury but had the misfortune to collect a pair in his final first-class match, Gentlemen of Kent and Sussex v Gentlemen of MCC at Lord's.

Before the end of the year he was engaged in suppressing what it has become deemed politically incorrect to call the Indian Mutiny. Commissioned as Ensign in the 42nd Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) in August in 1855, he served at the relief of Lucknow and the capture of Bareilly in 1857. He was promoted Lieutenant in June 1858 but, invalided home, died at sea on passage to the UK. On his death his effects were valued for probate at £4,852.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George Ernest Champion (No. 424).

Born: 15.7.1867, Huckle, Hollingbourne. *Died:* 30.9.1933, Linton.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent.1892.

Parents: Joseph Henry Champion & Jane Day Champion (née Smith).

The son of a farmer and 'land developer' George Champion was privately educated in Southborough . and played regularly for the Mote and Linton Park as well as occasionally for other local clubs. He succumbed for a pair in his only first-class-match in 1892 but did better for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Tonbridge n the same year with scores of six (run out) and 29.

He emulated his father by becoming a farmer and land agent, latterly at Redwall Farm Linton. In 1902 he married Audrey Stuart Benning. There were two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £13,196.12s.10d.

Thomas Cheeseman (No. 169).

Born: 1816, Luddesdown. *Died:* 15.8.1874, Margate.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1854.

Parents: William Cheeseman & Henrietta Cheeseman (née Clinch).

Whether as a successful solicitor and attorney in Gravesend he was too busy or simply disliked travelling is unclear, but Thomas Cheeseman seems to have played nearly all his cricket on the Bat & Ball ground. He appeared intermittently for the Gravesend club between 1840 and (probably) 1863. Opening the batting against Cobham in 1853 he was top scorer with 30 in a total of 108 and in the following year against the same opponents scored 21 out of a total of 64, the only batsman to reach double figures.

In 1849 he appeared at Gravesend for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Surrey. His solitary first-class was the match against the United England Eleven already referred to above in the biography of Arthur James Ceely (*qv*)

One of seven children, four boys, three girls, he does not appear to have married.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Percy Christopherson (No. 398).

Born: 31.3.1866, Blackheath. *Died:* 4.5.1921, Folkestone.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent.1887.

Educated: Marlborough College, Bedford Grammar School & University College, Oxford.

Parents: Derman Christopherson & Catherine Jane Christopherson (née Blackwell).

Percy Christopherson was the sixth of ten sons (and one daughter) of a member of the Stock Exchange. A team of eleven Christophersons played an annual match, from 1877 to 1880, when the matches were temporarily suspended following the death of Harold, the eldest of the brothers, in a riding accident. From 1885 to 1892 they took the field as a team of ten Christophersons. Originally they met local school sides, latterly the Blackheath club.

Percy never approached the cricketing eminence of elder brother Stanley or of Kenneth who was a heavy scorer for Blackheath, but his overall sporting record was impressive. At Bedford he captained the Rugby XV and was in the cricket eleven for three years. At Oxford he was in the Fifteen against Cambridge in 1887-1888, captain in the latter year and rowed for his college. He captained Blackheath and Kent RFC, played Rugby for the South against the North from 1888 to 1891 and was capped for England as a three-quarter back against Scotland and Wales in 1891. He retired from the game in 1892.

He acquitted himself creditably on his only appearance for Kent by scoring 27 (third highest scorer) against Sussex at Tonbridge but, despite being chosen for the Seniors' match in 1888 and 1889, he played only once for the University – v Gentlemen of England at Oxford in the latter year. Here he had the ill-luck to suffer a pair.

Like several of the brotherhood, Percy Christopherson was prominent with Blackheath. In 1892 he took eight wickets bowling unchanged with brother Stanley to dismiss Crystal Palace for 82 and in 1894 hit 93 against the Gentlemen of the Netherlands. He also played Minor Counties Championship cricket for Berkshire and for many years was on the committee of Free Foresters.

On coming down from university, Christopherson taught at Wellington and subsequently established his own preparatory school at Hemel Hempstead. He was a JP for Hertfordshire. In 1892 He married Minnie Whitaker Cooper. There was one son and one daughter.

Stanley Christopherson (No. 379).

Born: 11.11.1861, Blackheath. *Died:* 6.4.1949, St John's Wood, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent. 1883-1890. Cap 1884.

Tests: One for England.

Educated: Uppingham School.

Parents: Derman Christopherson & Catherine Jane Christopherson (née Blackwell).

For a few years Stanley Christopherson was probably the best fast bowler in England, amateur or professional. English cricket was afflicted by a plague of doubtful bowling actions but Christopherson's method was beyond suspicion with a high, impeccably straight, arm, a deadly yorker and the ability to bring the ball back from outside off-stump. One of ten sons (see Percy Christopherson above), he played his early cricket with his brothers on a corner of the Blackheath Morden ground, located on the heath opposite St Germain's Place.

At Uppingham, where he benefited from the coaching of HH Stephenson, he was in the Eleven in 1880 and leading wicket taker with 38 at 11.22.

Recommendation to Kent came from George Hearne, senior and Edward Henty who, while umpiring, saw him score 74 and take eleven wickets for Blackheath Morden v Bank of England. The intention was to include him in a team of 22 Colts against the county at Gravesend but the Colts team was over subscribed and instead Christopherson opened the Kent bowling. Eleven wickets in the match (seven bowled) secured his place against Lancashire at Old Trafford where he began his first-class career with six for 37 in Lancashire's first innings.

Christopherson finished his first season top of the Kent averages with 38 wickets (avge.16.52). When Yorkshire totalled 392 (Lockwood 208) at Gravesend he took six for 124 in 57.1 overs and at The Oval, having toiled through 59 overs in Surrey's first innings, destroyed their second attempt with figures of eight for 41 (11 for 143 in the match). 1884 proved his best season with 89 wickets (avge.21.75) in all matches, 55 of them for Kent. He was picked for England against Australia at Lord's and for the Gentlemen of England against the tourists at both Lord's and The Oval. At The Oval, where the Australians won by 46 runs he took eight for 78 and three for 56. For an England Eleven v the Australians at Aston Lower Grounds, played on an appalling wicket and completed in about four hours actual playing time, he took four for 10 in 9.1 overs. In all, seven matches against the Australians in 1884 brought him 31 wickets at 13.80. He was also chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's.

1885 was another successful season with 45 wickets for Kent, 68 in all matches, including five for 74 and seven for 73 v Middlesex at Mote Park and six for 41 v Lancashire at Old Trafford – his fifth five in an innings haul against the Red Rose county. He was chosen for all three Gentlemen v Players matches and at Scarborough took seven for 24 as the Players were dismissed in for 59. This proved to be his last major success.

A strained arm muscle in 1886 failed to respond to treatment and, although he continued to play at top level for another four years, he was seldom much more than a useful change bowler. There were good days – four for 66 & four for 81 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1886, five for 43 v Middlesex at Tonbridge and four for 111 from 60 overs v Yorkshire at Canterbury in 1887 – but after 1886 he played only a handful of games a season.

Stanley Christopherson remained active in club cricket until the 1930s. In the 1880s he captained Blackheath and was associated for many years with Band of Brothers; on the death of Lord Harris he succeeded him as Chief. As well as MCC, other clubs included Kensington Park, Wimbledon and Uppingham Rovers. In 1939 he was nominated President of MCC and remained in office for seven years, longer than any previous holder. He joined the Kent committee in 1888 and was President of Kent in 1924. He remained a Trustee until his death.

In a distinguished business career Christopherson was a member of the Stock Exchange in the firm established by his father and subsequently specialised in financial matters holding a number of directorships including Consolidated Goldfields, Standard Bank of South Africa, General &

Commercial Investment Co and Exchange Telegraph Co. He became deputy Chairman of Midland Bank in 1922, Chairman in 1943.

A man of great personal charm with a wide circle of friends, his range of interests included St Bartholomew's Hospital, of which he was almoner at the time of his death, the Church and local affairs in and around Sheringham where he lived for some 20 years. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk. Ian Akers-Douglas (*qv*) was his grandson.

In 1887 he married Margaret Isabelle Leslie by whom he had two daughters. In 1914 he married Elizabeth Anne Lawrence with whom he had one son. On his death in hospital his estate was valued at £114,964.16s.1d.

George Claridge (No. 61).

Born: 21.11.1793, Sevenoaks. *Died:* 27.8.1856, Sevenoaks.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent. 1827-1829

Parents: John Fellows Claridge & Ann Claridge (*née* Swayne).

A solicitor by profession, George Claridge played a great deal of cricket in London – in 1841 he was living in Great Marlborough Street - and in Kent. Primarily it seems he was played as a wicketkeeper but on occasions for his batting. Subsequently he became a great patron of the game in Sevenoaks.

He appears in 1815 playing for the Gentlemen of West Kent v the Gentlemen of East Kent on Penenden Heath. In the following year he played for the Prince's Plain club against MCC at Lord's and in the return at Prince's Plain, a still extant area of Bromley Common. The club subsequently moved to Chislehurst and was the forerunner of the famous West Kent club. He also appeared that year for Hampshire against MCC at Lord's, his first 'important' match i.e. one now deemed first-class.

Over the next few years he turns up playing for various elevens – Lord F Beauclerk's Eleven v WF Deedes' Eleven at Sevenoaks in 1823, H Kingscote's Eleven v B Aislabie's (*qv*) Eleven at Lord's in 1826, Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent, on Barham Downs in 1826, at Sevenoaks in 1827.

Claridge made his debut for Kent against Sussex at Sevenoaks in 1827, played in the return at Brighton but managed only ten runs in four innings and in five matches for the county in 1828 he stumped two but only twice reached double figures. There was also one more game for Hampshire, v England at Lord's, and he scored 47 for his own team against Harrow. He played a final game for Kent at Brighton in 1829 and continued to appear for Sevenoaks and for West Kent into the 1830s. His best performance was in 1830 when for Sevenoaks at Town Malling he stumped two and scored 30 out of a total of 74.

Partially paralysed in later life and confined to a wheelchair, he continued to attend matches at the Vine. On one occasion when a ball was hit into the crowd, old habits dying hard, he overturned himself and chair while attempting a catch. In 1846 he married Fanny Olive Chambers who was the main beneficiary of his will. At the time of his death he owned substantial property at Godden Green.

William Clarke (No. 163).

Born: 24.12. 1798, Bunker's Hill, Nottinghamshire. *Died:* 25.8.1856, Wandsworth, London.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm, under-arm bowler.

Kent.1854.

Parents: John Clarke & Mary Clarke (*née* Bannister).

Few cricketers had a greater influence on the development of cricket than William Clarke. As well as being founder of Trent Bridge and one of the greatest exponents of under-arm bowling at a time when round-arm had almost entirely superseded it, Clarke gained immortality as originator and captain of the itinerant All-England Eleven. Containing the cream of England's professional talent, the All-England Eleven and its derivative and rival the United England Eleven, used the advent of the railways to take cricket to the provincial towns and cities.

Although essentially a money-making venture, Clarke's enterprise was a major factor, not only in spreading interest in the game throughout the country but in establishing it as a major professional spectator sport. Although relatively unknown until he was 45 and despite having lost an eye at the age of 30, he was the greatest slow bowler of his day. Between 1847 and 1853, albeit playing mainly against 18s and 22s, he took 2,385 wickets. His single appearance for Kent, in which he did not particularly distinguish himself, was as one of four 'given man' in the 1854 Canterbury Week.

In 1818 he married Jane Wigley (1798-1837) by whom he had four daughters and three sons. In 1838 he married Mary Chapman (1788-1885).

Further reading.

Wynne-Thomas, Peter. *William Clarke. The old general.* ACS Publications. 2014.

Francis Seath Clifford (No. 142).

Born: 17. 12.1822, Bearsted, *Died:* 17. 11.1869, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent. 1849-1860.

Parents: Robert Clifford & Catherine Clifford (née Seath).

Grandson of Robert Clifford who played for Kent from 1779 to 1800, and younger brother of William Clifford (qv), Francis Clifford lived nearly all his life in Gravesend. Most of his cricket was for the Gravesend club at a time when they were one of the leading sides in the county, meeting not only strong local opposition such as Town Malling but undertaking home and away matches with teams from further afield such as Cambridge Town, Islington Albion, Dorking and on one occasion Essex.

Described by a contemporary as 'an excellent wicketkeeper', he came into the Kent side of the Mynn, Felix, Pilch era as wicketkeeper when first choice 'keepers Ned Wenman and William Dorrinton were not available but after 1851 he generally played purely as a batsman. A forward player excelling with the front foot cut, he was not notably consistent – he registered 21 ducks in first-class cricket including two pairs – but was rated highly enough to be picked as a batsman for the Players at Lord's in 1854 and twice for South v North. He also played twice for 'England' v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, again as a batsman.

His highest innings, against Sussex at Gravesend in 1855, was probably his best. Needing 167 to win, Clifford came in at No. 5 and was 60* when Kent were all out for 164. Only one other batsman reached 20. Opening the batting against England in the 1854 Canterbury Week, he was Kent's top scorer with 43.

Although his cricket was restricted by ill health, Clifford was nothing if not versatile. At various times he was a tailor, builder, and undertaker and died as landlord of *The White Post* tavern in Gravesend. In 1825 he married Sarah King. There were two daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at 'Under £600'.

William Clifford (No. 87).

Born: 1812 Bearsted. *Died:* 5. 9.1841, Gravesend.
Right-handed batsman, slow bowler (probably right-arm), wicketkeeper.
Kent.1834-1841.
Parents: Robert Clifford & Catherine Clifford (née Seath).

A regular member of the Kent team of the 1830s, William Clifford would probably have been better known had he not died young. Described in *Scores & Biographies* as 'one of the best and prettiest bats in the Kent Eleven' he played for Bearsted, Leeds and the combined Leeds and Bearsted club as well as for Beverley, Maidstone, latterly for Gravesend and at least once for Dover. Often opening the batting, as far as records show he never seems to have scored a half-century in a match of any significance but his three highest scores were all on big occasions – 46 for Kent v England, Lord's 1835, 49 for Players v Gentlemen (top score in the match), Lord's, 1837 and 44 for England v Sussex, Brighton 1839. In representative matches, he was chosen four times for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's, 1836-39, four times for England and three times for South v North.

Like his brother Francis (*qv*), William was a useful wicketkeeper. For Bearsted and the combined Leeds and Bearsted club he brought off 25 stumpings in 21 matches. At club level he was also a useful change bowler. For Leeds & Bearsted v Gravesend in 1833, having stumped three in an innings at Gravesend, in the return on Bearsted Green he took at least six wickets in an innings (in the published scores catches and stumpings are not credited to the bowler).

Like his younger brother he was versatile. Originally a wheelwright, in 1837 he became landlord of the *Town Arms*, Gravesend and in 1841 opened a cricket ground at Ruck Lane, Gravesend, an enterprise terminated by his early death from a 'bilious fever'.

Edward Henry Stuart Bligh, Lord Clifton (later Seventh Earl of Darnley) (No. 277).

Born: 21.8.1851, Cobham Hall, *Died:* 30.10.1900, Cobham.
Right-handed batsman. right arm fast bowler (possibly round-arm).
Kent.1871-1879.
Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.
Parents: John, Sixth Earl Darnley & Lady Harriet Darnley (née Pelham).

The elder brother of Ivo Bligh (*qv*) and his predecessor as Earl of Darnley, Edward Bligh has the reputation of being one of the game's great eccentrics. A little over six feet two (190.5cm) in height and heavily built, he was gifted academically but held strong – often thought extreme – views and was reputedly prone to delusions. He also suffered, or at least those around him suffered, from a ferocious temper. A prolific writer of letters to the press, generally in controversial, unpopular or bizarre causes, one of his obsessions was smallpox vaccination of which he was a vociferous opponent. In common it must be said with a number of eminent contemporaries including George Bernard Shaw, he became a prominent member of the Anti-Immunisation League. He upset convention by refusing to take his seat in the House of Lords.

In fairness, it might be said that when reading of his eccentricities, the sound of axe grinding is sometimes faintly audible. In 1899, three years after succeeding to the title, he married Jemima Blackwood, a lady much younger than himself and in 1900, the year of Clifton's death from bronchitis complicated by dropsy and kidney malfunction, she gave birth to a daughter. Although the Sixth Earl had so arranged matters that, in the absence of a male heir, the family seat Cobham Hall, together with the title and most of the land came to his second son Ivo, Edward contrived to leave the family's valuable collection of furniture, plate, china and tapestries together with most of the cash to his young wife and child. Naturally the Eighth Earl was distressed, having little money of his own, but to the disinterested, Edward's actions, far from being evidence of unsound mind, might appear very rational indeed.

At Eton, where he was two years in the Eleven as a fast but erratic bowler and hard-hitting batsman, he had a hand in two victories over Harrow with match returns of three for 21 in 1869 and six for 96 in 1870. At University he took six for 20 and two for 8 in the 1871 Freshman's match, twice clean bowling the future Fourth Lord Harris. Although he did well in Senior's matches in the following two years, the nearest he got to a Blue was the Next Sixteen. He played with some success for Oxford Harlequins and in 1873 hit 143* for his college v Corpus Christi.

Making his first-class debut for Kent at Old Trafford in 1871, he played intermittently for Kent and for MCC until 1880. In George Bennett's benefit match, Kent v WG Grace's Eleven at Gravesend in 1873, he scored 52, adding 82 for the second wicket with Henry Renny-Tailyour (40). No other Kent batsman reached 20. His final first-class appearance was for MCC v Kent at Lord's in 1880.

Eccentric or not, Clifton played for some of the most prestigious clubs in England including I Zingari, Band of Brothers and MCC as well as for Cobham Hall, the Darnley estate team, Cobham village, nearby Lees Court, and North Kent. The fact that he only once bowled for Kent under Lord Harris might indicate that there were doubts about his bowling action. He was a Vice-President of the enlarged Kent CCC from its formation in 1870.

John Collard Cocker (No. 124).

Born: 1815, Thurnham. *Died:* 27.3.1885, Lower North Adelaide, South Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm under-arm bowler.

Kent.1842.

Parents: Thomas Christopher Cocker & Mary Cocker (née Ashenden).

'Joe' Cocker played alongside the leading Kent cricketers of his day but greater cricketing fame came his way after he emigrated to South Australia in 1846. Born on a farm near Thurnham, he played for both Leeds and Bearsted as well as Yalding between 1837 and 1845 where Alfred Mynn, Hillyer, Wenman etc. were regular teammates. Although he seems never to have played a long innings in a major match, he frequently opened the batting so presumably he was highly regarded. So much so that when he announced his intention of emigrating to Australia, Alfred Mynn tried to persuade him to change his mind,

Cocker was a talented lob bowler but his record in England is harder to evaluate with only clean bowled and lbw credited to the bowler in the published analyses. In 1842 he scored 11 and five opening the batting with his friend 'Topper' Hillyer for Kent v England at Lord's. It has been suggested that he only got into the team because Kent were short of five of their regulars but as the side included Felix, Pilch, Wenman, Dorrington, Adams and both Mynns as well as Hillyer, this is obviously not the case. In the following year he opened again for West Kent v East Kent at Canterbury.

In Australia he became landlord of the *Kentish Arms* in Lower North Adelaide, quickly established himself and remained for over 30 years. The Secretary of the Adelaide Club described him as 'the central figure in the game' and 'by far the best player'. He was the first curator of what is now Adelaide Oval and is sometimes referred to as the 'Father of South Australian Cricket'. In 1846, the year of his arrival, he took nine wickets and scored 32 for Walkerville v Thebarton. He subsequently formed the Kent & Sussex Cricket Club, which, thanks to his coaching and tactical expertise, in time became strong enough to take on the longer established Adelaide Club. He later played for Adelaide and for the influential South Australian Club.

The *Kentish Arms* was a regular venue for official functions. In May 1855 a banquet was held for the retiring Governor Young and in the following month a Sportsman's Dinner for the incoming Governor Sir Ragnar McDonell.

A great lover of the game, when no adults were available he would coach young boys on an open space in front of his hotel. In the evenings he would play the fiddle in his bar parlour and entertain customers with stories of his time playing with Mynn and co, remembered no doubt 'with advantages' as Henry V says. When a sailor named Wilkins rashly offered to play anyone in the colony at single-wicket for £10, Cocker took up the challenge, scored 109 and bowled the seafarer out for seven (other accounts say 12). This has claims to be the first century scored in South Australia. In later life he left the *Kentish Arms* in the charge of one of his sons and tried his luck for a short spell in the Victorian goldfields before giving up and returning to Adelaide. In 1842 he married Harriet Foster in Newington (then in Surrey). There were two sons and six daughters.

Further reading.

Harte, Chris. *SACA. The History of the South Australian Cricket Association*. Sports Marketing (Australia), 1990.

George Edward Coles (No. 288).

Born: 11.2.1851, Bombay (now Mumbai), India. *Died* 21.6.1903, Naini Tal, India.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent.1873.

Educated: King's College School Wimbledon and the Royal Indian Civil Engineering College, Cooper's Hill.

Parents: George & Letitia Hamilton Cole (née Voyle).

George Coles' first match for Kent was memorable, not only for his very fast bowling which, on a wicket described as 'perhaps the worst ever seen at Lord's', provided him with match figures of ten for 70. The match against Sussex was the first and only one played for the County Challenge Cup, a knockout competition organised by MCC, to be decided by three-day matches, all at Lord's. Despite MCC paying the expenses, some counties declined to take part and the scheme was abandoned. As winners of the only tie, Kent could perhaps claim to be cup-winners if so minded.

Coles spent his childhood in India and almost his entire life working with the Indian Public Works Department. In England in 1873, while living in Tunbridge Wells, in addition to his appearances for Kent he played for the Tunbridge Wells Club and for Blue Mantles.

In the Challenge Cup match Kent totalled 122 and Sussex were bowled out for 45, Coles (six for 23) and Ned Willsher (four for 16) bowling unchanged. On a rapidly deteriorating wicket, Kent struggled to 73, Coles top scorer with 17, only two others achieving double figures. Sussex lasted longer at their second attempt but were dismissed by 2 pm on the second day for 100. Cole, four for 47 from 24.2 overs, having bowled unchanged throughout the match. Several Sussex batsmen were hit and one, George Humphreys, retired hurt.

Cole's second appearance, on a relatively benign Oval pitch, was much less successful – one for 19 and 0 for 10. He played one more (non first-class) match for Kent when he took four for 60 against I Zingari in the 1873 Canterbury Week, a game staged at the conclusion of the match against Gentlemen of MCC.

On his death in India his estate was valued at £1,617. 12s.10d, probate granted to his wife Ellen Jane whom he married in West Bengal in 1893. There was one son.

Benjamin Collins (No. 174).

Born: 15.10.1820., Cuxton. *Died:* 26.8.1903, Cobham.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm bowler.

Kent.1856.

Parents: Robert Collins & Bethsheba Collins (née Baker).

The father of Christopher and George Collins and grandfather of George Christopher (*qv*) all of whom played for the County, Ben Collins waited a long time for his chance in the Kent team and failed when it came but had a considerable reputation in local cricket. A resident of Cobham nearly all his life, Collins was a gardener, first on Lord Darnley's Cobham Hall estate, subsequently for local landowner, JP and fellow cricketer, Thomas Baker.

Described in the Cobham club history as 'a steady bat and good bowler', between 1849 and 1876 Collins was a regular member of the side, playing against teams such as Town Malling, Gravesend, Maidstone, Boughton Monchelsea and Hollingbourne. Particularly noted for his leg-hitting, for many years he took part (on one side or the other) in the annual fixture between Cobham Hall and the village. In 1849 he was one of four of Lord Darnley's gardeners opposed to four of the Cobham club. He also on occasions represented East Kent against West Kent. When his playing days were over he umpired.

Ben Collins' highest scores seem to have been 72 for Cobham v Cobham Hall in 1861 and 46 for Cobham v the Bs of the Cobham club in 1854. In that same year he took five wickets in an innings for Cobham v Hollingbourne. He had retired from gardening by the time of the 1891 census where he is listed as 'living on his own means'. Although by then older than most of the residents, in 1901 he was Sub-Warden of Cobham College alms-houses in a building dating back to 1362 where he died two years later. A third son, John, played several times for Kent Colts and for Colts of England at Lord's in 1876.

In 1843 Ben Collins married Jane Cuckney. There were five sons and three daughters.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Christopher Collins (No. 365).

Born: 14.10.1859, Cobham. *Died:* 11.8.1919, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent.1881-1885.

Parents: Benjamin & Jane Collins (née Cuckney).

The son of Benjamin Collins, brother of George and father of George Christopher (*qv*), Chris Collins looked briefly to be the man to fill Kent's fast bowling vacancy but doubts about his action brought his career to an abrupt end. At the time, with Lord Harris high profile leader of a crusade against a spate of dubious actions among both amateurs and professionals, any Kent bowler had to be above suspicion.

Beginning like his father with Cobham, Chris Collins was professional at Eltham College when he made his debut for Kent, subsequently moving to the Rochester Club and finishing with Gravesend where he was also groundsman. He played (against Cobham) as late as 1910.

Following an unremarkable debut for Kent in 1881, he did not take a wicket until 1883 when on his third appearance, v Lancashire at Gravesend, he took two for 25 and two for 19. In the following match at The Oval he claimed the wickets of two high-class batsmen, Walter Read and William Roller, but his best effort was reserved for the opening game of the following season at Taunton. Brought on as third change, he finished off the Somerset innings with four for 9 in 33 balls. He took two for 17 in the second innings and opened the bowling in his next two matches – both against Hampshire – but picked up only four more wickets. At the Antelope Ground Southampton he scored 41, adding 73 for the eighth wicket with Francis Mackinnon (47). His career ended at Bramall Lane in 1885 where he failed to score and was not asked to bowl.

In 1883 Collins had figures of eight for 9 for Cobham against the strong Royal Engineers team but, although regularly among the wickets in club matches, many of his best efforts were with the bat. He hit three centuries for Cobham, three for Rochester including 225* against Belhus in 1888, and at least two for Gravesend. red *Lillywhite* for 1887 describes him as a ‘good bat in second-class matches. At this period in Kent’s history professionals were expected to have more than one string to their bow and usually batted low down in the order. It was consequently difficult for a professional to gain and keep his place in the side purely as a batsman and well nigh impossible once all the amateurs became available in July and August.

In the 1890s and at least until 1911 Collins combined his duties as groundsman with running a sports goods and tobacconist’s shop at 5 Windmill Street, Gravesend. In 1887 he married Myrah Jane Ferneyhough who helped run the business. There were two sons. On his death Christopher Collins’ estate was valued at £688.3s.8d.

George Collins (No. 303).

Born: 29.10.1851, Cobham. *Died.* 11.3.1905, Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent. 1874-1882.

Parents: Benjamin & Jane Collins (née Cuckney).

Like younger brother Christopher, George Collins achieved considerable success in club cricket but never managed to hold down a place in the county side. His first-class debut actually came before he had made much impact at club level although he had gained experience as professional at Durham University and with the Western Club in Manchester. Presumably drafted in as a last minute replacement in a benefit match for ‘Farmer’ Bennett, he batted No. 10 and scored one not out for WG Grace’s Eleven v Kent at Gravesend in late September 1873. He was not asked to bowl.

His Kent debut was in a drawn match at Old Trafford somewhat oddly scheduled for only two days, where he batted No. 3, scoring eight and 12. The team included only one amateur, almost unheard of in a Kent side of the time. Eight played in the return at Maidstone. In 1875 he played two county matches and for the County against the Colts but although employed at St. Lawrence he was not called on again until 1880 when he claimed his first wicket for the County, v MCC at Lord’s. He was retained for the next three games on Kent’s northern tour but batted low in the order and Lord Harris did not give him the ball even when at Huddersfield Yorkshire totalled 245.

On his next first-class appearance he unexpectedly found himself playing in the 1881 Canterbury Week for Eleven of Kent v England, an honour normally reserved for well established professionals. For various reasons Lord Harris and half a dozen others of the Oxbridge fraternity were unavailable. Batting No. 11 on a wicket described as ‘fiery and dangerous throughout,’ he was Kent’s top scorer with 36 in the second innings. He progressed three places up the order for the second match of the Week without contributing much but in a low scoring game with Derbyshire at Mote Park he scored a

valuable 25. Three more games in 1882 ended his first-class career. Only in the last, against Sussex at Gravesend, did he get a bowl.

He hit five centuries for Cobham and in 1885 scored 160* for Sevenoaks Vine v Town Malling. Playing for Rochester against East Peckham in 1883 he had match figures of 15 for 23, all clean bowled and a week earlier had taken seven for 11 for Cobham v the School of Military Engineering.

Away from cricket, he had a varied career. He began with his father as a garden labourer but by 1881 he was landlord of *The City Arms* in Northgate, Canterbury. In 1891 he was living at the *Freemason's Arms*, Paddock Wood but listed his occupation in the Census return as 'Grocer'. Ten years later, still at the same address, he was a farmer.

In 1879 he married Louisa Taylor with whom he had two sons and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £846.4s.8d.

George Christopher Collins (No. 512).

Born: 21.9.1889, Gravesend. *Died:* 23.1.1949, Rochester.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent.1911-1928. Cap 1920.

Parents: Christopher Collins & Myrah Jane Collins (née Ferneyhaugh).

An archetypal 1920s vintage journeyman county cricketer, George Collins was useful in all departments but never the type to empty bars or put undue strain on the gatemen. Coming to Kent with impeccable credentials, father Christopher, uncle George and grandfather Ben (*qv*) all having played for the County, he was tall, heavily built and physically strong with immense stamina. He could reputedly lift a pavilion chair with his teeth - an unusual talent, although examples of its practical utility do not come readily to mind.

As a batsman, he was no stylist but he had a strong defence, knew his limitations and played within them. Above all, he was adaptable, prepared to open, stiffen the middle order – usually the late middle order -or swing his bat when runs were needed quickly. He needed to be versatile. Few suffered more than Collins from Kent's 'minimum of three amateurs' policy, either pushed down the batting order or dropped altogether. He batted in every position except No.10 and, although he opened the batting in a little over a third of his appearances for Kent, in almost 44% of his innings he batted at seven or lower. His four hundreds were equally divided between No. 1 and No. 6 but, of his 33 half-centuries, 13 came at No.7, five at No. 8 and one at No. 9. He took part in century partnerships for every wicket from first to eighth, seven of them with James Seymour.

As a bowler, he took a long run, worked hard and on his best days his out-swing often brought early wickets but his pace was never more than fast medium. In the field he never stopped trying but he was not built for speed. He was however a competent wicketkeeper.

Given a trial in 1906, he played four Second Eleven matches that year, his first against Middlesex at Lord's, and was taken on the staff for 1907. Initially played primarily as a batting allrounder or batsman/wicketkeeper, not until 1908 did he register his first half-century, 58*, again against Middlesex Seconds at Lord's. In 1910 he hit 50 & 73 at The Oval and in the following year made his first-class debut when he scored 12 and 19 opening the batting against Gloucestershire at Gravesend. In Second Eleven cricket he scored another two half-centuries and for the first time made his mark with the ball – seven for 39 v Buckinghamshire at Stoke Poges.

In 1912 he progressed to eight first team appearances. On his first, he was called into the side at Northampton to open in place of 'Punter' Humphreys (injured). In their second innings Kent were 58

for seven when Collins was joined by Bill Fairservice. Together they added 122 (Collins 80, Fairservice 53) in what *Wisden* considered 'masterly style'. The next highest score was seven but, with Humphreys fit again and three amateurs in the side, Collins was not picked for the next match. Batting down the order later in the season, at Leyton he contributed a steady 59 at No. 7 and for the Second Eleven scored a maiden century at The Oval but never did enough to become a first team regular. In 1913 he played only once and at the beginning of 1914 his services 'were dispensed with'.

On leaving Kent, Collins joined the MCC staff but turned out for Kent once more, in the week before the outbreak of war for the Second Eleven v Staffordshire at Gravesend. He scored 70 against, among others, the formidable Sydney Barnes. In club cricket that year he scored 203 for Gravesend v Bexleyheath.

Collins remained on the MCC staff in 1915 then joined the Army Ordnance Corps, where he reached the rank of Lance Corporal. On demobilisation, he rejoined MCC and Kent, possibly concerned about the lack of experienced reserves, also signed him on again. At Lord's against Cambridge University he made his first-class debut for MCC, against Cambridge University.

In his first season he achieved little in half dozen games but in 1920 he became established, playing in 23 of Kent's 26 matches and gaining his county cap. In pure figures, his record was modest, 671 runs (avge.20.33) and 32 wickets (avge.27.68), but, although he opened in 18 of his 37 innings, in the latter half of the season, with the arrival of the amateurs, he was shuffled up and down the order between numbers six and nine which probably did not help his development. Every one of his four half centuries (top score 80 v Surrey at The Oval) was as an opener as were the three century partnerships he shared that year with James Seymour. His best bowling was five for 52 v Hampshire at Southampton.

Broadly the same pattern would persist throughout his career. In May 1921 he scored 93 opening the batting at Southampton but by mid-June he was back in the lower middle order where he scored five half-centuries. As some consolation, his bowling was taken more seriously and more opportunities to use the new ball brought him 55 wickets (avge.29.94). In 1922, when he scored his maiden century, 108 v Lancashire at Old Trafford, he shared another century second-wicket partnership with James Seymour but for the match immediately following, against Essex at Tonbridge, he was demoted to No. 9 and Hardinge's opening partner was the amateur Arthur Bickmore (*qv*). To complete the story, it should be added that Bickmore scored 120, his second and last century for Kent, in a total of 621 for six. Collins had a share in Kent's innings victory – four for 66 & four for 42.

1922 proved to be one of his best years with the ball, 75 wickets (avge.18.62) and featured the most memorable performance of his career. By the end of June he had taken 47 wickets but ran into a lean spell and when Nottinghamshire arrived at Dover on 16 August his haul stood at 52. Against a batting order beginning with five Test cricketers but with a Dover wind aiding his out-swing he claimed six for 18 in the first innings, ten for 65 in the second. When nine wickets had fallen, Collins missed a sitter off Freeman's bowling and was almost in tears in case anyone thought the miss deliberate. It cannot have helped that Freeman held the catch for his tenth. Two matches later, against Middlesex at Lord's, he opened the bowling with five successive wides.

Playing in every match, in 1923 Collins narrowly missed the double – 1,036 runs (avge.21.04), 90 wickets (avge.21.21). As an opener, he hit his second century, 101* in 180 minutes v Worcestershire, at Gravesend and, in contrast, during a sixth-wicket partnership of 163 with Frank Woolley (138) against Yorkshire at Tonbridge, he batted for 50 minutes without scoring while compiling 39. Batting No. 8 v Hampshire in Canterbury Week, he hit 86* in a seventh-wicket partnership of 170 with JL Bryan (236). Five times he took five wickets in an innings, including five for 46 & five for 81 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston. At the conclusion of the county season, Collins' 108 v Perthshire was the only century on Kent's five-match tour of the north of Scotland,

Collins missed only one game in 1924 but he disappointed with the bat and for the first time since 1919 his average fell below 20. With the ball, although in the words of Wisden, 'not as dependable as Wright, he had his great days'. He took only four wickets in the whole of May but ended with 68 wickets (avge.20.41). His best performances were at Tonbridge v Middlesex (five for 78 & eight for 73) and v Surrey at Rectory Field (six for 28 & two for 41).

With the bat Collins had two more good seasons, 1925, statistically his best with 881 runs (avge.33.88), one century and six 50s and 1926, by which time he was more or less anchored at six or seven – 962 runs (avge.27.48) with one century, one 90 and four other half centuries. After 1924 he tended to bowl less and by 1926, although occasionally given the new ball, he was treated pretty much as a change bowler. His last 'five fer' was in 1926, five for 49 v Gloucestershire at Bristol.

In January 1926 Collins had toured West Indies with MCC under the captaincy of Freddie Gough-Calthorpe, in a party including Lionel Tennyson, Walter Hammond, Percy Holmes, Fred Root, William Astill, Roy Kilner and 'Tiger' Smith. No Test matches were played, which was probably as well as Collins, travelling as a combined player and baggage master was the only pace bowler. In five matches he scored 41 runs (top score 28) and took one wicket.

In 1927, his benefit year, Collins started the season (at No. 8) and hit his last half-century, 52* v Northamptonshire at Chatham, but dropped out in early June after eight matches. In his final season he made four appearances and played one valuable innings – 45 at Northampton where he shared a 90 run seventh-wicket partnership with Lionel Recordon (64). On his last appearance, v Nottinghamshire at Gravesend, he bowled nine wicketless overs but was unable to bat due to injury.

His benefit raised £969. 3s.3d. but, according to the Kent CCC minutes, he had debts of £665 and, at his request, the money was paid straight to his solicitor. Collins spent a short period as coach to Karachi Cricket Club but for most of the remainder of his life he was groundsman/professional to the Officers Club, Aldershot. He umpired regularly in Army matches and in 1932 officiated in the fixture with the Indian tourists.

In 1916 while serving in the Army, he married Marguerite Louise Kemp in Gravesend. He died in St Bartholomew's Hospital Rochester but at the time he was resident in Foord's Almshouses Rochester. His estate was valued for probate at £1,127.2s.

William Thomas Constable (No. 326).

Born: 21.3.1851, Poplar, London. *Died:* 31.1.1894, Rochester.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent. 1876.

Parents: William & Louisa Constable.

Prior to his sole appearance in the county side William Constable had played in five Colts' matches between 1874 and 1876. He was judged good enough to open although in the five games his top score was only 15. In 1876 he scored 19 in a low scoring match for Players of North Kent against Gentlemen of North Kent at Gravesend. His later cricket was mainly for Rochester.

The son of a rope maker who moved from the London docks to the Medway Towns, William worked for a blacksmith in Chatham before setting himself up as a fishmonger and poulterer in Rochester High Street. In 1876 he married Mary Ann Williams.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Bransby Beauchamp Cooper (No. 255).

Born: 15.3.1844, Dacca, India, (now Dhaka, Bangladesh). *Died:* 7.8.1914, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent.1868-1869.

Tests: One for Australia.

Educated: Rugby School.

Parents: Bransby Henry Cooper & Mary Ann Cooper (née Swinhoe).

A powerful driver with a sound defensive technique, Bransby Cooper was considered one of the top batsmen of his day and a more than adequate wicketkeeper. Although the significance would have been lost on him at the time, he was also the first Kent cricketer to play Test cricket; the first Middlesex cricketer too for that matter. Established as a cricketer in England, he had emigrated to Australia in 1871 and had been a regular member of the Victoria side more or less since arrival. When the team was selected for the first ever eleven-a-side confrontation between Combined Australia and James Lillywhite's touring English team at Melbourne he was an obvious choice. The match was subsequently upgraded to be the inaugural Test match.

Much the most experienced player and familiar with most of the tourists, it was widely supposed that Cooper would be captain but the final preference was, probably for political reasons, the Australian-born New South Welshman David Gregory. Originally the team was to have consisted of six from New South Wales and five from Victoria but enforced changes due to the defection for various reasons of three of the former made it six-five in favour of Victoria. The three absentees returned for the second match and Cooper's non-selection for the Second Test match – he had scored 15 and three - was probably likewise political.

The son of an officer of the East India Company who died in 1857, Cooper was in the Rugby Eleven from 1860 to 1862. He already had grounding in cricket of top club standard with Free Foresters and Southgate when he made his first-class debut, for Middlesex v Surrey at The Oval in 1863, a benefit match for Tom Sewell. The Middlesex club had not yet been formed and the match was hastily organised when the planned fixture with the United England Eleven fell through.

An innings of 89 v Hampshire on the Cattle Market ground Islington in 1864 and half-centuries on the same ground against Sussex and Buckinghamshire brought wider notice and in 1865 selection for Gentlemen of the South v Players of the South at The Oval where he distinguished himself by stumping three of the top four batsmen from the lob bowling of Isaac Walker. A month later he played one of his best innings, 70 for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. In all, between 1865 and 1889 Cooper represented the Gentlemen against the Players seven times, four at Lord's, three at The Oval. He also appeared twice for Gentlemen of England v Oxford University.

In 1868 Cooper, who was on the Stock Exchange, moved to Tunbridge Wells. Qualification rules were virtually non-existent, especially for amateurs and, having played nine times for Middlesex, the last only ten months earlier, he made his debut for Kent v Middlesex at Gravesend in June 1868. His best performances that year were 40 against Surrey at Gravesend and 45 in the return at The Oval where in the home side's second innings he caught three and stumped one. 1869, his last season in England, proved to be his best. At Hove his innings of 83, scored out of 133, was a primary factor in Kent's eight-wicket victory. For Gentlemen of the South v Players of the South at The Oval he hit 101 (220 minutes one six, two fives, six fours) in a then world record first-wicket partnership of 283 with WGGrace (180).

He shared two other important opening partnerships with Grace that season, 105 (Cooper 40, Grace 83) for the Gentlemen v Players at The Oval and 74 in a total of 173 in his last match in England, for South v North at Sheffield (Grace 122, Cooper 23). No other batsman reached double figures in the innings.

At the end of the 1869 season Cooper sailed for the USA and in 1870 played for the St George's Club, Hudson City. In the following year he moved again and took up business in Melbourne. In February 1871 he made his initial first-class appearances for Victoria and in all he played 11 matches with a top score of 45 v New South Wales at the MCG in 1874. He also captained the side. His highest score in a match of importance was 84 (six fours) for 18 of Victoria v WG Grace's Eleven at Melbourne in 1873, when in their opening fixture the tourists were beaten by an innings. Cooper acted as scorer for Grace's team in their next fixture at Ballarat and went on to play against them five more times, twice in up-country matches, once for a combined New South Wales/Victoria Fifteen and twice more for Victoria.

Due possibly to business and/or marriage to Helen Ormsby Wilkinson, a clergyman's daughter, in 1875, Cooper played only six first-class matches after 1874, his last in 1878, the first ever on what is now the SCG. His last game of importance was in 1880 when he captained Fifteen of Victoria against the Australian tourists prior to their departure for England. He became a senior officer in the Customs Department in Melbourne. He had three daughters, one of whom died in infancy.

Charles Osborn Cooper (No. 441).

Born: 5.8.1868, Plaistow, Essex. *Died:* 23.11.1943, Southborough.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent.1894-1896.

Educated: Dulwich College.

Parents: Charles Cooper & Emily Cooper (née Field).

Charles Osborn Cooper was in the Dulwich Eleven in 1885 and 1886 and in the latter year, despite having to use a runner for most of the season due to 'ill health', hit 102 against Bedford Grammar School. Throughout his cricket career there were to be several similar interruptions due to illness.

His father, the owner of a 'Wool Warehouse', moved the family to Beckenham in the 1880s where Charles Osborn played for the local club. In 1892 he scored 123* for Beckenham v Upper Tooting and a week later appeared for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent on the Beckenham club's Foxgrove Road ground. In the following year he enhanced his reputation by scoring 104 for Beckenham against a strong MCC & Ground side and further recognition came in 1894 when he carried his bat for 108* in a total of 173 for Kent Second Eleven v Middlesex Second Eleven at Lord's. Within three days he was opening the batting for Kent v Somerset at Taunton.

Cooper played no more county cricket in 1894 but was called on for five matches in 1895, all in the early part of the season. His two top scores, both against Oxford University, were 44 in the Parks, 43 at Maidstone, but his best innings was at Tonbridge against Middlesex. Coming in at 49 for four, he remained undefeated for 29* in a total of 103. His captain Frank Marchant hit 51; the next highest was six.

In 1896 after playing against Gloucestershire at Gravesend, he embarked on the northern tour and what proved to be his final matches for the County. At Old Trafford he collected a pair, at Headingley a third successive duck and 18, at Edgbaston another duck and seven. That his brother-in-law Ernest Simpson (*q.v.*), also one of the party, hit a magnificent 94 against Lancashire may have been some consolation – or perhaps not.

Cooper continued to be successful in club cricket. In 1901 he carried his bat for 173* in a total of 373 for Beckenham against the Wanderers and in the following match hit 100 in an opening stand of 232.

As a young man he had studied painting and in later life became a leading supplier of paints and artists' materials. In 1905 he married Maud Rose Simpson, there was one son and one daughter. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £1,118.8s 10d.

Charles Coppinger (No. 269).

Born: 10.4.1851, Bexlevheath. *Died:* 1.8.1877, New Cross,
Right-handed batsman.
Kent.1870.

Parents: Edward & Mildred Mary (Eliza) Coppinger.

Youngest of three brothers who all played for Kent, Charles Coppinger came from a family with strong cricketing connections. His grandfather Edward, landlord of *The Six Bells*, Northiam, Sussex, had eight sons and on occasions the family fielded a complete eleven. Charles' father, also Edward, was landlord of *The George*, Bexley and played for the local club Bexley St George who used the pub as headquarters.

Subsequently he took over the *Castle Inn*, Eltham and lastly *The Amersham Arms* overlooking the railway at New Cross. He was an original member of the 1859 Maidstone-based Kent County Cricket Club as was his brother Octavius, presumably the youngest of the eight and landlord of *The Hare & Billet*, Blackheath. A noted local cricketer, Octavius was a somewhat unlikely choice at the age of 30 for Colts of England v MCC at Lord's. Another brother, Septimus, played eight times for Sussex between 1857 and 1861 and once in 1862 for the short-lived itinerant New All-England Eleven.

Playing as an amateur, Charles Coppinger failed in his only county match but played with more success for clubs in what would now be called Metropolitan Kent. Together with one or both of his brothers he played several times for Twenty-Two of the New Cross Albion club on their Nunhead ground against the travelling United South of England Eleven which included the likes of WG and GF Grace, James Southerton and the younger James Lillywhite. Against USEE in 1873, despite scoring only 17, he was his side's top scorer. He also played for Twenty-Two of Woolwich v USEE. He seems to have been considered a professional when in the following year he opened the batting and took a wicket for 18 Colts of Kent v Kent at Canterbury.

In 1874 he married Jane Elizabeth Hutchinson. There was one daughter who died in infancy. He was for a while landlord of *The Greyhound*, Eltham and later took over *The Duke of Edinburgh* in Malpas Road, New Cross where he died from rheumatic fever and acute meningitis leaving effects valued at 'less than £2,000'. Curiously, in the 1871 Census his occupation is given as auctioneer.

Edward Thomas Coppinger (No. 296).

Born: 25.11.1846, Bexley. *Died:* 26.2.1927, Surbiton, Surrey.
Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm under-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.
Kent.1873.

Parents: Edward & Mildred Mary (Eliza) Coppinger.

Although he had, like both his brothers a modest record as a first-class cricketer, Edward Coppinger had the rare distinction, not only of taking a 'five fer' on his county debut, but of doing so in the only first-class innings in which he bowled. In his debut match at The Oval, he was not called on in Surrey's first innings but in the second took five for 29 in 80 balls including the wickets of two of the

home side's leading batsmen, Richard Humphrey and Walter Read. As was often the case with lob bowling, all five wickets came with the aid of fielders, three caught, two stumped.

At Ashford Road, Eastbourne on his second and last appearance for the county, Sussex totalled 302 and won by an innings but Edward was not among the six bowlers used. Brother William bowled 26 overs. The match itself was a curiosity in that, originally intended as the return for the County Challenge Cup match at Lord's at the beginning of the season, it was organised by the Sussex and Eastbourne clubs and was not recognised by the Kent committee.

In 1865/1866 Edward played, presumably as a professional, for the South Essex club. At this time he also appeared for Eltham and in 1866, playing alongside brother William, scored two and 24 for Twenty-Two of Charlton v The United South of England Eleven. Two years later he stumped four, two from William's bowling, for Blackheath at Westcombe Park against the touring Australian Aborigines. With one or both of his brothers he played several more times against the USEE. In 1874 for Twenty-Two of New Cross Albion at Nunhead he was top scorer with 46.

At The Oval shortly before, against the same opponents, he had collected a pair for 22 of the Oxford Music Hall. Opened in 1861, the Oxford, which stood at the corner of Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road, had burned down (for the second time) in 1872 and had recently reopened. The game was perhaps some sort of celebration; the Coppingers' connection is unclear. He also played for Lewisham and in 1875 stumped three and caught three in a benefit match at The Oval for the veteran club cricketer Charles Absolon, not to be confused with Kent's Charles Absolom (*q.v.*). With his brothers, he also played for 22 of New Cross Albion against Yorkshire United.

Edward Coppinger had a successful business career. Although like brother Charles described as an auctioneer in the 1871 Census, (possibly a family sideline?) he was landlord of *The Clarendon* in Upper Lewisham Road, New Cross in 1874 and subsequently took over from his father at *The Amersham Arms*. Shortly afterwards he set up in business as a spirit merchant and distiller in High Street Kingston-upon-Thames where he became a councillor, JP and Mayor in 1890/1891.

In 1870 he married Emily Charlotte Hutchinson who died in 1909. There were five children, two sons, three daughters. His final home was in Bexley House, Surbiton where he lived with three resident servants. He died there, his estate valued for probate at £9,636. 19s.

William Coppinger (No. 253).

Born: 3.6.1849, Bexley. *Died:* 6.10.1877 Adelaide, South Australia.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm under-arm bowler.

Kent. 1868-1873.

Parents: Edward & Mildred Mary (Eliza) Coppinger.

William Coppinger was the first of the brothers to become a first-class cricketer. At the age of 16 he had bowled with success for Eltham and for West Kent Amateurs and later played regularly for his native Bexley. He struggled on his first appearance on a wider stage - a pair and one wicket for 22 of Charlton v the United South of England Eleven in 1866 - but although he failed as an opening batsman for Fifteen Colts v the Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend in 1868, he took four for 49 in the Gentlemen's first innings and was promptly chosen for Kent's opening game at Hove. He scored only five in two innings and failed to take a wicket but late in the season did better with 23, 19 and four wickets for Blackheath v the Australian Aborigines.

Further opportunities came in 1870 when, following 44 (top score) for Twentny-one Colts against Kent on the Paragon ground, Blackheath, he was picked for five county matches. Wicketless and only once reaching double figures, he was not a success. Nevertheless next year he was chosen for Fifteen Colts

of England at Lord's where he impressed with 22 against a strong MCC side including WG Grace, George Wootton and Alfred Shaw. His next and final appearance for Kent was in the Sussex match at Eastbourne referred to above (see Edward Thomas Coppinger) in which he claimed his only two first-class wickets.

In the early 1870s he moved to New Cross and between 1873 and 1875 appeared several times with one or both of his brothers in odds matches against the United South of England Eleven, for New Cross Albion at Nunhead as well as for North Kent at Gravesend and in the Oxford Music Hall match at The Oval. He also played in 1875 for the Players of Tonbridge v the Gentlemen of Tonbridge and for Lewisham v Sevenoaks Vine. His best performance was in the benefit for Charles Absolom at The Oval referred to above in which, playing for 'An Eighteen' against 'An Eleven', he claimed six wickets in each innings, two caught and three stumped by his brother, two caught and bowled.

In 1876 William Coppinger emigrated to Australia and in the 1876/77 season played for the South Adelaide Club. He died at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, alcohol being given as one of the contributory factors. Curiously, on his death certificate his occupation is given as 'cricketer'. There were relatively few professionals in Australia in 1877 and there is no evidence that South Adelaide, a 'working man's club' with no ground of their own, employed one. It could perhaps be inferred that he had no other occupation.

William Thomas Court (No. 245).

Born: 1842, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia,. *Died:* 31.5.1910, Waterringbury.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent.1867.

Parents: John & Rebecca Court.

William Court returned as a child from Australia with his Swalecliffe-born father who farmed originally at Monk's Farm, Wrotham, subsequently at Gould's Court, a 45-acre farm near Maidstone. By 1871 William was farming on his own account, on 113 acres at Cherry Orchard near Maidstone, and latterly at Red Hill Farm, Waterringbury.

Despite the added responsibility of bringing up his two sons following the early death of his wife Charlotte (née Lovett), Court was prominent in local cricket as a batsman and specialist long-stop. His clubs included the Mote, Bearsted, East Sutton and Boughton Malherbe. Although Court, batting No. 9, did nothing of note in his only appearance for Kent in 1867, in the same year he hit 79 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Brighton and 30 (second highest score) for Eighteen of Mote Park v the United South of England Eleven.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Frank Fairbairn Crawford MRCVS (No. 264).

Born: 17.6.1850, Hastings, Sussex. *Died:* 16.1.1900, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School & Royal Veterinary College, London.

Kent.1870-1879.

Parents: Andrew Crawford & Agnes Crawford (née Robinson).

His career figures are unimpressive but Frank Crawford's cricket was considerably restricted, initially by veterinary studies in London, subsequently by service, with the Royal Artillery Veterinary Department and later with the Army Veterinary Department, later the Army Veterinary Corps. Much of his service was overseas including at least three tours of duty in India and three in South Africa,

From a cricketing family, his father, Andrew Crawford MA, a Scottish-born classics scholar who lived to 101, reputedly played for the Gentlemen of England although where, when and against whom is unclear. His brother, the Reverend John 'Parson' Crawford (*q.v*) played for Kent and had three county cricketer sons; one, JN played for England.

Both brothers played for the Mote and Town Malling and in 1868 were among four current or future Kent cricketers (William Yardley, South Norton and two Crawfords) who appeared for 'the Sporting Press' against the touring Australian aboriginals at the Mote. Of the four, only Yardley had obvious connections with journalism.

In the following year Crawford made his first appearance for the Gentlemen of Kent and in 1870 made his debut for Kent against Surrey at Mote Park where, batting No. 10, he scored 28* in a total of 104. His highest for Kent, although only 29, was again top score when Kent were dismissed for 169 by the Gentlemen of MCC in the 1872 Canterbury Week. Later that year, in the absence of the more regular amateurs, he captained Kent against Surrey at The Oval.

Crawford entered the Royal Veterinary College in 1871 and took his degree in 1873. Later that year he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery Veterinary Department and in 1874 was posted for his first tour of duty in India. Shortly before his departure he scored 171 for the Royal Artillery against the Harlequins.

The nearest he ever came to a full English season was 1879 when, in addition to two matches for Kent, he played a dozen games for the Mote and Royal Artillery and hit 103 for Chartham v Sturry, a game in which his brother John also reached three figures. Between 1880 and 1884 he appeared in a few games for MCC, his last against Kent at Lord's when he was once again leading scorer with 38 in a total of 137. In 1880 he hit 131 for the RA against the West Kent club.

While serving in South Africa he made eleven appearances for Natal, five of them now ranked first-class and captained Pietermaritzburg against Major R.G.Warton's English touring team 1889. Crawford's final innings of note was 146* for Dublin Garrison v the Curragh.

Back England, in September 1879 he married Mary Ann Ada Robinson in Hollingbourne but she died at Dijon, France in February of the following year. In February 1882, he married Frances Maria Martland Hill in Manchester where he was stationed in Hulme Barracks. While serving in Ireland, in December 1883 his wife gave birth to their only son who, as Major Ivo Fairbairn Crawford TD, won the half-mile amateur athletic championship in 1907 and represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games the following year,

During the autumn of 1884, Crawford returned to India but in November he was posted to Bechuanaland in command of Number Six Veterinary Field Hospital. He was back in India (Simla) in 1885 but was again posted to South Africa in 1886 as Senior Veterinary Officer, Pietermaritzburg. He returned to England in 1890 but was back in India when the Second Boer War broke out in 1899. In October when the Indian contingent sailed for South Africa he was Major (Acting Lieutenant Colonel) in command of the Veterinary Department. He died of dysentery at the base hospital Pietermaritzburg after only three days' illness.

Rev John Charles Crawford (No. 283).

Born: 29.5.1849, Hastings, Sussex. *Died:* 21.2.1935, Wimbledon, London.

Right-handed and left-handed batsman, right-arm fast and left-arm slow bowler.

Kent 1872-1877.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School & University College, Oxford.

Parents: Andrew Crawford & Agnes Crawford (née Robinson).

The son of a cricket-loving father who taught Latin and Greek, John Crawford, almost universally referred to as 'Parson' (ordained 1875), was a considerable force in club cricket of which he played a great deal but did little at first-class level. It would perhaps be fair to add that only twice throughout his first-class career did his team's total exceed 150 and his personal best, was top score on an appalling Lord's wicket. A well-known and long-term member of Surrey and MCC, he was for many years almost part of the furniture in the pavilions at Lord's and The Oval.

A little under six feet (1.82 m.) tall, heavily built and genuinely ambidextrous, Crawford normally batted right-handed but habitually switched to left-handed if he decided the bowling deserved punishment. As a right-arm fast bowler no less a judge than Ned Willsher considered him the fastest he had ever seen but if conditions suited he could switch to slow left-arm spin.

Before going up to Oxford he had played for the Mote, Town Malling, the Gentlemen of Kent and, like his brother, for the Sporting Press against the Australian Aborigines. His century for the Mote against Town Malling in 1878 was only the second in the history of the club. His first-class debut came for WG Grace's Eleven against Kent at Maidstone and he subsequently played ten games for the County. He was not picked for the University but for his college hit centuries against Merton College in 1873 and New College in 1874.

In club cricket he hit centuries for Chartham, Kenley, Kensington Park, London Ramblers, the Mote, South Saxons and several for Cane Hill Asylum where he was chaplain for 36 years. He also played for MCC, Gentlemen of Surrey, Gentlemen of Sussex, Gentlemen of Tonbridge, Kensington, South Saxons, Surrey Second Eleven and Surrey Club & Ground, for whom in 1886 he hit a whirlwind 90 at the expense of the touring Parsees. While Curate of St Mary's Leicester in 1878, he made one non first-class appearance for Leicestershire.

A formidable bowler in minor cricket, for Kenley Married v Kenley Single in 1892 he took six for 0 including a hat trick. When bowling a batsman at Dunkirk, near Canterbury, in 1867 he sent a bail flying 51 yards (46.63 m.). At Mote Park in 1866 he hit a swallow in flight. The batsman played at ball and bird, now travelling as one, but missed.

A brother of Frank Fairbairn Crawford (*qv*), in 1874 he married Alice Brooks Gilbert at St James's Piccadilly. There were three sons and four daughters. All three sons JN (Surrey, England, South Australia, Wellington and Otago), RT (Leicestershire) and VFS. (Surrey and Leicestershire), played first-class cricket. On occasions a Crawford Eleven took the field including 'the Parson' his brother FF, their father, nephews and not only 'the Parson's' three sons but three of his daughters, all of whom when young excelled at the game. On his death, Crawford's estate was valued for probate at a modest £1,479. 5s 2d.

Sydney James Croft (No. 484).

Born: 14.1.1883, Gravesend. *Died:* 16.7.1965, Dartford.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent.1902.

Educated: Clarence House School, Gravesend.

Parents: James Richard Croft & Emily Croft (née Pattison).

A long term resident of Gravesend where his father had an oil and colour business, Sydney Croft was working for the Eastern Telegraph Company (subsequently merged with others to become Cable & Wireless) when in 1901 he scored 75 and 102* for Kent Club & Ground v Band of Brothers and played once for the Second Eleven.

In 1902 he played two first team matches, joining for the May northern tour and playing against Lancashire at Old Trafford, opening the batting on his first appearance, and Yorkshire at Bradford. A specialist cover point or mid-off, Croft played ten Second Eleven matches between 1901 and 1920, his best year being 1907 when he scored 113 v Surrey at The Oval and 84 v Middlesex at Town Malling.

Croft was a prolific scorer for Gravesend for whom his top score was 261. In 1901 he scored 81 for Gravesend v Kent Club & Ground and 158 against the same opponents in 1923. In 1905 he averaged over 100 in his first ten innings. He subsequently became an accountant and company secretary. He was President of Gravesend CC and the Club's patron until his death.

In 1910 Croft married Katie Wall who survived him. There were two children, one son, one daughter. On his death Sydney Croft's estate was valued at £10,392.

William Crowhurst (No. 333).

Born: 24.10.1849, Chislehurst. *Died:* 4.7.1915, St Mary Cray.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast under-arm bowler.

Kent. 1877.

Parents: George Crowhurst & Emma Crowhurst (née Dunmall).

William Crowhurst is something of a mystery. An under-arm bowler, he was described by Lord Harris as 'extremely fast and straight, mostly along the ground'. Charles Fry went further, nominating him the fastest he had ever faced. Between them these two cricketing grandees must have played against, or at least seen, almost every one of the acknowledged fast bowlers of their time from George Freeman, Kortright and the Australian Ernie Jones to Gregory and Macdonald so their opinions cannot be taken lightly.

While admittedly Fry was never one to let cold fact spoil a good story – on the occasion of the notorious 'sun in the eyes' incident at Canterbury in 1911 he did after all allege that Colin Blythe's bowling was 'some of the fastest he had ever faced' – Lord Harris was different. Whatever his faults, he was never one for snap judgements or speaking with his mind not fully in gear. Nevertheless neither gave any indication as to how such extreme pace could possibly be generated from an under-arm action, particularly if the ball was bowled along the ground.

While such methods might possibly bring results on rough village wickets, Crowhurst bowled with some success for the rather more upmarket Chislehurst, Sidcup and West Kent clubs and is said to have on occasions bowled with two long-stops. He is possibly the 'G.Crowhurst' who bowled two overs without taking a wicket for Seventeen Colts of West Kent against Kent (led by Lord Harris) at Mote Park in May 1877.

For West Kent in June that year he took five cheap wickets as Sevenoaks Vine were dismissed for 18 and a week later, apparently on the strength of this performance, he was picked (as an amateur) for Kent against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury. He took only one wicket in 28 overs but according to Lord Harris was handicapped by nervousness and having 'bowled the heel off his boot', a novel reason for non-success. One of his 'grubs' hit the distinguished Notts batsman Richard Daft hard on the foot, eliciting a protest from the victim 'This is not cricket my Lord, this is not cricket', sentiments which modern players would undoubtedly share. The heelless boot if not the nervousness would not have been difficult to cure but he was not picked for Kent again which must raise doubt, if not of his pace, then of its practical value.

Privately educated in Lambeth, until well into his 40s, Crowhurst worked as assistant to his father George, a prosperous butcher with shops in Chislehurst and Sidcup. He later ran his own shop in St Mary Cray.

In the 1893 he married Maud Elizabeth Crowhurst, a lady twenty years his junior and presumably a cousin or other relative. There were three sons. It seems Crowhurst did not lose his interest in cricket. His eldest son had 'Stoddart' among his forenames and the second son 'Ranjit. By the 1901 Census Crowhurst had set himself up as a cattle dealer.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Henry Croxford (No. 262).

Born: 14.6.1845, Hadlow. *Died:* 15.12.1892, Faversham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

1869-1877.

Parents: William Croxford & Sophia Croxford (née Wickings).

Due probably to their tendency to prefer amateurs, Kent may have failed to make the best use of a good journeyman cricketer in Henry Croxford. The son of a Hadlow boot maker, while playing intermittently for Kent, he had a number of professional engagements – Faversham, Tonbridge School (1870), Prince's (1873) and Cheltenham College and Sevenoaks Vine (1874), - as well as shorter spells at the RMC Sandhurst, Trinity College Cambridge and Merton College Oxford. He scored 27 for 16 of Southborough against the Gentlemen of Kent in 1867 and was one of Fifteen Colts of Kent who met the same opponents at Gravesend at the start of the next season.

On his debut for Kent at The Oval in the final game of the 1869 season he began promisingly, scoring 23 and dismissing the Surrey opening pair but, picked for eight matches in 1870 he bowled only 74 overs and failed with the bat. No further chances came his way until the final match of 1872, again at The Oval, when he took six for 45 in Surrey's first innings and hit 53, the highest score of the match, in Kent's second. *Wisden* considered he had demonstrated 'how unmeritedly he had been shut out of the county eleven'.

In 1873, far from being shut out, he was selected for every one of Kent's six fixtures and finished second highest wicket taker with 16 at 15.87. Once again he reserved his best for Surrey, six for 49 at The Mote. At a time when Kent's batting was weak his was the second highest aggregate (164) with a top score of 38 against Sussex at Eastbourne where he opened for the only time in his career. Earlier in the season he had given an indication of his ability with the bat at Prince's when adding 100 for the last- wicket for Prince's Club & Ground v the Household Brigade (Croxford 55, E.Barratt 56*).

Although he made a further nine appearances for the County, for the remainder of his career his bowling was little used and his only batting of note was at Hove in 1876 when, coming in at No. 10, he scored 24 and 32*.

Croxford later became the landlord, of *The Crown & Anchor* at Preston next Faversham and subsequently *The St Ann's* in South Road, Faversham where he died. In 1878 he married Eliza Martin. There were six children, four boys, two girls. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £1,190.17s.4d.

Charles Morley Cunliffe (No. 335).

Born: 2.9.1858, Leyton, Essex. *Died:* 15.10.1884, Davos Platz, Switzerland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1877-1880.

Educated: Rugby School.

Parents: Roger Shrubsole Cunliffe & Marian Adolphine Shrubsole Cunliffe (née Shrubsole).

In his diary of the 1878 Australian tour the Australian batsman Tom Horan writing of the match with Eighteen of Hastings and District twice describes Charles Cunliffe's bowling as 'medium pace with a slight break-back but not at all difficult to negotiate.' In the event Horan only 'negotiated' long enough to score six before Cunliffe had him caught. The batsman blamed a 'bumping pitch' but his team totalled 260; Cunliffe took six for 79 in 55 overs.

Either conditions were not right or Horan was not at the wicket long enough to notice, but Cunliffe was an early exponent of swing bowling at a time when the science was practiced by few and understood by fewer. Cunliffe could swing the old as well as the new ball, delivering big outswingers which sometimes went straight to slip. He was apparently little more than slow-medium in pace and swung the ball from the hand rather than late but according to Lord Harris he varied his pace as well moving the ball into the batsman off the pitch and at the time the method of attack was fairly novel. At any event in a tragically short career he had some outstanding successes.

The son of a banker, one of six children, four sons, two daughters, Cunliffe was first chosen for the Eleven at Rugby before his 16th birthday, He was in the Eleven from 1874 to 1876 and in his final year ended the season with 64 wickets.

Living with family in Tunbridge Wells, he qualified for Kent by residence. Two matches in 1877 brought only two wickets and his most notable achievement that year was an innings of 173* for Bluemantles against Grosvenor House. In 1878 he began with six for 56 v Sussex at Hove and six for 59 in the return on Tunbridge Wells Common. On his third appearance he scored 37* and 47 against Derbyshire on a dangerous wicket at Mote Park. Promoted to open in the second innings, he put on 110 for the first- wicket with Charles Absolom (70). He bowled less in the latter part of the season and played a relatively minor role in half a dozen games in 1879 apart from a remarkable match between Gentlemen of England v Gentlemen of Kent in Canterbury Week. The Gentlemen of England totalled 241 and Kent bowled 175 overs of which Cunliffe bowled only ten but emerged with figures of five for 10.

1880 proved to be Cunliffe's last season and easily his best. Beginning quietly with five wickets in his first three matches, he followed with seven for 25 at Derby, five for 80 and five for 76 at Hove, five for 13 and five for 43 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, six for 25 and five for 44 v Derbyshire at Maidstone. Including one game for Gentlemen of Kent in Canterbury Week, he finished with 63 wickets at 14.87.

Cunliffe was a man of great charm and immensely popular inside and outside the game but the scourge of Victorian life, tuberculosis, had laid its mark on him. A change of climate in Switzerland failed to provide a cure. At the end of his last Canterbury Week Lord Harris records him saying 'I shan't be here next year but I'd like to be buried in the middle there to make a good bumpy pitch for our bowlers.' As well as Bluemantles, he played for Edenbridge and the exclusive Orleans Club at Twickenham. He served on the Kent Committee from 1880 to 1883.

Edward Witherden Curteis (No. 337).

Born: 17.4.1853, Warminster, Wiltshire. *Died:* 25.2.1902, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Right-handed batsman.

Educated: Tonbridge School & RMC Sandhurst.

Kent.1877.

Parents: Frederick William Curteis & Mary Louisa Curteis (née Whitby).

The son of a JP for the County of Kent, Edward Curteis was living in Tunbridge Wells when he entered Tonbridge School where he was in the Eleven in 1868 and 1869 and captained in his final year. While at Sandhurst he played for the College and on passing out was commissioned in September 1871 as an Ensign in the 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment (South Wales Borderers) of Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana fame. Promoted Lieutenant a month later, he served in Malta (1871), Gibraltar (1874), Griqualand West (1875) and was posted to the Depot in 1877. Promoted to Captain in 1880, he retired in 1884

He was a prolific scorer in services cricket and it was presumably on the strength of his Army reputation that he played his solitary match for Kent in 1877. While serving at the Regimental Depot in Brecon, he appeared for the South Wales Cricket Club against the Australian tourists at Swansea in 1878 and later that season took part in the Club's annual tour which included matches against Surrey Club and Ground, MCC, Prince's Club and Gentlemen of Sussex. At The Oval he was top scorer in both innings with 33* and 72. He also played for Breconshire during 1879, as well as for the MCC and it was for MCC v Oxford University in The Parks that he played his second and last first-class match in 1887.

In 1884 he married Mary Louisa White at St George's Hanover Square. There was one son. He died at Mottram Hall, Macclesfield which originally belonged to his father-in-law. His estate was valued for probate at £11,721. 2s 8d.

Arthur Daffen (No. 410).

Born: 30.12.1861 East Retford, Nottinghamshire. *Died:* 9.7.1938, Victoria Park, Perth, Western Australia.

Right hand batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1890-1891. Cap 1890.

Educated: King Edward VII Grammar School, Retford.

Parents: Thomas & Elizabeth Daffen.

A prolific batsman in school and local club cricket, Arthur Daffen followed his father into the teaching profession and qualified for Kent by residence while teaching at Eliot Place School, Blackheath. Following success for the Blackheath club and for Crystal Palace he made his county debut against Middlesex at Lord's. Opening the batting he scored only six and four but passed 50 in each of his next three games. In the last, against Gloucestershire at the Spa ground Gloucester, he carried his bat for 72*, batting four hours as Kent totalled 249.

He missed the next four fixtures but returned against the Australians at Canterbury. Having top scored with 35 in the first innings, he was instrumental in a memorable victory as the visitors, needing 237, declined from 85 for five to 128 all out. Only once having bowled in a first-class match and never having previously taken a wicket, he finished with figures of 9-7-5-4.

This proved to be the summit of his cricket career. Although playing four more games in 1890 and seven in 1891, he only once passed 30, claimed only three more wickets and was lost to Kent cricket on taking up a teaching post at Merchiston School, Edinburgh.

He played 16 matches for Berkshire in 1896-97 but his top score was only 41; as a change bowler he was useful with 23 wickets at 24.73. He later emigrated to Australia. On his death, probate was granted to his widow Hannah and his effects in England were valued at £2,397. 2s 8d.

James Henry Dark (No. 62).

Born: 24.5.1795 Marylebone, London. *Died:* 17.10.1871 St John's Wood, London.

Right-handed batsman, under-arm bowler/wicketkeeper.

Kent 1827.

Parents: Benjamin & Sarah Dark (née Partington).

A single appearance for Kent was only a minor incident in the career of James Dark. Although a useful all-round cricketer who opened the batting on occasions, his outstanding talent was entrepreneurial. Born in a property in the Edgware Road, the son of a saddler, he began as a ground boy at Lord's aged ten, an association destined to last for 59 years. Although it is not entirely clear how, he prospered and in 1835 became owner of the ground by buying the lease from William Ward for £2,000. He carried out extensive improvements including roadworks, tree planting, the addition of a running track and filling in of two pools at the Nursery end as well as building himself a house overlooking the site. He kept his white pony on the ground.

Known as 'the Boss', so strong was his influence that the ground might justifiably have become known to posterity as Dark's. In 1864 he sold the lease with 29 years six months to run to MCC for £12,500. He also sold paintings to MCC including some by Francis Hayman still displayed in the museum. When he died he left almost £30,000.

As well as his solitary appearance for Kent, he played for MCC, Middlesex before a Middlesex club existed, Cambridge Town, for whom he took seven Cambridge University wickets in 1819 and for Players v Gentlemen in 1835 when he failed to score in his only innings. He also played three times for England - against a combined Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire side at Sheffield in 1828, against Kent at Bromley in 1840 and Sussex in 1842. One of his best performances was in his last first-class or 'important' match when at the age of 48 he scored 34* (his second highest score) for MCC v Hampshire at Southampton in 1843.

Dark was highly regarded as an umpire and stood in eleven first-class matches between 1829 and 1860, oddly enough only one of them at Lord's. In 1831 he married Jane Walton.

James Painter Davis (No. 70).

Born: 7.3.1790 Bethnal Green, Middlesex. *Died:* 9.10.1870 Peckham, Surrey.

Kent 1828.

Parents: James & Elizabeth Davis.

Previously landlord of *The Rising Sun*, James Davis for many years kept *The Bell Inn*, Bromley, a famous coaching inn immortalised in a way by a mention in *Pride & Prejudice*. Davis virtually managed the Bromley team but as a cricketer he seems to have been in a sort of limbo between amateur and professional. A useful batsman often opening the innings, on his only two appearances for Kent – a first-class match with MCC at Lord's in 1828 and against Town Malling at Bromley in 1835 – he played as a professional. He suffered a pair for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Sevenoaks in 1828 and was one of three professional 'given men' with Gentlemen of Kent against MCC and Gentlemen of England, both at Chislehurst in 1832. In his last first-class match however, for England v Sussex at Brighton in 1834, he was given an 'Esq.' after his name.

Similarly on his several appearances in the 1830s for the up-market West Kent Club who seldom took the field without a sprinkling of Knatchbulls, Hoares, Hart Dykes, Lubbocks and other local gentry, *Scores & Biographies* gives him amateur status whereas on his appearances for Bromley, Chislehurst and a combined Chislehurst/Bromley team during the same period he seems to have played as a professional. His best effort at this level was 49 for Chislehurst and Bromley v Town Malling at Chislehurst in 1833.

He married three times, Mary King in 1810, Catherine Kidder in 1820 and Ann Oxenham in 1843 by whom he had two sons and two daughters. Ann was with him when he spent the closing years of his life in the Licensed Victuallers' Association almshouses in Asylum Road, Camberwell.

John Jennings Davison (No. 198).

Born: 20.7.1828 Alkham. *Died:* 10.5.1871 Leigh,

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1860-1863.

Parents: John Davison & Elizabeth Davison (née Jennings).

A genuine wicketkeeper batsman who normally opened or batted No. 3, John Davison farmed throughout his life, originally on the family farm at Alkham, subsequently at Coppice Farm, Leigh. In 1851 he played at least three times for the Canterbury Club, twice against Sevenoaks Vine and once against 'Manchester' reinforced by John Wisden. In that year he also made his first appearances for Gentlemen of Kent, against Gentlemen of Sussex at St. Lawrence and Gentlemen of England at Lord's, the latter fixture now judged first-class.

Davison's name does not turn up again in important matches until 1860 when, following an appearance for the Next 16 v Kent at Town Malling, he played for 16 of Kent v England at Lord's and at St. Lawrence and in Canterbury Week for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC.

His best performance was in a Gentlemen of Kent fixture not deemed first-class, against Gentlemen of Surrey at Mote Park, when he hit 70 and 55. He opened the batting again for Fifteen of Kent v England at Lord's and for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent in 1861. His career ended with two inter-county matches in 1863 in the last of which he achieved 25*, his personal best in first-class cricket. His elder brother William, a twin, was also a competent batsman but never played a first-class match

In 1861 John Davison married Sarah Cross at Elham. There were two children. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at 'under £600'.

Charles Vinicombe Butler Davy (No. 423).

Born: 24.10.1869 Mercara, India. *Died:* 10.9.1931 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent 1892.

Educated: Cheltenham College.

Parents: Charles Vinicombe Davy & Emily Rosa Danvers Davy (née Butler).

The son of a Penzance-born wine and spirit merchant, Charles Davy seems to have been a considerable allround cricketer, 'one match wonder' status notwithstanding. In 1886, not yet 17, he hit 130 for Sevenoaks Vine v Farningham and two years later scored 58 opening the batting for Cheltenham against Marlborough as well as claiming 47 wickets (avge.12.37). He also opened the batting for a Public Schools Eleven, playing alongside FD Solbé (qv) and CJ Kortright against the Parsee touring team at Leyton.

In 1890 for Bickley Park v Bromley he took six wickets in 28 balls without conceding a run and in 1891 hit three centuries in good class cricket – 163 for Band of Brothers v Shorncliffe Camp and two for Bickley Park, 131 v Richmond and 111 v Kensington Park. By this time he was living in Chislehurst and working in London as a stockbroker's clerk.

Given his chance in two matches for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent in 1892 he made a favourable impression - six for 71 & four for 80 at Tonbridge, five for 35 & four for 35 at Beckenham, but took only one wicket in his only first-class match. Opening the batting in the first innings, he was one of only three Kent batsmen to pass 30 in the match.

Despite losing part of a leg in an accident, he continued to score runs for Bickley Park, declining the services of a runner. Fielders were said to have found his habit of striking his false leg with his bat a noisy distraction.

Arthur Percival Day (No. 497).

Born: 10.4.1885 Blackheath. *Died:* 22.1.1969 Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1905-1925. Cap 1905.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year: 1910.

Educated: Shirley House School, Blackheath & Malvern College.

Parents: Sydney Townshend Day & Evelyn Ada Day (née Godden).

The son of a wine shipper, Arthur Day was taller and more muscular than his brothers Sam (*qv*) and Sydney (*qv*) and used his height to drive balls just short of a length in the best Malvern tradition. Although he had a wide range of strokes and could score quickly on fast wickets, in contrast with most Public School/Oxbridge amateurs of the period, many of his best innings were on turning pitches.

Like elder brother Sam he gained a considerable reputation as a batsman at Malvern where he was in the Eleven in 1901 and from 1903 to 1904, in the two latter years as captain. In his final year he headed the averages with 880 runs (avge.67.69) and a top score of 201* against New College. He also scored 147 against Uppingham. While still at school he played three matches for Kent Second Eleven and also appeared in several matches for Free Foresters. In 1903/1904 he was in the Association Football Eleven and in the Raquets Pairs.

Day made his first team debut in Kent's opening fixture of the 1905 season against a strong MCC team at Lord's where in the second innings he scored 53*, one of only two Kent batsman to pass 50 in the match. He retained his place and at the end of June found a rich vein of form with 76 v Hampshire at Blackheath, 54 & 58* against Hirst, Rhodes, Haigh etc. on a slow wicket at Hull and 106 v Gloucestershire at Gloucester. Not yet 21, by the end of the season he had exceeded his 1,000 runs – 1,149 (avge.32.82) – at the time the youngest Kent cricketer to do so - and was awarded his County cap. He hit three more half- centuries and a second century against Gloucestershire, 107* at Catford.

Day was unable to keep up this form in 1906 when Kent gained their first Championship. He played a few useful innings including 82 against the West Indian tourists at Catford but in 18 visits to the wicket he was eight times dismissed for single figures and by mid-season could no longer command a place when the side was at full strength. As well as two first-class matches for MCC, he played again against the West Indian tourists, for an 'England Eleven' at Blackpool.

He played only a handful of games in 1907 but returned to form in 1908 with over 500 runs including 118 against Somerset at Taunton when he shared a 248 run seventh-wicket partnership with 'Punter' Humphreys (149) which remains a Club record. By the end of the following season, the year of Kent's second Championship, he had established himself in the front rank of Kent's batting line-up, finishing third in the national averages with 1,014 runs (avge.44.08), three centuries and five half-centuries. When compiling his then highest score, 177 v Essex at Leyton, he added 107 for the fifth wicket with Humphreys (95) and 189 for the sixth with brother Sam (79). At Northampton he struck 133 out of

199 in 120 minutes and in bad light at The Oval played a much-admired innings of 57* in the Champion County match at the end of the season. Kent had followed on and defeat was looming.

He was chosen as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year, an honour very slightly blemished by a waspish final line in the citation - 'In view of what may be in store for him one could not but wish he had specialized a little more in fielding.'

Although what was in store for him did not include Test cricket, he was approached about his availability for the 1911/12 MCC tour of Australia and played twice for the Rest v MCC touring teams, Test Trials of sorts. Between 1911 and 1914 he was chosen seven times for Gentlemen v Players, four at Lord's, three at The Oval, and hit three half-centuries with a top score-of 73.

For Kent from 1909 until 1914 he was in the Eleven whenever his business commitments allowed. In 1910 he found time for only eight matches but hit two centuries, 111* v Middlesex at Lord's and 109 v Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells when he shared another long partnership with Humpheys, 254 for the fifth wicket (Humpheys 200).

In 1911 Arthur Day married Ada Christine Evans at Blackheath. At the time his occupation is shown as a 'Bottle Agent and Merchant' but shortly afterwards he moved into the world of stockbroking and had less time for cricket.

In some respects 1911 proved to be his best season with 606 runs for Kent (avge.43.28), two centuries, 135* (two sixes and 16 fours) when captaining Kent to victory against Gloucestershire at Gravesend and 100*(one six, 15 fours) in 55 minutes against Hampshire at Southampton. This was one of only six occasions on which he captained Kent. In each case the result was a Kent victory.

1911 was also the first time he made his mark with the ball - 33 wickets at 16.38 each. Up till that year he had only ten expensive wickets to his credit and was essentially a batsman who bowled a bit. At Lord's in the first county match of the season he did not bowl until Middlesex, chasing 452, were 122 for 0. Bowling 'fastish' with a high action and swinging away from the bat, he immediately had Tarrant (72) lbw, bowled Hendren (four) and finished with eight for 49. Little used in the next two fixtures, he repeated the performance at Bramall Lane, ripping out Yorkshire's middle order and tail with figures of seven for 66. When Frank Woolley was asked to name the best Kent bowler of his time, he is reputed to have replied 'for a month in 1911, Mr Day'.

At a time when most counties still stuck to the long established practice of opening the attack with a fast and slow combination, over the next three seasons Kent regularly began with Fielder and Day whenever conditions suited. In 1914 Day only managed nine matches but his all-round record of 530 runs (avge.37.85) and 30 wickets (avge.19.33) placed him third in both batting and bowling averages. At Tonbridge he had a major share in Kent's innings victory over Yorkshire with 49, three for 37 & six for 36.

During the War, Arthur Day volunteered and was attested for service in January 1916 but he was not mobilized until the following year when he was posted to the Second Battalion (Artist Rifles) OTC at Gidea Park. Due in all probability to an attack of scarlet fever, he was diagnosed as suffering from kidney complications and classified Medical Category B1. Nevertheless he hit 49 for Artist's Rifles v a Public Schools Eleven and scored 126 and took six for 20 v Inns of Court Officer Cadet Battalion.

He was eventually commissioned in the 2/28 (Artist's Rifles) Battalion, London Regiment and for the rest of the War remained at Gidea Park, engaged on training officer cadets. In the summer of 1918 he scored 91 for his Regimental team, now known as 'The Artistics', v a Public Schools Eleven at Lord's and a week later 94 against the same opposition at The Oval. He was demobilised in October 1920 with the rank of Lieutenant.

Post-War and up to 1925 Day made occasional appearances for Kent. Although he found time for only four matches in 1921 his scores were 48 & 184* v Sussex at Tonbridge, 31 & 44 v Nottinghamshire at Catford, 101 & 3* v Surrey at The Oval, 67 & 77* v Surrey at Blackheath -555 runs (avge.111.00).

An enthusiastic club cricketer, as late as 1933 he played for Blackheath against the West Indian tourists. As well as Blackheath, MCC and the Artistics, he played for Band of Brothers, for whom he scored two centuries, Free Foresters, Old Malvernians and the Woodbrook Club in Ireland.

The Day's only son, David Arthur Sydney Day, was in the Eleven at Tonbridge 1933-1934 and played three games for Kent Second Eleven in 1935. He appeared in one first-class match, for Europeans v Indians in the Madras Presidency match at Madras in 1941. He was killed in the Arakan, Burma (now Myanmar) in 1944 while serving as a Captain in the Wiltshire Regiment.

Samuel Hulme Day (No. 462).

Born: 29.12.1878 Peckham Rye, Surrey. *Died:* 21.2.1950, Chobham, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1897-1919. Cap 1899.

Educated: Shirley House School, Blackheath, Malvern College & Queen's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Sydney Townshend Day & Evelyn Ada Day (née Godden).

Although his profession restricted his appearances, Sam Day could generally find a place in the Kent side whenever he was available, not least because of his fielding. He could field anywhere but, like many footballers, he was outstanding in the outfield. As a batsman, he was strong on the offside where his armoury included a square drive which could be a nightmare for cover point and an unusual cut off the front foot. So well did he play the cut in all its forms, it was said that, once he was set, to post a third-man was wasting a fielder. Quick on his feet, in common with his contemporary in the Kent Eleven 'Punter' Humphreys, he relished the challenge of batting against spin bowling on sticky wickets.

Like Bill Ashdown of a later generation, Day's greatest strength could be an Achilles heel. On first going in he was apt to fall to catches to wicketkeeper or slips through too early indulgence in his favourite off-side strokes.

One of the outstanding schoolboy cricketers of his time, Sam Day was in the Eleven at Malvern from 1895 to 1898, as captain in 1897 and 1898. He scored over 700 runs in every year from 1896 to 1898 and headed the averages in each of his last two seasons. In the 1896 school holidays he made his debut for Kent Second Eleven, against Middlesex Seconds at Tonbridge, and in 1897, with another year at Malvern still ahead of him, played his first Championship match for Kent, v Gloucestershire (including WG Grace) at Cheltenham. Batting No. 3, he was bowled by Jessop for eight in the first innings but in the second hit 101* in a total of 201, achieving the rare feat of scoring a century on debut while still at school.

By the time Day arrived at Cambridge in 1899, he had the experience of nine first-class matches for Kent behind him and expectations were naturally high. Initially, he failed to live up to them. Although doing well in the preliminary trial games, in the matches at Fenner's his top score was only 21. Fortunately, his captain, Gilbert Jessop, persevered and 138 against MCC in the week before the University Match and 62 & 50* against Oxford more than justified his faith. Drafted straight into the County side, without playing a long innings, he scored over 600 runs with four half-centuries.

Day played in the University Match every year from 1899 to 1902, in 1901 as captain. When in 1902 Cambridge won by five wickets he steered them to victory with 117*, the only century of the match.

He continued to play for Kent up to the outbreak of War, his appearances varying from twelve in 1899 and 1901 while he was still at university to only one in 1910. In eight seasons he averaged over 30, his best seasons, 1904 when he played eleven matches and led the Kent averages with 735 runs (avge.45.93) and 1909 when, in ten matches, he scored 471 runs (avge.39.25).

Once Day got in he generally scored quickly. In 1901 he shared a partnership of 210 in 135 minutes with 'Pinky' Burnup (Burnup 144, Day 118) and against Sussex in the 1908 Canterbury Week he struck a chanceless 114 in 150 minutes, adding 118 in 50 minutes with Jack Mason (60). He could, however graft when necessary. At Bristol in 1904 when Gloucestershire, with a 249 run lead, looked to be heading for victory, he batted five and a half hours for 152*. His last century was against Worcestershire four days after the outbreak of War. In a fourth-wicket partnership with Frank Woolley 200 runs came in 100 minutes ((Day 109, Woolley 166*).

Post-war, he played for Kent only once. Captaining Kent to victory against Hampshire at Dean Park, Bournemouth, he ended his first-class career with 68. Although unable to match his brother Arthur's 100% record as captain, he was unbeaten, won four, drawn seven. Curiously, unlike brother Arthur, he never played for Gentlemen v Players.

On coming down from University, Sam Day was for some years an Assistant Master at Westminster before becoming Headmaster of Heatherdown Preparatory School Ascot which for many years acted as 'feeder' for Eton. Among its alumni are The Duke of York, the Earl of Wessex, David Cameron and David Niven. According the latter's autobiography *The Moon's a Balloon*, Day caned him three times and eventually expelled him.

Day played club cricket for Band of Brothers, Blackheath, Free Foresters, MCC and Old Malvernians. As a footballer, he was one of the best inside forwards of his day. After representing Malvern, he won a Blue at Cambridge in 1901 and was a regular for the Corinthians and Old Malvernians. He scored twice in 1904 when the Corinthians beat the Cup-Holders Bury 10-3 to win the London Charity Shield at Queen's Club. In 1906 he played at inside-right for England in all three home internationals alongside giants of the game such as full-back Bob Crompton (Blackburn Rovers), centre-forward Alf Common (Middlesbrough), the first footballer to command a four figure transfer fee, and another cricketer/footballer Harry Makepeace (Everton & Lancashire). Noted for his powerful shooting, Day scored against Wales in Cardiff and Ireland in Belfast.

In 1927 Sam Day married Dulcie Morrison at St George's, Hanover Square. There were two sons of whom one Anthony Samuel, captained Harrow, played for Kent Young Amateurs and one first-class match for Cambridge University in 1963. On his death Sam Day's estate was valued at £30,293 6s.9d.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a gallery of famous players pp.249-250*. George Newnes. 1899.

Robert Augustus De Lasaux (No. 189).

Born: 24.11.1834 Canterbury. *Died:* 7.12.1914 Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1858.

Parents: Thomas Thorpe De Lasaux & Elizabeth de Lasaux (née Cock).

Robert De Lasaux made little impression on his first-class appearances for Kent and Gentlemen of Kent but was nevertheless a considerable figure in East Kent cricket. Although not one of the original brethren he was in the Band of Brothers team for their inaugural match against Torry Hill in 1858 when he scored 35 and took two wickets. One of the founders and first captain of the St. Lawrence club, he led them for many years and in 1866 took eight wickets in an innings for St. Lawrence v BB.

In that year he headed the St. Lawrence batting averages and as a reward was presented with a bat by the first Earl Sondes. In 1870 he appeared for Twenty of Ashford against the USEE.

His other clubs included Beverley, for whom he once bowled 24 overs for 25 runs, and Barham. He also appeared for East Kent v West Kent in 1856 and for Gentlemen of Kent in a number of non-first-class fixtures.

His father Thomas Thorpe De Lasaux was an attorney and for many years coroner for Canterbury and East Kent. Until the 1870s Robert Augsutus worked as his father's clerk but from the 1881 Census onwards he is shown variously as 'of private means' and 'living on his investments', in Herne Bay, Sydenham, Beckenham, Folkestone and latterly back in Canterbury. In addition to his cricket he was well known as an amateur runner and, more unusually, as an expert exponent of the briefly popular diabolò. In 1907 he gave an exhibition of his skill at the Crystal Palace alongside the young French diabolò champion Marcel Meunier.

In 1873 De Lasaux married Louisa Collard in Elham. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £752 16s.5d

John Deedes (No. 23).

Born: 14.6.1803 Sandling Park, *Died:* 11.1.1885 Belgravia, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1822-1828.

Educated: Winchester College & Trinity College Cambridge.

Parents: William Deedes & Sophia Deedes (née Bridges).

A member of a distinguished Kentish family and a younger brother of William Deedes (*qv*), John Deedes played for the University against the Cambridge Town Club in 1822 and in that same year was in the Kent team alongside elder brother William against MCC at Lord's. This was the match in which the Kent captain and pioneer of round-arm bowling John Willes (*qv*), on being no-balled, walked off the field, mounted his horse and rode out of Lord's. The team he had brought to London at considerable personal expense were left to their own devices but nevertheless won by an innings.

Of John Deedes' twelve first-class matches, all but three were at Lord's. He only once played for Kent on a home ground, against Sussex at the Vine in 1828. In the return at Brighton his 29* was top score in a total of 96. In 1827 he made the first of three appearances for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's with a top score of eight. He was twice picked for 'England', v Hampshire in 1828 and v Sussex in 1829 as well as for Married v Single in 1829, all at Lord's. He was cousin of another pioneer of round-arm bowling, GT Knight (*qv*).

Called to the Bar in the Inner Temple in 1826, John Deedes was Recorder of Queenborough 1834-1882 and of Canterbury, Sandwich & Deal 1845-1872. He had seven brothers and nine sisters but never seems to have married. On his death, his estate was valued at £39,652 7s 9d.

William Deedes (No. 24).

Born: 17.10.1796, Sandling Park. *Died:* 30.11.1862, Belgravia, London.

Right-handed batsman, fast under-arm bowler.

Kent 1822-1823.

Educated: Winchester and Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Parents: William Deedes & Sophia Deedes (née Bridges).

Great-grandfather of the distinguished journalist and politician WF ('Bill') Deedes, William Deedes was a figure of considerable importance in his native county. Inheriting the family home Sandling Park where in the year before his death there were 18 resident servants, he was MP for East Kent from 1845 to 1852 and from 1857 to 1862, Deputy Lieutenant, magistrate and Chairman of the East Kent Quarter Sessions. He was also Major Commandant of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles from 1838 to 1853, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant from 1853 to 1863.

Deedes was President of MCC in 1831 and like his brother John (*qv*), played most of his important cricket at Lord's. When he made his debut for Kent in the infamous MCC v Kent match at Lord's in 1822 referred to above he had already appeared twice there for Gentlemen v Players, three times for the Bullingdon Club v MCC, as well as for MCC and Old Wykehamists. In all, between 1822 and 1825 he appeared four times for Gentlemen v Players (top score 16), three times for England v the Bs (top score 14) and five times for Hampshire in the days before Hampshire existed as a formal club. In 1823 Deedes' Eleven played Lord Frederick Beauclerk's Eleven at Sevenoaks. He also played for Band of Brothers, West Kent, East Kent Mounted Rifles, the Royal Artillery Club and in 1829 for Single v Married at Lord's.

When Kent County Cricket Club was enlarged by amalgamation with the Beverley Club he was a member of the committee from its formation in 1870 until 1882 and a Vice President from 1874. His two highest innings were for the County, 30 on his debut v MCC in 1822 and 32 against the same opponents at Chislehurst in the following year. His fast under-arm bowling was useful on occasions but without full bowling analyses it is difficult to evaluate. Playing for West Kent at Chislehurst in 1823 he clean bowled four batsmen and caught two when Epsom were dismissed for 97.

In 1833 he married Emily Octavia Taylor. There were eleven children, three of whom did not survive beyond childhood. On his death his estate was valued at 'Less than £8,000'. His great-grandson, WF Deedes (*Private Eye's* 'Dear Bill') was a long-term member of Kent CCC and a social member of Band of Brothers.

David Denne (No. 35).

Born: 1799 Lydd *Died:* 3.12.1861 Lydd.

Kent 1823.

Educated: Eton College & Exeter College Oxford University.

Parents: David Denne & Kathleen Denne (née Cobb).

Relatively few cricketers have originated from Kent's marsh country but David Denne MA, who played twice against MCC in 1823, at Lord's and at Chislehurst, came from a prominent Lydd family. Although he achieved little of note as a player for Kent, he appeared for the Bullingdon Club while at Oxford in 1820 and in the previous year scored 126 for The Prince's Plain Club against Bullingdon. He also played for Gentlemen of Kent, MCC, West Kent and Sevenoaks Vine.

Despite being listed in the 1841 Census merely as 'farmer and grazier', he was a man of considerable standing locally as Deputy Lieutenant and JP for the county of Kent, Captain in the East Kent and Cinque Ports Yeomanry and 23 times elected Bailiff of the Corporation of New Romney and Lydd.

In 1826 he married Louisa Anne Cobb. There were three sons and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at 'under £3,000'.

Major General Lambert Henry Denne (No. 204).

Born: 21.1.1831 Thames Ditton, Surrey. *Died:* 13.12.1898. Barnewood, Gloucestershire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1860-1863.

Educated: RMA Woolwich.

Parents: David Denne & Louisa Ann Denne (née Cobb).

The son of David Denne (*qv*), Lambert Denne managed to combine a great deal of cricket with a distinguished Army career. He was a steady, consistent and technically correct batsman for the Royal Artillery from 1857 to 1874 and as well as his four games for Kent (all against England in odds matches,) he appeared for Gentlemen of Kent, MCC, Band of Brothers, I Zingari and West Kent. While serving in Canada he played for Canada v the USA at Harlem in 1853 and Toronto in 1854. Although never a heavy scorer, he passed 50 at least three times for RA and twice for I Zingari.

President of Kent in 1895, he was considered an excellent judge of cricket and cricketers, serving on the committee of the Beverley Club and of the amalgamated Kent CCC from its formation in 1870 until his death. Extremely active in the club's affairs, for much of this time he was a member of the management committee and was one of those involved in an imaginative but ultimately abortive attempt to stage an England v Australia match in the 1882 Canterbury Cricket Week.

Lambert Denne joined the RHA in 1848 and was promoted Lieutenant in 1849, Captain and Major in 1855, Lieutenant Colonel 1874, Colonel 1879 and retired in 1881 with the rank of Major General. He served during the Crimean War and was at the siege and capture of Sevastapol for which he was awarded the Sevastapol Medal with clasp and the Turkish Crimean medal. He was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant for Kent and JP for Dorset.

In 1861 he married Maria Elizabeth Gosling. There were two daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £14,149 3s 7d. He is buried in the Churchyard of All Saints, Lydd.

John Dicker (No. 110).

Born: 30.3.1815 Cudham. *Died:* 30.3.1895, Westerham.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1840.

Parents: William Dicker & Sophia Dicker (née Carter).

An early exponent of round-arm bowling and a specialist long- stop, John Dicker was highly regarded in local cricket. He played for Penshurst in their annual fixtures with Benenden and Town Malling as well for Tunbridge Wells, Westerham, Edenbridge, Godstone and Wrotham.

He did not bowl in any of his three first-class matches and as a batsman was No. 11 in three of his six first-class innings but he opened for Kent v England at Bromley. His third first-class match, Married v Single at Tunbridge Wells Common in 1844, was staged as a benefit for the players.

The son of a miller and known for reasons unspecified as 'India rubber Jack', John Dicker worked all his life as a carpenter, wood turner and bat maker, originally in Hever, the location of his father's mill, subsequently in Westerham and latterly, in partnership with his nephew William, in Edenbridge.

In 1842 he married another Dicker, Susannah from Fletching, Sussex.

George Caldwell Dickins (No. 143).

Born: 17.11.1821 Elmham, Norfolk. *Died:* 5.12.1903, Coldstream, Berwick, Scotland.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm lob bowler.

Kent 1849-1864.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: RevWatson William Dickins & Mary Dickins (née Knatchbull).

George Dickins played twice for Kent with an interval of 15 years between his first and last appearance. Both matches were against Yorkshire, the first at Sheffield, while he was serving in the Army, the second at Middlesbrough when he was 42, retired and living in Cornhill, Northumberland.

Dickins got no nearer the Eleven at Harrow than 12th man in 1841 but he played a great deal of club cricket, frequently opening which in his day probably indicated a strong defence. In any class of recorded match however he never seems to have exceeded his 44 for Gentlemen of Kent in 1851.

He played for I Zingari and made five appearances for Gentlemen of Kent between 1848 and 1853 but much of his cricket was in the North or while serving in Ireland. Dickins was stationed in Govan in 1849 when he played the first of his five matches for 22 of Scotland against the two main England touring Elevens, the All-England and the United All-England. He also played in odds matches against the AEE for Northumberland, for the Grange club, Edinburgh against the ÚAEE in 1855 and for Kelso, a club with which he was associated from 1856 to 1878. His other clubs included Berwick (1861-1863 and 1881), Falmouth (1863), Glendale (1863) and Northumberland (1865-1868)

While in Ireland between 1851-and 1853 he appeared for Phoenix v MCC, for Gentlemen of Dublin v Players and for 22 of Phoenix v UAEE. In all these odds games against the touring elevens his top score was 12. He opened the batting against MCC at Lord's in 1867 while on tour with the Gentlemen of Northumberland and played for the latter against the Gentlemen of Yorkshire in 1868. He is almost certainly the Major Dickins who, batting No. 11, registered 0* and 0 for Roxburghshire v Northumberland at Newcastle in 1879.

In 1842 Dickins was commissioned by purchase as an Ensign in the 98th Foot (later the North Staffordshire Regiment), and almost immediately transferred (without purchase) to the 21st Foot (Royal Scots Fusiliers). From 1842 to 1848 he served with the Regiment in the East Indies. In 1846 he was promoted (again without purchase) to Lieutenant. Back in England, he purchased his captaincy and exchanged into the 46th Foot (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry). In February 1854 he sold his commission and retired from the Army.

In – or a little before – September 1855 he joined what was variously known as ‘ The Turkish Contingent’, ‘The Anglo-Turkish Contingent’ or ‘The British Ottoman Contingent’ with the local rank of Major. This was a force of about 25,000 infantry, cavalry and artillery, commanded by Sir Robert Hussey Vivian and led by British officers recruited mainly from officers of the East India Company but including a sprinkling of officers and NCOs recently retired from the British Army.

Originally intended for service in the siege of Sevastopol, the city fell shortly after the Contingent arrived in the Crimea and they were used to garrison the city of Kerch at the tip of the Peninsula of the same name where a certain amount of skirmishing took place. The Contingent was broken up in 1858 but Dickins appears to have left before they were formally disbanded.

In August 1855, shortly before departing for the Crimea, Dickins played for I Zingari v Gentlemen of Kent in Canterbury Week. In August of the following year he was back, playing in the same fixture. When appearing for IZ he seems to have used the rank of Captain but he is shown as a Major when playing for Grange and in the 1881 Census.

In 1851 he married Frances Collingwood in Durham, the ceremony being performed by his father. He is listed in Census Returns as ‘Retired from the Army’ and there is nothing to indicate any business interests. He was declared bankrupt in 1865 and discharged some two years later but when his wife died in 1867 her estate was valued for probate at ‘Under £450’. Both his sons, Ambrose and William,

played cricket for Roxburghshire, Ambrose going on to play for Scotland against a very strong England Eleven in Edinburgh in 1878. Ambrose later emigrated to Canada.

Curiously, in the 1881 Census return and in his Regimental records his birthplace is given as Adisham, Wingham, Kent. According to the Electoral Roll, he was living in Adisham in 1852. His picture was painted, at the wicket (with no pads) in 1839 by the noted Canterbury artist T Sidney Cooper so it would seem he had some sort of Kentish connections quite early in life.

Edward Wentworth Dillon (No. 480).

Born: 15.2.1881 Penge. *Died:* 20.4.1941, Totteridge, London.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin bowler.

Kent 1900-1923. Cap 1901.

County captain 1909-1913.

Educated: Abbey School Beckenham, Rugby School & University College, Oxford.

Parents: Henry Wentworth Dillon & Sarah Margaret Dillon (née Hussey).

Ted Dillon was by a large margin the most successful captain Kent have ever had but, for inexplicable reasons, while the likes of Blythe, Hutchings, Woolley, Mason, Fielder and others from Kent's Golden Age are still remembered, to the majority of followers of the County, Dillon will probably to be little more than a name – if that. Even historians such as Bob Arrowsmith and Harry Altham as well as contemporary press reports rarely seem to afford him the sort of plaudits handed out to earlier captains like Jack Mason or 'Slug' Marsham and later skippers such as Chapman and Cowdrey.

And yet, no other Kent captain comes anywhere near his record. In his five-year term as Club captain his team finished first in 1909 and 1910, second in 1911, third in 1912 and first again in 1913. While, due to business commitments, he never managed a complete season, he won 64.4% of matches in which he led the side. Of other Kent captains, only Troughton (55.5%), Marsham (51.7%) and Cornwallis (51.3%) achieved a 50% success rate in first-class cricket.

Despite his conventional Public School/Oxbridge background, Dillon seems to have adopted a democratic approach to captaincy somewhat in advance of his time. Overcoming the handicap of a coach (Gerry Weigall (*qv*) for whom the players' attitude was at best amused tolerance, he seems to have led a united, happy side. In 1913 the *Kentish Gazette* suggested that the family feeling and mutual respect characteristic of Kent stemmed largely from his leadership. Apart from one or two misjudgements when inserting the opposition, he seems to have made few mistakes tactically and, blessed with a number of highly experienced professionals, he was always ready to consult – notably with senior professional Fred Huish and with 'Charlie' Blythe.

Belying his outwardly relaxed personality, at the crease Dillon was restless between balls, constantly patting the pitch and fiddling with his pads and gloves. On occasions this could irritate the press and spectators too, at least on away grounds. Making full use of his height, he excelled in the front of wicket strokes and gathered many runs with the left-hander's shots in the mid-wicket/fine leg arc. An opener for much of his career, in all he took part in eleven century opening partnerships, five in his early years with 'Pinky' Burnup and three each with Alec Hearne and 'Punter' Humphrey. In the latter stages of his captaincy when he batted down the order he exhibited a talent for garnering runs from the tail when the state of the game required.

Like his predecessor Jack Mason and Christopher Hurst and Harold Prest (*qv*) of a later generation, Dillon learned his cricket at the Abbey School, Beckenham. On going on to Rugby where he was coached by Tom Emmett and Alec Watson, he played once for the School in 1896 but did not play again until 1898 when, although according to *Lillywhite* 'he as yet lacks freedom and power', he held

his place throughout the season and made one appearance for Kent Second Eleven, v Sussex at Tonbridge.

In his two final years, 1899 and 1900, he captained the side and blossomed as a batsman, comfortably heading the batting averages in both seasons. In 1900 he averaged 56.36 and scored 110* in the traditional match against Marlborough at Lord's, when his side scored 190 in 120 minutes for a nine-wicket victory, the bulk of the runs flowing from his bat. *Wisden* judged him the best schools batsman of the year and Kent invited him to play for the first team, against Somerset at Taunton. This was followed closely by another invitation, from WG Grace asking him to turn out for London County against Worcestershire at the Crystal Palace, a match due to start three days before the Taunton fixture.

Aged 19 Dillon was hardly a schoolboy in the usual sense, few cricketers coming straight from school have made a more impressive start in first-class cricket. A century on debut - 108 in three hours - followed by 29* and the wickets of two of Worcestershire's best batsmen, Fred Bowley and Dick Pearson. Later in the same week he made his county debut and in the following week scored 59 & 90 (16 fours), v Hampshire at Tonbridge and 74 v Worcestershire at Canterbury. At the end of the season 429 runs at 47.66 placed him tenth in the national averages.

At University in 1901, apart from 143 against Somerset in the Parks, his highest score was 30 against Cambridge and *Wisden* took the view that his Blue that year was awarded largely on his reputation, an opinion with which Dillon himself concurred in a subsequent interview with *Cricket*. For Kent however he carried on where he left off with over 700 runs, giving him over 1,000 in all matches. Against Worcestershire at New Road he scored 99 in an opening partnership of 210 with Burnup (102) and shared another of 126 v Essex at St. Lawrence (Burnup 56, Dillon 103*). At Catford against Notts he showed his talent for squeezing runs from the late order with an eighth-wicket partnership of 104 with Fred Huish (Dillon 92, Huish 55).

In his second year at University he finished leading scorer with 550 runs (avge.39.28), another century against Somerset and scores of 85 & 59 in a losing cause at Lord's in the University Match. His leg-spinners, little used by Kent, brought him 17 wickets at 23.23 and took him to the top of the Oxford bowling averages. On his only appearance against his home county, he retired hurt when 42* with a broken nose, inflicted by a ball from Bill Bradley according to some accounts, by Colin Blythe according to others.

For Kent, he enjoyed another successful half-season and for the second year running exceeded 1,000 runs in all matches. With Burnup he shared another long opening partnership, 243 v Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells (Burnup 102, Dillon 137). In contrast, when Kent subsided for 86 against Tom Wass and John Gunn of Notts at Gravesend, Dillon carried his bat for 38*. The next highest score was 11.

After Oxford Dillon played for Kent as often as the family business, HW Dillon & Sons, shipbrokers, allowed although, apparently by prior arrangement, he seems to have found more time after taking on the captaincy in 1909. From 1903 to 1908 his appearances varied from 21 matches in 1903 down to eight in 1904 and nine in 1906. His best season was 1905 when, appearing in 16 matches, he headed the Kent averages with 1,310 runs (avge.48.51) four hundreds, one 99 and five other half-centuries. Highest of five century partnerships was 261 for the second wicket with James Seymour v Somerset at Taunton (Dillon 124, Seymour 131).

On first taking over the captaincy, Dillon continued to open the batting but later dropped down the order and by 1911 he was rarely batting above six or seven where he was often obliged to sacrifice his wicket in the quest for quick runs. This is to some extent reflected in his figures in the latter part of his career; only in one season after assuming the captaincy, did he average over 30. Nevertheless, he twice exceeded 900 runs in a season – 944 in 1913 when he appeared in 28 matches.

Six of his twelve hundreds were scored between 1909 and 1913 including perhaps his best, against Yorkshire at Dewsbury in 1910. After Blythe and Fielder had disposed of the home side for 81, he scored 138 in four hours and set up a Kent victory. Nobody else on the Kent side scored more than 35.

Valuable as were Dillon's runs, in pre-1914 days Kent were seldom short of batsman and his greatest contribution was surely his leadership. Throughout his five years in charge Kent were seldom out of contention for the Championship and in every one of those five years Kent won more matches than any other county. Had the system in use when Kent won the title in 1910 - percentage of matches won to matches played - still been in operation in 1911 Kent would have been champions for a third successive year. Under the 1910 system Kent would even have been Champions in 1912 as well but as Kent won 14 and lost five, this would hardly have been justice for Yorkshire who won 13 and lost once.

After relinquishing the captaincy, Dillon played little more first-class cricket. In 1919 he appeared in three matches, two of them for Kent, with a top score of 42 for Pelham Warner's Eleven against his old University. Then in 1923 he made an unexpected return to captain Kent at Trent Bridge. It was not a happy comeback; an innings defeat and a pair for the captain. This was the fifth of his career (two in 1913), an unusually large number for a player of his quality.

Although in 1909 *Cricket* considered Dillon a serious candidate for England v Australia, he was never chosen for the then fashionable Test Trials and only once for Gentlemen v Players - at The Oval in 1909. He toured overseas twice, with RA Bennett's team to West Indies in 1902 and with Kent under Burnup to the USA in 1903. Dillon chose to tour West Indies without consulting his College at a time when his thoughts should have been with the examiners. As a result, he was obliged to continue his studies in private halls.

His club cricket included Band of Brothers, Blackheath, MCC and Old Rugbians. In 1909 Dillon was the subject of a cartoon by *Owl* in *Vanity Fair* entitled *The Champion County*. The adjacent text includes - a touch unkindly - 'He has a way of making a pair of spectacles and has accomplished the feat twice this season'. It is the rarest of the cricketing *Vanity Fair* cricketing cartoons and much the most expensive.

Ted Dillon played Rugby for Blackheath and was capped for England at centre against Wales in 1904 & 1905 and against Ireland and Scotland in 1904.

Dillon enlisted in the Eighteenth (1st Public Schools) Battalion Royal Fusiliers in September 1914 and in October was commissioned in the Royal West Kent Regiment. He joined the 2/4th Battalion (53 Division) and served with it as a company commander, briefly in Gallipoli, the Western Desert, Egypt and Palestine. In May his company was bombed by German aircraft inflicting over 70 casualties, 40 killed. Dillon suffered splinter wounds to the chest. On recovering he served with 160 Brigade staff and was with the Brigade when it entered Jerusalem.

At the end of the year he was transferred to the General Staff Intelligence Section at GHQ in Cairo where he remained for the remainder of the war. He was appointed Staff Captain in February 1918. He returned to England in February 1919 and resigned his commission with the rank of Captain in October 1920.

In 1908 Ted Dillon married Lilian Irene Hartley at St George's, Hanover Square. There was one son and one daughter. Their son, Captain Edward Peter Wentworth Dillon was killed at Salerno, Italy in 1943 while serving with 100 Light AA Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Ted Dillon eventually became Chairman of his company. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £31,721 3s 4d.

For further reading, there is a brief biography in *Cricket 1909* p.257.

Alban Dorrington (No. 104).

Born: 24.12.1800 West Malling. *Died:* 28.11.1872 West Malling.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1836.

Parents: Thomas & Elizabeth Dorrington.

Although by common consent not in the same class as his younger brother William (*qv*), Alban Dorrington was a talented allrounder and for their home club Town Malling (West Malling) actually performed rather the better of two. In 1830 he carried his bat for 26* when his side was dismissed by Benenden for 65 and, although in a low-scoring era his top score was only 37, in Town Malling matches he achieved double figures more often than his brother.

In addition to his solitary first-class appearance for Kent, he played twice for the County against Benenden in 1835 and umpired in the Kent v Cambridgeshire match at Mote Park in 1863.

A tailor by occupation, he seems to have spent his entire life in what is now known as West Malling. His father Thomas, likewise a tailor, was a useful cricketer for Town Malling, Rochester and Meopham. In 1800 he played for 19 of Kent v England at Lord's and in home and away matches for Rochester v MCC.

In 1837 Alban Dorrington married Maria Ann Farrant. On his death his estate was valued at 'under £300'.

William Dorrington (No. 101).

Born: 29.4.1809 West Malling. *Died:* 8.11.1848 West Malling.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1836-1848.

Parents: Thomas & Elizabeth Dorrington.

A member of the 'Grand Old Kent XI' in the Pilch, Felix, Mynn era and of William Clarke's ground breaking All-England Eleven in their first ever match at Hyde Park, Sheffield, William Dorrington was involved in some of the great moments of cricket history. A tailor like his father and brother Alban (*qv*), he played for Leigh at the age of 13 and was a regular in the Town Malling team by the end of the 1820s.

Following his debut for Kent against Sussex at Town Malling in 1836, the constant demand for his services can have left little time for tailoring outside the winter months. As well as being an automatic choice for Kent, he played three times for Players v Gentlemen, five times for England and between 1846 and 1848 in 23 matches for Clarke's AEE. He was on the MCC staff from 1844 to the latter part of the 1846 season when he resigned, reputedly to give more time to his county. The timing suggests Clarke's commercial enterprise as the more likely attraction. Dorrington also appeared for Hampshire, Wrotham, Married v Single, Fast Bowlers v Slow and as given man for Suffolk, Berkshire, Islington Albion and South London.

Highly- rated as a long- stop, from around 1844 he became Kent's first choice wicketkeeper when Ned Wenman's appearances became less frequent. Similarly, he regularly kept in MCC and AEE matches when Thomas Box was unavailable.

Like Wenman over six feet (1.83 m.) tall, his early reputation as a batsman was as a hitter especially to leg but from the mid-1840s his game seems to have become more disciplined. Up to 1844 his highest in 'important' matches was 31 (in a total of 96) for Kent against Sussex at the Beverley Ground, Canterbury but in 1844 he hit 50 for MCC v Hampshire at Southampton and in the following year achieved the then rare feat of two half-centuries in a match, 65 and 50 for MCC v the North at Trent Bridge.

In Players v Gentlemen at Lord's in 1845 he was leading scorer with 30 (stumped off Alfred Mynn) in a batting line- up containing the cream of England's professional batsmen. In AEE matches against odds run- getting was seldom easy but he was leading scorer with 33 against 20 of Sheffield when the AEE were all out for 80 in their inaugural match and hit 30 in his penultimate appearance against 22 of Leamington. For Kent he was not by later standards a prolific scorer but in first-class matches he exceeded 30 four times, twice not out. He scored 50 for Kent v Benenden (not first-class) at Hempstead Park in 1836.

William Dorrinton died, apparently from the effects of a cold, at the early age of 39. The main cause was said to be playing with the AEE in the autumn on damp, cold grounds in the North but in fact his last match was against 18 of Essex at Chelmsford. His wife and three children were left unprovided for but a national subscription raised enough to set her up in a toyshop in West Malling and later as a dressmaker. He is buried in West Malling churchyard.

William Draper (No. 301).

Born: 10.1848, Penshurst. *Died:* 13.3.1919, Tonbridge.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1874-1880.

Parents: William Draper & Mary Draper (née Harris).

Kent were not over endowed with professional talent in the 1870s which makes it something of a puzzle as to why William Draper played so seldom for his county. On his first appearance, against Derbyshire at Wirksworth in 1874, he took three for 22 and three for 14, followed with four for 20 and five for 51 in the return at Tunbridge Wells Common; he finished the season with 18 wickets at 11.44.

Unusually for a relatively new professional he had been deemed good enough – and possibly sufficiently socially acceptable – to play in Canterbury Week in that year against the Gentlemen of England but in 1875 he was called up for only four matches out of a possible nine and bowled only 162 balls. Despite scoring 28 opening the batting against Sussex at Catford, he played for Kent only twice more, against Lancashire at Canterbury in 1880 when he did not bowl and in 1881 when a Kent side containing ten professionals visited Bath for their first ever match against Somerset (not first-class). Unused in the first innings, he was Kent's most successful bowler in the second with four for 38.

Employed in the winter like his father, four brothers and a sizeable chunk of the population of Penshurst by Duke & Sons, William differed in that, while his parent and siblings were all involved in the mysteries of ball manufacture, he is described in census returns and elsewhere as a bat maker.

In the cricket season, he seems never to have been short of professional employment. From 1873 to 1877 he was engaged at Prince's and subsequently at Tonbridge School, Hastings and Sevenoaks Vine. He was associated with the Tunbridge Wells club for almost 20 years and as late as 1895, when

he was 45, he was still their leading wicket taker. How much he was paid is unknown but at an 1882 AGM it was stated that 'Knight had ten shillings, Draper would have more.' His other clubs included Peshurst, Chiddingstone Causeway – virtually the Duke & Sons house team - and Southborough.

Some of his best performances were for the Vine playing alongside elder brother Harold. Full bowling figures have not survived but he claimed ten wickets in a match against Eton Ramblers at Sevenoaks in 1873, 14 against I Zingari at Montreal Park in 1874 and 17 in a 12-a-side game against the same opponents on the same ground in 1875. He took a further 11 in the return at Sevenoaks. He appeared for Eighteen of Hastings, against the United South of England in 1875 and against the Australians in 1880. Together with brothers Harold and Edward he appeared twice for Players v Gentlemen of Tonbridge District. Another brother, Charles, was also a club professional.

Although never becoming a regular umpire like brother Harold who stood in an England v Australia Test match in 1893, William officiated in 34 first-class matches between 1886 and 1896. On retiring he became a 'beer retailer' in London Road, Southborough. There were two other beer retailers in London Road as well as two fully fledged public houses and a wine and spirit merchant. In contrast, there was also a temperance hotel.

Circa 1882 he married Sarah Ann Phillips. On his death she inherited his estate valued for probate at £853 4s 5d.

Eliot Albert Cross Druce (No. 465).

Born: 20.6.1876 Weybridge, Surrey. *Died:* 24.10.1934 Brompton, Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1898-1900.

Educated: Marlborough College & Trinity College Cambridge.

Parents: Albert Druce & Ann Bolling Druce (née Buchanan Cross).

Eliot Druce came from a well- heeled family of distillers who at their Sevenoaks (later Kensington) home employed a butler, footman, coachman, cook and four maids. At school he was unable to emulate his cousins Charles, Walter and Norman Druce by finding a place in the Eleven and at Cambridge, although he played in the university team, once in 1897 and three times in 1898 (one not first-class) a Blue eluded him. His best performance was against AJ Webbe's Eleven in 1898 when he scored 31* and took three for 36. He did however win a hockey Blue in 1897/1898. His cousins Walter and Norman both won cricket Blues, the latter going on to play for England.

On his debut for Kent in 1898 Druce scored one and two and was not called on again but for the Second Eleven he scored 102 against Sussex Seconds at Hove. There were two more first-class matches for Kent in 1900 and three further second team games in 1899/1900 but most of his cricket was for MCC, Band of Brothers, Free Foresters and Trinity Wanderers. For the latter in 1900 he hit 201* v Eastbourne, adding 293 for the ninth wicket with VP Johnstone.

He played three first-class matches for Free Foresters against the universities and on his penultimate appearance, against Oxford in the Parks in 1913, he achieved his best bowling figures, four for 28. In his last, against his own university at Fenner's he scored 43, his personal best. In 1910 he played for MCC against Belgium and the Netherlands in the Brussels Exhibition Tournament.

Admitted as a solicitor in 1901, at the time of the death he was solicitor to the Duchy of Lancaster. He was also a director of the Westminster Fire Office. In 1913 he married Elizabeth Kathleen Mildred Scawen. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £80,586 9s 7d.

Major Arthur Houssemayne Du Boulay DSO (No. 472).

Born: 18.6.1880 Chatham. *Died:* 25.10.1918 Fillieres, France.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1899. Kent Cap 1899.

Educated: Cheltenham College & RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Colonel Woodforde George Houssemayne Du Boulay & Mrs Rose Du Boulay (née Hawkins).

A solid defensive batsman, capable of scoring quickly when necessary, Arthur Du Boulay's career in the Royal Engineers left little time for first-class cricket but his debut for Kent against Somerset at Bath was probably unique in that he scored 49* in each innings. He followed with 58 at Trent Bridge and in his five matches only once failed to reach double figures, ending his Kent career in Canterbury Week with 33 and 27 against the Australians. For good measure, he added the wicket of Victor Trumper. As was customary at the time in the case of amateurs who played in the Week, he was awarded his County Cap.

The son of an RE Colonel, Arthur Du Boulay was in the Eleven at Cheltenham from 1895 to 1897 and captained in his final year when he scored over 300 runs and claimed 33 wickets. In August that year he played for Kent Second Eleven against Sussex at Tonbridge.

In 1898 he entered the Royal Military Academy where he distinguished himself by sharing the annual Silver Bugle Award by winning the 100 yards, quarter mile and Marching Order races as well as heading the batting averages. In the following year, he headed both batting and bowling. More important, he received the Sword of Honour and was commissioned without taking his finals.

When duties allowed, he was a prolific run getter for Army sides. For the Royal Engineers between 1900 and 1912 he scored almost 3,000 runs including ten centuries at an average of around 40 and took 86 wickets. In 1905 he hit 204, 153 and 175 in one week. Playing for the School of Military Engineering against the Royal Navy and Royal Marines in 1907 he scored 402*. He represented the Army in the annual match against the Navy at Lord's from 1908 to 1910.

1908 saw a brief return to county cricket with three games for Gloucestershire. He was a member of I Zingari and played occasionally for MCC. His last first-class match was MCC v Notts at Lord's in 1910.

Du Boulay's distinguished Army career commenced with service in Ireland and continued in South Africa from 1902 to 1904 where he participated in the later stages of the Boer War earning the Queen's South Africa Medal with four clasps. Promoted Lieutenant, his subsequent postings included Assistant Instructor in Fieldworks and Adjutant to the First London Divisional Engineers. Shortly after the outbreak of War, Du Boulay was appointed DAA & QMG to 1st London Division and was in the same post with the rank of Captain with 33 Division when they crossed to France in 1915. Du Boulay served with the Division during the Battle of the Somme and was three times Mentioned in Despatches. He subsequently served on the Divisional staff and later with V Corps. By June 1918 he had risen to Assistant Quarter Master General, Third Army with a DSO, two further Mentions in Despatches and the rank of Major (Brevet Lieutenant Colonel).

He was still with Third Army when he died in hospital in the influenza epidemic. He received his sixth Mention in Despatches posthumously as well as the Croix de Guerre and the Belgian Order of Leopold. He is buried at Fillieres and commemorated in Leckhampton church, on the Cheltenham War Memorial and in All Saints Cheltenham. Four of his brothers saw service in the Great War; one was killed in 1916 in the Battle of the Somme.

In 1909 he married Lady Blanche Laura Hornung, cousin of EW Hornung who was brother-in-law of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and creator of Raffles the amateur cricketer/burglar. There was one son. His nephew Hubert Webb won a Blue at Oxford in 1948 and hit a memorable 145* against Cambridge

Further reading.

Phillips, Andy. *First in Last Out. The story of Sapper Cricket 1863-2016*. Institution of Royal Engineers, 2017.

John Noble Dudlow (No. 119).

Born: 28.7.1796 West Malling. *Died:* 11.8.1879 West Malling.
Kent 1841.

Parents: John & Frances Dudlow.

A lifelong resident of West Malling, John Dudlow was articled to his father, an attorney-at-law in 1812, and became Coroner for West Kent, a position he held for 'many years'. In cricketing terms his chief claim to fame lies in having agreed to play for Kent at Trent Bridge in his only match and failed to show up. Frederick Thackeray, an Old Etonian, fielded for him throughout the game and Kent won despite batting only ten. There is nothing to show he ever set foot on the ground, explained or apologised although, of course, he may well have done so.

Between 1830 and 1841 Dudlow played regularly for West Malling, at the time more commonly known as Town Malling, frequently opening the batting although in the matches listed in *Scores & Biographies* he achieved double figures only five times with a top score of 19. At a time when the position was considered vital, he was reputedly 'an elegant long-stop'.

At Maidstone in 1868 Dudlow presided as Coroner over the inquest on 18-year old Thomas Wells. Convicted of murdering the station-master at Dover Priory, the unfortunate Wells had the dubious distinction of being the first man to be executed in the relative privacy of prison following the abolition of public executions.

He married Sophia Margaret Douce who pre-deceased him. On his death his estate was valued at 'under £3,000', probate granted to his two daughters

John Duke (No. 171).

Born: 24.8.1830 Penshurst. *Died:* 7.11.1890 Penshurst.

Fast round-arm bowler.

Kent 1855.

Parents: Timothy Duke & Ann Duke (née Wells).

The eldest son of Timothy Duke (*qv*), John followed his father and grandfather (also Timothy) in becoming senior partner in probably the most famous cricket ball manufacturer in the world. The firm was established in 1762 although the family was producing cricket balls as a cottage industry considerably before that date. By the time John Duke took over they were the country's leading producer of cricket balls employing more than 80 men and boys.

For Penshurst and Sevenoaks Vine John Duke had no batting pretensions but a considerable local reputation as a fast bowler. For the Vine against I Zingari in 1849 he took nine wickets in the match, six clean bowled, and at Lord's in the following year he hit the stumps ten times in taking twelve wickets against MCC. For Penshurst v Town Malling he claimed seven in an innings in 1850, five in an innings in 1853 and 1854.

On his only appearance for Kent, two of his three first innings wickets were bowled but he had dislocated his knee while fielding in the previous season and his cricketing days were almost at an end. He bowled only five overs in the second innings.

In 1857 he married Frances Woodhams at the church of St. George the Martyr, Southwark. There were two sons and four daughters. On his death John Duke's estate was valued at £1,337.15s.

Timothy Duke (No. 36).

Christened: 29.10.1799, Penshurst. *Died:* 25.5.1858 East, Grinstead, Sussex.

Fast under-arm bowler.

Kent 1823-1828.

Parents: Timothy & Sarah Duke (*née* Jeffrey).

Following his father Timothy in the Duke & Sons cricket ball manufacturing business, Timothy junior played a major role in expanding the business, moving manufacture from workshops at the family home Redleaf in Penshurst to a purpose-built factory at Chiddingstone Causeway. He extended the product range into pads, gloves, and stumps and took in bat manufacture by joining forces with a well-known Chiddingstone bat maker Luke Eade.

As a 'very fast' under-arm bowler he took seven Sussex wickets, all clean bowled, at Hove in 1825 and in 1830 twice claimed nine in a match for Penshurst against Town Malling. Although only once reaching double figures for Kent, he frequently opened in club cricket. In 1840 he scored 38 against Town Malling at Penshurst and 25 in the return at the Old County Ground. He also played for Leigh.

Timothy Duke married Ann Wells at Swallowfield, Berkshire in 1824. There were two sons and two daughters. His estate was valued for probate at 'under £1,500'.

Lt. Colonel John Dixon Dyke (No. 30).

Born: 6.1.1803 Lullingstone. *Died:* 1.8.1885 Sittingbourne.

Kent 1822.

Parents: Sir Percival Hart Dyke, 5th Baronet, & Lady Ann Hart Dyke (*née* Jenner).

Third son of Sir Percival Hart Dyke, of Lullingstone Castle, John Dixon is dismissed in the Kent official history as 'not much of a cricketer' but, batting No. 9 on his only appearance for Kent against MCC at Chislehurst he was second highest scorer in the second innings following a first innings duck. An officer in the forces of the Honourable East India Company, he appears to have played relatively little cricket but is almost certainly the JD Dyke who top scored with 15* in a low scoring match for the Royal Artillery Club against MCC at Woolwich in 1822.

By 1841 he had retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and spent most of his life in Sittingbourne as a JP of 'independent means', with wife, formerly Millicent Minet, whom he married at Dartford in 1836, five sons, two daughters and half a dozen servants. He was brother of Sir Percyvall Hart Dyke, Sixth Baronet and the Rev Thomas Hart Dyke, cousin of Herbert Jenner (*qv*). His eldest son, Rev John Dixon Dyke BA MA, was vicar of St James's Camberwell.

On his death his estate was valued for probate at £11,989 6s 2d.

Sir Percyvall Hart Dyke, Sixth Baronet (No. 37).

Born: 9.6.1799 Chislehurst. *Died:* 12.11.1875 Lullingstone.

Right-handed batsman, fast under-arm bowler.

Kent 1823-1828.

Educated: Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Percival Hart Dyke, 5th Baronet, & Lady Ann Hart Dyke (née Jenner).

Elder brother of Lt Colonel John Dixon Dyke (qv), Percyvall Hart Dyke scored 23 opening for the Bullingdon Club against MCC at Lord's in 1819. Three years later, in August 1822, he was back at Lord's in his first 'important' match when he scored one and 20 for England v the Bs. Whether he took part in any significant cricket between these two dates is not clear but from 1822 until 1840 he played a great deal, mainly for MCC but also for Kent, Gentlemen of Kent and for the West Kent Club.

Described in the Kent history as a fine batsman and 'very fast runner between the wickets', Hart Dyke played for England at Lord's twice more, v the Bs in 1828 and v Sussex in 1833 when he had the rare misfortune to acquire an unusual 'pair', hit wicket in both innings. He was selected for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, twice in 1827 when the Gentlemen fielded 17 and once in 1833 when they fielded 16. Playing alongside his cousin Herbert Jenner, he achieved double figures three times with a top score of 19. In an era when runs did not come easily, he three times passed 20 for Kent and in minor cricket scored 68 for West Kent v East Surrey at Chislehurst in 1832 and 41 for MCC v John Bayley's Eleven at Lord's in 1828.

Prior to inheriting the Baronetcy on the death in 1846 of his father Sir Percival Hart Dyke, he lived at East Hall, Orpington with three sons, six daughters, eight servants and five farm labourers. Once installed in Lullingstone Castle as the Sixth Baronet, the number of servants increased to 28. He was a member of the Maidstone-based Kent CCC from 1859 and a vice President of the enlarged club from 1870 until his death.

His eldest son died in 1855 while serving in the Crimea as a Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade. His second son was Sir William Hart Dyke MP, Seventh Baronet, President of MCC in 1880 and of Kent in 1884. In 1835 he married Elizabeth Frances Sarah Wells. On his death his estate was valued for probate at 'under £12,000'.

Rev Thomas Hart Dyke (No. 55).

Born: 11.12.1801, Lullingstone. *Died:* 25.6.1866 Long Newton, Durham.

Kent 1827.

Educated: Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Percival Hart Dyke, 5th Baronet & Lady Ann Hart Dyke (née Jenner).

Thomas Hart Dyke opened the batting with moderate results on his solitary appearance for Kent and played twice that year for Gentlemen of Kent v Players at Sevenoaks Vine. In the second match his 20 was second highest score in the second innings. His opening partner, elder brother Percyvall, failed to score in either innings.

Entering Holy Orders, he was rector of Lullingstone from 1826 to 1832 and of Long Newton, County Durham from 1832 until his death. He kept up his cricket on moving North, playing for Stockton until the mid-1850s. Although generally batting low in the order he still opened on occasions.

In 1833 he married Elizabeth Fairfax at Newton Kyme, Yorkshire. His estate was valued for probate at 'under £50,000'.

Joseph William Easby (No. 440).

Born: 12.8.1867, Appleton-upon-Wiske, Yorkshire. *Died:* 7.2.1915, Dover.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.
Kent 1894-1899. County cap 1895.
Parent: Frances (Fanny) Easby.

Born to a linen weaver, at three Joe Easby was living with his mother and uncle at Field House, a 60 acre farm at Yarm, North Yorkshire in 1871. By 1881 his mother was working as a farm labourer at Great Smeaton and within a further three years young Joe had enlisted in the 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

With little or no cricket background, he was fortunate to be stationed at Gosport where the facilities for cricket were excellent and his company commander was Captain (later Lt Col) LAH Hamilton (*qv*). In the magazine *Cricket* in 1895 (p.321) he pays tribute to Hamilton's role in his development and refers to their sharing several long partnerships. In 1900 Easby scored 100 for United Services v the Officers on the Gosport ground. While his battalion was stationed at St Peter Port, Guernsey in 1891/1892 he played for both Guernsey and Jersey as well as for the Garrison team. Opening with Captain Hamilton for the latter in 1892 he hit 115 v Hampshire Rovers.

In 1892 he was persuaded – by whom is unclear – to leave the Army and qualify for Kent. While qualifying he played for St. Lawrence, the county contributing 30 shillings per week towards his wages. Starting with 172* v Chatham House, he followed with 202* (retired) v Holborn. For Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Beckenham he was top scorer with 36 in the second innings.

The high scoring for St. Lawrence continued in 1893, 138 v Canterbury Pilgrims, 225 v South Hampstead and in the following year came a last minute call up to the first team at Tonbridge. After a three-hour rail journey from Dover where he was playing a club match, he arrived just in time for a first ball duck and failed to score again in the second innings.

In four matches in 1894 his top score was only 15 and, although for the Second Eleven he hit 119* against Middlesex Seconds at Lord's, the sporting press voiced doubts about his ability. Given more opportunities in 1895, he responded with what proved to be his best season – 805 runs (ave.22.36) – enough to earn him his county cap. As well as his top score of 73 v Middlesex at Tonbridge, when his late-cutting and leg-side deflections drew favourable press comment, he hit two other half-centuries and six 40s. In a season in which Kent called on nine wicketkeepers, he kept at Blackheath against Somerset, stumping one batsman but, on what was admittedly a spinner's wicket, there were 22 byes.

He never again reached this level as a batsman. At this stage in Kent's history a professional who was primarily there for his batting would always be hard pressed to retain his place when amateurs were available. This proved to be the case with Easby. For the remainder of his career he never played more than 12 matches in a season, most of them on soft wickets in May and June. Of his 37 matches between 1896 and 1899 only six were in July and four in August. Against the Philadelphians at Maidstone in 1897 he equalled his top score of 73 and in 1898 hit three half-centuries in four games but, never overcoming a tendency to get himself out when settled, he failed to produce the weight of runs necessary to keep out the 'fancy caps'. As a bowler he was not much used but proved a useful partnership breaker.

Against Sussex Seconds at Hove in 1897 he hit 131 together with bowling figures of six for 50 and three for 33 and for the rest of his time with Kent he remained a prolific scorer in club cricket, but, with talent coming through the newly established Nursery, it was an uphill struggle and Kent dispensed with his services in 1899.

In 1897 he had been one of the first professionals to receive winter pay - £1 per week – which he supplemented by working as an attendant at what was then known as Kent County Lunatic Asylum, Chartham. He subsequently became landlord of *The Mason's Arms* in Dover High Street.

He married twice. In 1901 he was living in Dover with Minnie, by whom he had two daughters. She was born in Guernsey and it is likely that he met her while serving there in the Army. In 1911 he is still at *The Mason's Arms* but his wife is Mary, born in Middlesbrough. On his death his effects were valued at £329 17s 6d.

William Edwards (No. 389).

Born: 27.6.1859, Bloomsbury, London. *Died:* 21.8.1948, St Pancras, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1884.

Educated: Hurstpierpoint College.

Parents: Francis Edwards & Kezia Edwards (née Lewis).

The son of an architect and surveyor, William Edwards was a solicitor by profession and a talented allrounder in club cricket who, with more opportunities, might have succeeded at higher level. At least that is until 1885 when he acquired a broken leg playing football. Afterwards he was never quite the same player. In his debut innings against Lancashire at Mote Park he was run out for 25 when going well and when given an extended bowling spell on his second appearance at The Oval he dismissed three class batsmen – William Roller, Kingsmill Key and George Lohmann - for figures of 17-9-16-3.

Edwards was in his school eleven in 1875 and from 1883 to 1892 captained the Granville (Lee) club, one of the strongest in South London. For Granville in 1884 he scored over 800 runs and took 70 wickets. Against Croydon on the Granville ground at Lee he hit 101 and claimed six for 4 in seven overs. For AR Layman's Eleven against St John's College he took nine for 3. The other batsman was run out.

Alfred Elcome (No. 212).

Born: 1833, Ash-Next-Ridley. *Died:* 25.3.1889, Ash-Next-Ridley.

Kent 1862.

Parents: George Elcome & Sarah Elcome (née Round).

Probably on the strength of his reputation as an allround cricketer with Stansted, Alfred Elcome played for the Next Sixteen v Kent at Town Malling in 1860 and two years later his 20 was top score in the first innings for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at The Oval. In the following week he opened the batting in the first innings against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane, Sheffield when, although he scored a mere eight, only George Baker (nine not out) scored more. In the second innings he was relegated to No. 9.

Although never given another chance he remained on the fringe, appearing as a rather mature member of the Colts North of the Medway against Colts South of the Medway at Town Malling in 1864. Elcome played for a variety of other clubs in the area including Ash, Meopham, Strood and Rochester United. In 1852 he hit 76 out of 118 for Strood Angel v the Isle of Sheppey.

On leaving school Elcome assisted his father, schoolmaster and parish clerk at Ash-next-Ridley. He subsequently took up bricklaying and by the 1881 census was combining the trade with that of landlord of *The Anchor & Hope*, Stansted. In 1858 he married Charlotte Sarah Goodwin. There were two sons and one daughter who died aged ten.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George Frederick Elliott (No. 304).

Born: 1.5.1850, Farnham, Surrey. *Died:* 23.4.1913, Farnham, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1874.

Parents: George Elliott & Ellen Elliott (née Attfield).

A blacksmith, engine fitter and turner by trade, George Elliott was working at Woolwich Arsenal when he played his two matches for Kent – both against Lancashire in 1874. He had already played for Colts of Surrey in 1871 and 1872 and in the year following his appearances in Kentish colours, he played the first of 44 first-class matches for the county of his birth. Although by reputation an enterprising batsman, possibly his best known innings was for Surrey at Trent Bridge in 1876 when, in scoring 16, he batted 55 minutes for two runs and took 85 minutes over the last four.

In September 1874 Elliott scored 20 for 22 of New Cross Albion v the USEE at Nunhead and between 1876 and 1879 played at least eleven times for the United South – three first-class, the last in 1880 - as well as at least once for the short-lived London United. He may have played more often but not all the scores of touring eleven matches in the late 1870s have survived. Probably his best performance in 'odds' fixtures was at Nunhead for Twenty-Two of New Cross Albion v Yorkshire United in 1875 when he scored 27 in a total of 51; the next highest was six. He also played for Reigate Priory.

George Elliott's father, George senior, was a noted local cricketer in Farnham, who in 1849 appeared for Players of Surrey v Gentlemen of Surrey at The Oval. In 1871 George junior was working as a blacksmith for his father, an engineer, at 44 Downing Street, Farnham. By 1911 according to Kelly's Directory, George junior was in business for himself as a 'mechanical engineer' at 48 West Street while still running the Downing Street blacksmith's. He was also a pillar of the local (volunteer) fire brigade. There is a photograph, apparently taken late in life, of him magnificently moustachioed and in full fire brigade regalia.

In 1885 he married in Farnham a widow, Georgina (or Georgiana) Underwood who died in the following year. On the marriage certificate he appears as a widower but no earlier marriage has been positively identified. On his death his estate was valued at £4,819 2s 10d.

John Evans (No. 25).

Kent 1822-1823.

Very little is known of this player who is variously said to have originated from Bromley, Chislehurst and Blackheath. Reputedly a 'stiff-armed bat', all his four games for Kent were against MCC, two at Lord's and two at Chislehurst. In his last, at Chislehurst, he scored 90* in the second innings. In the same innings James Jordan scored the first recorded century for Kent. His name appears playing in the Blackheath area until the late 1840s.

Rev John Frederick Fagge (No. 88).

Born: 5.10.1814, Chartham. *Died:* 30.3.1884, Chartham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1834-1851.

Educated: University College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir John Fagge & Lady Ann Fagge (née Newman).

The third son of the, Sixth Baronet, John Frederick Fagge was born at the family home Mystole, near Chartham. Belying an unimpressive county record for Kent, he was a highly-regarded allround

cricketer who frequently opened the batting, on at least two occasions with his brother-in-law W de Chair Baker (*qv*)

In 1833 while still at university he was chosen for an admittedly weak England team against Sussex at Lord's where he had the misfortune to suffer a pair and in 1844 he appeared, with little more success, for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. In Canterbury Week two years later he opened the batting in a hastily arranged Gentlemen v Players match when the scheduled Kent v England game finished early.

Fagge took Holy orders and was curate of Aston Cantlow in Warwickshire from 1836 to 1848, Vicar from 1849 to 1876 but, ecclesiastical duties notwithstanding, he managed to play a great deal of cricket well outside his parish, often under the name 'J.Fredericks'. Between 1833 and 1853, as well as his appearances for Kent and 23 first-class matches for Gentlemen of Kent, he appeared for Beverley, East Kent, MCC, Swaffham, Updown and eight times for Norfolk as well as three times for his university against MCC. In 1839 he scored 77 in a total of 159 for Beverley v Ickham. Between 1842 and 1852 he took the field in every Canterbury Week but one (1849).

In the latter part of his career he achieved considerable success as a bowler. When achieving his top score of 55 for Gentlemen of Kent v Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1848 he also took seven wickets, Alfred Mynn claiming the remaining twelve. This was one of three occasions on which he shared all the wickets with Mynn (run outs excluded), including the famous Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England match on the Beverley ground in 1843 when the pair bowled unchanged throughout - Mynn 15 for 73, Fagge four for 105.

For Gentlemen of Kent he three times took five in an innings as well as twelve in a match for MCC v Cambridge University in 1843. He also claimed five in an innings for Norfolk, East Kent, Gentlemen of East Kent and twice for Swaffham. Many batsmen had trouble with his slower ball. Particularly susceptible was the Hon Robert Grimston. Returning to the pavilion on one occasion, the exasperated batsman exclaimed 'I wish that Fred Fagge was dead', a cry from the heart subsequently moderated to 'I don't wish him dead but I wish they would make him a bishop so we would see him no more'.

Although hardly prolific as a batsman, the same could not be said of him in domestic life. Twice married, he fathered four sons and six daughters by Rose Emily Ward Baker, whom he married at Blean in 1844 and four sons and five daughters by Jessie Clark whom he married at Leamington Priors, Warwickshire in 1861. Other than his eldest son who died aged six, all his children survived well beyond childhood. On his death his estate was valued at £5,005 4s 8d.

William John Fairservice (No. 487).

Born: 16.5.1881, Nunhead, Surrey. *Died:* 26.6.1971, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace off-spin bowler.

Kent 1902-1921. Cap 1903.

Parents: William & Lucia Fairservice.

Bill Fairservice had a distinguished career with Kent but remains one of the lesser-known or written-about members of the early 20th century Championship-winning teams. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that his talents might have received wider recognition had he played for a county less well-endowed with spin bowling. When he came into the side Colin Blythe was well established and Alec Hearne was senior off-spinner. Frank Woolley arrived as Hearne departed and there followed Douglas Carr and Henry Preston, the latter a bowler broadly similar in method to Fairservice. And there were two more spinners, primarily batsmen, in 'Punter' Humphreys and 'Wally' Hardinge –left-arm bowlers admittedly – but either or both might well have been regular bowlers with a weaker county.

Although on flat pitches he frequently opened the bowling or came on as first change, on the many spin-friendly pitches of the period, Blythe, Woolley and later Carr – even on occasions Humphreys – were generally given preference and with this surfeit of spin, when the best of the amateurs wanted to play, Fairservice was usually the first to stand down, especially if allrounders such as Jack Mason or Arthur Day were involved. Most of the ‘Gentlemen’ put their names down for Canterbury Week and Fairservice missed seven of the twelve Canterbury festivals between 1903 and 1914. In 1906, although at that stage he had taken 45 wickets including 11 for 80 at Leicester, he did not play first team cricket at all after Maidstone in July. Like several Kent professionals he played more matches away than on Kent grounds – 157 to 144.

Fairservice is usually described as a ‘medium-pace off-spinner’ but almost nothing has been written about his methods and there is no way of determining whether he relied mainly on the conventional finger-spun off-break, bowled off-cutters or a mixture of both. It seems likely that he offered more than off-spin. He took the new ball in 40% of the innings in which he bowled and a little over 44% of his wickets were taken in innings in which he did so. In another 40% he was first change. While when Fairservice came into the game it was the norm to open with a pace/spin combination, his career spanned the years when the art of swinging the ball first became widely known and practised and it seems probable – at least post-war – that he began to swing the new ball.

Among his haul of wickets were 57 opening batsmen dismissed for single figures, including Test cricketers Jack Hobbs (twice), future Australian skipper Herbie Collins (twice), Frederick Fane, Percy Holmes, Stanley Jackson, Vallance Jupp, Wilfred Rhodes, CAG (Jack) Russell, and the South African Louis Tancred.

His batting statistics are unremarkable but Fairservice could be a very useful late-order batsman with a good range of strokes on the off-side. In addition to his nine half-centuries, he played 72 innings of between 20 and 49, 21 of them not out. He took part in five late-order century partnerships plus another five of between 90 and 98. On the other hand, there were 53 dismissals without scoring, including four pairs.

The son of a fishing tackle and toy maker, Bill Fairservice was living in Brockley and apparently working with his father when he first came to Tonbridge for a trial in 1899. A further trial was deemed necessary and he did not make his Second Eleven debut until 1901 by which time he was living with his parents who had by then moved to Tonbridge. On debut he took four for 60 against Sussex Seconds at Hove and six for 29 & eight for 52 in the return at Tunbridge Wells. Presumably to fill a last minute vacancy, in 1901 he played for Band of Brothers against Bickley Park.

He joined the staff officially at the beginning of 1902 and made his first-class debut in May against MCC at Lord’s where his three for 32 & two for 30 included the wickets of two Test cricketers, John King and Albert Trott. A second appearance, against Notts at Gravesend, was spoiled by rain and he did not bowl.

Chosen for Kent’s second game in 1903, again v MCC at Lord’s, Fairservice again did well with four for 40 & three for 56 and attracted the notice of the sporting press by bowling WG twice (for 11 and 31). He cemented his place with five for 64 & two for 32 on his second appearance, against Essex at Leyton, and retained it until the influx of amateurs in August. In all he missed six matches but was back for the last three. With the bat he did little apart from the Middlesex match at Tunbridge Wells. Coming in with the score 92 for seven, he top scored with 40, last out with the total 173. Considering 1903 was one of the wettest seasons on record, 37 wickets (avge.23.78) was disappointing and in *Wisden*’s judgment ‘away from Fielder, Blythe and Hearne, Kent were badly off for bowlers’.

Captain ‘Slug’ Marsham and the Kent committee presumably did not quite agree and although his 49 wickets (avge.27.55) in 1904 were expensive by contemporary standards, Fairservice was ever present

playing 23 matches. Once again he was at his best against Essex, five for 61 & four for 49 at Leyton, and three for 65 & three for 21 in Canterbury Week, but after taking four for 39 against Surrey in the second match of the Week there was a barren period of only two wickets in the final seven matches of the season. With 454 runs (avge.18.16) he was useful in the late order. As well as three scores over 30, at Trent Bridge he scored a maiden half century, sharing a 106 run ninth-wicket partnership with Blythe (Fairservice 50, Blythe 82*).

Not until 1919 and again in 1920 when he appeared in all 24 matches, would Fairservice play in every match but, by then amateurs were becoming thin on the ground and Blythe and Fielder were gone. Up to the outbreak of war, his appearances ranged from 23 in 1905 and 1909 to only 16 in 1906. His best years in this period were 1908 when he claimed 86 wickets (avge.17.73) and 1907, 76 (avge.17.85).

Arguably, his best all-round performance was at Bristol in 1908. Opening the bowling in both innings, he took seven for 59 & six for 66, bowling unchanged with Blythe (three for 62) in the second innings. In a low scoring game, he top scored with 55 and shared a vital 56-run last-wicket partnership with Blythe (27*). In 1913, when Lancashire were beaten by ten wickets at Old Trafford, although only second change, he out-bowled Blythe, Fielder and Woolley with figures of five for 58 & five for 44. In 1906 at Leicester, with Blythe injured and Woolley relatively unknown and untried, he helped set Kent on the road to the Championship with five for 38 & six for 42. He was, nevertheless, left out of the side for the last seven matches.

In 1914 Fairservice approached the committee with a request that his wages should be increased to 50 shillings in line with other senior capped players. The request was turned down on the grounds that the highest fee was paid only to players who have been selected for Test matches, Test Trials or Gentlemen v Players.

Unlike most Kent players, both amateur and professional, Fairservice did not enlist immediately on the outbreak of war but in 1915 when the Committee wrote to ask what he was doing for the war effort he had already joined the Kent Fortress Engineers. His service record is among the many that did not survive the attentions of the Luftwaffe in the Second World War but as late as 1916 he was playing for the Kent Fortress Engineers cricket team. In August that year he scored 64 against a Public Schools team at The Oval. Little is known about his subsequent movements but he was promoted Lance Corporal and by May 1918 was serving with the Military Police.

Fairservice produced some of his finest performances in the immediate post-war years, by which time he had become one of the mainstays of the Kent attack. Four times he bowled unchanged through an innings with Woolley, notably against Yorkshire at Headingley in 1919 (Fairservice six for 35, Woolley four for 28) and when Surrey were beaten by an innings at Blackheath in 1920. Here the Fairservice / Woolley combination bowled all but one over (Fairservice six for 22 & four for 36, Woolley four for 31 & four for 29).

In 1920, at the age of 39, Fairservice had, statistically at least, his best season – 113 wickets at an economical 17.46, twice ten in a match, four times five in an innings. In addition to the Surrey match referred to above he took three for 73 & seven for 44 at Leicester, four for 31 & five for 31 v Worcestershire at Tonbridge and four for 30 & four for 64 v Northants at Maidstone.

Fairservice was less effective as a batsman after the war and there were only two half-centuries. In 1920 he only three times exceeded 30 but at Trent Bridge he put on 124 for the ninth wicket (JL Bryan 86*, Fairservice 59). This was the highest of his late order partnerships. In 1921, his benefit year, he took five for 56 against Sussex at Tonbridge, five for 75 against Notts at Catford and finished with 52 wickets but at 32.76 they were expensive and at the end of the season he left Kent with his £1,201 benefit money and joined Northumberland where he acted as player/coach. In 1922 he asked the Kent

committee for, and was granted, £950 of his benefit money to pay off the mortgage on his house in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Qualified for Minor Counties Championship matches in 1924 he began with five for 28 in his first match against Durham at Chester-Le-Street and concluded with four for 20 in his last match against Lancashire Seconds at Dalton-in-Furness in 1926. After Northumberland, he coached at Tonbridge, Lancing and Malvern. In 1932 he umpired in 22 first-class matches and between 1929 and 1952 in 13 Minor Counties fixtures.

From 1946 to 1949 he was coach/groundsman at Sevenoaks Vine and from 1959 to 1966 served as scorer to Kent Second Eleven. For a while during this period, he was landlord of *The White Horse* at Bridge where another noted Kent cricketer, James Aylward, had been landlord some 150 years earlier.

While living in Tonbridge he played football for, and ultimately captained the local club. In 1904 he married Annie Coad in Tonbridge. There were three sons of whom the youngest, Colin (qv) played for Kent. When Colin became sports master at King's School Canterbury his father assisted him by bowling in the nets until well into his eighties. He was author of an instructional book, *Hints on Bowling* (Free Press, 1922)

Nicholas Felix (real name Wanostrocht) (No. 89).

Born: 5.10.1804, Camberwell, Surrey. *Died:* 3.9.1876, Wimborne Minster, Dorset.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm under-arm bowler.

Kent 1834-1852

Parents: Vincent Wanostrocht & Mary Bridget Wanostrocht (née Giblin).

For versatility, few cricketers can match Nicholas Wanostrocht – more familiarly known as Felix. He was not only the best left-handed batsman of his era and a prominent member of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven'. His biographer Gerald Brodribb and the DNB list among his other accomplishments schoolmaster, French scholar, lively writer and speaker, amateur painter and musician, composer, inventor, ventriloquist and 'burlesque dancer'.

He was one of the original members of the Old Stagers and in Canterbury Week he was musical director, conducted the orchestra, acted, sang and danced (not one would suppose quite all at the same time.). Notably talented on both violin and flute, according to his friend and team mate Fuller Pilch, he could 'make music on anything from a church organ to a pair of fire tongs'.

As a painter in both water colours and oils, he was good enough to paint professionally in later life and his work is considered highly collectable. Although his book *Felix on the Bat* is long outdated as an instructional work, it survives as one of the game's classics and is still worth reading for pleasure. He is almost certainly the author of *The Cricket Bat and How to Use it*, first published in 1861 and he contributed a 10,000 word article entitled *Introductory Precepts for Young Cricketers* to the 1861 edition of *Lillywhite's Guide*. He also wrote a monograph on 'How to Play (William) Clarke, at least one cricket song and among his unpublished works are at least two on art. A collection of his sketches made during his travels with the All-England were recently re-published in book form.

Felix the inventor designed the Catapulta bowling machine, a derivative of the Roman siege engine, and some of the early pads, batting gloves and even caps as, not before time some might think, cricketers looked around for alternatives to the top hat. According to Pelham Warner, Felix was the first cricketer to wear a cap, a bold assertion that is difficult to prove and equally difficult to refute. He excelled at fives and at billiards but above all he was known and valued for his personality, his wit and sheer gift for life.

Felix was a lightly built five foot seven (170 cm) quick footed batsman, particularly strong on the offside, Although ready to move down the wicket to spinners, to the predominantly fast round-arm bowling of the age his glory was the cut, square or late and particularly a square cut off the front foot with the power coming from a high back lift and the shoulder rather than purely from the wrist. On the leg-side he excelled in the then fashionable leg-hit off the front foot.

According to his contemporaries, his defence was strong but he could be impetuous in his shot selection and, although quick and active in the field, particularly at point, he was unreliable between the wickets where he had the reputation of being an erratic caller and, on occasions, uncharacteristically sluggish. As a bowler he was a useful change but rarely used in 'important matches. Curiously, in 1840 he played at Lord's for Slow Bowlers v Fast and in 1842 for Fast Bowlers v Slow.

From a family of Flemish/Franco-Belgian origin, Felix's father was Headmaster of Alfred House Academy in Peckham Road, Camberwell, an establishment for the sons of gentlemen founded in 1795 by his great uncle, Nicolas (without the 'h'), a noted educationalist, linguist and grammarian. The building, an imposing structure, still exists although no longer a school. Among its alumni were Robert Browning's father (also Robert), the noted civil engineer George Parker Bidder and the poet Thomas Hood who made Alfred House the subject of some mildly acerbic verses.

Nicholas was presumably educated at Alfred House, at least there seems to be no record of his being educated elsewhere, but in January 1824 Vincent Wanostrocht died and his widow Mary followed less than two months later. This left Nicholas, at 19 not much older than some of the pupils, responsible for not only the school but four sisters, Mary (18), Charlotte (17), Anne (16) and Amelia (13) plus brother Vincent (11). In the following year he added to his responsibilities by marrying Elizabeth Heale at St Giles's Church, Camberwell.

Precisely when cricket entered Nicholas Wanostrocht's life is unclear. He seems to have played his early cricket on Harry Hampton's Camberwell ground which was located where Albany Street and New Church Road join Camberwell Road, not half a mile from Alfred House. Whether he was coached by Hampton is uncertain but his early cricket was for local clubs. Of matches listed in *Scores & Biographies*, his first was at Lord's in August 1828 when he took five wickets for Camberwell v Uxbridge. In October of the same year he scored four and 0 for Camberwell Star v MCC on Hampton's ground and 0 again in the return at Lord's.

Of the half dozen or so clubs using Hampton's (later Hall's, still later Staton's) ground, much the most important was East Surrey and it was for East Surrey that he first attracted attention as a batsman. In early June 1830 he scored 13 and five and took seven wickets for East Surrey v MCC at Lord's. Ten days later, in the return on Hampton's ground, he scored 93* and although MCC were a man short and were, according to *Scores & Biographies*, 'a very bad side, not one of the best gentlemen cricketers of the club playing', he had clearly made his mark. In another four days he made his debut in an 'important' or first-class match when, although not a member, he appeared for MCC (with Marsden, Lillywhite & Saunders) v Suffolk (with Searle, Broadbridge & Beagley) at Lord's. His own contribution was modest, four & one, but he witnessed an innings of 70* from his future team mate and friend, Fuller Pilch.

It is around this period that Nicholas Wanostrocht began playing under the name Felix. The reason usually given is that cricket was still looked upon by many as a not quite respectable pastime and he wished to avoid offending the susceptibilities of parents of pupils or of prospective pupils. The subterfuge must surely have been of limited utility as his fame spread but a simpler explanation, that many English people had difficulty in pronouncing the name Wanostrocht, seems almost equally open to question.

He scored a modest 0 and one for Married v Single at Lord's in 1831, but enhanced a growing reputation by appearing in Gentlemen v Players at Lord's and carrying his bat for 30* as his side were bowled out by the redoubtable Frederick William Lillywhite for 43. He was not only top scorer; he was the only batsman to reach double figures. In a long career, he would finish top scorer in 53 – over 20% - of his innings in 'important' or first-class matches. On four occasions he would be the only one to achieve double figures, notably for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1850 where he scored 22 when the next highest score was six and for Kent against Sussex at Hove in 1851 when he again held the innings together with 22 and the next highest five.

In all Felix appeared in Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, at the time and for another 50 years the most important fixture of the season, 18 times – 1831, 1833-1835, twice in 1837, 1838-1840, 1842-1843, 1845-1850 and 1852. He also played in the match at Brighton in 1845. Against the cream of England's professional bowling he scored exactly 400 runs (avge. 12.50) with top scores of 88 in 1842, 43 in 1845, five other scores over 20 but five ducks.

In 1832 Felix moved the school to number three, South Row Blackheath and in 1834, although still turning out for East Surrey, he began his long association with Kent. His was not an auspicious beginning; against England at Lord's he was bowled without scoring in both innings by Lillywhite. In 1838 he played his first substantial innings for Kent, 82 v Sussex (including Lillywhite) at Brighton and in the inaugural Canterbury Week, played on the Beverley Ground in 1842, he hit 74 against an England attack led by Lillywhite and Jemmy Dean. With Fuller Pilch (98), 154 were added for the fourth wicket in a display of batting worthy of the occasion but marred somewhat by Kent's second innings collapse and defeat by nine wickets. Consolation of sorts came in the second match of the Week when the Gentlemen of Kent beat Gentlemen of England by 173 runs with Felix, 48 & 61, top scoring in both innings.

In 1843 he hit his first century, 105 for England v MCC at Lord's, and in 1847 had his most prolific season with 591 runs in all matches including 113 (in five hours with 12 fours) for Kent v Sussex at Brighton, 69 for Kent v England at Lord's and 82 for Surrey v MCC at Lord's. With the formation of the Surrey Club in 1846, Felix, one of the founders, began dividing his time more or less equally between Kent and his birth county. When the two met, he opted for Surrey on all but one occasion. The exception was at The Oval in 1852 when his 70 was the highest score of the match and the last half-century of his career. Kent won by six runs.

The great Frederick William Lillywhite had finished with Sussex by the time Felix scored his century at Brighton but the confrontations between the two had become almost legendary. The Sussex man took life and himself very seriously – 'I bowl the best ball in England'. He generally preferred to let his bowling do the talking but the loquacious, volatile Felix could not always resist a little mild, what would be termed today, 'banter'. At least once he had the humiliation of being bowled first ball after doing so but honours between them remained fairly even. As we have seen Lillywhite was among the opposition when Felix played several of his finest innings and Sussex was the only county against whom he scored 1,000 runs – 1,004 (avge.21.82) in 29 matches. On the other hand, 'Old Lilly' claimed his wicket on at least 30 occasions – almost certainly more as in some of the early score cards the bowler receives no credit when batsmen are caught or stumped.

1846 was a notable year in the life of Nicholas Wanostrocht. On 1 June a Testimonial match, F Pilch's Eleven v N Felix's Eleven, was played at Lord's for his benefit, an unusual but by no means unique event for an amateur. The beneficiary contributed only a relatively modest six & 10 but the scores, Pilch's Eleven 104 (Dean six for 40) & 105 (Pilch 31), Felix's Eleven 47 (Hillyer five for 14, Lillywhite five for 33) & 128 (59, Lillywhite seven for 58), tell the story of what was hailed as 'one of the finest matches ever witnessed'. On the second day Albert the Prince Consort rode on to the ground and play was delayed for two hours.

A fortnight later Felix played the first of two single-wicket matches against his close friend Alfred Mynn for the 'Championship of England.' Some 3,000 people attended the first at Lord's and the return at the White Hart ground, Bromley was similarly well supported. Predictably, the powerful Mynn won both encounters. Single-wicket as played at the time was not the most exciting of formats - at Lord's nine runs were scored from 278 balls and at Bromley 25 from 308. To complete a run, the striker had to run the length of the pitch twice, runs could only be scored in front of square and the batsman was obliged to keep one foot behind the popping crease. The first and the last requirement favoured the hard-driving Mynn and negated most of Felix's best strokes,

With a school to run, Felix undoubtedly played more cricket than he should have done but a great deal less than he would have wished. He appeared in 17 first-class matches in 1851 and 17 again in 1852 and, by this time he was heavily involved with the All-England Eleven. In his own words 'cricket was a mistress I loved not wisely but too well'. He appears to have severed all connections with the school by the late 1840s and it seems likely that his devotion to cricket and the socialising that accompanied it contributed to his eventual estrangement from his wife and family.

1852 was his final season of first-class cricket. He played four matches for Kent, his last against Sussex on Tunbridge Wells Common. He also made the last of his 22 appearances for the Gentlemen of Kent for whom between 1842 and 1852 he scored 1,079 first-class runs (avge.28.39) with five half-centuries. For the second time in his career, in all first-class/important matches he totalled 529 runs (avge.18.24).

In 1847 Felix had played his first game for William Clarke's All-England Eleven alongside his great friend Alfred Mynn. In all he made all at least 96 appearances for the first of the touring elevens which cannot have been easy for a cricketer well into middle-age playing mainly in odds matches, against 14s, 18s and 22s. Since severing his connection with Alfred House, Felix would have depended for a living on painting and teaching music. Like Mynn, he seems to have been permanently short of money and there seems little doubt that both were paid to play just like the professionals. This did not prevent them from playing for Gentlemen v Players regularly up to 1852. Felix eventually became President of the AEE where his tact and talent as both writer and public speaker were invaluable in smoothing over the numerous problems with the cantankerous Clarke, keeping the players happy and answering criticisms from the sporting press. More important historically were the sketches he made during the team's travels.

Felix made his last appearance for the AEE against Twenty-Two of Torquay in 1853 and played his last recorded match of any standard in the following year, for Horsham v Ifield. In 1857, while living in Brighton, he suffered a stroke although he still seems to have been able to paint and write. In 1858 *Bell's Life* launched an appeal on his behalf which was well supported but he suffered a second stroke and consequent paralysis in 1866 although he seems quite soon to have regained, to some extent at least, the ability to write and paint.

In 1864, following the death of his estranged wife in 1863, he married his landlady, Catherine Bolls, the widow of a prosperous farmer which no doubt somewhat eased his financial difficulties. The second Mrs Felix originated from Dorset and *circa* 1872 the couple moved to Wimborne where he died from 'exhaustion' following cerebral effusion and paralysis'. His estate was valued for probate at 'under £450'.

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Col. James Fellowes (No. 291).

Born: 25.8.1841, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. *Died:* 3.5.1916, Dedham, Essex.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1873-1881.

Educated: RMA Woolwich.

Parents: James Fellowes & Susan Catherine Fellowes (née van Reeman).

Born into an Army family, James Fellowes combined a distinguished career in the Royal Engineers with a great deal of cricket, playing wherever the service took him. Qualified for Kent while stationed in Woolwich, he had previously appeared for Devonshire and while quartered in Southampton he played eleven first-class matches for Hampshire where he was an active and highly esteemed joint secretary from 1883 to 1887. He resigned when his duties took him away from the county.

On retiring to Devonshire on half-pay in 1890, he became secretary of the county club. Most of his cricket was for Royal Engineers but he also appeared for MCC, Gentlemen of Kent, Band of Brothers, Gentlemen of Devonshire, Rochester, Hundred of Hoo and several other Army sides.

Although no rabbit with the bat, Fellowes played for Kent primarily for his 'exceptionally accurate' fast bowling. Not called on to bowl in Surrey's first innings at Mote Park in 1873, in the second he took seven for 24 from 88 balls. Against Lancashire on the same ground in the following season, he bowled Kent to a ten wicket victory. *Wisden* provides a 360 word account of the match but, despite six for 58 and seven for 42 as well as clean bowling the famously 'unbowlable' Dick Barlow, Fellowes is not mentioned. In the 1876 Canterbury Week, he took five for 49 in the Gentlemen of MCC's first innings and toiled through 40 overs for one for 84 in the second innings while Grace compiled his world record 344.

Between 1858 and 1894 he is estimated to have taken over 1,000 wickets for Royal Engineers, three times over 100 in a season – 140 (avge.8.83) in 1869, 115 (avge.9.28) in 1873 and 111 (avge.8.75) in 1874. As late as 1889 he took six for 7 for Rochester v Town Malling

Fellowes could on occasions be a dangerous late-order hitter, particularly in minor cricket. His first-class career began badly with a pair for MCC v Cambridge University, followed by another duck (run out) and 30 (run out) for MCC v Gloucestershire and another pair (once run out) on his debut for Kent. In his next match, v Surrey at Mote Park he hit 26 (one six, four fours) with another six as his only scoring stroke in the second innings. In 1870 he scored 70 out of a total of 139 for MCC v Royal Artillery at Lord's and for Hundred of Hoo v Town Malling in 1874 his 113 contained only seven singles. At Gravesend in the following season, for Eighteen of North Kent v United South of England from one (four ball) over from WG Grace he hit three sixes over the pavilion and a two, Batting for MCC v Woolwich at Lord's in 1871 he broke his toe with his bat while playing a stroke and retired 20*.

Fellowes was promoted Major in 1879, Lt Colonel in 1885 and in 1888 gained his most senior appointment, Assistant-Commandant of the School of Military Engineering, Chatham. He was

promoted Colonel in 1890 and, like many RE officers in Victorian times, he was extensively involved with the Ordnance Survey.

During his time in Hampshire, Fellowes negotiated the lease from the Hulse Estate of what became the fondly remembered Northlands Road, County Ground, Southampton and supervised its layout and development. He became a highly influential President of a local club, Spartans and founded Hampshire Hogs, one of the leading wandering cricket clubs in England. On moving to Devon, he founded another, Devon Dumplings. He was also involved in the development of the Devonshire County Ground in Exeter. A member of MCC since 1869, he was one of Eighteen Gentlemen Veterans who played Gentlemen of MCC at Lord's in 1887 as part of the Club's centenary celebrations.

In 1867 he married Harriet Hall Hodge. There were two sons and four daughters. He was father-in-law of Colonel Sir Walter Coote Hedley (qv) who as WC Hedley played for Kent, Somerset, Hampshire and Devonshire. On his death, his estate was valued at £39,262 15s 11d. Sir Walter Coote Hedley was his executor. He was buried in St John the Evangelist Church, Hale, Surrey.

Further reading.

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George Hanbury Field (No. 178).

Born: 1.3.1834, Clapham, Surrey. *Died:* 24.7.1901, Ashurst.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1856-1859.

Educated: Eton College & University College, Oxford.

Parents: George Field & Susanna Field (née Hanbury).

George Hanbury Field came from a well-heeled family. His father, also George, born in Norwood, was originally a hop merchant but by 1871 he was a 'Gentleman' and JP who owned and built Ashurst Park, near Tunbridge Wells. George Hanbury Field studied Law and was called to the Bar in Lincoln's Inn but later forsook Law for the world of finance, becoming a bank director, probably on inheriting Ashurst Park. While in London he lived at up market addresses such as Eccleston and Eaton Squares.

Field played a lot of good class cricket but, like several of his Gentlemen contemporaries, with no great success, at least as far as records show. While practising as a barrister he played at least one match thinly disguised as 'Meadow'. Often opening but otherwise coming in one or two places above the extras, he scored six and four opening for Gentlemen of Kent & Sussex v Gentlemen of England in the 1856 Canterbury Week (his first-class debut), and was No. 10 in three of his four appearances for Kent but opened in his last when he reached 11, his top score in first-class cricket..

At Eton he did not make the Eleven but between 1857 and 1858 he played three times for the University, for Sixteen of the University against the Next Fifteen, a match in which he kept wicket, v the AEE on the Magdalen College Ground, and against Oxfordshire on Cowley Marsh. In all these matches his top score was 14 and he fared little better for his College but for 'Hayter's Oxford Eleven he scored 32 v Eton on Agar's Plough. In 1854 he played, together with his brother Barclay, for Eighteen of Tunbridge Wells v Kent and for the Gentlemen v the Players of Tunbridge Wells in the following season.

His other clubs included Gentlemen of Kent, Harlequins, Old Etonians, Old Oxonians, MCC, Penshurst, Sevenoaks Vine, Shillinglee, and Southgate, In 1856 he scored 14 for West Kent v East Kent at Gravesend. For Shiillinglee he scored what seems to have been his personal best, 47 v Petworth in 1860.

In 1859 Field was present at the inaugural meeting at *The Mitre*, Maidstone of the Kent CCC and it was on his proposal that the Fifth Earl Darnley became the first President. In 1865 he was elected to the Managing Committee but ceased to serve when the club was expanded in 1870. His father and brother Barclay were members of the club.

He married twice. In October 1862 he married Georgiana Turnour in Hambledon, Surrey by whom he had one son and two daughters. Following her death in 1891, he married in 1893 Hon Emily Maud Hardinge, daughter of the Second Viscount Hardinge of Lahore at King's Norton. At the age of 18, she was almost 41 years his junior. There was one son. On his death, Field's estate was valued at £260,109 4s 6d. His executor was Edward Earl Winterton.

Further reading:

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Arthur Fielder (No. 480).

Born: 19.7.1877, Plaxtol. *Died:* 30.8.1949, St.Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1900-1914. Cap 1903.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year. 1907.

Tests: Six for England.

Parents. John Fielder & Frances (Fanny) Fielder (*née* Hollands).

'Pip' Fielder was never picked for a Test match in England but for much of his career he had, strong claims to be judged the most effective fast bowler in the country, day in and day out,. Although perhaps never achieving the sheer pace of Charles Kortright or Neville Knox or possibly the sustained hostility of Walter Brearley, between 1903 and 1914 he five times exceeded 100 wickets in a season and twice more came close with 98 in 1904, 95 in 1908., Only once, in 1912 when he suffered a complete loss of form, did he fail to take 50.

Capable of bowling long spells and regularly doing so, he was quick enough to trouble the best, maintained a tight line and length, varied his pace, and most importantly, was one of the first bowlers of genuine pace to use the outswinger as his main weapon. He could pitch on leg-stump to hit or narrowly miss off but for the most part he concentrated on Geoffrey Boycott's 'corridor of uncertainty' around off-stump, moving the ball away from the bat through the air and obtaining movement off the seam. Pelham Warner considered him the most difficult of all the fast bowlers he faced, while after his second Australian tour, several Australian critics reputedly thought him the best English fast bowler they had seen.

Particularly well served by the catching behind the wicket, almost 18% of Fielder's victims were caught at the wicket, 204 of them – with a bonus of two stumpings – by Fred Huish (*qv*). Another 20% or so were caught at slip, or at least by specialist slip fieldsmen. One of them, James Seymour held 86 catches off his bowling, Frank Woolley 42 and Jack Mason 34. 37.80% of his victims were bowled and 2.2% lbw, due largely to his ability to bring the ball back from outside off stump and to bowl a good yorker. He excelled at cleaning up the tail, usually by hitting the stumps. Interestingly in view of his off-stump bias, 'Punter' Humphreys, a short leg and close mid-on specialist, took 19 catches from Fielder's bowling.

In matches in which he was given the new ball, opposing teams managed only 15 century opening partnerships. In contrast, on 99 occasions Fielder dismissed one of the opening pair before the score had reached double figures. On the MCC staff from 1905 to 1921, in all matches at Lord's he took 107 wickets at 21.19 each... He was particularly effective from the Nursery End. Lord's was one of

three grounds on which he exceeded the hundred, Canterbury, 111 at 23.03 and Tonbridge, 129 at 20.10 were the others.

Arthur Fielder came from a rural background. His father began as a farm labourer but later became farm bailiff to Cecil Golding, a farmer but perhaps better known as a hop grower. As a boy, young Arthur worked with his father but in the 1901 Census he is shown, a touch misleadingly, as a gardener lodging with his mother's family at Penshurst. He was in fact by then already on the Tonbridge staff, had been since 1898 and had already made his first-class debut.

Fielder came for a trial with Kent in 1897 and joined the staff at Tonbridge for the start of the following season. At the time Second Eleven matches were few and far between and young Kent professionals were obliged to gain their match experience in Club & Ground games and with local clubs. In 1899 he took five for 30 & one for 38 for Kent Second Eleven against Sussex Seconds at Tunbridge Wells and four for 67 & one for 45 in the same fixture at Hove in the following year.

At the end of July 1900, Fielder made his first-class debut, against Essex at Leyton. It was not a gentle baptism. Percy Perrin (205) and Charlie McGahey (142) added 323 for the third wicket and Essex totalled 551. Kent's established fast bowler, Bill Bradley opened the bowling as usual, with Fielder as second change. The debutant emerged with credit, bowling 20 overs for 40 runs, albeit without taking a wicket, but, apart from one match against MCC at Lord's in 1902 in which he was probably a late replacement for a missing amateur – he was 'absent' on the first day and was not called on to bowl – Kent showed no interest in having two fast bowlers operating in tandem.

Although *Wisden* describes him as having 'gone back' at this period, he continued to perform with some success in Second Eleven and club matches but he was not called up for the first team again until the following season, by which time Bradley was on the verge of retiring so far as Kent cricket was concerned. The pair opened together only once, against MCC at Lords in 1903, (Fielder one for 67 & one for 24, Bradley two for 7 & three for 32). At the time it was generally accepted among county captains and most pundits that one fast bowler per team was all that was required and the usual practice was to open with a pace/spin combination. There were exceptions, Surrey in the Richardson / Lockwood era, and Worcestershire in the immediate pre-war years, but it was not until after the First World War that to commence with pace at both ends became the norm.

Fielder was in and out of the side in the early part of the 1903 season but showed his quality with two for 53 & three for 28 at Old Trafford, three for 48 at Worcester and six for 97 at Headingley including the prize wickets of JT Brown, David Denton, George Hirst and Wilfrid Rhodes. Despite an exceptionally wet season he ended with 70 wickets at 18.41. Among his best efforts were six for 37 at Catford when, bowling unchanged with Blythe (four for 16), Hampshire were routed for 57, and four for 86 & seven for 45 against Worcestershire in Canterbury Week which earned him his county cap.

At the end of the season he was a surprise choice for the MCC side to Australia under the captaincy of Pelham Warner who was said to have been largely instrumental in his selection. First, he was obliged to obtain the Club's permission to tour. Permission was granted on condition that he gave the Club £200 of his fee for investment over the next five years. The money was invested in LCC Three Shilling Stock.

He was surely chosen too soon. He did not bowl in his First Test match at Melbourne, a game dominated by spinners, and on his second appearance, at Adelaide, he claimed one expensive wicket, albeit a valuable one, Clem Hill. In seven first-class matches he took 14 wickets at a fairly economical 23.08 but probably his best performance was 11 for 32 against Eighteen of Bendigo.

Judging by his record in 1904, 98 wickets at 23.98, he benefitted from his trip. He again bowled unchanged with Blythe at Catford, this time to dismiss Middlesex for 45 (Blythe four for 14, Fielder

five for 25) giving him match figures of ten for 87. and Worcestershire again suffered – six for 66 at Mote Park and six for 44 at New Road. At Maidstone he also gave evidence of a largely unused batting talent with a 103 run last-wicket partnership (Seymour 136*, Fielder 37). He again did well in Canterbury Week, six for 45 when Champions Middlesex subsided for 94. Plaxtol Cricket Club wrote to Kent CCC asking for a contribution to a presentation they were planning to make to the local hero. The committee declined to do so, adding that a presentation had already been made.

In 1905 Fielder's haul of wickets fell to 55 at an expensive 30.72. His captain, Cloudesley Marsham, writing in the 1907 Kent history suggests he had 'quite lost his bowling' but there were almost certainly fitness problems. MCC were clearly concerned. In June 1905 they wrote to Kent complaining of Fielder's selection to play against Oxford University. The Club's Managing Committee minutes provide a clue. In October of the previous year it was recorded 'Mr MacDonald-Smith can put Fielder's leg right for a fee of five guineas'. It was agreed to go ahead but with what success is unknown. It was also Fielder's first year on the MCC staff and the additional workload may well have contributed. His loss of form – if such it was - was doubly unfortunate as the Australians were touring. The selectors could hardly be faulted for not considering him.

If Fielder had indeed 'quite lost his bowling', he found it again when Kent won their first Championship title in 1906. Bowling 1,159.3 overs and not missing a match, his season's haul of 172 wickets (avge.20.55) – 186 in all matches – was at the time the highest ever for the County and remains the highest by a Kent pace bowler. 16 times he claimed five or more in an innings, five times ten in a match. Following match figures of nine for 103 in the opening county fixture against Yorkshire at Catford, he took 60 wickets during the month of June including 11 for 89 v Sussex on a flat wicket at Hove and 12 for 185 in the return with Yorkshire at Bramall Lane. In Canterbury Week he had a major share in Kent's two victories with five for 74 against Sussex and four for 81 & seven for 49 when Lancashire were beaten by an innings.

Wisden, who made Fielder one of their Five Cricketers of the Year, judged his bowling 'the match winning factor' 'bowling with undiminished pace and fire right up to the end'. To the *Maidstone & Kentish Journal*, 'his bowling more than anything won Kent the Championship'.

Away from county cricket, he attracted wider notice on his first appearance for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's. Bowling from his favourite Nursery End, he took all ten wickets for 90 runs against a powerful batting line up with Gilbert Jessop batting No. 8, a performance marred only by finishing on the losing side.

Fielder continued with, what *Wisden* described as his 'undiminished pace and fire,' into 1907. After warming up with three for 41 for MCC v Yorkshire, he took 48 wickets (avge.8.62) in Kent's first five games – 0 for 16 & seven for 51 v MCC at Lord's, eight for 42 & one for 15 v Northants at Catford, eight for 63 & six for 33 v Somerset at Tonbridge, five for 33 & two for 49 at Hove and seven for 31 & four for 81 at Old Trafford. Not surprisingly he did not quite maintain this form throughout the season but there followed six for 100 & six for 56 v Hampshire at Tonbridge, six for 35 & eight for 60 v Derbyshire at Maidstone and nine for 108 & four for 105 v Lancashire in Canterbury Week where he was once again on the losing side. At Worcester he bowled a back-breaking 52 overs for five for 151. At the season's end he had 159 wickets at 16.60, 172 in all matches and *Wisden* named him as 'the best fast bowler in England'. The England selection committee took a different view, choosing the amateur Neville Knox for the Teat series against South Africa, but he was picked for the 1907/08 MCC tour of Australia under the captaincy of AO Jones.

Shaking off the effect of a bad attack of sea sickness, Fielder was one of the successes of an unsatisfactory series, lost four-one. Beginning with five for 71 & five for 98 v Victoria, he finished with 50 wickets and, although he missed the last Test match through a pulled muscle, he was the second highest wicket-taker in the Test series with 25 wickets at 25.08. In the First Test at Sydney he

took six for 82 & three for 88 and four for 54 & four for 91 in the fourth at Melbourne. Four times he dismissed the great Victor Trumper, caught at slip for six in the first New South Wales match, bowled for 43 in the first Test at the SCG, bowled for four in the Third Test at Adelaide, caught at slip without scoring in the Fourth at Melbourne. His other victims included Clem Hill, Charles Macartney and Monty Noble (three times each), Syd Gregory (twice), Warwick Armstrong, Roger Hartigan and Vern Ransford.

Fielder's usefulness was not limited to his bowling. On the South Melbourne ground against a Victorian Eleven including Armstrong, John Saunders and the Middlesex allrounder Frank Tarrant he participated in an unfinished tenth-wicket partnership of 95 (Rhodes 105*, Fielder 50*) and a fortnight later at the MCG when England registered their only victory of the Test series, their one-wicket win came via a last-wicket partnership of 39 (Barnes 38*, Fielder 18*). In his account of the tour *With the MCC in Australia (Alston Rivers London 1908, reprinted JW McKenzie Epsom 1999)*, tour manager Philip Trevor writes 'Disappointing as the tour was in some respects, it was a triumph for Barnes and Fielder.

Over the rest of his career Fielder's annual haul of wickets only once fell below 70 and he was a major contributor to all three of Kent's remaining pre-war Championships. In 1909, he missed twelve matches through various injuries, *Wisden* going so far as to refer to his 'physical unsoundness' but he was nevertheless Kent's second highest wicket-taker with 95 at 20.40, 110 in all matches, three times ten or more in a match, eleven times five or more in an innings. As so often, he excelled against Yorkshire. On a rain affected pitch at Huddersfield when the hosts were dismissed for 69 he took six for 36 including the wickets of Denton, Hirst and Rhodes in four balls. The wicket had dried-out and become relatively easy when Yorkshire followed-on but thanks largely to Fielder's seven for 128 from 35 overs, Kent won by a comfortable seven wickets.

Against Worcestershire at Amblecote, Kent, replying to Worcestershire's 360, were 320 for nine (Woolley 73*) when Fielder came to the wicket. Having first successfully negotiated what would have been a hat-trick ball, he was still there at close of play when the Kent score was 439 for nine (Woolley 136*, Fielder 67*), 119 having been added in the final hour. On the following day the pair took the score to 555 when Woolley was caught at point for 185. Fielder remained 112*, scored in 140 minutes with 14 fours. Their 235 run partnership was a world record until 1928 and remains the record for county cricket. Fielder's contribution was not confined to his batting. Following three for 95 in the first innings, he bowled 26 overs for three for 67 in the second.

Interviewed in the magazine *Cricket*, Kent captain Ted Dillon insisted Fielder's innings came as no surprise, adding 'we all knew he could get runs if he really turned his attention to batting. But he is wanted for his bowling and has not been encouraged to make big scores.' The partnership is described at length in Peter Barnsley's monograph *The Tenth Wicket Record*, West Hagley, 1987.

In the wet summer of 1910 when Kent achieved their second successive Championship title, soggy pitches rarely helped pace bowlers and injury and illness kept Fielder out of 19 matches. Nevertheless he picked up 77 wickets at an economical 19.38; only Blythe and Woolley took more. Starting late due to an attack of whooping cough, he began with five for 52 & seven for 24 at Northampton and had 58 wickets to his credit by the end of July but, shortly after taking seven for 67 against Sussex at Hastings, he was taken ill again and did little afterwards.

Fielder was back on form in 1911, his benefit year, with 119 wickets in Kent matches alone as well as yet another century- tenth-wicket partnership with James Seymour - 102 in 50 minutes v Essex at Leyton (Seymour 218*, Fielder 61). His benefit raised £1,174 10s 3d and it came as a something of a shock when in the following season he was, in the words of the Kent History 'comparatively ineffective' and his season's tally fell to 34 wickets at an expensive 34.11. He had trouble with his action, particularly his run-up and, although he delivered only 393.1 overs, he bowled 63 no-balls as

well as nine wides. Before the end of July he had lost his place and, although his deputy Percy Morfee (*qv*) chose that time to leave the staff, it was widely known throughout the County that Kent were looking for a new fast bowler.

Once again the decline proved only temporary. Although by now no more than fast-medium, his gift for maintaining consistent line and length while moving the ball just enough to beat the bat, brought him 113 wickets (avge.19.66). Among the other pace bowlers, only Bill Hitch took his wickets at under 20. *Wisden*, had no doubts as to Fielder's importance in Kent's fourth Championship title'. But for him Kent, in a season of so many hard wickets, would have been very badly off. Indeed it is quite safe to say that without a good fast bowler, Kent would have had no chance of winning the Championship'. Twice he claimed ten or more wickets in a match, 13 for 119 at Leicester, ten for 78 v Sussex at Canterbury and eight times he took five or more in a match. At Tonbridge, Essex needed 372 on the last day with all wickets intact. At 218 for four they appeared headed for at least a draw but their last six wickets fell for 59, all to Fielder whose final figures were 30.5-6-120-8. He also hit the stumps twice with no-balls.

In 1914, his final season, Fielder missed eight of Kent's 30 fixtures but finished with a respectable 77 wickets at 23.68 each. Before the advent of War changed everything, he had days of success, - seven for 87 at Taunton, four for 51 & four for 58 v Leicestershire at Ashby-de-la Zouch – but his best efforts were after August 4th when most people had their minds on other things. On August 14 Kent completed a ten wicket, two-day victory over Warwickshire at Edgbaston to which Arthur Fielder contributed seven for 34 from only nine overs.

Eleven days later in the return, his penultimate first-class match, when Kent won again in two days (by 99 runs), his figures in were two for 31 & four for 10. At Trent Bridge there was minor drama. While John Gunn was compiling 142* he threatened to hit Fielder with his bat for allegedly impeding him while running between the wickets. Fielder was bowling round the wicket at the time. Troughton lodged a formal complaint with the opposing captain in the presence of the Notts Chairman but no further details seem to have survived.

Like most great bowlers, Arthur Fielder had a talent for dismissing the best. His most frequent scalps were – 17: W Rhodes; 16: LC Braund; 15: J Vine; Other notable victims include, D Denton, JWHT Douglas, FL Fane, GL Jessop, RH Spooner, JT Tyldesley, PF Warner (11), AC Maclaren (ten), G Gunn, T Hayward (eight), CB Fry C Hill, CP Mead, KS Ranjitsinhji, V Trumper (five),

Too old for service in 1914, Fielder signed up with the Kent Constabulary as an Auxiliary Policeman and according to some accounts was also involved in agriculture. In 1916, in the light of his police service, he asked for winter pay like those serving in the Army and Navy but the committee turned him down. He made occasional appearances for MCC during the War, returned to the MCC staff in 1919 and remained with them until 1924. In 1920 he took six for 58 for MCC v Glamorgan at Swansea. He later coached at Rugby. As late as 1948 he appeared for Forty Club.

In 1909 Arthur Fielder married Annie Mitchell in Tonbridge. There was one son. In the 1911 Census they were living in Douglas Road, Tonbridge. Father John Fielder, by now a widower, is living with them. They later moved to Beckenham where he acted as a talent scout for the county. On his death his estate was valued at £4,825 1s 10d.

Frederick Francis Finch (No. 216).

Born: 1830, East Grinstead, Sussex. *Died:* 5.5.1892, Sevenoaks.
Kent 1862.

Parents: John Finch & Mary Finch (née Gardner).

The son of a farrier, Frederick Finch was a veterinary surgeon who practised in Benenden, Leigh and latterly for around thirty years in Sevenoaks. He played as a batsman for numerous local clubs including, Benenden, Tonbridge, Penshurst, Leigh and for Sevenoaks Vine until in his early 50s.

In May 1862, as a rather elderly colt, he scored eight and 18 for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at The Oval, ten and seven in the return at Maidstone and in July of that year made his only appearance for Kent, v Yorkshire at Cranbrook. In 1868 he scored ten (run out) opening the batting for 22 of Tonbridge v the USEE.

Unusually, considering he was a vet, he played as a professional. The A Finch from Sevenoaks who appeared for Kent Colts in 1878 was probably his son Arthur. In 1852 he married Amelia Southon. There were five sons and five daughters.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Foord-Kelcey OBE (No. 305).

Born: 21 4 1854, Smeeth. *Died:* 3 1 1922, Woolwich.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1874-1883. Cap 1882.

Educated: Chatham House, Ramsgate & Exeter College, Oxford.

Parents: William Foord & Sarah Ann Foord (*née* Thorpe).

William Foord-Kelcey was plain William Foord until May 1872 when the family added Kelcey and the hyphen, presumably for inheritance reasons. In the University Eleven in 1874 and 1875, he began his career uneventfully in a match against the All-England Eleven but followed with match figures of nine for 69 (eight clean bowled) against MCC on the Magdalen College Ground. Lord Harris, who played alongside him for Oxford in 1874 described him at that stage as 'a fine fast bowler but nothing of a bat and not a very sure field'. Later when he was a regular in the Kent Eleven he developed into, to quote Harris again 'a very fine hard-hitting bat and an excellent point'. 'A more earnest supporter I have never had'.

His first appearance for Kent, v Derbyshire at Tunbridge Wells Common, was unremarkable (four for 40 and 0 for 42) but 1875 brought 46 first-class wickets at 15.54 including in successive Oxford University matches six for 12 & three for 31 v MCC, three for 48 & seven for 15 (all bowled) v Gentlemen of England, both on the Magdalen College Ground, and six for 89 & seven for 39 (ten bowled) v Middlesex at Princes. When dismissing WH Hadow in the Gentlemen of England game, a bail travelled 48 yards (43.89 m) behind the stumps.

In that year, his last at University, Foord-Kelcey played only five times for Kent and took only seven wickets but over the next three seasons he became one of the mainstays of the Kent attack with a total of 129 wickets at 16.40, eight times five in an innings, twice eleven in a match, once nine in a match. At Gravesend in 1876 he had a major share in Lancashire's 128 run defeat with 50, eight for 49 and three for 18. In 1877 he took five for 53 and four for 56 v Lancashire at Mote Park and five for 32 and six for 52 against MCC (twelve-a-side) in the 1878 Canterbury Week. Although never picked for Gentlemen v Players, for a few years he was one of the most accurate fast bowlers in England. Of his 247 wickets, 162 – 65.58% - were bowled

Foord-Kelcey bowled less after 1878 but still had occasional purple patches – five for 47 & six for 65 in the 1881 Canterbury Week, two for 11 & eight for 53 (from 140 balls) v Yorkshire at Gravesend in 1882. Although never consistent, as a hitter in the middle order he developed unexpectedly. He had only exceeded 20 twice in his career when, coming in at 243 for six against Surrey at Mote Park in

1876, he was ninth out at 363 having hit 88 with 16 fours. His only century , v Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells in 1878, was scored in under two hours.

Foord-Kelcey also appeared for MCC, Gentlemen of Kent, Band of Brothers, Smeeth, Ashford, Faversham, Lord Harris' Belmont side and H Brassey's XI at Preston Hall, Aysleford. His career was ended by a snapped Achilles tendon, his last match of importance for MCC v Radnorshire at Knighton in 1887.

In a rather unusual career, Foord-Kelcey read Law, qualified as a barrister and was still practising when in 1878 he began instructing at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, beginning an association destined to last for 44 years. In 1903 he became Professor of Mathematics and Mechanics at the Academy. His OBE in 1921 was for services to Army education.

In 1886 he married Harriet Isabel Mordaunt in Barnstaple, Devonshire), there was one son, killed in the First World War, and one daughter. His brother John played twice for Oxford University in 1883 and his nephew Osbert Mordaunt for Somerset in 1905-1910. In 1891 he invented a mechanically operated cricket board game which received favourable mention in the magazine *Cricket*.

James Bryan Foster (later Hone and Hone-Foster) (No. 364).

Born: 9.3.1854, Ramsgate. *Died:* 22.11.1914, Stirchley, Worcestershire

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1880-1881.

James Bryan Foster has proved extraordinarily difficult to pin down, not only because of name changes and professional engagements scattered all over the country but also because he seems one way or another to have avoided, been overlooked or wrongly transcribed by the UK Census. In the 1881 red *Lillywhite* he is shown as living at *The White Swan*, St James Street, Northampton but he does not appear in the census for that year – at least not as Foster, Hone or Hone-Foster.

Foster scored ten and 12 for Colts of Kent v Colts of Surrey under the captaincy of Lord Harris at The Oval in 1878, one of only three Kent batsmen to achieve double figures and the only one to do so twice. At this stage he had already played at least twice for Northamptonshire. In July 1880, a month before his debut match for Kent, he was top scorer with 32 for Eighteen of Middlesbrough v the Australians at Linthorpe. He was controversially run out in the second innings for 13, once again the only batsman to reach double figures twice. Two years later, when the Australians played against Northamptonshire, Foster offered his services to the home side but 'his application was not entertained'.

Foster failed on his two appearances for Kent but in his second match, against Yorkshire at Bradford, he did not lack company. He scored 0 and four but there were nine other ducks; Kent's totals were 62 and 64.

In his history of Northamptonshire the eminent cricket historian James Coldham describes Foster as 'a much travelled and mediocre professional.' *Scores & Biographies Vol. XIV* is kinder, judging him as 'a good average allround cricketer', but much travelled he undoubtedly was. His professional engagements included Priory Park, Chichester, Trentham Park, Northamptonshire, the Broughton club, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Ipswich School, for whom in 1884 he scored 104* v Clagdon, Kingsley Hall and latterly the Bournville Club sponsored by Cadbury Bros. The latter was famous for producing two England (and Warwickshire) wicketkeepers, AA 'Dick' Lilley and EJ 'Tiger' Smith.

Foster subsequently worked as a fancy leather cutter. In 1895 he married Ada Corker. There was one son. On his death, he was registered as James Bryan Hone.

Charles John Macdonald Fox (No. 401).

Born: 5.12.1854, Dum Dum, Calcutta, India. *Died:* 1.4.1901, Albury, New South Wales, Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1888-1893. Cap 1888.

Educated: Dufton College, near Calcutta (now Mumbai) and Westminster School.

Parents: William David & Rebecca Fox.

Charles Fox came into the Kent side largely on the strength of the runs he accumulated in South London club cricket, mainly for Crystal Palace. Between 1885 and 1888 he scored 5,862 runs (avge.47.65) for the club with fourteen centuries. In 1887 he totalled over 2,000 runs with six hundreds including 261* v Charlton Park, 243* v Hampstead, 185* v HE Burrell's Eleven and 177* v Surrey Club & Ground. In that season he also claimed 82 wickets.

Qualified for Kent by residence, Fox was less prolific in county cricket but for a few years he was an invaluable member of the side – not merely for his allround ability but also that as a man of 'independent means' (*vide* 1891 Census) he was able to play in the early months of the season when Kent generally struggled to field viable sides.

The son of a schoolmaster in Bengal, Fox was in the Westminster Eleven from 1874 to 1876 and in his first year hit a greatly admired 87 against Charterhouse. When he led the side against the same opponents in 1875, having previously taken six for 37, he scored 28 in a total of 53 with nobody else managing more than six. In the 1876 fixture he took five for 19 in the Charterhouse first innings. Surrey picked him against Gloucestershire at The Oval and in a non first-class match against South Wales but four innings produced only 12 runs; at the end of the season he returned to India.

In India he was soon back on song with 154* for Visitors v Gowhati but on the death of his father the family returned to England in 1884 and settled in Sydenham. In 1888 he made his debut for Kent, ending his first season second in the averages and leading scorer with 487 runs (avge.25.63). On his third appearance, against Yorkshire at Huddersfield, he played probably his finest innings for Kent, 93 on a drying wicket which, according to the magazine *Cricket* played 'very queerly'. On the always bowler- friendly wicket at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham he was top scorer in both innings with 27 and 20.

Although he only twice – in 1890 and 1891 – exceeded 500 runs in a season, this ability to produce valuable runs in low scoring matches was a feature of his Kent career. He hit only one century and six half-centuries but on 37 occasions scored between 20 and 49. Against Lancashire at Beckenham in 1890 he top scored with 17 when Kent were dismissed in their second innings for 91 and again with 18 when Kent totalled 77 against MCC at Lord's in 1892. At Bramall Lane in 1889 when Kent beat Yorkshire by 82 runs. Fox (40 & 29) and Alec Hearne (42 & 17*) scored 57% of their side's runs.

Although essentially a change bowler, he took five for 43 when Nottinghamshire were dismissed for 134 in a Championship deciding match at Beckenham in 1889, four for 14 coming on as fourth change at Old Trafford in 1890 and five for 58 when Middlesex were beaten at Tonbridge in the same year

Fox was never chosen for Gentlemen v Players but played for the Gentlemen of England v I Zingari at Scarborough in 1888, for South v North at The Oval in 1890 and in the same year captained the Hurst Park Club against the Australians at East Molesey. His side (including Alec Hearne and six other county professionals) won a low scoring game by 34 runs, the captain (31) top scoring in the first innings.

He also appeared on one match for Gloucestershire against Scotland in 1891. Fielding at point at Gloucester in 1890 he dislocated his shoulder. Following treatment by Henry, EM and WG Grace which culminated in WG, with one foot on Fox's armpit, tugging on the arm while EM sat on his head, he was taken to hospital for an operation under chloroform. Two years later at Bristol, exactly the same thing happened to him while fielding at third man but this time he contrived to get to the infirmary before the Grace brotherhood got their hands on him.

Blessed with one of the most magnificent moustaches ever to grace the county circuit, Fox does not seem to have taken cricket too seriously. At Hove in 1891 he was 0*at lunch but returned too late to resume his innings, excusing himself with the immortal line 'I was lunching with a widow'.

In the 1891 Census Fox is shown as living in Cator Road Beckenham together with his mother, two younger brothers and a sister. Both he and his mother are shown on 'Living on own means' but when in June 1896 he married Alice Robinson in Gipsy Hill he is 'an Agent'. At the time he was living in Gipsy Hill. He does not seem to have married a widow. Although comfortably built, Fox played football as a full back until into his late thirties. On a visit to Australia he suffered a sudden heart attack and died in hospital.

Alfred Percy Freeman (No. 516).

Born: 17.5.1888, Lewisham. *Died:* 28.1.1965, Bearsted.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin and googly bowler.

Kent 1914-1936. Cap 1920.

Tests: 12 for England.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year 1923.

Parents: Abraham George & Maria Freeman (*née* Archer).

There are mixed views as to where 'Tich' Freeman ranks in the hierarchy of leg-break and googly bowlers but nobody else among the leg spin fraternity can approach his record in the core business of despatching batsmen back to the pavilion. He is, and is likely to remain, the greatest wicket-taker of all time in county cricket and second only to Wilfred Rhodes in all first-class cricket. No bowler has approached his 304 wickets in 1928. Nobody, that is, except Freeman himself, 298 in 1933. Before him there was Tom Richardson with 290 in 1895, and Charlie Turner, 283 in 1888 but Freeman exceeded 250 in every season between 1928 and 1933 and took over 200 in eight consecutive seasons, 1928 to 1935, the latter his penultimate season in first-class cricket.

His least productive year in this period was 1934 when he claimed a mere 205. In those eight seasons his total haul was 2,090 wickets (avge. 17.85), all but 13 after he had attained his 40th birthday. To these he added another 35 on the 1928/29 tour of Australia. He passed the benchmark 100 wickets in every season from 1920 to 1936.

From a five pace run, almost invariably preceded by a hitch of the trousers, Freeman bowled with a high arm and a typical leg-spinner's rotary action, 'like a spring snapping' according to fellow leggie Ian Peebles. With tighter control than the majority of wrist-spinners, his stock deliveries were the leg break pitching middle and off and the top spinner which often had a tendency to keep low and brought him a rich crop of lbw decisions. In his *Book of Cricket* Sir Pelham Warner names Freeman as the greatest of all English googly bowlers but in fact he used the wrong 'un' sparingly, at least to right handers. He would often bowl it first ball to a new batsman but in the main it was reserved for the inexperienced, particularly 'fancy cap' amateurs. To left handers he would often bowl three or four googlies an over.

Freeman's trajectory was flatter than many leg spinners of the day – his height was little more than 62 inches (1.57m,) - and batsmen not quick on their feet found it hard to reach him on the full or half

volley. A well-disguised slower ball, tossed higher, brought him many stumpings. According to contemporaries such as Leslie Ames and Peebles, he was not a huge spinner of the ball but on all but the blandest pitches turned it enough to beat the bat

Although a long way from allrounder class, Freeman had a reasonable basic technique and played a number of useful innings including a Test match half-century. At Old Trafford in 1925, against an attack including Ted Macdonald, at the time the world's leading fast bowler, he scored 66 and shared a ninth-wicket partnership of 92 with George Collins (63). In the following year he was Kent's top scorer with 51* when Kent lost to Sussex (and Maurice Tate) at Hastings. In the field, he specialised at cover point where his low centre of gravity had its advantages.

Alfred Percy 'Tich' Freeman was born in Railway Terrace, Lewisham, adjacent to Ladywell railway station. There were six brothers and four sisters. It was a cricket orientated family. Uncle Edward Charles had first played for Essex in 1887 and when they entered the Championship he made five appearances between 1894 and 1896. Alfred Percy's elder brother John Robert was taken on the Essex staff as were cousins AJ and EJ Freeman, and CAG., AE and TM Russell. Collectively, these six would make 1,063 first-class appearances for the county. Another Essex cricketer, Bill Reeve, married another of the cousins.

When Tich Freeman was born his father Abraham was a bricklayer (journeyman) according to the birth certificate but in the 1901 Census he too, is described as a professional cricketer, living at the time in Leyton. Eldest son George (22) is likewise a professional cricketer, and Arthur (15) a 'cricket ground boy'. Of the other sons, Albert (19) is a pianoforte maker, John Robert (17), the future Essex county cricketer, a baker's assistant, and Alfred Percy ('Tich') (12) a newspaper boy. It seems probable that Abraham, George and Arthur were employed on the nearby Leyton ground which Uncle Edward Charles, now groundsman, was in the process of turning it into one of the most perfect batting pitches in the country.

Like his elder brother John, young 'Tich' gravitated to the Leyton ground and played a few games for the Club & Ground but, unlike John, he was not taken on the staff due, according to some accounts, to his height – or lack of it. In the winter he played football for Leyton and at least once at county level for Essex. In the summer from 1909 to 1911 he was professional with the Upper Tooting Cricket Club. In the 1911 Census he is living with his family in Leyton, and is described as 'professional cricketer and groundsman' but in the spring of that year he came to Tonbridge for a trial and, at 24, older than most candidates, was judged 'a promising googley (*sic*) bowler' and taken on the staff for the 1912 season.

Restricted in the first half of the season to Club & Ground, his Minor Counties Championship debut was delayed until July and, even then, against Staffordshire at Town Malling, he was not asked to bowl. In his second appearance, against Cornwall at Tremorah, he was the last bowler used but emerged with two for 0 & one for 1 (all tailenders) and followed with four for 13 & four for 32 v Dorsetshire at Poole and five for 22 & five for 30 in the return with Cornwall at Gravesend.

He ended his first season with 22 Minor Counties Championship wickets at 7.7 apiece. As well as his debut, the year was significant for another reason. In Tonbridge in October that year he married Maidstone –born Ethel Constance Excell who would soon become the other dominating feature of his life. There was one son, also Percy, who would make his career in sales and marketing in the Midlands.

.In 1913 Freeman headed the Second Eleven bowling averages and in May of the following year he was picked for the first team against Oxford University in the Parks. He was fortunate in one respect in that his captain in the Second Eleven, Lionel Troughton, had been appointed first team captain for 1914. According to most accounts, from Freeman's arrival Troughton had acted as his mentor,

advising him on field placings, on identifying and exploiting weak points in opposing batsmen and general tactical nous. It has even been suggested that Freeman was never quite the same bowler under another captain. This needs rather more evidence. Troughton retired in 1923, a good five years before Freeman reached his peak; over 3,000 of his wickets were gathered after his mentor's departure.

There have been happier introductions to first-class cricket. In the first innings his 18.2 overs cost 88, his only reward the wicket of No. 10 PH Davies, stumped. The second innings was better. 29 overs, more than anyone else, and two top order wickets for 119. Back in the Second XI, Freeman picked up 57 wickets in eight matches and when, following Douglas Carr's (qv) total loss of form in the Surrey match at Blackheath, he was called back into the first team for the return (Jack Hobbs' benefit) at The Oval. By now however, the country was at war, The Oval had been taken over by the Army and the match moved to Lord's. Beaten by eight wickets, Kent had little enough to cheer them apart from Colin Blythe's first innings nine for 97, but for Alfred Percy there was the consolation of a distinguished scalp – Tom Hayward bowled – as his first in county cricket.

Despite the war, county cricket continued and Freeman retained his place. At Edgbaston he had his first five-wicket haul, seven for 25 from ten overs, and a second at Lord's against Middlesex, five for 87. By the time Kent played their final match of that strange, melancholy season, against Hampshire at Bournemouth, the Battles of Mons and Le Cateau had been fought, the epic retreat was in progress and casualty lists were beginning to fill the newspapers, At Bournemouth Freeman's one wicket cost 111 but in eight matches he had 29 wickets (avge. 29.55) to his credit including a clutch of notable names, among them FR Foster, EH Hendren, SP Kinneir and EJ Smith as well as the highly promising Percy Jeeves, destined to die on the Somme.

When in 1915 the Kent Managing Committee wrote to a number of their professionals demanding their reasons for not volunteering for the armed forces, Freeman replied that he had a wife and child to support and, in any case, he was below the height limit. He later wrote to inform the Club that he had been appointed coach at Layman's College Margate. Whether he remained there for the entire war is unclear. Possibly, like one or two other Kent professionals, he was employed by the Club for short periods as a ground bowler to cater for servicemen using St. Lawrence for practice and he may have played some local cricket.

According to some accounts he served as a special constable which, given his lack of inches, is not easy to visualise. Many Army records of the period have not survived Second World War bombs but he might be the Alfred Percy Freeman who served for part of the war as a Private in the Army Service Corps.

Kent confined themselves to only 14 (two-day) county matches in 1919 plus a three-day fixture with the Australian Imperial Forces. Freeman finished second in the Kent averages with 60 wickets (avge.20.15) which included six for 43 v Surrey at Blackheath, match figures of 13 for 127 v Hampshire at Bournemouth and ten for 124 v Sussex at Hove. Among leg spinners, only Len Richmond of Nottinghamshire (also known as 'Tich' but at around five feet seven it is not easy to see why) took more wickets but *Wisden* seemed uninterested. Although 13th in the national averages, Freeman is merely noted as having, with Fairservice and Woolley, 'worked most zealously' and in the averages his figures appear against the name of 'J Freeman (Essex)'.

Back to proper three-day cricket in 1920. Woolley and Fairservice still had the larger share of the bowling but Freeman took 100 wickets (102 avge.17.54), as he would in every season for the rest of his career, and was awarded his county cap. By his later standards it was an unremarkable season apart from five for 14 from 9.3 overs v Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells and six for 36 including a hat-trick v Middlesex in Canterbury Week, (JW Hearne, NE Haig, FT Mann), all current or future England cricketers. In the return at Lord's he took seven for 78 of which the first three, RH Twining, HW Lee and Hendren, all succumbed hit wicket. The Oval was not the happiest of Freeman's hunting

grounds but, in view of what has been written about him in later years, his performance there is of some interest. As Surrey, (at one time 196 for 0, chased 290 in about 280 minutes, he bowled a tight 32 overs for 60 runs and three wickets in a narrowly failed attempt to frustrate them.

Warwick Armstrong's Australians dominated the 1921 season but by the end Freeman had established himself as one of England's leading spinners. Only Woolley and the Hampshire pair Alec Kennedy and Jack Newman took more than his 166 wickets (avge.18.59). Bowling over 1,000 overs, he claimed five or more in an innings 16 times, eight times ten or more in a match. Highlights included nine for 87 at Hastings when Sussex declared at 300 for nine and eight for 22 & five for 45 v Northants at Northampton. Picked for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's he was less successful – one for 89 & two for 58 while against the Australians his 32 overs cost 148 runs for one wicket, No. 11 Arthur Mailey.

Following Fairservice's retirement at the end of the 1921 season, in 1922 Freeman and Woolley delivered between them 64% of Kent's overs and claimed 69% of the wickets. Freeman's share, 194 at 14.53 each, would remain his most economical seasonal return ever. Only Gloucestershire's Charlie Parker and Kennedy took more. Two counties in particular, suffered at his hands – Sussex, 29 wickets at 4.75 each, 12 for 71 at Tunbridge Wells, nine for 11 (unchanged apart from one over) & eight for 56 at Hove. Against Gloucestershire, 22 wickets at 6.72 each, three for 41 & seven for 35 at Tonbridge, six for 18 & six for 54 at Cheltenham.

In the 1922/23 winter Freeman was chosen, with another leg spinner Lancashire's Harry Tyldesley, in an otherwise all-amateur MCC team, to tour Australia and New Zealand under the captaincy of Archie Maclaren. No Test matches were played but there were three fixtures with New Zealand representative sides and two matches each with New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria as well as one with Western Australia. Despite rarely getting a chance to bowl at the weaker teams, Freeman finished leading wicket-taker with 69 first-class wickets (avge. 23.97).

In the first match, with New Zealand at Wellington, he had match figures of ten for 186, and in the second with Auckland 12 for 158. The Australian leg of the tour was harder going but he achieved what was described by David Kynaston in his *Archie's Last Stand* (Queen Anne Press, 1984) as 'a chaotic sort of hat-trick' (JT Murray, VY Richardson, CE Dolling) as, with most of the fielders on the boundary, South Australia set off on a (successful) pursuit of 58 in 22 minutes. His 30 wickets cost 32.96 each but included, most of Australia's leading batsmen – TJE Andrews, W Bardsley (twice), HL Collins (twice), HL Hendry, CG Macartney, CE Pellew (twice) and VY Richardson, Only twice was he severely punished – 0-121 in the second match at Melbourne and eight for 268 in the second at Adelaide.

Between 1923 and 1927, although never reaching the dizzy heights of later years, Freeman was Kent's leading wicket-taker in every season,, his annual harvest only once falling below 150 wickets, 146 in 1925 and rising to 180 in 1926 and 181 in 1927. Woolley bowled progressively less following a knee injury in 1924 and the main support came from the seamers, notably Charlie Wright who took over 100 wickets, and from 'Father' Marriott in the school holidays.

This afforded followers of Kent cricket the sight, virtually unknown in English county cricket, of two high quality leg-spinners bowling in tandem. Quicker than Freeman, different in method and of course taller, the pair complimented each other. Together they bowled Kent to victory against Hampshire in two successive Canterbury Weeks – 1924: Freeman four for 59 & three for 37, Marriott five for 66 & five for 44, 1925: Freeman one for 61 & five for 62, Marriott six for 50 & five for 56.

During this period Freeman was selected for two MCC tours, 1924/25 with Arthur Gilligan to Australia and 1927/28 to South Africa under RT Stanyforth. In Australia he began well with six for 47 & three for 23 against Western Australia at Perth but was chosen for only two Test matches, the First

at Sydney (his Test debut) and the Third at Adelaide. His eight wickets cost 57.37 but it was a high-scoring series – the great Mailey's 23 cost him 40.65 each. At least Freeman's eight were all top order batsmen, including Bill Ponsford and Bardsley (again).

In all matches, only Maurice Tate took more than Freeman's 30 first-class wickets. Arguably, his best performance was at Brisbane where he took six for 160 in 53 overs as an Australian XI totalled 526. As the game wound down to a draw, he also achieved the only stumping of his career, RK Oxenham dismissed for 0 from the bowling of, of all people, wicketkeeper Herbert Strudwick. He had some success with the bat, 50* in a ninth-wicket partnership of 128 with Woolley (123) at Sydney and 24 of the 51 added for the last two wickets on the final day at Adelaide where England lost by 11 runs.

South African matting wickets suited him better. Peebles was preferred for the First Test match but Freeman claimed 14 wickets (avge. 28.50) in the remaining four which included four for 58 & three for 66 when England won at Newlands. For England, only Walter Hammond and Sam Staples, with 15 wickets each, took more. Freeman began his tour with five for 15 v Western Province at Newlands and finished leading wicket-taker in all matches with 50 at 19.30, helped by eight for 48 v Border at East London and five for 49 & five for 102 in the return with Western Province. In the Fourth Test match at Johannesburg he was back behind the stumps on the fourth day when Stanyforth was hit under the eye.

Back on the county circuit in 1928, a season in which there were 414 centuries divided among 139 batsmen, Alfred Percy Freeman wrote himself into the records with an unprecedented, and now surely unapproachable 304 wickets. *Wisden* described him as 'coming out in phenomenal form' while Pelham Warner in the 1928/29 *Cricketer* Annual suggested that Freeman had 'put up figures that might well last for another thirty years' - a prophesy which, with hindsight, hardly makes Plum a rival to Nostradamus. He played in 37 first-class matches and bowled 1,970.5 overs, almost 400 more than anyone else in the country, but his figures are all the more remarkable in that he missed the Sussex game at Hastings –one of his more profitable hunting grounds – and in five matches bowled in only one innings.

Starting quietly with match figures of nine for 189 against Oxford University in the Parks, in a triumphal progress round the counties he took 13 for 168 at Northampton, 11 for 90 at Gloucester, 12 for 154 at Leyton, 15 for 224 v Leicestershire at Tonbridge, 12 for 196 v Derbyshire at Chesterfield, 11 for 187 at Southampton, and 14 for 181 v Essex at Canterbury, in all 36 times five or more in an innings, 15 times 10 or more in a match. He collected 20 or more wickets against four counties - Essex 26 (avge. 12.88), Hampshire 23 (avge.16.86). Northants 22 (avge.12.90) and Gloucestershire 22 (avge.12.04). The latter included the wickets of Hammond and Charles Barnett in all four innings. He also dismissed Bob Wyatt four times that season.

Called up by England, Freeman took two for 40 and four for 37 on his home Test debut against West Indies at Lord's and ended the three match series with 22 wickets at 13.77. This included nine for 54 & five for 39 at Old Trafford and four for 47 at The Oval. To this he added nine for 104 for Kent in the tourist's second innings at Canterbury and six for 87 & five for 109 for an England Eleven at Folkestone, in all, 44 of the tourists' wickets at 15.68. He played for England against the Rest in a Test Trial and continued to flourish when chosen for Players v Gentlemen, six for 93 at Lord's, six for 73 at Folkestone. He passed the 300 mark in the final match of the season with a match return of six for 177 for the Rest v Lancashire at The Oval.

After such a season, a place on the winter tour of Australia was almost inevitable but, although he might have been seen to have staked a claim with five for 51 against Queensland in the game immediately prior to the First Test match, England played only one front-line spinner (Jack White) throughout the series and Freeman never seems to have been in serious consideration.

He enjoyed considerable success in up-country matches and in the first match with New South Wales took five for 136, becoming in the process the first Englishman to dismiss Don Bradman, bowled round his legs for a scratchy 87. Inevitably perhaps, there was a Bradman century in the second innings. When Victoria declared at 592 for nine in their second meeting with MCC, Freeman had bowled 55 (six ball) overs for his four for 245. In all first-class fixtures, his 35 wickets cost 32.40 each.

The 1928 season was a difficult act to follow but some remarkable performances contributed to his 267 wickets in 1929, notably seven for 11 v Leicestershire at Aylestone Road and seven for 16 v Sussex at Mote Park as well as his first all ten, ten for 131 v Lancashire at Maidstone. Rich crop of wickets notwithstanding, it was a landmark season in another respect. Although nobody knew at the time, it saw the end of his Test career.

Percy Fender was preferred for the First Test match against South Africa and Walter Robins for the second but with seven for 115 & three for 92 in the Third Test at Headingley and seven for 71 & five for 100 in the Fourth at Old Trafford, Freeman shared with team mate Woolley most of the credit for England's only two victories of the summer. In the Fifth Test, not for the first (or last) time, he found The Oval pitch hard going – 49-19-169-0. Nevertheless, he finished second in the Test averages with 22 wickets (avg.24) and leading wicket-taker. Tate was next with ten

When the Players beat the Gentlemen by seven wickets at Lord's he was the match winner with eight for 41 & five for 103. It was also his benefit year. The match, against Gloucestershire in Canterbury Week, was something of a disappointment in that on the first day he was upstaged by Marriott - Freeman four for 100, Marriott six for 79 – and rain prevented play on the third. Thanks however to collections etc., the proceeds amounted to £2,373 3s. 1d, a Kent record until 1947.

Test matches apart, for the next six English seasons Freeman carried on very much as before.- 275 wickets in 1930, 276 (1931), 253 (1932), 298 (1933), 212 of them for Kent, his highest for the County, 205 (1934), 212 (1935) . In every one of these seasons he was the country's leading wicket-taker and in 1930, 1931 and 1933 he accounted for more than 50% of Kent's wickets. In 1933 he bowled a colossal 2,033.2 overs. In those six seasons he claimed five or more in an innings 185 times, 74 times ten or more in a match. Twice more he took all ten, ten for 53 v Essex at Southend in 1930 where his match figures were 16 for 94, and ten for 79 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1931, as well as nine for 61 v Warwickshire at Folkestone in 1932 where his match figures were 17 for 92.

Among a host of outstanding analyses were nine for 50 v Derbyshire at Ilkeston and eight for 43 v Middlesex at Lord's in 1930, eight for 35 v Somerset at Canterbury in 1931, eight for 44 & eight for 38 v Northants at Tunbridge Wells in 1932, eight for 48 v Gloucestershire at Bristol, eight for 57 v Sussex at Hastings and seven for 18 v Northants at Dover in 1933, eight for 40 v Leicestershire at Gravesend in 1935. Unsurprisingly perhaps, with the exception of the Bristol match in 1933, all of these games ended in substantial Kent victories. When Kent inflicted their then customary defeat on Surrey at Blackheath in 1934 he took his third hat-trick (Eddie Watts, Errol Holmes & Ted Brooks). In 1934 Kent granted a second benefit, Somerset in Canterbury Week, which raised £1,586 2s.2d.

While Don Bradman was playing havoc with English bowling in 1930, he did not encounter Freeman until the Kent match at Canterbury in late August. In the first innings the great man was in trouble with Freeman's googly and succumbed lbw for 18 but there are no prizes for guessing who scored an unbeaten double century in the second innings, Freeman five for 78 & one for 68. At their second meeting, against an England Eleven at Folkestone, Bradman scored a relatively circumspect half-century but Freeman was restricted to four late-order wickets.

Although ignored by the Test selectors, he was still picked for Players v Gentlemen, at Lord's in 1930 and 1932 and in the rather less prestigious Folkestone match from 1930 to 1934. In the latter, his record was 37 wickets at 15.59 each, five times ten in an innings, twice ten in a match.

Freeman was among the wickets as usual at the start of 1936 with seven for 29 & two for 23 when Derbyshire were beaten by ten wickets on a wet pitch at Gravesend. This was Derbyshire's Championship year. There followed five for 104 & six for 41 at Edgbaston and by the end of May there were 38 wickets to his credit. In the course of the Edgbaston match, Tich reached the age of 48; of the regulars on the county circuit, only Phil Mead and Frank Woolley were older.

He had kept himself in good condition, thanks, at least in part, to his wife Ethel who, rightly or wrongly, had the reputation of being, shall we say, the dominant partner. Tich' liked his pint but, wherever practicable, Ethel picked him up and drove him home at close of play, scuppering any chance of post-match drinking. Probably more important, she 'discouraged' his addiction to cigarettes. Helped by seven for 58 against Somerset at Frome, six for 60 against the same opponents at Tonbridge and five for 46 v Worcestershire at New Road, by the end of June his haul had risen to 74, eight times five in an innings.

July began promisingly with five for 71 in a rain-ruined match against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells but, despite all Ethel's care the years were beginning to take their toll and cricket was clearly becoming hard work. There was a last hurrah, six for 92 in Stan Nichols' benefit at Southend and he ended his career in the Folkestone Festival with matches for Kent v MCC, an England Eleven v the Indian tourists and Players v Gentlemen in which he took his last wicket, the Middlesex amateur Mark Tindall. He finished the season 73rd in *Wisden's* averages with a (for him) disappointing 110 wickets at 25.41 apiece. Even so, only two leg spinners, Jim Sims and Tommy Mitchell, took more.

According to both *Wisden* and Freeman's biographer David Lemmon the cause of the decline was not merely age but more wear and tear on the muscles of the right arm. Bowling was increasingly painful and he had been obliged to more or less abandon the googly. Not unreasonably some might think, the Kent committee suggested that he be engaged for the 1937 season on a match-by-match basis, allowing for periods of rest but this Tich would not accept. As a result he was 'not re-engaged' for 1937 and, as so often happens in cricket, a great career ended with a hint of acrimony. In fairness to the Kent management it should perhaps be added that Freeman received a parting gift of £250 and drew winter pay up to the start of the new season.

In 1937 Alfred Percy Freeman exchanged county cricket for the less taxing ambience of Walsall of the Birmingham & District League. He was paid £12 10s. per week during the season and in his first year delivered 98 wickets including a hat-trick and an 'all ten' against Dudley, nine against Moseley and ten other five or more in an innings. His second year yielded 75 wickets, nine times five or more in an innings but at the end he gave up professional cricket and retired to his house in Bearsted, 'Dumbolyn'. He turned out in the odd charity match during and after the Second World War. In 1946 he played in the Surrey v Old England match at The Oval in which he bowled 15 overs for 58 runs and Laurie Fishlock's wicket.

'Tich' Freeman seems to have had few interests outside cricket but during his playing days he had additional sources of income as a not particularly active partner with 'Punter' Humphreys and George Fenner (*qv*) in a cricket coaching school in Maidstone. He was also for a while a (mainly sleeping) partner in Hubble & Freeman, a sports goods business in Maidstone, the business run for the most part by HJ 'Young Jack' Hubble (*qv*). Freeman also coached at a number of local schools, notably Sutton Valence. In 1949 he was one of the first group of 26 professionals who were made Honorary Life Members of MCC. In 1965 a wall plaque to his memory was unveiled at the St. Lawrence ground in Canterbury.

Although there is only one biography, a great deal has been written about Freeman and it seems that most who played against or alongside him and went into print shared Leslie Ames' judgment that he was 'worthy to rank among the greatest bowlers of my time'. Bradman in particular rated him highly, at least on English pitches.

Some had reservations. Bob Wyatt wrote 'Few bowlers have bowled leg breaks better than he' but if he failed to establish mastery over the batsmen 'he would tend to go to pieces'. It is perhaps worth adding that Wyatt lost his wicket to Freeman on 20 occasions, twice four times in a season, and, according to Norman Rogers in his *Eric Hollies. The Peter Pan of Cricket* (Warwickshire Cricket Publishing, 2003) he became involved in a lifelong feud with team mate Norman Kilner due in part to his perceived reluctance to face the Kent spinner. Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, most perceptive of cricket writers, thought 'no slow bowler within memory has cast such a spell on batsmen short of the highest class.' 'But he could be batted off the pitch by the truly great and, when once struck down, he did not re-arise. He retired to cover point, shrugging his whole body'.

Among the non-playing element in the cricket writing fraternity there were for the most part broadly similar views. Some ventured a little further - John Arlott: 'Freeman chucked 'em up in the air, the amateurs went down the track to hit him and Les Ames would get sixty odd stumpings in a season, while many of Tich's other wickets came from catches to long-on and long-off. Christopher Martin-Jenkins: 'The quick feet beat him'. Denzil Batchelor: 'If you successfully assaulted his bowling, he retired in shaking indignation' even Achilles was not harder to lure back into the front line'. 'One felt that whereas he *would* overthrow all the last five batsmen, he only *might* get out a couple of the first six'.

Some of this carping might justify closer examination in the light of cold facts. Of course he had days of '0 for plenty' but it is not easy to see how being hard to 'lure back into the front line', can possibly fit with the sheer number of overs Freeman got through season after season - not of course entirely from choice. For long periods during his career he lacked support at the other end. He bowled 12,234 balls in 1933 and analyses such as 68-23-136-5 v Middlesex at Folkestone in 1930, 63.4-14-149-3 v Hampshire at Dover in 1932, 45-5-199-6 v MCC at Folkestone in 1934 or for that matter 45-7-175-1 v Nottinghamshire at Canterbury in 1935 sits oddly with a bowler who could be 'batted off the pitch'..

2,060 of Freeman's wickets (54.5%) were batsmen in the top six. As for suggestions that his annual haul of wickets contained a disproportionately large number of amateurs there seems little evidence. In 1928, his most fruitful season, 42.30% of his victims were amateurs but 43% of the batsmen listed in the batting averages in *Wisden* that year were 'fancy caps'. By 1933, Freeman's second-most successful year, the amateur element in the *Wisden* averages had dropped to 38%.and the amateur content of Freeman's game bag had fallen rather further to 30.14%.

Of his 3776 wickets, 1456 (38.55%) were caught, 1053 (27.88%) bowled, 651 (17.24%) lbw; 484 (12.81%) stumped, 104 (2.75%) caught & bowled and 28 (0.74%) hit wicket. Of the 1456 caught, 194 (13.32%) were caught at the wicket and 302 (20.74%) by specialist slip fielders although of course, not necessarily in all cases were the catches taken at slip. Woolley alone held 221 catches from Freeman's bowling, 22 of them in 1935.

His most frequent victims were (* indicates amateur) NE Haig* (33), MW Tate (25), LH Tennyson* (24), WE Astill, BW Bellamy, J O'Connor, AE Thomas (23), TE Cook, CP Mead, GE Tyldesley (22) Among other top batsmen of the time are JW Hearne, RES Wyatt* (20), WR Hammond (19), EH Hendren 18, CJ Barnett (16), AW Carr* (15), CAG Russell, A Sandham (14), P Holmes, M Leyland, H Sutcliffe 14, G Gunn, JB Hobbs (10)

During Freeman's career Walter Hammond took five centuries off Kent bowling but he lost his wicket to him four times for single figures, once stumped for a duck; Hendren fell to Freeman three times

before he had scored, five more times for under 20. Of Phil Mead's 15 hundreds against Kent, 14 were scored when the attack included Freeman but he lost his wicket to the Kent man for two ducks and nine other scores between two and 17. Jack O'Connor hit nine centuries against Kent and had the reputation of playing Freeman better than almost anyone but nevertheless against him he registered one duck and eight scores between one and ten.

One batsman who had strong claims to be Freeman's master was Duleepsinhji. In all matches where Freeman was in the attack he hit 1,438 runs (avge.71.90) with eight centuries, three times two in a match. In 1929, when Sussex were dismissed for 69 and 127 at Maidstone and lost in two days, according to legend Duleepsinhji became convinced that the pitch had been deliberately over-watered and gained his revenge in the return at Hastings with 115 before lunch and in the second innings 246 in 195 minutes with six sixes and 45 fours (Freeman nine for 234).

Freeman took over 100 wickets against every one of the then 16 other counties except Glamorgan, 200 wickets against nine of them. Predictably his best figures were against the weaker counties – Essex 269 (avge. 16.45), Leicestershire 231 (avge 11.59) but he has a more than respectable record against most of the stronger counties, Middlesex, 220 (avge.19.38), Yorkshire, 153 (avg.20.77) and Nottinghamshire, 153 (avge.21.58). He was most expensive against Surrey, 142 wickets (avge.26.06) which reflects his moderate record at The Oval – 80 wickets at 29.03.

As to why he was not picked for England more often on home pitches remains something of a mystery. Selectorial decisions are often difficult to understand, especially with hindsight, but the subject is dealt with at length by his biographer.

Alfred Percy Freeman died of microcardial degeneration, bronchitis and ephysema. On the day of the funeral the hearse was delayed and, according to legend, a voice from among his former team mates was heard to speculate 'Perhaps Ethel wouldn't let him come 'His estate was valued for probate at £7,397

Further reading.

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Maj. Gen. Sir Lovick Bransby Friend. KBE CB PC (Ireland) (No. 395).

Born: 25.4.1856, Halfway Street, *Died:* 19.11.1944, West Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

1886-1887.

Educated: Cheltenham College & RMA Woolwich,

Parents: Frederick Friend & Fanny Friend (*née* Tyrell).

Lovick Friend was the son of a prosperous merchant living at Woolet Hall, North Cray with his wife, six children, a niece and eight servants. Friend was only moderately successful in his few appearances in first-class cricket but during his distinguished Army career he was one of the most prolific batsman in the history of the Royal Engineers Cricket Club, capable according to the RE history of 'making runs in any company except the highest class.' He was for many years Secretary of the club. Described as 'always cool and a sure kick', he kept goal for the Royal Engineers in the 1878 FA Cup Final.

At Cheltenham College from 1868 to 1872 Friend failed to find a place in the Eleven but on entering the RMA he played against the RMC Sandhurst in 1873 and made his first appearance for the Royal Engineers in the following year. In 1877 he hit the first of his ten hundreds for RE and in that year

also hit a century for Hundred of Hoo against Town Malling. In 1880, during service in the Far East he averaged 87.33 for Hong Kong CC and in 1885 scored 848 runs in RE matches with five centuries including 198 v Band of Brothers.

While stationed in Newcastle-upon-Tyne he played for South Northumberland (1887-1891), and the Northumberland Club (1888-1889), the latter a Newcastle based club, not the county. On leave, he hit a century for Sidmouth.

As well as his three first-class appearances for Kent in 1886-1887, Friend played for I Zingari v Gentlemen of England at Scarborough 1887 and in 1888 for Gentlemen of England v Oxford University in the Parks where he scored 72, adding 168 for the fifth wicket with Arthur Watson (91). His last first-class match was for MCC v Kent in 1891. Friend played for RE until 1897, the year in which he reached his top score, 208 for United Services Portsmouth v Aldershot Division. In 1894 for Southern Division v Connaught Rangers he scored 129, adding 200 in an hour with Captain Johnson (133). He also hit hundreds for Band of Brothers (his fourth against Royal Artillery) and Linton Park.

Commissioned in 1873, Friend was promoted Captain in 1885, Major 1893, Lieutenant Colonel 1900, Brevet Colonel 1904, substantive Colonel 1906, Brigadier General 1908, Major General 1913. In 1883 he was instructor in fortification at Sandhurst and from December 1884 worked for four years as Secretary of the RE Experimental Committee. He commanded Second Fortress Company RE in the Sudan under Lord Kitchener in 1898 and during the advance to Omdurman served with the Intelligence Department as Provost Marshall. While working in this capacity he gave lunch to a young cavalry officer by the name of Winston Churchill. During the Battle of Omdurman, he acted as one of Kitchener's 'gallopers'. He was Mentioned in Despatches and was awarded the Khedive's Sudan Medal with Khartoum clasp and the Queen's Sudan Medal in silver.

Subsequent appointments included Director of Works and Stores, Egyptian Army (1900) and Director of Works, Egypt (1905) which gained him the Order of Osmanieh, fourth Class. Subsequently he was Assistant Director of Fortifications & Works, War Office (1906), O/C Scottish Defences (1908), Major General (Administration), Ireland (1913), C in C Ireland (1914) and was responsible for the formation and training of three Irish New Army Divisions. In January 1916 he became a member of the Irish Privy Council.

As early as November 1914 Friend had complained that, should trouble arise, there were insufficient trained troops in Ireland but, following the interception of a German arms shipment and the arrest of Sir Roger Casement, the immediate threat was considered passed and Friend was on leave in London when the Easter Rising occurred.

He rapidly arranged for the transfer of almost 10,000 troops from England (including the writer's father), returned to Ireland to establish his HQ in Trinity College and set up a cordon around the rebel forces. He had in fact accepted the surrender of the rebel leaders before he was superseded by Sir John Maxwell. Although from time to time efforts have been to make him a scapegoat for the subsequent bloodshed, he was not involved in the much criticised measures used by Maxwell in the aftermath of the rebellion and no blame was attached to him in the subsequent enquiry.

In June 1916 he was appointed as President, Claims Commission BEF with GHQ in France where he was responsible for claims arising from movement of British troops and occupation of French and Belgian territory. This was a highly sensitive appointment for which he received his fourth Mention in Despatches, this time from Field Marshal Haig, the GOC. By then he had received his final appointment, Director of Hiring and Requisitions. For his services he was awarded the Belgian Order of Leopold as well as his KBE.

Lovick Friend retired in June 1920 after 47 years of Army service but remained for another year as Chairman of the French committee of the Disposal Board. He spent part of his retirement in South Africa and South America. He died in a nursing home. For all his service, his estate was valued for probate at a modest £1,537 13s.

Further reading.

Phillips, Andy. *First In Last Out. The story of Sapper cricket 1863-2016*. Institution of Royal Engineers, 2017.

William Henry Fryer (No. 154).

Born: 29.3.1829, Greenwich. *Died:* 19.1.1919, Loose.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace, round-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1852-1872.

Parents: Thomas & Martha Fryer.

Harry Fryer's life spanned a large slice of cricket history. On his first-class debut the team included Alfred Mynn, Felix and Tom Adams. He never actually faced WG Grace on the field but played against his brother EM and lived to see the great days of Hobbs, Rhodes, Blythe, Woolley etc. He was in the Kent side against MCC at Lord's in 1859, the first match staged by the present Kent County Cricket Club and top scored with 30 in the Mote Park Club's first match, against Cobham in June 1857.

Originally a wheelwright, Fryer was a genuine allrounder. A capable batsman who frequently opened, he was a useful change bowler, described in *Scores & Biographies* as 'rather fast' and was Kent's wicketkeeper for most of their matches between 1856 and 1863.

Although losing the sight in one eye after being thrown from a cart in September 1862 he continued behind the stumps for part of 1863 but relinquished the gloves in July and resigned at the end of the season. After umpiring briefly he was persuaded by William South Norton to return to county cricket in 1864 and rediscovered his bowling skills while still keeping wicket on occasions. He played for the Mote throughout the 1870s and on his death was described as having been 'the backbone of the club'.

His first match of note was for Stilebridge v East Kent in 1850. In the following year he appears playing for Watlington v Penshurst and hitting 50 for Stilebridge v Town Malling. In 1852, prior to his debut for Kent, he played for Canterbury v Manchester, for Town Malling v Hollingbourne and for Stilebridge against Town Malling when for the first and apparently only time in his career, he took ten wickets in a match. After scoring one and three on his Kent debut, he was not called on again until 1854 but despite a pair against Sussex at Hove – the first of eight in first-class matches - he remained a regular for Kent until 1865.

His first substantial innings was 57 against Sussex at Gravesend in 1857 and in 1858 he hit 67 as one of two 'given men' for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week. In 1864, in addition to achieving his highest score in county cricket, he claimed 26 wickets for Kent including 8 for 40 for Thirteen of Kent v England at Lord's. Although he only once claimed more than three dismissals in an innings as a wicketkeeper – four caught v Yorkshire at Cranbrook in 1862 - he caught eight for the New All-England Eleven v 22 of Tunbridge Wells in 1858.

Fryer was chosen to keep wicket for the 'Next Fourteen' against an Eleven of England at Lord's in 1860 and played against all three of the main touring elevens in 1856/57 as well as at least four games for the AEE. Between 1858 and 1862 he played three times for Tom Sherman's short-lived New All-England XI. He had three benefit matches, all at Mote Park - Kent v Eighteen of Mote Park in 1869, Kent v Surrey and Twelve Gentlemen of Kent v Sixteen of the Royal Engineers, both in 1870.

In 1857 he was engaged as professional at Cambridge and was for a while groundsman as well as ground bowler at the Mote. Between 1865 and 1881 Fryer umpired in 38 first-class matches. In his early days doubts were expressed about the advisability of employing a one-eyed umpire in Cricket Week but William de Chair Baker insisted 'a good umpire with one eye is better than a bad one with two'. He was for some years landlord of *The Star* at Coxheath but on his death certificate he is a 'retired wheelwright'.

He married at least twice. In 1858 he married a widow Frances Jane King at Chatham. There were four sons and two daughters. In 1897 he returned to his native Greenwich and married 20 year-old Maria Bridgman by whom he had one son. In the 1881 Census however his wife's name is shown as Rosina and she is only two years his junior.

Arthur William Fulcher (No. 344).

Born: 7.2.1855, Pau, France. *Died:* 17.5.1932, Bayswater, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1878-1887.

Educated: Westminster School.

Parents: Edward William Johnson Fulcher and Caroline Frances Fulcher (*née* Green).

The son of a Captain in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, Arthur Fulcher is listed as a wine merchant in the 1881 census but by 1891 he was living in Bearsted 'of independent means'. In 1901 he appears as a brewery director living in Billericay, Essex but he is of independent means again on his death certificate. Whether his fortunate circumstances were connected with the fact that, after the death of his father, his mother's second husband was a banker is unclear.

Fulcher was two years in his school Eleven and batted with considerable success in good class club cricket but did relatively little on his occasional excursions into the game at county level. In the 1880s he was a prolific scorer for the Mote for whom in 1886 he hit 224 v the Royal West Kent Regiment. In the previous season he hit hundreds against Old Cliftonians and RE and one against the Mote for Band of Brothers, the first of his two centuries for BB. In 1885 he headed the BB batting averages. He also played for MCC and Sevenoaks Vine as well as for Sharsted and Henry Brassey's Eleven at Preston Hall Aylesford.

His appearances for Kent were sporadic, three in 1878, one in 1886, three in 1887. Batting No. 9 against Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells in 1878, he reached his top score of 44*, helping to take the score from 300 for seven to 405 all out.

In 1883 he was commissioned in the West Kent Yeomanry and in 1890 transferred to the Suffolk Yeomanry. In 1897 he was granted the Honorary rank of Major and subsequently promoted to Major but resigned his commission shortly afterwards.

He was an enthusiastic sailor and in 1891 became a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. In November 1914 he joined the Royal Naval Reserve and with the temporary rank of Lieutenant Commander commanded a yacht patrolling off the Hebrides engaged on blockade duties, stopping and searching neutral shipping. Early in 1915 he resigned his naval commission and took up the post of Provost Marshal, South Irish Command based in Queenstown with the temporary rank of Captain (Honorary Major). He retired at the end of the year on reaching the age of 60.

He served as a JP for Kent from 1899 to 1911 and again from 1918 and of Hampshire from 1911 to 1914. In 1882 he married Gertrude Elizabeth Cooper. There were two sons, the eldest Edward Arthur played two matches for Kent Second Eleven in 1909 and between 1904 and 1930 for Devonshire. The

youngest was Eric Jesser Fulcher MC (*qv*). Following his death from pneumonia, Arthur Fulcher's effects were valued for probate at £2,422 8s 3d.

Frederick Gale (No. 137).

Born: 16.7.1823 Woodborough Rectory, Pewseyvale, near Devizes, Wiltshire. *Died:* 24.4.1904, Charterhouse, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1845.

Educated: Winchester College.

Parents: Rev Frederick Gale & Harriet Gale (*née* Fitch).

In his day one of the best known and most prolific writers on cricket, Frederick Gale was a 'hard-hitting batsman' at Winchester and played for the College in 1840 and 1841. In 1841 he appeared at Lord's against both Harrow and Eton. His top score in the two matches was only 14 but four years later he played one of his best innings, 33* in a total of 79 for the Kent Club (*aka* Beverley) v South London on the Beehive Ground, Walworth. Only one other batsman, Fuller Pilch no less, reached double figures.

Qualified for Kent through living with his father who was rector of Godmersham from 1829 to 1864, his solitary (unsuccessful) appearance for the County in a first-class or 'important' match was at the suggestion of Pilch who had coached him. A month later he played for Gentlemen of England v I Zingari on the Beverley Ground, Canterbury.

From 1865 to 1882 he lived in Mitcham and for a dozen years captained the Mitcham village team, doing much to further the careers of several well-known Surrey cricketers including Harry Jupp and Richard Humphrey. More than once he was entrusted with the captaincy of Surrey Colts. In 1868 he played twice against the Australian aboriginal tourists, for Eastbourne and for the Gentlemen of Surrey. As late as 1872, he appeared for Twenty-Two of Dorking v The United South of England and reputedly played in a minor match aged 60.

Professionally Gale was a 'Parliamentary solicitor' but he devoted much of his life to watching, writing and talking about sport, especially cricket and boxing. A trenchant critic, he wrote numerous books of which the best known are *Echoes of Old Cricket Fields* (1871), *The Game of Cricket* (1887) and *Modern English Sports* (1885). He also wrote a life of Robert Grimston, a history of Winchester College and contributed the chapter on country cricket to *Cricket* in the Badminton Library series (1888) as well as numerous articles for magazines and newspapers including *Baily's Magazine of Sports*, *Bell's Life*, *Fore's Sporting Notes*, *The Globe* and *Cricket*, frequently under the pseudonym 'The Old Buffer'. He also gave illustrated lectures.

In 1891 he moved to Manitoba, Canada to live with his son. Before his departure Surrey CCC gave a dinner at The Oval and presented an inscribed silver snuff box in recognition of his services. His extensive collection of sporting books, pictures and memorabilia was sold at Sotheby's. He later returned to England and lived for a while at Sandgate but fell on hard times and ended his days as a Pensioner of Charterhouse. Among his large circle of friends were John Ruskin and Kent's Felix (Nicholas Wanostroch).

In 1852 he married Claudia Fitzroy Severn (1829-1874) at St George's Hanover Square. There was one son and four daughters. On his death his effects were valued at £129 4s 10d.

C Gardiner (No. 78).

Kent 1828.

It has not so far proved possible to make a positive identification of this player. The Kent team in which his name appears, against Surrey at Godalming, includes two others – Caesar and Wood (*qv*) – who have been positively identified as local Godalming cricketers and it is probable that Gardiner was another. Between 1827 and 1830 two players named Gardiner appear in the Godalming team. Jas Broadbridge (*qv*) and Will Caldecourt (*qv*) played in the match as recognised ‘given men’ but it seems likely that for some reason the numbers were hastily made up from locals.

The 1907 Kent history refers to a Colonel Gardiner, ‘a well known member at Lord’s’, playing one match for Kent in 1828 but as the Godalming Gardiner batted No. 11, the Colonel appears a fairly unlikely candidate.

Walter George (No. 311).

Born: 20.9.1847 Selling. *Died:* 2.11.1938, Sydenham.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1875.

Parents: James George & Harriet George (née Theobald).

Before he played his first game for Kent Walter George had already established a reputation in village cricket in and around Faversham with his fastish left-arm bowling. As well as for Badlesmere, he played as a professional for the Hon Harry Milles (later Lord Sondes) team at Lees Court, Sheldwich and for Lord Harris’s own side at Belmont.

In May 1875 he appeared for Kent Colts against Kent at the Private Banks Ground, Catford Bridge, opening the bowling in the first innings and emerging with easily the best figures, five for 46. He did not bowl in the second innings and, batting No. 12 in a 14-man team, failed to score.

George was one of five professionals picked for the opening game of Kent’s 1875 season against Sussex, again at Catford, the venue for all Kent’s home county fixtures that year. In front of a small crowd - *Lillywhite’s Cricketers’ Annual* questioned “if county cricket has ever before been played to such as small gallery” - George took four for 38 in 33 overs and 0 for 14 in the second innings when Sussex needed to score only 31 for a ten-wicket victory. In the next fixture, again at Catford, he bowled unchanged through the first innings with Willsher to dismiss Hampshire for 64 (George six for 32, Willsher four for 32) and picked up two more wickets in the follow on.

In mid-June he travelled to Derby for his first away match. The home side totalled 307 and Kent lost by an innings but George had his finest hour with seven for 86 from 39.3 overs. The rest of his season was less successful, 0 for 43 when Sussex totalled 414 at Hove, one for 15 and two for 35 v 12 Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week. He was not selected for the remaining three matches and this ended his first-class career.

Why Walter George did not play again is a mystery. A doubtful action could explain it but probably not in this case. George not only continued in village cricket, for Lees Court and for the Chilham Castle team, but Lord Harris continued to include him in his Belmont side. Harris of all people would never engage any bowler whose action was not pure as driven snow. The fact that, like Harris himself, Francis Mackinnon (*qv*) and several other Kent amateurs, George served in the East Kent Mounted Rifles could have stood in his favour.

Certainly he could not have been thought too rough a diamond for county cricket. After Harris returned from leading a team of ten amateurs and two professionals to Australia in 1879, he attempted to arrange a match at Belmont between the ‘Gentlemen’ of his side and the St. Lawrence Club. In the event only seven of his gentlemen could make it and George was among those drafted in to make up

the numbers. He thus found himself, a lone professional, playing alongside not only his Lordship, but an array of Public School/Oxbridge cricketers including future England captain, A.N. 'Monkey' Hornby. Whether he was invited to join them for lunch is another matter.

On balance, it seems likely that it was George's own choice not to continue in county cricket. He had followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a pub landlord and combining it with other activities. In the 1851 Census his father James George is landlord of *The Red Lion*, Selling Street. Ten years later he is a 'victualler & wheelwright' but the pub is shown as *The White Lion*, Selling Street. James George died in 1866 and at the time of the 1871 Census his widow appears to be combining farming with running *The Falcon*, Leaveland. Walter is living at the same address but working as a farm bailiff but by the 1881 Census he is installed in *The Red Lion* Badlesmere and has a herd of 16 cows. In the three subsequent Census returns, 1891, 1901 and 1911, he is at *The Red Lion* and described as a 'publican & farmer'. Professional cricket could be an uncertain occupation and possibly pub and farm gave him greater security.

In December 1871 Walter George married Catherine Lucy Clinch (1850-1905) at the church of St Michael & All Angels, Throwley, the bride's native village. There were three sons and two daughters. He was living with his eldest son Arthur (1872-1952), a butcher, and his wife in Sydenham Road, Sydenham when he died. The cause of death was 'arteriosclerosis of the coronary arteries, pneumonia. Arthur was granted probate, the effects valued at £120.

In 1924 when the Badlesmere Club opened a new pavilion, the opening ceremony was followed by a single-wicket match between the 77 year-old Walter George and a former club captain, Shirreff Hilton. Both had played for Badlesmere 50 years earlier.

In his *A Few Short Runs* Lord Harris recounts a story of a match against Sussex in which George, facing the fast under-arm 'sneaks' of Francis Pickering, steels himself with repeated cries of 'Shan't move my bat; shan't move my bat'. In fact the two seem never to have faced each other, at least not in a Kent v Sussex or any other first-class match.

Arthur Cracroft Gibson (No. 376).

Born: 7.11.1863, Sittingbourne. *Died:* 8.12.1895, Sittingbourne.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1883-1884

Educated: Faversham Grammar School.

Parents: Frederick George Gibson & Ellen Cracroft Gibson (*née* Fooks).

A solicitor by profession and son of a solicitor, Arthur Gibson was another cricketer who, successful in high quality club cricket, was unable to reproduce his success in the county game. He scored runs and took wickets for Band of Brothers, Incogniti and Gore Court but in five matches for Kent – none incidentally on a Kent home ground – he only once reached double figures, a noble effort against Yorkshire at Dewsbury. Coming in at 30 for seven, he was 17* when the last wicket fell at 65. Only one other batsman, Edward O'Shaughnessy (12), reached double figures. In 1884 he scored 107 for Kent Second Eleven against Tonbridge.

In December 1892, Gibson married Helen Adelaide Harrald in Bromley. He died from tubercular nephritis only three years later... He had been ill for almost two years. Probate was granted to his widow, his effects valued at £1,100 15s 1d.

Alfred Gillow (No. 199).

Born: 2.5.1835 St. Nicholas-at-Wade. *Died:* 12. 8.1897, Chartham.

Kent 1860.

Educated: King's School Canterbury.

Parents: John Gillow & Sarah Gillow (*née* Bushell).

Alfred Gillow was in the Eleven at King's and subsequently found time from farming to play a great deal of cricket for local clubs including Beverley, Minster, St. Lawrence, Sandwich and Ashford as well as Gentlemen of Kent, East Kent and, against the USEE, for 22 of South Eastern Districts.

He contributed little on his two appearances for Kent - both in 'odds' matches against England - but did slightly better with 14* on his first-class debut, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1859. Two appearances for Gentlemen of Kent against I Zingari (non first-class) were less happy. Opening the batting, he failed to score on both occasions.

A noted outfielder, playing for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Glynde in 1859, he caught Sussex opener John Gosling Paine on the long leg boundary in both innings. According to contemporary accounts, the second catch was remarkable for the 'beautiful manner' in which it was taken. A long-term member of the Beverley club, Gillow served on the Managing Committee of the enlarged Kent C.C.C. from its formation until 1875.

Eldest of four brothers, all of whom played cricket, and four sisters, Alfred Gillow inherited the 320 acre (790.72 hectares) family farm on his father's death. In the 1871 Census he is employing 13 men and three boys; by 1881 he is employing ten men and two boys. Ten years later he is retired and living with two servants in the Manor House at St Nicholas-at-Wade. In 1863 he married Eliza Anne Emmerson (1837-1864) at Eastry. Their only daughter Alice was born in 1864; it seems probable that her mother died in childbirth. Alfred Gillow's estate was valued for probate at £417 17s 7d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George Goldsmith (No. 320).

Born: 7.8.1850, Brighton, Sussex. *Died:* 5. 4.1916, Hanwell, Middlesex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1875.

Educated: Brighton Grammar School.

Parents: George & Emma Goldsmith.

Much of George Goldsmith's cricket and professional life – he was an accountant – centred on Brighton. His one appearance for Kent in 1875 seems to have been during a relatively brief residence in Brompton. Although for Kent he bowled only five overs and batted No. 11, by 1875 he had already established something of a reputation as a fast bowler with the Gentlemen of Sussex and the Brighton Brunswick club. In 1871 he took six for 24 for Gentlemen of Sussex v the county side on the old Brunswick ground in Brighton. Two years later for Gentlemen of Sussex v Gentlemen of Hampshire at Winchester he claimed seven wickets in the home side's first innings. Although normally a tailender, on this occasion he opened the batting and scored 24 and 14.

Goldsmith's two first-class matches for Sussex were both against Kent, at Tunbridge Wells in 1878, at Hove in 1879. He was secretary of Sussex CCC from 1881 to 1888, having previously for some years served as assistant secretary.

At Cuckfield in 1874 he married Esther George Nye. There were two sons and one daughter. He died in Hanwell County Asylum, his estate valued for probate at £5,205 7s 2d.

William Goodhew (No. 161).

Born: 24.5.1828, Chislehurst. *Died:* 1.5.1897, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace, round-arm bowler.
Kent 1854-1866.

Parents: John Goodhew & Susan Goodhew (*née* Wright).

Originally a gamekeeper, Billy Goodhew was a useful allrounder and specialist long stop who gave stalwart service to Kent in the 1850s and 1860s, a bleak period in Kent history, at least in terms of results. In his history of Kent CCC the cricket historian Bob Arrowsmith describes Goodhew as ‘a moderate bat’ but this surely does him less than justice. His three half-centuries for Kent were all in low scoring games – when he hit 70 against Sussex at Sandgate in 1862 in a Kent total of 132 the next highest score was 18. In 1859 his scores included (team totals in brackets) 31 (90) v MCC at Lord’s, 24 (47) v Middlesex at Southgate, the next highest score five, 46 (106) and 26 (83) v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. When Kent narrowly beat Cambridgeshire after following on at Mote Park in 1863, his innings of 58 in Kent’s second innings was the backbone of an ultimately winning total. In his career as a whole he achieved double figures on 37% of his visits to the wicket, a respectable statistic by the standards of the day.

Rarely better than third or fourth change, he nevertheless had his days with the ball – two for 14 and three for 19 v MCC at Gravesend in 1857, seven for 40 v Gentlemen of England at Canterbury in 1858. He was picked for South v North four times, at Tunbridge Wells in 1857, at Lord’s and at Canterbury in 1859, at Sleaford in 1864 as well as for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury in 1861. In 1868 while playing for Beverley against Selling, the Selling team objected to his ‘high bowling’.

Without being a regular member, between 1857 and 1868 he appeared on occasions for two of the strongest travelling elevens, United All-England and United South of England as well as once or twice for the short-lived United England and New All-England. Before finally settling as professional at King’s School Canterbury, and playing for Beverley, his engagements included the Upton Park, Bow and South Essex clubs as well as Winchester College and Christ’s College, Finchley. In 1868 he appears to have run into financial troubles and was granted £10 from the Alfred Mynn Memorial fund.

Although apparently of an excitable disposition - Lord Harris likened him to the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* - Goodhew’s services were much in demand as an umpire. Between 1866 and 1882 he stood in 34 first-class matches, more than half of them in Kent; he reputedly disliked travelling outside the county.

He umpired regularly in Band of Brothers matches and, improbable as it may seem given his professional status and the mores of the age, actually played (and took 11 wickets) in their inaugural match against Torry Hill in 1858. He also played twice in probably the most socially up-market fixture of the day so far as cricket in Kent was concerned - for BB v I Zingari. In 1866 he appeared in a Gentlemen of Kent Eleven v 18 of Southborough, a match staged for his benefit.

In 1850, while lodging in West Ham, he married Lydia Gallifent (1827-1881), his landlady’s daughter, by whom he had one son and six daughters. In 1885 he married Mary Catherine Allen (1854-1946) who provided him with a further two sons and three daughters.

Rev John Frederick Gosling (No. 190).

Born: 19.2.1833 North Cray. *Died:* 16.10.1882, Bream, Gloucestershire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1858.

Educated: Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford.

Parents: Richard & Mary Gosling.

John Gosling played for Rugby against MCC at Lord's in 1851 and 1852 but does not appear to have played any cricket of significance during his time at Oxford where he gained an MA. On his only appearance for Kent in the 1858 Canterbury Week he batted No. 11 in the first innings and 10 in the second. With several regulars absent, Kent were considered a weak side and lost by five wickets despite powerful reinforcement in the shapes of William Caffyn, John Jackson and George Parr.

There are some doubts about the initials of several Goslings who played for Gentlemen of West Kent around this time and JF may just possibly have been one of them. He is almost certainly the J Gosling who played for Richmond v Southgate in 1861 and for 20 of Richmond v the AEE in 1867. In the latter fixture he registered a pair. There were ten other ducks and the Richmond 20 managed only 14 in their first innings.

From 1863 to 1869 Gosling was curate at Holy Trinity, Watermoor, Cirencester and from 1869 until his death, Vicar of Bream. His estate was valued for probate at £14,921 15s 6d.

William Gilbert Grace (No. 338).

Born: 18.7.1848, Downend, Bristol, Gloucestershire. *Died:* 23.10.1915, Mottingham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm. fast medium/slow leg-break bowler.

Kent 1877.

Parents: Dr Henry Mills Grace & Martha Grace (*née* Pocock).

Arguably still the greatest English cricketer who ever lived, WG played for Kent as one of two given men against England in the 1877 Canterbury Week. Kent had not beaten England in an eleven-a-side match in the Week since 1849 and in the previous three years the home side had been Kent & Gloucestershire. As well as shortening the odds, Grace's presence was guaranteed to add several hundreds to the gate although Kent were obliged to pay him for being there. In the committee minutes relating to the previous season, Lord Harris referred to the payment of '£40 to the Messrs Grace'. He had already hit seven hundreds on the ground, the last his monumental 344 for MCC in the previous season, and taken 94 wickets.

Grace's train was delayed, he arrived late and batted No. 5 instead of his usual place at the top of the order. On a wicket flattened by a steam roller he was within a whisker of being lbw first ball but the bowler (William Mycroft) did not appeal - fortunately for the crowd and perhaps fortunately for the umpire. He went on to an uncharacteristically shaky 50 but was himself again in the second innings with 58 (8 fours). For MCC against Kent in the second match of the Week he took three for 64 and six for 19.

In 27 visits to the St. Lawrence ground between 1866 and 1889 Grace scored 2,206 runs (avge.53.80) with seven hundreds and ten 50s and took 141 wickets (avge.26.90), 16 times five in an innings, six times ten in a match. He also held 48 catches. In 1871 for MCC v Kent he scored 117 and bowled unchanged through both innings for figures of 12 for 144. For Gentlemen of MCC v Kent two years later he took five for 55 and ten for 92 (twelve a side). For Kent & Gloucestershire v England in 1874 he hit 94 and 121 to go with match figures of ten for 160 and in the following match 123 and 11 for 129 for Gentlemen of MCC v Kent (twelve-a-side). As late as 1895, just short of his 47th birthday, he scored 257 and 73* against Kent at Gravesend and was on the field for every ball of the match. In the same fixture the following year he took six for 39.

Green (No. 79).

Kent 1828.

Green's only match for Kent was the Godalming game referred to above (see under C.Gardiner) in which it has so far proved impossible to make a positive identification of four of the Kent side. No cricketer named Green seems to have played for Godalming at the time which at least makes it unlikely that he was recruited locally According to the official Kent history Vol.1 page 290 he was the father of William James Green (*qv*) but no initial is provided. Matters are further complicated by the assertion that he also played for Kent in 1841-42. This would indicate that he is the same player as William Green (*qv*) which is to say the least improbable. While he might have fathered a child at 17, 11 is a bit young to play for Kent.

William Green (No. 120).

Born: 1817, Sevenoaks. *Died:* 25.11.1870, Gravesend.

Kent: 1841-1842.

Another about whom little is known. While he was undoubtedly landlord of *The Crown*, Milton, Gravesend where he died, it is not clear where he played cricket apart from his two appearances for Kent. His name does not figure in the Gravesend team of the 1830s and 1840s, nor can he be linked positively with any of the better known Kent clubs although he may be the Green who played for Sevenoaks in 1841 and 1850 and/or for Wrotham Napps in 1843/1844.

Presumably he was rated as a batsman. When he scored 16 against England at Bromley in 1841 – his first match for Kent – he batted No. 3 with Fuller Pilch, Alfred Mynn, Dorrington, Wenman and Tom Adams all below him in the order.

William James Green (No. 177).

Born: 1834, Gravesend. *Died:* 11.1.1876, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1856-1861.

Parents: William Green & Rebecca Green (*née* King.)

The son of William Green (*qv*) and a house painter by trade, William James Green played regularly for Gravesend although surviving records do not show him as having been a notably prolific batsman. On his debut for Kent in 1856 he batted No. 10 but on his second appearance three years later he was considered reliable enough to come in No. 6.

In 1865 he scored 23 for Thirteen Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend, two sides seemingly made up largely from local cricketers. None of Kent's leading professionals took part, most of the top amateurs were absent and the match did not appear in the fixtures published before the start of the season. Kent played all their home matches at Gravesend that year.

Other than his trade, that his wife's name was Henrietta and there was one son and two daughters, no facts about his life outside cricket have so far emerged.

Edward Greenwood (No. 292).

Born: 19.1.1845, St. John's Wood, London. *Died:* 25.1.1899, Smithwood, Womersley, Surrey

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1873.

Parents: John Greenwood & Jane Elizabeth Greenwood (*née* Coar).

Born in London, the son of a solicitor, Edward Greenwood was of 'independent means' and lived most of his life at Hilden Cottage, London Road, Hildenborough where between the mid-1860s and early 1880s he found time to indulge in great deal of local cricket. He played for Edenbridge, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Leigh, Sevenoaks, Southborough, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Watlington and possibly more. He appeared in odds matches for Edenbridge and Tunbridge Wells against both the United South of England and the New United South of England touring teams and in 1880 for Eighteen of Hastings & District v the Australians. In 1872 and again in 1875, he was in the Gentlemen of Tonbridge team against Players of Tonbridge.

While he did little in his one and only game for Kent – 0 (opening the batting) and 13 (batting No. 5) – he scored three and one against the Australians and only once reached 20 in touring eleven matches -he had better days at normal club level. In 1873 he hit 97* for Sevenoaks v Chislehurst and his 53 for Tunbridge Wells v Hawkhurst in the same year was considered by the *Kent & Sussex Courier* 'the finest display seen on the Common for many years', For Tunbridge Wells v Richmond in 1882 he contributed 46 to a then club record total of 363. He was top scorer with 41 for Gentlemen of Tonbridge v Players of Tonbridge in 1875.

Rarely used as a bowler in his later career, in 1863 he took nine for 5 for Leigh v Town Malling. In 1874 he scored 13 in each innings, opening the batting for 'Kent' v Twenty of Ashford. The match seems to have been 'unofficial' and hastily arranged. In *Scores & Biographies* the Kent team is dismissed as including 'several inferior and worn out men'. Whether Greenwood was classed in either – or even both - of these categories is unclear but not suffering from the necessity to work for a living was perhaps a mixed blessing. According to his death certificate he died of 'alcoholism'.

In 1886 he married Mary Hollingdale (1852-1903). There were no children. The alcohol notwithstanding, his estate was valued for probate at £21,283 8s 11d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Colonel Leonard Alison Hall Hamilton p.s.c. (No. 408).

Born: 23.12.1862, Mount Abu, Rajputana, India. *Died:* 24.3.1957, Umberleigh, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1890-1892. Cap 1890.

Educated: Tonbridge School & RMC Sandhurst.

Parents: George Hamilton & Alice Hamilton (*née* Pollock).

In the 1880s and early 1890s Leonard Hamilton was highly regarded as a batsman, strong in defence and with a wide range of strokes, especially on the leg side. His standing as a first-class cricketer however rests almost entirely on a short period between 20 June and 6 August 1890. On 3 May that year he had attracted notice by scoring 269 for the Army v Royal Navy at Portsmouth. He already had three other double hundreds to his credit, two in regimental cricket while serving in India in 1885, and 203 for United Services v the Gentlemen of Philadelphia in 1889. This was one of his four centuries that year, three in services cricket, one for Old Tonbridgians.

Brought into the side for Kent's opening game of the 1890 season, he scored 45 on his debut against MCC at Lord's but did nothing much in the next three fixtures. His run of success began on 20 June against Gloucestershire at the Spa ground Gloucester when he scored 63 in Kent's second innings. In the next match, on what *Wisden* termed a 'false and treacherous' pitch at Town Malling, Hamilton contributed 50 to Kent's total of 173 which proved enough to give Kent an innings victory over Sussex. There were only two other scores over 20.

Under the curious fixture arrangements of the day, Kent's next two matches were both against the Australians. On the wet pitches which prevailed throughout the season, the formidable New South Wales combination of Charles Turner and Jack Ferris was wreaking havoc among county sides, claiming between them 365 wickets at under 15 runs apiece, At Mote Park, Hamilton, after a first innings duck, was top scorer in the match with 56. At Canterbury in Cricket Week he again failed to score in the first innings but in the second played the innings of his life, batting four hours and carrying his bat for 117* in an all out total of 205. After an opening partnership of 78 with Alec Hearne (35), no other batsman reached double figures. A major contribution to Kent's nine-wicket victory, it was widely asserted that nobody had ever played Ferris (five for 101) better.

This turned out to be the summit of Hamilton's brief first-class career. In the next game against Surrey at Beckenham he scored 11 and 39 but in 12 subsequent matches between 1890 and 1893, his top score was 25. It should be said however that in 1891-1892 his battalion was stationed in the Channel Islands which left him little time for county cricket although he continued to score heavily locally.

A member of an Army family, Hamilton was in the Eleven at Tonbridge in 1879-1880, chosen as much for his bowling as his batting – he took twelve wickets in a match against Dulwich in 1880. He was also in the Rugby Fifteen and did even better when going on to Sandhurst gaining a place in the cricket, Association Football and Rugby teams.

Commissioned into the First Battalion 5th Regiment (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) in 1853, he scored a century for Cork County while stationed in Ireland and, as already noted, when the regiment was posted to India he hit – 220* for KOYLI v Royal Welsh Fusiliers and 209 for Officers of KOYLI v NCOs and Men. While taking part in the 1886-1887 Burma campaign, for which he was awarded the Burma medal with two clasps, he scored 111 for KOYLI v 'The Rest of the World' at Bhamo – probably the first hundred on Burmese soil – followed shortly afterwards by a duck against the Mandalay garrison.

Away from county cricket, Hamilton continued to score heavily, with centuries for his regiment, United Services, MCC, Tonbridge and on one occasion for 'Kent Eleven v the Gentlemen of Surbiton'. In 1893 he scored his fifth double century, 267 for the Officers of KOYLI v 2nd Battalion Dorset Regt. In the February 1890 edition of *Cricket* magazine Joe Easby (qv), who served as a Private in Hamilton's company at Gosport and in the Channel Islands, paid tribute to the help he received as a cricketer from his company commander.

Hamilton did not only excel at team games. In 1889 he entered five events in the United Services Lawn Tennis Tournament and came first in each. In the following year he registered 34 points out of a possible 35 shooting at 500 yards in the Southern District Rifle Meeting.

Gazetted Captain in 1891, Hamilton was promoted Major in 1900, Lieutenant Colonel 1908, Colonel in 1911 and retired in 1919. He commanded 1st Battalion KOYLI from June 1908 to June 1913 in India and Hong Kong. He was Assistant Adjutant General, Eastern Command 1913/1915. In 1896/1899 he commanded a company of Gentlemen Cadets at the RMC Sandhurst.

In 1902 Hamilton married Beatrice Madeline Swan (1870-1939) in Middlesbrough. On his death his effects were valued for probate at £3,254 9s

John Hammond (No. 5).

Born: 15.1.1769 Pulborough, Sussex. *Died:* 15.10.1844 Storrington, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1806.

Parents: Edward & Mary Hammond.

One of the leading allrounders of his day, John Hammond was essentially a Sussex cricketer but he played one 'first-class' and a handful of other matches for Kent or Kentish teams, most of them when living in Dartford in the 1790s. Hammond was not only a highly accomplished all-round cricketer; he was also an innovator. A powerful hitter, he was reputedly the first to move out of his crease to straight drive slow bowlers, on at least one occasion putting the not over-popular Lord Frederick Beauclerk (*qv*) in fear for his life. His quick feet and aggressive tactics did much to hasten the demise of the old under-arm bowling. His 110* for North Sussex v South Sussex at Esburn Park in 1802 is credited as the first century in the county.

Having, like most of his contemporaries, started as a 'fast bowler' Hammond achieved great success with 'semi-round-arm' spin. He was also considered in the top flight as a wicketkeeper. Playing for Beauclerk's Eleven v General the Hon Edward Bligh's Eleven at Dandelion Paddock, Margate in 1796 he stumped seven and caught one.

In his first recorded game on Kentish soil, Hammond scored two in each innings for East Kent v West Kent at Bourne Paddock, Bishopsbourne in 1790. In 1794 he scored five, 22, claimed three wickets and held one catch for Kent v the Oldfield Club at Lord's. Earlier that year he also played for Kent & Hampshire v MCC and twice for Kent & Surrey v Hampshire. For Kent v Middlesex (not categorised first-class) he hit 39 at Lord's in 1795 and 42 on the same ground in the following season. In 1795 he scored two half-centuries on Kent grounds, 53 for England v Kent on Penenden Heath and 60 for Sir Horace Mann's Eleven v the Earl of Darnley's Eleven in Dandelion Paddock, Margate. In the latter match he also caught two, stumped one and took at least one wicket.

When Hammond made his one and only first-class appearance for Kent he had long since moved out of the county and played as one of four 'given men'. Later that year he appeared in both of the inaugural Players v Gentlemen matches at Lord's

Away from cricket, Hammond was a plumber. His son Charles James and grandson Ernest both played for Sussex.

William Hammond (No. 181).

Born: Maidstone. *Died.* Brooklyn, New York, USA.
Kent 1857.

Another about whom reliable data is scarce, in October 1859 William Hammond, a recent immigrant, took part in the first match ever played against an English touring team on United States soil. Batting No. 4 for Twenty-Two of the USA, he scored six and 0 against George Parr's Eleven on the St George's Club ground, Hoboken. On newly laid turf, the bowling of Jackson, Wisden, Caffyn and Parr was too much for the home side; in two innings, the top score was seven.

In June two years earlier he had played alongside Alfred Mynn for Mote Park against Cobham in what is generally accepted as the inaugural match of the present Mote club. Opening the batting he scored seven and 23 (top score). Having played twice for USA against Canada – in 1859 and 1865, he became the second Kent cricketer to participate in an international match

It has not been possible to identify Hammond's date of birth but, assuming he was born in Maidstone, there are about a dozen possibilities. His first match of importance was in August 1853 for 18 of Maidstone v the United All England Eleven at Vintner's Park. Opening the batting, Hammond's contribution was two and 0 in a low scoring match in which the top score was 24 and only seven batsmen reached double figures. In July of the following year he was again in a Maidstone 18, this time against the AEE at Mote Park where he did marginally better with three and nine.

Between 1855 and 1857 he made a number of appearances, generally as opening batsman, for Hollingbourne and for Maidstone, reaching double figures on at least three occasions. His best effort was in 1856, 34 and 12 for 'Mote Park' –presumably a forerunner of the present club – against Southgate.

In 1855 he appeared for Gentlemen of Kent & Surrey v Gentlemen of England at Lord's and in the return at Canterbury, both matches now deemed first-class. On his only appearance for Kent, v Surrey at The Oval, he was probably a late replacement when two players dropped out of the team who had played at Lord's on the previous day.

Whereas Hammond had played as an amateur in England, on emigrating to the USA he seems to have turned professional. When Parr's team took on Philadelphia in October 1859, he not only played but was one of the caterers. He also opened the batting against Parr's team for Twenty-Two of USA & Canada. When Edgar Willsher took another team in 1868, Hammond played against them three times, for Boston, USA and the America Cricket Club (all 22s) but with little success. Overall his record against the two touring teams from his home country was six, three ducks, four, six, four ducks, one and five and included three pairs.

In American domestic cricket he was more successful. In 1859, in the first of his two appearances for the USA v Canada at Toronto he scored 36 (top score) in an all out total of 112, For Germantown v 'The Families' at Philadelphia in the same year he top scored again with 40 out of 117 and hit 20 for English Residents v American Born at Hoboken. When he was run out for 17 playing for Germantown v Young America, his was the only double figure score.

Henry Hampton (No. 6).

Born: *circa* 1773. Died: 12.11.1845, Hampton Cottages, Commercial Road, Peckham, Surrey Kent 1806.

The precise date and the location of 'Harry' Hampton's birth is unknown and many relevant scorecards give no initials but it is at least likely that he is the Hampton who played for the Montpelier Club against MCC at Walworth in September 1797 and against the same opponents at both Lord's and Walworth in the following year. Two Hamptons, H and J, are known to have played for Montpelier but it is as likely that he was the Hampton who appeared twice for Montpelier against Brentford & Richmond in 1799, contributing 24 and four, three wickets and three catches at Walworth and 27, 17, two wickets and two catches in the return.

Whether he was the player involved in all, some or none of the foregoing, Harry Hampton was clearly a more than useful cricketer as he next appears, complete with initial, playing for England v Surrey at Lord's in 1802. This was the first of his three games for England (all at Lord's) and of five matches now deemed first-class – among them his game for Kent v England at Dartford in 1806. He appeared again for Kent in the following year, scoring 0 and one for Twenty Three of Kent v Thirteen of England at Lord's. He had more success playing for Montpelier, scoring 64 (in a total of 112) against Homerton in 1806. As late as 1819 he appears playing as a 'given man' for Old Etonians v MCC at Lord's.

Hampton made one important contribution to Kent cricket but not as a player. At some unspecified date he became landlord of a pub and proprietor of a cricket ground at Cottage Green, Camberwell. The ground was much used by local clubs, among them the East Surrey Club. It was here *circa* 1823 that the great Felix (Nicholas Wanostrocht) reputedly first became interested in cricket (somewhat belatedly at the age of 19) and Harry Hampton and the East Surrey Club are credited with developing his game.

Three Hamptons, W, H and G, appeared for Camberwell Star on Harry Hampton's ground in 1828 and no fewer than five – H, C, W, G and R. played against Bletchingly in the following season. Hampton sold his interest in the ground to a Mr Hall in 1834 and in the 1841 Census he is living in Albany road Camberwell, described as a 'beer retailer'. He is a 'retired beer retailer' on his death certificate four years later.

Further reading.

Paine, Philip. *The Montpelier Cricket Club. Predecessor of Surrey CCC*. Mischief Makers, 2010.

The Venerable Edward Hoare Hardcastle (No. 380).

Born: 6. 3. 1862 Manchester, Lancashire. *Died:* 20. 5.1945 Brighton, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman. left-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1883-1884

Educated: Winchester College & Trinity College Cambridge.

Parents: Edward Hardcastle & Priscilla Buxton Hardcastle (*née* Hoare).

The son of a Conservative MP, after his year in the Eleven at Winchester in 1880 Edward Hardcastle was assessed in red *Lillywhite* as 'a straight fast left-handed bowler; he just missed being a good bat owing to nervousness on first going in; a poor field;' At Cambridge, he took three wickets in the 1881 Freshmen's match but progressed no further. Injury may have been a factor as he does not appear to have played for his college. Later that season he scored 32* and took a wicket for Worcestershire v Herefordshire at Hereford.

For Kent, Hardcastle took three for 29 in Surrey's first innings at Maidstone in 1883 but failed to take another wicket in the match and bowled only five overs without reward on his second appearance, v Derbyshire at Gravesend in 1884. Early that season he had scored 43 and taken five for 35 and one for 37 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Mote Park.

He played for a variety of clubs including Band of Brothers between 1883 and 1888 and for MCC. For Southwood v St. Lawrence in 1890 he took six for 11 in six overs and four years later scored 59* for the local clergy against the strong Lansdown club at Bath. In 1899 he toured the Netherlands with the 'Odd Fishes', a club formed by the Rev LJ Fish.

Edward Hardcastle had a distinguished career in the church. Ordained in Canterbury Cathedral in 1887, he served for four years as a curate in Ramsgate and was subsequently vicar of Weston, Bath, Rector of St. Martin with St.Paul Canterbury, and in 1904 vicar of Maidstone. In 1915 he was made an honorary canon of Canterbury Cathedral and in 1924 Archdeacon of Canterbury and Canon Residency of the Cathedral until his retirement in 1939.

In 1891 he married Harriet Mackinnon Crompton (1864-1892) at Cranleigh, Surrey. Following her death, in 1900 he married the Hon Alice Goschen (1864-1941), second daughter of the first Viscount Goschen at Ticehurst, Sussex. There were five children. In 1908 he was hit by a 'tramcar' on the way to his church and was knocked unconscious for several minutes as well as losing several teeth. From 1939 to 1945 he served on the Kent General Committee. On his death his estate was valued at £8,519 5s 3d.

Thomas Harden (No. 84).

Christened: 10 February 1805 Rolvenden.

Kent 1829.

Nothing is known about this player other than he was *probably* the Thomas Harden christened at Rolvenden in 1805 and that he scored 0 and 0* against' Sussex at Brighton in 1829.

Sir Edmund Stracey Hardinge 4th Baronet. (No. 209).

Born: 27.3.1833, Bidborough. *Died:* 8.4.1924, Kensington, London

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1861.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Rev Sir Charles Stewart Hardinge, Second Baronet & Lady Emily Bradford Hardinge (*née* Callander).

Described in the 1907 Kent History as 'a hard hitter, especially to square and long-leg, a fast bowler with a low delivery and a good fieldsman at slip and cover-point', Edmund Hardinge in his only first-class match scored one not out batting No. 11 and six when promoted to No. 3 in the second innings. Most of his cricket was for Sevenoaks Vine where he was a member for many years but he also played for Bluemantles, the Anomalies, a Public School / Oxbridge wandering club, and between 1861 and 1866 in a few matches for Gentlemen of Kent. In later life he recalled a painful collision with the mighty Alfred Mynn while running between the wickets.

He was a member of the 1859 Kent County Club and of the enlarged club after the 1870 amalgamation, serving on the general committee from 1879 to 1881. His elder brother the Third Baronet was a Vice-President. He appears in the well-known picture of the 1891 Canterbury Cricket Week.

Away from cricket, he was a JP and deputy Lieutenant of Kent. At various times he lived at South Park, Penshurst, at Chiddingstone and in 1901, according to the Census, lived at Cheshunt where he resided in some state with 15 assorted servants.

In 1877 he married Evelyn Stuart Maberly (1853-1926) at Christchurch, Hampshire. There were four children. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £14,058 4s 1d.

Harold Thomas William Hardinge (No. 489).

Born: 25.2.1886, Greenwich. *Died:* 8.5.1965, Cambridge.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1902-1933. Cap 1907.

Tests: One for England.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year: 1915.

Parents: William Berkeley Hardinge & Ellen Hardinge (*née* Manning).

The son of a Master Mariner who suffered from deafness severe enough to be recorded as deaf in the 1891 Census, Harold 'Wally' Hardinge started as a left-arm spinner but progressed to become one of the most reliable opening batsmen of his time. Possessed of an equable temperament and a sound technique – Pelham Warner wrote of him 'his sound batting had at the back of it, a sound mind', he added stiffening to a team of stroke players who could, now and again, get carried away with their own brilliance. With a low grip, which was anathema to the purists, he was strong off his pads and, like most of his vintage, off-drove and cut well.

Although generally cast in the role of sheet anchor, he could score quickly when required and his captains were seldom inclined to change the order when pressing for runs. Three times he hit a hundred before lunch, two against Hampshire, both on the first day of the match and both at Dover, 113* (final score 117) in 1913, 104* (114) in 1928 and 123* (162*) v Worcestershire on the second day at Tonbridge in 1921.

As well as his useful left-arm spin, like many professional footballers, Hardinge was fast in the outfield with a quick, low return and a safe pair of hands. *Wisden* considered him 'one of the best outfields in the world.' He was one of that now probably extinct species, a double international. In 1910, while with Sheffield United, he played for England v Scotland at Hampden Park (lost 2—0). In 1921 he played for England v Australia at Headingley (lost by 219 runs). In both matches he played alongside other double internationals – Harry Makepeace (Everton & Lancashire) & Andy Ducat (Woolwich Arsenal & Surrey) at Hampden, Ducat again at Headingley (by then, his football team was just plain Arsenal.).

Hardinge had a long apprenticeship. Even though capped in 1907, not until the following year did he become a regular in the side with over 1,000 runs in 26 matches. In all, he passed the landmark 1,000 runs 18 times and exceeded 2,000 in 1913, 1921, 1922, 1926 and 1928. Despite playing alongside prolific scorers such as Frank Woolley, Les Ames and James Seymour, he was Kent's leading run-scorer in 1913, 1919, 1921, 1922 and 1926 and headed the county batting averages in 1913 and 1919.

He shared in 149 three-figure partnerships, 54 for the first-wicket, four of them over 200, and 26 of them with Bill Ashdown, the most successful opening pair in Kent history. For the second wicket he participated in 47 century partnerships, one over 300, nine over 200. He scored a century against 15 of the then 16 first-class counties, 11 against Essex and ten against Hampshire. The exception was Glamorgan who did not play Kent until 1932.

He carried his bat through a completed innings ten times, a Kent record. His 75 centuries were spread over 33 grounds, nine at Dover, six each at Canterbury and Leyton, five at Tonbridge, four each at Blackheath and Southampton.

In the 1901 Census, Hardinge is working as an apprentice cricket ball maker and living with his mother and maternal grandfather in Hyde Vale, Greenwich, his father presumably at sea. His first trial with Kent was two years earlier while he was still at school. He played with Kent Club & Ground in 1900 and 1901 but not until 1902 was he formally taken on the staff at Tonbridge. In that year he took 151 wickets in Club & Ground and local club matches when on loan from the Nursery.

In June of the same year he made his first-class debut, batting No. 11 against Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells. His nine overs brought him two for 40 and, although with the bat he contributed a modest two* and six, in the entire match only three Kent batsmen achieved double figures.

Seconded from Tonbridge Nursery to the Mote in 1903 he scored 202* against Stoics, adding 315* for the second wicket with the Rev PC Joy (134*). As a bowler he again claimed over one hundred wickets in Nursery matches. With the bat he averaged over 30 in four successive seasons – his average in minor cricket rising to 74 in 1906. Although never making more than occasional first-class appearances, as early as 1903 he had given evidence of his class. Batting No. 7 against Somerset at Gravesend he hit 62* and shared a sixth-wicket partnership of 159 with his captain 'Pinky' Burnup (134).

Wally Hardinge's career began to blossom in 1907. Promoted to the first team to open with Woolley at the start of the season, the partnership began badly when, in the opening game against MCC, Woolley was twice bowled without scoring but in the Whitsun match against Sussex at Hove the pair scored 214 in 130 minutes, 196 of them before lunch; Hardinge (129) hit his first century, Woolley 99. The pairing was not an unqualified success however, they only once more passed 50, and Hardinge later dropped to the middle order. He nevertheless held his place until the usual influx of amateurs in mid-July. 701 runs (avg.25.03) plus 14 wickets was enough to gain him his County Cap.

Opening in all but three of Kent's fixtures, in 1908 Hardinge reached 1,000 runs for the first time, with three hundreds, one 90 and six other half-centuries. Against Essex at Leyton, he hit 153 & 126, the first of four occasions on which he scored two hundreds in a match. With Sam Day he shared third-wicket partnerships of 126 in the first innings and 105 in the second. At Derby, with Cloudesley Marsham, he put on 219 for the first wicket (Hardinge 127, Marsham 91). Among his other opening partners was 'Punter' Humphreys who would be his regular partner up to 1914 and with whom he would share 17 century opening partnerships.

Due to injury and loss of form, he failed to reach 500 runs in 1909 and in 1910 he made only five first team appearances but was back near his best in 1911 with over 1,100 runs and an average over 30. Against Hampshire at Southampton he scored 175 & 109 and against Essex at Tonbridge carried his bat for 123* in a total of 203.

Chosen for a Test Trial at Lord's, he hit 113* for the Rest against an England attack – or bowling unit as it is now fashionable to call it – including Frank Foster, Claude Buckenham, Frank Tarrant and Wilfred Rhodes. Pelham Warner thought him unlucky not to be chosen for the MCC team he led to Australia in 1911/12. He was however chosen for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's, the first of his five appearances in the fixture, two at Lord's, and three at The Oval.

Although not picked for home Test matches and football commitments ruling him out for overseas tours, over the three remaining pre-war seasons Hardinge consolidated himself in the upper echelon of English county batsmen. In 1913 only four batsmen (one of them James Seymour) scored more than his 2,037 runs (avge. 41.57). His seven centuries included four in successive innings – 154* v Leicestershire, Canterbury, 117 & 105* v Hampshire and 107 v Northants, all at Dover. He took part in five century opening partnerships with Humphreys and seven for the second wicket with Seymour including 231 against Hampshire at Portsmouth and two in a match in the return at Dover.

1914 was another good season when, although falling short of 2,000 runs, he hit four centuries, nine half centuries and took part in another nine century partnerships, four for the first wicket with Humphreys as well as one of 99 and one of 98. In the 1915 *Wisden* he was one of the Five Cricketers of the Year, a distinction marred somewhat by the comment 'Hardinge has nearly every good quality as a batsman, but he is not seen at his best against very fast bowling,' a criticism destined to follow him throughout his career.

At this stage, the evidence is hardly conclusive. The immediate pre-war years was not a vintage period for English fast bowling but although some of the quicker bowlers dismissed him cheaply on occasions – Hesketh Hesketh-Pritchard claimed his wicket before he had reached double figures three times - he seems to have had most trouble with George Hirst who, although no longer fitting into the 'very fast' category, dismissed him without scoring once and on five other occasions took his wicket before he had reached ten. On the other hand, of his 20 pre-war centuries, seven were scored against attacks including leading fast bowlers of the day, four against Buckenham (Essex), one each against Derbyshire with Bill Bestwick and Arnold Warren, Leicestershire with Bill Shipman and Alec Skelding and Worcestershire with Dick Burrows.

On the outbreak of war Hardinge was one of the handful of Kent professionals who did not enlist immediately and, like the others, received a letter from the Kent committee asking why he had not volunteered and 'what he was doing to help.' His reply, to the effect that he was the sole support of his parents, his married brother was ill and that he had offered his services as a special constable, was recorded without comment but in April 1915 he enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service. A motor cycle enthusiast, Hardinge's papers show him in May of that year as a Petty Officer Mechanic 'Cyclist. Armoured Car Division'. Later that year he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer Mechanic Third Class and in January 1918 to Chief Petty Officer Mechanic, Second Class.

According to a recent book, *The Final Over. The Cricketers of Summer 1914*, by Christopher Sandford, Wally Hardinge was at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. Like several of the author's assertions, this seems rather unlikely. Hardinge never seems to have made such claims and, although Admiral Jellicoe's Fleet included a seaplane carrier, there is no record of Hardinge ever having served in her. Armoured cars – or motor cycles for that matter - would seem to have no obvious utility in a naval battle fought in the North Sea many miles from the nearest land.

There is nothing in his service papers to indicate that he, like many – probably most - RNAS personnel in the days before aircraft carriers –served at sea in the First World War. The only postings listed are *HMS President*, a depot ship permanently moored in the Thames, and the RNAS shore stations at Crystal Palace and Blandford in Dorset. He was at Blandford in April 1918 when the Royal Flying Corps and the RNAS. were merged to form the Royal Air Force. In June of that year Hardinge was posted to the Cadet Brigade HQ at Hastings and assumed the then RAF rank of Sergeant Major.

In August 1917 Chief Petty Officer (as he then was) Hardinge appeared for the Army and Navy v The Australian and South African Forces at Lord's. There were two other Kent cricketers in the side, Corporal David Jennings and Sergeant Colin Blythe, both making what would their last appearance in a match of any importance. In the following year while stationed at Blandford, Hardinge made the first of three appearances for England v the Dominions in front of large crowds, two at Lord's, the third at The Oval.

Hardinge was demobilised in January 1919 but remained on the RAF Reserve until 1920. In September 1922 he played for a rather strange eleven entitled 'RAF (Ex Service)' against the Rest of England at the Saffrons. In a side containing other distinguished ex-RAF / RNAS men including Jack Hobbs, Woolley, Percy Fender and George Geary, his first innings 97 was top score in the match.

Kent did not start their first post-war season until June and Hardinge slipped back easily into the routine of county cricket, possibly helped to fitness by over 70 wartime football matches for Woolwich Arsenal. With 891 runs (avge.46.89) he finished top of the Kent averages and leading run scorer. He hit 142 v Middlesex at Mote Park and 172* v Essex in Canterbury Week but possibly his best innings were at Blackheath, 97 as Kent were dismissed by Surrey for 164 and at Leeds where he carried his bat for 79* as Kent were bowled out for 169. On his first meeting with the pace of Jack Gregory, for Kent against the Australian Imperial Forces, he was bowled for three and caught at the wicket for 0 but did better when he encountered him again at Hastings. Playing for the South of England, he hit 90 in the second innings.

Normally at ease on slow wickets, Hardinge found the wet season of 1920 hard going. His average dropped to 30 with only two centuries. but he was back to his best in 1921 with 2,339 runs (avge.51.97), two double- century partnerships and nine centuries including 207 and 102* against Surrey at Blackheath. At Tonbridge against Worcestershire, Hardinge and Seymour finished the match with an unbroken third-wicket partnership of 250, scored in 110 minutes (Hardinge 163*, Seymour 122*).

Selected for Players v Gentlemen at both The Oval and Lord's, he scored 127 at the former ,batting number five and was picked for the Third Test match against Australia at Headingley starting next day. One of 16 batsmen called on by England that year, he opened and, after a nervous start, remained relatively untroubled as three partners succumbed to the pace of Gregory and MacDonald - Woolley 0, Jack Hearn seven, Ducat three. Having survived the fast bowlers' opening spells, he had the mortification of being given out lbw to first change Warwick Armstrong for 25. Apart from bowler and umpire, most in a position to know seem to have thought the ball hit the bat. In the second innings he was caught at slip by Gregory off MacDonald for five and was never picked again.

Hardinge had two further encounters with the Armstrong juggernaut. Facing the full attack at Canterbury, he batted two hours for 74 but for the South of England at Hastings, he was less successful, bowled Gregory seven, bowled MacDonald 0.

Although continually passed over for international cricket, for the next decade and more Wally Hardinge remained one of the most consistent batsmen on the county circuit, averaging over 50 in three seasons and between 40 and 47 in a further two. Not until 1932, by which time he had dropped to the middle order, did he average below 30. After 1921, his best season was 1928 – 2,446 runs (avge.59.65) with five centuries including 263* v Gloucestershire at Gloucester and 205 v Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells.

In 1923 Hardinge was awarded the potentially most lucrative of Kent's fixtures, Hampshire in Canterbury Week, for his benefit. It was an odd season in which his usual consistency seemed to desert him. He hit five centuries (two against Essex) and seven half-centuries but six ducks and 19 other single figure scores brought his average down to the low thirties. When the amateurs became available in mid-season, he spent much of his time batting No. 6. In a low scoring game against Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells, he was on the field from the first ball to the last, carrying his bat for 71* in the first innings as Kent were dismissed for 161 and remaining 48* in the second innings, when Kent won in two days by ten wickets. With collections, his benefit raised £1,649 15s 3d.

Between 1922 and 1929 Hardinge took part in one triple century partnership – 307 for the second wicket v Worcestershire at Kidderminster in 1922 (Hardinge 151, Seymour 170) and sixteen double-century partnerships including 297 for the fourth wicket v Hampshire at Southampton in 1926 (Hardinge 160, Chapman 159), 283 for the third wicket v the South Africans at Canterbury in 1924 (Hardinge 118, Woolley 176), and 238 for the first wicket v Leicestershire at Blackheath in 1925 (Hardinge 139, Ashdown 108).

Even in 1933, his final season, when his run output fell to 742 (avge.22.48) and he sometimes found himself batting as low as nine, he hit two half-centuries, 53 v Surrey at The Oval, where he shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 85 with Percy Chapman, and 51 (top score) v Hampshire at Southampton. Against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells he opened for one last time with Bill Ashdown but was dismissed by Tate for three.

As a bowler, Hardinge might well have achieved more with a county less well stocked with spinners. Little used by Kent pre-war, by the late 1920s/early 1930s with Woolley bowling less, he was given more to do and in the twilight of his career evolved into something more than a useful change. Giving the ball air, he could achieve considerable turn in the right conditions. Against Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells in 1929 he took six for 9 from 11.5 overs and twice he claimed over 50 wickets, in a season. In 1932, five for 19 v Derbyshire at Ilkeston was followed by his only ten in a match, seven for 64 & four for 64 at Lord's against a strong MCC team including the Nawab of Pataudi and South Africa's Herby Taylor.

His football career and later his employment with John Wisden & Co. perhaps gave Wally Hardinge a measure of independence denied many pros. It does not seem to have generally affected his relationship with the Club but at a meeting of the Managing Committee in 1927 the question arose of his attitude during the Kent v MCC match at Folkestone which was termed 'complete indifference. He had scored 0 and 19 and bowled five overs for 25 runs without taking a wicket. It was decided 'with regret, having regard to the indisputable evidence received, the committee can take no other course but to reprimand him severely and beg Lord Harris to convey this to him'. The real sting is in the end of that last sentence. Whatever the punishment, there was no lasting damage. For Hardinge, 1928 would be his best season ever.

There seems little doubt that football commitments contributed to his achieving 'One Test wonder' status, at least before the War. Post-war, with Hobbs, Sutcliffe, Sandham, Percy Holmes, CAG 'Jack' Russell and several others, England were rather spoilt for choice when it came to opening batsmen but with his reputation as an outfielder, he might have merited consideration further down the order. However, for generations English selectors have suffered from a deeply-rooted reluctance to pick batsmen who are openers by trade to bat any lower than No. 3.

There are unconfirmed stories that his employers, John Wisden & Co, refused him permission to tour Australia with MCC in 1924/25 and again in 1928/29 when he proposed accompanying the team, even though he was prepared to do so at his own expense.

Whether Hardinge's reputed weakness against fast bowling was a factor in his non-selection is unclear. The allegation stayed with him throughout his career and beyond. As late as 1971, with Hardinge dead and unable to put his side of the story, the historian Bob Arrowsmith went further than the 1914 *Wisden* asserting 'His great weakness was that he had no stomach for facing really fast bowlers'. A harsh judgement; the evidence is at best shaky and is perhaps worth looking at in some detail.

The bowler who dismissed Hardinge most often was Maurice Tate (23 times). Sussex are one of the three counties against whom Hardinge averaged under 30 and, in view of this reputed weakness against pace, it may be significant that Lancashire (with MacDonald) and Nottinghamshire (with Larwood, Voce, Barratt and Matthews) are the others. Following Tate, come Jack Newman (19 dismissals) and Haig (15). None of these could be classed as 'really fast' but close behind were Buckenham (14), MacDonald (12) and Harry Howell (ten). As we have already seen, Hardinge hit four centuries against Essex when Buckenham was leading the attack. He also scored two against Warwickshire with Howell and passed three figures against most of the other leading fast bowlers of the day including Bill Bowes, 'Nobby' Clark, Fred Barratt, George Loudon and Morris Nichols.

MacDonald, generally accepted as the finest fast bowler of his era, dismissed him twice for 0 and five times for single figures but at Dover in 1926 Hardinge (132) and Woolley (137) put on 253 in 170 minutes for the third wicket against a Lancashire attack in which MacDonald bowled 30 overs. Hardinge batted in all for three hours, fifty minutes. In 1929 he hit two half-centuries against MacDonald and his career average against Lancashire with MacDonald in the side – 26.90 – is actually higher than his overall average against Lancashire -24.97. Facing Harold Larwood, Hardinge registered three ducks and five other scores under ten but against this there were three half centuries and a top score of 86. In 1926, admittedly when Larwood was still learning his trade, there was a century opening partnership with Ashdown, of 135 at Trent Bridge.

Described at the time as a 'ball playing' inside-forward, Wally Hardinge's football career began with Eltham, Tonbridge and Maidstone. In 1905 he turned full-time professional with Newcastle United for whom he made a handful of first team appearances. In 1907 he was transferred to Sheffield United for whom he scored 40 goals in 152 Cup & League matches. In 1910 he moved on to Woolwich Arsenal, subsequently Arsenal, for whom he scored another 14 goals in 55 appearances and played in the inaugural game at Highbury. After finishing with Arsenal he had a short period as second team manager with Tottenham Hotspur and acted as caretaker first team manager for part of the 1935 season after they were relegated.

Hardinge worked for John Wisden & Co for much of his career. In their advertisements in *Wisden* he is shown as being 'Joint Manager'. His employment with them however seems to have ended when he retired from cricket in 1933. He coached at Leicester for a short period and subsequently worked for the Cement Marketing Board. He played club cricket for, amongst others, Forty Club.

In 1908 he married Daisy Cornford (1885-1964) from Tonbridge at St John's Church, Deptford. There was one daughter. During the Second World War he lost all his sporting trophies when their house was destroyed by bombing. On his death he left £1,693.

Lieutenant General Archibald Richard Harenc (No. 111).

Born: 20.9.1821, Footscray. *Died:* 5.8.1884, Langton, Dorset.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1840.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: Benjamin Harenc & Sophia Caroline Harenc (*née* Berens).

The younger son of a wealthy East Indies merchant who lived at Footscray Place (bombed by the Luftwaffe and almost totally destroyed by fire in 1950) Archibald Harenc was a talented bowler although clearly not in the class of elder brother Charles. His Army career restricted his cricket but while stationed in Canada he had the distinction of being the first Kent cricketer to play in an international match – he scored 0 and 11 (but did not bowl) for Canada v USA at Montreal in 1845.

Harenc does not seem to have played for his school while at Harrow and did little in his two matches for Kent but he bowled well on a number of occasions for the Gentlemen of Kent. On the Beverley ground in the second match of the inaugural Canterbury Week in 1842 he took six wickets, four of them in the first innings when, bowling unchanged with Alfred Mynn, the Gentlemen of England were dismissed for 112. For the Gentlemen of Kent & Sussex at St. Lawrence in 1856 he claimed seven wickets when the same opponents were bowled out for 99.

In cricket below first-class level he took 15 wickets in a match for Beverley v the South London club in 1847 and bowled unchanged through an innings at least three times. For Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Surrey at Bromley in 1847, he took three wickets bowling unchanged with Mynn and for Gentlemen of West Kent at Agar's Plough in 1859 he accounted for seven Etonians, bowling in tandem with Neville Lubbock (*qv*). in the first innings and A.G.Chapman in the second.

His distinguished Army career began in 1842 when he joined the 97th Regiment (from 1881 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment) as an ensign. A Lieutenant in 1846 and Captain in 1854, he served during the Indian Mutiny and was promoted Brevet Major for his services at the siege and recapture of Lucknow. In 1860 he purchased his Lieutenant Colonelcy and transferred to the 53rd Regiment (King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry) which he commanded from 1864 to 1870. He was promoted Colonel in 1869, Major General 1879 and Lieutenant General 1881.

In 1862 he married Amy Carew Farquharson (1844-1924) in Blandford, Dorset. There were four children. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £23,167 5s 8d. At the time of his death his home was in Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Charles Joseph Harenc (No. 90).

Born: 3.8.1811, Footscray. *Died:* 14.12.1877, Bedford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast under-arm/slow round-arm.

Kent 1834-1848.

Educated: Harrow School & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Benjamin Harenc & Sophia Caroline Harenc (*née* Berens).

After changing from the fast under-arm of his youth to slow round-arm, Charles Harenc was for a few seasons generally considered one of the best amateur bowlers in the country. The acknowledged finest bowler of the day, William Lillywhite, went further, proclaiming with typical modesty 'I bowl the best

ball in England and Mr Harenc the next'. Their methods appear similar and of similarly dubious legality by the Laws of the time. Both got the ball to lift but, whereas Harenc raised his hand 'up to his ear', Lillywhite's was said to have risen above the level of his top hat.

It is impossible to evaluate Harenc's bowling statistically as for much of his career bowled and lbw were the only wickets credited to the bowler. As far as can be ascertained from existing records his achievements for Kent seem relatively modest but he took over 60 wickets in Gentlemen of Kent matches, including eight in an innings (ten in the match) v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1849 and eleven in the match (six and five) in the return at Canterbury. On at least three occasions in Gentlemen of Kent matches he bowled unchanged through an innings with Alfred Mynn. Between 1831 and 1838 he was chosen seven times for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's and in 1832-33 claimed at least 18 wickets in four matches for England v Sussex.

Harenc was also a useful middle to lower order batsman with a gift on occasions for scoring runs when others failed but his method seems to have little to recommend it. As the bowler ran (or walked) up he used 'to draw away from the wicket and then return'. What his opponents made of this is not recorded. Even so, although he has only one first-class half-century to his credit, he scored 22 and 37 for Gentlemen of Kent v MCC on his first-class debut at Lord's in 1830, hit 40 for Harrow v Winchester in 1826 and recorded nine other scores between 20 and 31.

Harenc was in the Harrow Eleven from 1826 to 1828 and captained them in his final year. Going up to Oxford in 182, he played for the University against MCC twice in 1832 and once in 1834. There were no matches with Cambridge during his time. Awarded his M.A. in 1834, he qualified as a barrister three years later. He appears in Mason's well known lithograph of an imaginary Sussex v Kent match at Brighton.

The Harencs were a cricketing family. The father Benjamin played for the Prince's Plain club, forerunners of West Kent, his wife was one of the Berens family who were for many years involved with the club and, as well as Archibald (*qv.*), two other brothers played first-class cricket – the Rev Edward for Cambridge University and Benjamin for the Gentlemen of Kent.

Due to play for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1833, rain had been falling at Chislehurst where Harenc was staying and he started late, arriving at the ground after the conclusion of the Gentlemen's innings. This prompted the MCC Secretary Benjamin Aislabie (*qv.*) to, as was his wont, break into verse:

*Charley Harenc likes good wine, Charley likes good brandy,
Charley loves a pretty girl, as sweet as sugar candy,
Charley is as sugar sweet, which wetted melts away, Sir,
Charley therefore stops away upon a rainy day, Sir,
Charley knocks the knuckles of many an awkward clown, Sir
If Charley stops away again, he'll chance to rap his own Sir.*

In 1868 Harenc married Ann Maria Powis (1833-1899) at Bedford. After his death his estate was valued at £18,000.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

William Henry Hargreaves (No. 433).

Born: 6.9.1872, Baldock, Hertfordshire. *Died:* 19. 4.1948, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1893.

Educated: Clarence School, Gravesend.

Parents: Joseph Hargreaves & Emily May Hargreaves (*née* Moore).

A Gravesend club cricketer who worked for most of his life for the National Bank of Egypt in London, William Hargreaves – known to his friends as ‘Sawny’ - probably owes his only appearance in county cricket to being in the right place at the right time. A Kent side at Gravesend, already under strength due to injury and unavailability, was further weakened when Leslie Wilson cried off on the morning of the match. Curiously, although Hargreaves was a regular bowler for Gravesend and the Kent captain treated him as such putting him in at No. 10, he was not asked to bowl on his home ground despite a Middlesex first innings total of 288. He went up the order to No. 7 in the second innings but failed to score.

Hargreaves played two Second Eleven games later that season, both against Surrey. At Tunbridge Wells he took four for 36, at The Oval one for 43 and 0 for 25. In 1894 he took two for 15 and two for 23 for Chatham & District in a two-day match against the South African tourists at New Brompton. For Gravesend he was a considerable all-round cricketer. In 1893 he performed the double with over 1,000 runs and 110 wickets at under ten runs apiece.

A twin whose brother died in infancy, in 1904 William Hargreaves married Emily May Moore (1873-1915) in Gravesend. On his death, his effects were valued at £4,686 1s 5d.

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Henry Harington (No. 459).

Born: 14.8.1868, Chichester, Sussex. *Died:* 1.1.1948, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1897.

Educated: Cheltenham College.

Parents: Emanuel Thomas Harington (born Emanuel Thomas Poe) & Isabella Jane Harington (*née* Crowdy).

Both Herbert Harington’s parents were born overseas. His father, an East India merchant and indigo planter, was born Emanuel Thomas Poe at sea off the coast of Mauritius. His mother was a British subject born in France.

Obligated to leave Cheltenham after only two years due to ill health, Herbert Harington missed a place in the college Eleven and, apart from one innings, did little on his two appearances for Kent but he was a prolific batsman in club and services cricket. In 1892 he hit 192 for Incogniti v Hounslow Garrison sharing a third-wicket partnership of 240 in 100 minutes with AE Gibson (108*). In the same year he hit 101 for Kensington Park v Ne’er-do-wells. In 1897 he scored centuries for Woolwich Garrison, Aldershot Division, his Regiment the 10th (Lincolnshire) and hit two more centuries for the Lincolns in the following season including 183 against the Black Watch. His other clubs included Free Foresters and MCC. In 1893/94 he played against Ceylon (as it then was) in Colombo for a Straits Settlements touring team.

Commissioned in 1887, he was promoted Captain in 1897, served with his regiment during the Boer War (1899-1902) where he was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded two campaign medals with five clasps

He retired in 1904 but rejoined the Army on the outbreak of the First World War. During the war he held a number of staff appointments including Adjutant at the Regimental Depot, Staff Captain at the War Office 1914-1916, DAAG. at the War Office 1916-1919 and was a further three times mentioned in despatches. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1919.

George Robert Canning Harris, GCSI, GCIE, CB Fourth Baron Harris (No. 266).

Born: 3.2.1851, St Anne's, Trinidad. *Died:* 24.3.1932, Belmont, Faversham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1870-1911. Cap 1882.

County captain 1875-1889.

Tests: Four for England (all as captain.).

Educated: Eton College and Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: George Francis Robert, Third Baron Harris & Sarah Lady Harris (née Cummins).

For over half a century the Fourth Baron Harris dominated Kent cricket and was only marginally less influential at Lord's. He was Captain of Kent from 1875 to 1889, President 1875, Chairman 1886-1931, Secretary 1875-1880. First appointed to the MCC Committee in 1875, he was President in 1895, Treasurer 1896-1931, Trustee 1886-1932, chaired MCC selection committees and served on numerous sub-committees. Four times he captained England and for a decade or so he was among the top 20 batsmen in England.

When he assumed the Kent captaincy the County's fortunes were at low ebb. There were numerous talented amateurs around but most preferred country house cricket and confined themselves to playing in Canterbury Week – if at all. Of the few professionals, there were useful cricketers such as William McCanlis, and Edward Henty but only Ned Willsher, well past his best and approaching the end of his career, had pretensions to class. Aided by a small group of loyal amateurs and an acquiescent committee, he slowly brought about a transformation and, in time, talented 'fancy caps' began to rally to the cause.

Although never aiming to emulate predominantly professional clubs such as Surrey and the northern counties, Harris recognised the need for a strong professional backbone and went in search of talent so that, by the time he relinquished the captaincy, there was a paid nucleus for his successors to build on. Subsequently the team, spawned in part by his brainchildren, the Tonbridge Nursery and a full-time Manager, would bring four Championships between 1906 and 1913 and place Kent firmly among the top counties.

More than most of cricket's magnificos, his record of service stretched well beyond cricket. A one-nation Tory and three times Chancellor of the Primrose League, he was Under-Secretary of State for India 1885, Under-Secretary of State for War 1886-1889, Governor of Bombay (now Mumbai) 1890-1896, Lord-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria, ADC to Edward VII and George V.

In business he was Chairman of Consolidated Goldfields, where Bill Bradley (*qv*) was an employee and the Surrey batsman Robert Henderson at one time Company Secretary, Amalgamated Mining Trust, Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines and the Naval Construction & Armaments Company, Vice-President of the National Telephone Company and a Member of the Board of Chatham & Dover Railways. A JP since 1872, he was a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, a founder Councillor and Alderman of Kent County Council. A major influence in agricultural circles in East Kent, he was also a prominent Freemason and was involved with the revived Olympic movement.

He joined the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (Royal East Kent Yeomanry) in 1873 and was Commanding Officer from 1897 to 1908. During the Second Boer War he served on the Imperial Yeomanry staff in South Africa 1901-1902. He was Honorary Colonel 4th Battalion Royal East Kent Regt. (the Buffs).

Perhaps a little surprisingly, Harris was an enthusiastic and active member of the Old Stagers. His on-stage contributions were normally confined to *The Epilogue* but in 1929 he was praised for his

performance as 'Lord St. Erth' in Galsworthy's *Loyalties* – an extreme example perhaps of typecasting but, happily, one with a successful outcome. In one *Epilogue* he reputedly 'dried' in the middle of a song but with patrician aplomb, refreshed his memory from a piece of paper.

Yet, in recent years, it has become the fashion to belittle his achievements. Increasingly, he is portrayed as a dyed-in-the-wool reactionary, a bigot, a racist and, not least, a scourge of the exploited, forelock-touching, professional cricketer. Judging by contemporary writing, this is not how he was seen in his lifetime or at the time of his death. Not certainly how he is portrayed by his biographer James D Coldham nor how Harris himself comes across in his reminiscences.

Harris was, of course, a product of his of his time and of his class. He might have found little common ground with the archetypal modern *Guardian* reader or the opinion formers at the BBC but he espoused a number of 'liberal' causes of the day, both inside and outside cricket and, although he had his share of mistakes and misjudgements, on important issues he seems to have, judged with all the advantages of hindsight, contrived to be right more often than he was wrong,

His writings often express his regard for the professional cricketer and the Kent CCC committee minute books contain numerous examples of his concern for players' welfare and his readiness to help those of them who suffered from injury, ill-health or fell on hard times. Harris held strong views on many subjects and his autocratic manner would seem out of place in the 21st century but, then was then and now is now. According to most of those who knew him best, he was fair, willing to listen to contrary opinions, and, if quick to anger, equally quick to apologise when wrong.

In the 1890s, a time when a professional's benefit depended almost entirely on gate money, Harris was responsible for the introduction of Kent's 'average over three years' benefit system which ensured that a player could not be ruined by a couple of wet days. Much has been written on his role in the long battle with the Inland Revenue over Jim Seymour's benefit. Less well-known is that he had first to overcome reactionary elements on the Kent committee who wanted Seymour to get no benefit at all.

His assertion, recounted by Lord Hawke in the 1933 *Wisden*, that 'a professional cricketer was entitled to sell his services to the highest bidder and that if he played League cricket he might still play for England', was radical at the time and even today would not find favour everywhere. His approach, if widely adopted, might have saved a lot of breath and printers' ink at the time of the Packer interregnum. Although his reputation was and is of a man of strong principles he was, perhaps above all, a pragmatist. As an example, on the thorny subject of payments to WG Grace, his attitude was expressed as 'Nice customs curtsy to great kings'.

The family connections with Kent cricket date from 1834 when George's grandfather, the Second Baron, was one of the syndicate responsible for bringing Fuller Pilch (*qv*) to the County. In 1870 his father, despite ill-health, was the first President of the enlarged Club, formed when Kent CCC amalgamated with the Beverley Kent Club.

When George Harris was born his father was the highly regarded Governor of Trinidad. He went on to become, from 1854 to 1859 Governor of Madras where he was, if anything, even more highly regarded. Fortunately for the boys' upbringing and due in part to enlightened governance, Madras was relatively unaffected by what we are now enjoined not to call the Indian Mutiny but he suffered more personal trauma in the death of his mother Sarah, Lady Harris in 1853. As a result, until 1859 when the family returned to England, the boy was brought up largely by Indian servants of whom he later wrote with respect and affection.

In England Harris was educated privately until the age of 13 when he followed his father to Eton. He had already acquired a love of cricket and had some coaching at Lord's where he had seen his first

'Great Match' in 1862. By 1867 he was 12th man against Harrow and was in the Eleven from 1868 to 1870. He captained in his final year when Harrow were beaten by 21 runs. He also made his mark at racquets and fives as well as being one of the editors of the college magazine.

Going up to Oxford in 1871, he gained Blues in 1871, 1872 and 1874. His first Blue was perhaps a touch fortunate. He had already made his first-class debut for Kent, v Gentlemen of MCC in the 1870 Canterbury Week, but had failed in the Trial matches and there was stiff competition. At the instigation of the High Priest of Etonian cricket, RAH 'Mike' Mitchell, Harris, already a member of MCC, was given a place in the MCC team against the University. Following a first innings duck, he scored a timely maiden first-class century, 107, and shared a 125 run third-wicket partnership with Conrad Wallroth (45) (*qv*). It must have been a strange partnership. In the previous year Harris had 'Mankaded' Wallroth in the Eton v Harrow match.

Making his debut for the University two days later, v The Gentlemen of England, he scored 67* and 64, which proved to be his highest scores in Oxford colours. Against Cambridge he was bowled for 0 by fast left-arm bowler Walter Powys. In 1872, plagued by illness, he had a disappointing season culminating in five and 0 in the University match, bowled in both innings, again by Powys.

Before the end of the season he joined a tour of the USA and Canada, part of an all-amateur team organised by the MCC Secretary RA Fitzgerald and including WG Grace, 'Monkey' Hornby and Kent colleagues, Cuthbert Ottaway and the Lubbock brothers (*qv*). Apart from 65 in an exhibition game, his top score was 38 but the trip furthered his cricket education and widened his circle of acquaintances in the upper echelons of the game. Returning to England in October, his life changed irrevocably in November when, on the death of his father, he inherited the title and with it the Belmont estate.

New responsibilities kept him away from Oxford for two whole terms. In the 1873 cricket season a hand injury restricted him to only four first-class matches for the University, which cost him a Blue. Without venturing further north than Lord's, he did however manage another seven first-class games, four of them for the County.

In 1874, his final year, he did not captain the University as stated in his biography and elsewhere but captained his College. In a season of low scores, he headed the Oxford batting averages and struck a rapid 43 when Cambridge were beaten by an innings in two days. He took a well-judged catch at long on to dismiss the Cambridge last man, his *bête noir* Powys. Not helped by having missed three full terms, Harris left without a degree but returned for the following Michaelmas term and in spring 1875 obtained a pass degree in Arts.

In the 1907 Kent History, of which he was editor, and again in his *A Few Short Runs*, Harris implies that his first appearance for Kent was in 1873. He recounts a story of being on his way to London to play for Lords & Commons against I Zingari and of an encounter on Faversham station with Herbert Knatchbull-Hugessen who persuaded him to turn out instead for Kent v Lancashire at Gravesend. The record shows he played his first match in 1870 (see above), as well as four in 1871, one in 1872 when he hit his first half-century, 51 v Surrey at The Oval. A month prior to his Faversham encounter he had played against Sussex at Lord's in the Champion County Cup competition. An uncharacteristic lapse and the more surprising in that, in editing the history, he had the assistance of the erudite Ashley Cooper.

In July 1874, at Godmersham Church, the Fourth Baron Harris married the Hon Lucy Ada Jarvis, second daughter of the Third Viscount St Vincent of Godmersham Park. Nevertheless, the bridegroom was back for Canterbury Week with scores of 33 in a 115- run opening partnership with WG Grace (121) for Kent & Gloucestershire v England and 58 (top score) for Kent v Gentlemen of MCC.

In the winter of 1874 Harris took over as Secretary of Kent CCC with responsibility for the 'conduct and management of county matches'. In 1875 he was President and, to complete the set, assumed the captaincy. Since South Norton had been edged out at the time of the 1870 amalgamation, there had been no regular skipper.

Harris missed a lot of cricket during his captaincy. In 1879 his season virtually ended in late July following the death of his father-in-law and in 1881 he took an extensive private tour 'in the East' which included some cricket in the USA. This restricted him to only four county matches. In 1885 he joined Lord Salisbury's Conservative Government and found time for only a handful of appearances per season apart from 1886 when, despite War Office commitments, he managed ten.

Things started badly in 1875 with six defeats in six matches, three of them by an innings and last place in a nine team competition. The only victories were two over Hampshire - by an innings and 217 runs at Winchester - but Hampshire results were not included in the table.

Over the next ten seasons results fluctuated from last place again in 1879 with two wins, seven defeats, to five wins and three defeats in 1880 which placed Kent third, a position they would reach again in 1885. In 1888 they were second but by then War Office duties had reduced Harris to five appearances. Purely in terms of results, his overall record, won 57, lost 70, drawn 22 is unremarkable but building a side can be long process and dependence on amateurs meant that Kent were always handicapped until around mid-July. The team's average position in the table was fifth.

Harris's role as leader on and off the field tends to obscure his contributions as a batsman. Inclined to be impetuous in his younger days, he had a strong defence, excelled against fast bowling and, like most Etonians of his period, favoured the classic off-side strokes. Less fluent on the leg side, he played the leg hit off the front foot as well as the, by then obsolete, 'under-leg stroke, which, from personal experiment in the nets, is a shot rather less dangerous than it looks. None of the better-known exponents, Victor Trumper among them, seem to have injured themselves playing it. If Harris had an Achilles heel, it was in running between the wickets.

Between 1875 and 1885 he headed the Kent averages seven times and in 1884 with 1,175 runs (avge.41.96), became the first to exceed 1,000 for the County. In this period he was top scorer in over 40% of Kent's innings, twelve times top scorer in both innings. At Catford in 1875 he scored 49 when Kent were dismissed for 83 and against the same opponents at Derby in the following year, 79 in a total of 121. In the 1882 Canterbury Week he contributed 101 in a total of 188 against Middlesex and, facing Yorkshire at Gravesend in 1883 he carried his bat for 80* in the first innings of 148 and hit 79 in the second innings when Kent were all out for 150 - 53.35% of the runs scored for Kent in the match. During an innings of 37 against Surrey at The Oval in 1885, he sustained a broken bone in his right hand and, arm in a sling, batted for 35 minutes (and two runs) with left hand only,

Harris took part in sixteen century partnerships for Kent, five of them with George Hearne (*qv*). Against Sussex at Gravesend in 1882 he reached his personal best, 176, sharing a 208-run opening partnership with another member of the Upper House, Lord Throwley (82). At Taunton in 1896, at the age of 45, he scored 119 in a partnership of 220 for the fourth wicket with Harry Patterson (181).

Possibly his finest century for Kent was against the reigning Champions at Old Trafford in 1883. His views on throwing were already well-known and he had singled out three members of the Lancashire attack, fast bowler Jack Crossland, George Nash and Alec Watson, as notable offenders. Opening the batting in front of an unfriendly crowd, he scored 118 (15 fours) out of 231 while he was at the wicket. With Richard Jones (83) 166 were added for the third wicket. After the home team had followed on, Kent collapsed for 65 in their second innings, Harris (19) top scorer.

Never more than a change bowler, Harris is often described as bowling round-arm but he began his serious cricket three years after over-arm bowling was legalised and it seems more likely that, like many at the time, he simply bowled with a low arm. Against Lancashire at Rochdale in 1876 he took five for 57 and bowled the 'unbowlable' Dick Barlow. Towards the end of his career, he changed to lobs and in minor cricket was not above bowling 'grubs' if he wished to keep the runs down.

As well as Barlow, his 75 first-class wickets include other England cricketers - Grace, William Barnes, Billy Bates (three times), Monty Bowden, Henry Charlwood, Lord Hawke, Maurice Read (twice), George Studd, Frank Sugg, George Ulyett (three times) and Alexander Webbe as well as other distinguished names, notably his Etonian guru 'Mike' Mitchell and Isaac of the Walker brotherhood. In the field, he originally specialised at long stop but as the position became obsolete, he fielded mainly at mid off or in the covers. At the closing stages of his career he migrated to the slips.

Harris relinquished the captaincy at the end of the 1889 season on his appointment as Governor of Bombay, the fourth generation of his family to hold high office on the sub-continent. His recurring theme in a series of farewell speeches was 'my cricket book is closed' but he was wrong. In 1896 he was persuaded to join Kent on their West-country tour, playing against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham, Somerset at Taunton, where he hit his last first-class century (see above), and finished with 0 and two against Yorkshire at Tonbridge. Next season he played his last Championship match. Ironically, it was against Lancashire at Old Trafford where he was bowled for four by another fast bowler eventually branded a thrower, Arthur Mold.

Harris had not quite finished his first-class career with Kent. In 1906 he took the field against the West Indian tourists at Catford and scored 33, sharing a 94-run eighth-wicket partnership with Fred Huish (67). Reflecting his family's close association with India, in 1911 he played his last first-class match, against the Indian tourists, again at Catford. In the process he became Kent's oldest first-class cricketer at the age of 60 and 150 days. Batting No. 7, he was second highest scorer with 36, helping his captain Ted Dillon (130) to add 98 for the sixth wicket. He also bowled ten overs and took a wicket.

Harris's entry into Test cricket was as captain at Melbourne in 1879. The term 'Test match' meant little at the time and only much later was the match elevated to a rather dubious Test status. The tour originated with an invitation from the Melbourne Club to Isaac Walker to bring over at the Club's expense a team of 'Gentlemen'. In the event, Walker dropped out, most of the leading amateurs declined and Harris was entrusted with doing his best with what was left. The Melbourne Club having agreed to pay them around £200 each, two professionals, Tom Emmett and George Ulyett, were recruited and the final team included three of Harris's Kent colleagues, Charlie Absolom, Francis Mackinnon and Frank Penn. Lady Harris was one of two (or possibly three) ladies in the party.

It was what must surely be the least representative 'England' side ever to take the field. The batting was as strong as any previous English tour party but the veteran Emmett and Ulyett were the only regular bowlers. Of the rest, Absolom had taken six wickets in the previous season and only 'Bunny' Lucas, with no pretensions as anything other than a change bowler, had bowled more than 50 overs. There was no recognised wicketkeeper apart from Leland Hone who appeared in only eight first-class matches in his entire career. The only Test match was lost by ten wickets but, with 33 and 36, Harris had the second highest aggregate for the match. Of the other first-class fixtures, the team won once and lost once against both New South Wales and Victoria.

The tour is best remembered for the pitch invasion during the victory over New South Wales. Much has been written about the incident and, although there are variations in detail, all seem to agree no blame attached to Harris or his team

His later actions are perhaps more open to question. In his account of the tour in the 1880 red *Lillywhite*, Harris makes no mention of the riot. However, despite having seen a delegation from the New South Wales Cricket Association on the day after the riot, accepted their 'profound sorrow and regret' and absolved them of all blame, he expressed quite opposite sentiments in a letter to a friend, Walter Hadow (Harrow, Oxford University & Middlesex). Furthermore, he apparently wished the letter passed on to the *Daily Telegraph* who duly published it. Whatever the intention, the letter produced widespread ill-feeling when it surfaced in Australia. Reading it today, it is difficult to see how it could have done otherwise. The letter and the Association's rebuttal are reprinted in the 1880 *Wisden*.

Harris placed much of the blame for the crowd's behaviour on betting. Presumably he was unaware that Emmett and Ulyett had placed a bet on the match with a Sydney bookmaker and each profited by £5. According to his biographer, Harris 'had an animus against betting at cricket'. Possibly, but it seems to have applied only to professional bookmakers. In his *A Few Short Runs* there are several references to wagers with friends, notably on page 33 where, in the 1874 University Match, while fielding in front of the Lord's pavilion, he takes odds on an Oxford win from CI 'Buns' Thornton (*qv*).

Such was the ill-feeling generated on both sides by the riot and its aftermath that when an Australian team arrived in 1880, they were reduced to advertising for fixtures. It was said at the time that the tourists were late in announcing their impending arrival and counties had completed their fixture lists. Not in the case of Kent. At a Management Committee meeting at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing Cross on 4 February 1880 a letter was read from James Lillywhite requesting a fixture with the Australians. Lord Harris having tactfully left the room, the request was turned down unanimously and a fixture with I Zingari arranged instead.

Eventually, thanks, according to most accounts, largely to the efforts of Charles Alcock, everyone cooled down and Harris agreed to captain England against Australia at The Oval, promising 'You find the timber and we will find the workmen to build a bridge which will endure for ever'. Although Penn and Lucas of the 1879 touring party played in the match, three of the 'workmen' Emmett, Hornby and Ulyett, declined invitations. Harris's path to reconciliation may have been eased by the fact that Australia were now captained, not by the abrasive David Gregory who was involved in the Sydney fracas, but by the highly clubbable anglophile Billy Murdoch. Played in September, the game, the first Test match on English soil, ended in a five-wicket English victory to which Harris contributed a robust 52.

Harris's next Test appearance came in the three-match series in 1884. He refused to play in the first at Old Trafford due to the inclusion in the 12 of Crossland, widely considered the chief, not to say most physically dangerous, among the alleged throwers. With Crossland not chosen for the remaining two matches, he captained England to an innings victory at Lord's and a draw at The Oval.

In terms of prestige, Gentlemen v Players outranked Test cricket in Harris's day and between 1875 and 1884 he appeared 13 times, eight at Lord's, five at The Oval. It would have been 14 but in 1880 he turned down an invitation to play at The Oval due to the presence among the amateurs of two bowlers he, and many others, thought throwers. His record in the fixture is modest. Five times dismissed cheaply by another left-arm fast bowler, Fred Morley, he averaged only 16 with one half-century – 85 on his last appearance, at Lord's in 1884. This was also the only time he captained the Gentlemen.

Harris was appointed Under-Secretary of State for India in June 1885 under fellow-Etonian Lord Randolph Churchill. There is a suggestion that the two were not entirely *en rapport* but it was a busy time, what with the invasion and annexation of Burma and an extensive programme of railway construction. The appointment was, however, of short duration, ending with the General Election of February 1886.

As Under-Secretary of State for War, August 1886 - December 1889, Harris served under two Secretaries of State, William H 'Pinafore' Smith, son of the founder of WH Smith & Son, and Edward Stanhope (qv) who had played one game for Kent in 1861. While at the War Office he worked with Captain (formerly Sergeant) William McCanlis (qv), with whom he had played for Kent and would later choose to run the Tonbridge Nursery.

Harris sailed for India as Governor of Bombay in February 1890 accompanied by Lady Harris and five-month-old son. According to one of the most widely consulted websites, his Governorship was 'highly controversial'. He is accused of 'virtually ignoring famine, riots and sectarian unrest', spending most of his time playing cricket against fellow Europeans and much else besides including 'lack of experience' – odd considering his and his family's background.

He is even blamed for failing to deal with the outbreak of bubonic plague in 1896 – twelve months after his return to England - and at least one journal portrayed inter-community cricket as a 'divide and conquer' tactic. The sources seem to be partly the modern fashion for 'reassessments' but largely the contemporary writings of the indigenous press for whom hostility to the Raj was their default position and cricket a convenient stick with which to beat the new Governor.

Predictably, the mainstream British press at the time as well as Harris's biographer nearly a century later, saw things differently. This is hardly the place for a journey through the labyrinth of pre-partition Indian politics but the truth probably lies somewhere in between.

In *A Few Short Runs*, Harris writes that, during his term as Governor he played only for his own Presidency team, made up from members of his staff, and took part in 52 (mainly one-day) cricket matches. They played, not only other European teams, but against Hindu, Muslim and Parsi players. To quote his biographer again, in that time there was 'one serious riot and one slight (!) famine.'

There is no doubt that he did much to promote Indian cricket, not least by encouraging the Hindu, Muslim and Parsi communities to play against each other. If he appeared to be biased towards Parsi cricketers, they were considerably further advanced technically than those of the two majority communities and the only indigenous cricket community capable of meeting European teams on equal terms. They also came with less political baggage.

Harris used his influence to enable an 'untouchable', Babaji Baloo, to play at a standard sufficiently high to gain a place in the 1911 All-India team in England. He finished leading wicket-taker and top of the tour bowling averages. On 26 April 1892, largely at Harris' instigation, the first two-day Presidency v Parsis match was staged in Bombay. This is now rated as the inaugural first-class match on Indian soil. Two cricket competitions were named after him.

It may or may not be significant that Harris did not go on to become Viceroy as some had predicted but the Establishment seemed happy enough with his gubernatorial term for Queen Victoria to award him a GCSI in her 1896 birthday honours. In modern times even one of his most trenchant critics, the late Sir Derek Birley, concedes that Harris's 'influence on Indian cricket was considerable and beneficial'. Perhaps the final word can be left to one of the pioneers of Indian Cricket, the Parsi cricketer Framjee Patel. In his *Stray Thoughts on Indian Cricket* published in 1905 Harris is the 'guru' of Indian cricketers, their 'guide, philosopher and friend'. Clearly he got something right.

Harris continued active in politics, frequently speaking in the House of Lords, notably on Indian affairs, Army matters and, at the time of the scandal, on Lloyd George's distribution of honours.

Educationalist and social historian, Sir Derek Birley was arguably the most eminent of Harris's detractors but cricket and social history are not always easy bedfellows and some of his strictures lack

coherence. It is difficult to understand how Harris, an Oxonian of 1870s vintage, can be blamed for Ranjisinghji's treatment at Cambridge in 1892. Two of the issues closest to Harris's heart, suspected throwers and unqualified cricketers playing in the County Championship, are stigmatised by Birley as 'illiberal causes'. How he comes to this conclusion is unclear. In the case of qualification, even if one approves of the modern near free-for-all, in the 1920s Harris was merely ensuring counties complied with rules they had themselves drawn up. As far back as 1886, he had tried to get the residential qualification period reduced from two years to twelve months but was outvoted by 13 to three.

As the regulation stood, Harris had right on his side in all the best known cases'. Admittedly, matters were sometimes clumsily handled, notably in the case of Walter Hammond. In the Kent committee minutes Hammond is described, as 'a native of Kent' and the manager is authorised to 'negotiate his return to Kent'. The actual wording may not be Harris's but this was arrogant nonsense. Born in Dover Castle, the son of a Royal Artillery NCO (later commissioned and killed in action 1918) and a mother from Buckland, Hammond sailed with his parents to Hong Kong at the age of five and, as far as records show, never set foot in Kent again until he returned with Gloucestershire in 1923. He was no more a 'native of Kent' than Harris was a native of Trinidad.

Much has been written about Harris's stand against throwing, especially in the 1880s when there was a positive epidemic of bent arms, especially in Lancashire. Apart from Birley, most writers give him credit for doing more than most in at least containing the problem during his lifetime. Neither Harris nor anyone else ever came near to eliminating throwing but, other than Birley, nobody else seems to have thought trying to do so 'illiberal'. Technology notwithstanding, it remains a recurring problem.

Many shared Harris's views on throwing. Middlesex in 1883 and Nottinghamshire in 1884 refused to play Lancashire and much of the press was supportive. Harris's long-running dispute with the County Palatine came to a head in 1885 at Old Trafford when Crossland dismissed Harris twice, bowled for 0 in the first innings, caught for 33 in the second. With the backing of the Kent committee, Harris wrote to their Lancashire counterparts stating that he considered Crossland and left-arm spinner Nash had bowled unfairly and that, as they (Lancashire) declined to undertake not to employ unfair bowlers, they could take the return at Tonbridge by default. (The full text of the letter is in *Cricket* 1885 p.162).

The return fixture was duly aborted but, following an objection from Nottinghamshire, the Sutton-in-Ashfield born Crossland was found to have broken his residential qualification and played only four more matches. Nash never played for Lancashire again but Buckinghamshire employed him until 1903. Neither was ever no-balled in a first-class match and both continued to play professionally. Largely confined to the leagues, Crossland played two more first-class matches. Unlikely as it may seem, these were in 1886 and 1887 for CI Thornton's Eleven, consisting mainly of Public School / Oxbridge amateurs, against Cambridge University. As to how Harris felt about it all we can only speculate. Thornton (*qv*) was a fellow Etonian and close friend.

There were further trials to come. In 1888, on his second appearance for Kent, Captain Walter Coote Hedley (*qv*) had match figures of 14 for 109 against Middlesex at Lord's. There had long been doubts about his bowling, even at the RMA, Woolwich, he was known as 'Chucker' Hedley. Harris arranged for him to be watched in Kent's next match at The Oval. As a result, in Harris's words 'I had with the greatest regret, to ask him to stand down'.

At the Scarborough Festival that September Harris and Hedley were in the same I Zingari side against the Gentlemen of England. As we have seen, in the past he had turned down places with both England and the Gentlemen but this was a rare occasion when his Lordship was prepared to share the field with a suspected chucker. As with Lancashire and Thornton, others viewed doubtful actions differently or perhaps did not greatly care. Hedley subsequently played for the Gentlemen at Lord's, MCC, Somerset and, Hampshire (for further detail see relevant entry for Walter Coote Hedley).

Accusations of racism, notably by the populist historian the late Benny Green, appear to stem mainly from the non-selection of Ranjitsinhji for the First Test match at Lord's in 1896 when Harris was Chairman of the MCC selection committee. There is little or no evidence, written or oral. Harris' record in India, coupled with the fact that Kanwar Shumshere Singh (qv) played for Kent in 1901/02 and some or all of the black members of the 1923 West Indian touring team were house guests at Belmont, might suggest otherwise. Birley writes that Harris was 'fiercely opposed' to Ranji's selection but cites no evidence. If true, there could be other reasons.

At his best, Harris seems generally to have talked and written good sense but some of his later pronouncements were odd and have not aged well. He was much ridiculed in 1922 for applying the term 'Bolshevism' to some, mainly fairly minor, infringements of cricket's Laws. He had apparently heard the word used by somebody but it is, perhaps, worth remembering that he was by then, an ageing, privileged, survivor of the Victorian era and, as such, unlikely to be well-versed in the finer gradations of left-wing revolutionary dogma or terminology. Possibly he meant 'anarchy'.

Occasionally his concern for professional cricketers could take him a stage too far. When Ulyett and John Selby, on tour in Australia in 1881, indulged in a remarkably clumsy and spectacularly unsuccessful attempt at match-fixing, Harris wrote to *The Times* as soon as the news reached England - 'I know George Ulyett as well as any professional in England and I would willingly stake my honour on his;' - 'Selby I do not know as well but I have no reason for supposing him anything other than an honourable cricketer'. Sadly, there can be little doubt that the pair were guilty. G. Derek West puts it succinctly in his *Six More Days of Grace (London, 1992)*. 'This was, all things considered, magnanimous rather than prudent'.

Although Ulyett would hardly qualify as a friend in the full sense, loyalty to his friends seems to have been one of Harris's more admirable qualities. Even the scandalous, famously priapic, C.F.Buller (Harrow & Middlesex), who was shunned by polite society in later life, was 'dear old Charlie Buller' in Harris' memoirs.

When war broke out in 1914 Harris who, as a former Under-Secretary of State for War still with strong Territorial Army links, should perhaps have known better, was clearly of the 'all be over by Christmas' persuasion. Defending the continuation of cricket at a Kent committee meeting on 17 August, although displaying commendable concern for the economic well-being of the staff, he dismissed the opposite view as 'sentimental'. To a suggestion that professionals might do more he retorted 'to expect men, many of them married, earning £5 a week or thereabouts, to enlist for foreign service would be unreasonable'. By then, the French Army had suffered horrendous casualties in the Battle of the Frontiers and most of the British Regular Army was already in France; Mons was only six days away.

When long serving committee member Captain the Hon John Sackville Tufton (qv) resigned over the issue, Harris, pointed out, with staggering naivety, that 'cricket was played all through the Napoleonic, Crimean, Indian Mutiny and South African campaigns'. Tufton refrained from pointing out that this war was going to be altogether different but truth soon dawned and Harris and the Kent committee changed their attitude. Winter pay was stopped, although the Club tried to find players coaching or similar employment. Anyone who did not volunteer was asked to state his reasons. Professionals who volunteered had the difference between service pay and their summer pay made up. Any who waited to be conscripted, received nothing.

Harris himself was made responsible for the Volunteer Training Corps in Kent and when conscription was introduced he was appointed to the East Kent Appeal Tribunal where he proved to be less of a fire-eater by proxy than many who took on the duty. He was also involved in fund-raising for prisoners-of-war from Kent and arranged sports events including a baseball match at Lord's for Canadian war charities. Throughout the War he remained ADC to the King.

In his speeches and writings Harris seldom missed an opportunity to encourage recreational cricket both locally and nationally. As well as numerous MCC minor matches, he played for Band of Brothers, his own Belmont side, usually including one or two professionals, Consolidated Goldfield both in England and South Africa, Esher, Eton Ramblers, Faversham, Gentlemen of Kent, Hastings (his first encounter with the Australians in 1878), Hothfield, Lords & Commons, a club he revived and served as both President and captain, Maidenhead, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, St. Lawrence, Throwley and I Zingari as well as, somewhat improbably, once for the RAF. This latter was at Belmont where he also entertained the Philadelphians and the 1923 West Indians.

Harris played his first match for Band of Brothers aged 16, against St. Lawrence. At the time it had become primarily a convivial social club, possibly excessively so. With one or two like-minded enthusiasts, he saw it transformed into one of the best known, not to say most influential, clubs in Kent. In 1919, on the death of the last of the founders, he became Chief of BB, with Lady Harris as first Keeper of the Books, which she adorned with her own delightful, often witty, water colours. He hit eight centuries for the club and played his last match for them in 1929. In the same year he made his last appearance at Lord's, for MCC v Indian Gymkhana' His last matches, including Eton Ramblers v Eton Second Eleven, were in 1930.

In 1930 Harris was hit by a London taxi. He recovered, but Lady Harris died in February of that year. On his own death two years later following a heart attack, his estate was valued at £57,132.

During the 1914-1918 war his only son, the Fifth Baron was wounded and awarded the MC while serving with the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. He was President of Kent in 1949 and 1970 and, although never appearing in first-class cricket, played frequently for, Band of Brothers, Eton Ramblers and the Belmont team as well as for MCC. He was mainly responsible for the clock collection for which Belmont is now perhaps best-known.

Further Reading –

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Harris, Lord *A Few Short Runs*. Murray, 1921; *Hints to Young Cricketers: also the Laws of Cricket, and other useful matters connected with the game*. Wisden / Burgess-Brown, 1896.

Harris, Lord & Ashley-Cooper, FS. *Lord's & the MCC: a cricket chronicle of 137 years*. London & Counties Press Association, 1914. Reprinted by H.Jenkins, 1920.

Colonel Thomas Harris (No. 231).

Born: 9.5.1845, Bellary, Mysore, India. *Died:* 28.3.1918, Chiswick, Middlesex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler.

Kent 1864.

Parents: Thomas Inglis Parish Harris & Emily Lacy Harris (née Burnside).

The son of an officer in the Indian Civil Service and a cousin of the 4th Lord Harris (*qv*), Thomas Harris was commissioned into the 24th Regiment (subsequently the South Wales Borderers) in 1863. In Canterbury Week of the following year he made his only appearance for Kent and in the second match of the Week took six for 81 & three for 68 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC. This was his only other first-class match and among his victims was EM Grace (twice). While stationed at Shorncliffe camp in the same season he scored 78 and took nine wickets for his Regiment against the 5th Fusiliers (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers).

During his service he played twice for Ireland, v I Zingari in 1868 when he scored 24 and took seven wickets, and in 1869 when he took five wickets against the USEE. While in Ireland he also played for Phoenix Park, for whom he scored 36 (in a total of 115) v IZ, the Curragh and other Army teams.

Back in England that year he took four wickets for another Army team, the Knickerbockers, v Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend.

In 1864 he transferred to the 66th Regiment (amalgamated with the 49th to become the Royal Berkshire Regiment) and was promoted Captain in 1874. He served during the 1879-1880 Afghan War, notably in the Battle of Maiwand in which his Regiment sustained heavy casualties. From 1890 to 1896 he was District Staff Officer, Secunderabad and was the second of several cricketers to be appointed Military Secretary to his cousin Lord Harris when the latter was Governor of Bombay.

While in India he opened the batting for 'The World' at Simla against a Knickerbockers touring team. He later transferred to the 57th Regiment (Middlesex Regiment) and was promoted Major in 1893. He retired as a Lt Colonel in 1896.

In 1880 he married Annie Lilius Cole. There were two sons and one daughter. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £1,205 8s 9d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Philip Harrison (No. 495).

Born: 13.11.1885, Barnet, Hertfordshire. *Died:* 7.9.1964, Knaresborough, Yorkshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin bowler.

Kent 1904-1905.

Educated: Rugby School and Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: William & Mary Harrison.

Short and stockily built with a strong defence, Philip Harrison came into the Kent side largely on the strength of his record at Rugby, although a century in 1904 for Band of Brothers against Royal Navy and Royal Marines at Chatham no doubt helped. At school he led the averages in 1902, scored over 400 runs in 1903 and in both years played an innings of over 50 against Marlborough at Lord's.

He began well for Kent with 37 against Notts at Trent Bridge in 1904 and scored 32* against Middlesex at Tonbridge in the following season but did nothing else of note although he was only twice dismissed for below double figures. For MCC v London County he hit 37 and 42. This was a characteristic of his career. In one third of his first-class innings he registered between 20 and 49.

Going up to Cambridge in 1904, Harrison played in the Freshmen's match and scored 32 when picked for the Next 16 but did not get into the University team until 1905 when he played four matches with a top score of 34. No further opportunities came his way at Cambridge in 1906 but meanwhile he had switched his allegiance to Middlesex (he lived for much of his life in Hampstead) where he began with an innings of 93 against his old county at Tonbridge.

In the winter of 1906/07 Harrison toured New Zealand with an all-amateur MCC. team, playing twice against the full New Zealand side, hitting 105 against Otago and 103 in a non first-class fixture with Fifteen of Wanganui. His leg breaks occasionally proved useful on tour with four for 61 v Hawkes Bay and seven for 34 & two for 36 v 15 of West Coast (South Island). In 1907, his last year at Cambridge, Harrison at last gained his Blue. Called into the side for the fifth match of the season, against the Gentlemen of England, he scored 65 and twice more exceeded 20 but contributed only 8 and 1* to the Light Blue victory at Lord's.

Harrison continued to play intermittently for Middlesex until 1911, reserving his best effort for his very last first-class match. Against Gloucestershire at the Spa Ground, Gloucester he scored 156, adding 131 for the second- wicket with Edward Litteljohn (110).

The son of a prominent biscuit manufacturer, most of Philip Harrison's life post university was taken up by business.

Frederick Hassan (No. 352).

Born: 1859, Cairo, Egypt. *Died:* 15.4.1940, Tooting Bec, London.
Kent 1879.

Unique in being the only Kent cricketer born in Egypt, Frederick Hassan was an 'engineer and fitter' who, while living and working in the area, produced some impressive bowling performances for the newly (1876) formed Dartford Albion club. In 1877 he took six for 14 v Crayford United and twelve years later although by then living north of the river, six for 36 v Rochester Conservative Club. In 1878 he claimed two wickets for 18 of Erith & District v the USEE and in late September appeared for 'An Eleven' – actually a Twelve – against Nineteen of Deptford & District at Sayes Court, a match staged in aid of the *Princess Alice* disaster fund. Hassan did not get a chance to bowl, Ned Willsher taking ten for 36 as the home side were dismissed for 62.

In 1879 Hassan was one of 19 Kent colts picked to play at Maidstone against a Mote side which included six Kent cricketers. He failed with the bat (0 & 4) but took five wickets and three weeks later was in the first team v MCC. at Lord's. He took a wicket but failed to score in either innings. There were seven other ducks as Kent were skittled for 55 and 25.

By 1881 Hassan was living in lodgings with an elderly couple in East Ham and almost certainly working in the area. In the 1891 census he is in different lodgings but still in East Ham, working as a 'sampler' in a nearby chemical works. In 1883 he played for South Essex v North Essex and two years later appeared for Players of Essex v Gentlemen of Essex. In 1881 he had competed at a Beckton Cricket Club athletics meeting and from 1886 played regularly for the club, one of the strongest in East London.

In the early years of the 20th century Frederick Hassan became a newsagent and tobacconist, originally in North Woolwich, subsequently in Stoke Newington. He is said to have retired to live with his daughter in Plumstead but the shop was operating under his name as late as 1938. He died in Tooting Bec hospital of myocardial degeneration.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Thomas Hassell (No. 141).

Born: 21.12.1819, Eynsford. *Died:* New Zealand.
Kent 1847.

Parents: Thomas & Ann Hassell.

Another 'one match wonder', in his only match Thomas Hassell had the distinction of playing alongside Alfred Mynn, Felix, Fuller Pilch and other great names of Kent cricket. In the first innings he batted No. 11 and remained undefeated for nine. With Kent leading by 44, he opened in the second innings, Walter Mynn dropping to No.3.

He had greater success at more minor level, with Dartford between 1842 and 1844, Gravesend between 1845 and 1847 and at least once for Gentlemen of Kent – v Gentlemen of Surrey at the White Hart ground Bromley in 1847. In 1848 he played for 15 of West Kent v the AEE at Gravesend.

His best efforts included 58* for Gravesend v Essex (with Alfred Mynn and Box) at Gravesend in 1846, 37 for Dartford v Clapton at Clapton in 1843, 36 for Gravesend v Cambridge Town in 1846 and 30* for Dartford v Montpellier at Dartford in 1843.

From a farming family, in 1851 he was farming more than 300 acres at Swanscombe and employing 13 labourers. In the 1881 Census he is blind, living in Southfleet, has ceased farming and is an 'annuitant'. By 1891 he is of 'of independent means'. Shortly afterwards he emigrated to New Zealand. His wife was also Ann. There were three children.

Charles Eric Hatfeild MC (No. 509).

Born: 11.3.1887, Hartsdown, Margate. *Died:* 21.9.1918, Hargicourt, France.

Right-handed batsman, slow-left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1910-1914.

Educated: Wellington House, Westgate, Eton College and New College, Oxford.

Parents: Charles Taddy Hatfeild & Maud Harriet Sinclair Hatfeild (née Back).

Eric Hatfeild gained a great reputation as bowler at Eton. In four Eton v Harrow matches between 1903 and 1906 (his year as captain) he took 30 wickets at a cost of 13.80 each but never did anything remotely comparable in the first-class game. At Oxford, despite performing competently in the 1907 Freshmen's match, he played only once and bowled a mere four overs but eight for 52 in the 1908 Seniors' match brought an extended run and a Blue. Without doing anything outstanding with the ball he took 24 wickets (avge.23.30) but played a major role in Oxford's victory with two displays of late order hitting (25 & 35*), the latter when his side were pressing for victory after heavy rain. In his final year he played in five matches but found wickets hard to come by and was left out for Lord's.

Hatfeild played twice for Kent in 1910 and from 1911 to the outbreak of war became more or less a regular member of the team in the early part of the season but never did enough to hold his place once the side was at full strength. Of his 45 appearances for the county, only ten were after the end of June and he never played in Canterbury Cricket Week or indeed ever in a first-class match at St. Lawrence. With Blythe, Woolley, Humphreys and Hardinge available, Kent hardly needed another left-arm spinner and Hatfeild's main contribution was as a hard hitting, lower middle order batsman. Against Gloucestershire in 1911 he hit 74 out of 97 in 35 minutes with one six and 16 fours. In the same vein was his 50 out of 65 in 45 minutes v Essex at Gravesend in 1912.

According to Bob Arrowsmith in his Kent history, the main reason for Hatfeild's presence was as a possible successor to Dillon as captain. Times were changing and it was looking increasingly likely that Kent were going to have to appoint a captain who could not command a regular place on playing ability, as indeed they did by appointing Second Eleven skipper Lionel Troughton (*qv*).

One of the few uncapped players to captain Kent, between 1912 and 1913 Hatfeild led the side on five occasions, winning four and drawing one. It seems possible that his attitude to cricket was thought too light-hearted for a regular captain. Apart from his uninhibited approach to batting, once, playing early in his career against Band of Brothers for BaBees, the BB junior section, he bowled a currant bun to Lord Harris, an example of *lèse-majesté* eclipsing even the famous occasion when a brave Sussex gatemanager denied his Lordship, minus a ticket, entry to the Hastings ground.

In 1911/12 Hatfeild toured Argentina with an MCC team captained by Lord Hawke but despite claiming 52 wickets (avge.12.59) in all matches – four times five in an innings, once twelve in a

match - and hitting 90 v The South on the Hurlingham Club ground, Buenos Aires, he was not selected for any of the three 'Test' matches. In 1913 he was leading wicket taker (30 at 10.50) on an Incogniti tour of the USA.

In addition to Incogniti, in England his club cricket was for Band of Brothers, Free Foresters, Old Etonians, St. Lawrence and Wye College as well as occasionally for the Isle of Thanet. In 1914 he hit 137 for Band of Brothers v Old Etonians, the last century for BB prior to the outbreak of war

The eldest son of Captain Charles Hatfeild DL, JP, King's Dragoon Guards, of Hartsdown House, Eric Hatfeild was commissioned in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry in 1912. Mobilised on the outbreak of War, he served with his unit in Gallipoli with the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division from October 1915 to January 1916 when they were withdrawn to Egypt to form part of the 3rd Dismounted Brigade.

In February 1917 the unit was absorbed into the 4th Battalion, the Buffs, part of 230 Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division and fought in Palestine. Hatfeild was mentioned in despatches by the Expeditionary Force C in C, General Sir Archibald Murray. In May 1918 the Division landed in France where it fought for the remainder of the War. Hatfeild was awarded the MC for gallantry shortly before his death near Cambrai.

On his death his estate was valued for probate at £8,987 12s 9d His younger brother Major Herbert Seymour Hatfeild DL, JP was President of Kent from 1939 to 1945 and Chairman from 1946 to 1950.

Canon Henry Telford Hayman (No. 289).

Born: 20.11.1853, West Malling. *Died:* 8.2.1941, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1873.

Educated: Bradfield College & Corpus Christi College Cambridge.

Parents: Christopher Hayman & Elizabeth Hughes Hayman (née Norton).

Henry Hayman made his mark as a batsman at Bradfield where he was four years in the Eleven, captain in 1871. He lived in Grand Parade, Eastbourne with his father, a 'Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians' and in 1869 and again in 1872 played for Eighteen of Eastbourne v the USEE. In 1873, despite scoring 131 for his College against Trinity in 1873, two centuries for Eastbourne and his selection by Kent for their Champion County Cup match with Sussex at Lord's, he failed to get into the team at Cambridge. In the Cup match, played on a seriously under-prepared wicket, Hayman was twice bowled by James Lillywhite for a single but only three batsmen in all reached 20. In the return at Ashford Road, Eastbourne he played well for his 29

He was Assistant Master at Framlingham College 1876-1877 and was ordained in the latter year. From 1877-1879 he was Curate at St Andrew's, Nottingham, then Vicar of Ruddington, Nottinghamshire (1879-1884), Vicar of Edwinstowe with Carburton and Perlethorpe (1884-1907) and Rector of Thornhill (1907-1940). A prominent Freemason, in 1933 he was Grand Master of Nottinghamshire and Grand Chaplain of England.

In 1884 he scored 155 for Ruddington v Beeston and in 1877 hit 143* for Notts Amateurs against Burghley Park. He played occasionally for the Gentlemen of Notts, notably in 1886 when he appeared against the touring Parsees at Trent Bridge and was dismissed without scoring. He served for a time on the Nottinghamshire committee. Henry Hayman was a nephew of the Norton brothers (*qv*). A cousin was Headmaster of Rugby.

During the First World War he served as Acting Chaplain with the Nottinghamshire Yeomanry. In 1879 he married Ellen Maria Elizabeth Cobham Brewer. There were two sons and one daughter.

Robert John Haywood (No. 342).

Born: 3.3.1858, Eltham. *Died:* 9.5.1922. Eltham.

Right-and batsman,
Kent 1878.

Parents: Joseph Haywood & Sarah Elizabeth Haywood (née Rapkins).

The son of a bricklayer, one of nine children, Robert Haywood was working as a page at the age of 13 at the time of the 1871 Census and then turned to bricklaying before becoming a professional cricketer. He took three wickets for Colts of Kent v Colts of Surrey at The Oval in May 1878 at the age of 20 but his one appearance for Kent which followed was hardly encouraging: 0*, 0 & 0/15

In fairness, it is worth pointing out that MCC dismissed Kent for 39 and 56. He did little better for 'a Kent Eleven' against West Kent Wanderers in 1880 and against Kent Colts in 1883 but he was highly regarded as a club professional in Metropolitan Kent, with Swanley, West Kent Wanderers and especially with the Eltham club. In 1910 an Eltham v Blackheath match was played for his benefit. WG Grace, who joined Eltham in his later years and whose presence even at age 60 no doubt did wonders for the takings, obliged with 62. In 1899 Haywood scored 102 for Eltham v Hampstead.

Although never apparently on the MCC permanent playing staff, Haywood appeared for the club as a professional at least once – against Glamorgan at Cardiff Arms Park in 1892. Haywood was born at No. Eight, The Courtyard, Eltham, died there and seems to have lived there all his life.

In 1885 he married Elizabeth Allnutt. There were two daughters and two sons, both of whom became professional cricketers. Robert Allnutt Haywood, originally a clerk in Martin's Bank, had a trial for Kent and was at the Tonbridge nursery before joining Northants for whom he played 172 matches between 1908 and 1924 and scored over 8,000 runs. In 1921 he hit eight centuries in a season, a record for Northants, The second son, Archie Charles, joined the Kent Nursey in 1913 and played for Kent Club & Ground both before and after the war. He left the staff at the end of the 1922 season and subsequently became coach and groundsman at Taunton School.

On his death Robert Haywood's effects were valued at £301 13s. His grandson played once for Scotland in 1949.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Alec Hearne (No. 382).

Born: 22.7.1863, Ealing, Middlesex. *Died:* 16.5.1952, Beckenham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin/off-spin bowler.

Kent 1884-1906. County cap 1885.

Tests: One for England.

Wisden Five All Round Cricketer of the Year: 1894.

Parents: George Hearne & Mary Voysey Hearne (née Gibbons).

When he played his last game for Kent in 1906, Alec Hearne had scored more runs and taken more wickets than any other Kent cricketer. Frank Woolley is the only other to have achieved the double of over 10,000 runs and more than 1,000 wickets.

In his early career he was primarily a bowler, relying mainly on a leg break, bowled quicker than most, varied with a slower, flighted off break. In time, he found the leg break strained his elbow and

he switched almost entirely to off breaks, varying his pace, making much use of the ball that went with his arm and bowling the occasional leg spinner for variety.

Like elder brother George, he was short by modern standards, approximately 5ft 6ins (164.7 cm.), and, as a batsman, defensively inclined. He favoured the back foot with a talent for pushing for singles and twos. A short-arm hook, the square cut and an upper-cut over the slips off the full face of the bat were his most productive strokes. Beginning down the order, he worked his way up to become, by 1890, a genuine allrounder and in 1894 he was chosen as one of *Wisden's* Five All-Round Cricketers of the Year. During his career he batted in every position from one to eleven.

Although described by Charles Fry in his *Book of Cricket* as 'a fine field in any position, but his best place is slip', *Wisden* in 1894 thought him 'rather apt to drop catches'. Writing in *Cricket* in connection with Hearne's benefit in 1898, JN Pentelow considered 'In the field he does not reach quite the highest standard. I have seen him drop catches he should have held and miss others he should have got to. But it would be wrong to call him a bad field. Some years ago I think he was rather smarter than he is now – there are many worse'. Nevertheless, in 1899 he held 34 catches in 27 matches and in five other seasons averaged over a catch per match. Possibly he improved with age.

A son of the groundsman at the Private Banks ground, Catford Bridge, Alec Hearne, unlike elder brothers George and Frank (*qv*), learned virtually all his cricket in Kent. He was ten when his father, familiarly known as 'Old George,' moved to Catford from Southgate where he had been in charge of the Walker family ground. By the age of 13 he had already made his mark in local cricket with seven for 3, including four wickets in four balls, for the Victoria Club v Sydenham Comet and in 1879 he hit a maiden century, 112 for Mid-Kent v Royal School of Mines. For Mid-Kent his bowling average was 3.15 in 1879 and 4.11 in 1880. Details of some of his early success in minor cricket for clubs including Blackheath Morden and his father's employers Private Banks are in the family history *Wheelwrights to Wickets*.by JW Hearne (jnr.),

With brothers George and Frank plus cousin Herbert already playing for Kent, it was unlikely that young Alec's talent would go unnoticed and in 1883 he played in two Kent Colts matches. Without doing anything outstanding, he bowled steadily and on 8 May 1884 made his first-class debut for Kent against Somerset at Taunton. He did not bowl but scored 19 and held a catch off the bowling of Lord Harris which would not do his future prospects any harm. On his second outing, against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane, he claimed his first wicket, George Ullyett clean bowled. Unfortunately, he also acquired a pair, the first of seven.

When the Australians arrived for the first match of Canterbury Cricket Week, Hearne's record in four matches was four for 153 and 23 runs (avge.4.60). He had, however, been impressive for the Second Eleven with six for 33 v Tonbridge & District and eight for 10 against Gravesend. The captain of the Seconds, Phillip Hilton (*q.v.*), thought his leg-break might trouble the visitors but to play 'unknowns', especially professional unknowns, in Cricket Week was simply not done. It was not without some misgivings that Lord Harris agreed.

There was much pre-match criticism but faith was vindicated by five for 36 and two for 30, including the wickets of Billy Murdoch, 'Tup' Scott and the two famous hitters, Percy McDonnell and George Bonnor. Kent were the only county to beat the Australians and, although it may be difficult to visualise now, we are assured that Lord Harris was carried in triumph around St. Lawrence. Six for 33 v Derbyshire at Gravesend, five for 27 v Somerset at Tunbridge Wells and a final tally of 41 wickets at 16.48 rounded off a highly successful first season; and a busy one. When not playing for Kent, Hearne was loaned to the Mote as replacement for Jimmy Wootton (*qv*) and claimed 71 wickets at 9.58 each.

He began 1885 well with five for 13 & eight for 35 when Yorkshire lost in two days at Bramall Lane and, without again reaching that level, he bowled steadily throughout the season to finish second in the Kent averages and second highest wicket-taker with 64 wickets at 14.50. In Canterbury Week he was among the first professionals to be capped, as were brothers George and Frank and cousin Herbert.

In a long career he claimed 50 or more wickets in eleven more seasons, notably in 1888 when, despite missing almost a month through injury, in all matches he took 73 wickets at 10.76 which included eight for 30 for MCC v Yorkshire at Lord's, five for 28 for CI Thornton's Eleven v Cambridge University at Cambridge, five for 35 & six for 36 v Surrey at Beckenham, six for 37 v Sussex at Tonbridge and four for 49 v the Australians at Canterbury. Twice his season's haul exceeded 80, 86 in 1893 and 83 in 1895 when he had the rare distinction of heading Kent's batting and bowling averages.

In all, Hearne took eight wickets in an innings four times, his best eight for 15 v Gloucestershire at Tonbridge in 1903 when he bowled unchanged with Colin Blythe (two for 12) to dismiss Gloucestershire for 31. Later in the same season, when Surrey (89 & 52) were beaten at The Oval by 292 runs, the same pair bowled unchanged throughout the match (Blythe seven for 41 & five for 26, Hearne three for 38 & four for 23). He twice took hat-tricks, for MCC v Yorkshire at Lord's and v Gloucestershire at Clifton in 1900. He also took a hat-trick for MCC v Lincolnshire in 1889 (not first-class). At Old Trafford in 1893 all 20 Lancashire wickets fell to the Hearne clan, Walter seven for 74 & eight for 40, Alec three for 14 & two for 58. Against Somerset at Taunton in 1894 he took four for 0 in five overs as well as 'Mankading' Ted Tyler.

In 1887 Hearne scored a half century against Essex, not then a first-class county, but not until 1890 did he reach 50 again when he scored over 500 runs and hit three 50s, all when opening the batting in the latter part of the season. His first experience as an opener had been in 1885 when he had failed to score when partnering brother Frank against Surrey at Gravesend.

Although dropping down to the middle order on occasions in most seasons, usually to make way for an amateur, from 1890 to 1905 Hearne was a regular opener for his county. In 1888 he joined the MCC staff and it was for MCC that he took part in his first century opening partnership – 122 (Hearne 95, George Bean 62) v Oxford University in 1895. This was followed by another six that season, all for Kent, five with Jack Mason, including four in four weeks, one with Haldane Stewart. Writing of the Mason/Hearne combination in 1895, *Wisden* considered that 'Kent had probably never had a better pair of batsmen to open their innings.'

In all Hearne shared in 23 century opening partnerships, 20 for Kent, nine with Mason, six with Cuthbert Burnup, the highest 195 (Hearne 81, Mason 131) v Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge, 1896 and 179 (Hearne 79, Mason 120) v Nottinghamshire, Maidstone in 1895. Six times he carried his bat through a completed innings, notably against Sussex at Tonbridge in 1899, 55* in a total of 112 and against Gloucestershire at Canterbury in 1892, 116* in a total of 256. In contrast, three times Hearne was involved when both opening partners were dismissed without scoring. He batted with 61 different opening partners (43 of them amateurs) including WG Grace with whom he shared a 59-run partnership for MCC v Cambridge University in 1892.

He participated in one triple century and two double century partnerships - 321 for the third wicket (Hearne 162*, Mason 181*) v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1899, 242 for the third wicket (Hearne 168, L.C. Braund 125) for WG Grace's Eleven v the Australians at Crystal Palace in the same year and 220 for the second wicket (Hearne 112, Harry Patterson 111) v Somerset at Tonbridge in 1898. In the match at Gravesend in 1895 in which WG scored 257 & 77* and was on the field throughout the match, Hearne scored 155 in the first innings and shared a 173-run third-wicket partnership with Gerry Weigall (74). In the second innings, when Kent were bowled out for 76, he carried his bat for 22*.

In four seasons Hearne passed the 1,000 run mark, three times in Kent matches alone. In another three seasons he passed 900 without reaching four figures. His most successful years were 1895, 1,477 runs (avge.29.54) runs with two centuries and nine half-centuries plus 83 wickets and 1898, 1,210 runs (avge.33.61), three centuries, seven half-centuries and 65 wickets.

He did the 'double' against Gloucestershire, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire and scored 1,530 runs (avge.30.60) and took 90 wickets (avge. 17.12) against Somerset. Against Gloucestershire his 113 wickets were taken at an economical 16.61 and 156 against Yorkshire at 17.62, 13 times five in an innings, three times ten in a match. Against the Australians he scored 721 runs (avge.21.20) with two centuries, 120 for the South at The Oval in 1893 and 168 for Grace's Eleven at Crystal Palace in 1899; his 52 Australian wickets cost 16.11 each.

Hearne was perhaps unlucky never to have played for England at home. but he toured South Africa with Walter Read's team in 1891/92 and became a Test cricketer when the match at Cape Town against South Africa was later awarded Test status. Brother George and cousin JT were also members of the England side, Frank played for South Africa. Given out lbw for nine, Alec Hearne's was the first English wicket to fall in England v South Africa matches. In 1894/95 he returned to South Africa on a coaching engagement in Durban. In 1903 he toured the USA with Kent, one of four professionals who joined the mainly amateur party for 'their expenses and a ten pound note'.

Given his status as one of the country's leading allrounders, it is a little surprising that Hearne was rarely chosen for Gentlemen v Players matches and, when he was, achieved very little. Between 1893 and 1898 he appeared four times, once each at Lord's, The Oval, Scarborough and Hastings, with a top score of 43*at Hastings in 1893 and best bowling of three for 53 at Scarborough in 1897, actually the only time he took a wicket in the fixture. At Lord's in 1898 he appeared in 'WG' Birthday Match', billed as the game of the season. Sadly his performance, 17, 11, 0 for 36 & 0 for 9, hardly matched the occasion.

1906, ever memorable in Kent history for their first Championship, also saw the end of Alec Hearne's playing career with Kent. Opening in all but two of his matches, he played no more after mid-July but did enough to indicate that, despite his age, he might have held his place with a weaker county. In Kent matches alone he scored 553 runs (avge.27.65) with one century, 154 (325 minutes, thirteen fours) v Worcestershire at New Road and four other half-centuries including 88 v MCC at Lord's. At Worcester, there was a first-wicket partnership of 131 with 'Punter' Humphreys (84), their first together, although they had twice been parted at 99, and with Kenneth Hutchings he put on 140 runs for the third wicket of which the amateur contributed 94 in 90 minutes. He bowled little but still picked up the odd useful wicket as in his penultimate appearance, at Tunbridge Wells, when the 'Essex Twins' Percy Perrin & Charlie McGahey were dismissed at the cost of 25 runs..

Hearne remained on the MCC staff until 1910 and played a few first-class matches, opening the batting against both Universities. In 1909 he scored 40 against Oxford. Throughout his career Hearne remained a prolific run-getter in minor cricket, mainly for MCC for whom he scored 200* v the Gentlemen of North Wales in 1893 and 172 v East Gloucestershire in 1892. For his brother George's Eleven in 1891 he hit 158* v Dartford & District.

Originally engaged as coach at Tonbridge nursery in October 1919 at £10 per week, his engagement was terminated in July of the following year but he returned for a further two years in 1924. Among his other coaching engagements were King's School Canterbury and Dulwich College. In 1926 he took over as first-team scorer on the death of his cousin Walter. Despite increasing problems with rheumatism in the latter stages, he continued until 1939.

In May 1892 Alec Hearne married Elizabeth Rose Eve from Tovil at the Wesleyan Chapel, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone. There were two daughters and one son. Like his brothers, Alec Hearne lived up to the 'gentleman professional' image and, although not particularly outgoing, he was much liked and respected both inside cricket and in the wider world. Sometimes this paid dividends. His benefit match, the Lancashire fixture in the 1898 Canterbury Week, did well for the time with £619 12s 6d but it was supplemented by a purse of 400 shillings from the East Kent Conservative Club. In making the presentation Heniker Heaton MP observed 'the fame of Alec Hearne at the present time probably stood greater in Canterbury than that of their chief political leaders'. In 1892 Alec and brother George both scored centuries for the New Cross Conservative Club against Becton.

On his death, his effects were valued for probate at £9,712 9s 11d.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a gallery of famous players pp.188-189*. George Newnes. 1899.

Hearne, JW junior, *Wheelwrights to Wickets: the story of the cricketing Hearnese*. Boundary Books, 1996.

Frank Hearne (No. 353).

Born: 23.11.1858, Ealing, Middlesex. *Died:* 14.7.1949, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1879-1889. County cap 1885.

Tests. Six, two for England, four for South Africa.

Educated: Southgate School.

Parents: George Hearne & Mary Voysey Hearne (née Gibbons).

The second of the three sons of George Hearne snr. to play for Kent and at 5ft 5in (165cm) the shortest, Frank Hearne was also the only one who throughout his career was primarily a batsman. Like brother George, his early cricket was on the field behind *The Green Man* opposite their home in Uxbridge Road, Ealing. In 1864 the family moved when George snr. became the groundsman at Southgate and at the age of 13 Frank scored 70* for his school against Colney Hatch School. In 1873 came another move, this time to Catford when the father was appointed groundsman/manager of the Private Banks ground where two years later young Frank became ground bowler. In 1879, with brother George, by now established in the Kent team, he was top scorer with 33 for Kent Colts against Surrey Colts at Maidstone and two weeks later was opening the batting with George for Kent against MCC at Lord's.

Beginning with a run out duck (not his fault apparently, presumably his brother's), his start could hardly have been worse – a pair, 0, five, 0 (run out), seven, three, seven, five (run out), three, one. Not until his twelfth innings did he reach double figures. Over the next three seasons (1880-1882) he only twice exceeded 20 in first-class matches for Kent but he was widely regarded as the finest cover point of his day and it seems reasonable to conclude that his career was saved by his fielding.

There was some evidence of better things in 47 for Kent v Somerset at Bath in 1881 and 80 for MCC against the same opponents at Lord's in 1882. Not altogether logically, the 1881 Somerset game is not rated first-class whereas the 1882 match is. More understandably, his 92* for MCC v Shropshire at Shrewsbury in 1882 does not rank. Although essentially a change bowler, he had occasional success with the ball, notably four for 45 v Yorkshire at Bradford in 1881 and three for 51 in the return at Maidstone.

In the last match of 1882 Frank was hit on the head by a fast ball from George Ulyett and missed almost the whole of 1883 but in 1884 he at last began to show some form with over 500 runs. He scored half-centuries against Hampshire and Yorkshire and 45 against Billy Murdoch's Australians

and went on to exceed 500 in each of the three following seasons, scoring 849 (avge.24.25) in 1886, rising to 921 (avge.25.58) in 1887.

In 1886 he scored two centuries, both at Gravesend, 142 v Middlesex and 111 for South of England v the Australians. Against Middlesex he added 226 for the second wicket with brother George (126), which remained a record until 1905 and earned the brothers a collection of £12. In 1887 he hit 144 against Yorkshire in Canterbury Week, all but about the first 40 with a runner. At club level he scored 143 for MCC v the Mote in 1886 and two centuries for the Mote and one for St. Lawrence in 1887.

In the 1888/89 winter Hearne took part in Major RG Warton's pioneering tour of South Africa under the captaincy of Aubrey Smith. Hearne was in a sense first of the pioneers in that, travelling on ahead, he had already done some coaching with Western Province and played one match for them before the rest of the team landed. His was a moderate tour, fourth in the averages with 411 runs (avge.19.12) and a top score of 48*. He did however become a Test cricketer, albeit retrospectively. The two matches against South Africa – the only eleven- a- side games played on the tour – were later upgraded to Test match status.

Hearne did little in his final two seasons and in 1889 announced his intention of emigrating to South Africa. According to *Wisden* and most other sources, he needed a warmer climate for health reasons but in 1998 Gerald Howat wrote in *The Cricketer International* that Western Province had offered a five-year contract at £150 a year, a free house and an annual benefit.

At the conclusion of his last game, the crucial meeting with Notts at Beckenham, Hearne was presented with a cheque for £144 9s 10d in lieu of benefit plus an additional £21 from a collection on the ground and Lord Harris delivered a speech paying tribute to Frank both as a man and as a cricketer. A fortnight later Frank Hearne's Eleven, including four Hearnes and captained by Lord Harris, played 18 of the Forest Hill Club which yielded another £25. At a subsequent dinner held at the nearby *Rutland Hotel* over 100 guests were subjected to a long eulogistic offering from Albert Craig 'The Surrey Poet' entitled *A Loving Farewell to Frank Hearne*. If health was indeed the primary reason for Frank's decision to emigrate, it was undoubtedly the right one. Of those who played in his last county match, he outlived all but two.

Much of Hearne's time in South Africa was taken up with coaching and running a sports goods business for which his brothers acted as UK buying agents but between 1890 and 1904 he played for Western Province in the Currie Cup and its predecessor the Champion Bat Tournament, as well as several times for Cape Colony. In 1892 when Western Province won the Cup he contributed 102 v Transvaal and 96 v Griqualand West.

He also played four Test Matches for South Africa v England, one in 1892, when he played against brothers George and Alec and cousin John Thomas, and three in 1896 thus joining the small band who have played Test cricket for and against England. His top score for South Africa was 30 but he hit 94 for Cape Colony v Lord Hawke's 1896 team, a match not unfortunately rated first-class. For Western Province in a minor match against Simonstown in 1891 he took all ten wickets.

In the wet summer of 1894 he returned to England with the first ever South African touring team. As much the most experienced player, his start, a pair followed by another duck, could have done little for the team's morale. He ended the tour with 508 runs (avge.15.13) with one century, 104 v Gloucestershire, but none of the fixtures was thought to warrant first-class status. While still an active cricketer, Hearne also umpired, standing in 18 first-class matches between 1899 and 1909 including six Test matches.

In 1895, somewhat optimistically, Frank asked Kent for a benefit. Not surprisingly, and most will surely feel, justifiably, Kent referred him to the presentation made to him on his (voluntary) departure

in 1889 but in later life he was afflicted by sciatica in both hips and needed two sticks. The Kent CCC General Committee minutes for 26 August 1928 contain a note that he had been an invalid for 20 years and 'unable to do anything for five'. Almost 40 years since he left the county, £320 was collected on his behalf.

A few weeks before his death he watched the England v South Africa Test match at Cape Town. One of his three sons, George Alfred Lawrence, played for Western Province, three times for South Africa and toured England in 1924.

Further reading.

Hearne, JW junior. *Wheelwrights to Wickets: the story of the cricketing Hearnese*. Boundary Books, 1996.

George Gibbons Hearne (No. 317).

Born: 7.7.1856, Ealing, Middlesex. *Died:* 13.2.1932, Denmark Hill, London.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1875-1895. County cap 1885.

Tests. One for England.

Educated: Southgate School.

Parents: George Hearne & Mary Voysey Hearne (née Gibbons).

Odd as it may seem now, in 1875 Kent played all their home county matches at the Private Banks Ground, Catford Bridge. In early May, Lord Harris visited the ground, primarily it seems to check that all was in order for the opening game of the season, Kent v Fourteen Colts with Willsher. Someone suggested a little practice while they were there and among the practice bowlers was 18 year-old George Hearne junior, eldest son of the groundsman, George Hearne senior, familiarly known as 'Old George'. Bowling left-arm fast medium, 'Young George,' as he came to be known, succeeded several times in disarranging his Lordship's stumps and, as a result, found himself a few days later, playing for the Colts. Within six weeks he was making his first-class debut at Derby.

Kent thus not only found a valuable allrounder. Within a few years they had recruited his brothers Frank and Alec and cousins Herbert and Walter. Collectively these five Hearnese would contribute 24,892 runs, 1,958 wickets and 658 catches to Kent cricket. In the words of Lord Harris 'I found a gold mine.'

In truth, it looks a bit like a case of claim jumping. Although, thanks to his father's appointment as groundsman at Catford in 1873, young George was qualified for Kent by residence, like his brother Frank, he learned his cricket in Middlesex. He too played his early cricket in the cricket ground behind the *Green Man* in Ealing, coached by his father, who had played for both Middlesex and Buckinghamshire, and by his more famous uncle Tom, who was one of the leading cricketers of his day.

The full story of the family is told in JW 'Jack' Hearne's *Wheelwrights to Wickets* but George snr. had at different times been coachman, ostler, 'horsekeeper,' and, according to his eldest son's birth certificate, grocer, as well as professional cricketer and groundsman. It was in the latter capacity that in 1867 he took over at the Walker family's ground in Southgate and it was for the prestigious Southgate Club that his son played his first 'grown up' cricket. Aged 14, he was called in as a last minute replacement against Free Foresters, batting No. 11. Later that season he played for Southgate against the Quidnuncs. In the following season he scored 73* against Winchmore Hill, sharing a century partnership with his father and in 1873 top scored with 78* for 16 Young Players of Middlesex against the County on Paige's ground, Holloway.

In his memoirs Lord Harris refers to having 'made a bargain' with George senior over his son's services; it seems to have been a purely verbal arrangement. We do not know how the Walker family, who virtually ran the Middlesex Club, felt about having a promising young cricketer snatched from them but 'Old George's' main concern could have been his son's career prospects. Middlesex at the time do not seem to have made much effort to seek out professional talent. Even ten years later, they were still regularly fielding nine, often ten, amateurs.

Success did not come immediately. Batting No. 4 in the Colts match he did reasonably well, 16 and 12, run out in both innings, and one for 11 in eight overs. Five days later for Colts of the South (captained by Lord Harris) v Colts of the North at Lord's he took three for 24 but managed only one and a duck. On first-class his debut at Derby he bowled 12 wicketless overs and scored 0 and two. Back on home ground at Catford against the same opponents, he claimed his first wicket, John Platts, but registered another duck and three.

On his third appearance, against Lancashire at Old Trafford, Harris's judgement was vindicated, albeit in a losing cause. In the first innings young Hearne clean bowled the 'unbowlable' Dick Barlow and in the second produced eight for 46, including the wicket of Barlow again and a hat trick of tailenders to finish off the innings. A surprise choice for the second match of Canterbury Week, a 12-a-side game against Gentlemen of MCC (including WG), he claimed three good wickets for 28 in the first innings. Back to Catford for the return against Lancashire, he took six for 51 and against Hampshire at Winchester had match figures of seven for 35. At the end of the season in his six matches he had 28 wickets at 9.75 each to his credit. With the bat he was rather less successful - a top score of nine, five ducks and an average of 2.45.

In his second season, Hearne's 37 wickets were more expensive at 17.05 but in Lancashire's second innings at Gravesend he bowled Kent to victory with seven for 40 and included in his haul, not only Barlow, but his partner Hornby. And there were useful runs, 42 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells and 37 in a 107 run seventh-wicket partnership with William Foord-Kelcey (88) against Surrey at Mote Park.

Again picked against Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week, the sole professional among 23 amateurs, he registered his maiden half century, 57* in Kent's total of 473 and followed with three for 0 in 4.1 overs as MCC folded for 144. When MCC followed-on, as Grace compiled his epic 344, he bowled 35 overs on a blisteringly hot day for one for 91.

In 1876 George was on the staff at Prince's and in the following year moved on to the MCC staff where he remained until 1915. Seemingly unaffected by the additional workload, for the next four seasons he was the cutting edge of the Kent attack. The majority of his wickets came through hitting the stumps or from catches at the wicket or at slip. In 1877 he became the first Kent cricketer to claim 100 in a season, 105 in Kent matches alone. In 1878 his haul in Kent matches fell to 97 but included WG Grace dismissed twice in Canterbury Week, clean bowled for a duck on the second occasion. In all matches he had his most profitable season - 120 wickets (avge.13.02). During these two years 11% of his victims in Kent matches were caught at slip by Charlie Absolom (qv). Hearne led the Kent bowling averages in 1877, 1878 and 1879 and was the County's leading wicket-taker in 1877, 1878, 1880 and 1881.

Between 1877 and 1881 he three times took eight wickets in an innings eight for 78 v Derbyshire at Derby in 1877, eight for 21 v MCC at Lord's and eight for 53 v Lancashire at Canterbury in 1879. Among his more notable match returns were -: 12 for 75 v Lancashire at Old Trafford, 12 for 55 v Sussex on Tunbridge Wells Common, and ten for 61 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1877, 13 for 75 v Hampshire on the Antelope Ground, Southampton, 11 for 65 v Derbyshire at Maidstone, in 1878, 14 for 45 v MCC at Lord's in 1879 and 10 for 100 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1880. He was particularly successful against Lancashire -104 wickets at 14.46 apiece including Barlow accounted for 11 times and Hornby 13.

With Jim Wootton, Alfred Penn, 'Nuttie' Martin and Walter Wright, Kent were becoming over-stocked with left-arm bowlers and from around 1884 George Hearne began to bowl fewer overs and increasingly played as a batsman who bowled.

Batting in every position but No. 11, he opened occasionally but most frequently came in at No. 3 (over 70% of his innings), four or five. Essentially a defensive batsman, although one writer described him as 'uninteresting to watch', he was strong off his legs, cut well and, apart from a tendency to be run out, usually by Lord Harris, he could be difficult to shift. Nevertheless, he was dismissed without scoring with surprising frequency, 86 ducks including seven pairs. It is perhaps only fair to add that almost half the ducks and four of the pairs came in his early years when he was in the side for his bowling. 1878 was a particularly bad year in this respect, a pair at Lord's for MCC v England in the opening game of the season and another, again at Lord's, a fortnight later, bowled in both innings by Fred Spofforth when the Australians beat MCC in a day.

Despite the disasters at Lord's, 1878 was by a considerable margin his best year as an allrounder with 535 runs (avge. 14.45) to go with his 120 wickets. A versatile and generally reliable fielder, he also held 28 catches in 23 matches. In all, he exceeded 500 runs in seven seasons, passing 700 in 1883, 1884 (which included his maiden century, 116 v Hampshire at Gravesend) and 1887 but his most prolific season was 1886, 1,125 runs in all matches (987 for Kent). He hit two centuries that year and shared two long partnerships, 226 for the second wicket with brother Frank v Middlesex at Gravesend (George 126, Frank 142) and 215 for the third wicket with Cecil Wilson v Yorkshire in Canterbury Week (Hearne 117, Wilson 127) Neither innings was played in festive mode; he batted for six hours 20 minutes at Gravesend and five and a half hours at Canterbury.

Against Sussex in 1889, again at Gravesend, he was more adventurous, scoring 103 in 200 minutes and adding 249 for the fourth wicket with Frank Marchant (176). This was the third of his centuries on the Bat & Ball ground. In all he participated in 24 century partnerships, five of them with Lord Harris.

As is often the case with batsmen of his type, many of his best innings were played in low-scoring games on rain-affected, crumbling or under-prepared wickets. Perhaps most notable was in 1889 when he defied the Nottinghamshire attack for 105 minutes, scoring an unbeaten 14 on a 'diabolical' pitch at Beckenham to give Kent a narrow victory. As a result, Notts found themselves obliged to share the Championship with Lancashire and Surrey. For MCC v Derbyshire at Lord's in 1887 he came in at 18 for three and was 70* when the innings closed at 131. The next highest score was 16. Lord's often saw him at his stubborn best. He had lost his place in the team in 1892 but, restored to the side against Middlesex at Lord's, he arrived at the wicket at 43 for five, batted 270 minutes for 62 and saw Kent through to respectability with an eighth-wicket partnership of 81 in 150 minutes with Walter Wright (54).

1893 was George Hearne's last full season. On figures alone it was a moderate one. 562 runs (avge.19.37) was disappointing although 21 wickets was his best return since 1886, albeit fairly expensive at 24.95 each. There were however, compensations. When Yorkshire won by an innings at Blackheath he was not out in both innings. Batting No. 6 on a ground he had himself had laid out, he was top scorer with 16* in the first innings of 77 and 65*(top scorer again) in a second innings total of 132. This was his only half-century of the season and his last for Kent. No other Kent batsman reached 20 in the match. His 21 wickets that year included WG Grace, Archie MacLaren, Tom Hayward, Stanley Jackson, William Gunn and seven other Test cricketers.

Hearne played four matches for Kent in 1894 with a top score of 29. Captaining The Players of the South v Gentlemen of the South at Lord's he hit 50, his last first-class half century (his eleventh at Lord's) and shared a 119-run fifth-wicket partnership with Bobby Abel (104). The match was a

benefit for his cousin George Francis Hearne, best known as Pavilion Clerk at Lord's. In 1895 he played his last match for Kent, v Gloucestershire at Gravesend, one first-class match for MCC and rounded off the season for South v North in the Hastings Festival. For MCC he continued to appear in occasional first-class matches, usually opening the bowling, two in 1896, one in 1898, one in 1901 and the last in 1903

On his penultimate appearance, at Crystal Palace v London County in 1901, he opened the bowling and took two for 122 in 49.1 overs as the home side totalled 633 (WG Grace 122, L Walker 222). He caught WG, had Livingstone Walker stumped by Joe Murrell and, opening the batting, scored 115 in 205 minutes with 12 fours. His final first-class appearance, on the same ground against the same opponents in 1903 was something of an anti-climax - scores of four & 19 and 0 for 48 from 17 overs. Grace did marginally better with five, 23 and one wicket. In minor cricket he seems to have played his last game for MCC in 1915 but almost certainly played for other clubs later.

Had the Australians tourists met a representative England side in 1878, Hearne might possibly have been selected but, although left-handed batsmen were a comparative rarity he never did quite enough in later years. However, with brother Alec and cousin JT, he toured South Africa with Walter Read's team in 1891/92 and became a Test cricketer when the match at Cape Town against South Africa was later awarded Test status. Unfortunately, he failed to score and was not asked to bowl. Brother Frank played for South Africa. He was chosen once for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's and three times for the Players v the Australians.

Below first-class level, George Hearne played a lot of cricket, notably for MCC for whom he registered hundreds against Becton, Bishop's Stortford, Cambridge University Long Vacation Club, Clapton, Crystal Palace, Edmonton, Essex (before they were a first-class county) Great Marlow, Herefordshire, Lancing College, Lincolnshire, Mote Park, Northumberland, Plymouth Garrison, St. John's Leatherhead, Shropshire, Teignbridge, Tonbridge School, Wellington College, West Kent Wanderers, and I Zingari. He twice scored hundreds against Ealing for the Hearne family team.

Hearne had two benefits. For Kent he was given the lucrative Surrey match in the 1890 Canterbury Week which, helped by collections, raised £511 19s. In 1898 MCC gave him the MCC game with Leicestershire or Derbyshire as a benefit; the records are not clear as to which.

Sometimes known as 'the first of the gentlemen professionals' he was always well turned-out at a time when many of his fellow pros were downright scruffy. He was also something of an entrepreneur. With the assistance of brother Alec, and using skill learned from his father and uncle 'Old Tom', he went into business as a contractor laying out sports grounds. Examples of his handiwork include Rectory Field Blackheath, the Crabble, Dover, The County Ground, Bristol, the Parks at Oxford and several lesser venues.

He also established a sports goods business at 140 Lewisham High Road where he sold, and in some cases manufactured, cricket, football and tennis equipment including his own 'Quick Spring' cricket bat. His overseas agents included his brother Frank in South Africa. *Circa* 1895, the business moved to Cranbourne Street, Leicester Square where he sold out to John Wisden & Co.

As well as some coaching, notably at Marlborough, he was a founder of Catford Cricket Club for whom he played in later life. In 1896 when efforts were being made to raise money for the purchase of the St. Lawrence ground, Hearne was appointed as collector for the Catford area, the only professional among the collectors. Others included committee members, the banker AC Norman and members of the Neame and Tomson brewing families.

In March 1881 he married Mary Jane Strawn, born on the Isle of Wight. There were two daughters. In 1916, while residing in Rosenthal Road, Catford, his wife died. He later moved with his youngest

daughter Mabel to Verdant Lane, Grove Park. It was still his address when he died in King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill from pneumonia following a prolonged attack of influenza and bronchitis' His estate was valued for probate at £8,109.

Further reading.

Hearne, JW junior, *Wheelwrights to Wickets.: the story of the cricketing Hearnese*. Boundary Books, 1996.

Herbert Hearne (No. 384).

Born: 15.3.1862, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. *Died:* 13.6.1906, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1884-1886. County cap 1885.

Parents: William Hearne & Mary Hearne (née Montague).

The tallest of the family, Herbert Hearne was a cousin of George, Frank and Alec Hearne, elder brother of Walter (*q.v.*) and of JT (Middlesex & England). The latter was arguably the most talented of all the Hearne clan and generally rated the finest medium-pace bowler of his generation. Herbert was frequently described as a round-arm bowler but he was only two when the Law was changed and the balance of probability is that he merely bowled with a low arm.

He began working with his father, a builder, carpenter and undertaker, as were both his grandfather and great grandfather. Fortunately as it turned out, he had gained a thorough knowledge of the craft before turning to professional cricket. How he came to the attention of Kent is unrecorded but it seems likely that it was on the recommendation of one or more of his cousins and/or his uncle George. At that stage he appears to have played only local cricket, as usual for a Hearne, from a very early age.

First employed as a ground bowler at the Private Banks ground, Catford Bridge, on his county debut against Hampshire at Gravesend he took three for 63 in the second innings including both openers and followed with five for 84 in the next match against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane. At the end of the 1884 season he had 31 wickets to his credit at 26.29 but his introduction into the side had unexpected consequences.

In July Lord Harris reported to the Kent Managing Committee that playing for the county had cost Hearne his engagement with the Private Banks Club. He was employed for the rest of the season at Canterbury so no great harm was done but it was all distinctly odd. Herbert's uncle, George senior, was manager of the Catford Bridge ground, had been instrumental in bringing his sons to the county and he and Lord Harris knew each other well. Kent were in the habit of 'farming out' young professionals to local clubs and it was customary for clubs to release players when wanted by the County. No such problems had arisen with Alec or Frank who had been similarly employed at Catford. Presumably the decision was taken over the ground manager's head, possibly by someone with an axe to grind and/or no particular loyalty to Kent. It may be irrelevant but the Private Banks club was always listed in red *Lillywhite* among 'Metropolitan Clubs' rather than Kent.

Still engaged at Canterbury while playing odd games for the Mote, Herbert began the 1885 first-class season well with five for 27 v MCC at Lord's, followed later by five for 60 v Hampshire at Southampton but, squeezed out by amateurs more often than in 1884, he played only eight matches. In 1886 he became professional at Goldsmith's College and moved to New Cross but his season was marred by the knee injury which would terminate his career. He appeared only four times for Kent that year, taking nine wickets, seven of them against Derbyshire at Maidstone (three for 37 & four for

52). In September he was in a team of Hearnese in a charity match against Ealing Dean and appeared intermittently in the fixture until 1895

Unable to continue serious cricket, he returned to carpentry, first in East London where he married Cambridgeshire-born Mary Ann Bendall, and subsequently back in Chalfont St Giles where he fathered 11 children and ran a successful business with his wife who among other things made silk coffin linings. He continued to play minor cricket and appeared once for Buckinghamshire in 1891. He may well have been the H.Hearne who appeared for Shropshire v Free Foresters in 1893.

Plagued by ill-health in his middle years, he died relatively young. An extremely popular man, on the day of his funeral, play was suspended for half an hour in the Kent v Hampshire match at Tonbridge as a mark of respect and affection. One of his grandsons was Eric Sturges the distinguished South African tennis player (and Spitfire pilot).

Further reading:

Hearne, JW junior, *Wheelwrights to Wickets: the story of the cricketing Hearnese*. Boundary Books, 1996.

Walter Hearne (No. 396).

Born: 15.1.1864, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. *Died:* 2.4.1925, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1887-1896. County cap 1892.

Parents: William Hearne & Mary Hearne (née Montague).

Second of the three Chalfont St Giles Hearnese, Walter was a slow developer who for a brief period looked likely to become a medium-pace bowler in the class of his younger brother JT. Unfortunately, injury, illness and just possibly a touch of hypochondria intervened.

As young men, the three brothers did most of the bowling for their village club. On one occasion Chalfont St Giles routed Beaconsfield for seven, Walter six for 2, JT four for 3. A fast bowler in his youth, Walter's first professional engagement was in 1883 with the Streatham club, arranged by cousin GG. In the following year he moved to the Bat & Ball ground, Gravesend and made his debut for Kent Second Eleven. In 1885 he moved again, to St. Lawrence, Canterbury where he made an immediate impact with 113* v King's School and nine for 6 v the Clergy Orphan School. He also found time to inflict further misery on Beaconsfield with five for 3 for Chalfont St Giles. He remained with St. Lawrence until 1897 and during his time with them toured Holland whence he returned with a bag of 15 wickets for 14 runs.

In 1887, shortly after appearing at Lord's for Colts of the South v Colts of the North he was back again for his first-class debut, for Kent v MCC where he suffered a pair but claimed four inexpensive wickets. He was chosen for five more matches that season taking in all eight (expensive) wickets but was not picked again until 1890. He made three appearances that year and two in 1891 but apart from three for 20 and two for 10 v MCC in 1891 his bowling was little used. At first-class level he had no great pretensions to batsmanship.

1892 brought a transformation. Beginning with five for 53 in the MCC match at Lord's – in opposition brother JT had match figures of ten for 61 – his season's record was 93 wickets (avge. 18.13), ten times five in an innings, three times ten in a match. Over four matches in June and July he took seven for 61 & five for 53 v Somerset at Catford, four for 65 & six for 70 v Sussex at Gravesend, five for 138 (including a hat trick) v Lancashire and six for 31 v Surrey both at Tonbridge. A fortnight later he claimed another ten wickets (three for 54 & seven for 75) v Notts in Canterbury Week.

1893 began in similar vein when in the opening fixture all 20 wickets fell to Hearnes – W.Hearne seven for 74 & eight for 40, A.Hearne three for 14 & two for 58. A broken little finger in the next match kept him out till July but on returning, he took 30 wickets (avge.11.96) in just four matches but was then stricken with influenza and missed the rest of the season. He nevertheless headed the national bowling averages

Fit again in 1894, Walter started with seven for 50 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston and finished top of the Kent bowling averages for the third successive year with 116 wickets at 13.29. Twelve times he took five or more wickets in an innings, four times ten or more in a match. In four games between 28th June and 23rd July he collected 47 wickets at a cost of 380 runs – eight for 66 & one for 55 v Lancashire at Tonbridge, six for 37 & seven for 24 v Gloucestershire at Blackheath (including WG twice), five for 29 & seven for 43 v Nottinghamshire at Mote Park, seven for 74 & six for 52 v Surrey at Catford. He did the ‘double’ over Grace again at Cheltenham where his figures were four for 53 & six for 40.

This was virtually the end of his playing career. A knee injury in a club match for St. Lawrence kept him out for the whole of 1895 apart from a few games for MCC where, although never on the staff, he had played in odd non first-class matches since 1890. He managed three games in 1896 but slipped and twisted his knee while compiling his highest score (34*) at Headingley and decided to retire from county cricket. He nevertheless managed to continue as ground bowler at St. Lawrence and spent part of 1897 coaching at Harrow. In 1902 Kent granted him £100 in lieu of benefit.

In 1892 Walter had become landlord of *The Bat & Ball* opposite the entrance of the St. Lawrence ground by marrying at St. George’s Church, Hammersmith, Hannah Elizabeth Fagg, widow of the previous proprietor John Fagg - no relation apparently to Arthur Fagg (Kent & England) (*qv.*) although both originated from Chartham. He thereby acquired two stepsons and two stepdaughters. By his own marriage there was one son, Henry, who became Deputy Borough Treasurer of Bexley Council, and one daughter.

Despite his lugubrious appearance in team photos, Walter was, according to his obituary in the *Kentish Gazette*, a ‘cheery host’, genial, kindly with a shrewd humour’. Not perhaps always shrewd in financial matters. In 1908 he sold ‘Walter Hearne’s Field’ opposite the pub to Kent CCC for £55 10s. The field (now part of a housing development) was formerly used as the pub’s tea garden and in 1923 Walter pointed out to the club that the sale had cost him income. He was granted another £20.

On the retirement in 1896 of John Crow who had been Kent scorer since 1874, Walter was appointed in his place and continued after he had retired from *The Bat & Ball* almost until his death. In 1897 he opened an indoor cricket school with team mate Fred ‘Nutty’ Martin, an innovation for its time. A building approximately 150ft.t (45.72 m.) x 50ft.(15.24m.) with a clear glass roof but unlit apparently. The school’s location is unknown but it was probably in Walter Hearne’s Field. According to an interview with *Cricket in 1898* (*pp* 177-178) the school had over 50 members (mainly Army) in 1898 but it seems to have closed early in the 20th century.

All these activities notwithstanding, when he died his effects were valued at £551 15s.7d., probate granted to his son Henry. His step-daughter Emily married as her second husband Kent cricketer, Frank Dutnall (*qv.*); another step-daughter Laura lived and worked at *The Bat & Ball* as a barmaid. A fourth brother, William Hearne was groundsman at Burton Court.

Further reading:

Hearne, JW junior. *Wheelwrights to Wickets: the story of the cricketing Hearnes*. Boundary Books, 1996:

Colonel Sir Walter Coote Hedley KBE, CB, CMG (No. 400).

Born: 12.12.1865, Monckton, Heathfield, Somerset. *Died:* 27.12.1937, Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1888.

Educated: Marlborough College & RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Robert Hedley & Catherine Hedley (*née* Coote).

Among the most distinguished of all Kent's soldier/cricketers, Coote Hedley failed to get into his school Eleven but quickly gained a reputation as an allrounder at the RMA Woolwich, albeit with a bowling action dubious enough to earn him the nickname 'Chucker'. In 1886 he played in non first-class matches for both Hampshire and Somerset and had been regularly taking wickets in Royal Engineers v Band of Brothers fixtures since 1885 – 21 in two matches in 1887. Following Brevet Captain Hedley's inclusion in Gentlemen of England teams against Cambridge University at Fenner's and Oxford University in the Parks, in 1888 Kent invited him to play for them.

The first game against Gloucestershire at Blackheath, was relatively uneventful but in the second – at Lord's of all places – Hedley demolished Middlesex with eight for 31 & six for 78. There had been mutterings about his action even before he played first-class cricket and now, as the highly active leader of a well publicized movement against 'illegal' bowling actions, Lord Harris had a problem. Amateur or professional, anyone bowling for Kent must be beyond approach.

Harris asked three cricket-wise friends, Lords Lyttleton and Wenlock plus one other whose name has not survived, to watch the unaware Hedley in Kent's next match at The Oval and pass judgement. Harris was not playing and acting captain Leslie Wilson did not use Hedley in the first innings and gave him only seven overs in the second; the verdict was nevertheless unfavourable. In Harris's words 'I had with the greatest regret to ask him to stand down'. At the end of the season Hedley and Lord Harris were in the same I Zingari side captained by Alexander Webbe against the Gentlemen of England at Scarborough. Hedley bowled 40 overs and took seven wickets. How Lord Harris felt about it is all unrecorded.

Hedley played only once in 1889 but clearly not everyone shared Harris' doubts – or possibly his scruples. Over the next ten years Hedley played a lot of cricket when Army duties allowed. In 1890 he had match figures of 11 for 147 for Gentlemen of England v Oxford University as well as playing for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's and for MCC against the Australians. He was picked for Gentlemen v Players again at The Oval in 1892. Between 1890 and 1904 he played 84 games for his native Somerset, scored over 2,000 runs and took 254 wickets, 41 of them against Kent.

When the county captains met in 1900 to discuss the problem of throwing, Hedley was named as one of the prime offenders but by then he was otherwise occupied in South Africa. Even so, on returning from the wars he continued to take wickets, in three matches for Devon (1902) nine more for Somerset (1903-1904) and four for Hampshire (1905). There is no evidence that he was ever actually no-balled for throwing.

Commissioned in 1884, Coote Hedley was promoted Captain in 1894 by which time he was commanding No.20 Survey Company RE. In 1899 he commanded No.19 Survey Company and on the outbreak of the Second Boer War, with survey expertise much in demand, he sailed for South Africa with No 17 Field Company. He served in numerous actions including Colenso, Laing's Nek, Spion Kop where his company suffered heavy casualties, and the relief of Ladysmith. He was three times Mentioned in Despatches, awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with six clasps and was promoted Major.

After undertaking survey work in India, he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1910 and in 1911 was appointed General Staff Officer, Grade 1 at the War Office in command of MO4, the Geographical

Section, General Staff. Working closely with the Ordnance Survey, his responsibilities included providing the many thousands of maps required by British and Empire (as it then was) land forces throughout the world. In addition to his British honours, all in recognition of his work at the War Office, he received the *Légion d'honneur* and two Belgian awards, Officer Leopold and Crown of Belgium. He retired as a full Colonel in 1920.

Coote Hedley's other sports included racquets, he was beaten in the Final of the Amateur Championships at Queen's Club in 1890, and golf. In February 1894 he married Anne Susan Fellowes, a daughter of Colonel James Fellowes (*qv*) at the Cathedral, Gibraltar. There were three daughters. One of his brothers-in-law was the Somerset wicketkeeper Arthur Newton. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £12,035 2s 3d.

Edward Henty (No. 235).

Born: 11.8.1839, Hawkhurst. *Died:* 20.1.1900, Lewisham.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper and right-arm lob bowler.

Kent 1865-1881.

Parents: Henry & Harriet Henty.

When Edward Henty came into county cricket, long stop was still considered an important position and he was probably the last regular Kent wicketkeeper to habitually employ one. The Australian Jack Blackham is generally credited with being the first to dispense with the additional back up in the late 1870s but there are indications that George Pinder (Yorkshire), Harry Phillips (Sussex), Alfort Smith (Lancashire & Derbyshire) and Kent's Edward Tylecote were doing likewise around the same time or earlier.

With the phasing out of long stop, the practice of standing back to pace bowling was also growing although the real virtuosi continued to stand up to everything on all but the fieriest pitches. Henty was older than most county wicketkeepers, had been in the game a long time and there is nothing in contemporary writing to suggest that he changed his method. His high percentage of stumpings - 33% of all his dismissals - is largely explained by his keeping to bowlers such as 'Farmer' Bennett but he stumped twelve from the quick left-arm bowling of Ned Willsher which might have been seen as some justification for sticking to the older method.

The son of a shoemaker, he worked with his father before becoming a full time professional, and came to Kent from the Hawkhurst club. He quickly established himself in a side without a regular wicketkeeper since the accident to William Fryer (*qv*). Kent experimented with other glovemen from time to time and gave an extended trial to Isaac Ingram in 1878, but in most seasons and barring injuries, he was first choice until 1879. His 24 dismissals in 1877 remained a Kent record until 1884 when John Pentecost (*qv*) claimed 34.

Although Surrey's Ted Pooley was generally first choice, for ten years from 1867 Henty played intermittently for the itinerant United South of England Eleven. On occasions both men played, with Pooley behind the stumps, which could be an indication that Henty was a competent outfielder. Little use seems to have been of his lob bowling, even against provincial Eights and Twenties. Against Twenty-Two of Swansea in 1876 he stumped six and caught five.

His record of 40 first-class ducks notwithstanding, he was a useful batsman, opening on occasions for Kent, USEE and Prince's where he was on the staff from 1872 to 1873. In his first season at Prince's he scored 74 for Kent against the club, a match not judged worthy of first-class status. Against Yorkshire at Dewsbury in 1870, having batted No. 11 in the first innings, he carried his bat in the second - 32* in a total of 81. Against Sussex at Hove in 1880 he shared an eighth-wicket partnership of 146 with Richard Jones (Jones 81, Henty 72). Although by reputation an ultra-defensive batsman,

against Hampshire at Canterbury in 1877, when he added 97 for the last wicket with George Remnant (62), his 53* contained one six, one five and five fours.

The plain leather wicketkeeping gloves of the period became dry and hard without frequent wetting and, according to Lord Harris, Henty continually licked his, sucking 'jujubes' for the purpose. Again according to Harris, when Henty returned the ball, William Foord-Kelcey used to 'with a disgusted grimace' 'drop it in the dust and roll it about with his foot'. He was probably not the only one.

Between 1875 and 1894 Henty umpired in 83 first-class matches as well as frequently standing in minor matches at Prince's. His record was not unblemished. In the Gentlemen v Players match at Prince's in 1876 George Ulyett was bowled by the fifth ball of a four ball over and in Middlesex v Sussex at Lord's in 1893, to the amazement of all concerned, he gave CP Foley out for picking up a bail dislodged by a rebound from the wicketkeeper's pad. The Sussex captain Billy Murdoch persuaded him to reverse the decision. Unsurprisingly, he was later suspended from the umpire's list until the following season and was not on it at all by 1895.

In the autumn of 1872 he branched out to become proprietor of the billiard room at *The Amersham Arms*, New Cross and two years later did the same at *The Royal Albert Inn* in the same district and at *The White Horse*, Peckham Rye.

The England v Thirteen of Kent match at Canterbury in 1881 – over in two days but watched by over 9000 - was played for his benefit but, in spite of his entrepreneurial activities by 1898 Lord Harris was reporting that 'Henty was in need of help'. An allowance of £1 per week was agreed and in the following year £20 was granted for lodgings in Ventnor, Isle of Wight to enable him 'to be treated as an out-patient at the Royal National Hospital for Consumption'. By March 1899 the Club had got him into the Hospital and he was said to have 'benefited' but he died within less than a year.

Allen William Henry Herbert (No. 307).

Born: 20.10.1852, Hythe. *Died:* 14.9.1897, Belgravia, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1874.

Educated: Royal Naval School, New Cross.

Parents: Commander Frederick Charles Herbert RN & Bessie Newenham Herbert (*née* Stuart).

Allen Herbert is a rarity in that he was a 'one match wonder' for three different counties – for Essex v MCC at Lord's in 1872 (not first-class), Kent in 1874 and for Middlesex v Oxford University at Prince's in 1875. His father died in 1868 and his cricket was almost certainly restricted by the need to earn a living. In the 1871 Census he is listed as having 'no occupation' while living with his widowed mother in Saffron Walden and all his cricket of any consequence was played between 1872 and 1876. By 1881 he was working as a clerk for Hoare's Bank.

Most of his cricket was for MCC for whom he scored 63 when opening the batting against Surrey at The Oval in 1872 – his first appearance in a first-class fixture. In 1875 he hit 100 for MCC v Royal Artillery at Lord's and in 1873 appeared for Gentlemen of the South v Players of the North at Prince's. On his solitary appearance for Kent he was 'absent' in the second innings for reasons unexplained.

Working for Hoare's Bank, he seems to have lived reasonably well. In 1891 he was sharing apartments in Belgravia with, among others, Robert G Hart Dyke but on his death, his estate was valued for probate at a relatively modest £891 8s 4d.

His elder brother St Leger Herbert, a man of legendary courage, was killed in 1885 in the Sudan while with the abortive Gordon Relief Expedition where he combined the duties of war correspondent for the *Morning Post* with those of secretary to Sir Herbert Stewart, commander of the Desert Column.

John Arthur Hibbard (No. 430).

Born: 7.9.1863, Chatham. *Died:* 17.10.1905, Gillingham.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1893.

Parents: Stephen Hibbard & Elizabeth Hibbard (*née* Baker).

The son of a police constable who later became landlord of *The Canterbury Hotel*, Gillingham, John Hibbard served in the Royal Navy as Assistant Engineer (1885-1890), Engineer (1890-1900), Chief Engineer (1900-1904), Engineer Lieutenant (1904-1905).

In between service commitments he had gained a local reputation as a wicketkeeper in and around Chatham and in 1893 while on leave from shore service at Pembroke Dock he was called up for the Kent first team for a run of four successive matches – against Gloucestershire at Bristol, MCC at Lord's, Middlesex and the Australians at Gravesend.

This was a period when Kent had no regular wicketkeeper apart from Manley Kemp who was rarely available outside the school holidays and in 1893 they used five, all amateurs and all except Kemp club cricketers. According to *Wisden* Hibbard kept wicket in 'good style', contemporary accounts do not mention any missed chances and his ten catches included WG Grace twice. His record of 29 byes conceded in five innings is statistically better than any of the other four but he was at sea from May 1894 to August 1897 and was not called on again.

Hibbard's first sea service was in 1886 in the old wooden hulled ironclad *Minotaur* but he also served in the cruisers *Orlando*, *Mersey* and *Severn* and the three-funnel destroyer *Avon*. He retired (unfit) as a Lieutenant/ Engineer in December 1904, originally on half-pay – seven shillings a day- subsequently ten shillings and six pence a day.

He does not seem to have married. On his death his estate was valued at £2,069 11s 3d. His elder brother served in the Life Guards as a Lieutenant Riding Instructor.

Edward Hickmott (No. 312).

Born: 20.3.1850, Maidstone. *Died:* 7.1.1934, West Malling.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1875-1888.

Parents: John & Harriet Hickmott.

Writing of the 1875 season in his *a Few Short Runs* and again in the 1907 Kent History Lord Harris states 'I tried E Hickmott at the wicket to commence with but eventually reverted to E Henty'. The inference that Hickmott had an extended trial is misleading. True he made his debut in the first game of that season (caught two, stumped one, two byes) but he was replaced in the next match by the amateur Edward Tylecote, returned for the trip to Derby and was not seen again until 1881. Henty kept in three matches, Richard Palmer in the last two. Ned Hickmott's subsequent appearances were scattered and intermittent - one in 1881, three in 1886, three in 1887, one in 1888. He never appeared in successive matches and in two did not keep wicket.

In 1874 he opened the batting for E Willsher and H Keeble's team of Kent Colts v WH Fryer and G Bennett's team of Kent Colts at Tonbridge. His twin brother William opened for the other side. At the

start of the 1875 season both brothers appeared for 14 Colts v Kent at Catford Bridge and a week later Ned was behind the stumps in the Colts of the South team v Colts of the North at Lord's. After a brief engagement at Preston Hall, Aylesford, in 1879 he made his first appearance for the Mote, against Kent Colts.

In the following year he began an engagement as professional/groundsman with the Mote, an association destined to last for 40 years. In 1881 he won a bat for an innings of 71* in a losing cause v MCC and in 1884 hit the first of his 'big hundreds' for the Mote –150 v St. Lawrence. This was followed by 159 v Southdown in 1885 and 182 v Royal Artillery in 1892. In 1886 he scored 112 v Eastbourne and in one of three appearances in the Kent side that season played his one significant first-class innings. Against Derbyshire on his own Mote Park wicket he came in at 88 for six and scored a steady 44, adding 90 with Frank Marchant (59) as well as taking a catch and allowing only eight byes on a pitch made difficult after rain.

In his capacity as groundsman Ned Hickmott oversaw the laying of the new wicket when the ground was levelled in 1908. Four years earlier his services over 25 years had been recognized by a Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent match staged for his benefit, the amateur side organised by 'Pinky' Burnup, the professionals by Alec Hearne. On his retirement in 1920 he was presented with a gold watch and chain and a cheque for £100.

The Hickmott brothers, there were six in all, were sons of John Hickmott, originally a cooper but by 1861 licensee of *The King's Arms*, Boxley where Ned would ultimately spend much of his life. By 1871 the family had moved to *The Lord Nelson* in St Faith's Street, Maidstone and Ned's occupation was 'machine maker'. Ten years later they were back at *The King's Arms* now run by John's widow Harriet with Ned a 'professional cricketer' and his twin as barman. By 1891 Harriet is still at the pub but retired, William is licensee and Ned is still in residence, an arrangement which continued after William retired and moved to London Road, West Malling where he died.

In other sporting activities Ned Hickmott rode with the Tickham and West Kent Hunts as well as being one of the best swimmers in Kent and in his youth an accomplished oarsman. His twin brother never played a first-class match but was presumably the 'W Hickmott' who appeared for Kent v Essex in 1887. On his death, Ned Hickmott's estate was valued at £11,009 14s 4d., divided equally between his brother William and nephew William Edward (qv)

William Edward Hickmott (No. 518).

Born: 10.4.1893, Boxley. *Died:* 16.1.1968, West Malling.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium/slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1914-1921.

Parents: William & Mary Anne Hickmott.

The nephew of Ned Hickmott (qv) and son of Ned's twin brother William, William Edward Hickmott was born at *The King's Arms*, Boxley and joined the Nursery staff at Tonbridge in 1910. In June 1911 he played his first Second Eleven match, against Surrey at The Oval, and five matches later took seven for 57 v Devonshire at Exeter, finishing his first season with 34 wickets (avge.18.44).

There followed two disappointing seasons in which he seemed to be making little progress but in 1914, now concentrating almost exclusively on bowling in his quicker style, he headed the Second team bowling averages with 49 wickets (avge. 12.26); only 'Tich' Freeman took more. In late July and early August, as Europe went to war, he ran into a rich vein of form yielding 62, 18* & five for 55 v Lincolnshire at Woodhall Spa, six for 31 & eight for 27 v Monmouthshire at Newport, 27, 52*, 4 for 77 & three for 34 v Essex Seconds at Hythe and a call up to the First Eleven v Hampshire at Bournemouth 31 August in which he contributed one for 92 and 15 runs.

Before his First team summons Hickmott had already enlisted in the Royal West Kent Yeomanry. Subsequently he was transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment with whom he served with the 6th and 8th Battalions throughout the remainder of the War.

On demobilisation (with the rank of Corporal) he joined Ramsbottom in the Lancashire League but Kent were still interested and at the start of the 1921 season Tom Pawley was instructed to 'approach Hickmott and report whether he is available for engagement and on what terms'. The upshot was two further first team appearances in the second of which, v Leicestershire at Aylestone Road, he took four for 94 but there was no engagement. Although continuing with Ramsbottom until 1925, in 1923 and 1924 he took 82 wickets in 34 appearances for Lancashire.

He continued to play League cricket and for Rochdale in 1927 claimed 140 wickets, a Central Lancashire League record. In 1932 while professional with Wallasey he played for Liverpool & District against a South American touring team.

Away from cricket he was a highly regarded breeder and trainer of golden retrievers. He exhibited at Crufts. He died in the same house as his uncle Ned.

Robert Hills (No. 102).

Born: September 1813, Ash-next-Ridley. *Died:* 25.7.1884, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler.

Kent 1836-1838.

In his appearances for Kent – all against Sussex, four at Town Malling, three at Brighton, - Robert Hills was inevitably overshadowed by the giants of the 'Great Old Kent XI' but he played a significant part in Kent's two narrow victories in 1837. He claimed six wickets when Sussex were beaten by two wickets at Town Malling and six again (three for 32 & three for 34) when Kent won by three wickets in the return at the Royal New Ground, Brighton.

Between 1835 and 1841 he played at least eight times for the prestigious Town Malling team including matches against Kent in 1835 and 1836 (twice). He also played for Meopham, Gravesend, journeying with them to Mitcham and to London to play against Camberwell Clarence on Halls' ground in 1836. He also played for combined Gravesend/Meopham teams. Although primarily a bowler, he opened the batting on occasions and for Gravesend achieved what seems to be his top score – 21 v Leeds & Bearsted in 1833.

In the 1841 census Robert Hills is living with his wife Sarah at Meopham and is described as a publican. This is unlikely to have been the famous but now (unforgivably) renamed *Cricketers* overlooking Meopham Green as at the time the Buggs family held the licence but by the Census of 1851 he is a farmer and living next door to *The Cricketers*. He later moved to Gravesend where he appears as a 'fruiterer' (1861), 'fruit and potato salesman' (1871) and 'potato salesman' (1881).

On his death certificate he is a market gardener. *Scores & Biographies* too has him as a market gardener. His brother Thomas, a shoemaker, also played for Meopham He was reputedly a third cousin of the more famous Thomas Hills (qv).

In September 1837 he married Sarah Hart Goodwin. There were three sons and four daughters.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Thomas Hills (No. 109).

Born: 17.11.1796, Stansted. *Died:* 19.4.1866, West Malling.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm lob bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1840.

Parents: William Hills & Ann Hills (*née* Featherstone).

By virtue of his achievements in single-wicket matches Thomas Hills was at one time dubbed 'Champion of Kent'. He defeated several noted single-wicket specialists including Alfred Richardson and C.Hodsell, both of Dartford and T.Marshall of Sevenoaks but lost his title following two encounters with Alfred Mynn. In the first, at Leeds Park in August 1832, Mynn's first single-wicket contest of consequence, Hills scored 24 and bowled Mynn for seven but in the second innings he was bowled without scoring and Mynn hit off the required 18. Hills had unwisely agreed that wides would be ignored and this probably cost him the match. Mynn had not yet acquired the accuracy of his great years and reputedly bowled around 50 wides whereas Hills, bowling under-arm, delivered none. Mynn won the return at Town Malling decisively – Hills b Mynn two and c and b Mynn two; Mynn run out 32.

Hills did little on his only appearance for Kent in a match now judged 'important' or first-class but he appeared twice for the county against Benenden in 1836 and once in 1838 with a top score of 21*. He also played four times for Town Malling against Kent with a top score of 26* at Bromley in 1835.

A regular member of the famous Town Malling team, Hills' performances in early matches have not survived but between 1829 and 1833, a period when only wickets bowled and the occasional lbw were credited to the bowler, he took over 100 recorded wickets, six times five in an innings, once ten in a match. Lob bowlers relied heavily on their fielders and it is likely that his haul was at least double that number.

Between 1829 and 1841 (he virtually gave up bowling after 1833) he carried out 32 stumpings, most of them in matches in which he also bowled. In 46 recorded matches he scored over 800 runs with four scores over 40 and another six between 21 and 38. His top score was 45 v Chislehurst at Town Malling in 1833.

A master baker by trade in West Street, West Malling, in 1828 he married Louisa Furner in West Malling Church. Hills took his son George, his only child, into the business which may perhaps have given him more time for cricket.

Charles Hillyer (No. 257).

Born: 4.8.1845, Biddenden. *Died:* 4.10.1872, Woodchurch

Kent 1868.

Parents: Charles Lashley Hillyer & Eliza Hillyer (*née* Bean).

During the 1860s Canterbury Cricket Week had not quite the social cachet of its later years but it was nevertheless unusual for an almost totally unknown professional with little or no 'form' to appear in a Kent team during the Week. In 1868, probably due to belated withdrawals, Kent fielded two in their twelve-a-side match with Gentlemen of MCC – Thomas Tidy (*qv*) and Charles Hillyer.

The latter had in the previous year scored 22 for Twenty of Ashford v the USEE, the only batsman to reach double figures in an all out total of 73, but otherwise he appears to have been limited to local cricket for Woodchurch (where he lived for most of his life), Lydd, Rolvenden and Rye. On his one first-class appearance he achieved fame of a sort by delivering five wides in his opening four-ball over.

In the 1869 *Wisden* Hillyer is granted an 'Esq' after his name but Kent records show him as a professional which seems the more likely. His father was a farm bailiff in Woodchurch and in the 1871 Census Charles jnr, one of eleven children, is a butcher at 'the Village Green' Woodchurch with his wife Sarah (*née* Chasmar) whom he married in 1866. There was one son, Charles. Hillyer died of phthisis.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Richard Hillyer (No. 95).

Born: 5.3.1813, Leybourne. *Died:* 8.1.1861, Maidstone,

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium/ medium-pace round-arm bowler.

Kent 1835-1853.

Parents: William & Mary Hillyer.

In contrast with his more famous 'Great Old Kent Eleven' contemporaries, Felix, Fuller Pilch and Alfred Mynn, there is no biography of 'Topper' Hillyer; very little has been written about him at all. With 1,482 wickets in first-class or 'important' matches plus almost another 1,000 in AEE matches against odds, it seems to have been generally agreed that he rivalled the great Lillywhite as the finest bowler of his time.

Oddly enough, there seems to be no agreement as to his pace. In the 1907 Kent history he is fast but 'not as fast as Redgate or Alfred Mynn'. According to *Scores & Biographies Vol II* 'the pace was moderate, yet bordering on the fast'. To William Denison in his *Sketches of the Players* Hillyer 'falls under the denomination of mid-pace bowler' but 'faster than Lillywhite'. At Lord's in 1840, he played for Fast Bowlers v Slow, in 1842, and in 1849, for Slow Bowlers v Fast. *Scores & Biographies* comments 'not that he had changed his pace, but by some it was considered fast and by others the reverse'.

Whatever his pace, he usually bowled round the wicket, as was customary with most right-arm, round-arm bowlers of the time, but occasionally switched to over the wicket. Capable, according to Fuller Pilch, of pitching the ball on the proverbial sixpence. his approach to the wicket was variously described as being 'like a man shuffling along quick (*sic*) in slippers' and 'like a waiter carrying a lot of hot plates and anxious to put them down'. Normally aiming to pitch leg-stump and move away towards slip, he was said to produce a 'pronounced curl'.

Originally described as bowling with a 'low arm, somewhat bent', as his career progressed, he raised it to shoulder level, although, according to Denison, 'always fair and below the shoulder'. The change might account for the unexpected lift which not only brought him many of his wickets through catches but made life difficult for batsmen at a time when batting gloves were a rarity.

Although in his early days played for his batting (and possibly his slip fielding), Hillyer the batsman had the reputation of being 'an obstinate, clumsy, sticker'. Although he did relatively little for Kent, he had his days in minor cricket and hit one half-century in first-class cricket, 83 for MCC v Oxford University in 1847, as well as nine other scores between 30 and 48. He was his team's top scorer on 12 occasions. At slip, he was, according to James Pycroft's *Oxford Memories* 'the best ever known', excelling against the fast bowling of Mynn, whose natural movement was away from the bat.

The son of a Leybourne pub landlord, facts on 'Topper' Hillyer's early cricket are scarce. There is no indication as to how he became associated with the Town Malling Club but he played two matches for them against Dartford in 1830 (i.e. aged 17), scoring one run in three innings. He did not bowl as far

as one can tell from the printed scores of the period. He scored 64 opening the batting against Marden at Town Malling in 1831 and 37 against Chislehurst on the same ground in the following year but not until 1834 is he shown as taking a wicket, one against the Gillingham Hart Club at Town Malling, a match in which he scored 49, and took at least four wickets in the return at Chatham.

More wickets followed and in late August he played his first match for Kent, v Benenden at Hadlow Common. He failed to score and is not shown to have taken a wicket but by the following year he was playing for Kent at Lord's against England. He opened the batting, did not bowl but took at least five wickets in the return at Chislehurst. In 1836 he claimed four wickets against Sussex at Lord's on his first appearance for MCC, although he does not seem to have joined the regular staff until around 1839. He was picked for England v Sussex at Brighton as well as for the then annual South v North fixture. In 1838 he made his first appearance for Players v Gentlemen, opening the batting and claiming four wickets in each innings.

For England v Sussex at Brighton in 1839, he took five wickets in the first innings, seven in the second and the end of the following season found him established among the leading bowlers of the day. Of his 56 wickets, 27 were against England – five at Lord's, 12 at Town Malling, where, with Mynn, he bowled unchanged through both innings, ten at Bromley. In 1841 his haul of wickets rose to 84, 35 of them in four matches against England, nine at Lord's, 13 at Town Malling, six at Canterbury and seven at Bromley. Apart from the first innings of the Canterbury match, Hillyer and Mynn bowled unchanged throughout. By the end of his career, he had 255 wickets in Kent's encounters with England, eight times 10 or more in a match.

In 1842 he reached 100 wickets for the first time. Beginning with 58 wickets in six games – 12 for MCC v Cambridge University, ten for MCC v the North, 12 for MCC v Sussex, all at Lord's, 11 for Kent v Sussex at Canterbury and 13 as a given man for Gentlemen of the North v Players of the North at Trent Bridge – he finished with 127, rounding off his season with 15 wickets including Pilch, Ned Wenman (twice) and Joseph Guy (twice) for England v Hampshire at Southampton.

Hillyer exceeded 100 wickets in every subsequent season from 1843 to 1847 and again in 1849, his best year 1845 with 174, eight times ten or more in a match, 20 times five or more in an innings. On nine occasions he dismissed eight batsmen in an innings (twice for Kent). In addition to his 15 wickets at Southampton in 1842, he took 14 in a match for MCC v Surrey at The Oval, 1846, for Kent v Surrey at Aylesford, 1847, for England v Hampshire at Southampton (14 for 48) and for MCC v Cambridge University at Lord's. 1849. In 16 matches for England he took 99 wickets and 68 in 14 appearances for the Players.

Through his performances with the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' and his role in the great days of Kent at Town Malling, he was and is regarded essentially as a Kent cricketer but in fact he scored more runs, 1,164, took more wickets, 598 and held more catches, 82, for MCC than he did for any other team and played far more matches at Lord's than any other ground. *Circa* 1851, he ended his engagement with MCC apart from odd appearances but at the close of his career he had played 82 first-class or important matches for Kent, 81 for MCC.

He had a rare gift for dismissing the best; he accounted for Joseph Guy, 'all ease and elegance, fit to play before Her Majesty in her drawing room' according to old William Clarke, 51 times, Charles Taylor 37, including once 'hat knocked on wicket', George Parr 'the Lion of the North' 30, John Wisden 20. Kent colleagues were his victims too – Mynn 26, Felix 17, Pilch 11.

Topper' Hillyer was a founder member of Clarke's All-England Eleven and emerged from defeat in the inaugural match against 20 of Sheffield in 1846 with figures of ten for 37 & seven for 45. When the team split in 1852 with the formation of the breakaway United All-England Eleven, he remained loyal to Clarke and, despite the strain of playing against 18s and 22s when approaching middle age,

played until 1855 when a broken thumb and hand injury ended his career. He took at least 970 wickets for the AEE, once 23 in a match, v 22 of Bedale in 1849 and three times 22.

Despite his outstanding service to both, neither MCC nor Kent gave Hillyer a benefit. After giving up as an active cricketer, he took up umpiring, much of it at The Oval where Surrey were more appreciative. A match was staged at The Oval in 1858, England v 18 Veterans which raised nearly £400 after paying expenses. The Veterans team included Alfred Mynn, Ned Wenman, Tom Adams, William Martingell and Joseph Guy.

Hillyer had a variety of coaching engagements, notably at Oxford, and cricket seem to have absorbed most of 'Topper Hillyer's life. Reputedly a crack shot, he was at one time said to be a gamekeeper. In later life, he leased ground at Meopham and let it out for shooting.

Affected by rheumatism in the closing years of his career which worsened towards the end of his life, Topper Hillyer died from a diseased liver and tuberculosis. He was buried in his home village of Leybourne, his funeral attended by Alfred and Walter Mynn and his successor in the Kent Eleven, Ned Willsher.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Morrah, Patrick. *Alfred Mynn and the Cricketers of His Time*. Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1963.

Philip Hilton (No. 237).

Born: 10.3.1840, Selling. *Died;* 26.5.1906 St.Pancras, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1865-1873.

Educated: Cheltenham College.

Parents: Charles Jones Hilton & Anna Maria Hilton (*née* Shepherd).

Scores & Biographies (Vol.XII p.171) asserts that Philip Hilton 'has not been chosen as often for his county as his merits deserve'. A useful batsman, good fielder at midwicket, long leg or long stop and a capable wicketkeeper, his record for Kent is admittedly better than it looks as bare statistics,

In addition to his 74 against Surrey in 1871 (top score in the match), he four times passed 40 in Kent matches, twice when few runs were coming from the other end. Batting No. 10 at The Oval in 1867, he scored 41 of the 58 added for the last two wickets in an all out total of 166. Against Sussex at Hove in 1871, a match in which no other Kent batsman scored more than 15, he hit 42 in a Kent total of 79 all out. Nevertheless, *Scores & Biographies* does perhaps over state the case. Hilton registered ten first-class ducks, was dismissed for single figures 26 times and although he played a great deal of club cricket, he never seems to have scored more than 80.

Hilton's father Charles was a farmer in Selling in the 1841 census but is recorded as a 'merchant' when his son started at the recently established Cheltenham College where, as a boarder, he was obliged to arrive equipped with a solid silver spoon and fork. According to *Wisden, Cricket and Scores & Biographies* Hilton failed to win a place in the Cheltenham College Eleven although the College's own archives do not actually record who played in the early years.

Resident for most of his life at Lower Upnor, his long association with Kent cricket began in May 1865 when he scored 13 for Thirteen Gentlemen of Kent v Thirteen Players of Kent at Gravesend. In June he hit 47 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove and in July was back at Gravesend for his county debut against Sussex.

In April of the following year he was elected to the Managing Committee of the Kent County Cricket Club and in April 1867 became Treasurer in succession to JM Shaw, a post he held until the amalgamation with the Beverley in 1870. In 1873 he was elected to the Managing Committee of the enlarged club to which the duties of Second Eleven captain were added in 1884. He served on the committee until 1892 when a note in the minutes refers to his being 'in financial trouble'. He had been living in lodgings in Hanover Square, London but at the time his address is given as the Junior Carlton Club. In 1894 he is recorded as asking for honorary membership to which the reply was that the committee had no power to grant it. His membership of the club seems to have lapsed from that year.

Hilton played at least 23 matches for the Gentlemen of Kent with a top score of 71 v Gentlemen of Lancashire at Gravesend in 1868, the year in which he appeared for them against the Australian Aboriginals tourists. He also played frequently for Selling, Gravesend for whom he scored 80 v Town Malling in 1868, Hundred of Hoo, a club he founded, North Kent, Gentlemen of the South, once for Gentlemen of Surrey, Band of Brothers and MCC, on occasions as captain.

The club with which he was most closely associated however is Incogniti where he was known as the 'Kentish Lion'. He first appeared for them in 1865 and was still playing in 1890 despite the aftermath of a dislocated kneecap. In a long, eulogistic article in the 27 December 1890 issue of *Cricket*, the editor Charles Alcock – a fellow Incog – lists 33 venues at which Hilton had led Incogniti teams. In 1887 he was one of 18 Veterans who played against Gentlemen of MCC at Lord's as part of MCC's Centenary.

From 1869 to 1882 Philip Hilton was master of the Hundred of Hoo Harriers and from 1882 Hon Secretary of the West Kent Foxhounds. As a young man he played association football.

In 1874 he married Alice Maria Mathews. There were three sons, two of whom died in childhood, and six daughters. When he died in a nursing home from stomach cancer he had been employed as a 'private secretary' in London and was living in Fitzroy Square, St Pancras. His effects were valued for probate at £75.

Rev Trevitt Reginald Hine-Haycock MVO (No. 390).

Born: 3.12.1861, Old Charlton, Greenwich. *Died:* 2.11.1953, Bedford.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1885-1886.

Educated: Wellington College and New College, Oxford.

Parents: William Hine-Haycock & Annie Mary Hine-Haycock (*née* Parker).

Trevitt Hine-Haycock was the last survivor of Manley Kemp's (*qv*) Oxford University team who beat the Australians by seven wickets on the Christ Church College ground in 1884. At Wellington he was in the Eleven from 1878 to 1880, captaining them in his final year when he headed both batting and bowling averages.

Going up to Oxford in 1881, he scored 45 in the Freshmen's match and played twice for the University in the following season but not until 1883 was he awarded the first of his two Blues. Usually opening the batting, he began with 66 v MCC, 44 v Lancashire and 44 v Gentlemen of England but did little else that year. He was Secretary in 1884 when Cambridge lost the University Match by seven wickets. In a low-scoring game he scored 40 and 35*. He hit 68 v Surrey at The Oval and played sensibly for 25* against the Australians when Oxford lost three wickets in scoring the 108 needed for victory.

When Trevett Hine-Haycock's father, a solicitor, ceased to practice, the family made their home in Sidmouth and between 1879 and 1884 he played occasional games for Devonshire. In the latter year he scored ten and 22* as a somewhat unexpected selection for Gentlemen v Players at The Oval and two years later he appeared for Gentlemen of England v Cambridge University at Fenner's.

In 1885 he made his debut for Kent, hitting 20 and 42 against Sussex at Gravesend but in five subsequent matches over the next two seasons he only once exceeded 30. In the autumn of 1885 and again in 1886 he toured the USA and Canada with EJ Sanders XI, achieving his first-class career best of 85 v the Gentlemen of Philadelphia.

An extremely active club cricketer, he hit centuries for Free Foresters, Harlequins, Incogniti, Oxford University Authentics and Sidmouth for whom he was secretary for some years. He also played for Band of Brothers, Bickley Park and Gentlemen of Devonshire. He was a member of MCC from 1879 until his death.

Ordained in 1890, he began a distinguished church career as curate in Rotherham but in 1893 moved to London. From 1893 to 1896 he was vicar of St. Giles-in-the-Fields and subsequently of St. Michael's, Cornhill and of Greyfriars Newgate from 1912 until it was bombed during the Second World War. He was priest-in-ordinary to Edward VII from 1905 to 1907 and to George V from 1910 to 1935. A little over a year before his death, he was appointed priest-in-ordinary to the Queen. Other appointments included Minor Canon of Westminster (1905-1912), Custodian of Westminster Abbey (1902-1909), Precentor (1909-1912) and Governor of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

In 1915 he married Grace Josephine Thornton at St. Columb, Cornwall. She died in 1945. There were no children. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £709 13s 2d.

Hines (No. 31).

Kent 1822.

Among the most anonymous of all Kent's 'one match wonders', virtually nothing is known about this player except that he may have been born in Greenwich. A man of this name appeared for the RA Club in 1826. It might even be a misspelling of 'Hills' of whom several played around this time. The fact that he opened the batting presumably means he had some local reputation as a batsman.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Edmund Hinkly (No. 136).

Born: 12.1.1817, Benenden. *Died:* 8.12.1880, Walworth, London.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm, round-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1846-1858.

The son of the village postmaster, Edmund 'Ned' Hinkly was a shoemaker in his native Benenden before becoming a professional cricketer. With half the side made up by members of the Wenman and Mills families, in the 1830s and early 1840s Benenden were strong enough to undertake regular fixtures with Kent, albeit on occasions buttressed by the likes of Fuller Pilch or Alfred Mynn as 'given men'. Hinkly was reputedly one of the first – possibly *the* first – to swing the ball away from the right-hander and once he became a regular member of the Benenden team and began to take wickets, a place in the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' was a natural progression despite negligible ability with the bat or in the field.

After an uneventful three matches in 1846, he did not play again until July 1848 when, against England at Lord's, he took 16 wickets, six in the first innings, all ten in the second. This with 'Topper' Hillyer bowling at the other end! In his 12 years with Kent he understandably never quite matched this performance but took seven for 48 against Sussex at Brighton that August and in two successive matches in 1849 claimed 22 wickets – six and five v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, eight and three v England at Canterbury. He took eleven in a match against Surrey at The Oval in 1853 and eleven again v Sussex at Gravesend in 1856. In that year he took 28 wickets at 12.14 including five in an innings against MCC at Gravesend, Sussex at Hove and Surrey at Tunbridge Wells.

Hinkly undoubtedly played fewer matches for Kent than his ability warranted or Kent needed with Mynn ageing and Hillyer requiring support. Patrick Morrah in his *Alfred Mynn and the Cricketers of his time* asserts that 'his health broke down early' but this is clearly not true and it seems more likely that the reason was simply the need to earn money.

Hinkly played a great deal of cricket. His wife was a South East Londoner and the couple spent much of their life in the Newington/Walworth area. Between 1848 and 1853 Hinkly played four times for Surrey, taking 11 wickets v England at The Oval in 1849. and twice for South v North. His professional/coaching engagements included Manchester, Montpelier, Northumberland, Oxford University, Watford, Westminster School and Weymouth.

Between 1848 and 1857 he not only toured with the AEE but played 31 times against them as a 'given man' for the 18s and 22s who formed the opposition. In 1857 he took 40 wickets against the AEE, notably eight for 20 and six for 53 for 22 of Liverpool at Prince's Park including the wicket of George Parr, the greatest batsman of the day. On their very first encounter, when Hinkly took 16 wickets for Kent v England at Lord's in 1848, he claimed Parr's wicket twice and in the 33 matches in which they are known to have been on opposing sides, he dismissed the great man 24 times.

Throughout his career few can have played the role of 'given man' more often. The list, probably far from comprehensive, includes Bristol, Bullingdon Club, Burton-on-Trent, Cardiff, Chatham, Coventry, Downham Market, Eastwell, Gentlemen of England, Gentlemen of Tunbridge Wells, Grantham, Hampshire, Hull, Imham Park, Liverpool, Loughborough, Northamptonshire, Oxford University Next Nine, Oxford University Next Sixteen, Peckham Rye & District, Rutland, Sleaford, South London, South Wales, South Wiltshire, Spalding, Suffolk, Surbiton and Whitehaven.

In the 1871 census he is living in Walworth and working as a cricket ball maker but, although he continued umpiring in minor matches until 1874, there seems to have been a penalty for so much cricket. *Scores & Biographies (Vol. XIV page xxix)* says 'During his later years, Old Ned was generally found hobbling about in the vicinity of Kennington Oval'.

He married Emma Frances Tullett at St Mary's, Newington, in 1847. There were six sons, three of whom died in infancy, and five daughters.

Arthur Hoare (No. 281).

Born: 16.9.1840, Withyam, Sussex. *Died:* 26.12.1896, Edenbridge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium round-arm bowler.

Kent 1871.

Educated: Stangrove House Academy, Edenbridge.

Parents: Charles Hoare & Elizabeth Hoare (*née* Timbs).

Arthur Hoare had his hour of fame – or more precisely six hours ten minutes of fame – on 29 July 1870 when, playing for the village of Ford (near Lingfield), he scored 302 against Tonbridge School. Whatever the quality of opposition, it was a feat of endurance. He reputedly ran 528 runs, scored two

sevens, three sixes, eight fives, ten fours, 36 threes, 22 twos and 40 singles (which actually makes his score 304). He also took four wickets. CS Hoare, possibly a cousin, took the remaining six. The Tonbridge team, which apparently included only six of the School Eleven, contained yet another Hoare, JC.

Hoare was headmaster and 'proprietor' of Stangrove House Academy, Edenbridge, an establishment founded by his father Charles and specialising in 'commercial' studies, with (male) pupils ranging in age from six to 15. He played most of his cricket for and around Edenbridge but his first match of note was in 1863 when he failed to score for 22 Gentlemen of Hampshire against the UEE at Southampton. At Tunbridge Wells Common in 1869 he made his first-class debut, for Sussex against Kent, and two years later his one appearance for Kent, scoring his personal best 39 opening the batting against Grace's Eleven in a late season benefit match for Ned Willsher. His final first-class appearance was back with Sussex against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane. In the 1870s he played several times for MCC and in 1879 for Bedfordshire against Huntingdonshire at Huntingdon.

In 1875 he played on his own school ground for 18 of Edenbridge in the inaugural game of the New United South of England Eleven. Next year the fixture was repeated and, in front of his own pupils, he had the satisfaction of ending top scorer with 28, the only player on his side to reach double figures and the only one in the match to pass 20. The 18 finished 24 short of victory with ten wickets in hand but Hoare's feelings may not have been entirely unmixed. Earlier in the year he had agreed to become President and Treasurer of the New United South of England Eleven; the project folded after just one more fixture.

In 1864 he married Ann Chandler in Sevenoaks. There was one daughter.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. the author, 2002.

Charles Arthur Richard Hoare (No. 284).

Born: 18.5.1847, Blackfriars, London. *Died:* 22.5.1908, West Meon, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1872.

Sir Peter Hoare & Lady Sophia Hoare (*née* Marsham),

Of all Kent's 'one-match wonders', Charles Hoare was undoubtedly the most colourful and certainly one of the wealthiest. His father was a partner in Hoare's Bank, his mother a daughter of the second Earl Romney but, unlike the majority of Hoare family males, he seems to have had very little formal education. Nevertheless, despite losing £400,000 on the Stock Exchange early in his career, he became a senior partner in the bank although his real interests do not appear to have extended far beyond sport.

As well as cricket, which he played enthusiastically despite the handicap of 'lameness' in one leg, he devoted himself to tennis, yachting and above all hunting. He also became involved in a short-lived romantic movement to revive coaching, operating, and often driving, his own coach *Exquisite* on a scheduled service from Beckenham – where Kelsey Manor was one of the family homes – to Sevenoaks.

In addition to his single appearance for Kent in the 1872 Canterbury Week, Charles Hoare played for Gentlemen of Kent, Gentlemen of West Kent, for whom he achieved what appears to be his highest score, 83 v I Zingari at Chislehurst in 1876, and MCC, where he had been a member since 1865. He also played on occasions for Cirencester, Sevenoaks Vine, Southgate and, despite no obvious connections with a university, Harlequins as well as in numerous minor local matches near his various

homes in Devonshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Kent. While living at Kelsey Manor he raised his own team to meet sides such as Eton Ramblers and turned out for the *TS Mercury* Eleven as late as 1907. He was President of Hampshire CC in 1905-1906.

Although a big man and heavily built, Hoare was widely considered one of the finest riders in the country and in 1879 he became Master of the Vale of White Horse Hunt. It was in the hunting field that two years earlier he had met Beatrice Holme Sumner – Beatie to friends and family – a life-changing event for him, for her and many others not least Mrs Hoare, formerly Margaret Baring Short, married in Devonshire in 1867 and mother of his five children.

When he first met Beatie he was 30, she was 15. Judged ‘handsome rather than beautiful’, the lady when young comes across as a character from a bodice ripper novel – ‘fiery, impulsive, strong-willed, vivacious’ etc. Later she resembles something altogether more Gothic. Like Hoare, a devoted rider to hounds - her father was the (impecunious) Master of the Cotswold Hunt - she was a superb, daring horsewoman, an Honorary Whip of the Duke of Beaufort’s Hounds. She also modelled for GF Watts. When sidesaddle was the norm for ladies, she habitually rode astride and many seem to have followed the hunt as much for the gratification of watching Beatie as for witnessing the demise of an unfortunate fox.

The story of their long affair and the efforts of her family and others to keep them apart culminating in Beatie being made a Ward of Court is too convoluted to recount here and readers wishing to know the details should consult Ronald Morris’s *The Indomitable Beatie. Charles Hoare, CB Fry and the Captain’s Lady* (Sutton Publishing 2004). It is enough that in 1885, by which time the couple were co-habiting and already had a daughter, both appeared, somewhat belatedly, before the Court of Chancery to answer charges of breaching a court order. They were fortunate to avoid prison, Charles Hoare especially so. He had to pay all costs and lost in other ways - ousted as Master of the VWH and in 1888 asked to resign as a senior partner in the Bank. Not however without a generous settlement – half the profits for life and for a further seven years after his death amounting to around £40,000 a year or well in excess of £1,000,000 in today’s money.

Following hard on the heels of the court case and possibly at least partially in expiation, Charles Hoare founded, entirely at his own expense, the naval Training Ship *Mercury* for ‘poor boys of good character’, originally at Binstead on the Isle of Wight, subsequently at Hamble on the Solent with a 45-acre shore establishment and 24-room mansion. Although initially distracted by setting up a hunt at Cricklade as a rival to the VWH, Hoare devoted most of his time to *Mercury*, remaining Captain Superintendent for the rest of his life with Beatie playing a role in day to day operations, excelling the boys in activities such as boat handling and climbing the rigging in bare feet without using the ‘lubber’s hole’ (which sounds vulgar but isn’t). A second child was born in 1890 and the 1891 Census makes interesting reading. They were then still at Binstead where Charles Hoare is head of the house and ‘Captain of *TS Mercury*. Next come daughter Sybil (six) and son Robin (five). Fourth is their mother, Beatrice Sumner ‘Employee of the above’.

In 1897, possibly due to an upsurge of religious feeling following a visit to the Bayreuth Festival where they witnessed a performance of *Parsifal*, or again, possibly due to advancing years, Charles and Beatie began to live apart, he at West Meon, 40 miles away. In 1898 Beatie, by now hair cropped short and addicted to mannish clothes, married Charles Burgess Fry, allround sportsman, scholar and one of England’s greatest batsman. Termed ‘the handsomest man in England’, he was also ten years her junior. Furthermore, according to some sources including Fry’s most recent biographer, Beatrice was pregnant with her third child by Hoare.

Whether, as has been suggested, it was a genuine love match, a convenient way of providing Beatie with a measure of respectability while at the same time providing Fry with free accommodation and enabling him to exist on his journalistic activities, or any motivation between these two extremes,

there is no way of knowing. What is known is that Charles Hoare settled Fry's considerable debts, still paid the bills and carried on doing so until his death when the school became fee-paying.

He became reconciled with his wife shortly before her death from cancer in 1899 and to some extent restored relations with his family. When he died, widely mourned, also from cancer, he left a gross estate of £234, 256 8s 3d. and all his children well provided for. Beattie received £500 plus the mansion with extensive grounds. Just possibly, Charles in his closing years found solace with someone less taxing than Beattie. In a codicil to his will he bought a house in Devon for his private secretary, a 36 year-old widow. Her second name was Beatrice.

Although titled 'manager,' Mrs Fry was effectively now in command, a fearsome Wagnerian figure dominating the establishment and inaugurating a harsh, often brutal, regime with beatings across the breach of a gun for even minor offences – customarily witnessed by Beattie herself. Her husband became Honorary Captain Commandant but seems to have played little part in running the school and in truth inherited a lifelong sinecure. It enabled him to strut around in naval uniform and insist on being addressed as 'Commander', even on scorecards, much to the annoyance of real sailors, especially during the two World Wars,

Despite the fearsome Beattie and a curriculum, much of which in her lifetime seemed more in tune with the Navy of Nelson's day, the school was highly successful, many former pupils going on to notable careers in the Royal Navy and Merchant Service. Cynics among former alumni took the view that, after enduring the regime at *Mercury*, service life was easy. One, Reg Sinfield, had a long career as an allrounder with Gloucestershire and played once for England when he had the distinction of dismissing Sir Donald Bradman. The school closed in 1968.

Rev Richard Greaves Hodgson (No. 280).

Born: 9.3.1845, Manchester, Lancashire. *Died:* 1.11.1931, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1871-1874.

Educated: Privately and Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Edward & Mary Hodgson.

Richard Hodgson devoted almost his entire life to King's School, Canterbury. He joined the school as an Assistant Master in 1868, the year after gaining his BA at Christ Church. He was a Second Master from 1871, the year he gained his MA, to 1879 and Head Master of the Junior School from 1879 until 1908. For over 60 years he was a member of the Canterbury Cathedral Foundation.

Tall by the standards of the time, over 6ft (1.83 m.), he was reputedly a powerful driver off the front foot and specialist fielder at point. His first match of any importance was probably in 1865 when he opened the batting for Fourteen Gentlemen of Manchester v Eleven Players of Manchester on Rusholme Green.

His father Edward, a 'merchant' who had sufficient success in trade with Portugal – presumably in wine or fruit – to permit early retirement, lived in Rusholme and it is likely that his son was the 'R Hodgson' who played for 18 of Rusholme Club & Ground against Eleven Players of Lancashire two years later.

After a relatively unremarkable first-class debut for Kent in 1871, he played twice against Derbyshire in 1874, the first year in which the two counties had met. At Wirksworth, he scored 0 and four as Kent were skittled for 25, when the top score was six, and 75. At Tunbridge Wells Common where Kent lost again, he was joint top scorer with Elliot Parke (*qv*), both batsmen scoring 47 and sharing the highest partnership of the match, 68 for the seventh wicket.

He made one other appearance for Kent, against Prince's Club at Prince's in 1872. Most of his cricket was for St. Lawrence and Bickley Park. For the former, he scored 134 v Dover in 1880 and 245* v the Cavalry Depot in 1888. For Bickley Park he hit 127 v Streatham in 1879 and 187 v Farningham in 1883. He appeared on occasions for Gentlemen of Kent and for Lord Harris's Belmont side. In 1879 he was one of a St. Lawrence team invited to play at Belmont against the side Lord Harris had taken to Australia in the previous winter. In the first innings he was run out for 14 as the visitors were bowled out for 27 (next highest score four). He failed to score in the second innings.

In 1880 he married Mary Latter in Bromley. There were no children. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £2, 0727 15s 5d.

Frederick Hollands (No. 145).

Born: 7.10.1822, Leeds. *Died:* 30. 6.1898, Broomfield.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1849-1859.

Parents: Edwin & Mary Hollands.

Fred Hollands walked up to the wicket to bowl but his height, 6ft 2ins (1.87 m.) would have helped him achieve bounce and his left-arm spin made an important contribution to Kent cricket during the decline of the 1850s. His value has never perhaps been fully acknowledged by historians of the period. His first venture outside purely local cricket could hardly have been more dramatic. For West Kent v the AEE at Gravesend in 1848 he took 12 wickets, six in each innings, including Fuller Pilch, Joe Guy and Alfred Mynn (twice).

He was wicketless in his two games for Kent in 1849 but, beginning with five for 53 & three for 31 v MCC at Cranbrook in 1850, he took five or more wickets in an innings twice against England, four times against MCC and four times against Sussex. At Lord's in 1856 he bowled unchanged throughout the match with Ned Willsher to dismiss MCC for 48 and 69 (Hollands four for 18 & five for 36, Willsher five for 26 & five for 28). Against MCC at Gravesend in 1857 he took six for 15 and six for 56 for an 'England' side including five Kent players against Notts at Trent Bridge in 1855.

Some of Holland's most remarkable performances were reserved for odds matches against the powerful touring England Elevens – seven for 11 & three for 40 for Sixteen of Gravesend v UEE in 1852, four for 24 & seven for 36 for Eighteen of Maidstone v UEE in 1853 and seven for 42 & four for 32 for Sixteen of Maidstone v AEE in 1854. In each case the tourists were beaten but in 1856 when the Maidstone 18 lost to the AEE, Holland still emerged with 13 wickets. He was at times similarly destructive at club level for Town Malling, Gravesend, Maidstone, Mote Park, Boughton Monchelsea and Hollingbourne, for whom he twice took 13 in a match. He played in the Mote's first match in 1857.

Although never a consistent batsman - he registered 14 first-class ducks - he was often deputed to open. It was as an opener that he scored 28 and 52 v Sussex at Hove in 1856 and 54 in the same year for West Kent v East Kent at Gravesend, a non-first-class match in which he also claimed 12 wickets.

Fred Hollands took ten inexpensive wickets for Kent in 1859, the first year of the newly formed Kent CCC, but did not play again apart from an appearance for the Next Sixteen v Kent at Town Malling in 1860. He retained his interest in the county. Lord Harris recounts that when travelling back from county matches he would find old Fred Hollands waiting at the roadside for news of how Kent had fared.

According to *Scores & Biographies*, Fred Hollands, the son of an agricultural labourer, was a 'wood dealer' when not playing cricket but the Census Returns show him as a gamekeeper at Leeds Park, at least from the 1870s. By 1891 he was 'of independent means'. Neither *Wisden* nor *Lillywhite* gave him an obituary.

In 1851 he married Alice Quartermaine in Sandwich. There was one son and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £457 8s 3d.

Lewis Hollingworth (No. 134).

Born: 23.2.1826, Boxley. *Died:* 20.5.1876, Adelaide, South Australia.
Kent 1845-1846.

Parents: John & Mary Ann Hollingworth (*née* Winter).

The son of a prosperous paper manufacturer well-known in local cricketing circles, Lewis Hollingworth made little impact on his three appearances for Kent, v Sussex at Brighton in 1845 and Surrey at The Oval and at Aylesford in 1846. Playing, together with his brother John, for West Kent v East Kent in 1843 he did slightly better with 14 and five, one of only three West Kent batsmen to manage double figures. Both brothers played locally for Bearsted, Cobham and Penenden Heath.

The Kent history refers to him as being 'of Blackheath' but records do not show any connection with the club or district. He emigrated to Australia in 1849 and in 1852 married Mary Cocker, thought to be the sister of JC Cocker (*qv*) who died in 1871. There was one son and one daughter

Frequently in and out of Adelaide Hospital with alcohol related problems, Lewis Hollingworth died of 'granular kidneys'. In 1873 he was referred to as a gardener.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Hollis (No. 121).

Born: 1816 Lewisham. *Died:*

Wicketkeeper.

Kent 1841.

Parents: Thomas & Mary Hollis.

Although he played only once for Kent, William Hollis was a good enough wicketkeeper to be taken on the MCC staff, albeit only for one year during which he played six first-class and at least one other match. He established a considerable reputation as a wicketkeeper in local cricket for Charlton, Deptford and at least two of the several local Blackheath clubs, Blackheath Eagle and Blackheath Independent. Referring to a match in 1847, *Bell's Life* describes his wicketkeeping as 'making the long stop's place almost a sinecure'.

As a batsman in first-class cricket Hollis did nothing much except exhibit a penchant for being run out. For MCC he was run out in four successive innings with the rare distinction of a run out pair. He did however top score with 16* in a low scoring match for MCC v St John's Wood in 1843 and in 1846, opening the batting with his brother Thomas for Players of Blackheath v Gentlemen of Blackheath (including Felix), he carried his bat for 28* in a total of 46. The Players' eleven included two others named Hollis. Playing for Charlton v New City CC in 1847 he caught four and stumped five.

By trade, William Hollis was a bricklayer like his father, but for a short period he ran *The Cricketers* in Paragon Mews, Blackheath. Local records do not show a pub of this name at this location which

probably indicates a short-lived beerhouse, run from home. The Hollis family was well known locally, several of them bricklayers. In 1839 he married Elizabeth Ellison. There was one son and two daughters. In the 1841 census father Thomas is living next door to his son in Paragon Mews. He is described as a bricklayer although he was a builder on the marriage certificate two years earlier.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Charles Victor Lisle Hooman (No. 510).

Born: 3.10.1887, Ditton. *Died:* 20.11.1969. Palm Beach, Florida, USA.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1910.

Educated: Charterhouse School and Brasenose College, Oxford.

Kent Cap 1910.

Parents: Thomas Charles Hooman & Louisa Hooman (*née* Holt).

Another Public School/Oxbridge batsman who achieved less than at one time seemed likely, Charles Hooman, familiarly known as 'Chubby', was an allround sportsman with excellent sporting credentials. His father was in the Wanderers forward line when they were 1-0 winners in the first-ever FA Cup Final at The Oval in 1872. Considered 'the fastest dribbler of his day' he played alongside another Kent cricketer, the goal scorer MP Betts (*qv*).

In addition to his cricket, his son was in the winning pair in the Public Schools raquets tournament at Queen' Club, won half-Blues at Oxford for golf and raquets, represented England against Scotland at golf and participated in the first two Walker Cup competitions. In the first ever contest in 1922 when the USA won 8-4, Hooman was one of the four English winners.

At Charterhouse Hooman was in the Eleven from 1903 to 1906, captaining the side in his final year when he averaged 85.71 and was selected for Public Schools v MCC. He scored centuries against Westminster in 1903 and 1904 and 96 in 1906. In August 1906 Hooman played twice for Devonshire where his father had retired after a lucrative career in shipbroking and later the manufacture of Portland cement.

At Oxford Charles Hooman scored 80 in the 1907 Freshmens' match but managed a top score of only 18 in four appearances for the University although he scored 85 against Free Foresters, a game not on this occasion afforded first-class status. Back in Devonshire, he hit 144 for the County against Cornwall at Truro and 97 v Monmouthshire at Newport.

After a failure in the 1908 Seniors' match he was given no further chances in a notably short, eight match season and, apart from two half-centuries, he did little for Devonshire that year but 1909 saw a transformation. Beginning moderately with 0 and 21 in the Seniors' match he followed with 96 for the Next Sixteen, 73 v Surrey and 78 v Leveson Gower's XI and went on to win the first of his two Blues.

Hooman headed the averages in both his years in the Oxford Eleven with centuries against Worcestershire and Surrey (twice) as well as 99 against the Gentleman of England. In the 1910 University Match he scored 61, adding 104 in 75 minutes for the fourth wicket with Philip Le Couteur (160).

In the 1909 vacation Hooman continued with Devonshire, hitting his third Minor Counties hundred, 135 v Carmarthenshire at Torquay but in 1910 he switched to the county of his birth. A good start, 64 and 23* v Derbyshire at Gravesend was clouded somewhat immediately afterwards by a pair in what

at the time would have been viewed as the most important match of his career – Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. At the end of the season however he had scored over 500 runs (over 1,000 in all matches) with three more half-centuries, and eight other scores between 23 and 46. Against Middlesex in Canterbury Week he scored 54 in a fifth-wicket partnership of 158 with James Seymour (193).

In short, a promising if unspectacular first half-season in county cricket but unfortunately there was no more to come. Hooman had originally studied law but went into insurance and had interests in the packaging industry while devoting his leisure time to golf.

During the First World War he joined the Royal Naval Reserve and was appointed Temporary Assistant serving initially in *SS Stephen Furness*, a fleet auxiliary used as a boarding vessel enforcing the blockade in the Irish Sea. He later transferred to *HMS Thalia*, a depot ship in Cromarty Firth and then to the motor yacht *Eileen* on patrol duties in the seas around Bermuda. When he left the Navy in 1919 he was a Paymaster Sub Lieutenant with the temporary rank of Lieutenant. In the Second World War he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and had reached the rank of Squadron Leader when he left the service in November 1944.

In 1912 Charles Hooman married Adelaide Florende Caroline Porcelli-Cust in Newton Abbot. Devon. There was one daughter. His first wife died in 1925 and in 1930 he married Evelyn Margaret Ryder in the Savoy Chapel. She too died, in 1947. In 1948 at Marylebone Registry Office he married Alys Victoria 'Poppy' Jarrett, an American actress who worked under the stage name 'Roma June' He died in a nursing home.

William Hopkinson (No. 206).

Born: 29.4.1835, Staveley, Derbyshire. *Died:* 25.11.1913, Gillingham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1861-1863.

Parents: David & Amelia Hopkinson.

William Hopkinson's first match of more than local interest appears to have been for 22 of Hallam & Staveley v the AEE at Sheffield in September 1858. His scores were two and 0 but in August of the following year he played *for* the short-lived New All-England XI against 22 of Derbyshire at Saltergate, Chesterfield so it can be assumed that he had attracted notice at club level.

The son of a blacksmith, in the 1851 Census at the age of 15 he is a 'labourer in an ironworks' lodging in Staveley with James Bullivant, a sawyer, and his wife Amelia. Curiously, Hopkinson is shown as 'son-in law which, in view of his age, seems unlikely. There is only one other occupant of the house, a visitor, Hannah Davidson, a 22-year-old dressmaker. There may be other explanations but the most likely is enumerator or transcriber error.

In the 1861 Census Hopkinson has moved to Kent and is an engineer lodging with a family named Luckhurst in Britton Street, Gillingham, the street in which he would live for most of his life. In that year he had one of his best games in a match of any importance – 45, four for 39, four for 29 and two catches for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury. Shortly afterwards he appeared for Kent v Cambridgeshire at Parker's Piece, the first of his seven matches for the Club that season. He began promisingly with 10 and 18 and scored 40 (joint top scorer) for Fifteen of Kent v England at Lord's but, after reaching double figures in all but one of his first eight innings he scored only 19 in his last five, including a pair against England at Canterbury.

His batting against England at Lord's presumably gained him selection for South v North at Lord's where, batting No. 9 he scored 14 and, promoted to opener, three. In July he journeyed North to play for 22 of Derbyshire against the AEE but was twice bowled without scoring by 'Foghorn' Jackson. He

did slightly better in September by scoring 11 against the same opposition for 18 of Chatham, one of only two batsmen to reach double figures.

The Kent committee chose Hopkinson for four more matches in 1862 and one in 1863 but his top score was only nine. He played one more game for the New All-England Eleven in 1861 and twice against Kent, for 18 of Mote Park, when he suffered another pair, and for 22 of Chatham & District.

The rest of his playing career seems to have been confined to minor cricket, apart from occasional matches for the Mote – in 1867 he played for 18 of Mote Park v the United South of England XI. In September of that year he returned to his roots to score six and two for 22 of Staveley v the AEE.

William Hopkinson had a number of engagements as professional including Westminster School, Lancing College and at Farnborough but by 1881 he is settled with second wife Evelina at 151 Britton Street, Gillingham working as an engine fitter or in 1891 'steam engine fitter'. At the time of his death he was a dockyard pensioner.

In 1865 William Hopkinson married Mary Ann Elizabeth Saxton from New Brompton. She died in 1871 and in 1875 he married in Bermondsey Evelina Agatha Saxton, also from New Brompton and almost certainly her younger sister. There was one son and one daughter.

Alfred Hoppe (No. 170).

Born: 6.6.1830, Aldgate, London. *Died:* 15.4.1919, Cobham.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1854.

Parents: Joseph & Elizabeth Hoppe (*née* Smith).

Like his twin brother John, Alfred Hoppe was a useful club batsman who played for Town Malling from at least 1849 into the early 1870s, less regularly for Hollingbourne, and occasionally for Addington Park, Gore Court, Larkfield, Mote Park and Sevenoaks Vine. Neither brother seems to have played a long innings but both were reputedly steady, defensive batsmen and on occasions contributed valuable 20s and 30s. They frequently opened together. Alfred was considered an outstanding long stop with a powerful return.

Beyond the club game Alfred Hoppe's efforts were less successful. Against the UAEE for what was called, despite the presence of two 'Honourables', three 'Esquires' and a Captain, Fifteen Young Players of Kent' he scored 0 and eight. For Gentlemen of Kent & Sussex v England at Lord's he bagged a pair. In two other, non first-class, Gentlemen of Kent matches he did better – 26 and two v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1856, eight and Sixteen v the Knickerbockers (an Army team) at Gravesend in 1866 but in three matches for 18 of Maidstone, one against the UEE and two against the AEE, his top score was two.

The Hoppe twins were sons of a draper who appears to have been in business in both the City of London and Larkfield. On his death his widow, who originated from East Malling, moved, first to Camberwell, then returned to Larkfield.

In 1871 Alfred was an 'inspector of nuisances' but later took up farming, first with his brother at Aylesford and subsequently at East Malling, Thurnham and finally at Cobhambury Farm, Cobham. It is not unlikely that his brother John also played one match for Kent. (See Thomas Hopper). In 1876 he married Ada Fey. There were two sons. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £1,085 3s 2d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

J Hopper (No. 26).

Kent 1822-1827

Another about whom information is scarce. His name may have been John or James or, if the 1907 Kent history is correct, his initial was 'G'. He scored 15 in his first game for Kent, the famous MCC v Kent encounter in 1822 in which the captain John Willes (*qv*), on being no-balled, mounted his horse and rode out of Lord's, leaving his team to its own devices.

His top score of 26 was in the return at Chislehurst. He seems to have been primarily a batsman - he batted in the top half of the order in all his matches and opened against Sussex at Sevenoaks in 1827 - but for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Sevenoaks in 1827 (not first-class), he took three wickets.

He is almost certainly the Hopper who was a coal merchant in or around Leeds and *circa* 1832 became landlord of *The Park Gate Inn*. He played for the Leeds club in the 1820s and at least until 1831. The Kent history refers to him as coming from Lenham and a Hopper (without initial) played in a single-wicket match for four of Lenham against four of Gillingham at Lenham in 1821. Leeds and Lenham are not all that far apart. It could well have been the same man.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Thomas Hopper (No. 175).

Born: 1828, Gravesend. *Died:* 13.7.1877, City of London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1856.

Parents: Thomas & Elizabeth Hopper.

There are doubts about the identity of the player who batted No. 10 for Kent against MCC at Lord's in 1856. He scored 0* and 8*, the latter top score in an all out total of 27 on a wicket affected by rain on which only six batsmen reached double figures. There were 17 ducks.

According to the 1907 Kent History, the player concerned was John Hoppe, twin brother of Alfred Hoppe (*qv*) who, like his brother, was a farmer and played regularly for Town Malling and Hollingbourne as well as for Maidstone against the touring Elevens. At the time he was farming at Addington. In *Kent Cricket Matches 1719-1880* by FS Ashley-Cooper and Lord Harris published in 1929, the player is shown as 'Mr J Hoppe'. In *Scores & Biographies* he appears as 'T Hoppe'.

More recent researchers have concluded that the player concerned was Thomas Hopper. A regular member of the Gravesend club from 1848 to 1867, he frequently opened the batting and appeared for Thirteen of Gravesend Club & Ground v the Gentlemen of Kent in 1866. For Gravesend v Town Malling in 1854 he scored 30*, the only double figure score in a total of 68. In 1852 he played for 18 of Gravesend v the UEE and in 1856 scored five and 19 for East Kent v West Kent at Canterbury.

He worked with his father, a poulterer in New Road Gravesend, and by 1861 was running the business himself, continuing until at least 1874, latterly with his wife Sarah.

Without the scorebook – and perhaps not even then - it will probably never be possible to discover beyond doubt who played in the 1856 MCC match at Lord's. For a one off match at Lord's the

relatively prosperous farmer might seem the more likely but the Kent team included Tom Adams and several others associated with the Gravesend club which might make the more plebeian Gravesend poulterer the stronger candidate.

Charles William Howard (No. 130).

Born: 1823 (Baptised 20.5.1827), Bridge. *Died:* 10. 9.1908, Bridge.
Kent 1844.

Parents: Charles Edward Howard & Sophia Howard (*née* Andrews).

A veterinary surgeon and son of a veterinary surgeon, Charles Howard lived for most of his life in Albert Terrace, Bridge, apart from a period in the 1850s and early 1860s when he practised from Barham. Although only once asked to play for Kent he appears to have been highly regarded in local cricket where he frequently opened the batting.

He played for Barham Downs, East Kent Mounted Rifles and other lesser clubs but his most important cricket was for Beverley from 1845 until at least 1856 as well as for East Kent and Canterbury – which was usually more or less the same team. Howard scored 47* for Beverley v Penshurst at Canterbury in 1855, 31 (in a total of 75) for East Kent v West Kent at Gravesend in 1856 and 45 for Woodnesborough in 1847. In 1845 he opened the batting with William Pilch for the Kent Club v South London at The Oval.

In addition to his veterinary practice, in the 1871 Census he is listed as a ‘coursing judge’. In 1846 he married Jane Johnson, a miller’s daughter, in Bridge. There were two sons and five daughters. His wife died in 1859 and in 1862 he married Ann Maria Coleman at St George’s, Hanover Square. There were another seven sons and four daughters.

His second wife lived until 1920 but in the 1901 Census Howard is living alone in Albert Terrace, Bridge where he died. On his death, from cerebral haemorrhage and cardiac failure, his effects were valued at £96 15s .9d. Administration was granted to the seventh of his children by his second marriage, Septimus Carolus Howard, an hotel proprietor.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George Cairns Hubbard (No. 442).

Born: 23.11.1867, Benares, India. *Died:* 18.12.1931, Eltham

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1895.

Educated: Tonbridge.

Parents: Rev Henry Dickinson Hubbard & Elizabeth Hubbard (*née* Smith).

At Tonbridge School, George Hubbard was in the Eleven in 1884, when he captained them on a short tour of the Netherlands, and 1885. On his debut for Kent he scored 36 (c & b WG Grace) against Gloucestershire at Gravesend in what turned out to be one of the most remarkable matches of the season. Kent scored 470 and gained a first innings lead of 27 but were then bowled out for 76 and lost by nine wickets.

Hubbard did nothing of particular note in his two remaining matches but gained a considerable reputation as a club cricketer with Bickley Park, Sevenoaks Vine, West Kent, Old Tonbridgians and Band of Brothers and above all for Blackheath for whom he scored 103 v Incogniti in 1896. Ten years earlier he had hit the same score for Bickley Park v Chislehurst.

A member of the London Stock Exchange, 'Scatter' Hubbard was best known on the Rugby field, for Blackheath, the Barbarians and for England. Playing as a three-quarter, he was capped twice in 1892, against Wales at Blackheath and Ireland at Manchester, scoring a try in both matches.

In 1897 he married Georgie Elizabeth Mason in Kidbrooke. There were two sons, one of whom also played Rugby for England. On his death, George Hubbard's estate was valued at £2, 0781 10s 3d.

John Charlton Hubble (No. 496).

Born: 10.2.1881 Wateringbury. *Died:* 26.2.1965, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1904-1929.

Kent cap 1906.

Parents: William Hubble & Emma Hubble (*née* Bliss).

Had Jack Hubble been playing today when wicketkeepers seem to be chosen largely for their prowess with the bat, he might well have played for England – and perhaps more frequently for Kent. As things stand, it is not easy to rank him in Kent's long line of outstanding wicketkeepers stretching back to Ned Wenman. *Wisden's* obituarist had no doubts – with Huish and Ames, he was 'one of a trio of great wicketkeepers.' All who have written on the subject seem to be agreed that he was calm, reliable, with a sound, unfussy technique and missed very little.

Age was in a sense against him in that he did not become Kent's regular wicketkeeper until 1919, yet it is remarkable that he was never picked for England, the Players or for a Test Trial. Pelham Warner, for one, is on record as considering he should have gone to Australia in 1920/21 and in 1924/25.

For most of his career Jack Hubble was one of the two or three contemporary county wicketkeepers who could reasonably hope to hold his place for his batting alone – he was also an athletic and versatile fielder. Usually batting in the middle order, he was strong on the offside, with a method including a wristy variant of the orthodox off drive which, played late, sent the ball to or past third man. At his best against fast bowling, there was certainly a case for his selection against Armstrong's all-conquering Australians in 1921 when England tried 17 different batsmen in the five match series in an effort to cope with the pace of Jack Gregory and Ted Macdonald.

Hubble had already shown his ability against Gregory for Kent v Australian Imperial Forces at Canterbury in 1919. Coming in at 164 for seven, he hit 71* and shepherded the tail through to a total of 301 all out, adding 113 for the ninth wicket with Bill Fairservice (55) - Gregory seven for 100. He was 19* in the second innings. For MCC at Lord's in 1921 Hubble faced both Gregory and Macdonald. In the first innings he scored 42 in an eighth-wicket partnership of 87 with AJ Evans (69*). In the second innings he played well for 25. In both innings he fell to the spinners. He kept immaculately throughout, apart from a difficult missed stumping but the selectors chose instead a part-time wicketkeeper, the admittedly six years younger, George Brown of Hampshire.

Even when Fred Huish retired and Hubble, after a ten-year wait, became Kent's number one keeper, he was sometimes obliged, as we shall see, to hand the gloves to the amateur George Wood, (*qv*), the best wicketkeeper among the 'Gentlemen' but, in the words of Leslie Ames, 'more noted for brilliance than for consistency'.

The son of a 'Master Grocer' who, according to the 1881 Census, employed three men and one boy in his Wateringbury business, Jack Hubble came to Tonbridge for a trial in 1897 and was judged 'a promising wicketkeeper' but a 'moderate batsman'. Moderate or not, he opened the batting and scored 73 in what seems to be his first match for the Club & Ground, v Forest Hill in 1902, and he opened

and kept wicket on his Second Eleven debut against Essex at Leyton in the same year. He did not actually join the staff until 1903 when he scored over 1,000 runs for the Club & Ground including 133* v Ashford & District.

With first choice wicketkeeper Fred Huish suffering a rare injury, he made his first team debut against Gloucestershire at Tonbridge in June 1904. Although beginning with a duck, he kept well and held two catches. Retaining his place for the next match, against Yorkshire at Harrogate, there was disappointment to come. He had a good game, hit 33* and 43 and took two more catches but the pitch was illegally repaired overnight and the match declared void.

He would not get another chance behind the stumps in a first-class match until 1906. Nevertheless, he had clearly impressed the right people. At the end of the 1904 season, the Kent committee decided 'in view of the ability of Hubble, it was no longer necessary for Joe Murrell (*qv*) to keep up his qualification' and William McCanlis (*qv*) was given the painful task of informing Murrell that they considered Hubble the better keeper.

Despite the vote of confidence and Hubble's superior run-scoring capability, Huish remained first choice. Of the 133 appearances Hubble made between his debut and Huish's retirement at the end of the 1914 season, only ten were as wicketkeeper. In 1906 he appeared in nine matches, three as wicketkeeper, all in the early weeks of the season. He scored his first half-century, 77 (top score) v Lancashire at Old Trafford, six other scores between 20 and 30, caught 10 and stumped three, enough to win him his county cap. In 1907 he joined the MCC staff where he became highly regarded as a coach. Playing in MCC matches ensured that, although reserve wicketkeeper with Kent, he remained in practice keeping to first-class bowlers.

In 1910 he appeared for Kent in 18 matches (only one behind the stumps), mostly in the first half of the season before the majority of the amateurs were available, and was now entitled to regard himself as a bit more than Fred Huish's deputy. He exceeded 500 runs for the first time as he would in every season (war years excluded) but one until 1927. In 1911 he hit 784 runs (avge.32.66) and his first century, 112 v Leicestershire at Dover, where he shared a 146-run fourth-wicket partnership with Kenneth Hutchings (87). Two weeks later, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, he produced his career best, 189 in under 180 minutes, and a ninth-wicket partnership of 134 with Colin Blythe (47).

By 1913 he was a first team regular with 947 runs in all matches and a top score of 97* v Essex at Tonbridge - 84 of them in boundaries. This was the first of seven occasions on which a Jack Hubble innings would end, one way or the other, in the 90s. On this occasion, his captain Ted Dillon, who was batting with him at the time, declared, unaware that his partner was so near his century. In 1914, his last season before becoming a full time wicketkeeper, he achieved the traditional 1,000 run milestone, 1,282 (avge.33.73) with two centuries and 11 half-centuries. It was a curious season. He scored 115 in 155 minutes v Somerset at Gravesend, 100* v Leicestershire at Catford and 92 at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Against Hampshire at Bournemouth he was 99* when the last wicket fell. Against this, there were eight ducks, including a pair (one run out) against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane, and nine other single figure scores.

Apart from Huish and Fielder who were over age, Jack Hubble was the only Kent professional who did not join the Armed Forces during the Great War. As a result, he did not benefit from the Club's scheme whereby professionals who volunteered for service were paid the difference between service pay and allowances and normal winter pay. Under some pressure from the committee, he wrote to the Club pointing out that he was rejected when he first offered his services and on re-examination was classified Grade 3. He was engaged on food distribution (presumably with his brother's grocery business) and for the present he considered his duty was to continue doing so. He did, however, join the Volunteer Training Corps.

On the post-war resumption of first-class cricket, Hubble took over as Kent's first-choice wicketkeeper and remained so until the end of the 1927 season when he retired and handed over to his protégé Leslie Ames. He also returned to the MCC staff.

As a batsman, although never again reaching the landmark 1,000, he exceeded 900 runs in 1926 and 800 in 1920. He hit only one century in post-war cricket – 124 (14 fours, seven sixes) v Somerset at Gravesend in 1925 but still had a penchant for the 90s – 91 v Yorkshire at Maidstone in 1920, 99 in a partnership of 200 in 105 minutes with Frank Woolley (149) v Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1921, 96 at Leicester in 1927 when only one other Kent batsman topped 40 and 95 in his very last first-class match, for MCC v the Royal Navy & Royal Marines at Chatham in 1929.

As a wicketkeeper, Hubble was a model of consistency with 78 (44 ct./34 st.) dismissals in 1926 and 50 or more in 1920 and every season from 1922 to 1925. Against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham in 1923 he caught nine and stumped one and he twice achieved eight in a match, against Leicestershire at Leicester (6 ct./2 st.) in 1925 and against Gloucestershire at Gravesend (2 ct./6 st.) in 1926. His benefit in 1924 raised £1,516 5s.

The Cambridge Blue George Wood came into the side for four matches in 1919 but seems to have kept wicket, with Hubble playing as a batsman in only one of them. The two played together in three matches in 1920 but again, Hubble seems to have been behind the stumps in all but one. It is, however, possible that they switched during a match as Leslie Ames and Howard Levett would sometimes do in the 1930s. In 1921 the amateur was given preference behind the stumps in 12 of his 16 matches - fortunately Hubble was blessed with an equable temperament - but thereafter, apart from half a dozen games in 1924, most of Wood's subsequent occasional appearances seem to have been without the gloves.

Jack Hubble's brother Lewis ran a grocery business in Leslie Ames' home village of Elham, and Jack had known his successor since boyhood. As result the changeover was an easy one although the older man played occasional matches as well as continuing to play for MCC. In some of his winters he coached in South Africa, his last visit in 1938. While coaching there in 1927, he played one match for the injury-stricken MCC touring side, against a South African Eleven at Benoni, scoring ten and holding five catches.

In 1910 Hubble had set himself up in a sports equipment business in Maidstone, initially in a shed on the Trebor Sharp's sports ground and later expanding to Gabriels' Hill. This gave him a degree of independence not common among professional cricketers while still playing. The business prospered and in 1923 he took two of his county colleague into partnership, as Hubble & Ames in Maidstone and Hubble & Freeman in Gillingham although Freeman was pretty much a sleeping partner in the latter. The business later merged with the Reader Group and was eventually acquired by Kookaburra Sports. The shops closed in 2009.

In 1904 he married Phillis Luchford Ash in Strood. There was one son and one daughter. Following his wife's death in St Leonard's in 1947, he married in the following year Dorothy Petty in Hastings. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £16,128.

Francis Edward Huish (No. 447).

Born: 9.12.1867, Clapham, Surrey. *Died:* 8.2.1955, Los Angeles, California, USA

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1895.

Parents: Edward Huish & Fanny Huish (*née* Reed).

The son of a London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company signalman who progressed, via ticket inspector to become station master at Victoria, Frank Huish was an elder brother of Kent's long serving wicketkeeper Fred Huish (*qv*). He joined the Surrey staff in 1887 following some remarkable bowling performances in Club & Ground matches – seven for 7 v Eighteen Surrey Colts in 1885, six for 9 in twelve overs v the NCOs of London Garrison in 1886. In the latter year he also took ten for 16 for Penge Liberal Club v St Ann's and a hat-trick for A Pottinger's Eleven v West Kent Wanderers.

In May 1888 he played one first team game for Surrey, against Leicestershire, a match not granted first-class status, but otherwise did not progress beyond Second Eleven and Club & Ground cricket. For the Second Eleven in 1889 he took four for 35 v Glamorgan at The Oval and three for 19 v Nottinghamshire Seconds on the same ground in 1891.

Unusually for a professional at the time, Huish captained both Second Eleven and Club & Ground sides. This may have been at the instigation of the Surrey Secretary, Charles Alcock, who from 1870 to 1895 was also Secretary of the Football Association. From *circa* 1887 to Alcock's retirement, Frank Huish was Registrar of the FA and the two were clearly accustomed to working together.

In 1891 Huish was living in Beckenham and at the end of the 1891 season left Surrey for an engagement as professional to the local club. He played in the Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent matches staged that year at Tonbridge and Beckenham as early season trials but did not appear for Kent until 1894 when he took five for 25 and five for 68 for the Second Eleven against Middlesex Seconds at the Mote.

Back at Lord's with the Second Eleven in May 1895, he did well with four for 45 and three for 39 and was called into the first team against Oxford University at Mote Park where he had the misfortune to be hit on the nose while attempting a catch at mid-on. On his second appearance, against Sussex at Catford, he opened the bowling and took five for 52 but accomplished little in three further appearances. Kent already had two highly effective medium-pace left-arm bowlers in 'Nutty' Martin and Walter Wright and he is not included in the list of Young Players for 1896.

Huish was still producing impressive figures in minor cricket e.g. eight for 14 for Aquarium v Marlborough in 1895 but by 1901 he had moved North and was working as a bookkeeper at Newton-in-Makerfield near Warrington.

In 1891 Huish married Elizabeth Roker in Sydenham, by whom he had three daughters, May Fanny, Alice Francis and Edith May. Presumably there was a divorce for in December 1909 he married Emma Mary Smith in her home city of Liverpool. Shortly afterwards the couple sailed for New York. Their first son, George Francis, was born in Philadelphia in March 1910, followed by a daughter, Edith Godding, in Germantown in 1911 and another son, Edward also in Philadelphia, in 1914. Nothing if not versatile, at the time of the US Census in 1920, Huish was working as a Safety Engineer in a Pittsburgh rolling mill. In 1942 he was in Detroit. Frederick and his wife both became naturalized US citizens.

Eldest son George Francis died young, in Pittsburgh in 1919. Edith also died in Pittsburgh, in 1992 but Edward died in Los Angeles (in 1987) as had his father 32 years earlier. The three daughters by the first marriage, aged 18, five and two when their father left for America, probably remained with their mother, although, while she died in Edinburgh in 1916, all three of them died in Southern England, the last in 2006.

Frederick Henry Huish (No. 444).

Born: 15.11.1869, Clapham, Surrey. *Died:* 16.3.1957, Northiam, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1895-1914.

Kent cap 1896.

Parents: Edward Huish & Fanny Huish (*née* Reed).

Where Test cricket is concerned, Fred Huish's career has an oddly modern ring to it. Pelham Warner described him as 'one of the greatest wicketkeepers we have ever had'. To *Wisden* he was 'one of the ablest and least demonstrative of his generation' but, like his Yorkshire contemporary David Hunter, although in the view of some critics a better 'keeper than all or most of those picked for England', when at his peak, he never scored enough runs to displace 'Dick' Lilley or Bill Storer. The nearest he came to an England cap was selection for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's in 1902.

Fred Huish was one of six children (five boys, one girl) of a railwayman who worked his way from signalman to station master at Victoria. The father's work involved several moves. In 1881 the family were in Buckland, Dover, and in 1891 in Sydenham.

Like his elder brother Francis (more often known as Frank) (*qv*), Fred began his working life in an office. In the 1901 Census, although he was by then Kent's regular wicketkeeper, he is shown as an accountant. At the time he was lodging with the family of an insurance agent in Fernbank, Eynsford, where he had lived for some years. Even as late as 1911, when he was living in Footscray and was established as Kent's senior professional, he is still 'professional cricketer and accountant' on the Census form.

In 1890 Fred Huish kept wicket for Farningham, where he would have played alongside William Rashleigh (*qv*). For the 1891 season he joined Honor Oak, one of the strongest clubs in South London, whose ground at the time was in Colyton Road, East Dulwich. Here he learned the basics of wicketkeeping from Harry 'Corker' Wood (Kent, Surrey & England, *qv*). News of his ability spread rapidly and in a trial game at Beckenham in 1892 he kept wicket for the Gentlemen of Kent v the Players of Kent. Among the latter was his brother Frank. From 1895 to 1902 he captained the Eynsford village cricket team, only giving up when he found his county cricket commitments prevented him from giving enough time to the captaincy.

The last professional to emerge prior to the establishment of the Tonbridge Nursery, in May 1895 he made his first appearance for Kent, for the Second Eleven against Middlesex Seconds at Lord's and in the following month came his first-class debut, against Warwickshire at Edgbaston. The timing could hardly have been better. At the time, Kent had no regular wicketkeeper apart from Manley Kemp (*qv*) who was seldom available before late July / early August.

Huish caught one and stumped one in his debut match but on his second appearance, at Old Trafford, he suffered a setback. While attempting a short single, he became entangled with his bat and was run out without getting off the mark. Worse, he dislocated his shoulder. Unable to play again until the Somerset match at Taunton on August 15, despite holding three catches and allowing only four byes, he then had to make way for Kemp and did not play again that season. Kent used nine keepers in that year – Frederick Atkins, Reginald Baiss, Joe Easby, Charles Hunter, Kemp, John Le Fleming, the Rev Meyrick-Jones, Harry Patterson and Huish.

At the end of the season. Kemp decided to hang up his gloves so far as first-class cricket was concerned and Huish was picked for the first game in 1896. Although he had increased his income but added to his workload by joining the MCC staff, in spite of occasional bouts of lumbago or sciatica as well as the bumps and bruises that stumpers are heir too, not to mention competition from two very good deputies, 'Joe' Murrell and Jack Hubble, Huish held his place in the Kent side until everything closed down in 1914. It must have been a trial for his understudies. Between 1896 and 1914 he missed only 18 matches - just one between 1910 and 1914.

In 1898, his third full season, Huish exceeded 50 dismissals for the first time and in 1899 his haul rose to 79 for which he was awarded a gold pendant representing the Kent Horse surmounted by wicketkeeping gloves. He reached 70 dismissals again in 1902 and from 1904 to 1914 his seasonal total never fell below 64, rising to 86 in 1908 and 101 (62 ct./39 st.) in 1911, all for Kent. This made him, at the age of 41, the first wicketkeeper to achieve three figures in a season. In 1913 he repeated the feat with 102 (69 ct./33 st.), 99 of them for Kent. His career total of 1,253 (901 ct./352 st.) in 469 Kent matches, remains a record for his county.

Like his immediate successors, Jack Hubble and Leslie Ames, Fred Huish's career figures reflect the fact that he spent much of his time keeping wicket to some very high quality spin bowlers. Possibly aided by playing in an age when forward play was considered the epitome of style and the doctrine of 'the firmly anchored back foot' was still widely preached, a large number of Kent's wickets came through stumping. Excelling in keeping to left-arm spinners, of Huish's 321 dismissals from the bowling of Colin Blythe, 168 (52%) were stumped and 64 out of 118 dismissals (54%) from the bowling of Frank Woolley. With the advent in 1909 of the leg breaks and googlies of Douglas Carr, stumpings became even more predominant – 72 dismissals, 53 stumped (72%).

At The Oval in 1911, in Herbert Strudwick's benefit match, he stole some of the beneficiary's thunder by dismissing 10 batsmen, four in the first innings, six in the second, nine of them stumped - still a world record - and one caught. Of the nine, five were from the bowling of Carr, three from Woolley and one from Blythe. At Canterbury a fortnight previously, he had stumped five Hampshire batsmen from five different bowlers, Blythe, Carr, Hardinge, Humphreys and Woolley. On seven occasions he accounted for eight batsmen in a match.

Judging from contemporary match reports, Huish generally stood back to fast bowling. From the bowling of Arthur Fielder, an early exponent of the outswinger, he dismissed 206 batsmen, from Bill Bradley, who depended more on pace and bounce, 110. In his 1902 *Book of Cricket* Charles Fry describes Huish as 'very clever at taking the "flies" from Mr Bradley's fast bowling'. Presumably however, he stood up on occasions; he stumped two from Fielder's bowling and one from Bradley's.

It seems probable that he stood up more often to Jack Mason's lively fast-medium. Of 119 dismissals, seven were stumped. Huish achieved over 50 dismissals from two other bowlers – Alec Hearne (by 1895 bowling almost exclusively off-spin) 73 (62 ct./11 st.) and Bill Fairservice (off-spin/ & off-cutters) 72 (63 ct./9 st.).

Fred Huish was a competent late-order batsman, usually at No. 8 or 9. Kent clearly expected runs from him. In 1899 and again in the following year, he was one of the players chosen for additional batting coaching at Canterbury, from McCanlis and Hearne (the record does not say which Hearne) in 1899 and Martin and Walter Hearne in 1900. Seven times he scored more than 500 runs in a season, 596 (avge.14.90) in 1913 and 589 (avge 20.31) in 1909. At Portsmouth in 1905, Kent, needing 273, were 172 for seven when Huish joined Dick Blaker. Together they scored the 101 needed for victory (Blaker 71*, Huish 33*). At Taunton in 1900 he scored 78 in an 85 minute, 140 run eighth-wicket partnership with Thomas Perkins (62).

In 1906 he hit four half centuries including his highest, 93 v Somerset at Gravesend, for which he batted 90 minutes, hit 14 fours and added 94 for the ninth wicket with Fairservice (40). Against Middlesex at Tonbridge that year, although suffering from a severe attack of sciatica, he batted two hours for 17*, sharing a ninth-wicket partnership of 105 with Kenneth Hutchings (125). In the second innings, although by now barely capable of movement, he came in with a runner and batted out the final over for a draw. Huish later suggested the sciatica was brought on by early season practice in the cold at Tonbridge and, after some haggling, he was paid £2 10s. in compensation.

On the retirement of Alec Hearne in 1906, Fred Huish became senior professional. Similar in outlook to his predecessor, albeit a touch more assertive, he insisted on smart appearance and good behaviour, on and off the field. Whenever possible in the hotels of the day, at dinner he liked to carve the joint for his fellow pros. It was said that nobody dared appeal for a catch at the wicket or a stumping unless Fred Huish appealed first, which, if true, says much for the self-control of Kent's close fielders.

In 1911, the committee agreed to his suggestion that, rather than travel to Tonbridge, he could practice on his local ground at Sidcup, using bowlers of his own choice. As senior professional, he attended the dinner held by the Club at the Savoy in 1911 on the appointment of Lord Hardinge as Viceroy of India.

Huish seems to have been in general, a supporter of the 'establishment'. In 1906, Championship year, he presented at the *Royal Fountain Hotel*, Canterbury a silver cigar box to skipper 'Slug' Marsham on behalf of the professionals, observing that the team's success was 'primarily due to the tact, ability and influence of their captain who was immensely popular with the professionals and had their supreme confidence', adding that the Kent committee and Kent amateurs treated the pros 'not only as worthy players but also as gentlemen and that was a great incentive to them to do their best'. In 1913, when the professionals complained to the committee that coach, Gerry Weigall, was, in effect, not doing his job, Fred Huish was the only professional who did not sign the letter. At the end of the 1912 season, the Club presented him with an engraved watch.

During the much written-about incident in 1911 in which Charles Fry accused Blythe of deliberately bowling out of the setting sun, it was Fred Huish's account which made it clear that Blythe was doing nothing of the sort. He judged the accusation 'absurd'. 'Before Charles started he came up to me as I was starting for the other end'. 'What about a swinging full toss aimed at the off-bail?' 'I answered, I should'. And he said 'All right. The first one'. He also made it clear that, with Blythe bowling round the wicket, the sun was over mid on. Huish was in a better position to see what happened than anyone and his account not only refutes Fry's accusation. Far from being the forelock touching, wage slaves of popular modern legend, Huish's account shows two hugely experienced professionals running things pretty much their own way, without consulting their captain.

In 1905 the Kent v Lancashire match in Canterbury Cricket Week was played for his benefit which, with collections, raised £573 5s 6d. He had asked for the money to be paid directly to him rather than invested by the Club on his behalf, but the request was denied with a rider that they would not 'refuse any reasonable request for funds'. The money was invested in New South Wales 3½ Stock.

In July 1901 he married Alice May Russell (from Otford) in Dartford. She died in 1906. There was one daughter. After giving up cricket he became Secretary of Sundridge Park Golf Club and, still smartly turned out and active, eventually settled in Northiam, East Sussex where he kept wicket occasionally for the village team. On his death, his effects were valued at £637 15s. 6d. He is buried in the churchyard at Otford.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a gallery of famous players*, page 247. George Newnes, 1899.

Edward Humphreys (No. 474).

Born: 24.8.1881, Ditton. *Died:* 6.11.1949, Maidstone.

Right-handed batsman, slow-medium left-arm bowler.

Kent 1899-1920.

Kent cap 1901.

Parents: Henry John Humphreys & Catherine Humphreys (*née* Terry).

Like his opening partner 'Wally' Hardinge, 'Punter' Humphreys was obliged to serve a long apprenticeship. In the first half of his career he was treated as an allrounder and spent much of his time batting six, seven or eight which, in three-day cricket in a strong batting side, is not generally the easiest place for batsmen to develop their full potential.

Once given an extended run at the top of the order, he became one of the most dependable batsmen in Kent's pre-1914 Championship winning sides. Quick on his feet, strong off the back foot and particularly good on the leg side, he excelled against spinners on rain-affected pitches. According to the historian Bob Arrowsmith, 'he really enjoyed a turning wicket, and on such days he would arrive rubbing his hands with glee'. It sounds a bit unlikely, but undoubtedly many of his best performances came when conditions favoured the bowler.

As a bowler, he began as an orthodox left-arm spinner but learned to swing the ball when conditions suited and developed a useful wicket-taking 'arm ball'. Used by Kent mainly as a change bowler and partnership breaker, he had his days and might well have developed into a front line bowler had it not been for Colin Blythe and Frank Woolley. Only once did he bowl more than 300 overs in a season. For no obvious reason, he was often remarkably successful at cleaning up the tail.

At a time when mid-on was generally seen as the place to hide a fielder, he specialised in the position as well as at short leg, similarly unfashionable at the time.

One of seven sons (and one daughter) of the landlord of *The Walnut Tree*, Ditton, Edward 'Punter' Humphreys came for a trial at Tonbridge aged 16 with no bag and his pads strapped round his bat. The Kent Trial Book entry is non-committal but most Kent historians seem to agree that his potential was originally seen as a bowler. Nevertheless, clearly his all-round talent had been recognised early on. Playing for Tonbridge Club & Ground v Band of Brothers in 1898, the year before he formally joined the Nursery, he scored 61 and took four wickets, including Lord Harris and when, in the same year, he played his first Second Eleven match, against Sussex Seconds at Tonbridge, he batted No. 6.

In a much-quoted incident, in one of Humphreys' early Club & Ground matches, Lord Harris sent him off the field for bowling a no-ball. On returning to the pavilion, Harris reputedly explained 'Humphreys, I did that for your good' and added that, 'while for a fast bowler an occasional no-ball is excusable, in a slow bowler it is mere carelessness'. What none of the several writers who have recounted the incident ever seem to have asked themselves is 'did being sent off do the young man any good? The answer seems to be 'Not really'. According to the scores published on *Cricket Archive* Humphreys bowled at least 92 no-balls during his career, 18 in 1900 and five in a Test Trial at Lord's in 1912, as well as at least 27 wides.

Humphreys made his first-class debut batting at No. 8 against Surrey at The Oval in 1899. As debuts go, it was low key, a duck, caught at the wicket off Bill Brockwell, and run out for five. In 25 overs he did however claim two good wickets, Brockwell and Bill Lockwood at a cost of 49 runs. In the remainder of his short season, v the Australians at Canterbury and Warwickshire at Edgbaston, there were no more wickets and his top score was 22.

For the young Humphreys 1900 began well, albeit only briefly. When Kent lost to Yorkshire at Gravesend in their opening game of the season, he was Kent's top scorer in the match with 40 against Rhodes, Haigh, Hirst etc. on a bowler-friendly pitch but in a further eight appearances he failed to reach double figures and his solitary wicket cost 130 runs.

Fortunately the Kent management decided to persevere with him and at the end of the season, they demonstrated their confidence by granting him winter pay, £1 per week. In 1900 he had batted at six, seven or eight. Now in 1901 in the first game against MCC at Lord's, captain Jack Mason promoted him to open with the experienced Cuthbert 'Pinky' Burnup. After a first innings failure, at the second

attempt the pair added 96 (Burnup 84, Humphreys 35 (run out)). He also made his mark with the ball - three for 52 including the wicket of Pelham Warner.

In the following match, with the South African tourists at Beckenham, the two carried on where they left off with two century partnerships, 108 (Burnup 50, Humphreys 60) and 100 (Burnup 70, Humphreys 28 {run out}). In the next fixture, with Essex at Leyton, there was another century partnership, 100 for the third wicket (Humphreys 53, A Hearne 152*). Once again it was something of a false dawn. Over the rest of the season, although he three times reached the 40s, there were eight ducks, including two pairs, and eleven other single-figure scores. He turned in some useful performances with the ball – three for 34 v Worcestershire at Maidstone, four for 29 v Hampshire at Tonbridge – and held his place in the side. He was awarded his County Cap but by the beginning of July he was back at No. 8.

Over the next two seasons the career of ‘Punter’ Humphreys’ appeared to have stalled. In both years his season’s total was below 300 and, while there were several valuable 30s on wet or crumbling wickets, he only twice reached his half-century. There were six ducks and 27 other single figure scores. Constantly shunted up and down the order, during these two seasons he batted in every position from one to eleven and by mid-July in 1903 he had lost his place in the side. Even his bowling seemed on the decline – 18 wickets (avge.24.94) in 1902 fell to two in 1903 at 73.50 apiece. By far his best innings was 73* at Mote Park against Somerset in 1902 when, on a wicket difficult after rain, he came in at 171 for seven and steered the tail to 299 all out. Kent won by an innings.

In 1904 under new captain Marsham, Humphreys was chosen to open the batting throughout the season, in 17 matches with Alec Hearne, in five with Dillon. Starting badly in his first two matches with two ducks and a top score of 10, he hit 65 against Essex on a rain affected Leyton wicket on which no other Kent batsman exceeded 30 and when Kent were dismissed for 42 at Old Trafford, he made 24 while nobody else scored more than six.

In easily his best season to date, he ended with 1,545 runs (avge.35.11) including three hundreds, two 90s and five other half-centuries. He scored 97 & 131, his maiden century, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and 104 v Surrey in Canterbury Week when he shared a 97-run opening partnership with Dillon (52) and put on 113 for the second wicket with Seymour (105). With Sam Day at Bristol there were hundred partnerships in both innings, 110 (Humphreys 88, Day 62) & 117 (Humphreys 79, Day 152*). Altogether he participated in nine century partnerships plus one of 99.

The season also confirmed his allrounder status with five for 89 v Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells, four for 13 v Somerset at Taunton and four for 19 v the South Africans at St. Lawrence. 30 wickets at 16.73 placed him top of the Kent averages.

Although now virtually a fixture in Kent’s first team, ‘Punter’ Humphreys continued, in modern parlance, to under achieve and was soon back down the order. He failed to reach 1,000 runs in each of the next three seasons and in 1905 could actually be said to have performed better with the ball, 36 wickets (avge. 22.22) – the most he would ever take in a season - than with the bat, 806 runs (avge.20.66). He contributed to Kent’s first Championship in 1906 with 977 runs with centuries against Sussex at Hove and Leicestershire at Mote Park but possibly his best, certainly his most unexpected, performance that year was against Middlesex at Tonbridge where, with the visitors 224 for two, he had Pelham Warner brilliantly caught one-handed by Mason at slip, and triggered a collapse to 271 all out. Making liberal use of his arm ball, his final figures were 13.5-4-33-7.

In 1907 Kent made use of nine opening batsmen in nine different combinations but Humphreys still spent most of his season in the lower half of the order and not until August did he get his chance at the top. When it came he hit three half-centuries to boost a disappointing season but still finished with an average in the low 20s. The committee clearly had reservations. At the beginning of 1908 ‘Punter’

Humphreys, together with Bill Fairservice (*qv*) summoned the courage to ask for full winter pay. The reply was neither encouraging nor enlightening. 'Full pay is only for players whose services have been especially valuable and whose conduct has been exemplary'.

For much of the 1908 season Marsham chose to open the batting himself while Humphreys was still treated as an allrounder and rarely batted higher than six. He did however reach his 1,000 runs again with two centuries and three half-centuries. Against Somerset at Dover he joined Mason with the score at a perilous 87 for six. Together they took the score to 259 (Mason 112, Humphreys 89). Against the same opponents at Taunton he hit an aggressive 149 in 110 minutes with 24 fours and one six, adding 248 for the seventh wicket with AP Day (118).

In the winter, having first gained the Club's permission, he took on a coaching engagement in Canterbury, New Zealand. While there, he played three Plunkett Shield games for Canterbury, batting usefully and claiming 25 wickets at 12.08 each. According to the Kent Managing committee minutes, while touring his winter pay was sent to his wife, Emily Annie (*née* Martin) whom he had married at East Malling in 1906.

Back in England for the start of the 1909 season under a new captain, Ted Dillon, Humphreys at last began to show his true quality. Beginning at his usual No. 7, he hit two half-centuries and when, for the fourth match of the season, against Middlesex at Lord's, Dillon took him in as his opening partner he responded with 105 (in 120 minutes, 100* of them before lunch) and went on to make the No. 1 position his own. With 1,437 runs (avge.36.84), he was leading run-scorer and played, in the words of *Wisden* 'in better form than ever before' – 'at home on all sorts of wickets'. When Gloucestershire were beaten in two days at Catford he achieved his personal best, 208 (195 minutes, 32 fours) and shared partnerships of 224 for the second-wicket with Seymour (86) and 102 for the third wicket with Hutchings (100). He also had his first taste of representative cricket, Players v Gentlemen at The Oval.

Humphreys passed 1,000 runs in every subsequent season until 1914. Four times he exceeded 1,500 and only once did his average fall below 30. His best years were 1911, 1,777 runs (avge.40.38) and 1910, 1,618 runs (avge.36.77). In the latter year, against Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells, he followed 77 in the first innings with 200*, putting on 254 (in 100 minutes) for the fifth –wicket with A.P.Day (109). In 1911 in successive innings he scored 191 v Sussex at Hove, 52 & 72* at Worcester and 63 & 80* v Hampshire in Canterbury Week – 458 runs (avge.152.66).

In all, Humphreys took part in 22 century opening partnerships with seven different partners. Humphreys and Hardinge first opened together in 1908 but the pairing did not become established until 1912. In three seasons they passed the hundred twelve times, five in 1913, the highest 192 against Hampshire at Dover (Humphreys 106, Hardinge 117). With Seymour he shared 16 century partnerships, 13 for the second wicket, two for the first and one for the seventh.

Although never capped for England, he cannot have been far off. He played in Test Trial matches in 1911 and 1912 (two). For the Rest in 1912 he scored 51 & 65 (top score in both innings) against England at The Oval and 58 against the MCC Australian Touring Team at Lord's. The opposing bowling included Sydney Barnes, Frank Foster, Walter Brearley, Bill Hitch, John Douglas and team mate Woolley. In 1914, for the Rest against the MCC South African Touring team in the Lord's Centenary match he was top scorer again with 111. He was less successful for Players v Gentlemen. In four matches, one at Lord's, two at The Oval and one at Scarborough, his top score was 23.

Ted Humphreys spent part of five winters coaching in Jamaica and in 1912/13 he toured West Indies (excluding Jamaica) with an MCC team of very mixed ability, captained by Arthur Somerset. One of only three professionals, with 561 runs and 40 wickets, he was leading run scorer and second in the batting averages, highest-wicket-taker and top of the bowling averages. He scored centuries in the

third 'Test Match' at Georgetown and against Barbados at Bridgetown. He also produced match figures of 13 for 175 in the first 'Test' at Bridgetown and eight for 72 against British Guiana (as it then was) at Georgetown.

In 1913 Humphreys was given the second match of Canterbury Week, Nottinghamshire, for his benefit. With collections and donations, the amount ultimately raised was £1,316 11s 10d. As was the custom, the money was invested on his behalf, the Club guaranteeing him 4% interest. A breakdown of the investments is in Martin Moseling and Tony Quarrington's *A Half-Forgotten Triumph*, (*Sportsbooks, Cheltenham, 2013*).

Like several Kent professionals, Humphreys did not join the forces immediately on the outbreak of War. When asked by the Kent committee what contribution he was making he replied that, as well as his wife and son, he was responsible for his 79 year-old father and for the widow of his younger brother Albert who died when *HMS Hogue* was sunk by a U-boat early in 1914. His other brothers were in the Navy or otherwise away from home.

He later joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve where he was employed on training cadets. In February 1917 he transferred to the Royal Navy as an Ordinary Seaman. In May of that year he was promoted to Able Seaman and served in *HMS Arrogant*, a depot ship for submarines and small craft and by the beginning of 1918 he was serving in coastal motor boats (CMBs) based in Dunkirk, part of the famous Dover Patrol.

The half-dozen Dunkirk CMBs played an important role in the series of raids, often colloquially referred to as 'The Zeebrugge Raid' which were aimed at blocking the sea exits from the ports of Zeebrugge and Ostend. The CMBs, fast, flimsy 40 or 50 foot unarmoured vessels with highly vulnerable open cockpits, were employed on a variety of tasks – patrol, escort and, anti-submarine duties as well as for engaging targets of opportunity with their single torpedo and Lewis guns. For the Zeebrugge/Ostend operation they were also used for laying smoke screens, positioning marker buoys and for recovering crews from the assault vessels and blockships. There is no information as to which of these duties Humphreys' particular CMB was engaged in or whether at Zeebrugge, Ostend or very possibly both. In any event, whatever he was doing, it was highly dangerous.

During the War, Humphreys was obliged to ask for some of his benefit money and eventually, in December 1918 the Managing Committee learned that he had overdrawn on his Trust Account. At a meeting it was decided that if he could prove that he volunteered for the Zeebrugge operation, the amount overdrawn would be written off. At a later meeting Lord Harris is minuted as saying that to suggest that Humphreys volunteered for Zeebrugge was 'nonsense' and, in a sense, Humphreys agreed. In a letter dated February 1919 he wrote 'Nobody at Dunkirk volunteered, we were not asked to.' It was indeed nonsense. 132 ships and boats varying in size from cruisers to motor launches were involved and, while some of the blockships and special assault vessels were indeed crewed by volunteers, to have manned all 132 with volunteers would have been administratively impossible even if sufficient volunteers were on hand.

Humphreys does not seem to have much opportunity for cricket during the war but in June 1918 he played for an England Eleven against the Dominions in a one-day match at Lord's where he was bowled by Charles Macartney without scoring and did not get a chance to bowl. At Dover in September he took three wickets and scored 27 and 43 in a two-day match for United Services v Captain Warner's England Eleven, in both innings dismissed by Captain Marriott (RAF), better known later as 'Father' Marriott.

On leaving the Navy in 1919, after flirting with the idea of a sports goods shop in Maidstone, he became coach at Uppingham and, as a result was only available for Kent in the school holidays. In nine appearances in 1919 he scored over 300 runs and hit two half-centuries including 58 against the

Australian Imperial Forces. In two encounters with the Australians he claimed seven wickets including Jack Gregory, Johnnie Taylor, Herby Collins and 'Nip' Pellew, all of whom would shortly be members of Warwick Armstrong's formidable Test side. Two county matches in 1920 in which his top score was 13 (run out) concluded his first-class career.

As a coach Humphreys was widely considered one of the very best in the inter-war years, with the very young as well as with first-class cricketers. In his obituary, the Kent Annual refers to his outstanding work with young boys at the Club's Easter classes. A strict disciplinarian when he needed to be, he was blessed with a rare talent for developing strengths and ironing out weaknesses. At Uppingham he played a large part in the development of, among others, Percy Chapman, Gerry Chalk and David Walker.

When Kent at last forsook their ill-judged search for a 'Gentleman' coach, 'Punter' Humphreys came to them in 1929 still with four years to run on his Uppingham contract, thanks, at least in part to some behind-scenes machinations from Lord Harris. Arthur Fagg, Doug Wright, Godfrey Evans and, from a later generation, Colin Cowdrey, all paid tribute to his influence on their careers, It may or may not be significant that Kent's decline in the 1950s followed closely on Humphreys' retirement in 1948 and death in the following year.

Frederick Hunt (No. 460).

Born: 13.9.1875, Aldworth, Berkshire. *Died:* 31.3.1967, Worcester.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1897-1898.

Parents: James Hunt & Sarah Hunt (*née* Tame).

Best known as groundsman at New Road Worcester for almost 50 years, Fred Hunt had already played for Worcestershire (then a Minor County) when he came to Canterbury as professional at St. Lawrence in 1896. Five years earlier at the time of the 1891 Census he was still living at home in his native Berkshire village where his father was a wheelwright so it seems safe to assume he had a local reputation although records do not seem to have survived. He does not appear to have played for the embryo Berkshire county club.

At any event he made an impression in the right places. At a Kent General Committee meeting in September 1896 Lord Harris expressed himself in favour of signing Hunt, offering to employ him in the winter if the club would pay half his wages. He was engaged for the 1897 season for 35 shillings a week of which the St. Lawrence club contributed 15.

Hunt played five first team games in 1897 and took seven inexpensive wickets including the prized scalp of Arthur Shrewsbury but at the end of the season the Young Players' Committee decided to dispense with his services. Once again influential people were on Hunt's side. At a General Committee meeting in November Captain Geoffrey Austin (*q.v.*) pointed out that Hunt's engagement had been a General Committee decision and consequently the Young Players' Committee were not empowered to dismiss him. Lord Harris seconded a successful motion for his reinstatement.

Hunt was formally on the Tonbridge Nursery staff in 1898 but played only one first team match, in which he did not bowl, and once for the Second Eleven. Approached during the season by the Worcestershire Secretary Paul Foley, he accepted an offer to join as player/groundsman in time for their entry into the County Championship in 1899.

In the event, Hunt did not play a first team match until 1900 and made only 53 appearances for the club between 1900 and 1922. As a groundsman he was one of the best and most respected in the country. Despite periodic flooding, he not only produced superb batting surfaces. The outfield was

immaculate, it was said to be possible to produce a wicket anywhere in the playing area and nobody ever claimed the pound he offered to anyone who could find a dandelion on the ground.

He was no fool where money was concerned. Not only was he well paid by the standards of the day with all costs, seed, turf etc paid for by the club. He received an additional payment for the bowling green, farmed an adjacent plot of land and was paid sixpence for every car parked on it.

He had five brothers and ten sisters.

Charles Herbert Hunter (No. 443).

Born: 18.4.1867, Lee. *Died:* 2.4.1955, Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1895.

Educated: Uppingham School & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Hunter & Mary Louisa Hunter (*née* Barber).

Charles Hunter was in the Eleven at Uppingham in 1884 and 1885 as a useful batsman and competent wicketkeeper but was unfortunate to have been a contemporary of one of the great stumpers, Gregor MacGregor, both in his final year at Uppingham and at Cambridge. As a result, despite performing well in the Freshmen's Match and for his college, he played only once for the University, against Yorkshre at Fenner's in 1889.

His two matches for Kent were in 1895, the season in which Kent used eight wicketkeepers following an injury to Fred Huish. In the previous season he made two appearances for Kent Second Eleven, both against Middlesex, at Mote Park and Lord's.

The son of a wealthy timber merchant, at the time of the 1901 Census he was a solicitors' clerk living with his wife, son and, by now retired, father in the family home in Eltham. Ten years later, his father now dead, he has moved to Cambridge Road, Bromley and has entered the family business.

Both the Law and the timber business seem to have given time for a great deal of club cricket. While living in Eltham, he appeared for both the Eltham and Sidcup clubs. Subsequently when living in Bromley and later Knockholt, he was regular wicketkeeper for Bickley Park as well as playing for Incogniti, Uppingham Rovers and, on at least one occasion, for Faversham.

In 1899 he married Canadian-born Euphemia Guthrie Parke in Quebec City. There was one son, born the same year. Charles Hunter retired to Devonshire and died in the Blueberry Downs Hotel, Budleigh Salterton. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £4,810 15s 2d.

Chrsitopher Salkeld Hurst CB OBE (No. 503).

Born: 20.7.1886, Beckenham. *Died:* 18.12.1963, Dorking, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1908-1927.

Educated: Abbey School Beckenham, Uppingham School & Exeter College, Oxford.

Kent Cap 1908.

Parents: Peter & Janet Hurst.

Viewed purely as a cricketer, Christopher Hurst had an unusual career. At Uppingham he was an outstanding as an allrounder, in the Eleven from 1903 to 1905, heading the batting averages in all three years and leading the side in his final season. At Oxford he did well in the 1906 Freshmen's match but played only once for the University that year. Awarded his Blue in 1907, 1908 and 1909,

when he left University he had scored only 830 runs (avge.21.84) in 22 matches with three half-centuries and a top score of 68. He was captain in 1909 but his best effort was in the 1908 University Match where his scores of 61 and 46 were crucial to Oxford's two-wicket victory.

Hard on the heels of this success he was chosen by Kent against Hampshire in the 1908 Canterbury Week and played in the next match against Essex at Leyton. Scores of 46, 0 and 24 were sufficient to win him a Kent cap.

Hurst played three more matches for Kent in 1912 and turned out now and again for the Second Eleven but up to the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war he was confined mainly to club cricket, apart from occasional first-class matches against the Universities for MCC, Gentlemen of England and Leveson Gower's Eleven.

In 1922, following a score of 65 for Free Foresters against Oxford, he returned to the Kent first team. At this point 68 was still his top score in first-class cricket. In successive matches he scored 124 (from 120 balls) v Lancashire at Old Trafford, 110 v Essex at Tonbridge, 25 & 11 v Yorkshire at Headingley and 104* v Leicestershire at Gravesend. There were a few more matches for Kent in 1923, 1924 and 1927 but never again did he get beyond 43.

In club cricket he was a prolific scorer for Band of Brothers (for whom he hit two centuries), Free Foresters, Harlequins, Beckenham and Uppingham Rovers. In the Beckenham club history he is described by R.T.Bryan as 'a great force in the Club at this time (either side of the First World War)' 'a splendid batsman and excellent wicketkeeper, he captained the side for years and I rate him as the best captain we ever had'.

In the wider world Christopher Hurst was one of the highest achievers of all those who have played for Kent. Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1910, he entered the Public Trustee Office in the following year, transferring to the Ministry of Munitions in 1915 and the Ministry of Labour in 1919. He was on the staff of the Coal Controller during the difficult post-war de-control of the industry and in 1925 was appointed Secretary of the Royal Commission set up with the task of brokering a settlement between the coal owners and the miners' leaders. From 1930 to 1938 Hurst was secretary of the Coal Mines Reorganization Commission and from 1938 to 1947 secretary and controller of the Coal Commission.

His open, engaging personality won the respect of the miners' leaders and greatly facilitated the nationalisation of the industry, arguably the most successful of all the Attlee Government's nationalisations. Hurst was offered a position under the National Coal Board but decided to retire and devote himself to local government and voluntary service.

The son of a stockbroker, he married Dora Powell in Bromley in 1914 and Joan Elizabeth Glanvill Willis at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Westminster in 1930. There appear to have been no children. Christopher Hurst was immensely popular, producing witty scripts for the amateur theatre and in great demand as a raconteur. He represented Oxford at hockey from 1906 to 1909. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £35,535.

Frederick Vaughan Hutchings (No. 481).

Born: 3.6.1880, Southborough. *Died:* 6.8.1934, Hamburg, Germany.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1901-1905.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Edward John Hutchings & Catherine Lotherington Hutchings (*née* Colebrooke).

Frederick Hutchings was one of four sons of a general practitioner in Southborough who had himself been a free-scoring batsman in local cricket. All four sons were in the Eleven at Tonbridge and three played for Kent. A maternal uncle, HL Colebrooke captained Tonbridge in 1882, another, Rev Edward Lotherington Colebrooke won a Blue at Oxford in 1880.

Frederick Hutchings was in the Tonbridge Eleven from 1896 to 1899 and headed the batting averages in 1897 and 1899. In 1896 and 1897 he was in the team with elder brother William, in 1898 and 1899 with the more famous younger brother Kenneth. In 1899 when he scored 74 and Kenneth 60 against Dulwich College, they were both dismissed by PG Wodehouse of Bertie Wooster fame whose final figures were seven for 50. In that same year Hutchings hit 178* against the Tonbridge club.

Hutchings played one Kent Second Eleven match in 1899 and scored 31 in each innings of his first team debut match against MCC at Lord's in 1901 but did little in two subsequent appearances, against the South Africans at Beckenham in the same year, and MCC at Lord's in 1905. In the latter match he was unable to bat in the second innings due to a hand injury. He played one more first-class match in 1905, for MCC v Yorkshire at Scarborough, but seems to have played little serious cricket thereafter.

In October 1915 he was commissioned in the Army Service Corps (as it was then known), initially in the Motor Transport Reserve and later, together with brother William, into the Holt Caterpillar Tractor Section at Aldershot. He was later posted to Avonmouth. In 1916 he was involved in a motor accident which resulted in the death of the ASC driver. Hutchings too suffered injuries and a subsequent Medical Board found him unfit for General Service.

Employed for a short period on light duties, his health deteriorated and a second Medical Board found him permanently unfit for General Service and in April 1917 he retired with the Honorary rank of Second Lieutenant. In 1918 he worked in the Cash Office of the Naval Ordnance Depot, Woolwich.

Originally Hutchings made his career on the stock exchange but the 1911 Census shows him as living on private means while his 1915 enlistment papers show him as a Golf Club Secretary. In 1907 he married Ethel Margaret Spens at Trinity Church, Chelsea. There was one daughter.

Kenneth Lotherington Hutchings (No. 491).

Born: 7.12.1882, Southborough. *Died:* 3.9.1916, Ginchy, France.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1902-1912. Kent cap 1903.

Tests: Seven for England.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Kent Cap 1903. *Wisden* Five Cricketer of the Year. 1907.

Parents: Edward John Hutchings & Catherine Lotherington Hutchings (*née* Colebrooke).

More perhaps than any other cricketer, Kenneth Hutchings epitomised all that was best in Kent cricket in the years leading up to the First World War. His was a short career, in essence only half a dozen seasons, but in that time he was the idol of the Kentish faithful - and looked the part. Seeking to dominate the bowling from the first ball, if *Wisden* has its timings right, at least twelve of his 22 centuries were scored at more than a run a minute. To the *Daily Telegraph*, he was 'the most engaging batsman of his day'. To the cricketer/journalist Teddy Sewell, 'England's nearest approach to Victor Trumper'.

Gifted with immensely powerful wrists and forearms, such was the power of his cutting and driving that even the best fielders retreated yards deeper when he arrived at the wicket. Writing in 1938 at the end of his long career, Frank Woolley considered Hutchings 'the hardest driver I ever saw, bar nobody'. Five outfielders were not uncommon when he was at his best. His straight driving made

pavilion windows and fascia boards a poor insurance risk; one of his drives into the top of the Pavilion at Canterbury broke his mother's wrist watch.

Although some critics thought he overdid it, on the leg side he excelled in the pull which, with better pitches, had recently become fashionable but his great glory was his shot to a good length ball on middle and leg. This he would despatch like a 'a gunshot' to the boundary anywhere between backward square leg and wide mid on with what was, to all appearances, a mere flick of the wrists. For defence he relied almost entirely on his back play. Quick on his feet, when he played forward, it was with aggressive intent.

With Jack Mason, Jim Seymour and Dick Blaker, Kent were well stocked with slip fielders but none were thought to excel Hutchings. In 1907 he exceeded a catch a match (26 in 23) and did the same in the MCC tour of Australia that winter (23 in 17). Equally, he was one of the finest outfielders of his time with a powerful throw, derived, it was said, from wrist alone. According to Kent historian Bill Arrowsmith, once, while reclining in a deck chair at Canterbury, he threw to the far wicket without changing position. On another occasion, for a wager, he threw, from a standing position at the Nackington end wicket, into the top tier of the pavilion six times in succession. For an encore, taking a short run, he threw over the pavilion. As a bowler, he lacked accuracy but had his days.

Youngest of four sons of a surgeon, all of whom played cricket for Tonbridge School, Kenneth Hutchings had cricketing antecedents. A maternal uncle, Rev Edward Lotherington Colebrooke gained a Blue at Oxford in 1880 and played for the Gentlemen of Kent; another, Henry Lotherington Colebrooke, captained the Tonbridge School Eleven and was an enthusiastic member of Southborough CC. All four brothers played for Southborough as did their father who, according to the 1907 Kent history, made 'many a hundred' in local matches. Brothers Frederick and William (*qv*) both went on to play for Kent.

Kenneth Hutchings was in the Eleven at Tonbridge from 1898 (when he played under the captaincy of his brother William) to 1902 and led the side in his two final years. He averaged over 50 in 1900 and 63.30 in 1902 when he hit 205 v West Kent and centuries against Band of Brothers, Free Foresters and Old Cliftonians. He also represented the School at racquets.

Although fresh from school, Hutchings was more experienced than many young amateurs when, in August 1902, he made his first-class debut for Kent, v Worcestershire at Tonbridge. He had already played one match for Kent Seconds in the previous year, against Sussex at Hove, and had appeared in the colours of BB, Free Foresters and Bluemantles as well as turning out regularly for Southborough. On his debut, batting No. 8, he was caught for ten off the bowling of future England all-rounder Ted Arnold and, with Kent needing only ten for victory, was dismissed for one when invited to open in the second innings.

1903 gave a hint of what was to come. On his second appearance in 1903 he hit 63 at Tunbridge Wells against a Lancashire attack including the great Sidney Barnes. At Taunton, Kent were in trouble at 83 for five when he joined Mason. Together they took the score to 248 for six, Hutchings smiting 106 in 85 minutes with 19 fours. On a wet wicket at Bournemouth, he revived a flagging innings with 84* in 100 minutes (ten fours) to set up an innings victory. At the end of the season he was the youngest member of the Kent team who broke new ground for a county team by touring the USA.

At this stage in the young man's career, real life began to intervene. Like all but the most fortunate, he was faced with the tiresome necessity of earning a living. Before he could embark on his expenses paid US tour, Kent had reimbursed a clergyman named Price with £6 in compensation for loss of his unspecified services. In 1904 business restricted him to just two Kent matches and only one in 1905. As a result, Hutchings' performance in 1906 came as a revelation to even the most knowledgeable

followers of Kent cricket – 1,454 runs (avge.60.58) – 1,597 in all matches - with four hundreds and eleven half-centuries.

Unable to start until Tonbridge Week commencing 18 June, in the second match, facing a Middlesex total of 366, he came in with the score 117 for six. Missed before he had scored, he hit 125 in 130 minutes (one six, 19 fours), adding 105 in a ninth-wicket stand with a sciatica-smitten Fred Huish (17*). Kent needed 292 in their second innings and had declined to 136 for six when Hutchings arrived at the wicket. At the close they were 253 for nine. Hutchings, who spurned a last ball long hop in the interest of his side, 97*. Huish, batting with a runner and almost incapable of movement, finished 0*. In the next match, v Yorkshire at Bramall Lane, Hutchings' 131 (170 minutes) was one of only two centuries scored against the Yorkshire bowling that year and he broke three bats in the process. His 50* in the second innings saw Kent through to a draw.

Hutchings demolished another three bats in hitting 176 (27 fours) out of 312 against Lancashire in Canterbury Week, adding 213 for the fourth with Mason (88). At Bournemouth he hammered the bowling for 124 (21 fours, one six), reaching his hundred in 65 minutes, and sharing a 180-run third-wicket partnership with Burnup (79). There were three near misses, 94 at Worcester (where he broke two more bats), 90 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells and 89 v Worcestershire at Canterbury. In September he was invited to play in both matches in the Scarborough Festival, South v North and Gentlemen v Players, and rounded things off with 79 (10 fours) for Champion County v the Rest at The Oval.

Hutchings hit four centuries in 1907, including another against Lancashire in Canterbury Week, but by the standards of 1906 it was an unremarkable season with 1048 runs (avge. 30.82) and only three other scores over 50. Nevertheless, he had already done more than enough and he was invited to tour Australia with MCC.

On tour he took some time to adjust his technique to Australian wickets but in his second match, against Victoria, he hit 91 and in all first-class matches, only Joe Hardstaff scored more than his 953 runs (avge.34.03), with one hundred and six half-centuries. His 126 (one six, 25 fours) in the Second Test at Melbourne, was the first Test century by a Kent cricketer if 'Corker' Wood's hundred against South Africa at Newlands in 1892 is excluded. Apart from the dubious status of the game as a Test match, by then Wood was established as a Surrey player. In his account of the 1907/08 tour *With the MCC in Australia*, journalist turned tour manager Major Philip Trevor wrote of Hutchings 'Finely as he batted, he made fame even more as a fieldsman. It is probably a sober, simple fact that Hutchings is the best catcher in the world'.

On his return to England Hutchings had a patchy season with twelve ducks and nine other single figure scores but still registered three hard-hit centuries including 101 before lunch on the second day of Kent v Hampshire at Tonbridge. He passed his 1,000 runs, as he did in every season until 1912. If he never again quite matched his form of 1906, he continued to dominate bowlers and entertain spectators. Only twice did his average fall below 30.

His best seasons were 1910, 1,654 runs (avge. 41.95) and 1909, 1,697 runs (avge.36.30) with three centuries and eleven half-centuries. Only Gilbert Jessop excelled him in consistently fast scoring. In 1909 he struck his fastest century, 100 in 50 minutes v Gloucestershire at Catford. In 1910 he hit five centuries, 104 (98 minutes) at Northampton, 122 (115 minutes) at Derby, 109 (100 minutes) v Leicestershire at Tonbridge, 144 (140 minutes) v Sussex at Hastings (41* overnight, the remainder scored before lunch) and 114 (90 minutes) for MCC v Yorkshire at Scarborough.

Hutchings took part in 26 century partnerships, the highest 296 (170 minutes) for the fourth wicket (Hutchings 132, Woolley 152) v Northamptonshire, Gravesend in 1908, 240 (125 minutes) for the third wicket (Seymour 171, Hutchings 102) v Derbyshire, Derby in the same year, 233 (140 minutes) for the fourth wicket (Hutchings 144, Woolley 117) v Sussex, Hastings 1910 and 224 (100 minutes)

for the third-wicket (Humphreys 208, Hutchings 100, v Gloucestershire, Catford, 1909. He scored a century against eleven of the then 16 first-class counties, four against Hampshire. The exceptions were Essex, against whom his top score was 90, Surrey, Nottinghamshire whom he played against only five times and Warwickshire (and, of course, Kent) against whom he played not at all.

In 1909 England's much maligned selectors called on Hutchings twice. At Old Trafford he was bowled by Frank Laver for nine in his only innings. At The Oval he joined Jack Sharp with England 206 for six. Together they steered England to the relative safety of 348 when both departed at the same total (Sharp 105, Hutchings a relatively sedate 59).

Hutchings played in seven Gentlemen v Players matches, one at Lord's where he was twice dismissed cheaply by Arthur Fielder, one at The Oval, where he scored a rapid 59, and five at Scarborough. His one innings of substance was 120 at Scarborough in 1908. In 100 minutes he shredded a strong attack including Tarrant, Haigh, Hirst, Newstead and Buckenham for 120 with one six, 1 five and 14 fours.

Business commitments were clearly increasing in the life of Kenneth Hutchings; in the 1911 census he is a 'printer' staying in an hotel in Hertford. He began the 1912 season with 53 against MCC at Lord's and 51 against Somerset at Gravesend but never found his true form and dropped out of the side after another five county matches. Two games in late summer were a sad end to his career – six and 0 for an England Eleven v the Australians at Lakenham, five and another duck for MCC v Yorkshire at Scarborough.

While finding time for occasional club games in the South – he played at least once for the Mote in 1913 - work took him first to Birmingham and while there he played a few games for Aston Unity in the Birmingham & District League. In 1913-1914 he was in Liverpool and appeared regularly for Formby in the Lancashire Premier League. He continued to demolish club bowling with two centuries against Birkenhead Park, 146 in 100 minutes against Oxton and 90s against Rock Ferry and Sefton.

It was from Formby that Hutchings enlisted within a few weeks of the outbreak of war and was commissioned into the Fourth Battalion King's Regiment (Liverpool). In April 1915 he was posted to France and on 2 May attached to the 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers (19 Brigade), an 'elite' Regular Army unit immortalised by Robert Graves in *Goodbye to All That*, Siegfried Sassoon in *Memories of an Infantry Officer* and JC Dunn and others in the definitive *The War the Infantry Knew*.

Second Lieutenant Hutchings had his first experience of the trenches within three days of his arrival and over the next four months saw a great deal of action. He was with the battalion when they took part in the bloody Battle of Loos. In October he underwent an operation for, of all things, haemorrhoids, and was eventually returned to England where he was attached to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the King's Regiment. Promoted to Lieutenant, in July 1916 he returned to France, posted to his regiment's 12th (Service) Battalion (61 Brigade, 20th Division.) who were in the line near Messines.

Moved to the Somme in August, following his Division's capture of Guillemont, he lost his life near Ginchy on 3 September during a German counter-attack. He has no known grave. The obituary in *Wisden* refers to Lieutenant Hutchings having been 'struck by a shell'. Where the details of a soldier's death were thought to have been too distressing, or, more often, were simply unknown, these words or 'shot through the heart' were frequently used by tactful commanding officers or adjutants.

Although *Wisden's* obituarist thought Kenneth Hutchings 'did not fulfil all the hopes formed for him' and the *Tunbridge Wells Courier* used the words 'unfulfilled promise', this perhaps underestimates his very considerable contribution to Kent's success between 1906 and 1914. It was not merely the runs he scored but the rate at which he scored them although, in fact, of his Kent contemporaries, only

Burnup had a better career average at the end of 1914. In addition to his 22 centuries and 56 half-centuries, there were 66 scores between 25 and 49.

Claude Buckenham dismissed him six times and Walter Brearley five but fast bowling does not seem to have troubled him unduly. Of the bowlers who claimed his wicket most frequently, all but one, George Thompson, bowled left-arm – Tarrant (14), Rhodes (10), Thompson (9), Dean, Hirst (8). Between 1907 and 1912 he occasionally captained Kent in the absence of Dillon or his usual deputy Mason. In 17 matches he won eight, drew four, lost five.

If, like some others who died in war, Kenneth Hutchings may have become something of a forgotten man, he deserves to be remembered. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial, on the War Memorial in Southborough and on a cross outside St Peter's Church, Formby which was originally erected outside Ginchy Advanced Dressing station by officers of his battalion. In 2013 a plaque was placed on the wall of his former home at 71 London Road, Southborough. On his death his effects were valued at £559 12s 9d.

William Edward Colebrooke Hutchings (No. 468).

Born: 31.5.1879 Southborough. *Died:* 8.3.1948 Prees, Shropshire.

Right-handed batsman,

Kent 1899.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Edward John Hutchings & Catherine Lothingington Hutchings (*née* Colebrooke).

Almost as successful as younger brother Kenneth in school cricket, William Hutchings was in the Eleven at Tonbridge from 1896 to 1898, as captain in the latter year when he headed the averages with a top score of 184 v I Zingari. In 1899 he played two matches for Kent, one at Blackheath, the other at Catford, without showing signs of living up to his schoolboy promise. While living at home, he played for Bluemantles and Old Tonbridgeans but in 1901, while learning the brewing business in which he was to make his career at Morland's Brewery in Abingdon, he played three matches for Berkshire with scores of 41, 54, 50 and 33.

In 1905-1906 while living in Worcestershire he played two seasons for the county, scoring over 800 runs in 22 matches with four half-centuries and 19 catches. His top score was 85 against his old county at Tunbridge Wells in 1905 when he saved his side from defeat by batting for two hours 40 minutes. The game finished with the last pair together, still 160 runs in arrears.

During the Great War he enlisted as a private in the Army Service Corps (as it then was) in August 1915. He had already served part time for five years as a driver with the Engineer Reserve.. Commissioned in the following month, in January 1916, he spent time at Aldershot with the Holt Caterpillar Tractor section and he subsequently served in both Egypt and France with Motor Transport Companies equipped with Holt Tractors and attached to heavy batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

In 1917 he became a Senior Mechanical Transport Officer with First Army and in December was promoted to Temporary Captain. Already suffering from the effects of bouts of bronchitis, influenza and trench fever as well as deafness due to extended period in close proximity to heavy artillery, in January 1918 he suffered a severe groin injury due to colliding with a corner of a table during an air raid. He was invalided back to England and found unfit for General Service. His injuries brought him a pension but he did not actually relinquish his commission until July 1919.

Much of his business career was in the brewery industry, with the United Brewery in Abingdon, Berkshire and Whelland Brewery, Much Wenlock, Shropshire.

In 1909 he married Winifred Daisy Fitsimmons in Dudley, Worcestershire. There was one child. On his death his estate was valued at £100,030 13s 4d.

Alfred Markham Inglis (No. 397).

Born: 24.9.1856, Casouli (now Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh), India. *Died:* 17.6.1919, Westerham.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1887.

Educated: Rugby School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Major General Sir John Eardley Wilmot Inglis KCB & Lady Julia Selina Inglis (née Thesiger).

Surviving painfully thin and undernourished, as a baby Alfred Inglis, together with his two elder brothers, John Frederick, aged four (*qv*) and Charles George (aged two), lived through the entire 87 day siege of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. The term is now deemed politically incorrect but nevertheless, whatever the motives, a mutiny is what it was. His father, who at the time was commanding the 32nd Regiment (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), greatly distinguished himself on taking overall command of the garrison on the death of Sir Henry Lawrence only three days into the siege.

His mother, daughter of the former Lord Chancellor, the first Baron Chelmsford, kept a detailed diary of the siege, an outstanding example of its kind. A remarkable woman, not only did she and her boys have several narrow escapes from shot and shell, they endured hunger, the near certainty of massacre if the defence cracked – all were aware of events at Cawnpore - and the constant threat of sudden death from the extensive mining operations carried on by the besiegers. She contracted smallpox and when all was over and, after a tortuous journey by bullock cart to Allahabad, she and her boys were returning home, they narrowly escaped drowning when their ship hit a rock off Trincomalee. She gave birth to three more children but by September 1862 she was a widow. She held the honorary position of Housekeeper to the State Apartments, St James's Palace.

Alfred was in the Eleven at Rugby in 1875 but at Oxford he did not progress beyond two Freshmen's matches in 1876. Employed in Child & Co.'s Private Bank, he found time for a lot of club cricket and was a heavy scorer for Beckenham, Incogniti, Free Foresters, Private Banks, MCC and Old Rugbeians. His innings included 224* for JM Phillip's XI v Granville at Lee in 1878, 152 for Old Rugbeians v Rugby School in 1880, 140 for Incogniti v the North of Ireland in 1887, 152* for Private Banks v Croydon in 1888 and 160 for Incogniti on their North Wales tour against Bryn-y-Neuadd at Llanfairfechan in 1896. In 1882 he hit 138 for G Devas's XI at the Wildernesse while his brother John Frederick scored 89.

At Beckenham, for whom he hit at least eight centuries, he was secretary from 1883 to 1888 and on resigning was made a life member. Prior to his single appearance for Kent in 1887, he played one first-class match, for MCC v Lancashire at Lord's in 1885.

Settled in Beckenham, after his adventurous childhood, Alfred Markham spent his life in banking. He appears as 'bank clerk in the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census returns. In addition to his brother John Frederick (*qv*) who appeared for Kent, another brother, Rupert, was an England Rugby International. Claude, Hubert and Percy Ashton (Essex) and Gilbert Ashton (Worcestershire) were nephews.

In 1892 he married Ernestine Pigou at St George's Hanover Square. There were three sons and two daughters. On his death, his effects were valued at £24,258 10s. 5d.

Major John Frederick Inglis (No. 377).

Born: 16.7.1853, Peshawar, India. *Died:* 27.2.1923, Littleham, Exmouth, Devon

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler.

Kent 1883.

Educated: Charterhouse School.

Parents: Major General Sir John Eardley Wilmot Inglis KCB & Lady Julia Selina Inglis (née Thesiger).

Like his younger brother Alfred (*qv*), John Inglis was a survivor of Lucknow. Although twice taken seriously ill during the siege, he seems to have enjoyed it more than most, running around picking up spent bullets while still warm, laughing when a round shot struck the tree to which his swing was attached and spending much of his time with loyal Sikh troops who shared their meagre rations with him. Lady Inglis encouraged the friendship hoping that, should the worst happen, the Sikhs might ensure that he at least survived.

He was in the Charterhouse Eleven from 1868 to 1871 and the Football Eleven from 1869 to 1870. Service in India restricted his cricket but in addition to Army cricket, like his brother, he played for Beckenham and Incogniti. In 1882 he hit three centuries in good quality cricket, two for Incogniti – 125 v Northamptonshire, 115 v Suffolk, and 105* for his brother's XI v Beckenham. In the following season, the year of his only match for Kent, he hit 124 for his Regiment at Rochester.

Commissioned into the 62nd Regiment (Royal Wiltshire) in 1873, he retired as a Major in 1898. In 1886 he married Janet Alice Thornhill, the daughter of a clergyman, in Rugby. She pre-deceased him and there were no children. On his death his effects were valued at £16,569 13s.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Isaac Ingram (No. 343).

Born: 14.5.1855, Leigh. *Died:* 19.11.1947, Leigh.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1878-1879.

Parents: Isaac & Ann Ingram.

Like his father, Isaac Ingram was a cricket ball maker and lived for his entire life in the village of Leigh. For most if not all of this time he was employed at Dukes in Penshurst. Known as 'Ike', like several other Ingrams he played for his village as well as for Penshurst and Tunbridge Wells. In 1878 he was one of 22 Colts of England who took on an MCC Eleven at Lord's which included WG Grace, AN Hornby, GF Vernon, Alfred Shaw, Fred Morley and William Mycroft. The colts team contained two other wicketkeepers including Kent's Harry Wood and it is not clear whether Ingram was given a chance with the gloves. With the bat he scored 0 and ten. A fortnight later he was one of Twelve Colts of Kent under the captaincy of Lord Harris who played a Surrey Colts team at The Oval. This time he made one stumping and followed a first innings duck with 23 in the second innings, top score in a total of 48.

Five days later Ingram made his Kent debut against MCC at Lord's. He stumped three in MCC's first and only innings and allowed no byes in following match against Nottinghamshire but for the next four fixtures Kent reverted to Edward Henty. Restored to the side against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells Common, he scored 25, held four catches and kept his place for the remainder of the season. He scored 22 v Surrey at Mote Park but registered two 'pairs'. Despite having by all accounts kept wicket

competently, he was picked for only one match in 1879 after which Kent went back to Henty and he was not called on again.

In the Kent History, Lord Harris rates Ingram 'a neat little wicketkeeper and quite a fair bat but his hands did not stand'. Harris made the same judgement in the case of Harry Wood who went on to a long and successful career behind the stumps with Surrey. red *Lillywhite* listed Ingram among the leading professionals as a 'promising wicketkeeper' until 1881.

Ingram served the Leigh club as player, captain and committee member for over 50 years. He was on the committee from the 1880s and was still a playing member as late as 1919, He regularly finished at or near the top of the batting averages and the club still has in its possession a ball made by Ingram and presented to him in 1882 with an inscribed plaque commemorating his batting that year when he averaged 44. In 1932 the Kent committee granted him an allowance, amount unspecified.

In 1887 he married Olive Coast in Hollingbourne. There was one son who in 1911 was working as a gardener.

Frederick Schomberg Ireland (No. 346).

Born: 6.4.1850, Port Louis, Mauritius. *Died:* 16.3.1937, Mentone, France.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1878-1887.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School.

The son of a Scottish born 'East India Merchant' and a Canadian mother, Frederick Ireland captained his School Eleven in 1877 and on leaving school was articled to a solicitor. He qualified and practised briefly but in the late 1880s forsook the Law and became a successful merchant like his father. He lived in Charlton for much of his working life and in 1901 was living in Lee Road with his wife Edith Mary whom he married in 1861 in Blackheath. There were two sons, a daughter, a governess and three servants. Shortly before the First World War he moved to The Hall, Barton Mills, near Mildenhall where he became a JP.

Run out without scoring in his debut match, his brief career with Kent was unusual. He scored only four in the second innings but took three wickets and followed with a useful 18* in his second match, against Sussex at Hove. His next appearance was not until 1887. Possibly as a result of scoring 143* for Kent Second XI against his own club, Blackheath, he was picked against Middlesex at Lord's and, with Kent fighting to avoid an innings defeat, hit a robust 87 with 12 fours. In his final match, against Lancashire at Gravesend, he was twice bowled without scoring.

Most of Ireland's cricket was for Blackheath and for its forerunner, Blackheath Morden. For the latter he took six for 3 in five overs v MCC in 1882 and nine for 6 in 12 overs v Hampstead Nondescripts in 1883. He was Honorary Secretary of Blackheath from 1886 to 1891 and on resigning, was presented with a pair of silver lamps in recognition of his services. His more notable performances for the club included 103* v Incogniti in 1886, five for 29 v the Christopherson family Eleven in 1888 and 121 v West Kent Wanderers in 1890. As well as Gentlemen of Kent, for whom in 1888 he took six wickets against the Parsees, he also played for Band of Brothers, Sidmouth and Llandoverly near his wife's home in Carmarthenshire. While in Sidmouth in 1879 – presumably on holiday – he was joint top scorer with 13 for Devon Colts v Devon. Four years later, he appeared for Devon v MCC at Lord's.

A scratch golfer, he was a prominent member of Royal Blackheath Golf Club. His wife Edith Mary died *circa* 1914 and in 1921 he married Joan Melonie Vyvian Houghton Jackson at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton. At the time of his death his home was the Bayswater Court Hotel, Bayswater. His effects were valued at £1.972 1s 8d.

John Jackson (No. 185).

Born: 21.5.1833, Bungay, Suffolk. *Died:* 4.11.1901, Liverpool, Lancashire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast round-arm bowler

Kent 1858

The best and most feared fast bowler of his time, John 'Foghorn' Jackson (*aka* 'The Demon') played twice for Kent against England in 1858, one of three 'given men' at Lord's and during Canterbury Week. Kent were no longer able to match England from their own resources and arguably the leading batsman, bowler and allrounder of the day – George Parr, Jackson and William Caffyn - were recruited to even the odds. Jackson earned his corn, taking nine for 27 in the first innings at Lord's, nine for 53 and four for 55 at Canterbury, but England won both matches.

He was equally successful *against* Kent. For Nottinghamshire at Cranbrook in 1863 he hit 100, the only hundred of his career, the first for Notts v Kent, and held three catches to go with match figures of 12 for 43. Three years earlier he had taken nine for 34 for England v Sixteen of Kent in Canterbury Week.

Reputedly the offspring of a liaison between a noble lord and a gypsy, Jackson toured the USA and Canada with the first ever English touring team in 1859, Australia and New Zealand in 1863/64 and appeared twelve times for Players v Gentlemen. He took over 100 wickets for Notts and an estimated 2,187 in 252 appearances for the All-England XI but in 1865 a leg injury virtually ended his playing career.

He became caterer/groundsman to the Liverpool Club but, despite a benefit from Nottinghamshire in 1874, he fell on hard times and in the 1891 Census he is working as a cotton porter and living in lodgings with 30 other men of various trades.

Reduced eventually to living on five shillings and sixpence a week from the Cricketers' Fund, he died in a workhouse infirmary and was buried in an unmarked grave. In his will he left £15. Some of his relatives including two great great grandsons recently arranged for a memorial stone which makes full acknowledgement of his place in the history of the game. His nickname 'Foghorn' originated from his habit of blowing his nose loudly after taking a wicket.

Further reading:

Gerald Hudd, John Jackson: *The Nottingham Foghorn, Lives in Cricket No 43.* (ACS Publications 2016)

William James (No. 366).

Born: 1858, Canterbury

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1881.

Another case where positive identification has not so far been possible, Described in the Kent history as being 'of Canterbury', William James scored 19 and 23 opening the batting for Eighteen Colts of Kent v the county team at Maidstone but given a place in the side against MCC at Lord's failed to score in either innings and was not heard of again.

Apparently a useful batsman in club cricket in or around Canterbury, he is probably the William James who, according to the 1881 census was living in Cossington Road, Canterbury with his Dorset born wife Annie and one-year old daughter. By occupation he was a 'caterer'. On the other hand, there

was another William James, a carpenter and approximately the same age, living in lodgings in Broad Street, Canterbury at the same time and there were at least two others in nearby villages.

James Jardine (No. 56).

Born: 24.1.1794, Dartford. *Died:* 13.1.1872, Holloway, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1827,

Parents: Joseph Jardine & Sarah Jardine (*née* Parker).

Another 'one match wonder' about whom information is sparse. Described in Census returns variously as a 'Land Agent', Property Developer' and 'Contractor' he lived for most of his life in London, in 1851 in St Pancras, 1861 in Hackney, 1871 in Highbury.

He was a member of MCC and both his first-class appearances were at Lord's, for Kent v MCC when he achieved his personal best 13, and for Married v Single, where he was as one of eight married MCC members and three professionals against eight bachelor MCC members and three professionals – one of them Fuller Pilch. The Singles team also included Herbert Jenner (*qv*) whose 75 was top score in the match.

Jardine played for MCC in minor matches and at least twice against them at Lord's for the Percy Club with professional reinforcement. In 1827 he scored 28 and 20; in 1828 he failed with the bat but took five wickets and one stumping.

In 1818 James Jardine married in Islington Deborah Ashton who pre-deceased him. There were six children, all boys. His effects were valued at 'less than £800'.

Herbert Jenner (later Jenner-Fust) (No. 57).

Born: 23.2.1806, Mayfair, London. *Died:* 30.7.1904, Hill Court, Falfield, Gloucestershire.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm lob bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1827-1836.

Educated: Eton College & Trinity Hall, Cambridge University.

Parents: Sir Herbert Jenner & Lady Elizabeth Jenner (*née* Lascelles).

A man who gained considerable distinction in his profession, by the time he died aged 98 years 158 days Herbert Jenner-Fust was nevertheless probably best remembered as one of the greatest allround amateur cricketers of his era. Herbert Jenner (as he then was) was the second son of a distinguished judge in the ecclesiastical and civil courts and a leading authority on international law. Jenner played for Eton against Harrow in 1822 and 1823 and on going up to Cambridge scored his first half-century in 1826 – 51 (plus eight wickets and one stumping) v the Cambridge Town Club. In 1827 he led the side, hit 47 out of a team total of 92 and took five wickets at Lord's in the first ever match between Oxford and Cambridge, a meeting staged largely through his initiative.

Between 1827 and 1836 Jenner appeared nine times for Gentlemen v Players and, as well as his games for Kent, played for Gentlemen of Kent – his first in 1826 against Players of Kent on Barham Downs, -Gentlemen of West Kent and West Kent. He also played for both Norfolk and Suffolk in matches not accorded first-class status. He was President of MCC in 1833 and of the West Kent Club from 1882 until his death.

If not quite in the very top class as a batsman, he was highly rated among the amateurs. His top score of 75 (plus eight wickets) was against a 'Married' attack including William Lillywhite and in matches

not now regarded as first-class he scored 173 for Gentlemen of West Kent v Royal Artillery at Woolwich in 1840 and 91 (plus nine wickets) for Cambridge University v Bury St Edmunds in 1826.

He learned his cricket when round-arm was still evolving and his bowling has been described as 'semi-underarm'. Most successful in his early days, he took five in an innings (and four stumpings) on his first-class debut, for Cambridge University v the Cambridge Town Club in 1826 and in all major matches for the University, first-class and otherwise, he claimed five or more in an innings seven times, once ten in a match (with three stumpings).

Called 'the King of wicketkeepers', Jenner was widely considered the equal of Wenman and Box and for elegance possibly the best of all. As was the custom, he wore neither pads nor gloves but was reputedly unequalled in his skill at taking the ball with his left hand resulting in numerous leg-side stumpings and catches from attempts to play the then fashionable draw. Like all his contemporaries, he relied heavily on his long stop, much of the skill being in knowing what to take and what to leave alone. Unlike his contemporaries, he moved about a great deal, often shifting position to slip, short leg or point, which latter must surely have been confusing for all concerned. As will have become apparent, he frequently bowled at one end and kept wicket at the other.

By 1838, Jenner had given up serious cricket to concentrate on the Law but he continued for many years to play in minor matches. Possibly his last was in 1880 for his home village of Hill v Rockhampton. He reputedly bowled unchanged at one end and kept wicket at the other but needed a runner. Using an ancient unspliced bat, he had scored 11 when his young runner was run out.

At Cambridge Jenner read Law, became a Bachelor of Law in 1829 and a Doctor of Law in 1835. In 1833 he became a Fellow of Trinity Hall where his father later became Master. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln Inns Fields in 1831 and in 1835 emulated his father by becoming an Advocate in Doctors' Commons.

He adopted the additional surname 'Fust' on succeeding to the family estates in 1864 and retired to Gloucestershire where in 1901, by then a widower, his household included housekeeper, butler, three maids and a coachman. While living in Gloucestershire he continued to serve as a magistrate and, although reputedly retaining his interest in cricket throughout his long life, he never 'took the trouble' to watch Grace. A man of considerable charm, he was noted as a raconteur and after dinner speaker.

In October 1835 he married Maria Eleanora Norman in Bromley. There was one son and two daughters. On his death the estates were valued for probate at £43,464 3s 5d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

David William Jennings (No. 506).

Born: 4.6.1889, Kentish Town, London. *Died:* 6.8.1918. Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin bowler.

Kent 1909-1914. Kent cap 1911.

Parents: David James Jennings & Isabella Jennings

More perhaps than any other Kent cricketer of his time, David Jennings' career suffered from the club's policy of always attempting to include a minimum of three amateurs – more often than not batsmen. If never perhaps scoring quite enough runs to become an unquestioned choice for the first Eleven, he had nevertheless done more than enough to justify selection over most run of the mill Public School / Oxbridge batsmen, few if any of whom were likely to play county cricket for very long. One of the best cover points in the country, too often he found himself relegated to 12th man.

He came from a cricketing background. His Dover-born father, also David, played for Devonshire from 1892 to 1914, umpired minor counties matches and for some years was groundsman at Exeter. From 1905 till his death in 1938 he was coach and head groundsman at Marlborough College.

David junior was professional at the Mote and living in Maidstone when he came to Kent for a trial. He joined the staff in 1908, beginning well with scores of 48 v Middlesex Second Eleven at Lord's and 22 and 24 v Surrey at The Oval. 1909 began even better with 62*, 52 and seven for 21 v Middlesex Seconds, again at Lord's and six for 26 v Surrey at The Oval. For the Mote he scored 175 v Free Foresters and 129 v Eton Ramblers. In all matches for Kent Second Eleven, Club & Ground and the Mote he scored over 1,600 runs and claimed 98 wickets at 12 runs apiece.

Obviously a player of more than average promise, he was chosen for one county match, v Surrey at The Oval in which he scored four. He played two first team games in 1910 (with a top score of 18) but did better in the Second Eleven with four half-centuries, the highest 98 opening the batting v Essex at Hythe.

Jennings missed the early May fixtures in 1911 but was chosen for the first team in June. After failing against Gloucestershire at Gravesend, he was out of the side for the next six games but returned with 53* v Leicestershire at Dover, sharing an unfinished seventh-wicket partnership of 112 with Fred Huish (46*). He was dropped again for the match against the Indians but returned to score 64 and 104* in 115 minutes v Somerset at Tunbridge Wells, participating in two more century fifth-wicket partnerships – 141 with Woolley (104) in the first innings, 241* with Woolley (148*) in the second. He was capped but, surprisingly, was not chosen again that year. For the Second Eleven he scored 173 v Cornwall at Hythe.

On his next first team appearance, against Hampshire at Southampton in May 1912, Jennings hit 100 in 105 minutes but was dropped after one more match and played only five more games that season. Although picked for 11 matches in each of the two final pre-war seasons, for the first time Jennings disappointed. He hit one more century, 106 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells in 1914, but there were six ducks and 15 other scores under 20.

On the outbreak of the Great War he enlisted in the Kent Fortress Engineers at the same time as his brother Thomas, Colin Blythe, Henry Preston and Claud Woolley and was posted to the Woodlands Depot in Gillingham. By March 1915 he had been promoted to Second Corporal and although a hernia necessitated a month in hospital, he spent most of the next 18 months on coastal defence and construction duties. Like Blythe and his other former colleagues he found time to play for the Kent Fortress Engineers cricket team and in June 1916 hit 97 against Argyll House, a Canadian team.

In May 1917 he was among a batch transferred from the KFE to the Royal Engineers. In that year he made two appearances at Lord's; for the Army against the AIF he scored 26 and made 11 opening the batting with Wally Hardinge for the Army & Navy against Australian & South African Services.

In February 1918 he was posted to the Western Front with 206 Field Company, RE and employed mainly on construction duties, On 9 April during the German Spring offensive, Corporal Jennings was one of 19 men of 206 company who became casualties in a gas shell bombardment near Bienvillers, North West of Arras. With eyes, throat and chest seriously affected, he was evacuated to England and spent two months in hospital. Two weeks after his release he was admitted to St Mark's Military Hospital, Broadway Down, Tunbridge Wells with pleurisy. Despite further treatment, his condition deteriorated. His death certificate lists cause of death as 'Gas Poisoning in France. 2. Double pleuropneumonia five weeks'.

A hard-driving batsman with a method similar according to some experts, to that of 'Patsy' Hendren, his best years as a cricketer were clearly still ahead of him had he recovered. Given that Colin Blythe had already indicated his intention of taking up a career in coaching and Hutchings had played his last match in 1912, Jennings' death was Kent's heaviest loss during the Great War.

Two of Jennings' brothers were professional cricketers, George for Warwickshire (1923-1925) and Devon (1925-1927), Thomas, a left-arm spinner who had a trial for Kent but went to Surrey (1921-1924) and Devon (1926-1933). From 1935 to 1962 Thomas was a Minor Counties umpire. A third brother Leonard played two first-class matches for the Royal Air Force and appeared for the RAF in wartime charity matches.

Alfred Jones (No. 139).

Kent 1847.

Another about whom virtually nothing is known, other than that both his appearances were against Surrey. The 1907 Kent history describes him as being 'of Canterbury' but although not altogether surprisingly, players of the same name turn up with various Kentish teams, no positive identification has been possible. In an admittedly strong eleven, he batted in the lower order.

Richard Stoakes Jones (No. 334).

Born: 14.3.1857, Dymchurch. *Died:* 9.5.1935, Dymchurch.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1877-1886. Kent cap 1882.

Educated: Chatham House & Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Parents: John Jones & Sophy Ann Jones (*née* Stoakes).

One of the few Kent cricketers born on Romney Marsh, according to legend, when Richard Jones played in the 1879 Canterbury Week his following among the locals was such that for six days the sheep had the Marsh pretty much to themselves. He was one of the small group of amateurs who supported Lord Harris' efforts to revive the county's fortunes at a time when many of the Public School/Oxbridge fraternity tended to view county cricket as a little beneath them. He was among the eight (all amateur) recipients when county caps were first awarded in 1882.

One of nine children, six boys, three girls of a prosperous Dymchurch landowner and 'grazier', Jones went up to Cambridge in 1877 and played twice for the University that year and twice in 1878 but after beginning well with 28 v Surrey at The Oval his subsequent scores were six, a pair, two and one. He was awarded his Blue in 1879 but even then he was perhaps a shade lucky. He scored 92* in the Seniors' match but, apart from 41 v MCC at Fenner's, his next highest score was 13. There was another pair and a duck against Oxford at Lord's. After the summer Term he scored a century for the University Long Vacation club and remained in the Cambridge Eleven in 1880, playing a fine innings of 124 v the Gentlemen of England at Fenner's but seven other innings produced only 29 runs, culminating in one and two against Oxford.

Whatever his lack of success for his university, Richard Jones had shown his quality for his county. Although hardly consistent, he was good in a crisis, one of the best outfielders of his day and above all he was generally available when wanted. Unlike some of his fellow amateurs, he was willing to play at venues such as Old Trafford, Bradford, Sheffield, Dewsbury and Derby

He scored only two on his debut in 1877 but in 1878 he hit 66 against Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells and 82 in a total of 181 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England (12-a- side) in Canterbury Week in 1879. In 1880 he had his best season, 345 runs (avge.31.66), including 79 v MCC at Lord's.

54 v Surrey at Tunbridge Wells and 81 v Sussex at Hove when he shared what was then a record eighth-wicket partnership of 146 with Edward Henty (72).

One of his best innings was 83 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1883 when he put on 186 for the third wicket with Lord Harris (118) against, among others, fast bowler Jack Crossland, he of the notoriously dubious action. Two years later, at the same venue, against the same opponents and with Kent wanting 256, he was top scorer with 60 (run out), taking the score from 51 for three to 186 for nine. At The Oval in the same season, with Kent needing 486 in the fourth innings, he came in at 183 for four and saw Kent safely through to a draw, scoring 47* and sharing an unbroken partnership of 105 with Frank Hearne (49*).

1885 proved to be virtually the end of Jones' county career. He played four matches in 1886 but only once reached double figures and thereafter confined himself to club cricket of which he played a great deal. He scored hundreds for Chatham House Wanderers, St Albans, where he was for a time articulated, and at least three for Bickley Park, the last in 1893. Among his other clubs were Band of Brothers, MCC and New Romney.

Richard Jones took his BA in 1880, MA in 1883 and was admitted as a solicitor in 1884. He practised in Dymchurch but by the time of the 1891 Census he is listed as 'retired solicitor. In the 1901 Census he is 'living on own means' with his father at Grove House, Dymchurch, a substantial 14-room dwelling which he would shortly inherit. It stood on what is now the A259 but was demolished between the wars to make way for a garage. He does not appear to have married. In 1911 he is living there with his widowed sister Florence Wood, a cook and a parlourmaid. On his death his effects were valued at £1, 2871 1s 2d.

James Jordan (No. 27).

Born: 21.6.1793, Chatham. *Died:* 10.9.1866, Chatham
Kent 1822-1823.

James Jordan was briefly landlord of *The Black Lion* on Chatham Lines but for most of his life he worked as a ropemaker in Chatham Dockyard and may even have combined the two activities. For a few years he was also one of the best Kent batsmen of the pre-Mynn / Pilch / Felix era. Short, quick on his feet, fast between the wickets and willing – perhaps too willing – to play strokes, he was associated with the Gillingham club and is on record as having played for them against Cobham in Cobham Park in 1816. Later that year he appeared for East Kent and Sussex v West Kent and Surrey and in 1821 played in a four-a-side single-wicket match against Lenham.

Unfortunately few scores have survived but presumably he scored prolifically in minor cricket as his first match now adjudged first-class was for the Players v Gentlemen at Lord's in July 1822. He top scored in both innings with 38 and 33 and a week later was top scorer again with 86 for Kent v MCC at Lord's, the match in which John Willes stormed off the field and abandoned his team. In the return with MCC at Chislehurst he scored 56 and followed with 94 for England v the Bs. Next year he hit 108 for Gillingham v Leeds and shortly afterwards the first ever century for Kent, 109 v MCC at Chislehurst.

This proved to be his last match for Kent but he appeared for Players v Gentlemen again in 1823 and for a third time in the following season when he was also in the England side against the Bs at Lord's. In these, his last first-class matches, his top score was 12 and although between 1826 and 1828 he played four times for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent (not first-class), he only once passed 20 – 28 at Sevenoaks in 1827.

Why James Jordan played so little ‘important’ cricket after his century is unclear. He continued to play local cricket and in 1833 scored 35 and 25 for Gillingham v Linsted Park but according to Arthur Haygarth in *Scores & Biographies* ‘a complaint of the chest compelled him to abandon the game’.

There may however have been more to the story. Later in Haygarth’s paragraph quoted above Jordan is described in 1853 (aged 60) as ‘a hearty, active man, still enjoying the sport of shooting and taking much exercise on foot’. Possibly runs just became harder to get. A writer in the *Sporting Magazine* suggests not only a loss of form but also that Jordan’s eagerness to use his feet and play strokes made him vulnerable to catches in the outfield and to stumping.

Even more important, it is suggested that Jordan’s ‘manner was not liked by some of the aristocratic patrons of the sport’. If true, he would not be the last and on balance it seems the more likely explanation. Jordan received a pension from the Dockyard but as late as the 1861 Census he still seems to have been working.

In 1824 he married Elizabeth Featherstone in Frindsbury.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

George Keeble (No. 327).

Born: 26.9.1849, Southfleet. *Died:* 26.5.1923, Dartford.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1876.

Parents: George Keeble & Dorothy Elizabeth Keeble (*née* Wickham).

One of nine children, two boys seven girls, in between a variety of engagements as a professional cricketer George Keeble was a painter and decorator like his father who at one time managed to combine his decorating activities with running a grocery shop in Southfleet. Presumably George senior also played cricket as it was as ‘George Keeble junior’ that his son in 1870 appeared for Twent-Two Colts of Kent against the County on the Paragon ground, Blackheath.

Despite batting at No. 19, he was not one of the eight bowlers used nor apparently was he given the ball in the following year when he opened the innings for Eighteen Kent Colts v Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury. He was a rather mature colt when Seventeen Colts played Kent at Gravesend in 1876 but, although scoring only one and claiming one wicket, later that season he made his only first-class appearance for Kent at Southampton. In the following year he batted No. 11 but did not apparently bowl – or at least failed to take a wicket – for Kent v Eighteen Colts of West Kent at Mote Park.

As a club professional, his first noteworthy performance was in 1871 when he took 12 wickets in a match, six in each innings, for Sevenoaks Vine v I Zingari. In that season he was also professional at Lancing College. In 1873 he combined coaching at Uppingham with a position on the staff at Prince’s and in the following season, while still at Prince’s, took six for 46 for Hastings v MCC. In 1875 he was again in the Hastings team against MCC and, playing for Eighteen of North Kent v the United South of England at Gravesend, bowled WG Grace for six.

In 1876 he took three wickets for Players of North Kent v Gentlemen of North Kent at Gravesend and was involved in two fixtures in the very brief history of the New United South of England XI. Against them he scored 18 and took three for 17 for Eighteen of Edenbridge and for them 22 against Twenty-Two of Dover & District. For Twenty-Two of Erith & District against the original United South in 1877 he bowled 26 (four ball) overs for only five runs and he is almost certainly the Keeble who took five wickets for Hundred of Hoo v Town Malling later that year.

In 1879 he played at Farnworth, near Bolton for an even shorter lived itinerant team, London United. In September of that year he turned out for what seems to have been his last match of significance, against Southborough for 'Surrey Professionals', a team consisting for the most part of minor cricketers employed by various Surrey clubs.

In 1905 George Keeble applied unsuccessfully to the Kent committee for a loan to assist him in setting up a business. In the 1911 Census he is a house painter but listed as 'an employer' so presumably he set himself up without their aid.

In 1876 he married Louise Hughes at St John's Church, Deptford. There were three children, one boy and two girls. At the time of his marriage he was living at Number 16, Evelyn Street, Deptford. Three years later Colin Blythe would be born at Number 78.

Harry Walter Keeling (No. 428.)

Born: 8.11.1873, Hove, Sussex. *Died:* 19.2.1898, Wimpole Street, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1893.

Educated: Hurstpierpoint Collegel.

Parents: Rev William Graham Keeling & Jane Eleanor Keeling (*née* Venn).

One of eight children, five boys, three girls, of the curate of St Andrews, Hove, Harry Keeling was in the Eleven at Hurstpierpoint and played club cricket as an allrounder for Plaistow and Bickley Park. In his two matches for Kent, both against Gloucestershire, he failed to take a wicket but in his first innings in first-class cricket batted well – 'in neat style' according to *Cricket* – for 24, second highest in a modest total of 130.

A member of the Stock Exchange, Harry Keeling died from lung cancer. He appears to have never married but at the time had homes in Surbiton, Surrey and Watford, Hertfordshire. He was buried at Kingston-upon-Thames. A little surprisingly, his effects were valued at £200 10s 5d..

George Mortimer Kelson (No. 197).

Born: 8.12.1835, Sevenoaks. *Died:* 29.3.1920, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1859-1873.

Parents: Dr George Mortimer Kelson & Charlotte Louisa Kelson (*née* Rich).

In his obituary in the 1921 *Wisden* George Kelson is rated 'beyond question the best batsman in the Kent Eleven' at the time. Judged on his overall record this possibly goes a little far but at a time when most amateurs shunned county cricket and Kent struggled to find support for the hard working Ned Willsher and 'Farmer' Bennett, he was one of the more likely to score runs against quality opposition. An attacking batsman with a preference for the aerial route – he was one of the select few to hit a ball into (but not over) the top of Canterbury's late-lamented lime tree - consistency was not his forte, but in his best period between 1863 and 1865 he scored over 1,000 runs for the county, averaging over 20 in each of the three seasons,

Impressively bearded, noted for wearing cricket boots with red uppers and bearing some resemblance to the young WG Grace, George Kelson was the son of a Sevenoaks surgeon, also George, who played for the Prince's Plain Club, for 'Kent' v Epsom in 1820 and in 1828 for Gentlemen v Players of Kent. In 1830 George snr. was the cause of a riot in Sevenoaks when, incensed by his refusal to illuminate his house or take part in the celebrations for the coronation of William IV, a mob of about

200 stoned his house and smashed most of his windows. When it was all over, 250 large stones were found on the premises.

George junior's early cricket was with Sevenoaks Vine and he appeared alongside five other Kent cricketers for the short-lived New All-England Eleven in the team's inaugural match in 1858 against Twenty-Two of Tunbridge Wells. In 1859 he made his debut in the first season of the newly formed Kent County Cricket Club and also played his first match for the Gentlemen of Kent as well as three more for the New All-England venture.

Although the match is not recognised as first-class, Kelson's first innings of significance in a representative match was 88 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at the Royal Brunswick ground, Hove in 1861. He scored over 1,000 runs in these Gentlemen of Kent matches organised by Kent CCC, with four half centuries and one century, 109 against the Gentlemen of Sussex on the same Hove ground in 1862 when he also took four wickets and held five catches in the second innings.

Kelson did not reach 50 for Kent until 1863 when, opening for the first time, he hit 52 v Sussex at Hove, followed by 42 and 122 v Surrey at The Oval and 73 v Sussex at Sandgate. Of his remaining six scores over 50, five were against Surrey, 80 at Gravesend and 83 at The Oval in 1864, 60 and 89 at Gravesend, 73 at The Oval in 1865. In all he scored 903 runs (avge.27.36) in Kent v Surrey matches.

He continued to play for Kent until 1873 but runs proved harder to come by and, apart from 51 v Yorkshire at Gravesend in 1870 when he also took six for 70, after 1865 he only three times passed 40. At a Kent CCC Anniversary Dinner at Gravesend in 1866 the club presented him with a gold keyless watch in 'appreciation of him as a gentleman and cricketer'. From 1868 to 1870 he was member of the Managing Committee.

For most of his career with Kent he was used as a change bowler but in Gentlemen of Kent matches, mostly not first-class, he claimed 144 wickets, eleven times five in an innings. As well as six for 22 v Gentlemen of MCC at Canterbury in 1860 (which was ranked first-class), he took seven for 52 v Gentlemen of Sussex at Faversham in 1864 and 13 wickets in a match against Royal Engineers at Mote Park in 1870.

Without doing anything notable he was picked twice for Gentlemen v Players at The Oval, three times for South v North as well as for Gentlemen of the South and matches such as Married v Single. He appeared twice for England v Surrey at The Oval, scoring 26 and 40 in 1864 and 40 again in 1865.

He toured occasionally with the United South of England Eleven, appeared at least once for Buckinghamshire while living in Marlow and played several games for Surrey Club & Ground, one with Fred Grace as a teammate. In addition to Sevenoaks Vine, Kelson played for numerous clubs including the Mote, City Wanderers, Henley-on-Thames and Great Marlow. In 1871 he played for WG Grace's Eleven against High Wycombe. He was for some years Secretary and Treasurer of the Anomalies, a club playing mainly in the Thames Valley, for whom he hit three centuries in 1872 and four in 1874.

George Kelson indulged in numerous other sports including swimming, shooting and steeplechasing but his great passion was fishing. Noted for always fishing in a black bowler hat, he claimed to have caught over 3,000 salmon. Widely recognised as a leading authority he was on the judging panel at the Great Exhibition in 1883 and is credited with design of the Farlow Patent Lever Reel.

He seems to have been generally accepted as the foremost expert on the design of salmon flies. He wrote for the *Fishing Gazette* and subsequently became Angling Editor of *Land & Water*. He published a still much sought after series of cards on salmon flies and in 1895 his 510 page magnum opus *The Salmon Fly. How to dress it and how to use it*. Although the book was well received and is

still highly regarded, his reputation was tarnished by suggestions from, among others, the editor of *Fishing Gazette*, that he was laying claim to fly patterns devised by others.

Kelson was clearly a 'character' with a reputation as a raconteur but he was also considered opinionated and, worse, had an annoying habit of being right, at least on matters relating to salmon fishing. One of his sons reputedly said of him (apropos of what precisely is unclear) 'If people behaved that way nowadays they would be locked up'.

His fortunes appear to have been mixed. There are hints, no more, in the Kent CCC minutes that he may not have been quite a true blue amateur. He was a member of the original Kent CCC and in 1865 was still living in Sevenoaks but in the 1871 Census he is described as an 'Annuitant' and is living with his wife and two children in a lodging house at Broadwater, near Worthing, possibly on holiday.

In 1874 he has a more up market address in Sunbury-on-Thames and in 1875 he is at The Deanery, Marlow. In the 1881 Census he is of 'Independent Means' but the family is back again in a lodging house, this time in Kensington. By the 1901 Census he was still in Kensington, living near Holland Park with his wife and two sons, one a stockbroker's clerk and the other a solicitor's clerk. Kelson himself is now shown as an author. In the 1911 Census, still an author, he is living with his wife in two rooms in Lowlands Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Arthur Fitch Kemp (No. 385).

Born: 1.8.1863, Forest Hill. *Died:* 14.2.1940, Virginia Water, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1884.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: Charles Fitch Kemp & Sarah Thornton Kemp (*née* Edwards).

One of four brothers, all of whom played for Harrow and three for Kent, Arthur Kemp was the in the Harrow Eleven in 1880 and 1881, captaining them in the latter year. Eton were beaten in both years, in 1880 under the captaincy of another brother, Manley Kemp (*qv*). Although doing nothing outstanding in the two Eton matches, in 1880 he was leading wicket taker with 42 wickets (avge.10.00) and headed the batting averages in 1881.

Beginning in 1883 with a match against Cambridge University for the exclusive Orleans Club at Twickenham, Kemp's brief first-class career was not a great success and he accomplished little in his three matches for Kent. In club cricket he played for several upper bracket sides including MCC, Band of Brothers, I Zingari, Harrow Wanderers, the Barnes based Lyric Club and Sevenoaks Vine for whom he scored at least one century. For the Orleans Club he hit at least two. In 1882 he scored 106 for Wildernesse v Lords & Commons.

The son of a highly successful Chartered Accountant and JP, as well as three brothers, Arthur Fitch had six sisters. He appears never to have married but went into business, becoming a partner in Powell, Turner & Co., wine merchants. In the 1911 Census he was one of ten patients in a private nursing home in Welbeck Street, Marylebone. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £7,535 8s 8d.

Charles William Middleton Kemp (No. 348).

Born: 26.4.1856, Forest Hill. *Died:* 15.5.1933, Ightam

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1878.

Educated: Harrow School & Oriel College, Oxford.

Parents: Charles Fitch Kemp & Sarah Thornton Kemp (*née* Edwards).

Charles Kemp was the eldest of the four Kemp brothers whose father, Charles Fitch Kemp JP, a successful Chartered Accountant, settled in the growing suburb of Forest Hill with eight servants including cook and footman before moving to Hildenborough in 1866. Here he commissioned the building of Foxbush House, now Sackville School. This provided a spacious home for his wife and ten children while the newly constructed Tonbridge to London railway enabled him to commute to his business in London and at the same time adopt the life of a country landowner. His firm in Lombard Street, CF Kemp & Co were one of the most prominent in their profession. Closely associated with the world of banking, following the sensational collapse in 1866 of Overend, Gurney & Co, the largest discount house in the city of London, he played an important role with private bankers and directors of the Bank of England, in mitigating the effects of the crisis. He is featured in *Leading Men of London*, a collection of biographical sketches published in 1895. Prominent in local affairs and a JP, he was President of Kent in 1904.

The first of three Kemps to captain Harrow, Charles Middleton Kemp had a top score of only 18 in 1874, his first season in the Eleven, but taking on the captaincy of both the Eleven and the School in the following year seems to have stimulated his cricket. Against Quidnuncs he scored 92 & 50 v I Zingari and in the crucial match against Eton took three for 50. At Oxford he was not apparently an automatic choice but reached double figures in three of his four first-class innings prior to the University Match and was awarded his Blue, probably on the strength of his fielding at cover point. Against Cambridge he contributed only two, 0* and four wicketless overs. His single match for Kent followed a little more than a fortnight later.

Thereafter he confined himself to club cricket for Band of Brothers, I Zingari, MCC, Oxford Harlequins, Old Harrovians, Sevenoaks Vine, Smeeth, Wildernesse and Hildenborough. He hit centuries against Sevenoaks Vine, for I Zingari in 1877 and for Hildenborough in 1882. In 1879 he took five wickets in an innings for Wildernesse v the House of Commons. Kemp spent some time in Suffolk and played twice for the county in 1881. In 1879 he took nine wickets for Newmarket against a Jockey's Eleven.

A considerable allround athlete, at school and university Kemp excelled at racquets, high jump, long jump, 100 yards sprint, quarter mile and 120 yards hurdles. He also threw the hammer. For 20 years he was Master of the Foxbush Harriers.

He emulated his father by choosing the profession of Chartered Accountant and joined the family firm as did his youngest brother Harold who played for Harrow 1885-1886. Again like his father, he became a JP during 1903 and married Mary Susan Dalton at St John's Church, Eton. There were two sons. In the 1911 Census he is living with his family at Knowle Paddock, Sevenoaks with his family and six live-in servants. At the time of his death he was at Copt Hall, Ightam. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £5,446 19s 8d.

Manley Colchester Kemp (No. 363).

Born: 7.9.1861, Forest Hill. *Died:* 30.6.1951, Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1880-1895. Kent cap 1882.

Educated: Harrow School & Hertford College, Oxford.

Parents: Charles Fitch Kemp & Sarah Thornton Kemp (*née* Edwards).

When present-day writers on cricket refer to Kent's great wicketkeeping tradition Manley Kemp rarely gets a mention. During the 1880s, knowledgeable followers of the game would have found this

odd. If never perhaps quite ranking with his amateur contemporaries Alfred Lyttelton and Kent's Edward Tylecote, at least as a batsman, he would surely have been in the top half dozen wicketkeepers in his day.

At the time England caps were not plentiful - there were only 17 home Test matches during his entire career – but Gentlemen v Players matches were then rated at least as highly as Test matches and he kept wicket for the Gentlemen at The Oval in 1883 and 1885 and at Lord's in 1884 and 1885, as well as playing twice for the Gentlemen against the Australian tourists. From 1886 to 1895 he was an automatic selection for Kent whenever he was available. For practical purposes this generally meant in the Harrow School holidays.

Manley Kemp was not of the quietly efficient school of wicketkeeping, epitomised among Kentish keepers by Leslie Ames. Although he would probably be considered subdued by present day standards, Kemp exuded high spirits with a vociferous appeal, usually accompanied by a leap and the ball thrown high in the air. Such behaviour did not please everybody and some critics, probably Etonians, described him as a 'clown cricketer' but he seems to have had a basically sound technique and missed very little.

In an interview with the magazine *The Cricket Field* in 1895, he expressed the view that to stump a batsman who lifted his back foot playing forward seemed 'a poor way of getting a man out' but 29% of his dismissals were via stumpings, a higher percentage than most Kent 'keepers apart from those who played in the Freeman/Marriott era between the wars. His rate of dismissals per match is actually better than that of the great Ames.

In front of the stumps his career figures are modest but in the early part of his career he often played as a batsman. For the most part he batted between No. 5 and No. 9 but by the end he had come in everywhere from one to eleven. Adept at squeezing runs from the tail, he could defend when called for but preferred to play shots, particularly in the arc between wide mid on and long leg. By reputation, he was a daring, even reckless, runner but he was only run out seven times in his career and if his partners suffered unduly, it is not readily apparent from score cards. His habit of pretending to run sometimes produced useful overthrows.

When he made runs they generally mattered. Although he only once passed 50 for Kent, for Oxford he played several notable innings including 82, his maiden half century, against Cambridge at Lord's in 1882, when he scored 41 of the 55 runs made for the last two wickets. Captaining Oxford in 1884 he scored in successive matches, 63* to see his side to victory over the Australians and 95 when Lancashire were beaten by 36 runs. Batting No. 5 against the full Lancashire attack including the fearsome (and alleged 'chucker') Jack Crossland, he was last out, the runs coming out of 160 and including one eight (four all run and an overthrow) and eight fours. For Gentlemen v Players at The Oval in 1885 he helped to save the game with 60* of the 128 scored for the last four wickets. His only century was 175 (21 fours) for the Gentlemen of England v Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1886. Coming to the wicket at 21 for six, he was last out with the score 298.

The son of a successful and influential , Chartered Accountant (for further information see under eldest son Charles William Middleton Kemp above), Manley Kemp entered Harrow School in 1875 but, according to his own account in *The Cricket Field*, did not take a serious interest in cricket until his second year. Despite the fact that his brother Charles was captain 'somehow or other I just drifted about and did not take kindly to the game'. Taking over the gloves reluctantly when nobody else was willing to do so, his talent was spotted by Lord Bessborough who, together with fellow Old Harrovians Robert Grimston and Isaac Walker, gave him regular coaching.

Even so, it was not until 1878 that he was chosen for the First Eleven and not until the following year that he became the team's regular stumper. In 1880 he emulated his elder brother by becoming

captain. According to *Scores & Biographies Vol.XV, page 216* 'His wicketkeeping whilst at Harrow was said to have been the best seen there for 20 years'.

In 1879, while still at school, he made his first-class debut, for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North in the opening game of the Scarborough Festival. At the end of the Harrow term in 1880, he kept wicket for Twelve of Kent v England and Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week and in two county matches, Derbyshire at Mote Park and Surrey at The Oval.

Going up to Oxford in 1881 with five first-class matches to his credit, he performed creditably in the first Trial match, MC Kemp's Eleven of Freshmen v CFH Leslie's Eleven of Freshmen, and four days later made his University debut, replacing Kent's Bill Patterson behind the stumps against MCC in the newly opened Parks. He went on to gain his Blue, as he did in each of the next three seasons. In 1883, Charles Leslie, the original choice for captain, was touring Australia with Ivo Bligh's Australian team and was late returning, Kemp leading the side in his place.

Chosen captain again in 1884, he had one of the most successful seasons in the history of Oxford University cricket. Beginning with a seven wicket victory over the Australians and a 31-run defeat by Gentlemen of England, there followed a run of six successive victories, Lancashire and MCC home and away, Surrey at The Oval and culminating in a seven wicket victory over Cambridge. For his University Kemp caught 15, stumped four, and headed the batting averages with 411 runs (avge.29.50).

Against the Australians, Oxford needed only 108 but were 24 for three when he joined Trevitt Hine-Haycock (*qv*) at the wicket and proceeded to hit 63* of the 86 scored without further loss. The last 25 came in 15 minutes. In addition to 95 against Lancashire, he was twice out in the 30s and three times in the 40s. *Lillywhite* considered him 'a first-rate captain, possessing plenty of decision and inspiring his men with confidence' while *Wisden* praised his 'good wicketkeeping and good generalship'.

During his time at Oxford, Kemp played for Kent in July and August and the pattern continued when he took up teaching. In 1881-1882 he played for Kent as a batsman with Tylecote (and in one instance Harry Wood) behind the stumps but he was Kent's first-choice 'keeper from 1883, when Tylecote made his last appearance, until 1895.

Restricted to the latter half of the season, Kemp's appearances for Kent varied between nine in 1889, eight in 1886 and 1894, to three in 1893. His most fruitful seasons were 1884, 35 dismissals (ct.25/st.10) in all matches, 1886, 31 (ct.18/st.13) and 24 (ct.16/st.8) in 1889.

With the bat, he never for Kent approached his Oxford form of 1884 but he contributed valuable late order runs. Against Surrey at Maidstone in 1883 he participated in a ninth-wicket partnership of 87 (Kemp 45, A Penn 66) and, batting No. 9 in the 1889 Canterbury Week, he scored 40 in an eighth-wicket partnership of 59 with Alec Hearne (36*) against Middlesex and 51 of the 77 added for the eighth wicket in 40 minutes with Leslie Wilson (132) against Gloucestershire.

Apart from Stanley Christopherson and, very briefly, Bill Bradley, Kemp was not often called on the take fast bowling but seems to have preferred to stand up when he did. He excelled in 'keeping to Kent's battery of left-arm bowlers. For Fred 'Nutty' Martin, who made much use of the ball which went with his arm, he claimed 45 victims (ct.22/st.23), for Jim Wootton, an orthodox left-arm spinner, 20 (ct.11/st.9) and Walter Wright, pioneer of the in-swinging, 20 (ct.16/st.4). His second most fruitful partnership was with Alec Hearne, right-arm, mainly off-spin, 32 (ct.20/st.12). In two matches whilst standing up to WG Grace he picked up seven wickets (ct.6/st.1).

Below first-class level he was a heavy scorer. For his College against Trinity he hit 130* in 1883 and 219 in 1884 and scored a second double hundred in 1886, 211 for Tonbridge v Sevenoaks Vine.

Among other clubs he played for Band of Brothers, for whom he hit two centuries, Free Foresters, Harrow Town, Harrow Wanderers, Linton Park, Old Harrovians, MCC, Sevenoaks Vine, Southborough, I Zingari and, somewhat surprisingly, Elstree Masters. As late as May 1914 he took his own Eleven to play Harrow School.

Kemp excelled at other sports. He was racquets champion at Harrow in 1878, 1879 and 1880 and in 1879 and 1880 won the Public Schools Cup. With CFH Leslie as his doubles partner, he represented Oxford v Cambridge at racquets in 1880 and 1881 and, with EM Butler, was runner-up in the Amateur Doubles Championship in 1892 at Queen's Club. In his College sports at Oxford in 1884 he won the long-jump, high-jump and hurdles. In 1883/1884 he represented Oxford against Cambridge at Association Football.

Known at the School as 'Bishop', Kemp's name became almost synonymous with Harrow. An Assistant Master at Winchester from 1885 to 1888, he returned to Harrow in the latter year and was a House Master from 1901 to 1921. According to the *Times* obituarist he ruled his form, House and Cricket Elevens with 'affectionate and vivacious tyranny'. He watched a match at Harrow only a few weeks before his death.

In 1926 he married Dorothy Lucy Stendall (born 1875) at St.George's, Hanover Square. Her younger sister, Marguerite (born 1882) married Manley Kemp's younger brother Harold Fitch Kemp (born 1863). At the time of his death, Kemp and his wife were living in Tring. His estate was valued for probate at £38,987 11s 3d.

George Herbert Kibble (No. 404).

Born: 9.10.1865, Greenwich. *Died:* 4.1.1923, Camberwell, London.

Kent 1889.

Parents: Richard Kibble & Millicent Kibble (*née* Nash).

George Kibble was a regular run scorer for West Kent Wanderers, when he made three and six in his only appearance for Kent, against Lancashire at Old Trafford. In a match immediately following, he scored 119 v Old Charlton and scored 50 against the same opponents in 1890. He joined West Kent Wanderers – not in fact a wandering club - in the early 1880s and continued to play until at least 1895. Unfortunately, there is no indication, in the relatively little that has been written about him, whether he batted right-handed or left, probably the former as left-handed batsmen were fairly rare in his day.

Membership of the club included from time to time Kent professionals George Hearne, Edward Henty, two of the Coppingers and Claude Buckenham who was on the Kent staff before achieving wider fame as a fast bowler with Essex and England. The club played for many years on No.1 pitch Blackheath and employed Ned Willsher as groundsman and professional in the closing years of his career. Another George Kibble, presumably a relative, had played for the club in the 1870s.

Outside of cricket, George Kibble had a chequered career. His father Robert was a goldsmith and jeweller at 11 London Road, Greenwich, a business later run by his widow Millicent. Two of their sons were apprenticed to the business, one as a watchmaker, the other as a goldsmith, but not apparently George.

There were at the time a surprisingly large number of Kibbles in South East London but, while there can be little doubt that in 1891 and at the time of his daughter's birth in 1892, he was a printer, by the next Census in 1901 things become confusing. A George H Kibble with approximately the right time and place of birth is a dock labourer lodging with a dressmaker in Albany Street, Deptford but he is shown as being single. In the 1911 Census, a George H Kibble, again with approximately the right time and place of birth, is lodging in Camberwell and working as a 'servant to the insane' but he is

shown as being a widower whereas the lady who gave birth to his daughter in 1891 did not die until 1951. On his death certificate he was 'store porter'.

In 1891 he married Alice Louise Webb at St Paul's Church, Greenwich. There were two children, a daughter born 1892 and a son born 1898. At the time they were living in Malpas Road, Brockley.

Percy Marmaduke Kidd MD, FRCP (No. 308).

Born: 13.2.1851, Blackheath. *Died:* 21.1.1942, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1874.

Educated: Uppingham School & Balliol College, Oxford.

Parents: Joseph Kidd & Sophia Kidd (*née* McKern).

Percy Kidd's only match for Kent, in the 1874 Canterbury Week, could hardly have been less productive (a pair) but he achieved a great deal more in the wider world, becoming a leading specialist in respiratory diseases and chest infections. At Uppingham he was in the Eleven from 1867 to 1869, as captain in 1868 and 1869. In the latter year he was also the school's Athletics Champion. Primarily a bowler, he took ten wickets in the match against Haileybury in 1868 and 13 against Repton in 1869. Although normally batting in the lower order, in 1875 he scored 66 opening for Uppingham Rovers v Free Foresters. At Oxford he played in the Freshmen's match in 1870 and the Seniors' in 1872, when he went on to play for the Next Sixteen.

The son of Joseph Kidd, an eminent physician who lived in Brooklands, Blackheath Park, Percy Kidd had a distinguished career at Oxford and trained at Barts – BA 1875, Bachelor of Medicine & MA 1878 when he also won the Radcliffe travelling fellowship, MD 1882, FRCP 1885. In 1879 he was appointed Assistant Physician and Pathologist at the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest and subsequently at Brompton Hospital for Consumption. He was elected assistant physician and joint lecturer on pathology at London Hospital in 1897 and shortly afterwards became senior physician and lecturer on the principles and practice of medicine.

In the 1881 Census he is living at Brooklands with his family and five servants but by 1901 he had progressed to Brook Street, Mayfair. He was the author of two books, *A Contribution to the Pathology of Haemophilia (London 1878)* and *The Lumlian Lectures on Some Moot Points in the Pathology and Clinical History of Pneumonia (London 1912)*.

In December 1882 he married Gertrude Eleanor Harrison at St. Michael's & All Angels, Blackheath. There were three sons. One, Eric Leslie (Cambridge University & Middlesex), played 147 first-class matches, captained Cambridge to victory at Lord's and played twice for the Gentlemen. Like his father and his grandfather who died aged 94, son Eric lived to a great age, in his case also 94. Another son, Guy, was killed in France in 1916 while serving as a Major in the Royal Artillery.

On his death Percy Kidd's estate was valued for probate at £6,717 13s 6 d.

Frederick King (No. 275).

Born: 12.11.1850, Harbledown. *Died:* 16.6.1893, Hammersmith, London.

Kent 1871.

Parents: John King & Elizabeth King (*née* Doubell).

Frederick King was born at Hall Place, Harbledown, near Canterbury where his father was butler to the owner, Miss Elizabeth Webb. Now part of Canterbury Christ Church University, Hall Place was

for many years the offices and works of JA Jennings Ltd, who from 1953 to 1990 printed the Kent CCC Annual.

King played for Harbledown, Canterbury Citizens and for St. Lawrence and in 1871, the year of his solitary match for Kent, appeared for Gentlemen of Kent v Eighteen Colts of Kent at Canterbury.

He studied agriculture locally and in the 1880s farmed 250 acres at Coldred Court Farm, Coldred, but by the 1891 Census he has moved to nearby Hernhill and is 'living on own means'. His father, who retired on an annuity from the Webb family, played for Harbledown in the 1840s and brother George for Canterbury Citizens.

In March 1875 he married Mary Clinch from Lenham, at St.Dunstan's Church, Canterbury. At the time of his death in West London Hospital, Hammersmith, he was living at Wey Street, Farm, Hernhill. On his death his effects were valued at £640 12s 9d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

John King (No. 367).

Born: 1855, Southampton, Hampshire. Presumably *dead*.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1881-.1882.

Another player whose precise identity is uncertain, he was probably the Hampshire-born John King who was working as a carpenter in Tonbridge although another possible candidate was working at the same time as a railway labourer and living in Cliffe. It seems likely that he had some local reputation when he appeared for 22 colts against the County at Mote Park in 1881. He scored only two and eight and was not one of the eight bowlers used but was nevertheless picked for three first team games later that season, v MCC at Lord's, Derbyshire at Derby and Somerset at Bath. The latter, the first ever against the Western county, does not rate as first-class. On his debut he took one for 53 and three for 43.

In the following season he played for the Club against Twenty-Two Colts at Gravesend in 1881 but Kent were at the time well supplied with left-arm bowlers and he did not appear again. It seems likely that he was the J King who took four for 64 and one for 29 for Hampshire v Somerset (now first-class) later that season but this was his only game for the county of his birth.

Colonel Henry Bloomfield Kingscote (No. 249).

Born: 28.2.1843, Kingscote Hall, Kingscote, Gloucestershire. *Died:* 1.8.1915, Belgravia, London.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1867.

Parents: Col. Thomas Kingscote & the Hon Harriet Kingscote (*née* Bloomfield).

Henry Kingscote was one of nine children of Col. Thomas Kingscote JP, who owned 640 acres of Gloucestershire, The Kingscote family claimed to be able to trace their lineage back to Eva, a sister of William the Conqueror and even had their own race course and a cricket club, Kingscote CC, important enough in its day to have played MCC at Lord's in 1827. The family was related to Beatrice Sumner and played a major role in the attempt to end her relationship with Charles Hoare (*qv*).

Most of his cricket was for MCC, I Zingari and Royal Artillery but he appeared once for Kent – his debut in first-class cricket – and three times for his native Gloucestershire as well as for his family

club. He played three times for MCC against Kent in Canterbury Cricket Week and in 1877 caught five and stumped three. In non-first-class matches, he also appeared twice in Cricket Week for I Zingari v Gentlemen of Kent.

Kingscote joined the Royal Artillery in 1859 and was promoted Lieutenant in 1862, Captain 1875, Major 1882, Lt. Colonel 1891, and full colonel 1896. His service included Gibraltar (1863-1864), India (1871-1889) and Egypt (1885-1886). He retired on half-pay 1889-1891 but returned as CRA Canada from September 1896 to his final retirement in February 1900.

He became Secretary of the RA Cricket Club in 1869, regular wicketkeeper for the RA from 1864 to 1881 and played a great deal of cricket while in India. An accomplished performer behind the stumps, in minor cricket in England he stumped more batsmen than he caught. As a batsman, although he only once reached double figures in first-class cricket, he frequently scored runs in good quality club and Army cricket including 118 for the RA v the Household Brigade in 1867 and 96 for RA v Quidnuncs in 1878.

Henry Kingscote married three times. In 1870 he married Louisa, Catherine Ridley, daughter of Major General Charles Ridley at Trinity Church, Marylebone. They divorced in 1873. The co-respondent was Charles Francis Buller (Harrow, Devonshire & Middlesex), briefly of the Life Guards and one of the leading batsmen of the day. He had scored 101 and 89* for Household Brigade v RA (including Kingscote) in 1868. Although Buller denied adultery, in the Gaiety Restaurant, Strand and the Bedford Hotel, Covent Garden among other places, he was obliged to pay costs of £89.10s. The lady married him but at this point it may be appropriate to echo Buller's obituary in the 1907 *Wisden* – 'Into the scandals that marred Mr Buller's private life and caused his social eclipse, this is obviously not the place to enter'. This marriage too ended in divorce. One of his several 'natural' daughters was reputedly the model for Thackeray's Becky Sharp. As for Buller himself, although he was 'Dear old Charlie Buller' to Lord Harris, there is perhaps more than a touch of George Macdonald Fraser's Flashman.

Scandals notwithstanding, the former Miss Ridley married again, this time Sir Marcus Beresford KCVO, equerry and racing manager to the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and George V. The long running feud between Admiral of the Fleet 'Jackie' Fisher and Admiral Sir Charles Beresford which at one time threatened to divide the Royal Navy has been attributed, at least in part, to Beresford's resentment of Mrs Fisher's behaviour towards his sister-in-law.

In 1880 Kingscote married a widow, Mary Hamilton Laurence at St. Thomas's Church, Portman Square. In 1895 this union too ended in divorce. The co-respondent in this case was Richard Henry Boyle, 6th Earl of Shannon. His third wife, who survived him, was Ella Burnett whom he married in Canada *circa* 1899. At the time of the 1911 Census Henry Kingscote was living in Eaton Terrace with his wife and four servants. On his death his estate was valued at £707 3s 8d.

He was the nephew of Henry Robert Kingscote, President of MCC in 1827. Noted in his day as 'a fine slashing hitter' and allround sportsman, together with GT Knight (*qv*) Henry Robert Kingscote was active in the staging of the three England v Sussex matches played in 1827 to test the merits of round-arm bowling.

Rev Henry Edward Knatchbull (No. 58).

Born: 20.8.1808, Mersham Hatch. *Died:* 31.8.1876, Campsea Ash, Suffolk.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1827-1848.

Educated: Winchester College & Wadham College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Edward Knatchbull, Eighth Baronet & Lady Mary Knatchbull (*née* Hawkins).

Henry Knatchbull was in the Eleven at Winchester, scoring 60 against Harrow in 1825 and 54 in 1826 when he also captained the side. Going up to Oxford in 1827, he played in the first ever match against Cambridge. Later that year he made his first appearance for Kent and the first of his six for Gentlemen v Players.

Although so far as records show he played few innings of substance after leaving Winchester, Knatchbull was considered a 'fine free hitter' despite receiving the ball with 'left foot extended as far as possible from the right, sideways with the wicket' – difficult to imagine but probably an early version of the two-eyed stance.. Due to his penchant for driving the ball in that direction, the area at Lord's now occupied by the Warner Stand was once known as 'Knatchbull's Corner'.

Knatchbull took Holy Orders and from 1833 to 1867 was Vicar of North Elmham, Norfolk where the living included 65 acres of farmland. From 1867 until his death he was Rector of Camsey Ash, Suffolk and appeared for both counties as well as for Bury St Edmunds, frequently playing under the name 'Edwards',

Knatchbull's best effort for Kent was in the last of his three matches, v England at Lord's in 1848, when he was top scorer with 14 in an all out total of 49. He appeared eight times for Gentlemen of Kent and in 1846 hit 72 against Gentlemen of England at Lord's, his personal highest. Coming in at No. 10 (promoted from No. 11 in the first innings), he added 113 for the ninth wicket with Lyttelton Bayley (29*) (*qv*).

As well as for the Gentlemen, for whom his top score was 25. Norfolk, Suffolk and Bury St Edmunds, Knatchbull played five times for 'England', twice against Cambridge in the University match, for Gentlemen of England, MCC, Gentlemen of West Kent and once for Middlesex before there was a club of that name as well as in odds and ends matches such as A to K v S to Z.

He was the uncle of WW Knatchbull-Hugessen (*qv*) and Herbert Thomas Knatchbull-Hugessen, President of Kent 1883. In September 1835 he married Pleasance Bagge, at the Church of St. Margaret & St. Nicholas, King's Lynn. On his death his effects were valued at 'Under £7,000'.

Cecil Marcus Knatchbull- Hugessen (later Fourth Lord Brabourne) (No. 387).

Born: 27.11.1863, Chelsea, London. *Died:* 15.2.1933, at sea.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1884.

Educated: Eton College & King's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Edward Knatchbull- Hugessen, first Lord Brabourne & Lady Anna Maria Knatchbull- Hugessen (*née* Southwell).

Great-great nephew of Jane Austen, Cecil Knatchbull-Hugessen was in the Eleven at Eton in 1881-1883. Elected to a scholarship at King's College, Cambridge he made his first-class debut for the university v Yorkshire in 1884. Opening the batting on his second appearance, against Gentlemen of England, he scored 32, his personal highest but was not picked again that year.

He did however play his one game for Kent, albeit with modest results. He captained his college but was picked only twice for the university in 1885 and did not gain his Blue until 1886 when he was in the side primarily as wicketkeeper. Apart from 30* against MCC at Fenner's he did little with the bat but retained his place despite another keeper being called in for the University match. The 1886 *Lillywhite* judged him a 'fine batsman and wicketkeeper when he tries.'

An accomplished classics scholar, he returned to Eton as a master for a year and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1890. His main career however was in business, primarily with Consolidated Goldfields where he was extensively involved with the company's worldwide mining and industrial activities. He was Chairman at the time of his death.

He became the Fourth Baron Brabourne on the death in action in 1915 of his nephew and inherited Mersham le Hatch, a Robert Adam house near Ashford, together with an extensive library. In November 1893 he married Helena Regina Frederica von Flesch Brunnigen, daughter of the Imperial Councillor of Vienna at Trinity Church, Chelsea. There were no children and she died in 1919.

To pass the time on a long sea voyage, he wrote *The Political Evolution of the Hungarian Nation* which became a standard work on the subject. In 1887 he was appointed one of the Trustees of the Alfred Mynn Memorial Fund. He died at sea on the *SS Caernavon Castle* on a return journey from Cape Town. He was a nephew of WW Knatchbull-Hugessen (qv) and of Herbert Thomas Knatchbull-Hugessen, President of Kent CCC 1883.

On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £37,088 0s 9d.

William Western Knatchbull-Hugessen (No. 195).

Born: 23.5.1837, Mersham Hatch. *Died:* 6.9.1864, St Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1859.

Educated: Eton College and Magdalen College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Edward Knatchbull & Lady Francis Catherine Knatchbull (*née* Austen Knight).

Western Knatchbull-Hugessen failed to gain a place in the Eleven at either Eton or Oxford but was a member of the Management Committee of the original Kent CCC formed at Maidstone in 1859 and played one match for the club in their inaugural season. He resigned from the Committee in 1863 due to ill-health in 1863 and died in the following year. He was replaced by his brother Herbert Thomas.

In his appearances in first-class cricket, he kept wicket and batted No.11 in two matches for Gentlemen of Kent and opened (with William Fryer behind the stumps) for Kent v Middlesex. He played at least six games not now recognised as first-class for Gentlemen of Kent 1856 and 1860, usually opening the batting and keeping wicket. Only once did he exceed ten when, against Gentlemen of Hampshire at Canterbury, he scored 35 in an all out total of 87. The next highest was 15.

At the time of the 1861 Census he is a fundholder, presumably farming and living at Provender House, Norton, together with two gardeners and three agricultural labourers. On his death his estate was valued for probate at 'under £9,000'.

Brook John Knight (No. 127).

Born: September 1808, Godmersham. *Died:* 10.1.1878, Westminster, London.

Kent 1844.

Educated: Winchester College .

Parents: Edward Austen Knight & Elizabeth Austen Knight (*née* Bridges).

The younger brother of Edward and George Thomas Knight, grandson son of Sir Brook Bridges (Third Baron), son of Edward Knight snr. and nephew of Jane Austen, Brook Knight was baptized Austen but, like his brothers, changed his name to Knight in 1812 in accordance with the terms of his mother's will.

As well as his single appearance for Kent, he also appeared in three first-class matches for Gentlemen of Kent, the last on the Beverley Ground in the 1845 Canterbury Week. He also played one first-class and at least one other match for MCC (against Eton) but there is no record of his having ever progressed as far as double figures.

A professional soldier, he served in the Sixth Dragoons, retiring in 1860 with the rank of Captain. In the 1851 Census he is staying with his brother at Godmersham Park where their needs are tended to by 25 assorted servants. He later lived in Mayfair.

In February 1853 he married Margaret Pearson at Paddington Parish Church. It seems likely that there was one, possibly two daughters from an earlier relationship. At the time of his death, he was living in Hanover Square. His estate was valued for probate at 'under £4,000'. He was buried in Chawton, Hampshire.

Edward Knight JP (No. 28).

Born: 10.7.1794, Goodnestone Park. *Died:* 5.11.1879, Alton, Hampshire.

Kent 1822-1828.

Educated: Winchester College & St John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Edward Austen Knight & Elizabeth Austen Knight (née Bridges).

Eldest of the Knight brothers, Edward Knight played his early cricket for the Prince's Plain Club. In 1815 he scored nine and 16 for Gentlemen of East Kent v Gentlemen of West Kent on Penenden Heath and in 1822 made his first appearance for MCC as well as playing for Kent against the club.

The Austen/Knight family had Hampshire connections through the Chawton estate and in 1825 Knight played four games for the county, scoring his personal best 34, v Sussex at Bramshill Park. Edward Knight senior inherited both Godmersham Park in Kent (sold in 1874) and Chawton House near Alton and in 1826 his elder son took up permanent residence at Chawton where his aunt, Jane Austen, had done much of her writing.

Knight played for 16 Gentlemen of Kent v MCC at Lord's in 1825 and three more games for Kent, all alongside brother George and all against Sussex. In the first, at Sevenoaks in 1827, he top scored with 25 against an attack including three of the greatest bowlers of the day, William Lillywhite, 'Jem' Broadbridge and George Brown and scored 18 in the return at Brighton. Played when the controversy over the legalisation of round-arm was at its height, it had been agreed that the bowling would be exclusively under-arm but brother George for Kent and Broadbridge and Lillywhite for Sussex soon reverted to the new method.

He also appeared twice that year at Sevenoaks for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent (not first-class) and twice for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, in both of which the Gentlemen fielded 17 men. In the second innings of the first match Knight was top scorer with 24.

He married twice. In 1826 Mary Dorothea Knatchbull (1807-1838) by whom he had five sons and two daughters, all of whom lived well beyond infancy. He then married Adela Porter (1818-1870) by whom he had five sons, one of whom died in infancy and six daughters, one of whom died in infancy.

Knight carried out extensive restoration and renovation work at Chawton House and lived there for the remainder of his life. In the 1861 Census he is with his wife, three sons, five daughters, a governess and 26 servants, as well employing 18 labourers on the 399 acre estate. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Kent and father of William Wyndham Knight (qv). On his death his estate was valued at 'under £70,000'

George Thomas Knight (No. 59).

Born: 22.11.1795, Goodnestone Park. *Died:* 25.8.1867, Moorfield, Herefordshire. Kent 1827-1828.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast round-arm bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Educated: Winchester College & St John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Edward Austen Knight & Elizabeth Austen Knight (née Bridges).

Of all Jane Austen's cricketing relatives, George Knight was the one who made the greatest impact on the game. Reputedly her favourite nephew, in a letter written in 1798 she refers to him with something less than her usual felicitous use of language as 'itty Dordy'

Although in no sense a pioneer of round-arm bowling like John Willes (*qv*), he was less easily put off and, using his position as an influential member of MCC, did more than most to bring about its acceptance. Just as Willes was said to have been led to adopt round arm after facing the bowling of his sisters who, in the voluminous skirts of the period, were unable to deliver true under arm, so Knight was reputedly influenced by practice against female bowling.

By the 1820s more and more bowlers were raising their arm to shoulder level (and above) and, crucially, *with the back of the hand uppermost*. Lillywhite and Broadbridge of Sussex were the leading exponents and precisely when Knight joined the movement is unknown. No record of his early cricket seems to have survived but with his Chawton connections, his first first-class match was for Hampshire against England in 1820.

With the printed scores only crediting wickets to the bowler when he hit the stumps, there is no positive evidence that Knight bowled in his debut match but he scored 50 and took at least one wicket for William Ward's Eleven v HJ Lloyd's Eleven at Lord's in June 1825 (not first-class), and scored 27 and four playing for MCC v Godalming at Lord's later in the month. There is no doubt that Knight was bowling round arm by 1827 and in May that year he took at least seven wickets for MCC v the Percy Club.

With the issue becoming highly contentious, Knight was frequently no-balled, and, very largely at his instigation, three England v Sussex matches were staged in June and July specifically for the purpose of assessing round arm. Knight was in the England side for the last two, at Lord's and Brighton. At Lord's it seems to have been agreed that only Sussex would bowl round arm but Knight nevertheless took at least four wickets. At Brighton his round-arm deliveries were considered the decisive factor in England's victory, their only win of the series. Although the score sheet only credits him with three wickets (all of course bowled), seven batsman were caught, two stumped and two hit wicket. Some of these, if not most, were clearly from his bowling and he continued to offend the conservative faction in two subsequent Kent v Sussex matches which were viewed by many as further trials.

In 1827 he also made the first of five appearances for Gentlemen v Players, taking at least seven wickets as the Gentlemen (who fielded 17) triumphed by 29 runs. Round arm was banned in a return match 12 days later when the Players totalled 334 and won by an innings. It was in 1827 that Knight achieved his highest recorded score, 92 for Sevenoaks Vine v West Kent.

Initiated by Knight, in the following year there began some voluminous and increasingly acrimonious correspondence in *The Gentlemen's Magazine* with the traditionalist view espoused mainly by the journalist and one-time Surrey Secretary William Denison, The upshot was a specially convened meeting of MCC at which Knight proposed an amendment to the Laws. The motion was defeated largely due to the advocacy of the famous batsman William Ward but the genie was out of the bottle

and under arm had clearly had its day. Bowlers continued to transgress, umpires were acquiescent and round arm was duly legalised in 1835.

Without doing anything of particular note, Knight played four more games for Kent in 1828 with a top score of 29 v Surrey at Godalming. He appeared for Gentlemen v Players in 1831, 1832 and 1837, for MCC and for England v the Bs in 1831. In matches not judged first-class he scored 45 for MCC v the Percy Club at Lord's and 43 for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Sevenoaks in 1828, 41 for MCC v Norfolk at Lord's in 1831.

In February 1837 at St. Mary's Church, Bryanston Square, Knight became the third husband of Hilaire Lady Nelson (née Barlow), widow of the First Earl Nelson, elder brother of the Admiral who had gained the title following his brother's death at Trafalgar in 1805. The first Lady Nelson died in 1857.

At the time of his close involvement with cricket and MCC he seems to have been living for most of the time at Godmersham but much of his later life was spent abroad. In the 1861 Census he is a 'Fundholder' living in a lodging house in Suffolk Street, off Pall Mall. It was written of him that he was 'one of those men who are clever enough to do almost anything, but live to their lives' end very comfortably doing nothing'.

On his death his estate was valued at 'under £4,000'. At the time of his death he was living at the University Club, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall.

Wyndham William Knight (No. 217).

Born: 5.12.1828, Chawton, Hampshire. *Died:* 17.9.1918, Bilting.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1862.

Parents: Edward Knight & Mary Dorothea Knight (née Knatchbull).

The son of Edward Knight (*q.v.*), Wyndham Knight was serving as a Captain in the East Kent Mounted Rifles when he was one of the founders of Band of Brothers. He played in their first match, v Torry Hill at Evington in 1858. In their early days BB was more a social than a cricket club but he played in most of their games until 1866 with a top score of 47 v East Kent Mounted Rifles in 1864. He also played frequently for Beverley, at least twice for Gentlemen of Kent, for East Kent Mounted Rifles and for Earl Sondes Eleven at Lees Court. In his one match for Kent he batted No. 11 in both innings and was not one of the seven bowlers used.

Wyndham Knight lived as a 'Gentlemen' for most of his life with his wife at Bilting House, Godmersham where he was a local JP. His brother Charles played for Cambridge University and MCC.

In 1849 he married Henrietta Frances Armstrong (1824-1891). There were two children, one son, one daughter. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £28,948 10d 5d.

Frederick Hammett Knott MC (No. 511).

Born: 30.10.1891, Tunbridge Wells. *Died:* 10.2.1972, Woking, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-break bowler.

Kent 1910-1914. Kent cap 1910.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Frederick George Knott & Alice Annie Knott.

One of the outstanding schoolboy cricketers of his or any generation, Freddie Knott was second in the Tonbridge averages in 1908 and 1909 when he scored 198 against Sherborne but few cricketers of his age could match his record in 1910. Despite the cares of captaincy, he scored 1,126 runs (avge.80.43) with centuries against Band of Brothers, MCC, Blue Mantles, Blackheath, Old Tonbridgians and Sherborne. For Public Schools v MCC he hit 155.

Brought into the Kent side as opening batsman in August 1910, he began with 29 and 20 v Somerset at Taunton and on his third appearance, v Worcestershire at Dover, scored 114 in 130 minutes with 13 fours and one five against an attack including England allrounder Ted Arnold and two genuine fast bowlers, William Burns and Dick Burrows. In four further matches his top score was 47 but only once was he dismissed below double figures. *Wisden* thought that 'nothing in connection with Kent cricket in 1910 was so important' as Knott's arrival.

Unfortunately, afflicted by eye troubles, Freddie Knott never again achieved anything comparable. Arriving at Oxford in 1911 as one destined for greatness, he failed to win a Blue despite 72 in the Freshmens' Match and 66* against Worcestershire. 1912 was better, beginning with a century in the Seniors' Match and 82 in the Trial, followed by 70 v the South Africans and 80 v MCC but, a Blue notwithstanding, 428 runs (avge.24.33) was disappointing for a batsman of his potential.

He remained in the Oxford side for two more years, as secretary in 1913 and captain in 1914, ending on a high note with victory over Cambridge by 194 runs. In the second innings at Lord's he was back near his best with an innings of 56 when Oxford needed quick runs. Nevertheless an overall record of 1,324 runs (avge.27.02) for Oxford with only two centuries hardly matched expectations.

At Rugby Football, he played against Cambridge in all four years, 1911-1914 and scored a try for the Rest v England in the Final Trial in 1912. Between 1911 and 1914 Knott made another five appearances for Kent with a top score of 46 in his last innings, v Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells.

On leaving university Freddie Knott was an assistant master at Marlborough but war intervened almost immediately. Commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant in December 1914, he was posted to the Seventh (Service) Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, part of the 26th Division in Kitchener's New Army. In the summer of 1915, shortly before the Division sailed for France, he was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant. The Division was originally earmarked for the Battle of Loos but fortunately perhaps, they were not used and instead in October it was despatched to Salonika.

Apart from two spells in hospital, Knott commanded a company on (mainly defensive) frontline service throughout 1916 and was promoted Temporary Captain in September that year. In April 1917, the British Army began its first major offensive of the Macedonian campaign, known as the Battle of Doiran. During the battle Knott's battalion suffered over 60% casualties, including 14 of its 15 officers. Knott was among them, shot through the left arm, a wound which affected his cricket for the rest of his life. Evacuated to England, when sufficiently recovered he was posted in April 1918 to the Third Battalion, the depot battalion located at the time in Sittingbourne. He was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the MC in the 1918 New Year's Honours.

Freddie Knott left the Army in 1919, but instead of returning to Marlborough, between 1920 and 1932 he taught at preparatory schools at Eastbourne, Hayward's Heath and Cooden.

Handicapped by his war wound, he played one Second Eleven match for Kent, a handful of matches for HDG Leveson Gower's Eleven at the Saffrons and once in 1926 for Sussex v Cambridge University at Hove. At club level, where his leg breaks and googlies sometimes got results, he played for Band of Brothers, Eastbourne and for Yellowhammers into the 1930s. His last match of importance was for RASC v Southern Command on the Clifton College Ground in 1942.

When the Second World War broke out he was working for a company distributing Morris and MG Cars. Rejoining the Army, he served in the RASC, retiring as a Major. From 1945 to 1946 he was Secretary of Worplesdon Golf Club and from 1956 to 1961 of the New Zealand Golf Club. In 1922 he married Joan Pike. There were two sons.

William Lancelot Knowles (No. 421).

Born: 27.11.1870, Twineham, Sussex. *Died:* 1.12.1943, Ditchling, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1892-1903. Kent cap 1892.

Educated: Hurstpierpoint College.

Parents: Frederick Hartley Knowles & Fanny Seymour Knowles (*née* Alexander).

The son of Frederick Knowles who farmed 120 acres at Twineham Lodge, near Hayward's Heath, Lance Knowles scored at least two centuries while at Hurstpierpoint and also represented his school at Association football and fives. His talent did not go unnoticed. In 1884 he scored a century for Lord Sheffield's Eleven at Sheffield Park but before Sussex could call on his services, work on the Stock Exchange necessitated a move nearer London.

In 1890, while living with his now widowed mother in Bromley, he scored 100* for Plaistow v Forest Hill and, qualified by residence, made his debut for Kent against MCC at Lord's two years later. In his third match, against Sussex at Gravesend, he hit 85*, adding 113 for the sixth wicket with Leslie Wilson (70). On his next appearance in a low scoring game with Surrey at Tonbridge he was leading scorer in the match with a hard-earned 42 in the second innings against Lohmann, Richardson and Lockwood. His final games that year, in Canterbury Week, were less happy – a pair against Gloucestershire's Australian left-arm spinner John Ferris, 12 and eight against Notts.

Knowles never again played in Canterbury Week, which almost certainly indicates that he was not considered quite among the top flight of Kent's amateurs, but he was often available early in the season when others were not. Good on spin-friendly wickets, he was prepared to travel to northern grounds – he played three times in Yorkshire – and often scored runs when the bowlers were on top. Between 1893 and 1899 he only once passed 50 – 79 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1895 – but often contributed useful 30s and 40s

In 1900 he eclipsed all past performances with successive centuries, 127 v Somerset at Blackheath and 124 v Surrey at The Oval. In the first he shared a 132 run seventh-wicket partnership with Dick Blaker (44). At The Oval, again facing Richardson and Lockwood as well as Lees, Brockwell and Jephson, 248 runs were scored in 160 minutes in a fourth-wicket partnership with Jack Mason (147).

There was only one more innings of substance to come for Kent, 92 v Oxford University in the Parks, but Knowles appeared for Gentlemen of England v Oxford under the captaincy of WG Grace in 1905 and in the same year made his one appearance for Sussex, v Notts at Hove. His final first-class match was for Gerry Weigall's Eleven v Oxford in 1914. Until he returned to live in Sussex, Knowles continued to play for Plaistow and Bickley Park; subsequently he appeared regularly for Gentlemen of Sussex.

In 1922 Knowles was appointed Secretary of Sussex CCC after a brief spell deputising for the previous Secretary William Sarel. An urbane character, capable of mixing with people from any background, he proved to be one of the best and most forward thinking of his time, travelling all over the county on fund raising whist drives and dances as well as doing some talent spotting. He was largely instrumental in setting up Worthing Cricket Week which flourished between the wars. He was one of the first to encourage women's cricket, turning a blind eye when women members used the

Club's practice facilities. He retired in 1942 due to ill-health. He was a JP and Master of the Brighton foot beagles.

In 1928 he married Lilian E Wood at East Preston, Sussex. On his death, his effects were valued at £1,817 1s 2d.

William Lambert (No. 7),

Born: 1779, Burstow, Surrey. *Died:* 19.4.1851; Nutfield, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1806.

Parents: William Lambert & Ruth Lambert (*née* Flint).

The leading allrounder of his era, William Lambert was another prominent cricketer who played a single game for Kent as 'given man', In his *History of Cricket*, the late Harry Altham described Lambert as 'probably the greatest force in English cricket' in the first decade and a half of the 19th century. Not only was he in the top two or three among contemporary batsman. He was the first to score two hundreds in a match, 107 & 157 as a 'given man' for Sussex v Epsom, Lord's 1817, and was an early exponent of round arm.

He was also an outstanding single-wicket player, most famously in 1810 when, with his partner 'Squire' Osbaldeston unable to play due to illness, he single-handedly and comprehensively defeated Lord Frederick Beauclerk (*qv*) and the Sussex fast bowler Tom Howard. As a 'given man' he played for the Gentlemen in the first two Gentlemen v Players matches in 1806

His career at the top came to an abrupt end when he was accused of involvement in 'selling' the England v Twenty-Two of Nottingham match at the Forest ground in 1817 in which he failed to reach double figures but bowled eight, caught four and stumped one.

The match, won by Nottingham by 30 runs, was allegedly 'sold' on both sides but as Beauclerk was involved as both player and one of the accusers, there may well be far more to the story than is ever likely to emerge.

Lambert continued to play local cricket in Surrey and Sussex until 1839. The great William Clarke admitted to having learned much from Lambert. Away from cricket, he reputedly ran a Fuller's earth business but the only William Lambert in the 1841 Census is listed as a farmer. In 1803 he married Ann Dodd in Nutfield. There were two sons.

Henry Thomas Lane (No. 38).

Born: 17.5.1793; Marylebone, London. *Died:* 15.2.1834; Middleton House, Sussex.

Kent 1823.

Parents: Thomas & Mary Lane.

Although not, so far as surviving records show, a notably successful batsman, Henry Lane played twice for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, in 1820 and in 1827, when his scores were three, three, 0 and 0*. Most of his cricket was for the West Kent club but his first match at Lord's was in 1817 for William Ward's Fifteen against Benjamin Aislabie's Fifteen and in the following year he appeared against MCC for another Kent based club, Prince's Plain.

His two appearances for Kent in 1823 were both against MCC, at Lord's and on his home ground at Chislehurst. He also played a number of matches for MCC in one of which (not rated first-class) he

reached his highest recorded score, 42 opening the batting against the Bullingdon club at Lord's in 1820. He appeared in one match for Hampshire (in 1819).

He is possibly the Henry Thomas Lane who married Jane Rachel Lambert at St. Pancras, London in 1831.

Lieutenant Colonel Hervey Major Lawrence DSO & Bar OBE (No. 471).

Born: 24.3.1881; Hadlow. *Died:* 17.9.1975; Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1899.

Parents: Dr Henry Major Lawrence & Emily Alice Lawrence.

At the time of his death in 1975, Hervey Lawrence was not only Kent's oldest player. He was also the last cricketer known to have played first-class cricket in the 19th century. Privately educated, he played most of his early cricket in and around Tonbridge. Primarily a bowler, in 1898 he took two for 15 and one for 22 as well as scoring 30* for Kent Second Eleven against Surrey Second Eleven at Tonbridge. In the following year his haul of wickets in all cricket was 209 (avge.9.34) but, picked for Kent in four matches, he found county batsmen a harder proposition, failing to take a wicket in each of his first three games. He did rather better in his last game when his match return of three for 75 against Surrey at The Oval included two England batsmen, Bobby Abel and Ernie Hayes.

Lawrence appeared in one more Second Eleven match in 1899 when he took three for 41 against Middlesex at Lord's but within 12 months he was engaged with the Boers in South Africa and subsequently Army duties precluded regular serious cricket. Although restricted by a dislocated knee, between 1906 and 1908 he played four more matches for Kent Second Eleven but without producing any performance of note.

In 1913 while stationed at Holkham Park, Suffolk he took 16 wickets (avge.23.62) in five appearances for Suffolk in the Minor Counties Championship including five for 53 against Cambridgeshire at Ipswich. He represented the Army against the Royal Navy at Lord's in 1910 and 1914 – the 1910 meeting is not recognised as first-class – and played for combined Army & Royal Navy sides against Combined Oxford & Cambridge Universities at Aldershot in 1910 and Portsmouth in 1911.

Commissioned into the Third (Militia) Battalion, Scottish Rifles (Cameronians) in March 1900, Lawrence served with the regiment in the Second Boer War. In November 1900 he was promoted Lieutenant only to revert to Second Lieutenant in October 1901 on being granted a regular Army commission with the First Battalion. At the end of the war in 1902 he was awarded the Queen's Medal with three clasps. From South Africa, the First Battalion sailed to India where, he was again promoted Lieutenant. The Battalion returned to England in 1905.

In 1906 he married, in Penshurt, Dorothy Marshall Lawrence (née Snellgrove) widow of Captain Samuel Lawrence of the Second Battalion who had lost life at Elands Lagete in 1900. There were two sons.

Later that year Lawrence was posted as Adjutant to the Fifth (Territorial) Battalion Suffolk Regiment where on the outbreak of war in 1914 his duties included organisation of the mobilisation of the unit. In July 1915 he departed with the battalion for Gallipoli and in August they landed in Suvla Bay as part of 163 Brigade, 54th (East Anglian) Division. By December 1915 the battalion was reduced by casualties and disease to less than 50% of its original strength and was evacuated to Egypt. The CO was among the casualties and, appointed temporary Lieutenant Colonel, for six months Lawrence took over command.

At the beginning of 1917 he took command of 1/7th Battalion Cheshire Regiment, 53rd Division, then employed on the construction of the Suez Canal Defences. Following the advance into Palestine, he led the battalion in the First Battle of Gaza, which earned him a DSO, and in the Second and Third Battles. His battalion formed part of 53rd Division's advance guard in the final offensive and was among the first to enter Jerusalem.

In December 1917 Lawrence assumed command of 1/1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment and was moved to the Western Front where it joined 34th Division. In July 1918 the battalion was involved in the final stages of the last German offensive and in the Allied counter-offensive in which he earned a bar to his DSO, the citation reading:

'He set a magnificent example of leadership and courage during an attack. When both his flanks were held up and he was suffering from wounds in side and arm, he led his battalion forward in the face of heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and advanced the line 1000 yards. He held the captured position against great odds.'

At the beginning of August 1918 he led an attack in support of a French advance near Soissons for which he was awarded the *Legion D'Honneur Croix du Chevalier*. Following a period of leave he was admitted to hospital with an illness sufficiently serious to virtually end his Army career. He was Mentioned in Despatches four times and in 1919 awarded the OBE.

He recovered sufficiently to turn out for I Zingari v Tonbridge School in the summer of 1919. Hervey Lawrence was extremely active as a club cricketer for Band of Brothers, I Zingari, MCC, Gentlemen of Suffolk etc., as well as Army teams. As late as 1928 he played for the Suffolk Regiment against Colchester Garrison

In the 1950s he was proposed for membership of Free Foresters but rejected on grounds of age. Not long afterwards he opened the bowling for Gentlemen of Suffolk against FF and finished with figures of seven for 23, his first victim the FF skipper and opening batsman who received a yorker on his instep and retired hurt. Invited to join FF, Lawrence declined saying he felt he was 'past his prime'.

Following the death of his first wife in 1920, he married Kathleen Galbraith in Midhurst in 1921. On his death his effects were valued at £2,382.

Alfred Richard Layman (No. 427).

Born: 24 April 1858, Norwood, Surrey. *Died:* 8 November 1940, Beckenham

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1893.

Educated: Hurstpierpoint College & Blackheath Proprietary School.

Parents: Thomas Layman & Susanna Woolfield Layman (*née* Gill).

When Alfred Layman made his single appearance for Kent in 1893, he was one of five wicketkeepers used that season, all amateurs and all except Manley Kemp more or less straight from club cricket. Layman was regular keeper for the Granville (Lee) club, at the time one of the strongest in South London. He had been a member since 1875 and was also a member of MCC for whom he played in a few minor matches.

An auctioneer and surveyor by profession, Layman was at Hurstpierpoint in 1871 but changed to Blackheath Proprietary School where he was in the Eleven in 1874 and 1875. The change of schools occurred when his father disposed of his drapery business in Brighton and set up as a jeweller and pawnbroker in Lewisham High Road *circa* 1874. From at least 1901 Thomas Layman lived in

Beckenham as did his son. The house in Hayes Lane Beckenham was named 'Woolfield' presumably in honour of the elder Mrs Layman who died in 1907.

In 1913 Alfred Layman married Annie Carter Pooles (1870-1960) at St. James's Church, Paddington. A prominent freemason and a member of the Turner's Company, in March 1913 he became a Freeman of the City of London. On his death his effects were valued at £181 17s 1d.

Edwin Leaney (No. 422).

Born: 3.6.1860; Woolwich. *Died:* 1.9.1904; Greenwich.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1892.

Parents: William Fullerton Leaney & Caroline Rebecca Hardin (*née* Hardin).

Other than a long association with the Old Charlton Club and that his father Alfred was a shoemaker, remarkably little seems to be known about Edwin Leaney. He is probably the Edwin Leaney who in 1881 was working as a 'brass roller' at Woolwich Arsenal while living with his mother, a 'needlewoman' and widow, in Wellesley Terrace, Plumstead, but as late as the 1901 Census - three years before he died - he is described as a professional cricketer.

He is most noted for his trip to South Africa with Walter Read's team in 1891/92 as a sort of combined baggage man and deputy wicketkeeper to the Surrey (and former Kent) keeper Harry Wood. At that stage Leaney had played no first-class cricket and he played none on the tour. All his matches - and all his team's matches bar one - were against odds. Leaney played ten matches, caught 14, stumped 16 and won praise in the magazine *Cricketer* for his work behind the stumps. Opening against 22 of Pretoria, the only time he batted above the tail, he scored 54 (top score). His brother Joseph, who also played for Old Charlton, accompanied the team as umpire.

At the start of the 1892 season Kent chose him for their first six matches, but at the end of June, replaced him with Rev Eustace Malden (*qv*) who retained his place until Manley Kemp was available in August.

If Leaney's wicketkeeping was considered below standard, neither the club minutes nor contemporary press reports provide a clue and as his appearances pre-date the setting up of the Nursery, his name does not appear in the Trial Book. He conceded a total of 63 byes which is a bit high but not unreasonable by the standards of the day. In the six matches his opposite numbers allowed 44.

Twice he performed usefully with the bat. No. 11 against Gloucestershire, he scored 33* out of the 42 added for the last wicket. This earned him promotion to opener in first innings of the following game at Old Trafford but Arthur Mold bowled him without scoring and he was promptly relegated to No. 11. On his final appearance, against Somerset at Catford, he was dismissed for 17, scored out of 22 added for the last wicket with opener Alec Hearne who carried his bat for 43*.

Leaney appeared in one other match of note in 1892, for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Tonbridge (not first-class) in which he again batted usefully for 25* but played no more cricket beyond club level. He died in the Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich following an operation.

John Leaney (No. 41).

Christened: 20.5.1790; Hawkhurst. *Dead*

Kent 1825-1826.

Virtually no information has survived on John Leaney other than the record of his christening and the fact that he played for the influential Hawkhurst club. He batted with minimal success in his two first-class matches, both against Sussex at Brighton and organised by the Hawkhurst club.

He might be the 'Leaney' who appeared for East Kent & Sussex v West Kent & Surrey at Chevening in 1822. He is probably the tailor named John Leaney listed in Pigot's Directory for 1826-1827 as living in Hawkhurst.

William Leaney (No. 15).

Born: Hawkhurst. *Dead.*

Wicketkeeper.

Kent 1815.

A blacksmith by trade, William Leaney was the regular wicketkeeper for the Hawkhurst club but little else has so far surfaced. In 1811 he issued a challenge to any man in England to keep wicket for 50 guineas. It was not made clear how such a contest would be decided and nobody seems to have accepted the challenge.

In addition to his one first-class match for Kent against England at Wrotham Napps in 1815, he was in the Hawkhurst side against Kent at Wrotham Napps in 1816 and played for Kent and Sussex v Marden at Stilebridge in 1819. He could of course be the Leaney referred to above under John Leaney playing for East Kent & Sussex in 1822.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Frederick Marshall Lee (No. 445).

Born: 8.1.1871; Paddington, London. *Died:* 18.11.1914; Wonford House Hospital, Honford, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler,

Kent 1895.

Educated: Uppingham School & Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

Parents: George Lee & Catherine Ann Lee (*née* Marshall.)

Two years in the Eleven at Uppingham (1889-1890) where he was primarily as a bowler, Frederick Lee hit 127* for Royal Agricultural College Present v Past in 1893 and two years later played two matches for Kent, scoring 12 in his first innings but failing to score in three subsequent visits to the wicket.

Eventually settling in the West Country, between 1902 and 1907 he made 77 appearances for Somerset, twice scoring over 500 runs in a season – 627 (avge.23.22) in 1903 and 677 (avge.25.07) in 1904. One of his best innings was against Lancashire at Bath in 1907 when, coming in at 71 for seven, he hit 71 out of 83 in 80 minutes. Against Worcestershire at Taunton in 1906 he contributed 45 to a ninth-wicket partnership of 90 in 35 minutes with his captain Sammy Woods (49*).

Frederick Lee was a leading batsman with the Lansdown Club, Bath and for Gentlemen of Somerset. He also appeared frequently for MCC for whom he scored 82 v Devonshire at Exeter in 1895, 75 v Wiltshire at Chippenham in 1904 and 79 v Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1904. Prior to moving to Somerset he played for Stoics.

The son of a 'merchant', Lee was a financial backer for an early method of showing films in colour using red, green and blue filters. The brainchild of Edward Turner, the patent was taken out in their joint names, Lee appearing as a 'financier and racehorse owner'. He later sold his interest to the American movie pioneer Charles Urban Lee. He also appears to have dabbled in farming but at the time of the 1911 Census he is single, living with his brother George, also single, in Chard with four servants including a coachman. On the form both brothers were originally shown as 'Gentleman', subsequently crossed out and replaced by 'Own Means'.

On his death his estate was valued for probate at £3,987 8s 9d.

Further reading.

Hill, Stephen. *Somerset Cricketers 1882-1914*. Halgrove, 2016.

John Lefeaver (No. 118).

Born: 25.12.1817; Stile Bridge, Marden. *Died:* 20.12.1879; Upper Hardres

Right-handed batsman, bowler.

Kent 1841-1854.

Stephen Lefeaver & Elizabeth Lefeaver (*née* Knell).

A contemporary of Alfred Mynn, Fuller Pilch *et al*, the general opinion at the time seems to have been that John Lefeaver should have played more often for Kent than he did. His appearances for the county were certainly well scattered – one each in 1841, 1842, 1845, 1850 and 1853 then four in 1854.

A farmer like his father Stephen (*qv*), John Lefeaver farmed 200 acres (81 hectares) at Surrenden near Bethersden where he employed 11 men including, somewhat unusually, a live-in waggoner. Possibly the needs of the farm restricted his cricket.

As a batsman, far and away his best effort was against England at Canterbury in 1853 when Kent lost by an innings. After Kent had been dismissed for 47, he scored 35 in the second innings against William Clarke and John Wisden who bowled unchanged throughout the match. No other Kent batsman scored more than 13. On his next appearance, against Sussex at Hove in 1854, he scored 19 and 11, again against an attack led by Wisden. No Kent batsman reached 20. On his first and only appearance at Lord's later that year, he scored 18 and took two for 9 including the wicket of Arthur Haygarth of *Scores & Biographies* fame.

Little seems to be on record of Lefeaver's cricket below county level but he is known to have appeared for Boughton Monchelsea and in 1858 for West Kent v East Kent at Canterbury. Five feet ten (177.8cm.) in height and weighing 13 stones (82.55 kg.), Lefeaver was reputedly claimed to be the strongest man in Kent.

In October 1847 he married Margaret Spicer (1824-1898) in Maidstone. There were seven daughters and two sons. On his death his 'private estate' was valued at £1,560 15s 1d.

Stephen Lefeaver (No. 42).

Born: 1791 Marden. *Died:* 26.7.1867; Stile Bridge, Marden.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1825.

Parents: John Lefeaver & Ann Lefeaver (*née* Summers).

The father of John Lefeaver (*qv*) and at one time landlord of *The Stile Bridge Inn*, Stephen Lefeaver farmed 190 acres (76.9 hectares) at Stile Bridge. In addition to his two games for Kent, both against Sussex, at Brighton and Hawkhurst Moor, he is almost certainly the Lefeaver who scored 11 and seven for Marden (with John Willes and William Ashby) against 'Kent & Sussex' at Stilebridge in 1819. The Kent & Sussex team contained several relatively unknowns and hardly justified the title.

He was associated with the Marden club for at least 20 years from 1819 and between 1822 and 1835 played frequently for Benenden, Coxheath, Horsmonden and Leeds. A brother, William, died while batting in a match at Goudhurst in 1844.

In February 1814 he married Elizabeth Knell (1793-1855). There were four sons and three daughters. On his death his estate was valued at 'Under £6,000. On his death certificate he is a 'Yeoman'.

John Le Fleming (No. 407).

Born: 23.10.1865, Tonbridge. *Died:* 9.10.1942, Montreux, Switzerland.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1889-1899. Kent cap 1893.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Clare College Cambridge.

Parents: Rev John Le Fleming & Harriette Mary Le Fleming. (*née* Neville).

The eldest of seven children, five boys, three girls, Jack Le Fleming was an outstanding allround athlete. He was in the Eleven at Tonbridge from 1882 to 1883 and a member of the Tonbridge Rovers team which visited the Netherlands in 1884. At Cambridge he failed to progress beyond his college team but was in the Rugby football Fifteen against Oxford in 1884, 1885 and 1886. On the track, he won the hurdles for Oxford in 1887 and 1888.

An aggressive batsman acquiring most of his runs in front of the wicket, Le Fleming scored 30 and 16 on his debut for Kent but, although often at his best when his side was in trouble, he was inconsistent – dismissed for single figures in 42% of his completed innings – and was not often able to retain his place when Kent were at full strength in the latter half of the season. In a ten-year career, he was only once (in 1893) chosen for Canterbury Week.

His only century, 134 v Sussex at Hove in 1892, was scored in 210 minutes with 15 fours but, given the quality of the opposition, his best efforts were probably 74 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1893 when, with Rev Meyrick-Jones (62), 93 runs were scored in 80 minutes, 45 in the same year at Bramall Lane when he was top scorer in an all-out total of 127 and 43 (again top score) v Lancashire on a spinner's wicket at Tonbridge in 1894 when nobody else could do much with Johnny Briggs (seven for 61). On his last appearance in 1899 he hit 44 and 51 against Essex at Leyton a few days after scoring 143 for the Club & Ground against Dover.

Jack Le Fleming taught at Tonbridge and later took over from his father in running Eton House in Tonbridge, a private school, primarily a 'crammer' for Sandhurst and the RMA Woolwich. This gave him time for a great deal of club cricket in which he scored prolifically. For Band of Brothers he hit five centuries and at least eleven for the Tonbridge club, including 228 v Southborough in 1889. He also played for Gentlemen of Kent, Bluemantles and Mote Park.

On the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, Le Fleming joined the Volunteer Training Corps where he served as a platoon commander. In 1915, despite his age, he joined the Territorials and was commissioned into the 3/1 Kent Cyclist Battalion, a training unit.

Possibly due to his experience as an Army tutor, promotion was unusually rapid, Temporary Captain May 1915, Temporary Major October 1915 and Temporary Lt Colonel in command of the Battalion

before the end of the year. His advancement was the cause of a certain amount of ill-feeling among longer serving officers of the First and Second Battalions. During his period in command, he had the assistance of Captain Gerry Weigall (*qv*) which, in view of what is known of one of Kent's most famous eccentrics, may have made his task easier or, then again, it may not.

Despite efforts by the CO to find recruits through appeals in the press, by mid-1916 the 3/1 Kent Cyclist Battalion had been reduced to cadre strength and Le Fleming had transferred to another training unit, 3/1 West Kent Yeomanry based at Crowborough, where he reverted to the rank of Second Lieutenant, Temporary Captain. In 1917 this unit too was disbanded and Le Fleming was posted to Fourth (Reserve) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment at Tunbridge Wells where he was eventually promoted to Acting Major at Battalion HQ.

Here he remained for the rest of the war, on occasions playing cricket for the regiment. He remained in the Territorial Army after the war, attaining the rank of Lt Colonel. He was a Vice-President of the Kent Cyclists Old Comrades Association

In 1915 Le Fleming organised an Army sports day on the Tonbridge School grounds with several of his brothers as judges including the future Sir Ernest Fleming MRCS and Laurence Julius (*qv*) who was back in England after being wounded for the second time. As a Rugby footballer, Jack Le Fleming was a regular with Blackheath and was capped for England as a three-quarter against Wales in 1887. In that year he won the 120 yards hurdles in the Amateur Championship and won the hurdles for Cambridge in 1887 and 1889. As a skater, he won the Challenge Bowl and Shield for figure skating at Davos in 1893.

In June 1891 he married Ethel Agnes Hall (1868-1943) at Tonbridge Parish church. There were two sons and three daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £3,767 16s 6d. His widow died, also in Montreux, in the following year.

Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence Julius Le Fleming (No. 463).

Born: 3.06.1879, Tonbridge. *Died:* 21.03.1918, Maissemy, France

Right-handed batsman,

Kent 1897-1899.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Rev John Le Fleming & Harriette Mary Le Fleming. (*née* Neville).

Like elder brother Jack, Lawrence Le Fleming was in the Eleven at Tonbridge, albeit for only one year, 1896 when he scored over 400 runs and headed the averages. In 1897 he hit centuries for the Tonbridge club against Bluemantles and Crystal Palace and followed in August with 97 on his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven, against Sussex at Tonbridge. This brought an invitation to play for the first team in the final game of the season, against Middlesex at Lord's where he impressed with 40 in the first innings, one of only two Kent batsmen to achieve double figures.

This proved to be the high point of Le Fleming's county career. He played eight games in 1898 and two in 1899 but passed 20 only three times with a top score of 32, a gutsy performance in a low scoring game against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane.

Army service left little room for cricket after June 1899 although he managed one more first-class match, for the Army v the Royal Navy at Lord's in 1912. As well as Tonbridge, Le Fleming played for Band of Brothers and Free Foresters. Although never approaching his brother as an allround sportsman, he also played hockey and golf.

Lawrence Le Fleming had a distinguished, ultimately tragic, Army career. He entered the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned as a subaltern into the East Surrey Regiment on the day the Second Boer War broke out in 1899. He was promoted to Lieutenant (1901), Captain (1905), Major (1915), and Brevet Lt Colonel (1917). He served with the Second Battalion in South Africa throughout the war, gaining the Queen's medal with five clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. He was with the Battalion in India from 1902 until 1909 when he returned to England to take over as Adjutant to the Regiment's Territorial Battalion in Wimbledon.

In 1912 he rejoined the Second Battalion, now in Burma, but in 1913 was appointed an instructor at the RMC Sandhurst. Rejoining the Battalion on the outbreak of war, he was severely wounded in the jaw at La Bassée in 1914 and, on returning in 1915, was shot again, this time in the leg, again severely, near Zonnebeke. A respite came on appointment as General Staff Officer, Sandhurst but this ended when, as a result of his own intensive lobbying, he returned to the sharp end in April 1917 on assuming command of the East Surrey's Ninth (Service) Battalion.

He suffered a personal tragedy in October that year. In December 1914 he had married Frances Loulo Friendat (born 1891 in Argentina) at the Parish Church, Tonbridge. There were two daughters, Diana (born April 1916) and Joan (born June 1917). In December 1917 his wife was taken ill and he was summoned back to England but she died before he arrived.

In March 1918 Le Fleming's Battalion was in 72 Brigade, 24th Division, of the hard-pressed Fifth Army. On the opening day of the German March offensive, the Battalion was ordered to counter attack a German breakthrough. He was killed by machine-gun fire while carrying out a personal reconnaissance, his second of the day, accompanied only by his second-in-command. He was one of 28 Fifth Army battalion commanders killed, wounded or taken prisoner on that day. Although his body was recovered, the position was overrun next day and he has no known grave. He is remembered on the Pozieres War Memorial.

Le Fleming was twice Mentioned in Despatches for 'gallant and distinguished service'. In the Tonbridge School journal, one of his officers wrote 'The best CO in the world gave his life for the Battalion. Another added 'Everybody felt they had great leader and also a great friend. Although he was so nice and kind to everybody, the discipline was splendid. At a word from the dear old Colonel, anyone would have gone through hell to please him'.

His effects were valued for probate at £646 16s 2d and bequeathed to his solicitor and a Lieutenant Mort.

Richard Leigh (No. 8).

Born: 7.2.1784, Wilmington. *Died:* 9.10.1841; Westminster, London.

Kent 1806.

Parents: Richard Leigh & Elizabeth Leigh (*née* Mumford).

In his day one of cricket's leading patrons, Richard Leigh appeared only once for his native county, playing most of his cricket for MCC and twice for Surrey. He twice played for England against Kent in 1807, at Lord's and on Penenden Heath. Although opening on occasions, he generally batted low down the order and with limited success.

Prominent as a 'maker of matches', between 1793 and 1795 *Scores & Biographies* records his sides as playing eight games against teams raised by other prominent patrons at venues as varied as Burghley Park in Rutland, Lord's and Dandelion Paddock, Margate. Leigh was a member of the Hambledon Club and in 1795 his team, including Hambledon legends David Harris, Billy Beldham and John Small jnr., played the Earl of Winchelsea's side on Windmill Down, the last recorded 'grand match' at

the famous venue. On the next day the same sides met on nearby Stoke Down. The game was, so far, unique in that it was played from 23 to 25 July 1795 and finished on 28 June 1796.

Leigh entertained lavishly and was largely instrumental in staging plays, concerts and other entertainments as well as cricket matches at Bowman's Lodge on Dartford Heath, headquarters of the exclusive Society of Royal Kentish Bowmen. With Leigh as its first Secretary, the Society practiced archery on the Heath between 1786 and 1802, dressed in green coat with buff breeches and feathered round hat.

The Prince of Wales (later George IV) was the Society's patron and exclusivity was assured by a property qualification, £10 for leasehold property and £20 freehold. To make doubly sure that membership was restricted to the upper – or at least moneyed - classes, there was an entrance fee of 12 guineas and a five guinea annual subscription.

Among his other activities, Leigh wrote a comedy for performance at Bowman's Lodge entitled *Grieving's Folly*. In 1830 he married Jane Moon (1800-1873) in Hove.

Frederick Barcham Leney (No. 498).

Born: 29.11.1876; Maidstone. *Died:* 25.7.1921; Galway, Ireland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1905.

Educated: Bradfield College.

Parents: Augustus Leney & Kate Leney (*née* Green).

A member of the Frederick Leney & Sons, Watlingbury-based brewing family and a brewer himself, Frederick Leney was perhaps a shade unlucky to play only once for the county. In The Parks in 1905, thanks to 'Charlie' Blythe and 'Pip' Fielder, Kent had reduced Oxford to 93 for nine but were held up by a last-wicket stand. The partnership was worth 23 when Leney was invited to bowl. Without conceding a run, he had Evelyn Martin caught at the wicket from his fourth ball. In the second innings he opened the bowling but delivered only four wicketless overs.

Leney was in the Eleven at Bradfield in 1894 when red *Lillywhite* thought him 'the most dangerous bowler in his day, coming fast off the ground' but 'sends down too many on the leg side'. He had his day against Sherborne that year, taking seven wickets as they were bowled out for 78. He again claimed seven wickets on his Second Eleven debut for Kent in 1903 – seven for 42 and three for 75 v Surrey Second Eleven at Town Malling.

He never produced anything comparable in ten more Second Eleven games between 1903 and 1906 but twice passed 50, including 94* against Sussex Second Eleven at Gravesend. Most of his cricket was for the Mote and for Town Malling but he also played for MCC, most notably in 1910 against Belgium and the Netherlands in the Brussels Exhibition Tournament.

In that year he also represented MCC against the touring Haverford College team from Philadelphia. In 1907 Leney took 58 wickets for the Mote and in the following year hit 143 for the Club against MCC, a side which included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He also captained the Watlingbury Club, formed in 1905.

By 1911 he was a Director of the company as well as brewer and following the outbreak of war, he volunteered to serve with the Red Cross where he became a searcher. These were employed as part of a tracing service to visit hospitals and locations where fighting had taken place to take statements from wounded men and gather information on casualties for passing on to relatives and Army Records. From January to December 1915 he worked in France and was then posted to Egypt to work

on the casualties from the Gallipoli campaign. He was discharged and returned to England in December 1916.

On 21 June 1921 he married Avril May Paget at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. On 25 July 1921 he died suddenly at *The Railway Hotel*, Galway. His widow inherited his estate, valued for probate at £26,986 16s 7d.

Herbert Leney (No. 298).

Born: 8.9.1850; Watlington. *Died:* 18.11.1915; West Farleigh.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1873-1877.

Educated: Chatham House & Oriel College Oxford.

Parents: Frederick Leney & Ann Salmon Leney (*née* Jewell).

The uncle of Frederick Leney (*qv*), Herbert Leney seems to have played no serious cricket while at Oxford but he is presumably the H Leney who in May 1873 played for Twenty-Two of South Oxfordshire against the United South of England Eleven at Thame. In August that year he scored 54 and 30* opening the batting for the Mote against Royal Engineers and in September made his first-class debut for Kent against WG Grace's Eleven in a benefit match for 'Farmer' Bennett at Gravesend.

He continued to play regularly for the Mote and appeared at least once for Gentlemen of Kent – against I Zingari in a hurriedly arranged 12-a-side match at the end of the 1874 Canterbury Week – but did not turn out for Kent again until 1877. In June that year Leney played three times, all on away grounds, scoring 33 against Hampshire on the Antelope Ground, Southampton but doing nothing else of note. He continued with the Mote until the early 1880s.

Herbert Leney did not follow his brother (also Frederick) and nephew into the brewing business. His father Edward had combined brewing with farming and, unusually at the time for a man with BA, MA after his name, Herbert Leney took up fruit and hop farming, originally at Barming, later at Court Lodge, East Farleigh. Presumably the hops were supplied to the Watlington brewery.

In the 1881 census he is farming 285 acres (115.42 hectares) employing 30 men, 20 women and 12 boys. He employed a farm bailiff, a live-in coachman and in later life, a resident nurse, possibly for his wife Rosetta (1857-1925) whom he married in Maidstone in 1881. On his death his effects were valued at £2,419 17s 4d.

Frank Lipscomb (No. 372).

Born: 13.3.1863; East Peckham. *Died:* 25.9.1951; Randwick, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1882-1884.

Educated: Stangrove House School, Edenbridge.

Parents: Robert Lipscomb & Lucy Lipscomb (*née* Hopkins).

Described by Lord Harris as a 'tearaway' fast bowler, Frederick Lipscomb was the son of Robert Lipscomb (*qv*) and in the early 1880s had been away learning the brewing business at Melbourn Bros. Brewery in Stamford, Lincolnshire. He had played little more than local cricket when called into the Kent team against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane in 1882. He bowled three middle-order batsmen for 25 runs and ended his first season with 27 wickets at 17.96. Among his best efforts were three for 46 & four for 34 v Lancashire at Mote Park and four for 22 for a United Eleven (including WG and EM Grace) against the Australians on Tunbridge Wells Common.

At the end of the season he fell foul of the committee for claiming £15 for hotel bills. At the time amateurs were expected to claim only fares. Lord Harris proposed, George Marsham seconded that the money should be paid as 'further expenses'.

Five matches for the County in 1883 brought 17 wickets and four games in 1884 another eight. He also appeared for WG Grace's Eleven against Lord Sheffield's Eleven at Sheffield Park in 1883 and for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Maidstone. (not ranked first-class) in 1884. In addition to his career best five for 19 v Surrey at Mote Park in 1884, he took four for 61 v Lancashire at Old Trafford, four for 68 v Sussex at Hove in 1883 and three for 9 in 24 overs in the Gentlemen of Philadelphia's first innings.

He attended the post-match dinner given to the visitors by Band of Brothers at the now demolished *Star Hotel* in Maidstone and at the end of the season emigrated to Australia.

The 'tearaway' label notwithstanding, Lipscomb had a gift for hitting the stumps; 34 (65.38%) of his first-class wickets were clean bowled. His bag included two of the best known defensive batsmen of the day, the 'stonewallers' Dick Barlow (twice) and Louis Hall, as well as Alfred Lyttelton, A.J. Webbe, Walter Read (three times), Maurice Read (twice), John Shuter (three times) and the Australians Tom Horan and Percy McDonnell (twice).

For Tunbridge Wells he took ten wickets against Dulwich Wanderers in 1883 and 16 against Nondescripts in 1884. In the same year he claimed nine wickets in an innings for Kent Second Eleven v Tonbridge & District and 13 in a match for his old school against Wadhurst. His other clubs included Tonbridge Town and Town Malling.

In Australia Lipscomb played for Albion CC in the Maitland area, near Newcastle, and in 1891 is on record as taking four for 29 against Newcastle. In July 1894 he joined the NSW police, reaching the rank of Second Class Sergeant. It is highly likely that he is the 'Lipscomb' who played for the Metropolitan Police team between 1901 and 1905.

Following his death in September 1951, Frank Lipscomb's effects were sold by auction in October. His wife had predeceased him by 19 days and presumably there were no children. He is probably the Frank Lipscomb involved in a sale 58 years earlier. In 1893 an hotel owner advertised her intention of disposing of 'the possessions of Frank Lipscomb, late of West Maitland'.

Robert Lipscomb (No. 218).

Born: 28.2.1837; Penshurst. *Died:* 8.1.1895, Tudeley Hale.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1862-1873.

Rocky Hill House School, Maidstone.

Parents: Robert Lipscomb & Elizabeth Lipscomb (*née* Hopkins).

Writing of Bob Lipscomb in 'A Few Short Runs' Lord Harris portrays him as 'a big jolly, rosy, bearded yeoman – with the heart of a lion and the gentleness of a woman - fiercest of bowlers, cheeriest of companions' In his obituary, *Wisden* thought him 'one of the fastest and straightest bowlers of his day'.

He was heavily built, five feet eleven (180cm) and 14½ stone (92 kg.) according to his entry in *Scores & Biographies*, and it was perhaps inevitable that many at the time would see him as a natural successor to Alfred Mynn. He was too much a natural tailender to ever be that, but on his day he was a destructive fast bowler, especially on helpful wickets, as well as a reliable slip fielder.

Some good performances for Town Malling in the early 1860s attracted wider notice and in July 1862 he made his first appearance for Gentlemen of Kent, v South Wales on Tunbridge Wells Common (not first-class). He failed to take a wicket but clearly did enough to impress the right people. His next match of importance was in the 1862 Canterbury Week for Fourteen of Kent v England where his six wickets included three of the finest batsman of the time – William Caffyn (twice), George Parr (who received severely bruised ribs) and ‘Mike’ Mitchell (twice).

For the next ten years Bob Lipscomb was a valuable addition to the Kentish attack whenever available. Often at his peak in Canterbury Week, in 1865 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC he had figures of eight for 35 and four for 31. Next year he took 19 wickets in two matches, seven for 35 & 0 for 16 for Gentlemen of the South v I Zingari, five for 46 & seven for 33 for Gentlemen of Kent v MCC. In each case he bowled unchanged through the first innings with a lob bowler at the other end, E.M.Grace in the first, Walter Money in the second. Only twice did he manage a full county season (nine matches), 1867 when he took 53 wickets (avge.13.98), and 1868 62 (avge.15.37), 73 in all first-class matches. In 1868 he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord’s.

His (statistically) best performance, nine for 88 v MCC in 1871, was on a lively Lord’s wicket on which Kent lost by an innings at ten past two on the second day. Lipscomb hit the stumps six times as MCC declined from 105 for two to 183 all - out. Less spectacular but, given the opposition and relatively flat pitches, even better efforts were five for 48 & four for 71 v Surrey at The Oval in 1867 and in the following year, six for 66 v Cambridgeshire at Fenner’s and six for 68 in the return at Gravesend. His haul included the Cambridge ‘cracks’, Bob Carpenter and Tom Hayward senr. (twice). He was especially severe on Sussex, 58 wickets (avge.15.79), three times five in an innings – four for 35 and six for 68 at Ashford Road, Eastbourne in 1867.

Throughout his career he regularly accounted for leading batsmen of the era – EM Grace, ID Walker and Tom Humphrey five times each. The scandalous Charlie Buller (see above under Henry Kingscote) was despatched nine times in eight matches. In all-amateur cricket he was frequently too much for the batsmen – six for 15 for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North at the Cattle Market, Islington in 1867, 15 wickets (12 bowled) for United South v 22 of Kearsney in 1868, seven for 39 for Kent v the Prince’s Club at Prince’s in 1872.

He played little cricket after 1873. In that year he appeared in three county matches, his last against Sussex at Eastbourne. He also appeared for MCC v Gentlemen of Canada at Lord’s. His last match of any significance seems to have been for Tunbridge Wells v MCC in 1879. As well as numerous minor games for Gentlemen of Kent, he played several times for United South and for ‘WG Grace’s Eleven’ (pretty much the same thing) as well as for the Mote, and Tonbridge Town. He served on the Kent CCC General Committee from 1871 to 1877

Possibly through playing together for the United South of England as ‘amateurs’ of rather dubious status, Lipscomb and WG became friends. In Canterbury Week 1868, playing for South of Thames v North of Thames, Lipscomb had his thumb put out of joint by a hard hit and, according to EM, brother WG had it back, painfully but ‘in a jiffy’. In 1875 while Grace was playing for South v North at Tunbridge Wells, he stayed with Lipscomb. Driving back in a dogcart from *The Swan*, Tunbridge Wells at eleven o’clock at night they collided with a donkey cart driven by a ‘costermonger’. Both were thrown into the road, fortunately without serious injury although the horse was killed instantly. The fate of donkey and costermonger remains unrecorded.

The two cricketers recovered sufficiently to play for ‘WG Grace’s side of Southern Men’ v ‘J Rowbotham’s team of Northern Men’ on Tunbridge Wells Common on the following day, Lipscomb taking five wickets and Grace scoring 40*. In his penultimate first-class match, for Kent v MCC in the 1873 Canterbury Week, he had WG caught at slip for one.

Bob Lipscomb's father farmed in Penshurst and his son too farmed but fell foul of the agricultural depression of the 1870s. Subsequent Census Returns tell much of the story. In the 1861 Census he is a 'farmer's son' living in Maidstone Road, Hadlow. By 1871 he is farming 150 acres (60.75 hectares) at Pond Farm, East Peckham, employing six men and three boys. Ten years later he is a 'farmer out of business', living at Woodlands, Tudeley with a wife, three daughters aged from five to 16, a 73 year-old mother-in-law and a 33 year-old sister-in-law. His son Frank (*qv*) was by then in the Midlands studying brewing. In 1891, he is a hop factor at Upper Hayenden Farm, Leigh with wife, two daughters (aged 23 and 15) and with a by now 82 year-old-mother-in law. To quote Lord Harris again, 'I fear he died in circumstances very different from those he had been born to'.

In 1859 he married Lucy Richmond in Hackney, East London. There were two sons and three daughters. When he died his effects were valued at £99 5s.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Charles William Little (No. 434).

Born: 22.5.1870, Tonbridge. *Died:* 20.5.1922, Winchester, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm under-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1893.

Educated: Winchester College and New College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Joseph Russel Little & Mary Elizabeth Little (*née* Drummond).

As scholar for seven years and master (later housemaster) from 1904 until his death, Charles Little devoted most of his life to Winchester College. In his final year as a scholar he was 'Prefect of Hall', the highest place in the College hierarchy. As wicketkeeper/batsman he was in the Eleven in 1888 and 1889, finishing second in the batting averages in his final year. At Oxford he played four times for the Eleven in 1890 and twice in 1892 without progressing to a Blue, the position behind the stumps against Cambridge going to Maurice Daughlish in 1890 and William Brain in 1891-1892.

Apart from Manley Kemp, who was generally only available in August, Kent had no regular wicketkeeper in the 1890s until the arrival of Fred Huish. In July 1893 Charles Little, who had played a few games for Gentlemen of Kent, was invited to play against Somerset at Taunton. He allowed no byes in a low scoring match and retained his place for four more matches, a sequence ended when Kemp became available. He was the fourth wicketkeeper tried, all amateurs, and his run of five matches was the longest afforded to any Kent stumper that year. However, when Kemp dropped out through injury, the choice fell on Eustace Malden for the final three fixtures of the season.

This concluded Little's career in first-class cricket but he played occasionally for Shropshire – not then included with the 'Second Class Counties' - and remained deeply involved in the game at Winchester.

The son of a clergyman who was classics master at Tonbridge prior to taking up the living at Stansfield, Suffolk. Charles Little read classics at Oxford and on graduating taught at Rugby from 1895 until 1904 when he returned to Winchester. He became a pivotal figure in Winchester life and after his death *The Times* published a remarkable panegyric worth perhaps quoting at some length:

'It would be easy to dwell on his athletic prowess, equally great in almost every game'- 'But beyond and above all this there was a note of distinction which commanded the respect of every man and boy who knew him. He showed a rare combination of grace and strength in

every movement of mind and body.’ – ‘his love and knowledge of architecture, his appreciation of great literature were an index of a scrupulous and balanced mind, while his glorious style, both in skating and in cricket, was the despair of many admirers.

But it was in moral distinction that he most excelled: character-building was his chief purpose and achievement; and he built chiefly by example.’ – ‘If our English schools can rest upon such pillars as Charles Little, for whom the word self has no meaning, who, without fuss or parade, carry Christian standards of duty and simplicity into the school life of England, we need not despair of education.’

He remained a bachelor. In the 1911 Census his 64 year-old housekeeper Elizabeth Bain is shown as ‘Lady Housekeeper’. On his death his effects were valued at £16,716 5s 10d.

Brigadier General Robert O’Hara Livesay CMG, DSO, *Legion d’honneur*, *Croix de Chevalier*, DSM (US) (No. 450).

Born: 27.6.1876; Old Brompton, Gillingham. *Died:* 23.3.1946, Magham Down, West Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1895-1904. Kent cap 1896

Educated: Wellington College.

Parents: Colonel Robert Algernon Livesay & Rose Livesay.

The son of a Colonel in the Royal Engineers, Robert Livesay was judged by *Lillywhite* ‘the soundest bat in the side at Wellington where he was in the Eleven from 1892 to 1894. In 1893 he scored 107 in the annual encounter with Haileybury. At Sandhurst he hit 169 against RMA Woolwich in 1895 and 128 in the same fixture in the following season.

In 1894, shortly after leaving Haileybury, he played his first game for Kent Second Eleven, opening the batting v Middlesex Second Eleven at Lord’s, and scoring 78 in the second innings. Next season, while on leave he made his first-class debut, for Kent against Surrey at Catford, where he had the misfortune to be dismissed twice without scoring on a rain affected wicket by George Lohmann at his best – caught and bowled in the first innings, bowled in the second. Opening on occasions but more often batting in the middle order, Livesay made five further appearances in his debut season, scoring 47 in his next match, against Gloucestershire at Bristol, 32 at Trent Bridge and 31 against Middlesex at Lord’s.

Although seldom called on when all Kent’s best amateurs were available, in between Army duties he played five matches in 1896, six in 1897 and 1899, five times passing 50. Among his best performances were 76 and 48 against Somerset at Blackheath in 1896, when he was top scorer in both innings, and in consecutive innings, 53 and 47 v Notts at Trent Bridge and 55 v Gloucestershire at Bristol in 1899 when he shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 113 with ‘Pinky’ Burnup (150).

With the Boer War intervening, Livesay did not appear for Kent again until 1904 when he played three matches in what turned out to be his final season. In the first, against the South Africans at Canterbury, he scored 78, his personal best and the only score over 50 in the match. He also scored 69 against Yorkshire at Harrogate in the match declared void when damage to the wicket was illegally repaired.

In the same year Livesay toured the Netherlands with St. Lawrence CC. He played on occasions for MCC, including a game against Dorset at Lord’s in 1908 and club cricket for Blackheath and Hythe. A noted Rugby footballer, he played for Kent in 1897 and was capped at fly-half for England against Wales at Rectory Field in 1898 and St.Helen’s in Swansea in 1899.

Robert Livesay passed out of Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal West Surrey (Queens) Regiment in 1896. Promoted Lieutenant *circa* 1899, in the following year he sailed to South Africa with the Second Battalion following the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War. He served throughout the war, part of the time with the Battalion's mounted infantry units and was awarded the Queen's Medals with five clasps, the King's Medal with two clasps, and in 1902, unusually for a Lieutenant, the DSO. He was also Mentioned in Despatches.

Promoted Captain on his return to England, in 1904 he was posted as an instructor at the RMC, Sandhurst where he remained until 1908. In 1909, he was appointed Adjutant OTC (attached General Staff) and retired on full pay in January 1914.

With the Army desperately short of trained staff officers, Livesay rejoined on the outbreak of War and held a succession of senior staff appointments – GSO2 48th Division as a Captain, GSO1 Third Army (Brevet Major,) and GSO1 New Zealand Division (Brevet Major & Temporary Lt Colonel). He remained with the New Zealanders for sixteen months and was awarded the *Legion d'honneur, Croix de Chevalier* for his role in the planning of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. He also distinguished himself in the operational planning of the Division's successful involvement in the capture of Messines Ridge.

From October 1917 to March 1918 he was GSO1 to the US Army Staff School in France for which, after the war, he was awarded the US Distinguished Service Medal. When the Germans launched their March offensive in 1918 he was GSO1 61st Division and was appointed Brevet Colonel. During the British 'Hundred Days offensive he was appointed Temporary Brigadier General commanding 24 Infantry Brigade (8th Division) which he led until the end of the war. In April 1919 he became OC 10th Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment in the Army of Occupation and in June that year was awarded the CMG for 'services rendered in connection with operations in France and Flanders'

In July 1919 he was appointed Temporary Brigadier General commanding 1 Infantry Brigade at Aldershot. In November 1920 he relinquished his Temporary Rank and retired in September 1921 with the honorary rank of Brigadier General. In 1917 he married Margaret Amelia Pretzman at Torre Church, Torquay. On his death his effects were valued at £3,699 6s 8d.

Alfred Lubbock (No. 227).

Born: 31.10.1845; Westminster, London. *Died:* 17.7.1916; Kilmarth, Par, Cornwall.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1863-1876.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Sir John William Lubbock, Third Baronet & Lady Harriet Lubbock (*née* Hotham).

One of eight sons (as well as seven daughters) of a merchant banker, Alfred Lubbock was considered one of the finest batsmen of his time: in terms of style, probably the best of all. Unfortunately Kent CCC saw little of him. The entreaties of the Kent Secretary William South Norton (*qv*) and later the urging of fellow Etonian Lord Harris notwithstanding, he appears to have had little taste for county cricket and played only one county match in his life – his last first-class game as it happens, against Derbyshire at Catford Bridge in 1875,

His reappearance after four years away from serious cricket was reputedly 'hailed with delight'. Delight may have been tinged with some surprise as, despite the presence of George Hearne, Lubbock opened the bowling with William Foord-Kelcey, bowled 30 overs and took two wickets including one of the Derbyshire openers before he had scored.

His three other appearances for the county were all amidst the social whirl of Canterbury Week. He played four first-class matches for Gentlemen of Kent and half a dozen for MCC but so far as first-class cricket was concerned his eight appearances for Gentlemen v Players – four at Lord's, three at The Oval, one at Hove between 1864 and 1871 – were more than for any other team. He hit one century for the Gentlemen, 107* at The Oval in 1867 and registered one other first-class hundred, 129 for England v Middlesex at Lord's earlier that year.

Most of Lubbock's cricket was of the more 'social' variety for I Zingari, Eton Ramblers, of which he was co-founder with his brothers, Band of Brothers, Shoreham and in numerous country house matches. At Eton he started badly in 1861 with a pair against MCC but in 1863, his year as captain, he established his reputation with 174* v Winchester (when he reputedly *ran* 340 runs), 0 and 80 v Harrow and 163 v Gentlemen of Kent.

In that year he played in Canterbury Week, the first of eleven appearances between 1863 and 1871. Overall his record was unremarkable but in the second game of the 1863 Week he scored 27* as the Gentlemen of Kent subsided for 87 against the Gentlemen of England and in the same fixture in the following year reached 50, his top score in what was then one of the highlights of the social season.

In club cricket he twice exceeded two hundred, 220 for Gentlemen of West Kent against Royal Artillery at Chislehurst in 1866 and 219 for Eton Ramblers *against* Gentlemen of West Kent at the same venue in 1871. Some of the cricket seems to have been played in a remarkably friendly spirit. According to Lord Harris, Dudley Pontifex, about to bowl to Lubbock in an I Zingari v Band of Brothers match, dropped the ball, and, taking Lubbock by the hand said 'Alfred old fellow, I must bowl you out' and promptly did so. Whether this incident occurred before or after lunch is not stated. Somewhat surprisingly in view of his preferences, in 1865 Lubbock played at Broadwater Park, Godalming for the otherwise all-professional United South of England against Seventeen of Eashing.

In 1865 Lubbock scored 100 for I Zingari against the North of Ireland at Ormeau Park, Belfast and in 1867 broke new ground by hitting 102 for MCC against the Paris Club, a team of expats with a ground off the Bois de Boulogne. Lubbock was bowled by Sergeant William McCanlis (*qv*) who was on duty at the Paris Exhibition with a detachment from the Royal Artillery. Two days later he hit 72* (top score) for I Zingari against the same opponents. For both MCC and IZ, this was their first fixture outside the UK.

In 1872 Lubbock toured Canada and the USA with RA Fitzgerald's Eleven in company with, among others, his brother Edgar, WG Grace and the Hon George Harris (Lord Harris to be). All the fixtures were against 22s and Lubbock passed 50 once, 51 against 22 of the St George's Club at Hoboken.

Although still a relatively young man, Lubbock seems to have virtually given up cricket after 1877. As a Lloyds Underwriter and partner in the family bank (originally Lubbock's Bank, subsequently Robarts, Lubbock & Co.) much of his time was spent in the City. Contemporary accounts give this as the reason for his comparatively infrequent appearances in serious cricket. To Lord Harris he was 'tied to business'. He seems however to have retired early. In the 1881 Census he is a 'Gentlemen' and in 1901 'Living on own means'.

At Eton, Lubbock excelled at other sports including the Wall Game, a sport peculiar to that establishment, and tennis. As an Association footballer, Lubbock played at inside-right for Old Etonians in the replay of the 1875 Cup Final. In his memoirs Lord Harris describes Lubbock as 'to my fancy the beau ideal of athletic form and beauty: to see him on the tennis court was a glorious spectacle; his movements in all athletic exercises were full of grace and vigour'.

In 1874 Alfred Lubbock married Louisa Wallroth (1848-1943) at Chislehurst. There were three sons and two daughters. As well as brothers Edgar and Neville (*qv*), four other brothers, both sons, a

nephew and a great nephew all played first-class cricket. In 1871 eight Lubbocks, including Alfred, Edgar, Neville and father Sir John, played for High Elms (the Lubbock family home) against the Gentlemen of West Kent. One of Alfred's sons was killed hunting with the Belvoir. His eldest brother was the first Lord Avebury. On his death his estate was valued at a relatively modest £643 7s 4d.

Edgar Lubbock (No. 278).

Born: 22.2.1847; Westminster, London. *Died:* 9.9.1907; Chelsea, London.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm under-arm bowler.

Kent 1871.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Sir John William Lubbock, Third Baronet & Lady Harriet Lubbock (*née* Hotham).

Although somewhat overshadowed by the reputation of his elder brother Alfred, Edgar Lubbock was in the Eleven at Eton from 1864 to 1866 and emulated his brother by captaining in his final year. A useful old fashioned under-arm bowler, he often resorted to fast 'grubs', sometimes attracting a degree of vituperation for doing so. He was also a stylish and consistent batsman and on leaving Eton he played a great deal of club cricket, mainly for Eton Ramblers which he helped to found, I Zingari, Band of Brothers, MCC, West Kent, Sevenoaks Vine, Hayes and Gentlemen of Kent. All of his three first-class matches were played in Canterbury Week, one for Kent, one for Gentlemen of Kent, one for Gentlemen of the South.

His innings of 51 for Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in 1871 (in his only match for Kent) came during a rich spell of form which began with three half-centuries for Gentlemen of West Kent, 56* v IZ at Chislehurst, 50 v Eton at Agar's Plough and 59* v Eton Ramblers at Chislehurst and continued into the following season with 34 for MCC v Civil Service at Lord's and 64* for MCC v Harrow. He scored at least two centuries, 109 for West Kent v Sevenoaks Vine in 1872 and 123 for Sevenoaks Vine v Preston Hall in 1874.

In 1872 he joined brother Alfred on the tour of Canada and the USA with RA Fitzgerald's Eleven in which his highest score was 21. His last match of any significance was in 1891 when, after twelve years of only minor cricket, he turned out for IZ v Second Life Guards at Windsor. He failed to score but took a wicket and held three catches.

Edgar Lubbock had a varied and distinguished business career. Trained for the Law, as well as being a director of the family bank, he was for a time Managing Director of Whitbread's Brewery and a director of the Phoenix Assurance Society. In April 1907 he became Deputy Director of the Bank of England but died suddenly – he was found dead in bed – before completing a year in the position.

Distinguished on the athletics track at Eton, Edgar Lubbock took part in most outdoor sports and was Master of the Blankney Foxhounds. As an Association footballer, he was rated as one of the outstanding defenders of his generation at full-back and sometimes half-back. – 'the finest kick anywhere'. He played on the winning side, the Wanderers, in the first ever FA Cup Final as well as for Old Etonians in both Final and replay in 1875, in the 1876 replay (lost) and in the 1879 Final (lost).

In 1886 he had married Amy Myddelton Peacock (1862-1941) at Greatford Hall, Stamford. Lincolnshire. There were three daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £208,171 18s. 0d

Sir Neville Lubbock KCMG (No. 200).

Born: 31.3.1839; Pimlico, London. *Died:* 12.9.1914; Bromley Common.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1860.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Sir John William Lubbock, Third Baronet & Lady Harriet Lubbock (*née* Hotham).

Neville Lubbock left Eton at fifteen to join the family bank and, unlike his brothers, never played for the College although in later life he turned out occasionally for Eton Ramblers. Most of his cricket was for the Gentlemen of West Kent and for Gentlemen of Kent in whose colours he played four of his six first-class matches. He also appeared in a few matches for Band of Brothers.

On his introduction to first-class cricket in 1858 he scored 42 opening the batting for Gentlemen of Kent against Gentlemen of England at Lord's and 37 in the return at St. Lawrence. Apart from a few 20s and 30s in club matches, he appears to have played few other innings of substance but he passed double figures in both his games for Kent, for Sixteen of Kent v England at Lord's and the return at Canterbury.

In 1862 Neville Lubbock joined a firm of West India merchants, Cavan Brothers & Co (later The Colonial Company Ltd), and from then onwards much of his life and work would be devoted to West Indian interests and developments in the sugar industry. He became Chairman of the West India Committee and in 1887 was invited by the Government to attend the first Colonial Conference in London. His was a major role in persuading the Government to send a Royal Commission to the West Indies in 1897. For his services he received the KCMG in 1899.

Lubbock was Governor of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, Chairman of the New Colonial Co, a director of the Colonial Bank, the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. and the London and India Dock Co. as well as being one of the Merchant Assessors of the Admiralty Court.

He married twice, first at North Cray in 1861 to Harriet Charlotte Wood (1839- 1878) by whom he had ten children, seven sons and three daughters, two of whom died in infancy. Secondly at Cranbrook in 1881 to Constance Ann Herschel (1855-1939) by whom he had a further seven children, one son and six daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £28,239.

Kenneth McAlpine (No. 392).

Born: 11.4.1858; Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. *Died:* 10.2.1923; Loose.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1885-1886.

Educated: Haileybury College.

Parents: Robert J McAlpine & Jeannette Charlotte McAlpine (*née* Bell).

Although his top score in his three appearances for Kent was ten, Kenneth McAlpine was a distinguished club cricketer who captained the Mote from 1885 until 1911. As an administrator he gave outstanding service to the game, at the Mote as Joint Secretary from 1884 to 1897, Secretary from 1898 to 1922 and to Kent CCC where he served on the General and Managing Committees from 1893 to 1907, on the Young Players' Sub-Committee from 1898 to 1907, latterly as Chairman, and as Second Eleven captain from 1893 to 1903. He was President of Kent in 1922.

The son of a 'Landed Proprietor', McAlpine left Haileybury early and did not appear in the Eleven. His first game for the Mote was in 1881 and in 1886 he established what was then a record for the Mote Park ground by scoring 226 against Royal Marines, adding 346 for the first wicket with Charles Lake (137). He became a member of MCC in 1885 and played for them occasionally although never in a first-class fixture. His other clubs included Free Foresters, where he was on the committee, Band of Brothers and, as a 'half-play' member, I Zingari.

In 1889 McAlpine scored 24* and 27 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Town Malling. The match is not considered first-class but when two years later he toured the USA and Canada with Lord Hawke's Eleven, the Gentlemen of Philadelphia fixture was awarded first-class status. For the most part batting low in the order, his record on the tour was fairly modest, his best performance 24* and 27 v Western Ontario at Toronto. He toured the USA with Hawke's Eleven again in 1894. When captaining Kent Second Eleven McAlpine almost invariably batted with the tail; his top score was 48.

As a young man McAlpine was articled to the Medway Brewery in Maidstone and then tried coffee growing in India. On returning to England he acquired a wine and spirit business in Maidstone, trading as Franklyn & McAlpine but sold his interest in 1909. He was also a director of the brewers Isherwood, Stacy & Stacey, where he was Chairman at the time of his death. In 1895 he was elected to Kent County Council as a member for Maidstone and in 1921 was appointed Chairman of the Kent Joint Standing Committee. He was Chairman of the Maidstone District Unionist Association and was appointed a magistrate in 1915. A noted Rugby footballer, he captained Maidstone RFC.

Following the publication of the obituary in *The Times*, 'EH' wrote eulogising McAlpine's 'overpowering sense of duty.' 'intense resolve to work' and compulsion to 'fulfil the task he had been sent here to do – namely, to do his best to make this a happier and better world'.

So far as the Kent committee is concerned, he does not come across as one of the more progressive. He tried, unsuccessfully, to exclude women from the Canterbury Pavilion and when in 1920 Jim Seymour (*qv*) incurred the displeasure of some committee members in a letter pointing out the inequities of the current benefit system, McAlpine seconded a motion for Seymour's suspension. With historic consequences, Lord Harris's more 'liberal' approach prevailed by a narrow seven votes to six.

He died unmarried. On his death his estate was valued at £20,804 10s 7d.

George McCanlis (No. 297).

Born: 3.12.1847; Landguard Fort, Suffolk. *Died:* 18.10.1937; Upper Norwood, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1873-1878.

John McCanlis & Bridget McCanlis (*née* Sullivan).

As a cricketer, as in the wider world, George McCanlis was rather less successful than his better-known elder brother William (*qv*). The son of a Gunner, like his brother he was born in the historic Landguard Fort near Felixstowe, a bleak spot for a baby but scene in 1667 of the last opposed – and vigorously repulsed – serious attempt to land troops in the British Isles. Again, like his brother, he followed his father into the Royal Artillery and as a musician in the RA band had risen to the rank of Bombardier when in 1869 he played his first match of importance for the Royal Artillery Cricket Club. The club existed primarily for officers but it became the custom to draft in talented other ranks for the more important fixtures. Against a strong I Zingari side at Woolwich he took thirteen wickets and when called on next year against MCC displayed all-round talent by finishing top scorer with 42.

With William by now a regular in the Kent side when Army duties allowed, it is no surprise to find his younger brother taking five for 30 for 22 Colts of Kent against the County side on the Paragon ground Blackheath in May 1870. He continued to distinguish himself in Royal Artillery matches – twelve wickets against the Household Brigade, ten wickets against MCC, 53 against I Zingari in 1871, 102 for NCOs v Woolwich Arsenal in 1872 – but it was not until 1873 that Kent availed themselves of his services.

By capturing the wicket of Albert Freeman with his first ball in first-class cricket, McCanlis joined a select few but there was rather more to the story than appears in the scorebook. According to a piece in *The Cricketer* in 1950 (May 27), a nervous McCanlis caught his foot on a stump, stumbled, the ball flew out of his hand and bounced twice before hitting the wicket. His batting was more distinguished. Opening, he was ninth out for 60, brother William scored 39; the next highest was five, the remaining eight (including Lord Harris) contributing just three.

In his next match, at Eastbourne, Sussex totalled 302 on a soggy and lifeless wicket. The Kent captain, Kelson, Lipscomb or possibly Willsher, used six bowlers but McCanlis was not one of them, their failure to do so drawing comment from *Wisden*. Opening, he again distinguished himself, last out with 48 in a total of 88, highest score of the match by a Kent batsman.

For the rest of his county career George McCanlis delivered a mere 64 (four-ball) overs. There were many dubious bowling actions around at the time and possibly McCanlis was one of them but he continued to take wickets for the Royal Artillery and other local clubs including New Cross Albion. In 1880 he took 13 wickets for Cheltenham against the touring Canadians. Unfortunately in the remainder of his county career McCanlis was unable to match his early batting form, only once progressing past thirty - 36 v Hampshire at the Antelope Ground, Southampton in 1878.

In 1878 he left the Army and in the following year married Anne Chillmaid (1849-1895) by whom he had three sons and three daughters. It is an indication of the peripatetic nature of the rest of his life that two of his children were born in Cheltenham, and the remaining four in Hackney, Clapton, Orsett and Gravesend respectively. He joined the MCC staff in 1879, appearing for the club in at least three minor matches and standing umpire in one first-class fixture. In the following year he became coach at Cheltenham where he remained for almost a decade. In the 1881 Census he is described somewhat grandly as a 'Professor of Athletics'.

He subsequently became landlord of a number of pubs in and around Gravesend including *The Orient* in the High Street, where he was licensee with his wife Anne from 1890 to 1894 and *The King's Head* at Milton. He scored at least one century for the Gravesend club.

In both the 1891 and 1901 Census returns his occupation is given as 'Brewer's Traveller' so it seems likely that he left the running of his pubs to others. In 1908 he was declared bankrupt, the Order for Summary Administration in the *London Gazette* listing him as 'of no occupation, lately Brewer's Canvasser'. In 1911 things had further deteriorated and he is living alone in one rented room in Gravesend with his occupation shown as 'Brewer's Traveller. Out of employ'. Presumably he bounced back from disaster. He very nearly lived to 90.

In the issue of *The Cricketer* referred to above there is a story, probably apocryphal, that George and William McCanlis were known to the Lord's ground staff as the 'Broccoli Brothers'. Their name was frequently misspelled in the press as 'McCaulis' and, for nickname purposes, it was a short step from the colloquial name for cauliflower – 'cauli' - to another vegetable of the same genus.

William McCanlis (No. 219).

Born: 30.10.1840; Woolwich. *Died:* 19.11.1925; Westcombe Park, Greenwich.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace round-arm/under-arm bowler.

Kent 1862-1877.

John McCanlis & Bridget McCanlis (*née* Sullivan).

Elder brother of George McCanlis (*qv*), William McCanlis was a useful, hard-hitting batsman, generally seen at his best when runs were at a premium. As a bowler, he was a handy change in first-

class cricket and rather more than that in services cricket and at club level. His true fame rests however on his years in charge of the Kent Nursery at Tonbridge.

To quote Lord Harris in *A Few Short Runs*, 'the success of our Nursery pre-war was almost solely 'due to McCanlis's 'experience and eminent capacity'. McCanlis describes his coaching methods at some length in the 1907 *Wisden*. Seen in the light of modern coaching techniques it all sounds pretty primitive but at the time properly structured coaching was almost unknown outside a few public schools. Whether developing 'natural' talents such as Colin Blythe or Frank Woolley or getting the best out of the less gifted such as George Collins, he was ahead of his time. Not the least of his contribution was that, by restricting the length of time his young hopefuls could bowl in the nets, he protected them from the drudgery of long hours spent bowling to members and their friends.

Although like most good coaches a believer in first principles, the Nursery under McCanlis did not breed stereotypes. It would be hard to find a group of batsmen more disparate in terms of style and method than 'Wally' Hardinge, Jack Hubble, Ted Humphreys, David Jennings, Jim Seymour and Frank Woolley.

As for bowlers, given that when he began his career it was still illegal to raise the arm above the shoulder, his achievements were in a way even more remarkable. He not only 'discovered' and developed arguably the greatest left-arm spinner of them all, Colin Blythe'. Woolley, a bowler similar in style and not much inferior in skill, attributed much of his success to McCanlis. Arthur Fielder came to Kent a raw fast bowler straight from village cricket. He trained on to become, day in and day out, the most effective fast bowler in the country, the first to fully exploit the outswinger. 1,150 wickets for the County as well as 26 in six matches for England v Australia are testimony to his quality.

By the end of 1914 Kent had four Championships under their belt and ten capped professionals - Blythe, Fairservice, Fielder, Hardinge, Hubble, Humphreys, Jennings, Preston, Seymour and Woolley - had come through the system. Two more, George Collins and 'Tich' Freeman were capped in 1920. By the time Woolley, retired in 1938, these twelve had contributed 155,300 runs, 276 centuries, and 10,396 wickets to the County as well as 102 England caps.

So abundant was the crop, Kent were able to export - 'Joe' Murrell (reluctantly) to Middlesex where he made 342 appearances, Woolley's elder brother Claud, similarly reluctant to leave, played 362 matches for Northamptonshire (and one for Gloucestershire). Others to move on included Robert Haywood (Northants), Alan Peach (Surrey) and John Vincett (Sussex). Judged by the yardstick of practical results, McCanlis must rank among the greatest coaches of all time.

McCanlis learned his cricket while serving with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, on the Barrack Field ground where in his early days there were no boundaries and hits for all-run eight were not uncommon and eleven not unknown. In an interview published in the magazine *Cricket* in July 1901 he recounts batting with a partner, 'getting on in life and rather portly 'and running six for a last ball victory only for the opposition's umpire, a drill-sergeant but probably one blessed with a sense of humour, to call 'five short. The RA Cricket Club existed primarily for officers but a few 'other ranks' were sometimes drafted in, usually against the stronger opponents.

His first performances of note were in 1860 when, a Corporal at the time and the only one in the side without the Queen's commission, he took five wickets in an innings against the Household Brigade at Lord's and another five against I Zingari at Woolwich. In 1862 he scored 59, took four wickets and held three catches against the Peripatetics. A month later he was making his first-class debut for Kent.

The match, Fourteen of Kent v England was the first match of the highlight of Kent's cricketing year, Canterbury Week, and in the above mentioned interview McCanlis admits that his chance came too

soon. Faced with the two fastest bowlers in England, 'Foghorn' Jackson and 'Tear 'em' Tarrant, to say nothing of William Caffyn and George Wootton and possibly over-awed by the occasion he was twice bowled for one and delivered six wicketless overs. He was not called on again until 1864.

By now a Sergeant and playing as a rather mature colt, McCanlis scored 24 (top score) and took four for 7 for Colts North of the Medway v Colts South of the Medway at Town Malling and went on to play in eight of Kent's nine fixtures. Although he passed 20 only four times, against Nottinghamshire at Crystal Palace he was top scorer in both innings: 36 (team total 124) and 24 (team total 110). His bowling was little used but against Yorkshire at Middlesbrough he took four for 67. On the other hand, there were two ducks and five other single-figure scores and in the following season, he made only three appearances with a highest score of 12.

Possibly due in part to Army duties he did not appear again for Kent until 1871. In the intervening period he enjoyed considerable success for the Royal Artillery 144, five wickets and two catches v MCC in 1865, 88, 37 and nine wickets in the match v Harlequins and 13 wickets in the match v MCC in 1866, eight for 46 v MCC in 1870, brother George disposing of the other two. While on duty with an RA detachment at the Paris Exhibition in 1867 he opened the batting twice for the Paris club against MCC and I Zingari on their ground off the Bois de Boulogne. When MCC dismissed the home side for 81 and 40 he top scored in both innings, 33 and 16, in the latter case the only batsman to reach double figures.

From 1871 to 1877 he played for Kent whenever his Army duties permitted as well as a few non-first-class matches for MCC, often appearing under the pseudonym 'Willis'. What this deception achieved is unclear as in much of the sporting press he appeared on the printed scores 'Willis' '(Sgt William McCanlis)'.

In that time he appeared in 33 matches for Kent with a frequency ranging from seven games in 1875 to three in 1871. His most productive season was 1873, 182 runs (avge.18.20) and his highest score, 67 v Lancashire at Gravesend. There were two other half-centuries, 52 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1871 and 63 v Hampshire at the Antelope Ground, Southampton in 1877. In each case he was his team's top scorer.

Altogether he top scored in a completed innings eleven times. Even in his penultimate first-class appearance, v MCC in the 1877 Canterbury Week, his 20 was top score when Kent were dismissed for 74 in their second innings. In the 1870s century partnerships were a rarity but against Surrey at Canterbury in 1871 he took part in a century opening partnership of 115 (EA White 81, McCanlis 33).

His captains continued to make little use of his bowling but, delivering mainly under-arm lobs, he took three for 52 v Sussex on Tunbridge Wells Common in 1877 and two for 30 v Surrey at Maidstone in 1873 when his victims were Surrey's two star batsmen, Harry Jupp and Tom Humphrey. During this period he hit at least four centuries in Royal Artillery matches.

Promoted to Quartermaster, McCanlis was employed in the Ordnance Stores Department when, in July 1886 he was again promoted, this time to the rank of Honorary Captain. In the latter part of his Army career he was posted to the War Office where he worked alongside Lord Harris who was Under-Secretary of State for War from 1885 to 1890. The two got to know and respect each other and there can be little doubt that McCanlis had been earmarked as future coach. He had already been involved with Kent's young cricketers. As early as 1880 McCanlis had twice captained in colts matches and had played for Kent against colts teams led by Lord Harris

He retired from the Army around the turn of the century but seems to have continued to be involved at Woolwich in some capacity. When the Nursery was set up at Tonbridge in 1897, initially the actual coaching was in the hands of George Webb (qv), head professional at Tonbridge School, and Harry

Day, the Tonbridge groundsman although McCanlis seems to have been in overall command. In 1897 he was responsible for talent spotting and signing Colin Blythe. It was not until 1900 that he took over management of the Nursery on a full-time basis. His duties included captaining the Second Eleven and Club & Ground sides which he continued to do until 1911.

Beginning during his Army service, McCanlis played for – and for many years captained - Charlton Park. He continued playing almost until the outbreak of the 1914-1918 War. He resigned as Kent coach in 1912. In his letter of resignation he wrote ‘I have done my best in bringing forward young professionals but I feel the time has arrived when I can best assist the Club by resigning’. He was rewarded with a vote of thanks at the AGM and presentation of a gold watch. The tribute in the Club’s Annual Report reads:

‘What the Club owes to Captain McCanlis for his life-long service to the County as cricketer, counsellor, and friend it is impossible to estimate but so far as his coaching is concerned, he has the extreme satisfaction of having lived to see and enjoy the most satisfactory results. He lays down what has been to him a burden of love with the esteem and gratitude of those who have benefitted by his tuition and of all lovers of cricket in Kent, but the Committee congratulate themselves that they can still count on his advice as a colleague.’

He continued to serve Kent on the Managing committee and on the Young Players Committee. William McCanlis married twice. In 1868 he married Susannah Taylor (1843-1892) at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Woolwich. There were three sons and three daughters. Following the death of his first wife, he married Philadelphia Welch (1850-1944). For the whole of their married life they lived in Humber Road, Westcombe Park where he died. His estate was valued at £2,792 5s.

His grandson Kenneth made 18 appearances in the Minor Counties Championship for Surrey Second Eleven and for Bedfordshire as well as umpiring in 228 first-class matches. He was for some years a regular and notably erudite contributor to *The Cricketer*, writing mainly on umpiring but also on cricket in general.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Colonel Frederick Finch Mackenzie CB (No. 356).

Born: 14.7.1849; Kensington, London. *Died:* 17.7.1934; Steyning, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1880.

Educated: Wellington College & Worcester College, Oxford.

Parents: Frederick William Mackenzie & Mary Mackenzie (*née* Legge).

The son of a London physician with a practice in Chester Square, Marylebone, Frederick Mackenzie was in his school Eleven from 1866 to 1867, captain in the latter year. At Oxford, where he read medicine, he played in two Freshmen’s trials but with a top score of ten*, progressed no further.

He does not seem to have practised medicine. In 1871 he appeared once for Gentlemen of Shropshire and by 1879 he was Master of the East Kent Foxhounds, living at Eythorne House near Dover with his wife, two nieces, butler, cook, two maids, two grooms and a stable hand. While living there he appeared twice for Kent, failing to score on his debut in 1880 against MCC at Lord’s and travelling to Derby where his scores were four and two. He also played three times for Band of Brothers with a top score of 11.

By 1901 Mackenzie was living at Ramslade, a substantial property near Bracknell, Berkshire which in 1945 became the RAF Staff College. Mackenzie was prominent in local affairs, as JP and in 1904 as High Sheriff of Berkshire. He farmed cattle, grazed horses and gained a considerable reputation in the hunting field with the Garth Foxhounds, the Berks & Bucks Staghounds and the Household Brigade Draghounds. In 1911, as well as the family, there were four resident visitors and nine servants.

Commissioned in the Militia, he was promoted Major in the Third (Militia) Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers in 1886 and, despite his age, served with the Regiment in the Boer War from 1901 to 1902, taking with him his own horse 'Slasher'. Awarded the CB in 1902, he retired as Honorary Colonel of the 5th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers.

In 1879 he married Ella Rawson (1859-1945) in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. There were two sons and one daughter. On his death, his effects were valued at £17,784 2s 1d.

Francis Alexander Mackinnon (No. 324).

Born: 9.4.1848; Kensington, London. *Died:* 27.2.1947; Drumduan, Forres, Morayshire, Scotland.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1875-1885. Kent cap 1882.

Tests: One for England.

Educated: Rose Hill School, Tunbridge Wells, Harrow School & St John's College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Alexander 34th Mackinnon of Mackinnon & Margaret Sophia Mackinnon (*née* Willes).

Although a distinguished cricketer, Francis Mackinnon is perhaps best remembered for his longevity. When he died aged 98 years, 324 days, he was not only the longest-lived Kent cricketer, he was also the oldest Test cricketer, county cricketer and university Blue. In addition, he was also the senior member of MCC, elected in 1870. In 1903, on the death of his father, an MP, JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, he became the 35th MacKinnon of MacKinnon, chief of the Clan.

Devoted to cricket from childhood, Mackinnon recalled that as a boy in Canterbury Week, he used to walk the two miles from the family home, Acryse Place, to catch the Canterbury stage from *The Rose & Crown* at Elham. At Harrow, he failed to gain a place in the Eleven and, although he entered St. John's College Cambridge in 1866, he did not appear in the University Eleven until 1869 when he played for Sixteen of Cambridge University against the United South of England Eleven.

In the following year he was awarded his Blue. His 27 on his first-class debut, against MCC at Fenner's, was followed by a sequence of single figure scores including a pair against MCC at Lord's but he contributed a valuable unbeaten 17 in the first innings of the 1870 University Match, the famous 'Cobden's Match'.

In his memoirs Lord Harris describes Mackinnon as being 'very diffident of his own powers' and on first leaving Cambridge, he confined himself to cricket for Gentlemen of Kent, Quidnuncs and village sides. In 1868 and again in 1870 he appeared for 22 of Folkestone v the United South of England Eleven. Always seeking talent for the county side, Harris was keen to enlist Mackinnon but, although they saw each other regularly as officers in the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, he found him difficult to persuade. Harris was eventually reduced to accosting Mackinnon in his trap as he drove out of Lord's and holding on until he agreed to play.

With a good defensive technique and a calm temperament, for ten years Mackinnon would be a valuable member of the side and, more important perhaps, a loyal and influential supporter of Lord Harris in his efforts to raise the standard of Kent cricket. Where far more talented amateurs such as Alfred Lubbock, Cuthbert Ottaway and Walter Money (*qv*) showed little interest in matches outside

Canterbury Week – if then – Mackinnon was one of a small, devoted band prepared to turn out regularly and to travel to more unfashionable venues such as Bradford, Derby, Rochdale and Sheffield.

On his second appearance for Kent, against Hampshire at Winchester, he scored 66, adding 87 for the second wicket with Vero Shaw (54). Against Surrey at The Oval in 1879 he was top scorer with 26 in the first innings as Kent were dismissed for 89 and in the follow-on began with an opening partnership of 83 with Ivo Bligh (34) and, with 66, finished top scorer again. He missed the whole of the 1883 season but returned in 1884 for his best season ever with 470 runs (avge.33.57) including the only two centuries of his career.

Captaining the side against Hampshire at Southampton, he scored 115, putting on 61 for the first wicket with John Pentecost (38) and 155 for the third with George Hearne (38). Against Yorkshire at Gravesend he played probably his finest innings, 102 against the bowling of Peate, Ulyett, Emmett, Peel, Rawlin and Bates, all but one current or future England cricketers. Opening the batting, he was sixth out, his runs scored out of 185 and including a six over the pavilion. He also hit 84 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Canterbury.

Mackinnon ended his first-class career in the 1885 Canterbury Week. Against Yorkshire he scored 57 and shared a second-wicket partnership of 107 with George Hearne (71). On his final appearance, against MCC, he contributed 49 to an opening stand of 90 with ‘Harry Pat’ Patterson (58). He continued in club cricket, notably for the Mote for whom he scored a century against Royal Engineers in 1887 and intermittently for Band of Brothers from 1880 until as late as 1900. He was also a member of I Zingari

In 1878/79 Mackinnon toured Australia and New Zealand with a team led by Lord Harris. On the outward journey he shared a cabin with Charles Absolom (*qv*) which cannot have made for a pleasant trip as the mercurial ‘Bos’ was suffering from a severe bout of lovesickness. In arguably the least representative team ever to tour Australia, Mackinnon found no sort of form. Against the Australian Eleven recently back from their tour of England, a game retrospectively dignified with Test Match status, he was dismissed for 0 and five, the 0 coming in the middle of a Spofforth hat-trick. In his only two other matches rated as first-class, both against Victoria, his highest score was an unbeaten 15 but he performed rather better in matches against odds. Against Twenty-Three of Bendigo he scored 46 and put on 139 for the first wicket with ‘Monkey’ Hornby (104).

Mackinnon found time in a strenuous social round to visit the son of one of his father’s tenants living 17 miles outside Adelaide. When, rather than travel with the rest of the party from Sydney to Melbourne by sea, he opted for a five day journey on horseback with Harris, Lucas and Absolom, he was said to have shown ‘the others the way over their fences’.

Mackinnon served on the Kent CCC committee almost continuously from 1879 to 1910 and was President in 1889. As virtually squire of Elham, he was a great supporter of local cricket as well as donating and presenting the prizes at the Elham Flower show. He went out of his way to encourage local boy Leslie Ames. He presented young Ames with his first cricket bat at the age of four, another when the 14 year-old boy hit his first century for Harvey Grammar School Folkestone and when in 1927 Ames registered his first hundred for Kent he gave him an engraved miniature silver claymore.

Like his father, Francis Mackinnon was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent. He served with the East Kent Mounted Rifles until 1902 (Honorary Major 1886).

While still maintaining a home in London, he sold Acryse Park *circa* 1910 and moved, first to the Isle of Skye subsequently to Invernesshire and finally to his father-in law Admiral Hood’s former home Drumduan, where he died. Shortly before the outbreak of war, he gave a short radio talk on cricket, –

not apparently preserved in the BBC archives. At the age of 98 he announced his intention of going into hospital but only, as it turned out, to attend an annual meeting and he continued to weed his garden until a few weeks before his death. When he attended the 1946 Canterbury Week he was still wearing the watch chain with crossed cricket bats presented by Lord Harris to all members of the 1878/79 touring team.

In 1888 he married Emily Isabel Hood at St. George's, Hanover Square. There were two sons and one daughter. His eldest son, Commander Arthur Avalon Mackinnon RN, became the 36th Mackinnon of Mackinnon. On his death Francis Mackinnon's effects were valued at £19,626 9s 9d.

Ernest Malden (No. 431).

Born: 10.10.1870, Sheldwich. *Died:* 13.9.1955, Salisbury (now Harare), Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1893.

Educated: Clergy Orphan's School, Canterbury.

Parents: RevBingham Sibthorpe Malden & Susannah Mary Malden (*née* Walker).

Ernest Malden was in his school Eleven and gained a local reputation in 1887 as an allrounder although his cricket seems to have been restricted by his profession - private tutor to young men preparing for the RMC Sandhurst and RMA Woolwich. Like his cousin Eustace (*q. v.*), he played for both Tunbridge Wells and Bluemantles, and on occasions for Band of Brothers as well as for Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. Although written evidence seems to be lacking, he almost certainly appeared for Sheldwich where his father was vicar.

In a team containing seven amateurs, he opened the batting on his only appearance for Kent but failed to score, as did his opening partner Alec Hearne but he batted usefully for 22 in the second innings, putting on 34 for the first wicket with Hearne. He was one of only four Kent batsmen to pass 20 in the match.

The Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles did not serve in the Second Boer War as a unit but Malden was in one of two contingents from East Kent drafted into the Imperial Yeomanry. Hastily formed to meet the urgent need for mounted troops and made up from Yeomanry regiments throughout the UK leavened with a mixed bag of volunteers, the Imperial Yeomanry lacked homogeneity and was not an unqualified success. As the conflict developed into a guerrilla war, morale suffered and many of the troops opted for transfer to colonial units. Malden joined the Transvaal Police, remaining after the war and eventually settling in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Rev Eustace Malden (No. 425).

Born: 19.8.1863; Brighton, Sussex. *Died:* 3.12;1947, Rottingdean.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1892-1893. Kent cap 1892.

Educated: Haileybury College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev Clifford Malden & Jane Malden (*née* Eley).

The son of the Rector of St. Lawrence, Godshill, Isle of Wight, Eustace Malden was in the Haileybury Eleven as wicketkeeper in 1881 and 1882 but, with competition from Charles Wright – apart from any other consideration, a far superior batsman – on going up to Cambridge he was unable to progress beyond the Trials.

On graduating, he became an Assistant Master at Bengo and, having in 1886 played one match against Hertfordshire for Hampshire at Hertford, kept wicket for Hertfordshire in six county games

between 1887 and 1888. He also played for Hertford Town for whom he scored at least one century. In the early 1890s he moved to Frant near Tunbridge Wells, setting up as a tutor, engaged like his cousin Ernest, in coaching candidates for Army examinations.

While living in Frant, Malden kept wicket for both Tunbridge Wells and Bluemantles and played several times for Band of Brothers. With Manley Kemp rarely available outside the August holidays, Kent lacked a regular stumper in the early 1890s and in 1892 Malden was recruited for six matches, one of three keepers used that season. As far as can be gathered from contemporary reports, he was considered well up to county standard.

Next year, when Kent called on five wicketkeepers, he made another six appearances. To go with his seven catches and three stumpings, he conceded 109 byes, an average of just over nine per match; quite creditable by the standards of the day when wicketkeepers were expected to stand up for everything except genuine pace. Seldom a prolific batsman even in club cricket, when Malden made his top score of 27 (run out), he took part in a tenth-wicket partnership of 56 with Walter Wright (21*). He appeared in one 'representative' match – for East v West at Portsmouth in 1892.

Eustace Malden was ordained in 1917 and retained the living at Frant until his retirement in 1935. In 1897 he married Eve Shepherd (1875-1923). There were two daughters and one son, William Jack, who played one match for Cambridge University in 1921 as well as a further 23 for Sussex between 1920 and 1922. On his death, Eustace Malden's effects were valued £706 2s 5d.

Eric William Mann (No. 490).

Born: 4.3.1882; Sidcup. *Died:* 15.2.1954; Rye, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1902-1903.

Educated: Harrow School & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Woodham Mann & Amelia Mann (*née* French).

Eric Mann had the rare distinction of beating Eton as captain of Harrow and Oxford as captain of Cambridge. He was also the maternal grandfather of the highly respected racing commentator Julian Wilson and father-in-law of the virulently anti-establishment sporting journalist Peter Wilson, known in his *Daily Mirror and Sunday Pictorial* days as 'The Man They Can't Gag' and in *Private Eye* as 'The Man Nobody Wanted to Gag'.

At Harrow, Mann was in the Eleven from 1899 to 1901 and in the latter year, when he led the side to a ten-wicket victory, his 69 was considered the innings of the match. As a Freshman at Cambridge there were high expectations but, although he played the first three games of the 1902 season, he was unable to retain his place. In four matches for Kent his top score was 19.

Without doing anything outstanding, Mann did enough to earn his Blue in 1903, batting consistently and hitting three half-centuries but failing against Oxford. Two matches for Kent were similarly unfruitful. This ended his Kent career but there were two more seasons of university cricket. In 1904, apart from 95 against London County at Fenner's, he played no long innings but did enough for a second Blue, justifying his selection by an innings of 42 in the University match. He also bowled usefully on occasions, taking four for 25 in the return with London County at Crystal Palace.

Possibly inspired by the responsibility of captaincy, in 1905 there was a transformation. Comfortably top of the averages with 758 runs (avge.46.05), he hit 157 against Warwickshire at Fenner's, 77 and 121* in the return at Edgbaston and three other scores over 50. Above all his side beat Oxford, a triumph marred slightly by the captain's modest personal contribution of 14 and 0. In July he led an MCC side in a tour of Canada and the USA.

After 1905 business took over and Mann played no further cricket beyond club level. He joined the family business, E.W.Mann & Co, a company mainly concerned with coal distribution and marketing, through a chain of depots throughout much of Southern England. Aided possibly by marriage in 1906 at Trinity Church, Finchley to 'Kitzie' Cameron, the daughter of Sir Euan Cameron, founder of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, he expanded his interests. There were three daughters and two sons.

By the time he retired he was Chairman of the British East Africa Corporation and a director of several other companies including British Safety Films, Belmont Hotels and Mann, Taylor & Co, an import/export company. As well as hunting with the Royal Berkshire, he was a keen philatelist and became President of the Royal Philatelic Society.

The marriage of one of Mann's daughter to Peter Wilson was rather against her parent's wishes. Although, oddly enough, a fellow Harrovian, Wilson was a left-wing, rather raffish, character who by the end of his career had become almost a caricature of the popular image of a Fleet Street journalist of the day. The marriage did not last. Peter Wilson's father – and hence Julian Wilson's paternal grandfather - was Freddy Wilson, a contemporary of Eric Mann in the Eleven at both Harrow and Cambridge and captain of the university in 1904. One of Eric Mann's sons, Captain Eric William Mann died of wounds in North Africa in 1942. He had been in the Harrow Eleven in 1925.

Mann played for numerous clubs including Band of Brothers, MCC, Old Harrovians and Sidmouth where he lived during the 1939-45 War. He was living in Rye at the time of his death, his estate valued at £87,713 15s 5d.

Francis Marchant (No. 381).

Born: 22.5.1864; Matfield. *Died* 13.4.1946; Roehampton, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1883-1905. Kent Cap 1885.

County captain: 1890-1893 (joint-captain), 1894-1897.

Educated: Rugby School, Eton College & Trinity College Cambridge.

Parents: Stephen Walter Marchant & Elizabeth Marchant (*née* Lambe).

Frank Marchant failed to reach double figures in 45% of his completed innings and recorded 48 ducks. There can be little doubt that he scored far fewer runs than expected from a player of his ability and clearly there was some truth in *Wisden's* assertion that he was one who 'had he exercised a little more restraint on first going in, he must have attained the highest honours'.

Nevertheless, more perhaps than most batsmen of his era, figures, taken on their own, do not perhaps reflect his true value to his side. When he scored runs, he not only scored them quickly; he tended to score them when it mattered. When batsmen struggled in low-scoring matches on the numerous bowler-friendly pitches encountered in the closing years of the 19th century and against bowlers who knew how to use them, he was often at his best with a rapid 20 or 30. Of the 53 occasions on which he was his team's top-scorer, 24 were with scores between 20 and 39.

During a fairly long career he batted in every position except No. 11 but most frequently he came in at seven or eight, which, one way or another, does not usually give much time for building an innings. On the other hand, although he opened the batting on more than 50 occasions, he played only three substantial innings when doing so. Of his eight centuries, three were scored at seven, one each at three, four, five, six and eight.

Six feet (183 cm.) tall and athletic, Marchant was an imposing figure, described in the 1907 Kent history as 'the most brilliant hitter'. He excelled in the drive, particularly the straight drive, the square cut and leg-hit supplemented by a trademark stroke of his own in which he used his height to 'lean' on

a good-length ball outside off-stump and send it to the boundary between point and cover. In the outfield or at mid off he was considered among the best of his time.

Although never attaining *Wisden's* 'highest honours' he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1887 and captained MCC against the Australians at Lord's in 1890. At Lord's against the 1893 Australians he played one of his best innings, 103 in 105 minutes with 11 fours. With Wilfrid Flowers (130), 152 were added for the sixth wicket in 70 minutes.

Frank Marchant came from a farming family. In 1871 his father farmed 165 acres at Matfield employing eight men, two women and two boys. Eldest of six children, Frank Marchant was educated privately in Brighton and went on to spend a term at Rugby before going to Eton on a scholarship. He was in the Eton Eleven in 1882 and 1883 and in the latter year scored 93 out of 115 in 95 minutes against Harrow at Lord's.

Unsurprisingly, this innings caught the eye of Lord Harris who approached him during the match to enquire about his place of birth. The upshot was an invitation to play in two matches and within weeks of leaving Eton the young man made his debut for Kent against Lancashire at Gravesend. Faced with an attack including Dick Barlow, Alec Watson, and Jack Crossland, he was Kent's first innings top-scorer with 24 in an all-out total of 92. In the event, he did not face Crossland's pace in the first innings but succumbed without scoring to his yorker when he met it in the second.

At Cambridge his cricket career was relatively undistinguished. As a Freshman in 1884, he played in every match and was awarded the first of his four cricket Blues but his highest score was 34 (against the Australians) and in the University match at Lord's he suffered the indignity of a pair. In 1885 he hit one half-century and two in 1886, 51 v the Australians at Fenner's and 58 v Yorkshire at Bradford, but still averaged under 20 and had not exceeded 20 in his three appearances in the University match. To the 1887 *Lillywhite* he was 'rather a poor beginner, but when set, a dangerous batsman; beautiful field and thrower.'

Captain in 1887, his team won only one match and lost to Oxford at Lord's by seven wickets but personally he had a better final university season with 373 runs (avge. 31.10) and a top score of 72 v Surrey at The Oval. This was his only half-century but he was five times dismissed in the 40s including 49 in the University match. In all matches he exceeded 500 runs for the first time but *Lillywhite* was still critical. 'Played one or two capital innings, but too much on the hit at starting', 'first-rate field and worked hard on his duties as captain'.

Throughout Marchant's time at Cambridge, he, in his own words, 'played more or less regularly for Kent after the University match'. In 1884 he made his maiden half-century, 77 v Somerset; 63 of them in boundaries, but on the small Tunbridge Wells Common ground, boundary hits counted only three. At Beckenham in 1886 he was top scorer in both innings with 96 & 65 facing a Surrey attack including George Lohmann and Jack Beaumont, and top-scored again with 59 in the following match against Derbyshire on a rain-affected pitch at Mote Park, where he added 90 for the seventh wicket with Ted Hickmott (44). His season concluded however with something of a run famine - 7, 0, 0, 36, 0, 0 and a pair.

On coming down from Cambridge he chose, through family connections, the paper industry rather than farming, for a living. Fortunately for Kent and, thanks to his having Kent cricket enthusiasts as business partners, there was still time for cricket. In 1888, his first post-university season, he missed seven matches and achieved little except at Blackheath against Gloucestershire where he arrived at the wicket with the score 51 for five and was last out with 84, scored out of 107.

In 1889 Marchant had virtually a full season and, with Lord Harris increasingly occupied with War Office and other public duties, for the first half-dozen matches he found himself entrusted with the

captaincy, winning three and losing three. Among the wins was a highly satisfactory innings victory over Yorkshire at Maidstone when Fred Martin (11 for 65) and Walter Wright (nine for 51) bowled unchanged throughout both innings. Personally the season was one of his best with 669 runs (avge.29.08) and a maiden century against Sussex at Gravesend, 176 in 195 minutes with 20 fours and 17 threes. 29* at the end of the first day, next morning he hit a further 129* before the luncheon bell, the first recorded hundred before lunch in Kent history. As earlier at Tunbridge Wells, on the Bat & Ball ground, the straight boundaries only counted three. With George Hearne (103), 249 runs were scored for the fourth wicket.

On Lord Harris' departure for Bombay (now Mumbai), Marchant was appointed joint-captain with 'Harry Pat' Patterson. Fortunately the two were friends (Marchant had been best-man at Patterson's wedding). The arrangement, in theory at least, was that Marchant led the side except at Whitsun and in August, when Patterson, who had a busy legal practice in London, took over. Unfortunately, with Patterson restricted mainly to the latter half of the season, Marchant, in the absence of a manager, was saddled with off-field responsibilities – raising a team, hotel and travelling arrangement, paying bills etc.

He had no relish for the additional duties, and with reason. In his first season, when Kent used 31 players, they played Yorkshire at Bootham Crescent, York. The first day found him with only eight men and little prospect of anyone else arriving before nightfall. A telegram to Stanley Christopherson reading 'Can't do without you' when it started had read 'Can do without you' when it arrived. Another, to Walter Hearne, arrived too late for a night train and a promised (unnamed) player from the Crystal Palace Club did not turn up at all. Hoping for the best, Marchant chose to bat first on winning the toss but Kent were dismissed before lunch for 46 and at close of play were 70 for three in their second innings. Despite the reinforcements next day, Yorkshire won by eight wickets.

The Marchant/ Patterson joint-captaincy lasted from 1890 to 1893 and, although from time to time he asked the committee to find someone else, Marchant reigned as a reluctant sole captain from 1894 to 1897. His overall record is quite respectable considering the resources at his disposal – played 145, won 42, drawn 35, lost 68. – and, while Kent finished bottom of the table in 1897, they were third in 1890 and fourth in 1893 and 1894. Nevertheless, as Marchant says in the Kent history 'as responsibility increased, pleasure declined'. 'I was not sorry to be relieved of my responsibilities'. Ironically, Tom Pawley (qv) was appointed Manager in Marchant's final year of captaincy.

Despite the declining pleasure, many of his best innings were played while captain. Against Sussex at Tonbridge in 1891 he struck 123 (21 fours) in 120 minutes and shared a second-wicket partnership of 125 with Alec Hearne (34). In the same year, on the same ground against Nottinghamshire, the same pair put on 146 in 90 minutes (Hearne 59, Marchant 89). There were also several notable late-order partnerships including 103 for the ninth wicket v Nottinghamshire at Maidstone in 1895 (Marchant 80 [in 65 minutes], Martin 39*), 141 for the eighth wicket v Sussex at Hastings in 1896 (Marchant 128, Martin 70*) and 158 (in 105 minutes) for the ninth wicket v Warwickshire at Tonbridge in 1897 (Marchant 144*, Eustace Shine 49).

Marchant never reached 1,000 runs in a season but registered over 500 nine times between 1887 and 1897, four times over 700 –; 1893, 741 (avge. 20.58), 1895, 799 (avge 21.02), 1896, 809 (avge.21.28) and 1897, 746 (avge.22.60).

Although free of captaincy worries, Marchant had a moderate season in 1898 and in 1899 and 1900 confined himself to club cricket and the paper industry. Returning to the side in 1901, he played only eight matches but had arguably his best season, 454 runs (avge. 34.92). He began against Essex at Leyton with 72 of an eighth-wicket partnership of 83 with Alec Hearne who was on his way to a stately 152*. Against Yorkshire at Bradford he hit 111 out of 150 in 95 minutes, 43 and 51 when Surrey were beaten in Canterbury Week and 100 out of 141 v Middlesex at Lord's.

He played eight matches again in 1902, one in 1904 and two in 1905 but with limited success. There were however two typical Marchant innings. On a wet wicket at Leyton in 1902, Kent were bowled out by Walter Mead and ‘Sailor’ Young for 59. Top scorer was Marchant (20). Only one other Kent batsman reached double figures. Against Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells in 1904 he scored 63 in a 107-run fifth-wicket partnership with Mason (138). It was perhaps appropriate that it should be Yorkshire against whom he played his last significant innings.

He scored 1,000 runs against three counties – Surrey, 1,348 (avge. 20.24) with six half-centuries, Sussex, 1,050 (30.00), two centuries, four half-centuries, and Yorkshire, 1,083 (avge.23.04), two centuries, four half-centuries. In contrast with a number of Kent’s more renowned batsmen, his average against the White Rose county is higher than his career average.

Marchant continued to play club cricket until middle age, notably for Band of Brothers for whom he scored three centuries and made his last appearance in 1921. His other clubs included Bickley Park, Bluemantles, Eton Ramblers, Free Foresters and I Zingari. At Association Football he played for Cambridge University against Oxford in 1885 and 1886.

He served the Club as a Trustee for many years and on both the Managing and General committees. He was President in 1934.

In 1893 he married Ethel Tolfrida Baldwin Wake (1868-1947) at Christ Church, Marylebone. There were four daughters and one son. The latter, Second Lieutenant Francis George Marchant was killed in France in October 1916 aged 19 while serving with the Royal West Kent Regiment.

At the time of the 1911 Census Frank Marchant was a director of a paper manufacturing company living at Woodside, Keston with his family and five servants. On his death in 1946 his estate was valued at £6,267 11s 7d.

Cloudesley Henry Bullock Marsham (No. 478).

Born: 10.2.1879; Stoke Lyne, Bicester, Oxfordshire. *Died:* 19.7.1928; Wrotham Heath.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent: 1900-1922. Kent County cap 1902.

County captain 1904-1908.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Cloudlessly Dewar Bullock Marsham & Frances Penelope Marsham (*née* Marsham).

The name of Cloudlessly Marsham is unlikely to crop up when students of cricket history discuss the great county captains but he has the unique distinction of having led Kent to their first Championship and among Kent captains only Edward Dillon (*qv*) and Lionel Troughton (*qv*) have bettered his career record of 51.72 % of wins to matches played (60 out of 116).

Although not perhaps quite ranking as a master tactician, he succeeded in blending a many-talented team of diverse personalities from widely varying social backgrounds into what Lord Harris described ‘as complete an Eleven in all departments as I ever saw’. Bernard Bosanquet writing in the *Pall Mall Gazette* referred to the team’s ‘cheerful spirit of self-sacrifice and disregard of personal achievement’. In Marsham’s obituary *The Cricketer* stressed the team’s ‘unfailing support and loyalty’; Home Gordon, who saw more cricket than most and, expressing himself in comprehensible English for once, thought ‘no captain got more out of his professionals’. According to *Wisden*, ‘his charming and courteous disposition endeared him to all opponents’, qualities one might think, unlikely to meet with the approval of most of those who play or comment on the game today. Nevertheless, perhaps even

the most rabid of modern sledgers, banterers, and 'chunterers' would approve of his ability to instill into his team an expectation of victory.

During his Eton days he was coached by 'Mike' Mitchell, the leading batting guru of his day but his career figures are only moderate. 'County Vicar', who wrote much about Cambridge University cricket of the period, summed him up as 'A good batsman but hardly a great one'. Like most who came under Mitchell's influence, he was primarily a 'classical' front-foot, off side player and perhaps by the turn of the century something more was needed for consistent success at first-class county level. Professional bowlers were beginning to learn how to bowl at the 'fancy caps'.

Nevertheless, he displayed the ability to adapt his game to the needs of his side, whether opening or shepherding the tail from the lower-middle order. He started as an opening batsman and four of his seven centuries and ten of his 26 half-centuries were scored as an opener which seems to indicate he was happier at the top of the order. Possibly he would have scored more runs in a weaker 'batting unit' as the moderns persist in calling it.

Known at Eton as 'Slug' as were most of the Marsham clan, Cloudesley Marsham derived from a cricketing background. His father, described in *Wisden* as 'the best amateur bowler of his day', won Blues at Oxford University from 1854 to 1858 inclusive and played for the Gentlemen of Kent. His maternal uncle George Marsham (qv) was a pillar of the Kent establishment, President in 1886. Two paternal uncles, Charles Jacob Bullock Marsham (1851) and Robert Henry Bullock Marsham (1856) gained Blues at Oxford. Cloudesley's brother Francis William Bullock Marsham (qv) played for Kent and MCC; son Algernon James Bullock Marsham (qv) also played for Kent and won a Blue at Oxford in 1939.

Aside from cricket Cloudesley had strong ecclesiastical connections. His father was rector of Harrietsham; his maternal grandfather, Rev George Frederick John Marsham, grandson of the Second Baron Romney, was Rector of Allington.

At Eton he was in the Eleven in 1897 and 1898. Going up to Oxford, he scored 76 opening the batting in the 1899 Freshmens' match but did not get his chance until 1900 when, following 49 in the Seniors' Trial, he made his first-class debut v AJ Webbe's Eleven. Opening against an attack including Fred Tate and Kent's Bill Bradley, he scored 58 and 31 (retired hurt). He did little else until the University match when he contributed 33 to a fourth-wicket partnership of 91 with 'Tip' Foster (171).

In the 1901 University match Marsham saved his side from defeat with his maiden century, playing in the words of *Wisden* 'as he had never played before'. Up to that point his top score was 48. On the last day, Cambridge declared leaving Oxford a target of 360. Opening the innings, he was 100* (20 fours) at close with the score 177 for seven. Despite the state of the game, his last 50 came in an hour; the next highest score was 23.

This proved the high point of his university career. Captain in 1902, he won three matches and lost four including the University match and, although he made a hundred against All-Ireland, 87* against a very strong MCC and 30* and 44 against Cambridge, it was not a very satisfactory final season.

At the end of his first Oxford season in 1900 he made his debut for Kent, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, the first of four appearances that year. By the end of 1901, after half-dozen county matches his top score was only 25. Results were little better when he first joined the Kent side in 1902 but at the end of July he ran into form' with 68 v Somerset at Maidstone, 120 & 54 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, 41 v Essex and 92 v Surrey in Canterbury Week.

In 1903 Marsham played a handful of matches and hit only one half-century but in 1904 he was chosen - from a fairly limited field it must be said - to succeed Burnup as county captain. Younger

than most county captains and lacking experience, there were doubters but results might have made them reconsider. Sixth in the previous season, Kent finished third in the Championship table with three more wins (ten) and two fewer defeats (four).

Although never matching his predecessor for consistency, the captain scored 1,070 runs in all matches (avge.28.91). His only century was for MCC v Oxford University but among his seven half-centuries were 92* against the eventual Champions Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells where he added 156 in 105 minutes for the sixth wicket with Jack Mason (138), and 95 (top score) against runners-up Lancashire at Tonbridge.

Kent slipped back to sixth in 1905 and the captain had a mediocre season. There were good days, 67 & 53 Hampshire at Blackheath, 59 & 55 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, but there were eight ducks including a pair and eight other single figure scores.

Perhaps not altogether surprisingly, at the start of the 1906 campaign there were mutterings in the Kentish press. One or two questioned Marsham's right to a permanent place in the team and the doom-mongers seemed justified when Kent commenced their programme with defeats at the hands of MCC and Yorkshire and only rain, dropped catches and a dogged 73 from the skipper prevented a third successive loss at Leyton. Things improved but there was the odd hiccup and at the beginning of July Kent were standing fifth.

At this point the first hint of better things appeared. At New Road, Marsham won the toss, his first win in 17 attempts. Worcestershire batted out a comfortable draw but, starting with an innings defeat of the West Indian tourists at Catford, there followed a sequence of eleven successive Championship victories, three by an innings, two by ten wickets and one by 324 runs, which deposited them firmly at the top of the table. At Bournemouth for the final match, Kent needed only a draw to secure the title. Hampshire were bowled out for 163 in 38 overs (Colin Blythe six for 67) and at close of play Kent were 303 for three. Next day they took the score to a record 610 (Burnup 179, Hutchings 124). Although Marsham was obliged to use eight bowlers to do so, Hampshire were eventually dismissed in their second innings for 410 to give Kent their sixth innings-victory of the season and with it the Championship.

Marsham contributed a fairly modest 789 runs (avge.23.90) but, batting for the most part at seven or eight, he frequently sacrificed his wicket in the interest of quick runs and, judging from contemporary accounts, he seems to have got everything else right. In Canterbury Week, when Sussex were beaten by an innings, he played one innings of outstanding quality. Coming in at 336 for six, he scored 119* in 90 minutes with 19 fours, adding 104 for the eighth-wicket with Fred Huish (30) and 111 in 35 minutes for the ninth with Blythe (53).

All members of the team were presented with gold cufflinks by Lady Harris on behalf of the Club and silver cigarette boxes from the Mayor on behalf of the people of Maidstone. Personal to Marsham and in a way perhaps more significant, was a silver cigar box given to him by the Kent professionals.

Marsham led the side for two more seasons. 1907 was an anti-climax with the team finishing eighth with twelve wins and nine defeats. Several players suffered serious loss of form, none more so than Marsham whose top score was 46. He did however achieve the distinction of being made a Test selector.

In 1908 Yorkshire went through the season unbeaten and Kent finished a poor second having lost three matches but with the consolation of having won 17 to Yorkshire's 16. This, Marsham's last full season, was in some respects his best – 1,004 runs in all matches, 963 (avge. 25.75) in Kent matches. Opening the batting in the majority of games, he had a prolific Tonbridge Week with 116 in 170 minutes v Gloucestershire and 128 in 210 minutes v Essex. At Derby he shared a 219 run first-wicket

partnership (Hardinge 127, Marsham (91) and there were two second-wicket century partnerships with Jim Seymour. Apart from two matches in 1909, one in 1910 and two post-war, this concluded the first-class career of Cloudesley Marsham.

Marsham had joined the West Kent Yeomanry as long ago as 1902 and by the outbreak of war in 1914 he was a Lieutenant. In September 1915 he sailed with his unit for Gallipoli as part of the South East Mounted Brigade where they were to serve in the dismounted role. In early October they landed at Cape Helles as part of the 42nd Division, Marsham joining them later following a spell in hospital. The unit saw action at Fusilier Bluff and, when in December the main evacuation took place from Anzac and Suvla, they remained at Helles in a covering role.

Evacuated to Egypt, the West Kent Yeomanry became part of the 3rd Dismounted Brigade and, after a spell on Suez Canal defence duties, were deployed to Mersa Matruh (of Second World War fame) for operations against the Senussi in the Western Desert. They remained in the area for most of 1916 and in December were re-assigned to the infantry role and amalgamated with the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles to form the 10th Battalion the Royal East Kent Regiment (the Buffs). Marsham, by now Acting Captain, was a company commander.

In March 1917 he was promoted to Acting Major and, as part of the 74th Division, the Battalion was moved to Palestine where it took part in the First Battle of Gaza. In the closing stages of the battle, Marsham was diagnosed with a mastoid infection and, following treatment in Egypt, was returned to England. Pronounced fit for further service in April 1918, he was assigned to the administrative duties in the RAF at St Leonard's and served for a while in Ireland. He relinquished his commission in 1921, retaining the rank of Captain.

Post-war, Marsham played two more first-class matches, as captain of the Gentlemen of England v Oxford University in the Parks in 1919 and, again as captain (deputy for Troughton), for Kent v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1922. In his last match he batted NO. 9 and made one.

As an extremely active club cricketer Marsham played for Band of Brothers, Eton Ramblers, Oxford Authentics and the Mote. He had played for the latter early in his career and had captained them in 1914 but he is especially fondly remembered for his captaincy from 1919 to his early death from heat stroke in 1928 when he was also President. Few club captains can have been more highly regarded, not least for his unflinching good nature, impeccable manners and consideration for others.

Marsham appears in the 1901 and 1911 Census returns as a Land Agent. Although comfortably off – he was also a Director of the Royal Insurance Co, regularly cycling in to Maidstone from his home in Chart Sutton. In 1911 he married Algitha Parker (1880-1972) in Whitchurch, Hampshire. There were two sons and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £83,339 19s 8d.

Brigadier General Francis William Bullock Marsham DSO MC psc. (No. 499).

Born: 13.7.1883; Stoke-Lyne, Bicester, Oxfordshire. *Died:* 22.12.1971, Maidstone.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler.

Kent 1905.

Educated: Eton College

Parents: Rev Cloudesley Dewar Bullock Marsham & Frances Penelope Marsham (*née* Marsham).

A younger brother of Cloudesley Henry Bullock Marsham (*qv*), Francis Marsham headed the Eton batting averages in 1901 and scored 61 (top score) against Harrow at Lord's. In his piece on Eton cricket in the 1902 *Wisden*, W.J.Ford wrote of the younger Marsham, 'starts coolly and carefully and finishes well, making good use of his many inches'. Marsham had, however, chosen a career path different from that of his elder brother. By the end of 1901 he had been commissioned in the Seventh

(Militia) Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Rifles) and had embarked on what proved to be a distinguished military career.

In 1904, the year his brother Cloudesley took over as Kent captain, Francis Marsham scored 0 and 20 for Kent Second Eleven v Sussex Seconds at Hove and in May 1905 Second Lieutenant Marsham took the field for Kent v Oxford University on the Christ Church College ground. By this time he was in the Regular Army, having transferred from the Militia into the 19th Hussars. He scored one in the first innings, 0 in the second, bowled on both occasions. The match is notable however in that, although he was correctly identified in the press, in the 1907 Kent history and in other more recent publications, his presence was credited to his by now much better-known brother which did not help the older man's batting average. He was apparently a late substitution for his brother and it is possible that he captained the side although there were three other amateurs in the team.

In July of the same year the two Marsham's played together for MCC v Oxford University at Lord's. - - Marsham jnr. three and six, Marsham snr. 38 and six. This concluded his first-class career although he continued for play Army cricket, occasionally for Eton Ramblers and, in minor matches, for MCC.

Known in the Army by his Eton soubriquet 'Slug', Marsham was appointed Regimental Adjutant in 1910 and in 1913 he was promoted Captain. Arriving in France as Staff Captain of the newly-formed 9th Cavalry Brigade, throughout the War he served with the cavalry on various staff duties.

His appointments included Acting Brigade-Major 9th Cavalry Brigade, Brigade-Major 1st Cavalry Brigade, GSO2 2nd Cavalry Division, GSO1 1st Cavalry Division and GSO2 Cavalry Corps where he remained until the Armistice. Frequently involved in frontline action both mounted and dismounted, he was awarded the MC in June 1916 and the DSO in June 1918 as well as being twice Mentioned in Despatches.

He was promoted to Major in 1919, and post-war attended the Staff College at Sandhurst. Promoted Lt. Colonel in 1922, he commanded the 3/6th Carabineers and, following promotion to Colonel, 5 Cavalry Brigade (Territorial Army). With the rank of Temporary Brigadier, he commanded 1 Cavalry Brigade and in 1935 he was ADC to King George V. Following the death of the King, he was ADC to George VI from 1936 to 1938.

From 1939 to 1940 he was Chief-Umpire First Armoured Division and later held staff appointments with the Home Guard. From 1942 to 1946 he was Brigadier commanding Berkshire Cadet Force, his final appointment.

In 1922 he married Finoola Marianne Eleanor Maclean (1887-1985) at Elham. Her father, Fitzroy Maclean, lived to the age of 100.

George Marsham CBE (No. 330).

Born: 10.4.1849. Allington. *Died:* 2.12.1927; Hayle, Maidstone.
Right-handed batsman, right-arm under-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.
Kent 1876-1877.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Rev George Frederick Marsham & Elizabeth Marcia Marsham (née Jones).

The maternal uncle of Cloudesley 'Slug' Marsham, George Marsham had a modest record in his appearances for Kent but was for many years one of the most influential figures in the history of the game in the county. First elected to the Kent CCC General Committee in 1879, he served until 1924 with a break of only one year. He was President in 1886 and in 1887 was appointed a Trustee of the Alfred Mynn Benevolent Fund.

A close friend of Lord Harris, he was involved in most of the major issues arising in the Club's affairs between the 1880s and early 1920s and was a member of the small sub-committee set up to negotiate the purchase of the St. Lawrence ground from the Sondes estate. When Harris was in India as Governor of Bombay, Marsham assumed most of his responsibilities. Somewhat more reactionary than Harris in his general outlook, he tried to exclude women from the pavilion during Canterbury Cricket Week. On the other hand, it was on his proposal that winter pay for professionals was introduced. Always interested in finding young talent, prior to the introduction of a Second Eleven, he frequently captained colts' teams.

An ardent club cricketer, he captained the Mote from 1873 to 1884 and was President from 1876 until 1927, the year of his death. He had been a member since 1867. His other clubs included Band of Brothers, I Zingari and Sevenoaks Vine as well as Gentlemen of Kent, Preston Hall and Oxford Harlequins; he was a prominent member of the Old Stagers.

The son of the Rector of Allington, he had the misfortune to lose his mother ten days after his birth and his father three years later. He lived with his maternal Aunt Catherine at Hayle Place and inherited the property on her death. For most of his life he lived at Hayle Cottage on the estate where he entertained the amateurs during Maidstone Week. In the 1911 Census he is living there with three visitors and six assorted servants. Prominent in local affairs, he was a JP and, until partition, Deputy Lieutenant of County Leitrim.

Although a competent wicketkeeper, Marsham failed to make his mark as a cricketer at either Eton or Oxford University but playing for Oxford Harlequins against Royal Engineers at Chatham in 1874 he caught four and stumped three. In the second of his three appearances for Kent, v Surrey at The Oval in 1877, he scored 14 and 20 batting No. 11. Marsham contributed an article on the history of Kent CCC to the 1907 *Wisden*.

On his death his estate was valued at £79,104 4s 2d.

Hon & Rev John Marsham (No. 294).

Born: 25 July 1842, Boxley. *Died:* 16 September 1926, Roehampton, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1873.

Educated: Eton College, Christ Church College Oxford & Downing College, Cambridge.

Parents: Sir Charles Marsham, Third Earl of Romney, & Lady Margaret Harriet Marsham (*née* Montagu-Scott).

John Marsham failed to get into the Eleven at Eton or either of his universities but did make one appearance for 'Old Cambridge Men' v Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1865. He did not distinguish himself in his two matches for Kent but played several times for Northants, scoring 20 and 24 against I Zingari at Althorp in 1870. He was Chairman of the committee set up at Northampton in 1878 to reorganise the club which had, according to contemporary reports, 'lapsed into a state of lethargy'. The outcome was a club expanded to represent the whole county with its own ground and a programme of regular inter-county fixtures.

In club cricket he captained the Gentlemen of South Northants and played several useful innings, for MCC, Gentlemen of Kent, Free Foresters and Mote Park. He appeared for the latter against the Australian Aboriginal tourists in 1868. For Free Foresters v Gentlemen of Bedfordshire at Turvey House, near Bedford he scored 37 and took six wickets in an innings. In odds matches against touring teams, he played for Twenty Two's of Wellingborough and also Sutton in Ashfield.

Ordained in 1866, John Marsham was curate of Middleton Stoney 1866-67, of Sutton-in Ashfield 1867-1868. Rector of Barton Seagrave 1868-1908 and Arch Priest of Haccombe, Devonshire, from 1908 to 1912 when he retired to Seaford.

In 1846 he married Penelope Jane Hume in Hastings. There were six daughters and two sons. His maternal grandfather was the fourth Duke of Buccleuch.

William George Marten (No. 236).

Born: 5.9.1845; Tunbridge Wells. *Died:* 25.11.1907, Stoke Newington, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium round-arm bowler.

Kent 1865-1871.

Parents: William & Elizabeth Marten.

William Marten's record for Kent is distinctly ordinary but until very recently when it has become the custom to let players out on loan, he was unique among Kent cricketers as the only one since the formation of the present Kent CCC to have played for two counties in one season. This was in 1871, when he appeared in two matches for Kent and 13 for Surrey, including two for Surrey *against* the county of his birth. In what may fairly be termed a chequered career, this example of divided loyalties had been foreshadowed in 1866 when he played once for Kent and four times for Essex, not then a first-class county.

Marten's father, also William, was landlord of *The Green Dragon* in Croydon High Street at the time of the 1861 Census and it was for 18 of Croydon in September 1864 that William jnr. played his first match of any significance, against 'An Eleven of England' at Croydon's Clarendon Ground. In the same year he took up his first professional engagement, as ground bowler at St. Lawrence.

In May the following year he played for Thirteen Colts of Kent v Thirteen Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend and made his first-class debut in July, the first of five relatively uneventful appearances that season. By now professional with the Clapham Club, his one performance of note came when, playing for 22 of Putney against the United South of England, he took four for 35 including the wickets of Harry Jupp, Tom Sewell and 'Farmer' Bennett.

In 1866 Marten spent one season as professional with the short-lived Essex County Club formed at Colchester. For his new employers he took five for 23 against Surrey at The Oval but his single appearance for Kent was less successful, no wickets and a 'pair'. He also turned out at least once for the United South of England but his best performance was 14 wickets for Players of Essex v Twenty-Two of Harlow.

Marten joined the MCC staff in 1867 and played no further county cricket for two years although continuing to appear in sundry 'odds' matches. He claimed 20 wickets for 'An Eleven' against Twenty-Two of Turnham Green at Acton in 1867. He had considerable success around this time in non-first-class MCC fixtures – in 1868 14 wickets against Royal Engineers at Chatham including nine in the second innings (the other was run out) and match figures of ten for 81 against Royal Artillery at Woolwich.

1869 saw his busiest season for Kent, seven matches and 16 somewhat expensive wickets. His best performances were against his future Surrey team mates – three for 22 & two for 34 at Crystal Palace, four for 54 at The Oval when he gained further distinction with 27* in a 53-run last wicket partnership with 'Farmer' Bennett. Again his best cricket was for MCC – six for 55 & four for 25 v Hampshire at Southampton (first-class), eight for 19 & three for 6 v Harrow School.

In the 1871 Census Marten is living in Croydon and listed as 'unemployed professional cricketer' which is a bit odd, as he was clearly pretty busy. Although he appears to have terminated his MCC engagement during the season, in May he took nine wickets for them against Rugby School. In June he appeared once for Kent and four times for Surrey, in July four games for Surrey and at least one for MCC, in August five for Surrey, one for Kent and one for MCC in which he took nine wickets in an innings v Rickling Green.

1872 was a successful season, 34 first-class wickets (avge.14.19) for Surrey including his personal best – six for 11 against MCC at Lord's and selection for Players of the South v Gentlemen of the South. He also appeared several times for United South of England. The year however saw the end of Marten's first-class career; his last match being against Kent at Mote Park.

Surrey had appointed Marten as Superintendent of Ground Bowlers in 1872 and why his career at The Oval was so short is unclear. In his history of Surrey David Lemmon describes Marten as 'nearing the veteran stage' - a bit hard on a man of 27. Whatever the cause, the 'near veteran' continued on his travels, back to the Colchester club in 1873, Ashford in 1874 and Birkenhead Park in 1875. In 1876 when the present Essex club was formed at Brentwood, Marten was one of their first professionals and took three for 22 and five for 19 in their inaugural match against Suffolk at Ipswich.

Marten remained with Essex for three seasons, umpired several matches at Lord's and continued umpiring until 1882. In 1879 a match for his benefit was played at Gore Court between 16 of the home club and 'An Eleven'.

Ultimately he opted to emulate his father. In the 1901 census he is landlord of *The Crown*, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire. In 1867 he married Elizabeth Ann Carter (1838-1925) at All Saints Church, Haggerstown. There appear to have been no children. On his death his effects were valued for probate at £387 3s 7d.

Edward Martin (No. 132).

Born: 24.11.1814; Benchley. *Died:* 31.10.1869, Barcombe, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1845-1851.

Parents: Thomas Martin & Frances Martin (*née* Piper).

A hard hitter and 'a very fine field', Edward Martin was for a few years a useful addition to the Kent team of the Mynn/Felix/Pilch era but it is a curious and clearly apocryphal story surrounding his later years that makes him a more than usually interesting character.

Martin came from a family of cricket ball makers and had already played for Hampshire and for the West of England when, aged 30, he took his place in the Kent team. In that first season, as well as half a dozen games for Kent, he appeared twice more for Hampshire and twice for Dorset. He was also in the West of England team against MCC at Lord's and in the return at Bath.

For Kent his best effort was a hard hit 25 opening the batting with Tom Adams at Brighton. He appeared only twice for Kent (and once for Dorset) in 1846 when he also played – and failed to score – for the Players v Gentlemen in a single innings match at Canterbury, hastily arranged when the Kent v England game finished early. He was in the Kent side in all seven matches in 1847 but was absent throughout 1848. He could well be the E Martin who appeared six times for Manchester that year, scoring a personal best 60 against Sheffield at the latter's Hyde Park Ground.

Although by then living in Oxford, Martin returned to the Kent team for a complete season in 1849 including a game at Oxford against Sixteen of Oxfordshire on the Prince of Wales ground.

Unfortunately he registered a pair and saw Kent lose by ten wickets. He played five matches in 1850, only once failing to reach double figures. He is almost certainly the E Martin who opened the batting for Eighteen of Dorset against the All England Eleven at Pymore, near Bridport in August that year. Two matches in 1851, in which he failed to reach double figures in four innings concluded his career with Kent, but he was in the Oxfordshire team against the University in 1854 and in home and away matches with Surrey in 1856.

Martin set up in Oxford as a supplier of cricket gear *circa* 1847 and later went into partnership with Fuller Pilch in the development of the Prince of Wales Ground off Iffley Road as well as in bat manufacture. They also sponsored a visit to Oxford of the All-England Eleven in 1850. According to the *London Gazette*, the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent in 1855.

This makes the story recounted by the Rev James Pycroft in his *Oxford Memories* all the more extraordinary. According to Pycroft, who was much respected as the author of the first serious history of cricket, 'a wealthy collegian' acquaintance of Martin's set him up at a farm in Leominster. Finding it difficult to run both farm and sports business, in 1849 Martin supposedly sold his stock, mounted his favourite horse and disappeared until 20 years later when his body was found in Barcombe, Sussex after a fall from a (presumably different) horse.

Apart from the fall from a horse, clearly the story is complete nonsense and, given Pycroft's close association with cricket and with Oxford, it is hard to see how he could possibly have believed it. Martin played his last game for Kent in 1851, two years after his 'disappearance'. He played for Oxfordshire in 1856 and as late as 1858 he was in the team of Eighteen Veterans who opposed England at The Oval in a benefit match for Hillyer. According to the Census, Martin was still running his business in Oxford in 1861.

Even so, there are one or two curious aspects to Martin's life and career. In the 1907 Kent history and in the scorecard of the 1858 Veterans match printed in *Scores & Biographies Vol.VI* he is 'Edwin' rather than 'Edward'. There are numerous Kent-born Edward Martins (and several Edwins) of approximately the right age in the 1841 and 1851 Census records but none born in Brenchley and none with occupations and/or residences that fit. In 1851 there is no Edward Martin shown as living in Oxford – or at Leominster. Although the Kent cricketer and the owner of the Oxford business are clearly one and the same, not least due to the association with Fuller Pilch, there remains the possibility that there were two Edward Martins playing at the same time.

One piece that does fit is his death. According to the Kent history he died following a fall from his horse while returning from a hunt with the Southdown.

Frederick Martin (No. 391).

Born: 12.10.1861; Dartford. *Died:* 13.12.1921; Dartford.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1885-1899. Kent County cap 1887.

Wisden' Five Great bowlers' 1892.

Tests: Two for England.

Parents: William Martin & Ann Martin (*née* Blackman).

Only eight bowlers have taken more wickets for Kent than Fred 'Nuttie' Martin and of these, only Colin Blythe and 'Tich' Freeman did so at lower cost. For over a decade widely regarded as one of the best left-arm bowlers in England, he took 947 wickets for Kent, over 1,300 in all first-class cricket. When he was at his peak, England had more left-arm bowlers of quality than could be fitted into one Eleven but in his first and only Test match against Australia, at The Oval in 1890, Martin had his moment of glory, 12 for 102 and victory for England by two wickets. In that year he bowled 1,701

overs, claimed 190 wickets (avge.13.05), 19 times five in an innings, six times ten in a match. In 1892 *Wisden* made him one of their 'Five Great Bowlers of the Year. In all matches he exceeded 100 wickets in six seasons, twice in Kent matches alone.

Although his Test career was short, Martin played in five Players v Gentlemen matches, once each at Lord's and Scarborough, three times at Hastings, In other representative cricket he appeared for England v Surrey at The Oval in 1895, twice for the Rest of England, 14 times for South v North and three times for the South of England v the Australians.

Enough there, one might think, for some sort of fame but fame is, as the late Emily Dickinson observed, 'a fickle food upon a shifting plate' and Fred Martin has become something of a forgotten cricketer. From around the middle of the 20th century he has rarely rated more than a brief mention from cricket historians. Overlooked it seems even by most of those writing about Kent. Worse in a way, he was left out when Kent CCC produced their own set of *Cricketers of Kent* cigarette card-style pictures in the 1980s

He was even ignored in the scholarly piece on Kent, written jointly by Kent cricket historian Bob Arrowsmith and journalistic magnifico, former Kent President and all-round eminence *grise* Jim Swanton, which runs to more than five pages in *Barclays World of Cricket* (Willow Books, 1986).

In his early days Fred Martin bowled fast, or, more likely, as fast as he could, which is not quite the same thing but, according to his own account, he had 'fallen into a way of bowling very slow' when he came to Kent. It was on the advice of George Hearne (*qv*) and Jim Wootton (*qv*) that he switched to medium-pace.

At this distance in time it is impossible to determine whether Martin bowled orthodox finger spin or cutters, possibly both. In more recent years we have seen Derek Underwood spin prodigiously at medium pace and Martin's method may not have been so very different. The difficulty is that when Victoria was Queen, writers tended to use the term 'spin' to indicate any deviation from straight. Fast bowlers such as Kortright, Tom Richardson or Kent's Bill Bradley, are sometimes described as bowling with 'plenty of spin'.

All seem to agree that, like any orthodox left-arm spinner, Martin turned the ball away from the bat. Lord Harris maintains that he had an outswinger in his armoury as well. He also made the ball go with his arm. An interview in *The Cricket Field* in 1895 (pp 356-357), appears to suggest he was surprised when he succeeded in doing so but, as many left-armers bowl an arm ball, this seems a bit unlikely. Another of his captains, Bill Patterson, writes that Martin bowled a ball which 'hangs in the air' which might account for the 41 (3.1 %) of his wickets caught and bowled. .

Above all, like most hard worked, battle hardened professionals of his day, he quickly acquired, and never lost, tight control of line and length. Writing in his *A Few Short Runs* (John Murray 1921) Lord Harris refers to him as 'Always an extremely accurate bowler' with 'fine spin in his earlier years' but in later years 'I really think Martin had difficulty bowling off the wicket'. 42.59% of his wickets were bowled, 6.45% lbw.

As a batsman, he was a prolific scorer in club cricket but for much of his career neither Kent nor MCC seem to have taken his batting seriously. Nevertheless, he played some useful innings. In every season from 1892 to 1900 his average was in double figures and he took part in one century and seven half-century late- order partnerships. In 1895 he scored over 500 runs and in 1897 his captain, Frank Marchant, moved him up the order. For the entire season he batted, sometimes as high as three, only once below seven, and ended with 584 runs (avge.18.25), 830 in all matches. It may or may not be significant that this was one of his least successful seasons with the ball.

As for his fielding, he seems to have been adequate by the not very demanding standards of the time. In a feature on Martin in 1888, the magazine *Cricket* judged him 'a fairly good field, though there is room for improvement'. *Wisden* in 1892 considered that 'he has of late improved in the field'. In photographs he looks to weigh rather more than the 12 stone four pounds (76.8 kg.) quoted in every *Lillywhite* from 1889 to 1899. No greyhound, with his large drooping moustache, receding hairline and hint of a paunch, he more resembles a lesser character from a Mack Sennett comedy – the heroine's father perhaps or the hero's employer – but in 1890 he achieved a respectable 16 catches in 29 matches.

Frederick Martin was son of a 'labourer in an ironworks,' and both his grandfathers worked in the industry. Engineering companies were the main employers of labour in the district and Martin is himself shown as similarly employed in the 1881 Census. In the 1895 *Cricket Field* interview he recalls that, although none of his five brothers and two sisters displayed any interest in cricket, he played cricket with other boys on Dartford Brent 'as far back as I can remember'. He cites the lure of cricket as the cause of his being on more than one occasion 'discharged from my work'. From youthful cricket on the Brent he graduated to the Darent Vale Club and, when the club amalgamated, with Dartford Albion. By 1882 his success began to attract notice.

In 1882 a maternal uncle Arthur Blackman (*qv*), who had played as an amateur for Surrey, Kent and Sussex, used his contacts with Herbert Knatchbull Hugessen, long term member of the Kent committee and shortly to be President, to secure a place for his nephew in a forthcoming series of three Colts trial matches due to be played over a period of seven days in May. There is, incidentally, a slight mystery about the relationship. In interviews, Martin refers to Blackman variously as a half-brother and a cousin but there seems little doubt that, although only eight years Martin's senior, he was Mrs Ann Martin's brother.

In the first trial, at Gravesend, he scored 17 and two and took four wickets including Lord Harris, bowled for one second ball, but in the remaining matches, at Mote Park and against Surrey Colts at The Oval, he managed only five runs and one wicket. Not enough to impress the Kent committee but it gained him an engagement as professional at the Yalding club. Next year he was professional to the Chilham Castle team, which was a step up in that the castle was owned by Charles Hardy, a Kent committee member, and many first-class cricketers, amateur and professional, played there. At the start of the season he played for Colts of the South v Colts of the North at Lord's but failed with the bat and did not take a wicket.

Through the influence of Harris, in 1884 he joined the St. Lawrence Club in Canterbury. In his first season he took over 100 wickets at around nine each, averaged 35 with the bat and hit two centuries, 152 v Folkestone and 144 v Hornsey when, with George Twyman, he put on 263 for the first wicket. Next season he took 117 wickets, hit centuries against Chatham House Wanderers and Herne Bay and, for FA Mackinnon's Eleven, 114 v Kent Second Eleven. In July he made an uneventful debut for Kent, v Sussex at Gravesend – 0 and 0 for 1 from one over.

Although at that stage he had achieved nothing much, in 1886 Martin was taken on to the MCC staff. This provided an additional, to use the jargon, 'income stream' but added to his workload. In most seasons he had played two or three MCC matches before he set foot on the field for Kent. By the end of his career he had appeared in 57 first-class matches for MCC, bowled 11,783 balls and claimed 278 wickets (avge.14.01). This does not take into account club and school matches and time spent bowling to members.

For Kent, his first three games in 1886 brought him just two wickets. Recalled to the side at the end of August, he responded with figures of 12 for 86 v Surrey at The Oval, seven for 77 v Lancashire at Mote Park and eight for 72 at Trent Bridge. 29 wickets at 10.44 placed him top of the Kent bowling averages and brought some distinguished scalps, Bobby Abel, Walter and Maurice Read, George

Lohmann (twice) 'Monkey' Hornby, Frank Sugg, Johnny Briggs, the arch-stonewaller Bill Scotton and William Barnes (twice).

Although he kept his place for virtually the whole season, 1887 was disappointing with 38 wickets (avge.24.89) but 1888 was much better. For the first time he was paired with Walter Wright and for half a dozen seasons these two would be the backbone of the Kent attack, delivering over 68% of the overs bowled for the County between 1888 and 1891. Three times they bowled unchanged through a match, ten times through a complete innings.

At Old Trafford in the second game of the 1888 season, Lancashire started the final day 75 for one, needing another 88 for victory. Nine wickets tumbled for 44 (Martin five for 38, Wright five for 46). In the next match, v Gloucestershire at Beckenham, he had WG Grace caught at the wicket for 33, the first of 17 occasions on which he would claim the great man's wicket. At Tonbridge, the Martin/Wright combination operated unchanged to dispose of Sussex for 51 (Martin six for 27, Wright four for 16). When Sussex batted again they managed only 96 (Martin four for 23). This left Kent needing a mere 45 but, coming on at 41 for four, Fred Tate bowled five Kent batsmen for one run and, when Martin arrived at the wicket, Kent were tottering at 43 for nine. Warned by his captain to watch out for Tate's yorker – and possibly too for his partner Manley Kemp, a famously adventurous, even reckless, runner - Martin blocked his first ball, pushed the second quietly to cover, only to see Kemp bearing down on him. A fortuitous throw to the wrong end saved them and an almost equally risky single off the next over gave Kent victory.

In Martin's first encounter with the Australians, he took five for 41 in their second innings at Canterbury and his final return for the season was 73 wickets at an economical 10.83. Referring to the bowling of Alec Hearne, Martin, Wright and Jimmy Wootton, the 1889 *Wisden* cites Lord Harris' opinion that 'since he had played for the County he had never known the bowling so good'.

In 1889 Martin exceeded 100 wickets in all matches for the first time, 106 at 13.99 each, 56 of them in August. This was the year in which Nottinghamshire, Surrey and Yorkshire, level on points, shared the Championship. The Martin/Wright duo did their best to disrupt proceedings. Yorkshire were beaten twice. At Maidstone, Lord Hawke won the toss and, after consulting his senior players, put Kent in. After the home side had totalled 239, Martin (ten for 65) and Wright (nine for 51), bowling unchanged, dismissed Yorkshire for 71 & 62. Kent went on to win the return at Bramall Lane by 82 runs, Martin (nine for 64), Wright (ten for 46), bowling unchanged for all but six overs. At Beckenham, Notts, requiring only a draw for the Championship, lost in two days by four wickets collapsing for 35 on a rain-affected pitch. Martin's seven for 18 gave him match figures of 11 for 68. In the previous match, against Gloucestershire at Clifton, he had match figures of 11 for 147, 22 wickets in five days.

1890 and 1891 were Martin's best seasons, 190 wickets at 13.05 each in 1890, 105 of them for Kent, 140 at 13.37 in 1891, again 105 for Kent; top of the Kent averages in both seasons. In 1890, apart from his *tour de force* for England v Australia, against Sussex he had match figures of 11 for 72 at Town Malling and 12 for 58 in the return at Hove. At The Oval he achieved his first hat-trick - Abel bowled, Maurice Read caught, Kingsmill Key bowled. As icing on the seasonal cake, at Gloucester he bowled WG before he had scored.

When the team was selected for The Oval Test match against Australia in 1890, Lord Hawke, in a huff because Andrew Stoddart had opted for Middlesex at Bradford rather than for his country, refused to release Bobby Peel. The obvious replacement, Briggs, was injured and the Surrey executive chose Fred Martin. He had already taken 32 wickets in four matches against the tourists with match figures of ten for 116 for MCC at Lord's, ten for 84 for South of England at The Oval and nine for 94 for Kent at Canterbury.

With so many Australian wickets already under his belt Martin can hardly have lacked confidence on his Test debut and rain made conditions ideal for him. Bowling unchanged with Lohmann, bar six overs, he produced figures of 27- 9-50-6 and 30.2-12-52-6, accounting for every one of the Australian top seven, John Lyons, Dr Barrett and Harry Trott twice each. By the end of the season in seven games against the visitors, two each for Kent, MCC and South of England, one for England, he claimed 56 wickets at 11.51 each. Seven times he took five in an innings, three times ten in a match and dismissed every member of the touring party (except Harry Boyle the manager who played occasionally) at least once. Oddly enough, he never seems to have seriously troubled the 1893 or 1896 teams.

Before the commencement of the 1891 season, he and Nottinghamshire's Bill Attewell were engaged as private coaches to the Palairet family. Martin appears in the 1891 Census as a visitor to their home in Woolverton, Somerset. Subsequently he claimed Lionel Palairet's wicket eleven times and younger brother Richard's seven. Against Middlesex in 1891 he picked up 24 wickets, 13 for 48 at Lord's, 11 for 58 at Beckenham. Statistically his best performance was seven for 27 v Sussex at Hove but, taking into account the opposition, even better were match figures of ten for 63 v Yorkshire at Mote Park. Against MCC at Lord's he again dismissed Grace for 0, caught at point by George Hearne.

Martin was never again picked for a Test match in England. Well as he had performed, this is not so very remarkable. Peel and Briggs were generally regarded as the best left-arm spinners in the country, both were genuine allrounders and better in the field, Briggs especially so. Martin did, however, receive one more England cap, albeit retrospectively. He was one of the team taken to South Africa by Walter Read in 1891/92 with an itinerary consisting, with one exception, entirely of matches against odds. The exception, against 'An Eleven of South Africa' at Cape Town was subsequently upgraded to a rather dubious Test match status. Not called on in the first innings. Martin bowled unchanged in the second with Gloucestershire's Australian John Ferris to dismiss the home side for 83 (Ferris seven for 37, Martin two for 39).

Financially a failure, the tour involved some long, hair-raising (horse-drawn) coach journeys, over primitive roads, through swollen rivers etc. despite which, the team returned unbeaten and relatively unharmed. Much afflicted by mosquitos, in all matches Martin bowled 593.4 (five ball) overs for 109 wickets (avge.8.47).

According to the 1892 *Wisden* 'it was the general impression that Martin had thoroughly overworked himself in South Africa' but, although at 20.20 apiece a bit more expensive, he missed his hundred wickets by only four. For MCC at Lord's in the first game of the season he bowled unchanged with Jack Hearne to dismiss Sussex for 66 and 48 (Martin 13-51, Hearne seven for 61), and, though the workload seemed to take its toll in the latter half of the season, he still took seven for 83 v Somerset at Taunton in July and five for 64 v Yorkshire at Maidstone in August.

For Fred Martin, 1893 was a moderate season in which he bowled only (!!) 781.1 overs for 60 wickets at 20.58 apiece. Nevertheless, he still managed 20 wickets for 190 runs in Tonbridge Week where, against Lancashire, he was chief contributor to Kent's 67 run victory. As well as five for 52 and five for 27, he followed a first innings duck with 65, top score in the match. Archie MacLaren was the only other batsman to pass 50. Form returned in 1894 with 132 wickets at an economical 14.77 and he exceeded the hundred again in each of the two subsequent seasons. Given that pitches were getting better and batting techniques more sophisticated, these three years could be seen as ranking with his best.

He began 1894 with seven for 12 and four for 17 v Sussex and five for 8 and five for 22 v Notts in MCC matches at Lord's and had claimed 45 wickets by the end of May. Five for 58 & three for 53 at Old Trafford and eight for 45 at Tonbridge helped Kent to a double over Lancashire. In the process he took MacLaren's wicket three times.

The following year was a bleak one for Kent, bottom of the table with only three wins, but for Martin it was his busiest since 1890. He bowled 1,618.3 overs, starting well with a run of six MCC matches at Lord's which brought him 45 wickets. Beginning with 12 for 56 v Notts, it concluded with nine for 72 v Derbyshire and four wickets in four balls - Walter Sugg stumped, John Hulme, Samuel Wood (later Sir Samuel Hill-Wood) and George Glossop Walker bowled.

After such a start, the first Kent match, beginning May 23, provided a sharp contrast. This was the Kent v Gloucestershire game at Gravesend in which Grace (257 & 73*) was on the field throughout. Martin toiled through 71 overs for two for 125. While bowling steadily throughout the season, there were no more match-winning performances apart from seven for 31 in Somerset's second innings at Blackheath. The strain of a long season was beginning to show. In four matches during September he claimed only one wicket but nevertheless finished the season with 136 wickets at 20.28.

In 1896 Kent acquired two intermittently available, amateur fast bowlers, Bill Bradley and Eustace Shine, which took some of the load from the professionals and Martin bowled more than 400 fewer overs than in 1895. Nevertheless, with 101 wickets at 21.15 apiece (79 at 20.48 for Kent) he passed the landmark 100 for the sixth and last time. Although more expensive than usual, on his day he was still a match winner. At Catford, he bowled unchanged with Alec Hearne to dismiss Championship contenders Surrey for 48 (Martin six for 17, Hearne four for 27) and followed with five for 65 in the second innings as the visitors crumpled to a 61 run defeat. In the return at The Oval, Martin took eight for 89 from 66 overs in the first innings. When Surrey batted again, they needed only one run for victory. Opening the bowling, Martin's first ball was a wide leaving his bowling figures 0-0-0-0. Against Sussex at Hastings he excelled with the bat, hitting 70 in an eighth-wicket partnership of 141 with Cloudesley Marsham (128).

Bowling more overs (1134.2) than any of his team mates for the fourth successive season, Martin's 86 wickets (avge.26.59) in 1897 were the most expensive of his career. Against Sussex at Hove he dismissed Fry twice and claimed eight for 79 in the Sussex second innings, a remarkable performance on one of the most batsman-friendly pitches in the country. On another benign wicket at The Oval he delivered 45 overs for 0 for 101 as Surrey piled up 617 but, as some compensation, his 57* was top score in Kent's second innings. He again batted usefully against Tom Richardson (16 for 102) in the return at Beckenham. No. 6 in the first innings, No. 3 in the second, he was second top scorer with 26* and 27. Against Nottinghamshire on another bland pitch at Gravesend, he was run out for his personal best score, 90.

1898 proved to be Fred Martin's penultimate season with Kent. Although no longer likely to run through a good batting side, he was still economical and 73 wickets at 18.98 each (79 in all matches) placed him top of the Kent averages. Among his three five in an innings returns was seven for 36 v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham where he twice more accounted for WG. His batting was still useful. Against Surrey at Blackheath he shared in a 92 run seventh-wicket partnership (Marchant 48, Martin 56).

Some aspects of Fred Martin's final season are unclear. According to *Wisden* he was 'incapacitated for part of the season'. *Lillywhite* says 'the conditions were against Martin's bowling and he was left out of the later matches'. In fact, he played in every Kent game up to the end of July but in his final match, against Essex at Leyton he bowled only four overs. He missed his own benefit match, v Surrey in Canterbury Week, which in the event finished in two days. Up to that point he was still contributing. For MCC v Derbyshire in May he took five for 13 & six for 76 and scored 21* & 35; for Kent, he claimed five for 55 v MCC at Lord's and four times took four in an innings. His 46 wickets cost 20.43 each.

Martin played three first-class matches for MCC in 1900 and remained on the staff at Lord's until 1908. There seems to be nothing in Kent records to indicate a decision to dispense with his services. At a meeting of the Kent Managing Committee in March 1900, it was decided that Blythe, Fred Huish and Walter Humphreys should receive special coaching in Canterbury from Martin and Walter Hearne, probably at their indoor school.

In 1902 he was accepted on to the umpire's list and between 1902 and 1906 stood in 50 first-class matches. Never chosen for a Test match, he officiated in Gentlemen v Players at The Oval in 1903 and in three of the Australian tourists' matches in 1902. He stood in two minor Indian Gymkhana matches at Lord's in 1919. Between 1904 and 1907 he was scorer in at least 28 minor MCC matches, all at Lord's and in 1907 he was scorer in the England v South Africa Lord's Test match.

Because bad weather and the short duration of his benefit match in 1899 had precluded a collection, in 1901, while still apparently on the Kent staff, he was allowed a collection in Canterbury Week. This raised £35 4s. bringing the total to £726. In a sense he was lucky. 1900 was the first season when, after persistent lobbying by Lord Harris, the beneficiary received either the takings from his benefit match (less expenses) or *the average of five years takings from the match (less expenses), whichever was the greater*. Under this scheme he was calculated to have been some £132 better off. The money was paid into his bank and he 'agreed to take advice on investments'. In 1908 MCC granted him the Middlesex-Somerset match at Lord's as a second benefit.

According to an interview with Walter Hearne in *Cricket (June 9 1898, p178)* the indoor school referred to above opened in 1897 as a joint venture. At the time Martin was living at 78 Old Dover Road, Canterbury and Hearne nearby at *The Bat & Ball* opposite the St. Lawrence Ground where he was landlord. The school was in a building approximately 150ft (45.72 m.) x 50ft. (15.24m.) with a clear glass roof, unlit apparently, which must have severely limited its use during the winter. The school's location is unknown but it was probably in the field opposite the pub, at one time used as a tea garden, subsequently acquired by Kent CCC and used as a car park. It is now part of a housing development. In 1898 the school had over 50 (mainly Army) members but it seems to have closed early in the 20th century.

It was suggested in the sporting press of the time that both Martin and Wright owed much of their success to helpful Kentish wickets and, especially the slope which then existed at Mote Park. True Maidstone was one of his most successful grounds – 114 wickets at 14.64 each – but his most fruitful hunting ground was Lord's where in 79 matches his 334 wickets cost 15.50 apiece. His record on some of the more batsman-friendly wickets of the period was not so very different, Hove, 55 wickets (avge. 15.98), The Oval, 86 (avge.16.47). The only other grounds on which he took 50 or more wickets were Kent grounds and these were also among the most expensive, Canterbury, 96 (avge.19.55) and Tonbridge, 100 (avge.20.84).

Martin took 100 wickets against six counties - Sussex (178), Nottinghamshire (135), Gloucestershire (129), Lancashire (126), Yorkshire (113) and Surrey (109) at costs ranging from Sussex (14.70) to Lancashire (18.53). Against the Australians, in 13 matches he took 68 wickets at 13.64.

Like many distinguished bowlers, he had a gift for dismissing good batsmen. Of the 32 batsmen he dismissed on ten occasions or more, 26 were Test cricketers and, a little surprisingly, only a handful were tailenders. The full list contains only one left-hander: 24: G Bean, 21: W Newham, 18: R Abel, 17: WG Grace, 16: WG Quaife, 15: FH Sugg, 14: FW Marlow, 13: J Briggs, HR Butt, W Gunn, 12: W Barnes, L Hall, Lord Hawke, GA Lohmann, WL Murdoch, G Ulyett, E Wainwright, 11: W Attewell, EM Grace, LCH Palaret, CTB Turner, 10: G Brann, HB Daft, JA Dixon, JJ Ferris, W Flowers, KJ Key, OG Radcliffe, A Shrewsbury, FW Tate, GHS Trott, A Ward

In 1887 at Bridge Parish Church Fred Martin married Esther Jane Daniels (1858 – 1944) from Fordwich. There were four daughters. In the 1911 Census he has moved back to Dartford and is living in a three storey, eight room house at 10 The Brent. He is still shown as a professional cricketer. During the First World War he worked in one of the numerous munition factories in the area and when his daughter Maud married in December 1918 he is still listed as a munition worker. In his spare time he took up bowls with the Hesketh Club.

Apparently in good health, Fred Martin died suddenly from a cerebral haemorrhage. According to the death certificate he had also suffered from 'gout arterio scleroses for 20 years. He was buried in the same grave as his younger sister Clara who had emulated her uncle Arthur Blackman and entered the teaching profession. She became headmistress of St Albans Road Girls' School, Dartford. The Martin family seem to have been reasonably comfortably off at the time of his death but in 1930 his widow approached Kent for financial help.

There remains the question of why Fred Martin was called 'Nutty'. Martin himself reputedly had no idea. The word was of course used to indicate 'not quite right in the head' as they would have said at the time, and in the Royal Navy it was a lower-deck term for chocolate. In photographs of Martin in civilian clothes he looks, what might have been called, a bit 'flash'. As a variant of 'natty', the word was at one time used to indicate smart or well turned out as well as piquant. In one team photograph from 1898 he sports a broad brimmed hat, carries a smart cane and looks the personification of a Parisian *boulevardier*. A couple of lines from an early 20th century musical hall song may provide a clue:

*Where are the lads of the village tonight?
Where are the nuts we knew?*

These are the opening lines from a poignant little song written by RP Weston and Hermann Darewski in 1914 as the nation's young men went off to war. 'Lads of the Village' was a term used to describe young men-about-town. From France in June 1916, 18 year-old Second Lieutenant Gwilym Lewis, RFC (later Wing Commander DFC), commenting on the benefits of being able to speak the language writes 'You should have seen what a nut I was at the hotel with the girls.' In 1915 there came the better known song by Arthur Wimperis and Hermann Finck.

I'm Gilbert the Filbert, the Colonel of the knuts

Further into the song the singer describes himself as a 'blasé roué' On the other hand, in some circles a man named Martin might have been called 'Nutty' just as, for no discernible, or at least remembered, reason, someone named White was often known as 'Knocker' and Brown 'Topper'. To add to the puzzle, Frank Reginald Martin, the Jamaican opening batsman who toured England with West Indies in 1928 and 1933 and played nine Test matches was also known as 'Nutty' JW 'Young Jack' Hearne, another always well turned out, was also seemingly known as 'Nutty'. It will probably remain a mystery.

George Martin (No. 179).

Born: 11.10.1833; Penshurst. *Died:* 21.9.1876; Leigh.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1856-1863.

Parents: Michael Martin & Rebecca Martin (*née Flint*).

Over six feet (183cm) tall but weighing under ten stone (63.5 kg.), George Martin used his height primarily for defence at a time when Kent's batting was weak and 'stonewall' type batsmen were highly valued. The Kent history describes him as 'very steady indeed'. Although possibly not always

an automatic choice when available – his 15 matches were spread over eight seasons - he was regarded highly enough to appear four times against England. He is probably the G.Martin who appeared for MCC in 1856.

Four times he opened the batting for Kent and four times came in at No.3 but he batted in every position except No. 4 and, curiously perhaps for a batsman who clearly took time over his runs, frequently batted low in the order. Once, for Fifteen of England v Kent at Canterbury in 1860 he was No. 14. Although hardly a prolific scorer, he only twice passed 20; probably his best innings was against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in 1860 when, batting No. 10, he scored 23* of the 44 runs added for the last two wickets.

As well as for his native Penshurst, he also played for Tunbridge Wells and, although not normally a bowler, he took three wickets for Tunbridge Wells v Sussex in 1864. His career was ended prematurely by rheumatism; He umpired in local matches and a match Gentlemen of Tonbridge v Players of Tonbridge was played for his benefit in July 1875.

A carpenter by trade, he lived most of his life in Penshurst but in 1861 became landlord of *The Fleur de Lys* in Leigh. In 1860 he married Harriet Morgan at St Mary's Church, Newington, Southwark. There were four daughters and three sons. He died from what was then known as consumption (tuberculosis). He had been suffering for almost ten years.

William Martingell (No. 115).

Born: 20.8.1818; Nutfield, Surrey. *Died:* 29.9.1897; Eton Wick, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1841-1852.

Parents: Russell Martingell & Sarah Martingell.

Originally a shoemaker, William Martingell was the son of a farmer who was also a much-feared under-arm fast bowler in his day. William gained a reputation with local clubs including Lingfield, Mitcham, Reigate and significantly in view of his subsequent Kentish associations, Penshurst and Tunbridge Wells. In his first match now recognised as first-class, he took seven wickets for his native Surrey against MCC at Lord's in 1839. In the following year he was in the England Eleven against Kent at Bromley but in a game in which no Kent batsman reached double figures, his bowling was not required.

At the beginning of his career there was no formally constituted Surrey club and in 1841 Martingell began his 11-year association with Kent while continuing to make his services available to any club who wanted them. In 1841 he was with the Tunbridge Wells club and while there played with and against his role model, Fuller Pilch. In 1842 he joined Pilch at Canterbury as ground bowler to the Beverley club at a salary of £60 a year.

When the Surrey club was formed in 1845 his services were enlisted and from 1846 until 1852, while remaining an important part of the Kent side, he divided his time more or less equally between the two counties - as indeed did Felix. When Kent played Surrey, except on one occasion, he chose the latter.

Initially Martingell played primarily as a bowler, delivering below the shoulder with a 'bias from leg' and with a weakness for no-balls through over-stepping. In the early years of his career only wickets bowled or lbw were credited to the bowler but he took at least 51 wickets in Kent v England matches including nine in a match on the Beverley ground in 1846. Against Sussex he claimed at least 58 wickets, twice nine in a match, once eight. At The Oval in 1852 when, 'to make matters more equal' Martingell and Felix played for Kent against Surrey, Martingell was largely responsible for Kent's

narrow six run victory with five for 42 and six for 57. Probably his finest performance in county cricket was against Yorkshire at Sheffield in 1849 - figures of seven for 27 and four for 56 and scores of 29 and 33.

As a batsman Martingell has a curious record. At the beginning of his career he almost invariably batted low in the order and did not reach double figures until his 12th first-class match. Mainly a forward player, he never approached Pilch in terms of consistency but between 1843 and 1854 he regularly achieved double figures and posted scores of between 30 and 49 13 times. He hit 40 for Kent v Sussex on the Beverley ground in 1843 and 43 against the same opponents at Tunbridge Wells in 1850.

After 1850 his batting seems largely to have deserted him and for the remainder of his career he mainly inhabited the lower reaches of the batting order with a top score of 21. Even in odds matches for the All-England and United All-England Elevens he generally batted in the lower half; he was No. 7 when he hit 90 for the UEE v 18 of Manchester at Old Trafford in 1853.

As an indication of his standing as a cricketer, Martingell was chosen for the Players v Gentlemen at Lord's from 1844 to 1850, 1852 to 1854, in 1856 and 1858. In the 1853 match he took seven for 19 including six of the top eight in the batting order. He was an original member of William Clarke's All-England Eleven and played in the inaugural match against Twenty of Sheffield on the Hyde Park ground in 1846. Unhappy with Clarke's reluctance to part with money, following the formation of the rival United All-England Eleven in 1852, he joined it in the following year. In 1860 the AEE v UAEE match at The Oval was played for his benefit and raised £260.

From May to August every year from 1856 to 1860, Martingell was on the MCC staff. In his first season at Lord's he took three for 32 and five for 7 for MCC against Kent and in the same fixture three years later bowled unchanged with James Grundy to dismiss Kent for 38 (Grundy four for 9, Martingell five for 23). He featured regularly in 'England' teams and in South v North matches. He took five for 14 for England v Sixteen of Sussex at Chichester in 1852, nine for 22 for England v Sixteen of Cambridge University at The Oval in 1860 and six for 13 for South v North at Trent Bridge in 1857.

Martingell's numerous professional engagements included two years with Lord Dulcie at Woodchester, near Stroud, Rugby School, a brief one-year return to the Beverley in Canterbury, Bradfield College, with Earl Fitzwilliam in Ireland, the Hoyland club and from 1867 at Eton College where, known to generations of Etonians as 'Grannie', he served as ground manager, coach and umpire and remained for the rest of his life. He also was regular umpire for I Zingari.

William Martingell married Caroline Evans (1828-1911) at the Parish Church at Monks Kirby, Warwickshire in 1850. There appear to have been no children. In later life they ran into hard times. At a special meeting of Kent's General Committee in September 1891 Lord Harris reported that the couple were living on £20 a year from Eton College Cricket Club plus 'what they could make from selling cricket goods'. A donation was made of £25. On Martingell's death, Harris wrote to *The Times* pointing out that Mrs Martingell was now 'unprovided for' and asking Etonians to help. In May 1904 the club paid Mrs Martingell £1 for portraits of Fuller Pilch and of her husband.

James Ernest Mason OBE (No. 477).

Born: 29.10.1876; Blackheath. *Died:* 8.2.1938; Wallington, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1900.

Educated: Abbey School Beckenham & Tonbridge School.

Parents: Richard Smith Mason & Violet Goodman Mason (*née* Eagleton).

One of seven brothers and three sisters, James Mason – younger brother of the more famous John Richard ‘Jack’ (qv) - was unable to win a place in the Eleven at Tonbridge but scored runs for his local club Blackheath and made his debut for Kent Second Eleven against Sussex at Hove in 1897. He failed to score but hit 49 in the return at Tonbridge and progressed into the 40s twice more in three further appearances, one in 1898, two in 1899, all against Sussex. He scored one in his only first-class innings in a match ruined by rain.

Admitted in 1899, Mason followed his father and brother Jack into the profession of solicitor, originally in the family firm, subsequently in South West London and later in Maidenhead. This restricted his cricket but he made occasional appearances for Blackheath, Hythe, Band of Brothers and in 1905 one match for Berkshire.

38 years-old at the outbreak of the First World War, Mason enlisted in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in October 1914 and was posted to an anti-aircraft unit with the rank of Able Seaman. Wishing to join two of his brothers who were serving in the Army Service Corps (ASC), he was discharged in March 1915 and granted a commission in the ASC in June that year. Assigned to duties with the Foraging Committee responsible for obtaining agricultural produce for the Army and fodder for the thousands of horses needed for the war effort, he was appointed Area Chief Accountant and, although he volunteered for overseas service, he remained engaged on administration in this country ultimately rising to Area Administrative Officer, Eastern Section with the temporary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He relinquished his commission in June 1919, the year in which he was awarded the OBE for his services. He was also Mentioned in Despatches.

He returned to his practice with Amery Parkes & Co in London. In 1919 he married Grace Elizabeth Chapman in Hammersmith. There were two sons and one daughter. His wife died in a car crash in 1929 and in 1934 he married Violet Goodman Armesdon who survived him. One of his sons, Major John Ernest Mason, was killed in action at Anzio in May 1944.

On his death in 1938 Jack Ernest Mason Snr.’s estate was valued at £11,693 18s 9d. Death was from cancer.

As well as brother Jack there were strong cricket traditions in the family. Father Richard played for Worcestershire in pre-first-class days and another brother, Charles, played for Blackheath, Butterflies and in one first-class match for MCC.

John Richard Mason (No. 437).

Born: 26.3.1874; Blackheath. *Died:* 15.10.1958, Cooden Beach, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1893-1914. Kent County cap 1893.

County captain 1898-1902.

Tests: Five for England.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year. 1898

Educated: Abbey School Beckenham & Winchester College.

Parents: Richard Smith Mason & Violet Goodman Mason (*née* Eagleton).

Due perhaps to a brief and rather moderate Test career and to his never having played in a home Test match, Jack Mason is in danger of becoming another of Kent’s forgotten men. His name appears to mean little or nothing to the majority of present day followers of Kent cricket but those who played with him or against him seem to have had no doubts. To his contemporaries, he was one of cricket’s greatest allrounders, a batsman of the highest class, a bowler worth his place in most sides even if he had batted one place above the extras and one of the best slip fielders of his generation. Charles Fry

wrote in 1902 'he must be reckoned one of the great allround players now engaged in county cricket.' To Pelham Warner he was 'the finest allround cricketer Kent ever had, with the one exception of Frank Woolley'.

Much of his best cricket was after he gave up playing regular county cricket and Woolley himself seems to have thought that, because of the amount of cricket Mason missed, even some of his contemporaries did not quite appreciate his true worth - 'Jack Mason was a greater allround cricketer than the world ever knew'.

When first coming into first-class cricket he was a fairly typical public school batsman of the period with an upright stance, scoring mainly from powerful drives off the front foot and square cuts. He used his height (6 ft 2 in [188 cm]) to drive almost everything except a rank long hop but, following his experience in Australia, he modified his technique, widening his range of strokes, scoring more of his runs off the back foot, off his legs and between wide mid on and square leg. To anything over pitched he was still considered as hard a driver as anyone. Photographs show a lower, more open, stance.

With a high action and making maximum use of his height, he bowled a lively fast-medium, taking a longish run, finishing with a long follow through. Varying his pace, he concentrated on or near off stump and 'brought her back and made her run away' according to the cricketer/journalist Teddy Sewell in his *Who's Won the Toss* (Stanley Paul, 1943), presumably off the seam although, as was their wont, some contemporary accounts merely refer to 'spin'. If he swung the ball, nobody seems to have commented on it.

Blessed with large hands and a long reach, he was a superb allround fielder who quickly came to specialise at slip. He held 36 catches in 22 matches in 1896, 26 in 15 1904, 18 in 12 in 1906, exceeded a catch a match in every season bar one between 1895 and 1907 and did so again in 1910. He held seven catches in a match at The Oval against Surrey in 1905 and twice six in match, again against Surrey, at The Oval in 1895 and Canterbury 1904. Rarely can any county have had a better slip cordon than Mason, Seymour and Hutchings (or Blaker).

One of nine children, seven sons, two daughters, of a solicitor with a practice in Westminster, Jack Mason learned his cricket at the Abbey School Beckenham before going on to Winchester where he was in the Eleven from 1890 to 1893. At Winchester he started as a bowler batting No. 11 but quickly worked his way to the top of the order and captained in his final year. In 1892 he almost beat Eton on his own with 147, 71, eight wickets and three catches.

In July of his final year at Winchester Mason made his debut for Kent at the age of 19 against Sussex at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham. Opening the batting, he contributed 31 to a first-wicket partnership of 65 with Alec Hearne. Partnering Hearne for the remainder of the season, he scored 49 and 50 v Nottinghamshire in Canterbury Week and 48 and 52 in the return against Sussex at Hove. Given his first long bowl, against Middlesex at Lord's, he responded in the second innings with six for 70 from 32.2 overs including the top five in the Middlesex order.

With parental permission, Mason played a full season in 1894 but found difficulty in adjusting. Retaining his place at the top of the order, he had an excellent Tonbridge Week – 55 & 43 v Middlesex, 102, his maiden century, v Lancashire and two century partnerships, 114 for the second wicket with William Rashleigh (76) in the first match and 119 for the fourth wicket with Gerry Weigall (65) in the second. There were however 15 single figure scores and only twice more did he exceed 40. Chosen, a little prematurely perhaps, for Gentlemen v Players at both The Oval and Lord's, his contributions were quite modest – three single-figure innings of two, 0, and seven in addition to three wicketless overs.

In 1895 Mason confirmed his status as a first-class cricketer, hitting three centuries, taking part in five century opening partnerships with Alec Hearne (six in all), and with 1,149 runs (avge.29.46,) exceeding the benchmark 1,000 runs as he would in every subsequent season (in Kent matches alone) until he abandoned full-time cricket in 1902. Against Nottinghamshire at Mote Park he scored 120 in an opening partnership of 179 with Hearne, his runs coming in 135 minutes with 17 fours. In the Parks against Oxford University he hit 142* in 118 minutes with two sixes and 18 fours, sharing a 189 run second-wicket partnership with Joe Easby (47*). Chosen again for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, he continued to disappoint with scores of two and ten.

The next two seasons brought continued improvement- 1,242 runs (avge.33.56) in 1896 with three hundreds and six half-centuries, 1,377 runs (avge. 35.30) in 1897 with one century and nine half-centuries. In 1896 with Alec Hearne he shared two more century opening partnerships, both against Nottinghamshire, 115 (Mason 127*, Hearne 39) at Beckenham and 195 (Mason 131, Hearne 81) at Trent Bridge. Against Middlesex at Tonbridge in 1896, he was the less adventurous partner in a 199-run second-wicket partnership (Mason 66, Rashleigh 163), a curious Kent innings in which the team total was only 257 and the next highest score 11. Beginning in mid-July he had a run of a half-century or more in five successive matches – 62 & ten for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, his first success in the fixture, 31 & 183 v Somerset at Blackheath, 65 & seven v Surrey at The Oval, 92 & 86 v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Mote Park and 51 & 86 v Lancashire at Canterbury.

It was in 1897 that Mason began to demonstrate his allround credentials. Bowling over 500 overs for the first time, he claimed 51 wickets in all matches. Following five for 79 against Somerset at Taunton, in the return at Blackheath, to accompany his 183 which what would remain his personal highest score, he took five for 20. Against Notts at Gravesend he scored 57 and took six for 42 & four for 141, bowling 57.3 overs in the second innings.

In the winter of 1897/98 Mason toured Australia with Andrew Stoddart. He began well with 79 v South Australia, 128* v Victoria and shared two century partnerships with Ranjitsinhji but, although he played in all five Test matches and more than once gave brief promise of better things, he totalled only 129 Test runs with a top score of 32. He did not pass 50 again until the final first-class match of the tour, when he hit 84 in the return with South Australia. With Ted Wainwright (105) he put on 187 for the first wicket, the highest partnership of the tour.

Unfortunately both Stoddart and Archie MacLaren, who led the side in three of the Test matches, made little use of Mason's bowling until the closing matches of the tour. In Test matches he bowled only 54 overs but he headed the first-class averages with 20 wickets (avge. 25.10) which included four for 53 v Victoria and five for 41 v South Australia. The *Sydney Herald* judged him 'next to Richardson and Hearne, the bowler most likely to be successful on our wickets'. With twelve catches, more than anyone, wicketkeeper Bill Storer excepted, his slip fielding impressed hard-bitten local critics.

On returning to England he commenced the second, and for Kent the most important, phase of his cricket career. In 1898, the year in which *Wisden* made him one of their Five Cricketers of the Year, he took over the captaincy from Marchant. Kent had finished 12th out of 14 in 1897 and the captaincy was no sinecure for a still relatively inexperienced cricketer. Fred Martin and Walter Wright, the backbone of the attack, were approaching the end of their distinguished careers, apart from Alec Hearne and Mason himself, the batting relied almost entirely on intermittently available amateurs and the products of the newly established Nursery were yet to emerge.

During his five year reign the team finished third in 1900, seventh three times and eighth once with a record of won 34, lost 33, drawn 37, not in themselves particularly impressive figures, but better than much of what had gone before. More important, the great Championship winning side was taking

shape. The first of the Nursery graduates, Colin Blythe, Jim Seymour and Ted Humphreys, were now established, backed by a new generation of talented amateurs.

With a technique modified by Australian experience, his five seasons in charge were highly successful on a personal level. With 'Pinky' Burnup available more or less regularly from 1899 onwards, Mason dropped himself down the order, most frequently to No. 5 and his batting clearly benefitted, not least in consistency. Whereas his career average as an opener is 29.52, at No. 5 he averaged 39.70 and 35.03 at four. Three times he exceeded 1,500 runs, 1,828 (avge.53.76) in 1900 when he finished fifth in the national averages with four hundreds and 14 half-centuries. Only once, in 1902, did his average fall below 30.

During those five seasons he hit 13 centuries (plus three nineties and nine other scores between 80 and 89) and in 1900 at The Oval, narrowly missed two in a match – 98 & 147. In the latter innings he was 40* at the end of the second day and scored the remaining 107 before lunch on the third.

In his early years Mason was perhaps, like countless others before and since, vulnerable to quick bowling on first going in. Tom Richardson dismissed him 17 times, five times in single figures and, of the other bowlers who claimed his wicket in ten or more innings, the majority were fast or fast-medium – 18: JT Hearne. 14: WH Lockwood, JT Rawlin, 11: FW Tate, AE Trott, 10: E Jones (Australia), FG Roberts, E Robson.

One facet of his batting sometimes overlooked was his skill on rain affected or wearing pitches, notably at Blackheath in 1900 when he scored 30 as Kent were bowled out by Notts for 98; the next highest was 17. In the following year when Kent collapsed for 73 against Somerset at Catford he scored 40. Nobody else managed more than seven.

Unlike some captains, he was not shy about his own bowling and it was only under his own captaincy that he could be said to have become an integral part of the attack. In 1901 he delivered 896 overs and became the first Kent cricketer to achieve the double in all matches – 1,561 runs (avge. 36.30) with three hundreds and seven half-centuries, 118 wickets (avge. 20.44), seven times five in an innings, twice ten in a match. He narrowly missed the double in 1899 (1,220 runs, 83 wickets), 1900 (1,828 runs, 86 wickets) and 1902 (1,114 runs, 89 wickets).

Mason seems to have been a little ahead of the majority of his fellow county captains in use of the new ball. At the time it was customary to open the bowling with one quick bowler and one spinner but not infrequently he took the new ball himself with the genuine pace of Bill Bradley at the other end or, in the early days of his captaincy, the left-arm inswing of Walter Wright. On the only occasion he was able to do so, he opened with two fast bowlers, Bradley and Eustace Shine.

Against Middlesex at Tonbridge in 1900 with 72, 46*, four for 23 & six for 34 he became the first Kent cricketer to score one hundred runs and take ten wickets in a match, a feat he would repeat on four further occasions. In 1901, against Somerset at Taunton, he did so in spectacular fashion, scoring 145 in 105 minutes, participating in a 192 run fourth-wicket partnership with Alec Hearne (103) and bowling unchanged throughout the match with Blythe (Mason four for 26 & eight for 29, Blythe four for 37 & two for 48). Statistically eight for 29 was his best bowling performance and included three wickets in five balls, the nearest he ever came to a hat-trick.

Arguably, an even better performance, albeit in a losing cause, was seven for 90 & three for 70 against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane when his ten wickets included every one of the top order down to Lord Hawke at No. 8 – David Denton and George Hirst twice. When Kent were bowled out in their second innings for 80, his 27 was the only score over 20.

At the end of the 1902 season Mason informed the committee that 'owing to the financial misfortunes of his father 'he was obliged to resign the captaincy. With a touch of high-handedness characteristic of Kent committees of the time, it was agreed that someone should talk to Mason snr. but to no avail. The decision was final. Mason's grandson, John Lazenby, in his *Testing of Time. Travels in search of a cricketing legend*. (John Murray, 1905) tells a slightly different story. Mason snr. was no longer prepared to finance a cricketing career and wished his son to enter the family firm – some might think that with nine children to support it was not an unreasonable request. At the end of the 1900 season Mason had been presented with a silver tankard 'inscribed with his scores'. He declined the committee's offer of a further presentation.

Between 1903 and 1914 he played as often as the practice allowed. At the end of the 1903 season he found time to take part in Kent's ground-breaking tour of the USA under the captaincy of his successor, 'Pinky Burnup and headed the batting averages. In fact, until 1911 at least, he played rather more often than most amateurs of the period who had to work for their living - 15 matches in 1904, 14 in 1909, 13 in 1905 and never fewer than nine.

In 1904 he scored 853 runs (avge.40.61), took 55 wickets (avge. 21.92) and hit four centuries, three in successive innings – 138 v Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells, 126 (and ten for 180) v Somerset at Beckenham and 133 v Essex in Canterbury Week. He averaged over 40 again in 1906 and in 1909 headed the national averages with 783 runs (avge. 65.25) with three centuries, scored, if not quite in successive innings but in successive matches, 179* v Sussex at Hove, 111 v Somerset at Taunton and 152* v Surrey at The Oval. In the latter, his runs were scored in 165 minutes with 24 fours, most of them in a 141 run last-wicket partnership with Blythe (29).

Mason scored his final hundred in 1910, 121* in 95 minutes v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham, sharing an unfinished seventh-wicket partnership of 134* with Fred Huish (44*). He played half a dozen games in 1911, confined himself to club cricket in 1912 then six again in 1913 when he hit his last half-century, 75 (top score) at Trent Bridge. One match, against Gloucestershire at Maidstone in 1914 concluded his county career; His first-class career ended in 1919 when, just out of the Navy, he captained Lionel Robinson's Eleven against the Australian Imperial Forces at Old Buckenham Hall, Attleborough.

After relinquishing the captaincy, Mason was generally first choice as captain whenever injury or business prevented the regular skipper from playing. His overall record, won 49, lost 38, drawn 43 is not outstanding but nevertheless most who knew him seem to have considered him Kent's best ever. Woolley for one was a great admirer. He had played under Championship winners 'Slug' Marsham, and Ted Dillon as well charismatic leaders such as Percy Chapman and Bryan Valentine but Mason was his first choice even though he cannot have played more than some 20 matches under his leadership. Mason had his admirers among his opponents too. Teddy Sewell referred to above, who had played against him for Essex, considered Mason knew the game 'backwards in Greek'.

Mason scored over 1,000 runs against Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire. Against Nottinghamshire he hit five centuries and scored 1,309 runs (avge.46.75). He fared even better against Somerset with 2,002 runs (avge.47.66) with eight centuries, seven half-centuries, and 110 wickets (avge.14.65), 12 times five in an innings, six times ten in a match. He also did the 'double' against Middlesex, 1,481 runs (avge.27.94), 100 wickets (avge.18.04).

During his career Mason took part in 70 century partnerships, 64 for Kent, four over 200, the highest 321* (Alec Hearne 162*, Mason 181*) against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1899. In all, he shared 11 three-figure partnerships with Hearne, nine for the first wicket.

After his Australian tour in 1897/98 Mason played no more Test cricket but he was among the 14 chosen for the first Test match at Edgbaston in 1902, the team for many years considered the strongest ever to represent England. There is a story that he was not included in the final Eleven 'partly at his own recommendation'. If true, presumably Gilbert Jessop or Len Braund played in his place. He was approached to join at least one subsequent Australian tour and to captain the MCC side to South Africa in 1905/06 but was unable to spare the time.

Perhaps a little surprisingly, Mason was never asked to captain the Gentlemen v Players but he appeared eleven times in the fixture, eight at Lord's, once each at The Oval, Scarborough and Hastings. He hit two half-centuries, the highest 72 at Lord's in 1899 when he shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 130 with Grace, ended unfortunately when he ran the great man out for 78. Mason did rather better with the ball, 30 wickets at 25.30 apiece. At Hastings in 1901, presumably on a whim from his captain WG (or possibly in revenge for the run out), he bowled unchanged for 31 overs throughout the Players' first innings of 238, in tandem with South Africa's Jimmy Sinclair (Mason six for 90, Sinclair four for 135).

Mason was too old to be accepted as a volunteer in the early years of the First World War but in 1917 he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and was posted, with the rank of temporary Sub-Lieutenant, to HMS *Tarlair* in Fifeshire, the base for the Royal Navy's Hydrophone Service. The hydrophone was an early, microphone-based, submarine detection system which achieved some success against U boats.

After training, Mason was posted to a shore station at Freshwater, Isle of Wight where cables were run out to sea to detect U-Boat activity in the Channel. He made an abortive attempt to gain a transfer to the newly formed RAF but the work was deemed too important. He was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant and remained with the Hydrophone Service for the remainder of the War. One of his colleagues in the Service was the composer, musician and conductor Hamilton Harty (later Sir Hamilton Harty). He returned to his legal practice in January 1919.

Mason played club cricket for Blackheath, Beckenham and Band of Brothers, for whom he made his last appearance in 1926, as well as occasional games for other clubs and a few minor matches for London County. In 1911, for Prince Albert's Eleven, he played alongside the future George V1 and WG Grace against Charterhouse School at Windsor. In 1922 he played for Band of Brothers against a Canadian touring team at Chilham Castle and in the following year for Lord Harris' Eleven against the West Indian tourists at Belmont. He was President of Kent in 1938.

In July 1912 Jack Mason married Mary Rose Powell, (an international golfer) in Beckenham Parish Church. There were three daughters. The couple lived in Beckenham until 1939 when they moved to Cooden Beach, Sussex, living in a bungalow almost on the beach itself. Following the death of his wife in 1950, Mason continued to commute from Cooden Beach to his office in Westminster until well into his 80s and, almost until his final illness, he started his day with a swim in the sea. He died following a cold which turned into a chest infection. His estate was valued for probate at £5,640 1d.

Jack Mason was so widely liked and respected, it is almost a relief to find a possible blemish, albeit a slight one. In early 1914 he was one of a sub-committee (Kenneth McAlpine and Frank Marchant were the others) specially appointed to investigate a near mutiny among the senior professionals. The cause was the activities, or lack of them of the coach, the famously eccentric, Gerry Weigall. With hindsight, Weigall seems an extraordinary choice for the job and now the First Eleven professionals submitted their views in writing. With the exception of Fred Huish, they were unanimous in condemning Weigall's coaching methods. There was 'great unpunctuality', no fielding or catching practice. 'No one took Mr Weigall seriously'.

The sub-committee's report, while granting that 'rumours' had been prevalent throughout the season, was redolent of attitudes more appropriate to the 1880s. The vastly experienced Manager Tom Pawley had, in their view, 'rightly or wrongly' canvassed the opinions of the pros – as the latter were the complainants it is difficult to see how he could have done otherwise. The professionals, most of whom had four championships under their belts and included three Test cricketers with collectively 36 England caps, 'had no right to take this view'. 'No coach would be appointed by the committee unless they had satisfied themselves that he had great knowledge of the game and was fit to impart that knowledge to the staff.', which appears to assign to the committee a level of infallibility normally associated with the Vatican.

The report continues 'It is most desirable that the coach at Tonbridge should be a gentleman'. This is odd considering that Weigall's predecessor McCanlis had only ever played for Kent as a professional, and 'gentlemen' coaches were rare if not quite unknown. All three of the members of the sub-committee would have been coached by professionals at their public schools.

It was recommended that Weigall be appointed for 1914 but, in what was in effect an admission that all was not well, it was agreed that there had been unpunctuality and lack of method and a programme was drawn up setting out the coach's duties in great detail with times and duration of individual coaching sessions closely specified. There is nothing in the report to suggest a dissenting voice on the sub-committee but this does not necessarily mean the report was unanimous. Among the county captains, Mason was reputedly one of the first – possibly the first – to insist amateurs and professionals took the field together. It seems odd that he should put his name to a report with such feudal overtones.

Further reading:

Fry, CB. *The Book of Cricket: a gallery of famous players*. pp.98-100. George Newnes. 1899.

Lazenby, John. *Testing of Time: travels in search of a cricketing legend*. John Murray, 2005.

Stephen Masters (No. 16).

Born: circa 1799 Lamberhurst.

Kent 1815.

Another about whom little is known. He is presumably the Stephen Masters, a shoemaker, who in 1816 married Elizabeth Woodwards in Lamberhurst. A member of the Hawkhurst club, he scored 12 and eight for Hawkhurst against Kent on Wrotham Napps in 1816, the same ground on which he scored 12 and 9 in his only appearance for Kent in the previous year. In 1819 he scored 3 and 1* for a far from representative Kent & Sussex team against Marden at Stilebridge.

William May (No. 92).

Born: 1808, Linton. Died: 5.8.1888, Linton.

Kent 1834.

Parents: William May & Sarah Sophia May (*née* Alchin).

The son of the landlord of *The Star*, Linton who in the 1830s catered for matches at Coxheath with a 'public ordinary', William May played for Leeds, Maidstone and combined Leeds and Bearsted between 1829 and 1835, with and against the giants of the Mynn/Pilch era. Among his best innings were 29 (top score) for Maidstone v Leeds in 1829, scored against Mynn at his fastest and 30 for Leeds (with Pilch) v Dartford (with Corbett, Wenman & Mills) on Dartford Brent in 1832, his runs coming in an all out total of 67. The next highest scorer was Pilch (nine). He scored 30* in the return at Bearsted.

In 1834, in addition to his one first-class match for Kent against England at Chislehurst in which he scored three in both innings, he played for Leeds against MCC, scoring six not out and ten not out at Lord's and two in the return at Leeds. In 1833 he appeared in a single-wicket match on Hadlow Common for three of Maidstone (including William Clifford) v Three of Hadlow.

Away from cricket, May had an unusual career. In 1838 he married Sophia Gall (1801-1871) at St. Nicholas' Parish Church, Linton. There were three sons and two daughters. Until around 1855 he ran a school in Loose with his wife but by the 1861 Census he is back in Linton as a butcher and grazier employing one man and a boy. In the 1881 Census he is at Red Wall Farm, Linton, farming 47 acres, employing three men and three boys.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*, The author, 2002.

John Mayers (No. 63).

Born: 1801, Benenden. *Died:* August 1865, Hawkhurst.
Kent 1827.

One of the most elusive of all Kent's 'one match wonders', he appears in *Scores & Biographies, Kent Cricket Matches 1819-1880* and in the 1907 history as 'Naires' but later research has suggested his name was Mayers which, if correct, presumably means he is the same John Mayers who scored 20 opening the batting for Lord Frederick Beauclerk's side against W.Deedes' side at Sevenoaks Vine in September 1823. If it is the same man, he had dropped to No. 11 when he scored 0 and one in his only game for Kent four years later.

To further confuse matters, only two days before the Kent match and on the same ground, one 'Nares' was 0* for Gentlemen of Kent (with Saunders) v Players of Kent (with two Gentlemen). Again, he batted No. 11. None of the handful of Kentish-born 'Mayers' or 'Naires' appearing in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Census returns seem to fit, nor are any of the rather more common 'Myers' obvious candidates.

Henry Blair Mayne (No. 98).

Born: 23.8.1813, Limpsfield, Surrey. *Died:* 17.1.1892, Brighton, Sussex.
Kent 1835-1844.

Educated: Westminster School & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Robert Mayne & Charlotte Cunningham Mayne (*née* Graham).

There seems to be no record of Henry Mayne in his school Eleven but, in addition to his two first-class matches for Kent, between 1833 and 1855 he played a great deal of cricket in high-class company, mainly for MCC and I Zingari but also for Bramshill (Hampshire), Gentlemen of England, Gentlemen of Kent, Gentlemen of Sussex, Gentlemen of West Kent, Oxford University and West Kent. Usually batting in the bottom three, but occasionally opening, it cannot be said that he often distinguished himself. In matches now given first-class rating his top score was 17 for MCC v Sussex at Brighton in 1845, while in minor matches he exceeded 20 just five times, the highest 30 for West Kent v Eton at Agar's Plough in 1848. In his three innings for Kent he was No. 11, No 10 and finally opener when he scored 14.

His obituary in *Scores & Biographies* asserts that Mayne captained the Oxford Eleven but gives no indication as to year and although between 1834 and 1838 he played four times for the University against MCC he never played against Cambridge. On the river, he rowed at stroke for his school against Eton and in the Christ Church boat.

Mayne was called to the Bar in Middle Temple in 1845. From 1859 to 1870 he was Chief Clerk in the House of Commons and from 1870 head of the Private Bills Office. A bachelor who for much of his life lived in up-market 'lodgings' in St James's, he was involved in the framing of Rules for Short Whist. On his death his estate was valued at £1,715.

William Simons Meers (No. 242).

Born: 27.3.1844, Stoke, Kent. *Died:* 12.7.1902, Horsham, Sussex.
Kent 1866.

Educated: Chatham House, Ramsgate.

Parents: William Simmons Meers & Sophia Susannah Meers (*née* Blackadder).

William Simons (or Simmons) Meers was son of a farmer who, by 1861, farmed 790 acres (319 hectares) in Stoke, near Hoo, employing 23 men and boys. William junior appears to have played most of his cricket for the North Kent club but appeared occasionally for the Gentlemen of Kent. In 1866 he was top scorer with 60 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Gravesend. On the same ground in the previous year he had hit 48 for Thirteen Gentlemen of Kent against Thirteen Colts (with Fryer). His single first-class match was a low scoring late season, 'unofficial' fixture in which he scored 11 in his only innings, only one batsman exceeded 20 and no team score reached three figures.

Possibly due to the depressed state of agriculture, Meers did not follow his father into farming. In 1881 he was living at Lodge House, Swanscombe, trading as a corn merchant. Ten years later he was 'Lighterage Superintendent', still at Swanscombe.

He married twice. In 1871 Martha Dowerty (1848-1894) at Marylebone Parish Church. Following her death, in 1897 he married Charlotte Maydwell Mason (1856-1921) at St. John's Church, Brixton. There seem to have been no children. He was living alone and of 'independent means' but near his sister when he died of *paralysis agitans*.

Francis Hamilton Mellor KC CBE (No. 339).

Born: 13.5.1854, Bloomsbury, London. *Died:* 26.4. 1925, Paris, France.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm under-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1877-1878.

Educated: Cheltenham College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Sir John Mellor & Lady Elizabeth Coke (Mellor (*née* Moseley)).

In the Cheltenham College Eleven from 1871 to 1873, Frank Mellor took part in a curious match in his second year when his team lost to Marlborough College by seven wickets. According to the account in green *Lillywhite*, 'the scorer called 'game' before the winning run was made'. In 1873 he distinguished himself with an innings of 187 against Old Cheltonians which, despite a relatively modest season's average of 26, drew praise from red *Lillywhite* as 'the most correct bat of the Eleven,' and a prediction that he 'will be in the University Eleven if he tries'.

The prophecy proved accurate although Mellor did not gain his Blue until his fourth year in residence. He scored 43 in the 1874 Freshmens' match and 45 for the Next Sixteen, which gained him a place in the University Eleven against an England Eleven at Fenner's. He failed (0 and eight) and for the next two years he was no nearer a Blue than the Next Sixteen again in 1875 and the Next 18 in 1876. Selected for the opening match of the 1877 season against an England Eleven, he was top scorer with 46 in the University's second innings and, although this proved to be his highest, he retained his place in the side, scoring 5 and 15* in the University match.

Frank Mellor was living at Kingsdown House, Dover when he played his four matches for Kent. In the 1877 Canterbury Week he appeared in both matches, against England, when he scored 2 and 20, the only time he achieved double figures for Kent, and against MCC. In 1878 he played against MCC at Lord's, where he scored 0 and four as Kent were bowled out for 36 and 50, and against Nottinghamshire at Town Malling where he had the misfortune to collect a pair, clean bowled in each innings by Fred Morley.

This was his last appearance in first-class cricket but he continued to play in MCC matches until 1890. In 1887 he hit 65 at Lord's against Northern Nomads He played club cricket for Will O' the Wisps, a high-class wandering side.

The tenth son of Sir John Mellor a Judge of the Queen's Bench, Frank Mellor was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1877, 'migrated' to the Inner Temple and was called to the Bar there in 1880, going to the Northern Circuit as Special Pleader, From 1898 until he was appointed to the Bench, he was a Member of the General Bar Council. He was Recorder of Preston from 1898 until 1921, KC 1903, County Court Judge for Manchester 1911-1925 and JP for Cheshire and Lancashire.

At a time of crisis in labour relations, he was concerned in trade conciliation, serving as Chairman of the Conciliation Boards under the Coal Mining Minimum Wages Act for Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire and of the Conciliation Boards for the Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire and the Wirral Railway Companies. During the First World War he was Chairman of the South-East Lancashire Appeal Tribunal. He was created CBE in 1918.

Joint author of *Short & Mellor's Crown Office Practice*, in 1886 he married Mabel Lucy Knowles (1865-1943) in Penrith, Cumberland. There was one daughter.

His father was a member of the tribunal which in 1873 tried Arthur Orton for perjury in the Tichborne case. One of his brothers was Judge-Advocate General and Chairman of Committees in the House of Commons; another was Master of the Supreme Court, King's Remembrancer, King's Coroner and first Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal.

He died in Paris following an operation. His estate was valued at £18,026.

James Mewett (No. 201).

Born: 1833, Eastbourne, Sussex. *Died:* 2.11.1904, Sandhurst.
Kent 1860.

Parents: James Honeysett & Belinda Mewett

The Sandhurst village blacksmith when he came to Lord's for his one and only appearance for Kent, James Mewett had in the previous season taken nine wickets, five in the first innings, four in the second, for 22 of Tunbridge Wells v the New All-England Eleven. Essentially a village cricketer, he had no chance to display his talent on the wider stage. Ned Willsher and George Bennett did all the bowling necessary as a strong England Eleven was dismissed for 80 and 54.

Mewett played three times in all for Tunbridge Wells against New All-England, claiming six wickets in 1858 but was less successful with the bat – a pair in 1858, another in 1859, 0 and four in 1860.

His maternal grandfather, a farmer in Willingdon, near Eastbourne, apprenticed James to a blacksmith in Dallington, where in 1854 he met and married his wife Mary Jane Baldock (1834-1901). There were four sons and one daughter. In the 1861 census he is a 'journeyman blacksmith', living at the blacksmith's shop, Sandhurst. By 1881 he is a master blacksmith, still in Sandhurst but living at the

Cross. In 1891 he is at Frenchurst Farm, Sandhurst and is now a 'farmer and blacksmith'. Ten years later he is still at Frenchhurst Farm but appears as 'a farmer'. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £1,190.

Rev Frederic Meyrick Meyrick-Jones (No. 432).

Born: 14.1.1867, Blackheath. *Died:* 25.10.1950, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1893-1896.

Educated: Marlborough College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev George Meyrick-Jones & Isabella Sarah Meyrick-Jones (*née* Anderson).

Frederic Meyrick-Jones was two years (1884-1885) in the Eleven at Marlborough where he was described in red *Lillywhite* as 'a slashing hitter' and a 'good bowler if he were less tricky'. He could also 'keep wicket moderately at a pinch'. Although one obituarist went further, judging him 'a slogger', he was batsman enough to hit 66 against Cheltenham and 90 in the annual match with Rugby at Lord's in 1885.

Despite being, according to the aforementioned obituarist, 'no scholar' he went up to Trinity in 1886 (BA 1889) but was not given a trial as a Freshman. Later that year he opened the batting in two games for Hampshire (not then first-class), hitting 95 and 22* against MCC at Southampton.

Given his chance at University in 1887, he hit 67 against CI Thornton's Eleven at Fenner's and 42 against Yorkshire on his third appearance but a run of low scores, culminating in a pair against MCC at Lord's, ended his hopes of a Blue. In the following season, two hard hit innings of 91 and 41* for the Next Sixteen against the Cambridge First Eleven earned him another chance and, although his top score was only 33*, he gave several valuable displays of lower-order hitting. Awarded his Blue on the day of the match, he hit 16 and 36 against Oxford at Lord's when, batting number ten in a match of low scores, he shared ninth-wicket partnerships of 36 and 43 with Robert Gosling (29* & 18*).

Meyrick-Jones appeared in a few more games for Hampshire but played no further first-class cricket until his debut for Kent in 1893. His start was impressive – 45 and 41* v MCC at Lord's (top scorer in both innings) and 62 v Notts at Trent Bridge but thereafter he only once exceeded 20 although he hit centuries in club cricket, notably for Marlborough Blues and while teaching at Elstree. As late as 1909 he scored 32 and 46* opening the batting for Norfolk against Suffolk at Lavenham.

Ordained in 1890, Meyrick-Jones was Curate at Elstree (1890-1893), Assistant Master Elstree Preparatory School (1894-1896), Curate St Agnes, Bristol (1896-1898) and between 1898 and 1905 full-time Manager of what was then the Rugby School Mission in London, later known as the Rugby Clubs.

There he commenced the social work in what are now called disadvantaged districts of the city for which he is best remembered and which gained him immense popularity among all sorts and conditions of people. He subsequently became Headmaster of a private school in Holt, Norfolk, specialising in teaching 'difficult' boys considered unlikely to benefit from a public school education. His social work gained him a wide circle of friends, among them Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He played in several matches for JM Barrie's famous Allahakberries.

A considerable allround athlete, Meyrick-Jones competed in the first Raquets Championships at Queen's Club. He also became an accomplished billiards player, having learned the game in working men's clubs during his time with the Rugby Mission.

In 1908 he married Olive Lubeck White (1874-1963) at Trinity Church, Chelsea. There was one son. For what were no doubt excellent reasons, in 1893 he changed his name from Frederic Meyrick-Jones to Frederic Meyrick Meyrick-Jones. On his death, his estate was valued at £1,542 16s 10d.

Hon Henry Augustus Milles (later Milles-Lade) (No. 402).

Born: 24.11.1867, Lees Court, Faversham. *Died:* 30.7.1937, Nash Court, Faversham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1888-1897.

Educated: Eton College & Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Parents: George Watson Milles, First Earl Sondes & Charlotte Milles, Lady Sondes (*née* Stracey).

Brother of Viscount Throwley (George Edward Milles) (*qv*), Henry Augustus Milles, although a useful bowler in club cricket, failed to get into the Eleven at Eton and at Cambridge got no nearer a Blue than a single appearance in the 1888 Seniors' match. Later that season he failed to score and was not asked to bowl in his only county match for Kent but took six for 39 and three for 34 for WC Bridgman's Eleven against Shropshire at Shrewsbury.

In 1891 Milles took ten wickets in eight matches touring North America with an all-amateur team chosen, managed and captained by Lord's Hawke. The two games against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia were granted first-class status and when the Gentlemen of Philadelphia toured in 1897, Milles played for Kent against them at Mote Park, his last appearance in first-class cricket and for the County. He was a late addition to the side. John Tonge retired hurt without a run on the board and the Philadelphian captain John Lester allowed Milles to take his place. Until the late 1890s he was an active club cricketer with MCC, Band of Brothers, I Zingari, Incogniti and Eton Ramblers.

A JP and county councillor, Henry Milles lived most of his life at Nash Court Faversham. He was appointed High Sherriff in 1919. For inheritance purposes, in 1900 he changed his name by deed poll to Milles-Lade. A Captain in the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, during the Second Boer War he served as a Lieutenant with the 33rd (East Kent) Company, 11th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry.

In 1912 he married Esther Benyon at St. George's, Hanover Square; there were two sons and two daughters. His eldest son George became the Fourth Earl Sondes; his daughter Isabel married the 18th Earl Derby. On his death his estate was valued at £95,151 7s 4d.

Charles Mills (No. 113).

Born: 1816. *Dead.*

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1840.

Charles Mills was a member of a family which on occasions fielded a complete family Eleven. With the Wenman family, they formed the backbone of the strong Benenden team. He is, in other respects, an anonymous figure. Even his precise relationship to the other members of the Mills family who played for Kent is unclear. He is almost certainly the Charles Mills who appears in the 1841 census living in Benenden with his wife Elizabeth and ten-year old daughter and working as a farm labourer. Thereafter he seems to vanish.

Between 1834 and 1840 he appears regularly in the Benenden Eleven, six times against Kent. His highest recorded scores are 21 for Beckley with six for Benenden v Rye at Beckley in 1835 and ten and 19* for Benenden v Penshurst at Benenden in 1840.

Prior to his appearance for Kent against England at Bromley in 1840, he had played twice for Kent against Town Malling in 1835, matches not rated as first-class. Against England, batting No. 4 in a much weakened Kent side, he fell twice to the fast bowling of Sam Redgate. He may have bowled in the match but in the published scores, bowlers were only credited with a wicket when they hit the stumps or gained an lbw decision. He hit the stumps four times in the Kent v Town Malling match at Bromley in 1835 and is credited with the odd wicket in other matches which makes it seem reasonable to assume he was a useful bowler.

With regard to the 'disappearance' of Mills after 1841, it is perhaps worth noting that in July 1848 a Charles Mills was convicted of larceny at a trial in Maidstone and sentenced to transportation for seven years. A man of the same name – possibly the same man – received six months imprisonment for larceny in 1835 and three years in 1842. There was also an acquittal on the same charge in June 1848. All the trials were in Kent. Charles Mills is a common enough name and it would be unfair to conclude that the convicted man was the cricketer but it would at least explain his absence from the records.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

George Mills (No. 43).

Born: 1793, Benenden. *Died:* August 1865, Rolvenden.

Kent 1825-1829.

George Mills presents a problem in that it is difficult to determine with any certainty whether we are dealing with one cricketer or two. According to most authoritative sources, including *Cricket Archive* and the obituary in the ACS 1865 *Statistical Survey*, George Mills was born in Benenden in 1793, died at Rolvenden in 1865 and played eight games for Kent between 1825 to 1829, seven against Sussex, one against MCC, with a top score of 23*. *Scores & Biographies Vol. II* page 154, recounts that in 1831, responding to an invitation intended for his brother Richard Mills (*qv*) but addressed without an initial, he appeared for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's. This account also appears in the 1907 Kent History, in Bob Arrowsmith's 1971 Kent history and in the ACS *Statistical Survey*.

Reference to *Scores & Biographies* shows all this to be rather less straightforward than it first appears. Between 1819 and 1840 two players named George Mills, both allrounders, appear playing regularly for Benenden and for Hawkhurst whose team at this time consisted largely of Benenden players. In *Scores & Biographies* they are distinguished as George Mills snr. and jnr.

George snr. first appears in 1819 when, playing for Benenden against Horsmonden, he bowled seven and stumped one. George jnr. turns up six years later. Both played for Benenden against Kent five times between 1834 and 1838; George snr. scored 50 against the county in 1838. Unfortunately, when only one of them played – whether in the 1831 Gentlemen v Players match, for Benenden or for Hawkhurst - *Scores & Biographies* does not always indicate which.

The 1907 Kent history lists both as having played for the county. George Mills, born 1793, is presumably George Mills jnr. but is not shown as such in the text. He appeared five times, twice in 1825, twice in 1828, once in 1835. His cousin is shown as George Mills snr. There is no date of birth but, by inference, presumably prior to 1793. He is shown as having appeared once in 1827 and once in 1829. The younger Mills is said to have been born in Benenden, to have 'brought out' Ned Wenman and to have been the player who appeared at Lord's against the Gentlemen.

According to *Scores & Biographies*, the George Mills born in 1793 who appeared for the Players was originally a farmer in Benenden but by 1859 he was a gamekeeper in Rolvenden. Apart from the

suggestion that we are now faced with two Kent cricketers named George Mills, this is still relatively straightforward but becomes less so on referring to the Census Returns. There appear to be no Benenden-born men named George Mills born in 1793 - or even a few years earlier - who could be positively identified as George Mills snr. or jnr. There are however two who would fit were it not that both were born at later dates.

In the 1841 Census there is a George Mills born in Benenden and working as a gamekeeper in Rolvenden, but he is aged 40, i.e. born *circa* 1801. He has a wife, Jane (aged 35) and a one year-old son Edwin (one). By 1851 this George Mills is farming 42 acres (17 hectares) and employing five labourers at Hillgate Farm, Rolvenden. His age is given as 55, i.e. born *circa* 1796 but he is obviously the same man. Wife Jane is 44, Edwin 11 and has been joined by John (seven) and Sarah Jane (five). Also living with them is George's brother Richard, born in Benenden, a farm bailiff aged 59. This might just possibly be the cricketer Richard Mills (*qv*) but he is too old by six years. He would have been 83 in 1875 when he, together with the Wenmans, issued their challenge in *Bell's Life* (see under Richard Mills below). Up to a point, his occupation is also against him.

In 1861 George has changed direction and is now landlord of *The Red Lion*, Bodiam, Sussex. He is 65, Jane 56, Edwin 21, Sarah Jane 15. John is not mentioned. Brother Richard, aged 68, is still living with them but is now a 'groom and gardener' which makes it more than ever unlikely that he is **the** Richard Mills, given that the latter seems to have lived and died in comfortable circumstances. By 1871 George has either died, he could be the George Mills whose death was registered at Ticehurst in the third quarter of 1865, or he has been missed by the census, a by no means uncommon occurrence in the 19th century.

The other George Mills in the 1851 Census is aged 46 (i.e., born *circa* 1805), farming 90 acres (36 hectares) at Tan Yard Farm, Hawkhurst, with his wife Miriam (40), daughter-in-law Miriam Barnes (18), children Albert (12), John (eight), Richard (five), Margaret (one), Ann Jenner, a visitor and two live-in labourers. Ten years later he is still at Tan Yard Farm (now 100 acres), son Richard is no longer there but he has another daughter, Mary Ann (eight), another daughter-in-law and a brother Richard, born in Benenden, aged 60 and a 'retired farmer'. This is almost certainly the cricketer. The age is wrong by three years but 'retired farmer' is how he is described in both the 1871 and 1881 census returns. (see Richard Mills below). In the 1871 census George is still at Tan Yard Farm with Miriam, Margaret (21), Mary Ann (18) and a live-in 'farm servant'.

Thus we find two men named George Mills, both born in Benenden, both born after 1793, both with brothers named Richard at one time living with them. The elder of the two worked as a gamekeeper, which fits the biography of the 1793 born George in *Scores & Biographies* and in the 1907 Kent history but his brother Richard is almost certainly not the cricketer and nowhere is there a mention in *Scores & Biographies* or elsewhere of George Mills the Kent cricketer having become a pub landlord. Clearly the younger man looks very likely to be the brother of the cricketer Richard Mills but the George Mills who played for Kent is supposed to have died in 1865 and this one was still alive in 1871.

The questions remain then, despite the discrepancies in birth dates, were these two the George Mills referred to as 'senior' and 'junior' in *Scores & Biographies* and did either (or both) play for Kent? Or was there a third Benenden born George Mills, born in 1793, who was somehow missed by the census? If he existed, how do we link him with Richard Mills, his supposed cricketer brother?

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Richard Mills (No. 44).

Born: 16.2.1798, Benenden. *Died:* 25.1.1882, Rolvenden

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1825-1843.

Parents: Richard Mills & Elizabeth Mills (*née* Spice).

An aggressive left-hander at a time when left-handed batsmen were comparatively rare, Richard Mills was undoubtedly the best allround cricketer of the Benenden-based Mills clan. He was in the Benenden side for their first recorded fixture, against Horsmonden in 1819, and, although records have not survived, he almost certainly played in earlier matches for both Benenden and Hawkhurst, whose team at this time consisted mainly of Benenden players. He reputedly played several innings of between 80 and 90 for Benenden and/or Hawkhurst, progressing to become an important member of Kent Elevens in the 1820s and in the early years of the Town Malling - based Kent County Club.

Aided no doubt by an innings of 94 for Kent v MCC in 1827, on his first appearance at Lord's, he was brought to the notice of those who mattered by GT Knight (*qv*) and appeared for the Players v Gentlemen at Lord's every year from 1832 to 1837. As already noted (see George Mills above), he would have played in 1831 as well had the invitation been properly addressed. He played four times for England v Sussex, twice for South v North, for Left-handed against Right-handed, and against MCC as well as twice as given man for Gentlemen of Kent. It was for the latter that he hit his only other first-class half-century, 57 v MCC at Chislehurst in 1832 against an attack including William Lillywhite. He appeared on occasions for MCC in matches not rated first-class.

Mills began his career with Kent badly. Commencing with a pair against Sussex at Brighton in 1825, he scored 32 runs with four ducks in his first seven innings. He went on to register a fifth duck for Kent against MCC at Lord's in 1827 but established his reputation with 94 in the second innings and further enhanced it a week later by carrying his bat for 87* for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at the Vine. The latter is not now rated important or first-class but that would have had no significance for the participants or anyone else at the time. Although never again reaching a half-century for the county, he hit 40 against England at Chislehurst in 1835 and 47 in the same fixture in the following year. Between 1834 and 1838, Mills appeared six times for Benenden against Kent and in 1835 hit 74 against the County on Benenden Common.

As a bowler, Mills was highly regarded but, as is almost always the case with players of the period, with only wickets bowled or lbw credited in contemporary scores, it is impossible to determine how important his bowling was to his side. According to *Scores & Biographies*, he bowled less for Kent once 'Topper' Hillyer became established. For Benenden, he made at least seven stumpings, not unusual at the time, even for regular bowlers.

In 1834, as Two of Benenden, Mills and Ned Wenman played an Eleven of the Isle of Oxney in a double-wicket match at Wittersham. While one bowled, the other kept wicket. Scores – Two of Benenden 150 (Wenman 65, Mills 84*) & 48 (Wenman 16*, Mills 29). Eleven of Oxney 55 and 77. In 1875 an advertisement appeared in *Bell's Life* in which John Wenman, Ned Wenman (both aged 71) and Mills (aged 77) offered to play, for any amount not exceeding £100, any three in England of no less average age (i.e. 73), provided that the youngest was not less than 71. There were no takers.

Like most of the Mills family, Richard Mills was a farmer. In 1841 he was farming in Rolvenden. Ten years later he is farming at Pump Farm Cranbrook, employing a housekeeper and four male labourers, two living-in. By 1861 he is presumably the 'retired farmer', living with his younger brother George (see above) at Tan Yards Farm, Hawkhurst. In 1871, still a 'retired farmer', he is living alone at Hartley Road, Cranbrook. Finally, in the 1881 Census, he is with his second cousin John Mills at Lamb's End, a 220 acre (89 hectares) farm at Rolvenden. This time, to 'retired farmer' has been added 'celebrated cricketer'. Shortly before his death he had been living at *The George Hotel*, Hurst Green.

The match between Kent and Yorkshire at Cranbrook in 1862 was reputedly played for his benefit although, curiously, there is no mention in the club minutes. Mills had, of course, never played for Kent CCC as then constituted. His estate was valued for probate at £4,343 16s 6d, an extraordinarily large sum for a player of the period.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Clement Mitchell (No. 411).

Born: 20.2.1862, Cambridge. *Died:* 6.10.1937; Hove, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman.

Kent 1890-1892.

Educated: Felsted School.

Parents: William Mitchell & Eliza Ann Mitchell (*née* Cross).

Another prolific batsman in club cricket who failed to make his mark in the first-class game, Clement Mitchell achieved greater success at Association Football. Centre-forward with the then strong Upton Park club and noted for his ball control, positional sense and marksmanship, he scored five goals in five games for England between 1883 and 1885 including a hat-trick against Wales at The Oval in 1883.

He was in his school cricket Eleven from 1877 to 1879 and captained in his final year. Between 1881 and 1901 he lived with his widowed mother (living on 'own means'), first at a large house in Forest Hill, then at Sydenham Avenue, Beckenham and later after his marriage, in Croydon.

Most of his cricket was for the nearby Crystal Palace club. Between 1883 and 1896 he scored at least 13 centuries for the club including 210* v Chiswick Park in 1892, 170 v Clapham in 1890, 168* v United Hospitals in 1896 and 102 v a strong MCC & Ground in 1893. Mitchell was in business as a tea merchant and in a 13-a-side match while visiting India in 1887 scored 248 for Calcutta v Ballygunge.

All Mitchell's appearances for Kent were in the early part of the season when few amateurs were available and the side was at its weakest. As it turned out, all his matches were on damp or otherwise bowler-friendly wickets. He started with two and four at Old Trafford in 1890 and did not reach double figures until his fourth match, against Middlesex at Lord's in 1891. His one innings of substance was in the following fixture against MCC when, coming to the wicket at 170 for five, his 38* was largely instrumental in boosting the score to 221 all out.

When he died his effects were valued for probate at £4,276.

Rev Walter Baptist Money (No. 250).

Born: 27.7.1848, Sternfield, Suffolk. *Died:* 1.3.1924, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Warwickshire.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium/ left-arm under-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1867.

Educated: Harrow School & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev James Drummond Money & Clara Maria Money (*née* Burdett).

One of the best lob bowlers of his day and one of the few of the type who bowled left arm, Walter Money's association with Kent was brief, confined to 1866 and 1867 while still at Harrow. For the Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in the 1866 Canterbury Week, his first-class debut, he took

five for 35, bowling unchanged through the first innings with Bob Lipscomb and batted well for 36 (top score) and 20*. Less happy was his experience for 18 of Southborough v the Gentlemen of Kent - twice bowled by Lipscomb before he had scored.

In his only game for Kent, against the Gentlemen of England in the 1867 Canterbury Week, he scored 13 and 19 when no Kent batsman reached 20 but only bowled four overs. MCC totalled 230, Willsher bowled 50.2 overs, and Lipscomb 46; a curious piece of captaincy. For Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari, a 12-a-side match hastily arranged to fill in time at the end of the Week, Money scored 22 and 25 and claimed five wickets.

The son of the Rector of Sternfield, Walter Money was in the Harrow Eleven from 1865 to 1867 and captained in his final year. He established his reputation as a lob bowler in his first year with match figures of ten for 54 against MCC, ten for 80 against Eton and 16 wickets against the Anomalies. Next year he plagued Eton again with two for 18 and seven for 32 (including a hat-trick) but was less successful after taking on the captaincy. For 19 of Godalming however, he claimed all ten United South of England Eleven wickets for 66.

At Cambridge he was in the Eleven from 1868 to 1871, captaining in 1870. He led the side in the most famous of all University matches in which Frank Cobden's hat-trick gave Cambridge victory by two runs. The result should not have been so close. According to Money, John Dale missed a simple catch at point, excusing himself with 'I'm awfully sorry Walter, I was looking at a lady getting out of a drag'. During his four years at Cambridge Money claimed 61 first-class wickets at 13.26, 18 of them against Oxford, including five for 29 in 1868 and six for 24 and five for 35 in 1869. In his two final years much of his bowling skill deserted him but he advanced as a batsman. In 1870 he averaged over 50, hitting his maiden century, 134 for Cambridge University v Surrey at The Oval and 165 v Birkenhead Park (not first-class).

Money was twice chosen for Gentlemen v Players, at Lord's in 1869 and The Oval in 1870 when he produced his best performance with the bat – 70 and 100*. He played in two first-class matches for Surrey and also appeared for his native Suffolk as well as for Bluemantles, MCC, Quidnuncs, Old Harrovians, Gentlemen of Surrey, Southgate and Tunbridge Wells. He represented Cambridge at racquets.

After ordination in 1871, Walter Money gave up serious cricket. He was Curate of Bakewell, Derbyshire 1871-1873, of Drigg and Irton, Cumberland 1873-1875, finally settling in Weybridge as Curate from 1875 to 1882 and Rector from 1882 until he retired in 1902. A keen naturalist and a man of great charm described in his *Times* obituary as 'a shrewd observer of human nature, with a vein of sly humour', he was the author of a book of reminiscences *Humour of a Parish & Other Quaintnesses* published in 1920.

In 1871 he married Edith Belina Hornby at the Parish Church, Cardigan. There were three sons and two daughters. On his death, Walter Money's effects were valued at £3,032 10s 7d.

Eustace Charles Mordaunt (No. 454).

Born: 6.9.1870, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire. *Died:* 21.6.1938, Marylebone, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1896-1897.

Educated: Wellington College.

Parents: John Murray Mordaunt & Elizabeth Evelyn Mordaunt (*née* Cotes).

Eustace Mordaunt came from a cricketing family His father JM (MCC), brothers HJ (Middlesex) and GJ (Oxford University & Kent (*qv*) uncle OJ (Somerset), father-in-law H Tubb and son-in-law CE

Awdry (West of England & Minor Counties) all played first-class cricket His own first-class record was distinctly modest but he scored heavily in club cricket and at that level was a more than useful bowler. In 1894 he took all ten wickets for nine runs for Kensington Park against Kensington Park Hockey Club and twice achieved a hat-trick, for Esher in 1890 and Free Foresters in 1891.

After one game for Wellington in 1886, Mordaunt was in the Eleven for the next three years, heading the batting averages in 1888 and 1889 and taking 90 wickets in four seasons. In 1889 when he was captain, red *Lillywhite* thought him 'the most useful man in the Eleven'. In 1887, aged 16, in the first of two games for Hampshire (not then first-class) he scored 67 against Essex at Leyton. Between 1891 and 1894 he appeared four times for Middlesex with a top score of 11 and four ducks including a pair against Surrey at The Oval.

In his six games for Kent, four in 1896, two in 1897, all in June, Mordaunt began with 18 in each innings against MCC but, although he reached double figures four more times, he never played an innings of substance. In club cricket he scored at least a dozen centuries, his clubs including Band of Brothers, Blackheath, Esher, Free Foresters, Kensington Park, MCC, South Hampshire, Southwood, Wellington Blues and I Zingari. With the latter, he toured Egypt in 1914.

Eustace Mordaunt had a highly successful career on the Stock Exchange. At the time of his death he was living in Great Cumberland Place, Westminster and his estate was valued at £143,104. His had been an affluent life. In the 1871 Census he is living with his maternal grandfather, a 'landed proprietor', at Woodcote Hall, Shropshire, with a butler, under-butler, two footmen, coachman, two grooms and 14 other servants to look after him. In 1906 he married Cicely Marian Tubb at Bicester. There were three daughters and two sons, the eldest of whom became Sir Nigel Mordaunt, the 13th Baronet.

His father had a varied career. At the time of the 1871 Census he was farming 500 acres (202.5 hectares) in Warwickshire. He later developed shipping interests and in 1876 was joint-founder of Oswald, Mordaunt & Co, a shipbuilding company in Southampton, which at its peak employed over 1,200. He sold the business in 1900 and the 1901 Census shows him as an insurance broker living in Eccleston Square with Eustace and the rest of the family plus five live-in servants.

One of Eustace Mordaunt's uncles was Sir Charles Mordaunt whose wife was involved in a notorious scandal involving the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII).

Gerald John Mordaunt (No. 449).

Born: 20.1.1873, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire. *Died:* 5.3.1959, Hayling Island, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman. occasional left-arm spin bowler and wicketkeeper.

Kent 1895-1897. Kent cap 1895.

Educated: Wellington College & University College, Oxford.

Parents: John Murray Mordaunt & Elizabeth Evelyn Mordaunt (*née* Cotes).

Younger brother of Eustace Mordaunt (*qv*), Gerald Mordaunt did not manage to carry the run-getting talent he displayed at Oxford over into county cricket but he was worth his place in almost any side as one of the finest and most versatile fielders of his generation. Genuinely ambidextrous, he could throw 100 yards (91.4 m) with his right arm and 70 yards (64 m) with his left). 72 catches in 60 matches are testimony to his excellence at slip but he was equally good at cover or third man with a lightning pick up and throw. He was in the Eleven at Wellington aged 15 and remained in the side from 1888 until 1892, captaining in his last three years. In 1892 he scored 637 runs for the College, average 45.70.

With an aggregate of 110 runs for Oxford in 1893 and a top score of 44, Mordaunt probably had his fielding to thank for his Blue as a Freshman but in 1894 he headed the averages in a batting line-up including CB Fry, HK Foster, PF Warner and RCN Palaret. He hit 100 against Sussex at Hove and five half-centuries, finishing with 627 runs (avge.41, 12). In July he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at both The Oval and Lord's and in September toured North America with Lord Hawke's team.

Captain in 1895 Mordaunt was widely considered one of the best and most popular in the University's history. In his *My Cricketing Life*, Pelham Warner recalls the award of his Blue. He was fielding at deep third man when, at the fall of a wicket, his captain approached him with the words 'Plum. I think you would look very nice in a Dark Blue cap'. Mordaunt again proved himself the best batsman in the side, once more heading the averages with 774 runs (avge. 51.90). The highlight of his season was 264* in four and a half hours against Sussex at Hove, a match in which 1,410 runs were scored, an English record at the time, He also hit 95 against MCC but form deserted him when picked for six matches by Kent. He only twice got into the 20s and failed when chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's.

With only one score over 50, Mordaunt failed to find form in his final year at Oxford in 1896 and made only one appearance for Kent but in 1897 he did better in nine county matches with one half-century and four other scores between 25 and 45. Easily his best innings for Kent was against Surrey at The Oval. In previous encounters with Tom Richardson his scores had been one, 0 and one but this time, coming to the wicket at 113 for six, he hit 81* as the side was dismissed for 217. Richardson bowled him for 25 in the second innings and claimed his wicket cheaply for four and two in the return at Beckenham. Playing for MCC against his old University he scored 55 in an opening partnership of 140 with WG Grace (79).

Like his brother Eustace, Gerald Mordaunt made his career on the Stock Exchange and found time for only three more first-class games, two in 1898 and one, for Gentlemen of England against Oxford, in 1904. Again like his brother, he played a great deal of club cricket for Band of Brothers, Blackheath, Free Foresters, MCC, Silwood Park, Wellington Blues and I Zingari. In 1891 he won the Public Schools Raquets Challenge Cup with RH Raphael and in 1896 represented Oxford against Cambridge in the long jump.

In 1900 he married Grace Adeline Impey (1870-1965) in Oxford. There were two sons and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £45,452 18s 4d.

Percival Ernest Morfee (No. 508).

Born: 2. 5.1886, Ashford. *Died:* 12. 2.1954, Darlington, Co. Durham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1910-1912.

Parents: George Walter Morfee & Catherine Ann Morfee (*née* Crockett).

The son of a railway clerk and a private dressmaker, Percy Morfee could hardly have made a better start to his first-class career. On debut, against Middlesex, at Lord's of all places, he twice bowled Pelham Warner before he had scored. He had joined the staff in 1907 after a successful trial in the Tonbridge nets and made his Second Eleven debut against Sussex at Hove in July that year.

Kent entered the Second Eleven Championship in 1911 but until then, for aspiring young cricketers the diet was Second Eleven 'friendlies' and Club & Ground games. Morfee achieved nothing of particular note in any of these matches until July 1908 when he took two for 32 and six for 42 against Sussex Second Eleven at Hove.

His very considerable pace had nevertheless been noted in the right places and when in 1910 'Pip' Fielder succumbed to an attack of whooping cough, Morfee was called in as a replacement against Middlesex. As well as twice disposing of Warner, he dismissed two Test cricketers, Jack Hearne and Albert Trott plus the amateur Dr Edward Littlejohn at a cost of 101 runs. This was not enough to secure his place in the next match but seems to have inspired the bowler himself. In his next two Second Eleven matches he took five for 50 v Lancashire at Town Malling and against Surrey at Folkestone hit 56 to go with figures of eight for 68 & five for 53. With Fielder ill again, he was restored to the first team for four more matches in which he took ten wickets including five for 47 against Northants at Maidstone.

According to the Kent minutes, during the season Morfee was approached by an unnamed League club and, presumably to ensure he remained, it was decided that he and Henry Preston (qv) should be awarded caps. In the event, only Preston was capped.

Morfee was in the side for the opening match of the 1911 season against MCC at Lord's where he batted well in the first innings for 32, adding 54 for the last wicket with James Seymour (96*). In the second innings he claimed four for 87 including Warner and Hearne again and Frank Tarrant. He achieved little in another four first team matches but had an excellent Second Eleven season with 400 runs (avge.26.66) including 123 v Wiltshire at Chippenham and two other half-centuries. Among his 39 wickets at 19.64 were eight for 74 v Devonshire at Exeter and five for 15 v Buckinghamshire at Stoke Poges. At this period he was living in Ashford and, according to the 1911 Census, was employed in winter as a coach builder in the South Eastern & Chatham Railway's Ashford Works.

Morfee was re-engaged for the 1912 season but there is a curious entry in the minutes of a late November committee meeting - 'doubts were expressed about the engagement of Morfee as ground bowler at St. Lawrence. If there are complaints he will be dismissed'. In fact, 1912 was a disappointing season with only one first team appearance, against the South Africans at Maidstone, and only eleven wickets in the Second Eleven Championship.

At the end of the 1912 season he left at his own request for a career in League cricket which, apart from an engagement as groundsman in the USA in 1922/23, continued until 1931. In 1913 he played as a professional in Scotland and appeared in one match for Scotland v Northants but most of his cricket was in the Lancashire League with Accrington, Church, Nelson, Rishton, and Todmorden. For Nelson in 1919 he claimed over 100 wickets, including nine for 48 and eight for 13 in two matches against Rishton and for Todmorden in the following year he took nine for 20 v Bacup and eight for 26 v Enfield.

From 1916 to 1918 Percy Morfee served in France as an Air Mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps.

Reading through the Kent CCC minutes, a suspicion lingers that Morfee might have been a little out of favour with some of those whose opinion mattered (see above). He was apparently, what was then known as a leg-puller. He was an accomplished mimic and once or twice, at suitably inconvenient times, he telephoned adopting the intimidating tones of Lord Harris to announce his Lordship's imminent arrival.

He also had the ability to hold six cricket balls in one hand. In 1922 *The Cricketer* printed a photograph of Morfee demonstrating this rare – possibly unique – talent but, it must be said, one for which there must be limited practical applications. Before the war he had worked as a driver but when he died of a heart attack he was still employed, as an acetylene welder in a chemical works.

He married Ann March Miller. There was one son.

Norman Morris (No. 265).

Born: 1849, Peckham, Surrey. *Died:* 20.1.1874, Ford, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1870-1872.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: Norman Morris & Emily Lucy Morris (*née* Fry).

Often shown as 'Norman Morris jnr.' to distinguish him from his father who played for Peckham, Chiddingstone and Edenbridge and established his own ground at Ford, Norman Morris played for Edenbridge aged 14 and Hayes (Kent) when he was 16. At Tonbridge he was in the Eleven from 1865 to 1868, captaining in his final year. Although primarily a batsman with a penchant for the cut, in 1868 he took nine wickets against Brighton College. He was also in the football Thirteen in 1865 and 1866.

In 1870 Morris scored 26 and 24 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Derbyshire at Tonbridge and two days later made 34 on his debut for Kent against Yorkshire at Gravesend. This proved to be his highest in his 11 matches between 1870 and 1872. He failed to reach double figures in his next nine innings but hit 33 and 21 against Surrey at Canterbury in 1871 and 24 on his final appearance for the county against the Gentlemen of MCC in the 1872 Week.

Morris had one further first-class season in 1873, five games for Surrey, in the first of which against Gloucestershire at The Oval, he scored his personal best 64, one for MCC, and one appearance for Gentlemen of the South v Players of the South at The Oval. He played in minor matches for MCC, Gentlemen of Kent and Incogniti and in one of his last innings scored 125 for Ford v MCC on his father's ground.

Like his father, Norman Morris jnr. made his career on the Stock Exchange but died young (unmarried) at his father's home at Ford View House, Ford near Lingfield after a four-month illness. Norman Morris senior died seven months later. Despite acquiring no fewer than five very young step-daughters as well as three sons and two daughters of his own, his estate was valued at almost £90,000

William Morris (No. 455).

Born: 23.11.1873, Lee. *Died:* 6.5.1945, Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1896.

Educated: St Mark's School, Windsor.

Parents: William Morris & Eliza Frances Morris (*née* Harris).

A solicitor by profession and a son of a solicitor, William Morris was a prolific scorer in club cricket but did little in his few opportunities at first-class level. From 1889 to 1899 he played for the Granville (Lee) Club, one of the strongest in Metropolitan Kent in the pre-1914 era. In 1895 he scored 235* against Stoics, adding 330 for the second wicket with his captain CJM Godfrey (100*). Between 1894 and 1899 he hit nine centuries for the Club, three in 1897. He registered one other double hundred, 200*, for Dulwich against Erratics in 1896. He also appeared occasionally for the Gentlemen of Kent.

One the strength of his reputation in club cricket, Morris batted at No. 3 in his debut match and opened in his second, against Nottinghamshire at Beckenham but failed to reach double figures. He did better in two Second Eleven matches in that season, scoring 45 against Middlesex Seconds on the Kensington Park ground and carrying his bat for 65* (in a total of 173 all out) in the return at Tonbridge.

In 1899 he moved to a practice in Birmingham and played subsequently for Leamington and the Gentlemen of Warwickshire. In that year he married Clara Beatrice Creighton in Stockbridge, Hampshire. There were four daughters and one son.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Arthur Edward Munds (No. 457).

Born: 20.1.1870, Lydd. *Died:* 19.7.1940, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1896.

Parents: Edward Munds & Susan Hewitt Munds (*née* Baker).

A ground bowler with the Hythe club, Arthur Munds had played two Second Eleven matches for Kent prior to his solitary first-class appearance for Kent in 1896 in which he scored one and nine and bowled five fruitless overs. Facing Middlesex Second Eleven at Tonbridge two years later he did better with four for 72 and 0 for 22 but suffered a 'pair'.

Munds's father Edward was an agricultural labourer in Lydd according to the Census returns for 1871 and 1881 but by 1901 he was Landlord of *The Sportsman* in Hythe. He also played for Hythe, umpired and acted as groundman. While living with his father and prior to becoming a professional cricketer, Arthur Munds worked as a groom. He later became a gardener and in the 1911 Census was living in Ashford.

In 1894 he married Annie Dancer (1870-1940) in Elham. There were two daughters and one son. The elder brother of Raymond Munds (*qv*), he died of cancer.

Raymond Munds (No. 488).

Born: 28.12.1882, Lydd. *Died:* 29.7.1962, Folkestone.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1902-1908.

Parents: Edward Munds & Susan Hewitt Munds (*née* Baker).

The younger brother of Arthur Edward Munds (*qv*), Raymond Munds came for a trial at Tonbridge in 1900 and scored 19 on his Second Eleven debut against Sussex at Hove in the following season. According to the club minutes, he was not formally taken on the Nursery staff until 1902, the year of his first-class debut.

Few Kent professionals suffered more from the club's adherence to their policy of fielding a minimum of three amateurs in the county side. Although a consistent scorer for the Second Eleven and in Club & Ground matches throughout his career, his opportunities in first-class cricket comprised one match in 1902, one each in 1904, 1906 and 1907 and three in 1908. He was never given a chance to adjust to cricket at the higher level and, not surprisingly, his record is unimpressive. His only innings of consequence was against Northamptonshire at Wantage Road in 1908 when he scored 29 in an opening partnership of 66 with 'Wally' Hardinge (61).

Between 1901 and 1911, in 30 Second Eleven matches, Munds scored 1,699 runs (avge. 34.67) mainly as an opening batsman, hit four centuries and eight half-centuries with a top score of 144 against Middlesex Seconds at Town Malling in 1907. According to the club minutes, Munds was not re-engaged at the end of the 1908 season but he played one match in 1910 and his last in 1911.

Munds joined the MCC staff *circa* 1909 and played for them against Herefordshire in 1912, Norfolk in 1919 as well as in schools and club matches, often keeping wicket. His last match of consequence was against Indian Gymkhana at Lord's in 1920.

He was on the Minor Counties Umpires list from 1921 to 1948 and stood in numerous MCC matches, on occasions acting as scorer. He succeeded his father as Hythe groundsman. In 1948 when the Kent CCC Young Players' Committee set up an area scouting scheme, Raymond Munds was appointed scout for Hythe and District.

In 1913 he married Martha Louse Philpott (1877-1941) in Elham. At the time of his final illness he was living at an Old People's Home in Hythe, death occurring in Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone. His effects were valued at £1,428 5s. Probate was granted to 'Maud Mary Philpot, widow'. This could possibly mean he married twice but there is no record of a second marriage and, given that his wife's maiden name was Philpott, it seems more likely that it was a sister-in-law. On the other hand, he had an elder sister named Maud Mary.

Harry Robert Murrell (No. 473).

Born: 19.11.1879, Hounslow, Middlesex. *Died:* 15.8.1952, West Wickham.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm medium-pace bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1899-1905.

Parents: Robert Murrell & Teresa Sarah Murrell (*née* Dawson).

Writing on the 1901 season in the 1907 Kent history, Kent captain Jack Mason wrote of 'Joe' Murrell that he 'was certainly unlucky to be contemporary with Huish, for he is a very clever wicketkeeper, and might become a great hitter if he would only use a little more discretion in picking the right ball to hit'. In fact, Murrell was doubly unfortunate. Not only was he deputy to Fred Huish who kept remarkably fit and missed only 18 matches between 1896 and 1914. In 1903 Jack Hubble, a genuine wicketkeeper/batsman, joined the staff. Between his debut in 1903 and 1914, Hubble played 123 matches purely as a batsman and, even in the days when wicketkeeping skill took precedence over ability with the bat, he was the one likely to gain preference as Huish's successor.

The son of a Sergeant Major in the Royal Horse Artillery, Murrell was living in Charlton when he came to the Tonbridge Nursery for a trial in 1898. He had already had a professional engagement at Goldsmith's College and played for Old Charlton and it is likely that William McCanlis, a stalwart of the Charlton Club, was aware of his talent.

He was judged 'a useful wicketkeeper who would improve with more experience' and taken on the Nursery staff in 1899. In that first season he made one first team appearance but not behind the stumps. Almost certainly a late replacement for an amateur – *Wisden* shows him as 'Mr J Murrell' - he scored nine and bowled three overs for four runs. In the second of two Second Eleven appearances, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, he hit 54, caught three and stumped two. At the end of the season, the Young Players Committee commented favourably on his average of 30.83 in Second Eleven and Club & Ground matches.

In 1900 Murrell joined the Lord's staff. While most of his cricket was as one of the regular wicketkeepers for MCC, over the next six seasons he made occasional appearances for Kent first Eleven, as many as eight in 1901, one each in 1903 and 1905. With rare exceptions these were in the early weeks of the season when few of the top amateurs were able to play. In only eight of these matches was he behind the stumps but, like many wicketkeepers, he was an excellent outfielder, despite a leg injury sustained playing football as an amateur for what was then Woolwich Arsenal.

By 1901 he was no longer listed as a 'Young Player' and was receiving the same one pound per week winter pay as the first team regulars. In the 1903 committee minutes it was confirmed that 'he was considered a member of the staff. There was a *volte-face* in August the following year however when the minutes record that 'In view of the ability of Hubble, it was no longer necessary for Murrell to keep up his qualification'. According to the October minutes, McCanlis had informed him that Hubble was considered the better keeper and that Essex were interested in his services. Murrell replied that he doubted if Essex were financially stable and the following exchange took place – Murrell: 'Does Kent give up all claims to my services?' McCanlis: 'Yes'.

Even so, Murrell played one last game for Kent in 1905 and in it took one of the most famous catches in Kent history. At The Oval with the last Surrey pair together and the scores level, he held, with now legendary aplomb, a high swirling mishit to third-man by 'Razor' Smith off Colin Blythe. According to the legend, while the ball was in the air Murrell calmly dried his hands on his flannels and such was Blythe's confidence in the fielder that, while the ball was on its downward journey, he remarked 'I've never played in a tied match before'.

Although never consistent, Murrell could on occasions be a dangerous striker of the ball. At The Oval in 1901 he hit 68* and put on 113 in 55 minutes with Kanwar Shumshere Singh (39). His hitting could be especially useful in low scoring games when better batsmen were back in the pavilion. His hard hit 25 was top score when Kent were bowled out for 113 by Nottinghamshire at Gravesend in 1904 and he top scored again in the same year with 14 when Kent collapsed for 78 against Essex at Leyton. Kent were on the receiving end of his hitting in 1905 when, for MCC at Lord's, he smote 67 out of 89 in 40 minutes. For Old Charlton v the Goldsmith's Institute at Charlton in 1902 he scored 142 in 66 minutes.

For 'Joe' Murrell, Kent's preference for Hubble was the proverbial blessing in disguise. From the Lord's staff to Middlesex was a short and logical step, beginning an association that would last, as player and scorer, for 41 years. Between 1907 and 1926 he made 342 appearances for the Metropolitan county, dismissing 779 batsmen and, if, with his tendency to hit across the line, he never scored the runs of which he looked capable, he remained a good, firm-footed hitter and a valuable man in a crisis. Going in as night-watchman for Middlesex at Canterbury in 1923, he stayed next morning to make 86, one of 21 scores of over 50 for his birth county.

He was an invaluable adviser and confidante to a succession of Middlesex captains and, despite a hard-bitten, taciturn exterior, a perceptive mentor to young cricketers. Like Huish and Hubble, he never played for England, but he was a member of Championship-winning teams in 1920 and 1921. When Nigel Haig was unable to complete his *History of Middlesex Cricket*, Murrell stepped in and very ably covered the last two seasons, 1946 and 1947.

In 1906 he married Kate Ethel Burr in Bromley Parish Church. There was one son, named Robert Blythe Murrell after Kent's great left-arm spinner, and one daughter. On his death, his effects were valued at £4,761 8s 2d.

Alfred Mynn (No. 91),

Born: 19.1.1807, Goudhurst. *Died:* 1.11.1861, Southwark, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1834-1859.

Parents: William Mynn & Ann Mynn (*née* Clarke).

When Victoria was a young Queen, Alfred Mynn was the best-known cricketer in England and would pretty much remain so until the arrival of WG Grace. The combination of fast bowler and hard-hitting batsman always tends to attract public attention, even among people with no great knowledge of, or

interest in, the game, and at six feet one (185 cm.) with ‘shoulders like an ox’, large hands and weighing 18 stone (114 kg.) in his prime, he must have been difficult to overlook.

Of yeoman farming stock, Alfred Mynn was second youngest of eleven children, six boys, two of whom did not survive infancy, and five girls. It seems reasonable to assume that, with three elder brothers, he will have played boyhood cricket at his (still extant) home, Twisden Lodge, Goudhurst, but it was not until the family moved to Harrietsham *circa* 1825 that he started to play seriously. A great deal of good quality cricket was played in the area and the young giant soon came to the notice of John Willes (*qv*) who, a pioneer and extremely active promoter of round-arm bowling, lived at nearby Sutton Valence.

Bowled round the wicket at pace, genuine round arm, delivered with a straight arm at or below shoulder level, is not easy to control and long stop was not only one of the most important positions on the field but also one of the busiest. In his youth, Mynn took a long run and sprayed the ball around but, at Willes’ persuasion, Mynn changed his method to six gradually accelerated walking paces, using height and physical strength to generate pace and bounce. A highly coloured eulogy published in *Sporting Life* following his death refers to the earth seeming to tremble under his:

‘measured, manly and weighty stride, as, with form upright , his vast chest expanded, “thud” would come down the left foot on the sward , the right arm would shoot out , and, with a majestic sweep , round, low, and as fair as Law X itself, away shot the ball as if propelled from a Whitworth gun’.

As to his pace, even with an action said to be ‘as smooth as a piston rod’, it is difficult to see how he could have been more than at best fast medium by modern standards but what he lost in pace he no doubt gained in accuracy. For the pad-less, glove-less and otherwise unprotected batsmen, facing a big, strong countryman, trained on beef and beer, digging the ball into the rough, scythe-cut, natural turf pitches of the day, would not have been a comfortable proposition.

Life could not have been much better for the similarly unprotected wicketkeeper or even the long stop on outfields cropped by sheep and generally unrolled. Mynn’s long stop of choice, his brother Walter (*qv*) wore a padded chest protector on hard wickets but was often hit and, according to contemporary accounts, more than once came off spitting blood. Some sources suggest Mynn could swing the ball; all seem to agree that there was a distinct buzz through the air.

As a batsman, Mynn relied mainly on his powerful drive together with the square cut, leg-hit off the front foot and the then fashionable but, given the lack of protection, dangerous-looking, under-leg stroke. On 56 occasions he was his side’s top scorer in ‘important’ or first-class matches and in addition to his single century and 12 half-centuries, he reached double figures in 155 of his visits to the wicket. Of these, 29 were scores between 30 and 49. On the other hand, there were 51 ducks but only one pair.

Although far from a greyhound in the field or between the wickets - 20 of his first-class innings ended in a run out and in the England v Kent match at Lord’s in 1844 he had the rare distinction of being run out in both innings but, with his large hands, he was considered a reliable slip by the standards of the time.

According to *Scores & Biographies Vol. II* Mynn was aged 18 when he joined ‘Lord Sondes’ Leeds Park Club’, i.e. at about the time the family moved to Harrietsham. Early records have however disappeared, if they ever existed, and it was not until 1829 that he made his first recorded appearance, for Leeds v Meopham & Gravesend at Leeds Park. He played in the return on Meopham Green, twice against Maidstone that year and seems to have built up a local reputation although, with contemporary

published scores normally only crediting wickets to the bowler when he hit the stumps, it is difficult to see that he had done anything particularly remarkable.

Nevertheless, his bowling attracted the attention of the sporting press as well as influential people further afield and in August 1832 he made his debut in first-class or 'important' cricket. The match was the most prestigious fixture of the year, Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. As one of several attempts to even the odds between the two sides, in this match the Gentlemen defended wickets five inches lower and two inches narrower than those of their opponents. It did not help, the Players winning by an innings, but Mynn took at least five wickets – including his future team mate Fuller Pilch – and in the Gentlemen's second innings his ten was top score. Less than a fortnight later, he claimed at least seven wickets for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Chislehurst.

For Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1833 he bowled ten batsmen as well as probably dismissing more in other ways and he was not only again chosen for Gentlemen v Players, but was picked twice for 'England', v Sussex at Brighton, albeit with varied success - eight wickets but only one run in four innings. In 1834 he made his debut for Kent, v England at Lord's and played in the return at Chislehurst. These were the first matches Kent had played as a county for five years.

In 1835 Mynn hit his first half-century, 53 for Gentlemen (with Cobbett & Redgate) v Players at Lord's. In the following year he had his best season with the bat, 407 runs (avge.33.91) in eight matches. In successive innings he scored 45 & 92, playing as a 'given man' for MCC v Sussex at The Royal New Ground Brighton and 21* & 125*, his only century scored in 'a little under five hours', for South v North at Barker's Ground, Leicester.

He went into the latter match, his first recorded game north of St John's Wood, with an injured ankle and during his innings his unpadding leg and especially the inside of his right knee received such a battering from the fast bowling of Sam Redgate that he became too stiff to get into the coach and was obliged to make the return journey to London strapped to the roof. So bad was the injury that amputation at the thigh – or even death -seemed likely but, thanks to skilful treatment at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and, according to one account, a quiet five minutes of prayer and some pleading from Mynn himself, the leg was saved.

He did not play again that season. In fact, he did not play serious cricket again until half way through the 1838 season. There were however other reasons, not least the death of both parents and the necessity of a move to a substantial property in Thurnham which, for a time, he shared with his brother Walter. In the light of subsequent events, money too may have been a factor.

Between 1841 and 1850 Mynn reached his peak as a player. He played a lot of cricket in this period turning out, not only for Kent, Gentlemen of Kent, the Gentlemen and for England, but for Married v Single, Fast Bowlers v Slow, South v North and as 'given man for MCC, Hampshire, Suffolk, Sussex, Gentlemen of Sussex, Midland Counties, North of England and West of England. He also took part in great deal of minor cricket and the then hugely popular single-wicket matches. Only once at this time did he play fewer than ten first-class matches in a season, 17 in 1849 when there were only 29 first-class matches played altogether. He took 94 wickets in 1841 and went on to top the hundred in 1842, 1843, 1844 and 1846. In each of these years he also hit over 300 runs.

With the formation of the, albeit short-lived, Kent County Cricket Club at Town Malling in 1835/1836 and the arrival of Fuller Pilch, by the end of the 1830s the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' had become one of the strongest county sides in the history of the game and many of Mynn's best bowling performances were in the Kent v England matches which became the high point of the Kentish season. As well as Lord's, the matches were played at six different Kent grounds and, while the 'England' teams were not perhaps always wholly representative, between 1835 and 1849 Mynn claimed 207 England

wickets, 23 times five or more in an innings, 10 times ten or more in a match. Three times he bowled unchanged through a match with 'Topper' Hillyer.

A distinctly doubtful amateur status notwithstanding, between 1832 and 1852 Mynn made 21 appearances for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, and one at the Royal Brunswick ground in Brighton. Although the Players continued to dominate throughout this period – won 13, drawn two, lost six - , Mynn did more than anyone to shorten the odds. In 1836 the Gentlemen fielded 18 and achieved their first win since 1829, Mynn the leading contributor with 29 & 30 (top score in both innings) and eight wickets. All subsequent encounters would be eleven-a-side and when the Gentlemen won, Mynn usually played a prominent role with bat, ball or both - 1842, Gentlemen won by 95 runs, (Mynn 21, 46 & nine wickets,) 1843, won by an innings and 28 runs, (Mynn 47 & eight wickets), 1846, won by one wicket, (Mynn 10 wickets) and 1848, won by 27 runs, (Mynn 66 & nine wickets). In all Gentlemen v Players matches he scored 605 runs (avge. 15.92) and claimed 107 wickets, three times ten in a match, all at Lord's.

Mynn played his first county match for Kent, against Sussex at Town Malling in 1836. In all he appeared in 34 Kent v Sussex fixtures, scoring 792 runs (avge.13.65) and taking 166 wickets. He hit two half-centuries including his highest score for Kent, 92 at the Royal Brunswick Ground, Hove in 1849 when he shared a 135-run second-wicket partnership with Tom Adams (78). 13 times he took five or more wickets in an inning including nine in the second innings at Harvey's Royal Grounds, Brighton in 1842. He also played against four other counties, nine against Surrey, four against Nottinghamshire, two against Middlesex and one against Yorkshire.

Much of Mynn's fame derived from his feats in single-wicket matches. Although drawing large crowds, this must surely have been the dullest form of cricket ever devised. The batsman could only score runs in front of the wicket, he was not allowed to move out of his crease to make his stroke and was obliged to run the length of the pitch twice to score a run. The game was tailor-made for powerful, hard-driving batsman such as Mynn. When Felix (qv), whose glory was the cut, played Mynn at Lord's in 1846, in his second innings he faced 247 balls, made 175 hits and scored four.

In matches for the 'Championship of England' Mynn beat Thomas Hills of Town Malling, Felix and the five feet two inches (1.57m.) James Dearman of Sheffield twice each. The latter encounters, played at Town Malling and Sheffield, were for £100 each and drew crowds reputedly in excess of 5000. In the first Mynn scored 34 from 58 balls & 88 from 178 balls, Dearman three from nine balls and eight from 18. The return at Sheffield was even more one-sided, Dearman two and eight, Mynn 46 from 89 balls.

Mynn was one of the original members of William Clarke's itinerant All-England Eleven and between 1846 and 1857 played for them in 13 first-class or important matches as well in the numerous odds matches which were the team's staple diet. Although he sometimes punished rustic bowling in these odds games, in first-class matches his top score was only 31.

He had his days of success with the ball, notably six for 16 v Surrey at The Oval in 1852 and he was still fast enough on occasions to terrorise local EighTEENS and Twenty-Twos. Like his close friend and team mate Felix, he played as an amateur but the finances of both were always shaky and there can be little doubt that they were paid for their services. The professionals earned between four and six pounds per match and, even when past his best, Mynn drew the crowds so it is extremely unlikely that he would have been paid any less.

For most of his life Mynn seems to have existed with little visible means of support. At one time he is described as a farmer but, if he ever did any farming it can only have been in the winter as most of his summers were taken up with cricket. Later he called himself a hop merchant but any involvement with hops in their dry state seems to have been confined to the closing years of his life.

It seems likely that he relied on the generosity of wealthy patrons to supplement what he made from playing cricket. He played as a given man far more frequently than any other amateur, before or since (see below) and is likely to have received at least expenses when he did so. He was declared bankrupt in 1845 and was several times imprisoned for debt, twice in Maidstone Gaol.

According to legend, Mynn lived on a diet of beef and beer. When asked what other nourishment he took, he reputedly replied 'beer and beef'. When sitting for his portrait by J Corbett Anderson, in one two-hour session he was said to have eaten two meals, each consisting of two and a half pounds (1.34 kg.) of beef and a quart (1.13 litres) of beer. By his bed at night he kept a glass of 'light bitter'. Predictably, his waistline expanded in later life and by the close of his playing career he was 20 stones (127 kg.) or more.

He bowled less and less as the end of his career approached but even as late as 1855 he took five for 28 and three for 40 for Gentlemen of Kent & Surrey v Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week.

In March 1859, together with his brother Walter, Alfred Mynn was at the meeting at the Mitre Hotel, Maidstone at which the Kent County Cricket Club was formed, the club which eventually became Kent CCC as it is known today. He seconded one of the motions leading to its formation and served on the original Management Committee. He missed the opening fixture at Lord's but played in three matches in the club's inaugural season, against Middlesex at Southgate, MCC at Mote Park where he scored 22 and in the return against Middlesex at Canterbury where his scores were 0 and six. In this, his last first-class match, he took one for 22, John Wisden caught.

There are no accurate records of Alfred Mynn in cricket below first-class level but among clubs he is known to have played for are Bearsted, Benenden, Bury & Suffolk*, Camberwell Clarence*, Chilston*, Dover*, East Surrey*, East Sussex*, Essex*, Goodwood Park*, Gentlemen of Tunbridge Wells*, Gravesend, Hollingbourne, Leeds and Leeds Park, Maidstone, Mitcham*, Mote Park, Oxney*, Penenden*, Petworth*, Putney Clarence*, Reigate Priory*, Southgate, Town Malling, Tunbridge Wells*, West Kent, West Surrey*(asterisks indicate clubs for whom he is known to have played as a given man.). As far as is known, his final match of any sort was in 1861, the year of his death, for Southgate v Upton Park where he took one wicket and, batting No. 10, scored ten.

An archetypal gentle giant, there are numerous accounts of his good nature but he could be roused. When an unnamed aristocrat tried to bribe him to throw a match he was firmly rebuffed. There were hardly likely to have been witnesses and the story can surely only have come from Mynn himself but according to the generally accepted version the reply was – 'Get out of my sight or, baronet as you are, I shall be knocking you down.' Popular as he was however, as some may have observed, Kentish crowds can be fickle. In 1841, following the match against England at Canterbury when Kent failed by 74 to score the 105 runs they needed for victory, Mynn, who had taken eleven wickets, was hissed and booed in Maidstone market.

As well as playing, Mynn watched several Kent matches in 1861 and appeared on-stage for the Old Stagers in Canterbury Week as he had done intermittently since 1847. He died suddenly of diabetes at his brother Walter's house in Merrick Square, Southwark. During the invasion scare of 1859, Mynn had joined the Leeds and Hollingbourne Volunteers and it was thus unit which proved band, escort and firing party for a military funeral. Appropriately, the Alfred Mynn Memorial Benevolent Institution, which still exists, was set up to assist cricketers who fell on hard times.

In 1828 Alfred Mynn married Sarah Powell (1811 -1881) from Lenham at Trinity Church, Newington. There were six daughters and one son who died in infancy.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.
Morrah, Patrick. *Alfred Mynn and the cricketers of his time*. Eyre & Spottiswode, London, 1963).

Walter Parker Mynn (No. 96).

Born: 24.11.1805, Goudhurst. *Died:* 17.10.1878, Peckham, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1835-1848.

Parents: William Mynn & Ann Mynn (*née* Clarke).

It was inevitable that Walter Mynn would be overshadowed by his younger brother Alfred. Nevertheless, in an era when Kent were the strongest team in the country, for more than a decade he was an automatic choice for his County as well as for Gentlemen of Kent. Six times he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players. At a time when long stop was one of the most important – and often the busiest – positions in the field, he was generally acknowledged as among the best two or three in the country, especially to his brother's fast bowling. On hard wickets, he wore a padded chest protector but, even so, on the rough outfield of the day, he was often hit and reputedly more than once came off spitting blood.

Tall and strongly-built like his brother, as a batsman, he was, in the words of William South Norton in the 1907 history, 'stiff and shoulder-tied, but very useful as a stone-wall defender of his wicket'. His stolid, imperturbable temperament made him a natural choice for opening batsman and most of his best innings were played at the top of the order. On occasions captains were said to have kept him back if a crisis was thought likely although it is a little difficult to envisage exactly how this worked in practice.

A single-figure career average and a top score of 41 is not very impressive but on the many primitive, and often dangerous, wickets of the day, the value of a batsman willing to get his head down, occupy the crease and grind out 15 or 20 will not always be apparent from mere figures. In first-class matches, he reached double figures in 28% of his visits to the wicket which is by no means bad by the standards of the day. When the Gentlemen of Kent were dismissed for 41 by the Gentlemen of England at Canterbury in 1848, Walter Mynn (11) was the only batsman to achieve double figures.

It seems likely that Walter Mynn played cricket of some sort before the family moved from Twisden Lodge, Goudhurst to a farm in Harrietsham *circa* 1825. The game was thriving around Harrietsham and, as was the case with Alfred, it was here that, encouraged by John Willes (*qv*), he began to take the game seriously. Even so, his first recorded match was not until 1832 when, playing for Leeds & Bearsted against Dartford at Bearsted, he failed to score in either innings. Clearly he was playing other cricket and for other clubs, as in 1833 he made his first-class debut in the most prestigious fixture of the year, Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. Batting No. 15 - the Gentlemen fielded 16 - he again failed to break his duck but was not out in the first innings.

He failed to score again when opening the batting in his first match for Kent, against Benenden on Hadlow Common (not rated first-class), but in the following year he recorded his first substantial innings, 35 for Kent against England at Chislehurst. Apart from 1837 when the two brothers played no serious cricket, from 1835 to 1848 he was a regular member of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven', as well as appearing for Gentlemen of Kent and playing another six games for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's – 1836, 1839, 1842-1844 and 1846.

He appeared in three games for England, once against MCC, twice against Sussex, and was an early member of the travelling All-England Eleven. Although ostensibly an amateur, it seems reasonable to assume that he was, like Alfred, paid for playing. On occasions he also played against AEE, notably for Eighteen of Maidstone in 1853 and 1854; as late as 1861 he appeared for Twenty-Two of Burton.

In addition to Bearsted, Leeds & Bearsted and Leeds Park, he played for West Kent, East Surrey, Maidstone, Southgate and Oxney for whom he made what seems to be his top score, 66 v Beverley at Swingate in 1843.

Walter Mynn's life away from cricket is not easy to follow. He seems to have lived, like his brother, in Harrietsham in his early playing days, presumably on the family farm. He achieved some notoriety by eloping with the daughter of the retired postmaster of Maidstone, Susanna Howard, whom he married at Marylebone Parish Church in 1824. He seems to have been briefly imprisoned in the Fleet Prison for debt in 1829 and where he lived with his wife, son and daughters is uncertain – possibly with his family at Harrietsham - but when both his parents died in 1837 he seems to have moved in with Alfred in Thurnham, by which time he was a widower. In 1843 and again in 1844 he played against Alfred for Single v Married.

At the time of the 1841 Census he was staying in *The Bear Inn*, Lewes, as were eight other noted Kent cricketers. Here he is as of 'independent means' as is brother Alfred. By the 1851 Census he is a hop merchant, living in Chelsea with his second wife Mary Ann Jury (1828-1889), whom he married in Islington in 1849. There were six sons and two daughters.

In 1853 he joined brothers William and Alfred in Mynn Brothers, hop merchants, a company formed some years earlier by William under his own name in Counter Street, Southwark. In 1854 the company name changes to Walter Parker Mynn & Co and in 1859 changes again to Alfred Mynn & Co. Walter is however still listed as a hop merchant in the 1871 Census Return. According to Alfred Mynn's biographer Patrick Morrah, around the time of his second marriage Walter was living in Merrick Square, Southwark and, although he seems to have missed the 1861 Census, it was described as his house when Alfred died there in 1861.

Writing about the Mynns, John Willes's nephew Edward Hodges stated that Walter 'did not make headway after Alfred's death' and when he last met him he was keeping a billiard hall off Edgware Road. He seems to have been fairly comfortable in 1871. In the Census that year he is living with his wife, five sons, one daughter, a governess and one resident servant in Lancaster Road, Kensington. Undoubtedly there were subsequent financial difficulties. At a Kent CCC committee meeting in February in 1874 a letter was read from Sir Spencer Ponsonby stating that Mynn was in 'very reduced circumstances' and suggesting a subscription or a benefit match. It was decided that the latter would not be expedient but individual subscriptions could be sent for forwarding to Messrs F and S Ponsonby and Mr John Walker who were 'interesting themselves in the matter'. How much was raised is unrecorded.

Built in the 1840s, South Grove, Peckham, where Mynn died, is described in Professor HJ Dyos' *Victorian Suburb*. (Leicester University Press, 1966) as a 'pretty row of modest villas'. After his death, MCC made a donation to his widow who in return presented the Club with Alfred Mynn's portrait by Felix. Copies of the portrait were sold on the ground for her benefit during the Kent v England match in the 1880 Canterbury Week. According to Patrick Morrah, five dozen copies were sold.

Although outshone by Alfred in most things, Walter was apparently the better shot. In so far that he seconded one of the motions, he was involved in the formation of Kent CCC at the Mitre Hotel, Maidstone in 1859 but, unlike Alfred, he was not a member of the first committee. He was one of the original Trustees of the Mynn Memorial Benevolent fund. He appears in WH Masons's engraving of the (imaginary) Sussex v Kent match at Brighton.

Further reading:

Morrah, Patrick. *Alfred Mynn and the cricketers of his time*. Eyre & Spottiswode, London, 1963).

John Noakes (No. 52).

Born: 1802. *Died:* 13.4.1840, Lamberhurst.
Kent 1826.

Unless some further documentary evidence is discovered, this player will probably never be positively identified. He may well be the John Noakes who died at Lamberhurst in 1840 but in the 1907 Kent History, where there is no initial, he is referred to as being 'of Woolwich' from which it might be inferred that he lived and/or played his cricket in the area. He does not moreover appear to have been associated with any of the more important clubs in the vicinity of Lamberhurst such as Horsmonden, Benenden or Hawkhurst. There is no initial against Noakes' name either in *Scores & Biographies* or in *Kent cricket matches 1719-1880* by Lord Harris and FS Ashley-Cooper and Noakes is – or at least was – a far from uncommon name in West Kent and East Sussex.

This particular Noakes was clearly quite highly regarded. He batted No. 4 in his first match and opened in the return on Hawkhurst Moor.

Thomas Nordish (No. 17).

Born: 25.3.1785, Meopham. *Died:* 1.7.1842, Meopham.
Wicketkeeper.
Kent 1815-1823.
Parents: Thomas Nordish & Ann Nordish (*née* Eaton)

A farmer and horse dealer, Thomas Nordish played most of his cricket for Meopham and probably other local clubs. According to *Scores & Biographies*, he continued in club cricket until within a year of his death. His first move into higher circles was in 1805 when he appeared for Kent v Bexley (with Lord Frederick Beauclerk and John Hammond) at Bowman's Lodge, Dartford Heath. In 1807 he played twice, for Twenty-Three of Kent v Thirteen of England, at Lord's where he failed to score in his only innings, and on Penenden Heath where his contributions were ten and eight.

Nordish opened the batting for Kent in his two matches now ranked first-class, against England at Wrotham Napps in 1815 and MCC at Chislehurst in 1823. In between he played one other game for the county, v Hawkhurst at Wrotham in 1816. *Scores & Biographies* considered the Kent side unrepresentative and labelled it 'Kent (so-called)'. When Nordish had his greatest honour – selection for England against Twenty-Two of Nottingham on the Forest Ground in 1818 - S&B was equally censorious, considering England a 'very bad side' with 'several weak ones introduced'. Nottingham won by 14 wickets but when England were dismissed for 87 in their second innings, Nordish (20) was one of only two batsmen to manage double figures.

To play at this level, it seems likely that Nordish was a more than averagely accomplished club cricketer but if his performances for Meopham were ever recorded, details have not survived. He is however known to have scored 47 and 93 for Meopham v Horsmonden in 1826 and to have played club cricket until 1841. In his biography in *Scores & Biographies* Vol.1 page 323 his selection for England was thought to show 'he must have been a good man'.

1827 he married Elizabeth Dorrington at Meopham. His aunt Hannah was married to Philip Buggs, landlord of *The Cricketers' Inn*, Meopham 1794-1833 A nephew, Henry Nordish, a farmer and landowner and at one time landlord of *The King's Arms*, Meopham, played for Kent v Town Malling at Bromley in 1835.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Frederick Norley (No. 228).

Born: 23.2.1846, Canterbury. *Died:* 1914: Ontario, Canada.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1864-1865.

Parents: James Norley & Emma Norley (*née* Adams)

The son of a tailor, Fred Norley was living with his parents at 14 Watling Street, Canterbury when he took five second innings wickets for Professional Colts v Gentlemen Colts at Mote Park in May 1863. Presumably he had attracted notice playing for one of the several minor clubs in and around Canterbury. Two weeks later he claimed another four wickets for Kent Colts (Under 23) v Surrey Colts (Under 25) at The Oval. In May the following year he suffered a pair opening the batting but took another five wickets for Colts South of the Medway v Colts North of the Medway at Town Malling.

Following the 1864 Colts match Norley was picked for the first six of Kent's seven county fixtures, all of which ended in defeat. For the most part his bowling was under-used – third or fourth change – but, given the chance to open the bowling with Willsher against Surrey at Gravesend, he took five for 52 from 29.3 overs including the prized wickets of Tom Humphrey, Harry Jupp and Julius Caesar. Against Nottinghamshire at Crystal Palace, the only other match in which he was allowed as many as 20 overs, his figures were 20-8-52-3. As a batsman, he never came in higher than No. 9 and only twice reached double figures. He was not chosen for any of the August matches apart from Kent Colts v Gentlemen of Dartford & Neighbourhood.

Norley played in the first match of 1865, against Sussex at Hove in which he bowled only nine overs and conceded 13 runs. To *Scores & Biographies* he was 'unsuccessful' which was more than a little harsh but, although suffering from a severe lack of professional talent, Kent showed no further interest. He had joined the MCC staff at the start of the 1865 season and played one first-class match for them, again against Sussex. He also took ten wickets in a match against Royal Artillery and umpired in at least three matches. Nevertheless, in July he was advertising himself as available for a professional engagement.

In 1866 Norley took an engagement with the Clydesdale Club in Glasgow and while with them appeared for Twenty-Two of the West of Scotland v the All-England Eleven. In the first innings he was top scorer with 20 in a total of 69 all out. A few days later he was on the other side, taking three for 19 for the All-England Eleven against Twenty-Two of Ossett.

1868 Norley embarked on a 26 week engagement (commencing 1 May) with the St George's Club in New York. In addition to the cost of his outward passage, the terms were a salary of 70-80 shillings per week and a share of a benefit estimated to approximate to £25. In his first season Norley had match figures of ten for 67 against a team made up from members of the Knickerbockers Club serving with the Montreal garrison and played four times against Ned Willsher's all-professional English touring team. For Twenty-Two of the St George's Club he took six for 67 and six for 46 for 22 of the Combined Cricket Clubs of America, both on the St George's Club's Hoboken ground. He had less success when chosen for Twenty-Two of the USA on the Germantown ground, Philadelphia – 0, 0 and 0 for 21.

Norley remained with the St George's Club into the 1870s. In 1872 he prepared the wicket – said to be a good one - at Germantown, Philadelphia for the match between R.A.Fitzgerald's English touring team and 22 of Young America. In 1879 he played for Fourteen of New York v the Gentlemen of Ireland. He subsequently moved to Canada where in 1884 he was professional with Trinity College School, Port Hope, Ontario. His younger brother was James Norley (*qv*).

In 1869 Fred Norley married Clara Bosworth Nesbitt (1847-1927) in Newark, New Jersey, USA. There were two daughters.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The Author, 2002.

James Norley (No. 263).

Born: 5.1.1847, Canterbury. *Died:* 24.12.1900, Eastville, Bristol.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1870-1871.

Parents: James Norley & Emma Norley (*née* Adams)

James Norley's first professional engagement was with the Caledonian Club, Glasgow, possibly due to the influence of his elder brother who was professional with Clydesdale. In 1868 he was at Clifton College but began the season by taking four wickets for Fifteen Colts of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend. In the following year he was nearer home with an engagement at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich.

Norley was employed at Winchester College in 1870 but began the season by delivering 15 overs for seven runs and one wicket for Twenty-One Colts of Kent (plus Fryer as captain) against the Kent First Eleven at Blackheath. Although he had done nothing much to justify selection, Kent were seeking talent and at the end of June came his first team debut, against Sussex at Hove. He scored three and 0, batting No. 3 and took one for 31. According to the published scores, he was the fourth bowler tried but as he caught and bowled the Sussex opening batsman Charles Smith before he had scored this seems unlikely. He played five more games that year, once entrusted with opening, but batting mostly in the lower half of the order. He reached double figures just once and suffered four ducks. Little used as a bowler, he claimed only two more wickets.

Two further county matches in 1871 produced only six runs in three innings as well as 13 wicketless overs. In 1872 he was called on only once, when he scored 33 against a very weak Prince's Club side at Prince's. This concluded Norley's Kent career but he continued to find professional engagements – with the 2nd Life Guards at Windsor in 1871, with Charles Hardy at Chilham Castle in 1872 and the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester from 1873 to 1875.

Norley played one final first-class match, for Gloucestershire against Surrey at The Oval in 1877 in which he again failed to get off the mark. He was almost certainly in as a late replacement in what was largely an all-amateur side, dominated by the Graces. It seems likely that he was in contact with the Graces as in that same year he played against Twenty of Spalding for the United South of England XI which was, by then, virtually a Grace family fiefdom.

Little is known of Norley's later life other than it ended tragically. According to his biography in Vol.XI of *Scores & Biographies* (page 381) he kept a tobacconist's shop in Cirencester. If so, not it seems, for very long. Volume XI was published in 1878. Norley appears in the 1881 Census, lodging with the family of a metal moulder in St Peter's Street, Canterbury with his occupation shown as 'professional cricketer'. He died in Eastville workhouse, 'a labourer of no fixed abode', cause of death 'heart failure accelerated by exposure.'

Charles Loyd Norman (No. 158).

Born: 10.3.1833, Bromley Common. *Died:* 17.2.1889, San Remo, Italy.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1853

Educated: Eton College & Trinity College, Cambridge University.

Parents: George Warde Norman & Sibella Norman (*née Stone*)

A son of George Warde Norman and elder brother of Frederick Henry Norman (*qv*), Charles Norman was in the Eleven at Eton from 1848 to 1850, captaining in his final year when Harrow were beaten by seven wickets. Against Winchester, either in 1848, when he scored 35, or 1849, when he scored 42 – accounts vary – he hit a ball out of Lord's. He was in the Cambridge Eleven in 1852 and 1853, appearing against Oxford at Lord's in both seasons. In the latter year, as well as making his one appearance for Kent, he played the first of his two first-class matches for Gentlemen of Kent.

Although playing no first-class cricket after 1854, Norman remained active at club level until the 1870s for clubs including Bromley, Eton Ramblers, Quidnuncs, West Kent and I Zingari. In 1858 he scored 52 for West Kent against Eton. He was for many years President of Bromley Cricket Club.

A partner in Baring Brothers, Merchant Bankers, Charles Norman had a successful business career. As well as the family home, The Rookery, Bromley Common, which he inherited on his father's death in 1882, he maintained a substantial London establishment. In 1881 he was living at 90 Portland Place with his wife, three sons, two daughters, governess, butler, two footmen, housekeeper, nurse, two ladies maids, three housemaids, and one scullery maid. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent and a JP for Bromley. His sister Sibella married Henry Bonham-Carter and was mother of Sir Maurice 'Bongy' Bonham-Carter (*qv*).

In 1859 he married Julia Hay Cameron (1838-1873) at St Mary's Church, Putney. There were three sons and four daughters. Following the death of his first wife, he married Emily Mangles at Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £920,829 6s 4d. One of his sons, Archibald Cameron Norman, was President of Kent CCC from 1914 to 1918 and in 1936.

Frederick Henry Norman (No. 191).

Born: 23.1.1839, Bromley Common. *Died:* 6.10.1916, Mayfair, London.

Right-handed batsman

Kent 1858-1864.

Educated: Eton College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: George Warde Norman & Sibella Norman (*née Stone*)

Although his record for Kent is modest to say the least, Frederick Norman was among the most talented cricketers in the family and contemporary opinion seems to have been that he would have achieved more had he been able to play more often. Coached by William Martingell, he scored a century on first-class debut, a much rarer feat in 1858 than it is now. At Eton he was in the Eleven from 1854 to 1857 and, like brother Charles (*qv*), captained in his final season. As captain he was unable to emulate his brother further by beating Harrow but he scored over three hundred runs.

At Cambridge he scored 31 for the Next Sixteen in the opening game of the 1858 season and on his second appearance in the Eleven hit exactly 100 against Cambridge Town. The Cambridge Town side, which included Dan Hayward snr., Tom Hayward snr. and Billy Buttress, was evaluated as first-class – hence Norman's century on first-class debut. He remained in the Cambridge Eleven for three seasons, captaining in 1860 when Oxford were beaten by three wickets.

According to Norman's entry in *Scores & Biographies (Vol.IV page 644)* he 'made some enormous scores while in the Cambridge Eleven' and 'for a short time greatly assisted his native county'. Here Haygarth somewhat over-states the case. In addition to his century, in three seasons for Cambridge he hit two other first-class half-centuries, both against MCC, and in lesser matches one century, 112 v

‘Old Cambridge Men’, and six half-centuries. Good enough by contemporary standards but hardly ‘enormous scores’. For Kent he reached double figures only twice! He did however, score one other first-class hundred, 103 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord’s in 1859. He failed when chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord’s in 1858 but hit 48 for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North at The Oval in 1860.

On leaving Cambridge, Norman studied law, was admitted as a barrister at Inns of Court in 1863 and for some years practised on the Home Circuit. He scored 40 (top score) for the Bar against MCC at Lord’s in and hit a century for the Home Circuit Bar in a match at Maidstone. He was living at Much Hadham (and a local JP) when in 1870 he married Lina, New York-born daughter of Sir Mark Collet, a former Governor of the Bank of England, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Shirley, Surrey. There were two sons and one daughter.

Forsaking Law, Norman joined Martin’s Bank, then a private bank, where he remained a director till his death. He was also director of his father-in-law’s company, Brown, Shipley & Co. and, like his father before him, for many years chairman of the Sun Insurance Office.

As well as acquiring a large country property. Moor Place, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, like his brother Charles, Frederick Norman maintained a substantial London establishment. In the 1891 Census he is residing at 5, Sussex Square, Paddington with his wife, the younger of his two sons, his daughter and ten servants. Appointed High Sherriff of Hertfordshire in 1869, he was a local JP and a governor of Haileybury School. As a young man he served as a Lieutenant in the Kentish Rifle Volunteers.

Frederick Norman was a member of the Management Committee of Kent CCC from its formation in 1859 until his resignation in 1861, a Vice President of the enlarged club from its formation in 1870 and one of the original Trustees of the Alfred Mynn Memorial Benevolent Institution. He became a member of MCC in 1863 and served on the Committee from 1866 to 1868. He played club cricket into the 1870s, his clubs including the Bar, Eton Ramblers, Home Circuit, MCC, Peripatetics, Quidnuncs, West Kent and I Zingari.

Montagu, the elder of his two sons, was an occasionally controversial but hugely influential Governor of the Bank of England from 1920 to 1944 and became the First Baron Norman. The younger, Ronald, was Chairman of the BBC and of London County Council. On his death Frederick Norman’s estate was valued at £110,020 1s 4d.

George Warde Norman (No. 93).

Born: 20.9.1793, Bromley, *Died:* 4. 9.1882, Bromley.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1834-1836.

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: George Norman & Charlotte Norman (*née* Beadon)

George Warde Norman was the father of Charles Loyd and Frederick Henry Norman, brother of Henry Norman and brother-in-law of Herbert Jenner (later Jenner-Fust) (*qv*). He was reputedly in the Eton Eleven in 1810 although scores for that year have not survived. A lifelong cricket devotee, he was treasurer and one of the founders *circa* 1811 of the Prince’s Plain Club on Bromley Common. When the Common was enclosed and the Club moved to Chislehurst to become the West Kent Club, he retained his association as player, administrator and President from 1832 till his death 50 years later.

In his three first-class matches for Kent, all against England at Chislehurst, he was only once dismissed. In 1836, he was batting No. 10 when he scored 37*, top scorer and one of only three Kent batsmen to exceed 20. In 1835 he also played twice for Kent against Town Malling. In the first, at Bromley, only Norman, run out 21, and his brother-in-law, Herbert Jenner, run out 39, achieved double figures. Norman was less fortunate for Gentlemen of Kent. In eight matches recorded in *Scores & Biographies*, six of them first-class, his highest score was seven.

George Norman was a considerable figure in the wider world. Charles Darwin wrote of him as 'My clever neighbour, Mr Norman.' On leaving Eton, he entered his father's business, which was primarily concerned with importing timber from Norway. Fluent in Norwegian as well as French and Italian, he made numerous friends in Norway and was introduced to the reigning monarch.

Highly regarded for his expertise in finance and foreign exchange, he was frequently consulted by the governments of the day and was a Director of the Bank of England from 1821 until 1872. In 1830 he married Sibella Stone, daughter of an officer in the Bengal Civil Service, at St George's, Hanover Square. There were six sons and two daughters. His wife was one of three sisters who had been bequeathed extensive holdings in Martin's Bank and his marriage further enhanced his standing in the City. In the same year he inherited The Rookery and transferred his timber interests to another company, Sewell & Co with his brother Richard as a partner.

He was a Director of the Sun Insurance Office from 1830 to 1864, Governor of Guy's Hospital, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, a JP, for 40 years treasurer of Bromley Common School and Vice Chairman of Bromley Union (Workhouse). The newly-built workhouse at Farnborough was known to the locals as 'George Norman's House'.

A confirmed advocate of free trade, he was asked to stand as MP for the City of London but declined on grounds of ill-health. Norman published several highly influential pamphlets on financial matters as well as a number on Roman and Anglo-Saxon history. He was a close friend of the historian George Grote. Exceedingly well-read, he was regarded as something of an authority on the Latin poets and his extensive library included a large section, possibly unique in this country, of works in Norwegian.

Like his sons, he maintained a large establishment. At the Rookery in 1881 there was a staff of 19. Although he spent over £80,000 on the renovation, improvement and extension of the Rookery estate, on his death, his property was valued at £126,131.

George Norman's eldest son, also George, died in 1855 as a result of wounds received at the storming of the Redan during the siege of Sevastopol while serving as a Captain in the 57th Regiment. He had survived both Balaclava and Inkerman. There is a memorial window in Hayes Church. Another son, Philip, who was also in the Eleven at Eton, became an accomplished water colour artist and exhibited in the Royal Academy.

George Warde Norman was vice President of the society of Antiquaries and author of numerous books including *Annals of the West Kent CC*.

Henry Norman (No. 60).

Born: 12.12.1801, Bromley. *Died:* 28.12.1867, Bromley.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1827-1835.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: George Norman & Charlotte Norman (*née* Beadon)

The brother of George Warde Norman (*qv*), Henry Norman was in the Eleven at Eton in 1818 and 1819 but there is no record of his cricket at Oxford. While still at Eton he played for the Prince's Plain Club and at Chislehurst in 1826 scored 58* for West Kent against combined Bromley, Hayes and Westerham. In the following year he hit 69* on debut for Kent v MCC at Lord's and a week later was batting No. 3 for Seventeen Gentlemen v Players at Lord's.

Although described in the West Kent history as 'a fine cricketer, who did not often do himself justice', altogether he appeared four times in the annual Gentlemen v Players fixture, in 1827, 1830, 1832 and 1833, albeit with a modest top score of seven. He opened for the Gentlemen in 1832, the match in which the Gentlemen defended wickets measuring 22 inches x nine and the Players wickets measuring 27 inches x eight.

Henry Norman made no further scores of substance for Kent but played regularly for West Kent until 1834. He also appeared for Gentlemen of West Kent, MCC and Chislehurst & Bromley. He succeeded Benjamin Aislabie (*qv*) as Treasurer of West Kent CC in 1827, resigning in 1832 on becoming a partner in Bouverie's Bank. He later became a partner in another private bank, Jones, Loyd & Co

Despite being noted as a keen fisherman and shot, Norman seems to have lived for much of his life in London, notably in Eaton Square although at the end of his life he was living at Oakley, Bromley. In 1832 he married Georgina Stone (1805-1842) at St. George's, Hanover Square. There were two sons and one daughter. In 1844 he married Arabella Matilda Beadon (1814-1872) by whom he had three more daughters. His estate was valued at 'below £100,000'.

Dr. Percy Northcote MB (U Lon) MRCS LRCP (No. 403).

Born: 18.9.1866, Islington, London. *Died:* 3.3.1934, Marylebone, London.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1889-1895.

Educated: Cranbrook School.

Parents: Gilbert Charles Northcote & Emma Elizabeth Northcote (*née* Edwards).

Percy Northcote was a highly regarded club cricketer in the 1890s but probably his greatest claim to fame came in May 1895 when, during his innings of 27* against Gloucestershire at Gravesend, he twice hit WG Grace out of the ground. This was the match in which Grace scored 257* and 73* and was on the field throughout the entire match. Northcote was in the side as a last minute replacement for Lord Harris who had broken a finger playing for Band of Brothers.

The son of a 'wholesale warehouseman', Northcote was living in Beckenham and playing for the local club when he made an unremarkable first-class debut, for Middlesex *against* Kent at Lord's in May 1888. He played a second game for the county of his birth in July that year, against Lancashire at Old Trafford, but in between made his first appearance in Kent colours, when he scored 22* and took two wickets for Gentlemen of Kent v the Parsee touring team at Blackheath.

In the following year he made his first-class debut for Kent, against MCC at Lord's. At the time he was studying medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital and he possibly owed his selection to an innings of 201* for St. Thomas's against London Hospital. He played for Kent only twice more, at Bradford against Yorkshire in 1892 and at Gravesend in 1895 when he had his brief moment of glory at Grace's expense. His first-class career concluded with two matches for MCC, at Scarborough v Yorkshire in 1895 and at Lord's v Derbyshire in 1903.

In 1894 Northcote took six for 58 & six for 23 for Chatham and District against the South African tourists – whose matches were not granted first-class status – but his greatest successes were for Beckenham where he regularly threatened the gardens adjoining the small Foxgrove Road ground. He

registered his first hundred for the club in 1890, headed both batting and bowling averages in 1891 and in 1892 scored 773 runs including three centuries and took 61 wickets. In 1895 he hit 104*, 81*, 94, 108 and 95 in successive innings. As well as MCC, Gentlemen of Kent and MCC, he also played for Band of Brothers, West Kent and United Hospitals.

Qualified in 1893, much of Northcote's medical career was spent practising in the more well-heeled districts of London, first in Jermyn Street and subsequently in Cumberland Mews, Bryanston Square. In 1921 he married Edith Mary Reynolds (1872-1951) in Paddington. On his death his estate was valued at £1,343 6s 1d.

Bradbury Norton (No. 186).

Born: 23.8.1834, West Malling. *Died:* 21.2.1917, Taltal, Chile.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1858-1866.

Parents: Silas Norton & Sarah Ann Norton (*née* Holmes).

Bradbury Norton was the brother of Selby and William South Norton and cousin of William Owens John Norton (*qv*). All four of them played for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Glynde in 1859. In 1860 Bradbury Norton hit 56, opening the batting for Kent against MCC at Canterbury on his second appearance for the County but failed to progress beyond 19 in his remaining eight matches spread over six seasons. Nevertheless, for 20 years from around 1850 he was a useful batsman for Gentlemen of Kent, Sevenoaks Vine, Town Malling and Maidstone, often scoring 20s or 30s although rarely progressing much further. He failed in three odds matches, one against the All-England Eleven and two against the United England Eleven, with scores of four, 0, four, 0, 0 and six.

A solicitor by profession and son of a solicitor, he shared a practice with his father and brother in Earl Street, Maidstone and in West Malling but, curiously, in the 1861 Census he appears as both articled clerk and wine and spirit merchant.

In 1868 he married Ellen Viner Busbridge at St. Mary's, Westminster. There were two sons and one daughter. In the closing years of the 19th century he moved to Chile with wife and son Bertram. What he did there and what happened to the other two children is unclear but following his death, his wife and Bertram, by then 36 years-old returned to England in 1919.

Dr Selby Norton MRCS (No. 221).

Born: 13.9.1836, West Malling. *Died:* 11.11.1906, Brixton, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler

Kent 1863.

Educated: St Andrew's University, Edinburgh.

Parents: Silas Norton & Sarah Ann Norton (*née* Holmes).

According to his obituary in *Wisden*, Selby Norton played his only match for Kent in 'an emergency'. This was almost certainly as a replacement for his brother William South Norton (*qv*) who would normally have captained the side and is shown in *Scores & Biographies* as having played in the match. Selby Norton appeared three times for the Gentlemen of Kent and was a regular member of the Town Malling team in 1853 and 1854. Thereafter and up to 1864 he played occasionally and also appeared in a few matches for Maidstone, twice in odds matches.

Privately educated like his brothers, he studied medicine at St. Andrew's and qualified in 1859. In 1860 he married Ann Elizabeth Gould in Town Malling. In 1861 he was acting as assistant to his father-in-law Dr Henry Gould, a general practitioner in Wateringbury. He subsequently set up his own

practice, first in Putney, then in Biddenden where in 1881 he was living with his wife and ten children. He later returned to London to practices in Lambeth (1891) and Stockwell (1901). In all there wer

William Owens John Norton (No. 159).

Born: 1820, Aylesford. *Died:* 25.4.1873, Lambeth, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1853-1859.

Parents: Owen Norton & Maria Norton (*née* Mynn).

William Owens Norton was not only a cousin of Bradbury, Selby and William South Norton. He was also a nephew of Alfred Mynn, son of the great man's elder sister Mary (christened 1799). Between 1847 and 1851, while living in Edgbaston where his father, Owens Norton, was farming, he played a number of matches for Birmingham with a top score of 29 against Shrewsbury at Edgbaston in 1851. In 1850 he scored 25 for Leamington v MCC at Lord's.

Returning to Kent where his father had been a farm bailiff, he scored 15 in both innings of his first match for Kent in 1853 but failed to achieve double figures in two subsequent appearances in 1859, both against MCC. Three matches for Gentlemen of Kent between 1859 and 1864 yielded only 27 runs but he fared better in a few matches for Town Malling between 1854 and 1866, scoring 33 against Cobham in 1864.

In 1852 he married Emma Mary Wilson at St. John's Church, Paddington. At the time his occupation was shown as 'commercial traveller' but in the 1861 Census, when he was staying with Richard Twort in Horsmonden, Norton appears as a 'Fundholder'. In the 1871 return – two years before his death – he is living in Margate and is a 'commission agent'.

William South Norton (No. 144).

Born: 8.6.1831, West Malling. *Died:* 19.3.1916, Charterhouse, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1849-1870.

Parents: Silas Norton & Sarah Ann Norton (*née* Holmes).

Few contributed as much as William South Norton to the establishment of Kent as a viable, genuinely representative, county cricket club; none surely for so little reward. His father, Silas Norton, was one of those who supported Thomas Selby (*qv*) – who was also his business partner - in the formation of the short-lived Kent CCC at West Malling in 1835/1836. He was also a member of the small consortium who persuaded Fuller Pilch to settle in West Malling and play for Kent.

William South Norton, a solicitor like his father and brother Bradbury, played his first game for Kent in 1849 alongside giants of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' including Alfred Mynn, both Pilchs, 'Topper' Hillyer and Tom Adams. He first led the side in 1856 and continued to do so more or less regularly up to 1870. He was captain in the match against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells Common in 1858 when it was resolved to form a Kent County Cricket Club.

At the inaugural meeting at the Mitre Hotel, Maidstone he was appointed Joint Honorary Secretary with Lord North and became Honorary Secretary when North resigned after a year. He remained in the position until 1870 when, following the amalgamation with the Beverley Club, William De Chair Baker (*qv*), Honorary Secretary of the Beverley, was chosen to perform the same office for the enlarged club.

There was some 'history' between South Norton and Baker, dating from at least 1862. The second match of the Canterbury Week that year was Gentlemen of Kent, with Norton as captain, against the Gentlemen of MCC. When the visitors found themselves a man short, Baker, as Manager of the Week, agreed to a request from the MCC Manager, Sir Spencer Ponsonby, that EM Grace, although not a member of MCC, be allowed to play. Baker did so without consulting South Norton, who learned of the arrangement only on the morning of the match.

It might not seem a major issue to modern minds but Norton and his team were incensed, the more so in that Grace had been summoned from Bristol at his father's suggestion as a late substitute in the previous match and there were suspicions that Baker had promised him both games. There were other MCC members on the ground and, with London only a couple of hours away by train, there could have been no difficulty in finding a properly qualified substitute.

Apparently even some of the MCC side were miffed and Norton and his team were ready to call off the match but were eventually persuaded to take the field, albeit under protest, when Baker (a) pointed out that the Beverley Club stood to lose a lot of money and (b) threatened to resign – a not uncommon riposte from Baker when crossed. That Grace carried his bat for 192* and took 15 wickets can have done little to cool tempers. Norton never played at Canterbury again. In his own words 'I was ashamed, or averse, to play there' after the incident.

Due to a large extent to the efforts of South Norton, the Kent CCC formed in 1859 managed to maintain a limited programme of county fixtures but it struggled financially. It was difficult to persuade the best amateurs to forsake country house and 'social' cricket to play for the county outside Cricket Week and in the next decade, Lord Harris – for all his many influential connections - would face similar problems. The Beverley Club also struggled, not least because in the 1860s its main concern, Cricket Week, rarely made a profit. An amalgamation was clearly the answer and in 1865 South Norton, supported by a unanimous committee, made a written formal proposal. Baker's reply 'Any amalgamation would, I think, be injurious to our Club' was hardly encouraging but matters could not remain as they were and another approach five years later was successful.

The enlarged club was formed in time for the 1871 season with Baker the Honorary Secretary. South Norton, after eleven years, was now out of office although he remained on the General Committee until 1896. His name occurs only rarely in the committee minutes and he seems to have played little or no cricket following the amalgamation. He is not even listed as a member of Kent CCC after 1896.

Coached when young by Pilch and Hillyer, South Norton was a steady batsman with a strong defence, useful as an opener or cementing the middle order and scoring mainly by cuts and legside strokes. As a bowler, known as 'Old Wiggles' due to a strange corkscrew movement of his arm before delivery, he was used mainly as a change in county matches but for Gentlemen of Kent and similar teams and in club cricket, he had days of outstanding success.

When scoring 120* against Sussex at Gravesend in 1866, his only century, the score was 100 for five when he arrived at the wicket, 352 when the last wicket fell. Although he only scored one other half-century for Kent, he hit three 40s including 48* in his very last innings for the county, against Surrey at Mote Park. Many of his best allround performances were in Canterbury Week. In 1857 for Gentlemen of Kent and Sussex v Gentlemen of England he carried his bat for 64* in a total of 143 and took two for 0 in seven balls in the first innings and four for 44 in the second. In 1860, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC he followed an innings of 71 (in a total of 163) with bowling figures of two for 40 and seven for 57. In the acrimonious 1862 Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC match referred to above, Grace gained all the glory but Norton had the consolation of seven for 109 in MCC's only innings.

Following the demise of the locally based Kent County Club and Pilch's move to Canterbury, the Town Malling club almost ceased to exist. From 1849 onwards, South Norton worked hard and long to restore its fortunes. He played a great deal of minor cricket, not only for Town Malling, but in many Gentlemen of Kent matches not now deemed first-class, as well as for Chatham, Gravesend, Hollingbourne, Sevenoaks Vine and Wateringbury. For the Gentlemen of Kent, South Norton hit 96 v Gentlemen of Sussex at Brighton in 1862 and at least one other 90 in minor cricket

He was frequently a match winner with the ball – for Gentlemen of Kent against Gentlemen of Sussex he took seven for 19 at Tunbridge Wells in 1861, seven for 62 on the same ground in 1862, eight wickets at Gravesend in 1862 and eight for 49 at Faversham in 1864. In local matches he took nine wickets in an innings once, eight wickets twice, 13 in a match once, 12 twice, 11 once. In annual Town Malling v Cobham fixtures between 1853 and 1864 he claimed at least 125 wickets.

He also had a reputation as a specialist fielder at point. In his reminiscences he recounts losing four front teeth in a Town Malling match. 'I had the presence of mind to put my teeth back in their places, and they served me very well for twenty years or more .When at last they came out I found they had been broken asunder near the roots'.

South Norton played four times against the Australian Aboriginal touring team in 1868, for Mote Park, Gentlemen of Kent, Gravesend and the 'Sporting Press'. William Hayman, one of the promoters/organisers of the tour was his brother-in-law and he (South Norton) also played once for the tourists, captaining them in a drawn game against Hastings. The team made West Malling their base and Norton several times entertained them at his home, Cade House. He recalls his two young daughters 'were not at all frightened'. When one of the team, Johnny Cuzens, was suffering from enteritis, the family nursed him back to health. Nevertheless, Norton was a man of his time. He refers to the tourists as 'blackies' and, less forgivably, 'savages'.

Perhaps more surprising is that South Norton played once each for the All-England Eleven (1854), United England Eleven (1859) and New All-England Eleven (1859). He was President of the latter, an unsuccessful enterprise started by Tom Sherman and Fred Chadband which expired in 1862.

The idea for the 1907 *History of Kent County Cricket Club* originated from South Norton. He contributed the first four chapters, covering 45 pages, the fourth, mainly reminiscent, providing rare insights into players of the period. His contribution was edited down from a much longer manuscript but, even so, it has been much used as a source for later researchers. If the original ever surfaces it might well contain much of value. Interestingly, in South Norton's biography in *Scores & Biographies Vol IV*, Haygarth acknowledges his help with biographies of Kent players.

In 1862 he married Lucy Julia Breton (1845-1873) at Worth, Sussex. There were two daughters and one son.

There can be little doubt South Norton neglected his profession for his cricket. He virtually admits as much in his reminiscences and Lord Harris makes the same point in his *A Few Short Runs*. In the minutes for a Kent Managing Committee meeting on 21 March 1899 it is recorded that G.M.Kelson has reported that South Norton is living in Earl Street, Maidstone in a 'dreadful state of poverty' and suggests a testimonial. The committee expresses 'sympathy' but consider it would not be justified in contributing from club funds.

Possibly the Kent club may have played a part in getting South Norton enrolled as a Charterhouse Pensioner but, if so, there seems to be nothing on record. Committee minutes for 1 March 1916 record that South Norton is 'confined to bed and dying'. It was resolved that the club would 'make up the cost of burial at West Malling'; very little, some might think, for one who did so much.

Henry Nuttall (No. 406).

Born: 6.2.1855, Crayford. *Died:* 8.10.1945, Bedgebury Park, Goudhurst

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1889-1894.

Parents: Thomas Nuttall & Caroline Nuttall (*née* Beckley).

Henry Nuttall first made his mark with the Beckton Club, *aka* the Gas Light & Coke Company, hitting centuries in 1885 and 1886, the latter an innings of 156 against Brentford Gas Works. Two years later he was chosen for Colts of the South v Colts of the North at Lord's when, in a game of low scores, he hit 18 and 19 and took one catch, presumably, as wicketkeeper

In 1889 he was brought into the Kent First Eleven for two matches in place of John Pentecost (*qv*), who was unfit. Apparently he acquitted himself well enough but he was dropped as soon as Manley Kemp became available. In 1890 Nuttall was given one game in May but thereafter Pentecost and the amateur William Torrens were preferred until, as usual, Kemp took over in August

Kent records are non-committal but presumably Nuttall was still looked on favourably. He began 1891 with a run of eleven games, including two against Warwickshire (not first-class), in which he caught ten and stumped 11 before again losing his place to Kemp. For the Sussex game at Hove another amateur, the Mote keeper Frederick Atkins, was chosen. As it turned out, Atkins was late on the first morning and Nuttall, although not in the side (12th man?), was allowed to keep in his place.

From 1891, Kent's choice of stumpers followed an erratic course. In 1892 Edwin Leaney (*qv*) was chosen before giving way to Eustace Malden (*qv*) and then Kemp although Nuttall was in the team for a Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent benefit fixture at Beckenham. In 1893 five wicketkeepers, all amateur, were used and in 1894 Nuttall was picked for the first three matches before being supplanted by Atkins. These turned out to be his last

Although Nuttall scored runs for Beckton, with Kent he never achieved double figures and registered nine ducks. It seems likely that when he scored his hundreds for Beckton he was employed in the Gas Works – he worked in industry for most of his life - but in 1892 he went there as cricket professional. In the previous year he was with the Erith Club

In 1900 he applied for a place on the umpire's list but Kent did not consider him suitable. In the 1911 Census he is living in Erith with his widowed mother and employed as a driller in a Crayford chemical works. He seems to have spent most of his life in and around Crayford apart from a brief interlude in childhood when his father, a block printer, worked in Lancashire. On his death certificate he is a 'general labourer' and his address is given as Bedgebury Park, Pier Road, Erith. Probate was granted to his sister-in-law Lily so presumably he married late in life, His effects were valued at £95 14s.

Henry Allan Ommanney (No. 71).

Born: April 1805, England. *Died:* 21.5.1829, Port Royal, Jamaica.

Kent 1828.

Educated: Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

Parents: Admiral Sir John Acworth Ommanney and Lady Frances Ommanney (*née* Ayling.)

A professional soldier Henry Ommanney opened the batting on his only appearance for Kent, against MCC at Lord's. He was top scorer in the first innings with 20 in an all-out total of 69 and in the second remained 24* when the match ended with Kent winners by six wickets.

Enrolled as a Gentleman Cadet at Woolwich in 1819, he played for the RA Club from 1824 to 1828 and in the latter year hit 57 for the Royal Artillery v Household Brigade at Lord's. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery as a Second Lieutenant in 1825, he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1828 but died the following year while serving in Jamaica.

Cyril Winnington Onslow (No. 122).

Born: 17.12.1815, Newington, Surrey. *Died:* 24.7.1866, Tunbridge Wells.

Kent 1841

Parents: Arthur & Elizabeth Onslow.

The son of a clergyman, Cyril Onslow was a regular opener for Penshurst and on occasions for Tunbridge Wells in the 1840s without, as far as can be ascertained, playing any innings of particular significance. He also appeared in 'representative' matches, for Gentlemen of Tunbridge Wells v Players of Tunbridge Wells in 1845 and West Kent v East Kent at Southborough in 1846. A poem entitled *Cricketers' Alphabet* appearing in *Scores & Biographies Vol. III page 210* contains the singularly uninformative line 'O is an Onslow, not very well known'. Two of his brothers, Henry and Constantine, also played for Penshurst.

Onslow made his career in the police force. At the time of the 1851 Census he was a police constable based in Sheerness Dockyard. Ten years later he was Police Superintendent living at Tunbridge Wells Police Station. The position was presumably not particularly remunerative. When valued for probate his effects were valued at 'less than £450'.

In 1848 he married Mary Ann Hewlett (1818-1855) in Barnstaple, Devonshire. There were two daughters.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Edward O'Shaughnessy (No. 350).

Born: 16.11.1860, Canterbury. *Died:* 6.8.1885, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1879-1885.

Parents: John & Jane O'Shaughnessy.

Had he not died young, on the strength of his bowling in 1879 Edward O'Shaughnessy could well have been the first Canterbury-born cricketer to be awarded a Kent county cap. In the event, no Canterburian was capped until Joe Denly in 2008.

Born in Dover Street, Canterbury, O'Shaughnessy's father was a bricklayer's labourer and, like his mother, Irish. Both Edward and elder brother Thomas were employed as 'ground boys' at St. Lawrence until 1878 when the minutes of a Management Committee meeting in October record that Edward, described as 'the boy bowler', was to be 'placed' at the Private Banks ground, Catford. At a subsequent meeting in January 1879 it was minuted that O'Shaughnessy was prepared to go to Catford 'if his wages were made up to a pound a week'. Kent agreed to contribute five shillings.

O'Shaughnessy began 1879 as a ground bowler at Oxford and was selected for Twenty-Three Colts of England v MCC at Lord's, where he redeemed a first innings duck with 18 in the second innings, the highest score for the Colts in the match. Not called on to bowl in the first innings, he took three for 23 in the second. The Colts team was considered 'the best lot that had appeared at Lord's for some time'; a judgement confirmed when ten of them went on to play first-class cricket. More success for

O'Shaughnessy followed with seven wickets for Private Banks against MCC and match figures of ten for 49 for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at Mote Park. The latter was marred somewhat by a pair but at a time when Kent were scratching around for talent, he had done enough to earn a place in the county side.

On his debut, against Notts at Canterbury, he bowled 81 overs and took six for 108 including the wickets of Arthur Shrewsbury, Jack Selby and William Oscroft. There followed five for 33 v Yorkshire at Bramall Lane, seven for 16 & five for 24 v Sussex at Hove and five for 49 v Surrey at Tunbridge Wells Common. His first season ended with 44 wickets (avge.14.27), 43 of them by the end of July. As a batsman he was less successful, 52 runs (avge.2.47) with ten ducks, two pairs and only one score in double figures.

1879 proved to be the peak of O'Shaughnessy's career as a bowler. In 1880 he joined the staff at Lord's where he had some success, particularly in minor matches; In 1881 he took seven for 84 against Cambridge University Long Vacation Club at Fenner's and twelve wickets against the 'Revell'.

For Kent however, although he took 16 relatively inexpensive wickets in 1880 and 13 in 1881, increasingly he was used as a change bowler. As his bowling declined, his batting improved – 393 runs (avge.17.08) for Kent in 1880 including 58 v Derbyshire at Maidstone, the only Kent batsman to reach 50. In addition, he hit 57 at Bath, opening the innings in Kent's first-ever match against Somerset (not first-class). In 1882 he reached his top score, 98 v Sussex at Hove and in the following year hit 89 for MCC v Somerset (by then granted first-class status) at Lord's. He also registered at least two hundreds for MCC in schools fixtures

Edward O'Shaughnessy played two matches for Kent in May 1885, with a top score of 27 but within little more than two months he was dead, a victim of tuberculosis. The club contributed to the cost of a stone marking his grave in Canterbury's 'New Cemetery'. His brother Thomas worked on the ground staff at St. Lawrence for many years.

Cuthbert John Ottaway (No. 261).

Born: 20. 7.1850, Dover. *Died:* 2. 4.1878, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1869-1870.

Educated: Eton College & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: James Cuthbert Ottaway FRCS & Jane Ottaway (*née* Bridge).

Now probably best remembered as the captain of England in the first-ever official football international, Cuthbert Ottaway was an outstanding all-round athlete, rated as one of the leading batsman of his day, primarily a back foot player, strong in defence and gifted with the ability to perform at his best with little or no practice. He was also an accomplished wicketkeeper. Unfortunately, although qualified for Kent by birth and a contemporary of Lord Harris at Eton and Oxford, he was another Victorian amateur with apparently little taste for the county game.

Born in Hammond Place, Dover, Ottaway's father was also a JP and Mayor of Dover 1859-1860. A King's Scholar at Eton, Ottaway junior gained a formidable reputation, excelling at racquets – with JP Rodger he won the Public Schools Racquets Doubles Championship in 1868 and 1869 - fives and athletics, as well as football and the uniquely Etonian Wall Game. He was also a member of the Eton Society, otherwise known as 'Pop'.

As a cricketer, he marked his arrival in the Eton Eleven with half-centuries against MCC and Winchester in 1867 and in September that year he appeared for 19 of Dover against a strong Players

of the South team in a charity match in aid of Dover Hospital and Sailor's Home. He remained in the Eleven at Eton for three more years, culminating with nine centuries in 1869, including a much-praised 108 against Harrow at Lord's.

This led to an invitation to play for Kent against MCC in Canterbury Week where his chanceless first innings of 51 was the highest for Kent in the match. He failed to score in the second innings, bowled for the second time by WG Grace. Next year he played twice in the Week, for South v North and again for Kent v MCC but this proved to be his last involvement with the county of his birth at first-class level. In non first-class cricket, he appeared for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari in Canterbury Week from 1867 to 1870. He also played occasionally for Band of Brothers and served briefly on the Kent committee when the club was enlarged in 1870.

At Oxford he added to his reputation, representing the university in five sports, Association football, rackets, Real tennis, athletics (100 yards) and cricket. He was in the Eleven from 1870 to 1873, secretary in 1872, captain in 1873, scoring 855 runs (avge.29.48) with six half-centuries and a top score of 82. Five times he appeared for Gentlemen v Players, at both Lord's and The Oval in 1870 and 1872, at Lord's in 1876 when he contributed 42 to an opening partnership of 126 with WG (126).

In 1872 Ottaway toured Canada and North America with RAFitzgerald's Gentlemen of England side, invited in place of the original choice, Robert Balfour. Playing all matches against odds, Ottaway's top score was only 45 but against 22 of Montreal he caught one and stumped nine.

On coming down from Oxford, Ottaway settled in London while qualifying for the Bar. Between 1874 and 1876 he seems to have found county cricket with Middlesex more congenial, playing eight matches including away fixtures at Trent Bridge and Scarborough. In 1876 he hit two centuries for his adopted county, 112 v Surrey and 106 v Nottinghamshire, both at Prince's.

His last match of note was for the Bar v the Army at Lord's in 1877. As well as BB, he played club cricket for Eton Ramblers, Free Foresters, Harlequins, Marlow, Southgate, West Kent, Will-o'-the-Wisp and I Zingari as well as Hamilton, Ontario for whom he scored a century against Montreal while on a private, probably romantically motivated, visit to Canada in 1876.

For all his prowess at cricket and other sports, Ottaway achieved greater eminence at football. Captain of England against Scotland at Partick in 1872 (drawn 0-0), the first-ever official international, he also led the side in the third meeting, in Glasgow in 1874 (lost 2-4). He appeared in three consecutive FA Cup Finals - 1873; Oxford University v Wanderers at Lillie Bridge (lost 2-0), 1874: Oxford University (captain) v Royal Engineers at The Oval (won 2-0), 1875: Old Etonians v Royal Engineers at The Oval (draw 1-1). With Ottaway absent injured, Old Etonians lost 2-0 in the replay. In 1871 -1872, he reached the semi-finals with Crystal Palace, having been on the losing side earlier with Marlow.

Ottaway was called to the Bar in the Inner Temple in 1876. In the following year he returned to Hamilton again, this time to marry Marion Elizabeth Stinson (1859-1919), a Canadian girl whom he had first met on his 1872/73 trip when she was aged 13. They married in Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton in August 1877 but the marriage was short-lived. Taken ill with a 'chill', he died in April 1878 after little more than a week. The cause was given as pneumonia although there seems some possibility of dormant tuberculosis.

Five months after his death his widow gave birth to a daughter, Lilian. She returned to Canada with her daughter and in 1884 married Peter Duncan Crerar in Wentworth, Ontario. Among many good causes to which she devoted much of her life was the Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium for consumptives. Her second husband, a lawyer, died in 1912.

On his death Ottaway's personal estate was valued at 'under £800' and probate granted to his father who, at that time, was acting as his daughter-in-law's guardian. Cuthbert Ottaway's elaborate memorial in Old Paddington Cemetery was demolished by Westminster City Council in 1972 and his grave is now marked only by a numbered slab. He surely deserves better.

Further reading:

Southwick, Michael. *England's First Football Captain: a biography of Cuthbert Ottaway 1850-1878*. (Tony Brown, Nottingham 2009.)

Richard Palmer (No. 290).

Born: 13.9.1848, Hadlow. *Died:* 2.9.1939, Lower Halstow.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1873-1882.

Parents: George & Ann Palmer.

Richard Palmer's career with Kent is unusual in that, although clearly played for his wicketkeeping, in all but three of his appearances there was at least one other regular stumper in the eleven, and of his

thirteen appearances, Palmer can be positively identified as keeping wicket in only four. Against Hampshire on Daniel Day's ground in Southampton in 1876 Palmer and Harry Wood each stumped one batsman in the first innings, Palmer two and Wood one in the second. They both bowled – Wood three overs and Palmer eight, the only time he bowled in a first-class match. In the following game, against Lancashire at Rochdale, Henty, Palmer and Wood were the last three in the batting order but as there were no stumpings and only Wood took a catch, it is not apparent who kept.

Although against the Gentlemen of MCC at Canterbury in 1875, Palmer was No. 7 in the first innings and No. 4 in the second, generally he batted in the bottom three. He failed with the bat against MCC (although he caught four and stumped two) and was No. 10 when he achieved his personal best 20.

All of the above raises the question of why, if not to keep wicket, he was in the side at all. The explanation probably lies in Lord Harris's problems at this time in raising teams for away matches. He was often obliged to pick little-known players of fairly modest attainment simply to make the numbers up. Palmer played only three matches on Kent grounds.

Palmer presumably played for his native village but he first appears batting in the middle order and probably keeping wicket for 21 Colts of Kent against Kent on the Paragon ground, Blackheath in 1870. In the following year he was engaged as a ground bowler at Fenner's on the recommendation of William Yardley (*q.v.*). Two years later he moved on to Grove House School, Tottenham, an engagement which lasted until 1877.

While at Tottenham, Kent called on him for his debut, the Champion County match against Sussex at Lord's. Batting No. 11 on a wicket on which nobody found batting easy, he scored eight and 0*. With Edward Henty in the side, he is unlikely to have kept wicket. He is possibly the 'R Palmer' who appeared for 22 of Nunhead against the United South of England Eleven in September that year.

In 1878 Palmer accepted an engagement with Sevenoaks Vine and while employed there he was twice chosen for Kent against Kent Colts as well as playing his last two games for Kent's first team. In the 1881 Census he is living in Sevenoaks with his wife Jane and two sons but is listed as a joiner and carpenter. In 1886, he found employment as a cricketer further afield, playing five matches for Staffordshire with a top score of 37 against Worcestershire at Stoke.

With a fairly common name and only one initial, it is difficult to keep track of him after the 1880s but he is almost certainly the Hadlow-born Richard Palmer, by now a widower, who, according to the 1911 Census, is one of 15 'paid helpers' in Tonbridge Workhouse.

In the minutes of a Kent Management committee meeting in March 1907 there is a curious postscript to Palmer's brief first-class career. 'Letter received from Richard Palmer asking for help. Regret cannot help. He has never played for the club' which of course is clearly untrue unless it refers to another Richard Palmer. One of his sons, also Richard, was a professional groundsman.

William Thomas Palmer (No. 243).

Born: 5.1.1847, Canterbury. *Died:* 2.9.1906, Southfields, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1867-1870.

Parents: William & Sarah Palmer.

The son of a 'journeyman cordwainer' (i.e. shoemaker), William Palmer was employed on the St. Lawrence ground from 1865 to 1868 where he was reputedly one of the last players coached by Fuller Pilch. By 1867 he had progressed sufficiently to gain selection for the opening fixture and, presumably unfazed by seeing his side (one man short) dismissed for 18 in their second innings, did enough to retain his place. An aggregate of 234 runs (avge.14.62) left him only one short of Kent's highest for the season. His best effort was against Surrey at Gravesend when he was top scorer in both innings –18 in an all-out total of 44 (the next highest was six) and 37.

Unfortunately, he was unable to build on this promising start. Four matches in 1868, three in 1869 and one in 1870 produced only one score over 20 and, by now living in Thornton Heath, from 1872 he played the remainder of his county cricket for Surrey. His other professional engagements included Merton College, Oxford in 1869 and again 1873-1874, plus Crystal Palace 1870-1872. For ten years from 1868 he appeared with limited success for the United South of England Eleven – top score 32* v 22 of Stockport in 1877 – and in all four games staged during the short existence of the New United South. He scored 19 for USEE when WG Grace scored his 400 against Twenty-Two of Grimsby in 1876.

Between 1872 and 1876 Palmer played 19 matches for Surrey but showed little improvement on his form for Kent – 289 runs (avge. 8.02) with a top score of 54, including three pairs, his last on his final appearance for the county. His last first-class match was South v North at Hull in 1877.

In the 1871 Census he is working as a bricklayer's labourer and living in Thornton Heath with his Canterbury-born wife Elizabeth and two daughters. Although he seems to disappear from the Census returns, in 1880 he reputedly had an ironmonger's shop in Peckham, in 1888 ran a shop in Penge and from 1894 to 1900 was a grocer back in Thornton Heath. He appears to have married twice as, when he died his effects were valued at £421 10s 6d, probate to his wife Isabella.

Elliot Anderson Parke (No. 306).

Born: 19.7.1850, Belgravia, London. *Died:* 22.6.1923, South Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1874.

Educated: Harrow School & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: William Parke & Emma Parke (*née* Grasett).

Despite scoring nine and 47 (joint top scorer) on his debut against Derbyshire at Tunbridge Wells, Elliot Parke was another, what would later be termed, 'one match wonder'. He failed to achieve the

Eleven at his school, college or university – he does not seem to have graduated - but, free of the need to earn a living thanks to ‘independent means’, he was able to indulge in a great deal of club cricket, mainly for MCC and Incogniti, but for numerous other clubs including Bluemantles, Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, Gentlemen of Kent, Hastings, Mote Park, Oxford University Authentics, Princes, Richmond, Tunbridge Wells and Will O’ the Wisps.

Parke did little in a handful of first-class appearances for MCC and registered a pair in his only ‘representative’ match, South v North at Lord’s in 1884 but he hit two centuries for Tunbridge Wells in 1879 and two for Incogniti in 1891 as well as occasionally bowling with success.

The son of a Jamaica-born solicitor who died *circa* 1855, Parke lived for much of his life with his mother likewise of ‘independent means’, in Cromwell Place, Kensington. In 1901 they employed a butler, footman, cook and three assorted maids. By 1911, his mother is dead and the household is reduced to a sister, no butler but still the cook and three maids. On his death his effects were valued at £34,555 14s 1d.

Rev Henry Parker (No. 123).

Born: 3.8.1819, Ongar, Essex. *Died:* 20.10.1901, St. Mary-in-the-Marsh.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1841

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School & Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev Henry John Parker & Eliza Parker (*née* Knowles).

Another ‘one match wonder’, Henry Parker played much of his cricket in Kent. He did nothing to distinguish himself on his solitary appearance for the County (0 in his only innings) but he was in the Gentlemen of Kent side against Gentlemen of England in the inaugural Canterbury Cricket Week in 1842 and played in the fixture a further seven times between 1843 and 1854. His top score was only 20 but he occasionally took useful wickets.

In club and village cricket he is known to have played for Brookland, Dymchurch, Old Romney and almost certainly other Marsh village sides, as well as for Tenterden for whom in 1841 he took seven wickets against Penenden Heath. In 1843 he scored five and four for West Kent v East Kent at Canterbury

At Cambridge Henry Parker played eight first-class games for the University between 1839 and 1841 but only once against Oxford, in 1839 when he reached his personal best of 43. He also appeared occasionally for MCC. It has been suggested that he was the ‘H.Parker’ in the 22 of Stowmarket v the United England Eleven in 1853 but this seems unlikely.

From 1842 to 1849 Parker served as curate to his father, rector of High Halden and formerly Gresham Professor of Divinity at Oxford. While at High Halden, Henry Parker junior met his wife Ann Elizabeth Milton. They married in 1849 at St. George’s, Hanover Square. There were eight sons and two daughters. He subsequently went on to curacies at Old Romney (1849-1853) and Whitstable & Seasalter (1853-1857) before becoming in 1857 Rector of St Mary-in-the Marsh where he remained until his death. Although he played at least seven matches at Lord’s, including the University Match, his biography does not appear in *Scores & Biographies*.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George Parr (No. 164).

Born: 22.5.1826, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire. *Died:* 23.6.1891, Radcliffe-on-Trent.

Nottinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, under-arm lob bowler.

Kent 1854-1858.

Parents: Samuel & Mary Parr. (*née* Martin).

Renowned for his leg-hitting and generally considered England's finest batsman in the period between the decline of Fuller Pilch and the advent of WG Grace, George Parr played three games as a 'given man' for Kent, all three against England, one at Lord's, two in Canterbury Week. Altogether, between 1845 and 1862 he made 14 appearances in the Week, 12 for England with a top score of 73 against a combined Kent & Sussex side in 1857. Including six matches for Nottinghamshire, he scored more runs against Kent than against any other county – 853 (avge.18.54) with four half centuries.

Popularly known as the 'Lion of the North, Parr was one of the original members of the All-England Eleven, becoming Secretary, captain and for all practical purposes controller of the team on the death in 1856 of its founder William Clarke. In first-class matches for the AEE he scored 1,416 runs (avge.23.21), the only batsman to exceed 1,000. He played his last match in 1872 and continued as Secretary until 1875

On Clarke's death Parr also assumed the captaincy of Nottinghamshire and led them until his retirement from first-class cricket in 1870. His record as captain, 22 wins in 36 matches, is statistically the most successful in the club's history. Despite being a martyr to seasickness, he led a side to North America in 1859, the first to tour the continent, and in 1863/64 captained a team on an unbeaten tour of Australia & New Zealand. Between 1846 and 1865 he represented the Players against the Gentlemen on 21 occasions.

The son of a tenant farmer, apart from his travels as a cricketer, Parr lived virtually his entire life in Radcliffe-on-Trent. According to the Dictionary of National Biography Parr died unmarried but in fact he married Jane Smalley at Bingham, Nottinghamshire in 1890. She was granted probate, his personal effects valued at £356. She died in December of the same year.

Further reading.

Wynne-Thomas, Peter. *George Parr: his record innings-by-innings. Famous Cricketers Series No. 20.* (The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, 1993).

Rev John Irwin Patterson (No. 368).

Born: 11.3.1860, Sandhurst, Berkshire. *Died:* 22.9.1943, Woking, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1881-1882.

Educated: Chatham House, Ramsgate, Pembroke College, Oxford & Ely Theological College.

Parents: Lt. Col. William Patterson & Cecille Anne Patterson (*née* Nicholason).

The son of an instructor at the RMC Sandhurst, and younger brother of William Henry Patterson (*qv*), John Patterson is unusual in having been awarded a Blue without having previously played for the University. He took part in the Seniors' Trial in 1881 and was in the Next Fifteen in 1882 but only won his place because George Crawford Harrison (Oxford University & Herefordshire) was suddenly taken ill in the middle of the previous game against MCC.

Patterson had played four matches for Kent in 1881, taking one for 22 and three for 46 on his debut against Sussex at Hove and having figures of 12-7-12-5.in the second innings against Derbyshire at

Mote Park. He appeared in two more matches in 1882 without achieving anything of note. In 1880, for St. Lawrence against Dover he took seven wickets in seven balls, three bowled and four caught.

Ordained in 1882, Patterson was curate at St John's Chatham (1883-1887), at Yorktown, Camberley (1887-1888) and St. Peter's, Bournemouth (1889-1922). The remainder of his ministry was at All Saints, Woodham (diocese of Guildford). He officiated at the wedding of his brother William at Halstead.

In 1887 he married Ella Genista Butler in Winchester. There were two daughters. On his death his effects were valued at £16,640 11d.

William Henry Patterson (No. 358).

Born: 11.5.1859, Sandhurst, Berkshire. *Died:* 3.5.1946, Hove, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace/under-arm lob bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1880-1900. County cap 1882.

Joint County Captain 1890-1893.

Educated: Chatham House School, Ramsgate, Harrow School & Pembroke College, Oxford.

Parents: Lt. Col. William Patterson & Cecille Anne Patterson (*née* Nicholson).

Historians of Kent cricket have perhaps never quite done justice to Harry Patterson's contribution to the Club. Patterson, 'Harry Pat' to his intimates, had a lifetime association with Kent and was, for almost two decades, one of the best batsmen in the country when conditions favoured the bowler, five times heading the Kent batting averages.

When Lord Harris went to the War Office as Under-Secretary of State in 1886, Patterson took over as captain semi-officially - as Harris himself put it with a not wholly characteristic tinge of modesty, 'though I was kindly allowed by my successor, WH Patterson, to captain whenever I did play'. He was official joint captain with Frank Marchant 1890-1893.

Off the field, he was President in 1923, Trustee from 1897 and Vice President from 1924, until his death. He served on the committee from 1891 to 1895, as Chairman from the death of Lord Harris in 1932 to his own death in 1946.

Equipped with a large share of common sense, for years he acted as Lord Harris's right-hand man, general 'fixer upper' and 'smoother over'. Admitted as a solicitor in 1886, his firm, Nicholson & Patterson, acted as Honorary Solicitors in the purchase of the St. Lawrence ground in 1896. Lord Harris thought 'his judgement in committee equal to his judgement as a batsman'. He served on the MCC committee from 1893 to 1913 and as auditor from 1926 to 1937. To the cricketer/ journalist Teddy Sewell he was 'one of the great counsellors of cricket'.

Elder brother of Rev John Irwin Patterson (*qv*). although Harry Patterson followed the conventional route into county cricket for an amateur of his time - public school and Oxbridge - his method as a batsman was very much his own. With both hands high on the bat handle, he played the ball late, many of his runs coming from pushes and deflections to the thinly-populated leg-side at a time when most bowlers (and batsman) concentrated on the off.

Blessed with the gift, priceless for an amateur lacking the advantage of long school holidays, of being able to bat against first-class bowling with minimal practice, which in his case usually amounted to no more than a perfunctory net. Lord Harris, Charles Fry, Charles Alcock and others are on record as considering only Arthur Shrewsbury as his rival on wet pitches. In his *Book of Cricket* (*George Newnes, 1901*) Fry refers to his strong back play 'he makes many runs by stepping back, so as to turn a good length ball into a short one, and then flicking it away to the on. On fast wickets he sends the

ball past extra-cover with a heavy pushing forward shot. He also cuts safely, placing the ball with judgment'. 'He is certainly, in comparison with other men, a better bat on soft wickets than on hard'.

A keen acquirer of short singles, when he scored the first of his two hundreds against Nottinghamshire, his 124 in 355 minutes at Trent Bridge in 1886 contained only two boundaries. He put on 85 for the first-wicket with Lord Harris (55), nobody else scoring more than 11. He was his team's top scorer in 54 (17%) of his innings. Of these, four were scored when the team total was below 100 and nine when the total fell below 150.

Although his appearances were normally confined to the Whitsun and August holiday periods, unlike many of the amateurs of the period, he was prepared to travel to the northern grounds – ten visits to Old Trafford, six to Trent Bridge, five to Bramall Lane, two to Derby, one each to Leeds and Scarborough.

Patterson was in the Eleven at Chatham House but, although he played one match for Harrow in 1876 he did not get into the side as a regular until the following year, his last. On going up to Oxford in 1878, he did little in the Trials but made his first-class debut, against the Gentlemen of England on the Christ Church ground. Although he had batted up the order in the Trials, he was treated as a bowler and batted NO. 11. He took four for 49, with Isaac Walker his first victim, but when he eventually got to the wicket he was left high and dry without getting off the mark.

He failed again in the Trials in 1879 but in 1880 he gained his Blue and missed only one first team game. He failed (0 & two) against Cambridge but in earlier matches he twice got into the 30s with a top score of 33 v Middlesex at Lord's.

When he was two matches into his 1880 University season, Patterson made his debut for Kent, against Lancashire at Old Trafford. Opening the batting in a low scoring game, he scored 31 (top score) as Kent were dismissed for 112, the last nine wickets falling for 34 runs. An encouraging 'Well played my boy' from his formidable captain Lord Harris was somewhat devalued on the following morning by the discovery that his innings had been credited in the press to Walter Badeley Pattison (*qv*) who was not even playing.

This was the first of ten appearances for Kent that year in which his best performance was against Yorkshire at Mote Park where he scored 34 and 37 and shared opening partnerships of 50 and 47 with Richard Jones (23 & 23). He also kept wicket, catching Irwin Grimshaw and Tom Emmett and allowing seven byes.

In 1881 Patterson for the first time exceeded 500 runs, 705 (avge. 28.20), scored in 15 matches. This would remain his highest aggregate and never again would he play so much first-class cricket in a season. He scored a memorable maiden century, 107* for Oxford against Cambridge at Lord's, the first batsman to carry his bat in the University match. He was handicapped by being hit on the hand when nearing his 50 and later hit again on the same spot. Four times he was obliged to return to the pavilion for treatment and, according to his long term friend Home Gordon, 'there were spots of blood on the turf'.

The runs were scored out of a total of 306 with one five (four overthrows) and 4 fours. He added 68 for the first wicket with Arthur Trevor (40) and 113 for the second with Charles Leslie (70). As to the length of his innings, the main sources vary – *Wisden* and the Kent CCC History 'five and a quarter hours', *Scores & Biographies* 'just five hours (or five and a quarter)', *ACS First-class Matches 1881* 'about 4½ hours'. During his stand with Leslie he caused some controversy when, with his partner given out caught and bowled and well on his way back to the pavilion, he persuaded the umpires (Frank Farrands & Walter Price) to consult and reverse the decision.

In the match immediately following his century at Lord's he scored his first half-century for the County, 78 against Sussex at Hove where he shared a 143-run opening partnership with Ivo Bligh (78). When Kent were dismissed for 74 by Yorkshire at Mote Park, Patterson was top scorer for 30 (run out), one of seven occasions that season on which he top scored. As an occasional change bowler he also picked up nine wickets including some distinguished victims, Ephraim Lockwood, Isaac Walker, Dick Barlow and Vernon Royle.

On graduating from Oxford in 1881, Patterson commenced his Law studies. As a result, for the remainder of his cricket career the Law would have priority and in only five subsequent seasons, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1891 and 1898 would his number of appearances reach double figures. Among his best seasons was 1885, when for the first time he headed the Kent averages with 539 runs (avge, 49.00) including his maiden century for Kent, 143 v Sussex at Hove after being missed first ball, and three half-centuries. He again exceeded 500 runs in the following season and headed the Kent averages in 1887, 1888 and 1890. Against Middlesex in Canterbury Week in 1887 he became the first Kent batsman to be dismissed for 99.

In a low-scoring game against Yorkshire at Maidstone in 1888, Patterson had a rare allround success, albeit in a losing cause. In addition to top scoring in both innings with 58 (out of 113) and 32 (out of 88) he took four for 13 with lobs in the visitors' first innings, two stumped, one caught at the wicket and one at point.

With the departure of Lord Harris for India in 1890, for three years the captaincy was shared between Patterson and Frank Marchant under an arrangement whereby Marchant officiated in the early part of the season with Patterson taking over in August and sometimes at Whitsun. In practice this meant that, before the advent of a manager, Marchant was burdened with off-field responsibilities – raising a team, hotel and travelling arrangement, paying bills etc. - as is made clear in the sections both captains contributed to the Kent 1907 History. Patterson's overall record as captain, won 12, lost six, drawn nine – 44.44% - places him in Kent's top ten in terms of results.

Patterson headed the Kent averages for the final time in 1892 with 511 runs (avge.39.30). Against Lancashire at Old Trafford he played one of his best innings, 114 in three hours against Briggs, Watson, Mold etc. on a bowler-friendly pitch, scored out of 199 with nine fours. He played relatively little cricket in 1893, 1894 and 1895 but found time for eight matches in 1896, averaging over 40 and missing 500 runs by only seven. Against Somerset at Taunton he hit 181, sharing partnerships of 220 for the fourth wicket with Lord Harris (119) and 124 for the sixth wicket with Haldane Stewart (83).

In 1897 Patterson confined himself to club cricket but in 1898 he played in 14 matches (13 for Kent) and finished the season with 687 runs (avge. 34.35), his best return since 1881. In Tonbridge Week he hit centuries against Warwickshire and Somerset and took part in two further double-century partnerships - 213 for the second-wicket against Gloucestershire at Gravesend (Patterson 91, JR Mason 152) and 220 for the second-wicket against Somerset at Tonbridge (Patterson 111, A Hearne 112).

Finding time for nine matches in 1899, Patterson had a moderately successful season, 364 runs (avge.22.75) Against Essex at Gravesend he was top scorer with 44 (run out) when Kent were bowled out in their second innings for 158. At Tonbridge v Sussex he scored 67 and shared a 147 run third-wicker partnership with 'Pinky' Burnup (80) and against Lancashire in Canterbury Week he hit 42 & 53*, the former in a stand of 118 for the fourth wicket with Jack Mason (90). In his final game of the year he shared one last three-figure partnership, 114 for the third wicket against Warwickshire (Patterson 47, SH Day 68).

Altogether Patterson participated in 22 century partnerships, six for the second wicket, five for the third, four for the fourth, three for the first, and two each for the fifth and sixth. He played his last

three county matches in 1900 and played one final first-class match in 1904, for GJV Weigall's Eleven in 1904.

Sir Home Gordon thought Patterson second only to Percy Perrin as the best batsman never to play for England and claims, furthermore, to have been present when he (Patterson) received and declined Lord Hawke's invitation to do so. Although never picked for England, he appeared three times for Gentlemen v Players, at The Oval in 1882, at Lord's in 1885 and 1886 when he reached his top score of 33.

He enjoyed rather more success for Gentlemen of England v Australians, playing in three games, at The Oval in 1882 and 1886, when he scored 44 in an opening partnership of 104 with WG Grace (148), and at Lord's in 1888 when he put on 105 with Grace for the second wicket (Grace 165, Paterson 45). In all, in his 16 matches against the Australians, he scored 679 runs (avge.23.41) with three half-centuries, the highest 84 for Oxford & Cambridge Universities Past & Present at Portsmouth in 1888.

In county cricket Patterson exceeded 500 runs against Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire, the highest Lancashire, 921 (avge 24.89). He averaged 52.60 against Somerset and 40.71 against Gloucestershire. His nine Championship centuries were divided, two each against Nottinghamshire, Somerset and Sussex, one each against Gloucestershire, Lancashire and Warwickshire.

An enthusiastic week-end cricketer, he hit five centuries for Band of Brothers and for many years captained the Butterflies. His other clubs included Ash, Bexley Wanderers, Bickley Park, for whom he also hit at least five centuries, Farningham, Faversham, Hildenborough, Incogniti, Linton Park, Oxford Harlequins and West Kent.

Despite a long term leg injury originating in a blow on the knee from Albert Trott, he continued playing into middle age. In 1921, for Ash against the Sergeants from the Royal Marine Depot, Deal his bowling figures were 3-1-2-4. Unfortunately, records do not show whether he was bowling medium-pace or lobs, almost certainly the latter. His other sport was golf, notably at Rye.

In 1893 Harry Patterson married Kate Thornton (1866-1933). There were three daughters (including twins) and two sons. In old age he suffered severely from his leg injury and from deafness. On his death his estate was valued at £63,837 14s 5d.

Following his friend's death, Sir Home Gordon wrote in *The Cricketer* of Patterson's 'enormous charm' and 'highly individualistic gentleness' 'I never knew a better man or one who carried his religion so unobtrusively yet effectively into the details of his daily life'. In *Cricket 1894 page 452* 'Pavilion Gossip' says that it is 'informed on good authority' that Patterson is 'preparing his recollections of the game and its chief exponents with a view to their production in book form'. It was never published but possibly the manuscript still exists.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a new gallery of famous players*. George Newnes, 1899.

Walter Baddeley Pattison (No. 329).

Born: 27.8.1854, Witham, Essex. *Died:* 6.11.1913, Beckenham.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1876-1887.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Jacob Howell Pattison, & Charlotte Garnham Luard.

Walter Patisson was a prolific scorer in club cricket but never produced anything comparable on his occasional appearances for Kent, only twice exceeding 30. Entering Tonbridge School aged nine, he was in the Eleven from 1869 to 1871, captaining in his final year. He left before his 17th birthday and followed his father into the Law. His career no doubt imposed restrictions – he occasionally played under the name ‘W Batt’ – but he nevertheless managed to find a lot of time for cricket.

For Kent, he began v Sussex at Hove in 1876 with a duck but scored 36 when asked to open in the second innings. He was also in the Kent team in Canterbury Week that year when WG scored 344 for Gentlemen of MCC. Patisson scored 20 and was the only Kent player who did not bowl. He almost certainly took over behind the stumps when Edward Henty went on to bowl at 419 for four and probably stayed there until the innings closed at 557 for nine. After his first bowling spell, there is reference to Henty narrowly missing a catch at mid on and Patisson’s catch to dismiss second highest scorer Percy Crutchley (84) was almost certainly taken behind the stumps. Although he kept at school and for Bickley Park, this seems to be the only occasion on which Patisson kept wicket for Kent.

In his obituary *Wisden* refers to Patisson ‘sometimes captaining the team.’ This seems unlikely. Lord Harris was in the side in nine of his 13 games and in the remaining four there were at least three amateurs with far better credentials. He served on the Kent committee from 1887 until the year before his death.

Beginning with 106* for Tonbridge v Southborough in 1873, Patisson scored at least 30 centuries in club cricket, 15 of them for Bickley Park. In addition to clubs already mentioned, he played for Band of Brothers, Gentlemen of Kent, Hadlow, MCC, Sevenoaks Vine, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Westerham and West Kent He was Honorary Secretary of the Tonbridge Club from 1872 to 1880 and of Bickley Park from 1884 to 1886.

Patisson was also a noted Rugby footballer. In the Tonbridge Thirteen in 1870, he played in several International Trials and was on the committee of the RFU from 1878 to 1880.

Patisson’s father, listed in the 1871 Census as ‘Master of Law, Cantab & Attorney’, practised in Tonbridge until his death in 1874. Admitted as a solicitor in 1877, his son practised in the town while living with his widowed mother but on his marriage moved to Beckenham and became a partner in Hones, Patisson & Bathurst, solicitors of Lincoln’s Inn Fields.

In Bromley in 1881 he married Mary Eva Hoare (1857-1938). There were five daughters and three sons. At the time of the 1911 Census the family was living in Beckenham with three servants. On death Walter Patisson’s estate was valued at £13,101.

Tom Edward Pawley (No. 357).

Born: 21.1.1859, Farningham. *Died:* 3.8.1923, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1880-1887.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Thomas John & Caroline Pawley (*née* Cutbush).

Tom Pawley’s record as a cricketer for Kent is undistinguished but as Manager from 1897 until his death he did much to secure the club’s place among the leading counties. Essentially the brainchild of Lord Harris, the idea of a manager was innovative at the time. Persuaded of the need for someone capable of adopting a modern, business orientated, approach to the minutiae of running an expanding cricket club and of relieving the rapidly-growing burden on the (part time) Secretary, Harris had

clearly already picked his man. The post was not advertised and the job specification seems to have been virtually written around Pawley.

On a starting salary of £200 per annum plus 10% commission on new subscriptions in the first year, not the least of Pawley's contributions was his close working relationship with William McCanlis in the running of the Nursery. The partnership was destined to bring out arguably the finest crop of home-grown talent ever produced by a county outside Yorkshire. He was the moving force behind Tonbridge Cricket Week which would become, under his guidance, second only in importance to Canterbury in the pre-1939 Kentish season.

Born at *The Lion Hotel*, Farningham, where his father was landlord, Pawley's family had cricketing traditions. His great-uncle William, landlord of *The White Hart*, Bromley, was a noted cricket lover and sports promoter. As well as establishing Bromley Races and Steeple Chases he had been largely instrumental in attracting high quality cricket to the adjacent White Hart Field, including Kent v England matches in 1841 and 1842.

On the family moving to Tonbridge when Tom senior took over *The Rose & Crown* in the High Street, Tom junior entered Tonbridge School as a day-boy but left aged 14. This was probably due to the need to help his mother in the running of *The Rose & Crown* following the death of his father in 1870. At any event, it was here that he gained his grounding in business. By the 1881 Census he was managing the hotel on his mother's behalf and the business was prospering, employing an assistant manager and five other live-in staff. So successful was he in this and other enterprises that, in time, he was able to devote all or most of his working day to the cause of Kent cricket.

Although suffering badly from seasickness, Pawley won high praise for his handling of affairs on Kent's tour of the USA in 1903 and on MCC's tour of Australia in 1911/12. Pelham Warner wrote of him 'a man of boundless energy – a born organiser and straight as a die'. He was invited to manage the 1920/21 tour but declined on health grounds.

Too young for the Eleven at Tonbridge School, he enjoyed considerable allround success for the Tonbridge club, scoring at least nine centuries between 1882 and 1893 including one against Kent Second Eleven. He was captain for 'many years' and served as Honorary Secretary from 1881 until his death.

Pawley top scored with 28 for Kent Colts against Kent at Mote Park in 1880 and shortly afterwards made the first of his four first team appearances. Although failing with the bat (top score 10), in the second innings of his last match in 1887, he finished off Sussex with three for 11. He appeared frequently in Second Eleven and Club & Ground matches, often as captain. He also played occasionally for Band of Brothers, Mote Park, Penshurst, Sevenoaks Vine and Southborough.

His other sports included bowls, he was founder of Tonbridge Bowls Club, golf and swimming. During one of the then frequent floods, he reputedly swam down Tonbridge High Street. He was also an enthusiastic follower of hounds.

During the 1914-1918 War, he was highly commended for his work looking after the finances of the Kent County Hospitals and Nursing Association. *Circa* 1900, Pawley moved to Bromley and, despite heart problems, continued to commute to Canterbury. On the day before the start of the 1923 Canterbury Week, he was on his way to ensure all was ready when he collapsed at Canterbury West Station and died before he reached hospital. He left £7,370.

At Hastings in 1886 he married Alice Margaret Harris. There were two daughters and one son.

Charles Payne (No. 224).

Born: 12.5.1832, East Grinstead, Sussex. *Died:* 18.2.1909, Tonbridge.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm, medium-pace bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1863-1870.

Parents: Henry Payne & Dinah Payne (*née* Spencer).

For a few years one of the leading professional batsmen in the South of England and considered one of the best short legs of the day, Charles Payne, like his father and most of the male members of the family, learned his trade as a shoe maker in East Grinstead and it was with the East Grinstead club that he also learned his cricket. He already had several hundreds to his credit when, in 1857, he hit 55 for Sussex Colts against Gentlemen of Sussex. The outcome was an invitation to play for Sussex against MCC at Lord's.

In an interview with *The Cricket Field* in 1895 Payne asserts that because he was 'young and independent, for I had my trade at my fingers' ends,' he asked 'what about the rest of the matches?' and says he was engaged for the rest of the season. This may not be entirely true. He played only one more game that year (in which he kept wicket) and made a mere three more appearances over the next five seasons. Not until 1864 did he become a regular in the Sussex side, by which time he had also appeared for Kent.

In or around 1861, Charles Payne had set himself up in business in Tonbridge High Street and qualified for Kent by residence. Together with his elder brother Joseph (*qv*), he had also become a regular member of the Tunbridge Wells team and hit the first recorded century for the club, 105* v Hastings in 1863. He had played his first game for Tunbridge Wells as long ago as 1858 when he appeared for 22 of Tunbridge Wells in the first match staged by the short-lived New All-England Eleven.

For the next half-dozen years, while continuing at his trade, Payne divided his county cricket between Sussex and Kent, although in the previously quoted interview he makes it clear that he only gave his services to Kent when Sussex had no fixture. When the two clubs met, he invariably played for the county of his birth. In 1865 he scored 139 for Sussex v Colts & Veterans of Sussex at Hove, a match staged to raise funds for the county and showed his loyalty by playing without payment.

On 12th July 1866 he hit his highest for Kent, 135* v Surrey at Gravesend, carrying his bat in a total of 367 and adding 107 for the second wicket with William South Norton (59). On 16 July he hit 95 for Sussex against the same opponents at Hove and, on 30 July, 86 for England against Surrey at The Oval. Possibly his best effort for Kent was against Cambridgeshire at Fenner's in 1868. Suffering train delays while travelling with Willsher from a USEE match at Heckmondwike, they arrived during lunch with the score around 40 for eight. Coming in No. 10, Payne hit 32* and saw the score raised to 101. Batting up the order in the second innings, he scored 90, Kent totalled 300 and won by 83 runs.

Payne played twice for England and was picked twice for Players of the South against Gentlemen of the South. Rarely short of profitable employment, between 1866 and 1871 he appeared in at least 47 matches for the itinerant United South of England Eleven, scoring almost 900 runs in odds matches including 122 against 22 of Richmond in 1867 of which his first 26 runs were singles.

Always an enthusiastic runner between wickets, in a match for Tunbridge Wells against Hastings in 1868, played on the Higher Common ground, he hit a ball down the slope towards the town centre and, with brother Joseph, ran 13, 12 for the stroke and one for an overthrow. He umpired in 97 first-class matches and was still umpiring in minor matches at the turn of the century.

In his younger days, Payne won cups as a sprinter and was timed at four minutes 45 seconds for the mile and one minute 58 seconds for the half mile. In later life he acted as a judge for the Invicta Harriers, served on the Tonbridge Cricket Week committee and on the committee of Tonbridge FC.

Payne continued in his trade almost until the end of his life but in the early 1890s he was proprietor of *The Castle Hotel* at 69 Tonbridge High Street. This was shortly after he married Mary Ann Bonny, 30 years his junior. By the time of the 1901 Census, he was back as a shoemaker, still in the High Street but at number 141. In fact, despite his standing as a cricketer, in every census return from 1851 he appears as a shoemaker. Following his death, his effects were valued at £832 8d.

In addition to Joseph, another brother, Richard, and nephews Alfred and William, all played first-class cricket for Sussex.

Joseph Spencer Payne (No. 232).

Born: 29.4.1829, East Grinstead, Sussex. *Died:* 12.4.1880, Greenwich.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm bowler.

Kent 1864.

Parents: Henry Payne & Dinah Payne (*née* Spencer).

Although as a first-class cricketer never matching his younger brother Charles (*qv*), his career was in many respects very similar. Both learned the shoemaker's trade in East Grinstead, both set up in business in Kent – Joseph in Tunbridge Wells – both were stalwarts of the Tunbridge Wells cricket club and played against the New All-England Eleven in 1858. And both played for the county of their birth and of their residence.

In his few excursions into the first-class game Joseph Payne did enough to suggest he might have achieved more. For Sussex against MCC at Lord's in 1861 he took four for 29 and at Hove in the same year eight for 73 in Kent's first innings, including the first seven in the batting order. In his only game for Kent he scored 32 in a 66 run tenth-wicket partnership with George Dickins (34*). In 1862 Joseph and brothers Charles and Richard were in a team of Eleven Paynes, all sons of two brothers, who beat an Eleven of East Grinstead.

In 1865 Joseph Payne married Eliza Harris (1840-1924) There were four daughters and two sons. In around 1876 he became landlord of *The Bull Inn*, Tonbridge, a pub much frequented by Kent cricketers, and was still apparently a licensee when he died in Greenwich. In his will he left 'under £100'.

Sir William Pearce (No. 345).

Born: 18.3.1853, Poplar, London. *Died:* 24.8.1932, Walmer.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1878.

Educated: Royal College of Chemistry, School of Mines, Camborne and Royal College of Science, South Kensington.

Parents: William Pearce & Maria Jane Pearce (*née* Fulmer).

As a cricketer, William Pearce is best remembered – in so far as he is remembered at all – for his hat-trick against Derbyshire at Derby in 1878, his third and last game for Kent. His victims were Dr William Curgenvin (c & b), Alfort Smith and William Mycroft (both bowled), his final analysis 6-1-16-3. The feat is not mentioned in the account of the match in *Wisden* and *Scores & Biographies* refers merely to 'three wickets in his first over'; the 1907 Kent History credits him only with three in

four balls. The obituary in the 1933 *Wisden* does not even mention that he bowled and it is only thanks to research by the ACS in 1981 that his hat-trick has been rescued from obscurity.

Pearce's first county cricket was for Essex for whom he played ten games between 1877 and 1881, before they were a first-class county. There is no record of his ever taking more than two wickets in an innings for Essex but in 1881 he hit his top score, 71* against MCC at Brentwood. He also appeared for Gentlemen of Essex, Brentwood and possibly New Cross Albion; He may be the 'W Pearce' who in 1879 opened the batting for Surrey Colts v Middlesex Colts at The Oval but it seems unlikely. Despite, according to the Kent History ending his career in 1881 due to broken knee-cap, he played for Brentwood against Kensington Park as late as 1892.

William Pearce followed his father (also William) into the chemical industry and became a director of Spencer, Chapman & Messel in Silvertown. He was a Fellow of the Chemical Society and during the 1914-1918 War was first Treasurer of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, a body set up to co-ordinate chemical production in an attempt to negate Germany's lead in the field. He was a Vice-President of the Federation of British Industries.

From 1892 to 1901 he represented Limehouse on the LCC on behalf of the Progressive Party and first stood for Parliament in 1900 as a Liberal Party Candidate. Elected for Limehouse in 1906, he held the seat until 1922 when he lost to the future Prime Minister Clement Attlee. Knighted in 1915, Pearce sat on the Committee for After War Trade and in 1919 chaired a House of Commons Committee on War Profits. He was knighted in the King's Birthday Honours, 1915.

In Faversham in 1885 he married Ethel Neame (1863-1950), one of the Faversham brewing family. There were four daughters and one son who was killed in France in December 1914 while serving as a Second Lieutenant with the Artists' Rifles, attached to the 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

On his death Sir William Pearce's estate was valued for probate at £74,148 1s 8d.

Rev Herbert Richard Peel (No. 150).

Born: 8.2.1831, Canterbury. *Died:* 2.6.1885, Thornton Hall, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1851-1852.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev John Peel & Augusta Peel (*née* Swinfen).

Herbert Peel failed to win a place in the Eleven at Eton but, before going up to Oxford in 1850, he had played against quality opposition for Gentlemen of Worcestershire and in odds matches against the All-England Eleven for Worcestershire and for Leamington. At Oxford he was in the team against Cambridge at Lord's in 1850 and 1851, scoring 15 runs in his three innings. His highest recorded score for the University was 21 against MCC at Lord's in 1852; while at Oxford, he also played for Bullingdon and in odds matches for Oxfordshire.

Qualified by birth, Peel failed in his two matches for Kent, against Sussex at Hove and England at Lord's (highest score five), but opening the batting for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in the 1851 Canterbury Week, he scored 43 and 82. In the next match of the Week he hit 44 against I Zingari (not first-class).

Ordained in 1858, Peel was Rector of Handsworth, Staffordshire from 1860-1873 and Rector of Thornton Hall, Stony Stratford from 1874 to 1880. In 1853 he married Georgiana Maria Baker in the

Parish Church at Hartlebury, Worcestershire. There were three daughters and one son. On his death his estate was valued at £97,235.

Alfred Penn (No. 319).

Born: 6. 1.1855, Lewisham. *Died:* 18.10.1889. Lee.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1875-1884.

Parents: John Penn & Ellen Penn (*née* English).

The youngest of four brothers, all of whom played cricket, three of them for Kent, Alfred Penn (known as 'Dick') bowled conventional left-arm spin but could also swing the new ball at a time when the skill was little practised and still less understood. The brothers' father, John Penn senior, President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers 1858-1859 and 1867-1868, was a man of considerable wealth. His company, John Penn & Sons, marine engine manufacturers, were for many years world leaders in their field, building engines at Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, marine boilers in Deptford and employing at their peak over two thousand men.

'Dick' Penn scored 131 for Blackheath Paragon against Farningham in 1873 and in the following year had what seems to have been his first major success with the ball in senior cricket when he took seven wickets for Gentlemen of West Kent v I Zingari. On his first-class debut at Hove, Penn emerged with far the best figures in a sorely tried Kent attack – four for 74 from 176 balls as Sussex totalled 414 (JM Cotterill 191). On his only other first-class appearance that year, in a 12-a-side match with Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week, he helped Kent to victory with a second innings seven for 95 including WG Grace (caught & bowled), the first of five occasions on which he claimed the most prized of all wickets.

In his only appearance for Kent in 1876, v Hampshire at Southampton, Penn produced even better figures – eight for 82 & six for 91 from 553 balls and for the next eight seasons, although handicapped by illness, he was an important addition to the attack whenever he was available. His best season was 1878, 68 wickets at 13.76 including six for 3 from 55 balls v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, five for 43 & five for 48 v MCC in Canterbury Week and five for 46 at Maidstone, bowling unchanged through the innings with George Hearne (five for 25) to dismiss Derbyshire for 79.

This was the only season in which the number of his appearances for Kent reached double figures (12) but he claimed 24 wickets in nine games in 1879 and in 1881 led the Kent bowling averages with 24 wickets at 12.13 despite bowling in only four matches. Against Surrey at The Oval he produced his statistically best, eight for 34 from 127 balls and at Maidstone bowled unchanged throughout the match with Jim Wootton to bowl out Sussex for 56 (Penn seven for 23, Wootton three for 24) and 72 (Penn six for 45. Wootton four for 18).

He bowled unchanged through an innings for a fourth time in 1883 when MCC collapsed at Lord's for 50 (Penn six for 22, George Hearne four for 22). It was in this season that he scored his only first-class half-century, 66 v Surrey at Maidstone, helping to save the follow-on and ultimately the match by adding 87 for the ninth wicket with Manley Kemp (45) and 40 for the tenth with Frank Lipscomb (19*).

Although never chosen for Gentlemen v Players, he played three times for Gentlemen of England against the universities and once for South v North at Lord's. In club cricket he played for Band of Brothers, MCC, Sevenoaks Vine and West Kent as well as for as Gentlemen of West Kent for whom he three times took eight wickets in an innings.

Census records give no indication of Dick Penn's having ever had a profession or occupation although he may of course have worked in some capacity for the family firm. At least up to 1881 he lived in the family home, the Cedars, Lee, a large mansion and estate, extended and lavishly refurbished by his father. The house is now converted into flats and most of the grounds built on. At the time of his final illness Dick Penn was living at Parkside, Albert Gate, overlooking Hyde Park but he died, of tuberculosis, at the Cedars. His estate was valued at £155,217.

Frank Penn (No. 313).

Born: 7.3.1851, Lewisham. *Died:* 26.12.1916, Bifrons, Patricbourne.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1875-1881.

Tests: One for England

Parents: John Penn & Ellen Penn (*née* English).

Until ill-health brought his brief career to an end, Frank Penn rivalled Lord Harris as the best batsman in Kent. Coming into the game straight from club cricket, he proved himself a batsman of the highest class, scoring runs against top quality bowling, heading the Kent averages in 1877, 1878 and 1879, touring Australia in 1878/79. and appearing in the first Test match played in England.

Equally significant at the time - or perhaps more so - between 1876 and 1881 he was picked eight times for Gentlemen v Players. Pretty much forgotten today, in his obituary *Wisden* described him as 'the most famous Kent batsman of a generation back'.

Strong in defence, the 1888 *Badminton Library. Cricket* considered him a 'tremendous off-hitter' while *Wisden* judged 'he could hit as hard to square leg as William Oscroft'. A useful change bowler, he was also among the leading fielders of his day at mid off or in the covers. He adopted a slightly unusual grip with the top of the knuckle of his right hand almost touching the top of the blade.

It is not clear where Frank learned his cricket. He did not follow his elder brothers John and William (*qv*) to public school and was presumably educated privately but he was fortunate in one respect. Unlike his elder brothers who worked in the family business and took over on their father's retirement in 1875, Frank, like his younger brother Alfred (*qv*), was not obliged to work - or if either or both ever did work for a living they did so only briefly. In Census returns both invariably appear as a 'gentleman' or 'living on own means'.

Frank Penn's first match of importance seems to have been in 1868 when, at the age of 15 he scored 19 (top score) and seven, batting No. 5 for the Gentlemen of Lewisham against the touring Australian Aboriginals at Ladywell, dismissed both times by the captain Charles Lawrence. Brother William was also in the team, bating No. 4. In the following year, without doing anything remarkable, he played for Gentlemen of Kent, v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove and Gentlemen of Buckinghamshire at Gravesend where he was No. 11. In 1870 he was in the Twenty-Two of Folkestone team which faced the United South of England including WG Grace, GF Grace and Ned Willsher. His first recorded innings of substance was 54* for Gentlemen of West Kent v I Zingari at Chislehurst in 1874. The next highest score was 14.

On his first-class debut, for Kent v Sussex at Catford on 31 May 1875. Penn scored 20 (run out) in his first innings followed by 39 against Hampshire in his second match on the same ground. On his third appearance he hit 79* against Derbyshire at Derby, including three sixes out of the ground; the next highest score was 13. In his first Canterbury Week he scored 48 for Kent & Gloucestershire v England and his maiden century, 101 (with 18 fours) for Kent v Gentlemen of MCC. Unlike many amateurs of the period, he made himself available for most of the season and there were two other scores over 40.

By the end of the season his 477 runs (avge.34.07) placed him second to Lord Harris in the Kent averages, fifth in the national list.

1876 was a wet season and, although he played in 21 matches and scored over 700 runs, his average dropped to 21.82 with only two half-centuries, the highest 61. The season was not however without its bright spots. He was selected for Gentlemen v Players at The Oval, Lord's and Prince's and in the first of the three, batting No. 9, scored 52, top score in the innings. This remained his highest in the fixture. Eight times in that season he was his teams' top scorer, notably for MCC v Nottinghamshire where he hit 20 in a total of 64 and 36 in a total of 90.

With 930 runs (avge.31.00), 857 (avge.40.80) of them for Kent, 1877 saw Frank Penn firmly established as one of England's leading batsman. There were two centuries. Against England in Canterbury Week he hit 135 with 18 fours from an attack consisting of, Bill Mycroft, Ephraim Lockwood, Tom Emmett, George Ulyett and Alec Watson. At The Oval v Surrey he came in at 25 for one and was there for the remainder of the innings with 148* (four fives, 11 fours), scored in four hours ten minutes. He shared a third-wicket partnership of 121 with Lord Harris (64). *Wisden* enthused 'too much praise cannot be bestowed on his really grand display of batting'. 'By far the best he has ever played in a good match'. Against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells Common with its short boundaries he hit 83 with one six and 15 threes. Unexpectedly asked to open the bowling at Trent Bridge, he dismissed Richard Daft, William Oscroft and Wilfred Flowers in 24 overs for 36 runs.

Over the next two seasons Frank Penn's career followed a similar pattern, exceeding 500 in each. Against Surrey at Mote Park in 1878 he hit 160 (24 fours), the highest score of the season, and 67 at The Oval, an innings that included one six, (a drive into the top floor of the pavilion), one five and six fours. Against Derbyshire, also at Maidstone, Kent were in trouble with Bill Mycroft (eight for 66). Coming in at 0 for two, Penn scored 59 out of 107 with 11 fours.

In 1879, for MCC v Cambridge University at Lord's, he played what some considered his finest innings, a chanceless 134 in two hours 50 minutes. Opening, he was seventh out, scored his runs out of 190 and hit 'a magnificent on drive for five off Mr Morton' (*Wisden*) and 9 fours. To quote *Wisden* again 'most men might live a lifetime on cricket grounds without witnessing an innings equal in hitting excellence than this.'

In August 1878 Penn was bowled by Fred Spofforth for 0 and six when, together with Lord Harris, Charles Absolom, Ivo Bligh and Charles Cunliffe, he played for Eighteen of Hastings against the Australian tourists. He met the Australians again when he was a late addition to Lord Harris's touring party for Australia. He arrived on 3 January 1879, after the match against 'Gregory's Australian Eleven' later elevated to Test Match status, but despite minimal time for acclimatisation he hit two half centuries including 56 in the first of the two fixtures with New South Wales. He played in the return, the occasion of the infamous riot. As a result of a knee injured while fielding in a minor match he missed the final four games in Australia but recovered sufficiently to score 51 in 71 minutes against the USA at Hoboken.

Without reaching three figures, Penn scored over 600 runs in 1880. His four half-centuries included 88 for the Gentlemen of England v Cambridge University at Fenner's, where he shared a 120 run third-wicket partnership with Alfred Lyttelton (67), and two in Canterbury Week, 56 (top score) v England and 74 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England.

In September in 1880, when 'Monkey' Hornby, still smarting after the Sydney riot, declined an invitation to play in the first Test match on English soil, Penn was picked in his place. Batting No. 6 in the first innings, No. 4 in the second, he scored 23 and 27*, enough to give him a Test average of 50. He was at the wicket when WG Grace made the winning hit. In Australia's second innings when Billy Murdoch scored his epic 153*, Penn came on as fifth change for figures of 3-1-2-0.

In 1881 Frank Penn began what proved to be his final season with 25, top score in an all out total of 84, and 40 for MCC v Lancashire at Lord's. Still at Lord's, for Kent v MCC, he struck his final century, 102, 40 of them in boundaries. He was unable to bat in the second innings due, according to *Wisden*, to sunstroke.

This turned out to be a heart condition and he was advised by his doctors to 'avoid running'. This terminated his Kent career but he nevertheless played three more first-class matches, Gentlemen v Players at The Oval and Lord's, in which his top score was 28, and South v North at The Oval, a benefit for Harry Jupp. Batting No. 9 in the first innings, he finished, top scorer again, 68* with one six over the pavilion off the metronomically accurate Alfred Shaw and eight fours. With Joe Potter (*qv*) 54 were added for the last wicket, a partnership ended with a run out.

Penn served on the Kent General Committee from 1875 to 1882 and was President in 1905. He played a lot of club cricket, mainly in what is now Metropolitan Kent, and continued to do so after he gave up the first-class game; he scored 60 in a club match as late as 1895. His clubs included Bickley Park, Esher, Gentlemen of Kent, Gentlemen of West Kent, Mayflies, MCC, Northbrook and I Zingari.

He frequently appeared in the family eleven which played against other country houses and often included all four brothers as well as brother-in-law Fredrick Stokes (*qv*). There was a regular fixture with I Zingari on the family estate at Lee. In these matches he more than once kept wicket. He does not seem to have played for Band of Brothers although his brother 'Dick' did, at least once. Whether the view was taken that the family was 'in trade', there is no way of knowing but if it was, it seems a touch ungrateful given the huge contribution John Penn snr. and his company made to the maintenance of Britain's maritime supremacy.

In 1881 he married Grace Ellen Sewell (1861-1901) in Lewisham. There were two daughters and one son, Frank Penn junior (*qv*). Following his marriage he lived in Bickley Park. Subsequently the family moved to several up-market addresses –Forest House, Bath Road, Christchurch, Hampshire (1891) and The Hall, Benacre, Suffolk (1901), before settling at Bifrons, a substantial property in Patricbourne. In 1901 they had 11 live-in servants. On his death his estate was valued at £151,875 8s 4d. The white scoreboard which formerly stood in the north-east corner of the St. Lawrence ground was presented to the Club in his memory by Major GA Makin in 1928.

Lieutenant Colonel Frank Penn junior MC (No. 494).

Born: 18.8.1884, Owsden, Suffolk. *Died:* 23.4.1961, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1904-1905.

Parents: Frank Penn & Grace Ellen Penn (*née* Sewell).

A professional soldier, Frank Penn never came close to matching his father as a batsman but, qualified by residence with his father at Bifrons, Patricbourne, and despite a pair on his debut for Kent Seconds v Essex at Leyton in 1903, played several useful innings for the county, twice reaching 40. Probably his best innings was 40 at Old Trafford in 1905 against a full strength Lancashire attack.

In club and Army cricket he scored heavily. In 1906 he hit 101 and 123* for the Household Brigade against the Royal Artillery at Burton Court. Two years earlier, for the Welsh Regiment against Gore Court, he scored 91 out of 108 in 35 minutes. He also played for Band Brothers, St. Lawrence and several Suffolk village sides.

Penn began his Army career in May 1902 as a Second Lieutenant in the 7th (Militia) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London) Regiment and transferred to the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles when the

family moved to Patricbourne. In 1905 he transferred again, this time to the regular Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Life Guards. Promoted Lieutenant in 1906 and Captain in 1910, he served as Assistant Adjutant 1907-1909, as Adjutant 1910-1913.

In August 1914 he embarked for France with the specially formed Household Cavalry Composite Regiment and served with it during the retreat from Mons, in the Battle of Le Cateau and in the advance to the Aisne. As part of the 2nd Cavalry Division, the Regiment served in the infantry role during the First battle of Ypres and when he re-joined 2nd Life Guards, on their arrival in Belgium, it too was serving dismounted. Early in 1916 he was Mentioned in Despatches for his service during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915 and received a second Mention in June for his work in the trenches. Promoted Major in November 1916, he briefly commanded the regiment. At Christmas he was granted leave due to his father's, ultimately fatal, illness.

Penn was awarded the MC in the 1917 New Year Honours and again commanded the Regiment which was handicapped by an outbreak of infectious equine disease resulting in its entire complement of horses being isolated in a Veterinary Hospital. He was posted back to England in April 1918, where 2nd Life Guards were among the Household Cavalry units being converted to machine gun battalions.

He returned to France in August 1918 as a replacement for the wounded second-in command of the 4th (Foot Guards) Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. Serving with the Guards Division, the regiment participated in the advance to and through the Hindenburg Line, the Second Battle of Cambrai and the Battle of the Sambre. Three days before the Armistice the CO was wounded and Penn assumed command of the Battalion. He gave up the command in March 1919 but rode alongside the CO in the victory March. For his 'service during hostilities' he was awarded a third Mention in Despatches.

Penn left the Army in 1922 as Brevet Lieutenant Colonel but remained on the Reserve of Officers until 1939. In 1920 he married Audrey Lees in Towcester, Northamptonshire.

Inheriting a substantial sum from his father, in retirement he lived at Bawdsey Hall, Suffolk, now an up-market country hotel. He was prominent in the Boy Scout movement. On his death, his effects were valued at £257, 620.

William Penn (No. 270).

Born: 29.8.1849, Lewisham. *Died:* 15.8.1921, Belgravia, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1870-1878.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: John Penn & Ellen Penn (*née* English).

Elder brother of Alfred and Frank Penn (*qv*) William Penn was a batsman with a strong defence. At Harrow he was in the Eleven in 1867 and in the following year played his first game for the Gentlemen of Kent, against Kent Colts at Gravesend. Later that year, together with younger brother Frank, he was a member of the Gentlemen of Lewisham team who played the Australian Aboriginal tourists at Ladywell.

On his debut for Kent at Crystal Palace in 1870, he scored 30 in a total of 58 - the next highest score was ten. Never a prolific scorer and playing only intermittently, this was the first of several useful 20s and 30s in low-scoring games. He also took part in two 'representative' matches – Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North at Lillie Bridge in 1871 and Gentlemen of the South v Players of the North at Prince's in 1874.

In the latter match he injured his collar bone when taking a catch in the Players' first innings. Unable to continue, his place was taken by his brother-in-law Frederick Stokes (*qv*). Penn had been chosen for Gentlemen v Players, the fixture immediately following, but was obliged to cry off. Although not classified first-class, probably his best innings was 80 for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari in the 1870 Canterbury Week.

Like his three younger brothers, William was an enthusiastic cricketer. Between 1871 and 1876 a Penn's Eleven, usually including all four brothers and brother-in-law Stokes, had a regular fixture with I Zingari on the family estate at Lee. They also played other country houses and Ravensbourne, a club set up by their father exclusively for employees of John Penn & Sons. Ravensbourne were frequently led by John Penn junior (the only one of the brothers who never played a first-class match).

Three future Kent professionals played for Ravensbourne - Robert Rumsey, James Walton and Henry Wood (*qv*) - the latter going on to bigger things with Surrey and England. In one Penn Eleven fixture, the four brothers totalled 299 runs, both William and Frank scoring centuries. *Circa* 1874 the club played a match in France beating the St. Pierre Britannia Club for which the locals awarded a silver cup and a 'large silver medal' for 'their going so far to play cricket'. Most of William Penn's cricket was for Gentlemen of Kent and Gentlemen of West Kent but he also played for Butterflies, Kelsey Park, MCC, Mayflies, and in 1870 at Sandgate for Twenty-Two of Folkestone v USEE.

Following John Penn snr.'s retirement in 1875, William and John junior were charged with running the company, leaving far less time for cricket. The business continued to flourish. The company became the major supplier of engines to the Royal Navy during the transition period from sail to steam and by 1878 there were reputedly 735 ships fitted with Penn engines in the British Navy and Mercantile Marine alone.

One of their engines was retrofitted into the *SS Great Britain* and during the Crimean War the company achieved the then outstanding feat of producing 90 sets of engines for urgently needed gunboats in 90 days by using advanced mass production methods. A vessel driven by one of their reciprocating engines was said to be still in service on the Elbe in the early years of the present century.

In 1877 William Penn married Constance Mary Lucas at St George's Hanover Square. There were three sons and three daughters; they seem to have separated. She was with him in 1881 when they were living at The Cedars with John Penn snr.'s widow, looked after by two butlers, 17 other servants and two lodgekeepers, each with his own lodge. Their youngest child, Geoffrey Mark Penn was born in 1886 but five years later William is living at Richmond Terrace, Westminster with no wife and fewer servants. In 1901 he is back at the Cedars, still with no wife but a daughter, two nieces, 13 servants, one lodge keeper and a carriage cleaner. In the 1911 census two of the sons and two of the daughters are at Taveras Hall, Norwich and are described as sons or daughters of the head of the household but neither William nor his wife appear on the form which is signed by one of the daughters.

He died at Wilton Crescent, Westminster, his estate valued at £165,930

Sherlock Holmes buffs may like to be reminded that in his short story '*The Man with the Twisted Lip*', set in 1889 but published in 1892, the main character (apart of course from Holmes and Watson) is a successful professional beggar residing in Lee in 'a large villa which stood within its own grounds' named *The Cedars*. Conan Doyle played a great deal of cricket in South London for MCC, Incogniti and Norwood and several of Holmes' cases are set in what is now Metropolitan Kent. While Doyle does not seem to have played with or against any of the Penn brothers, it seems highly unlikely that he will not have known of them and, while the Penn family home was far more than 'a large villa', it seems similarly probable that he would at least have known of the real *Cedars*.

Two of the sons died in the 1914-1918 War. One, Eric Frank (killed at the Battle of Loos, 1915), played for Cambridge University (Blue 1899 and 1902), MCC and Norfolk.

John Henry Pentecost (No. 373).

Born: 15.10.1855, Deptford. *Died:* 23.2.1902, Hampstead, London.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1882-1890. County cap 1885.

Parents: Henry Pentecost & Mary Jane Pentecost (*née* Hull).

For many years wrongly identified as being born in Brighton and the son of a fisherman, John Pentecost was the son of a railway engineer and spent most of his boyhood in Ashford where his father was employed in the railway works. At one time he seems to have lived in Bermondsey (see below) but during his playing career with Kent he lived in North London, first in Haggerston, between Dalston and Bethnal Green, latterly in Willesden.

To Bob Arrowsmith in his history of Kent, he was ‘a pro of whom no one ever spoke a bad word except that he was a poor wicketkeeper’. In his autobiography, Lord Harris labelled him, marginally less negatively, ‘a very plucky but not first-class stumper’. First-class, possibly not, but ‘a poor wicketkeeper’ seems unlikely. Despite competition from Wood, Palmer and Nuttall, from 1883 to 1890 Pentecost was generally first choice when Edward Tylecote or Manley Kemp (*qv*), both much better batsman and, equally important, amateurs, were not available. When professionals were first capped in 1885, he was one of the chosen six and statistically, his career average of 1.93 dismissals per match compares favourably with almost all the Kent wicketkeepers of the pre-1914 era.

MCC clearly considered him good enough. Hardly likely to have been engaged for his batting or bowling, he joined the staff at Lord’s in 1886, keeping for them in one first-class and numerous minor matches. He remained on the staff until 1901, latterly as umpire and scorer.

He is almost certainly the Pentecost (of Bermondsey) – with no initial given in *Scores & Biographies* – who in May 1881 kept wicket for Young Players of Surrey v Young Gentlemen of Surrey at The Oval and for Colts of Surrey v Colts of Kent at Maidstone. In July that year he stumped three batsman when called into Walter Read’s Eleven at The Oval in 1881 for a scratch match staged to fill in time when North v South (Harry Jupp’s benefit) finished early.

In 1882 he played for Twenty-Two Colts of Kent against the County at Gravesend and in June made his first-class debut at Bramall Lane. He played no more that season but in 1883 there came a run of three games before giving way to the amateurs and from 1884 to 1888 he was the regular choice until the arrival of Kemp in August. His best seasons were 1884, 25 caught/nine stumped in 14 matches and 1885, 22 caught/four stumped in 11 matches. Once he dismissed four in an innings, against MCC at Lord’s (all caught) in 1888.

Injury restricted his appearances to three matches in 1889 and six in 1890, his final season. Occasionally he contributed useful runs. Pressed into service as an opener in the second innings against Hampshire at Southampton in 1884, he scored 38, adding 61 for the first wicket with Francis Mackinnon (115). He shared several valuable last-wicket partnerships, 43 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1888 (A Hearne 18*, Pentecost 31) and 44 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1890 (Wright 15*, Pentecost 34).

In 1891 he asked for a benefit, producing a doctor’s certificate intimating that his eyesight was failing and that if he played it would have to be in spectacles. The benefit, Kent v Surrey at Tonbridge in

1892, raised £118 12s. of which £18 came from collections at Canterbury, £15 from collections at Lord's.

The remainder of John Pentecost's life was tragedy. In 1900 the club minutes record that he was unable to follow his (presumably winter) occupation of house painter and was granted '£5 per month in weekly allotments'. Subsequently the club paid for him to enter Fredenheim Hospital, South Hampstead, a 42-bed 'house of peace for the dying' where he died from cancer of the tongue and pharynx.

It has not been possible to make a positive identification of his first wife who pre-deceased him but she could be Elizabeth Butler who married a John Pentecost at Poplar in 1882. In 1893 he married Ellen Elizabeth Stanton, the daughter of a sea captain, at Christ Church, Marylebone. In 1910 she applied to Kent for help, having lost her job as a cleaner. The Chairman sent £2 10s. and the club granted five shillings a week until further notice. In June of the following year, Mrs Pentecost's landlady asked that the money be paid directly to her. The club refused but informed Mrs Pentecost that she would only be paid until September, after which she must 'apply to the guardians'.

Rev John Alfred Pepys (No. 196).

Born: 16.4.1838, Marylebone, London. *Died:* 22.3.1924, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1859-1869.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Edmund Pepys & Louisa Jane Pepys (*née* Davis).

John Pepys played for Eton in 1855/1856 and for his Oxford College from 1857 to 1859 but did not gain a place in the University Eleven until 1861 when he had the misfortune to register spectacles against Cambridge at Lord's. He had represented the University in the Tennis Doubles in 1860.

For a few years prior to entering the Church in 1862 he lived in Kent although there seems to be no record of where. He was top scorer (27) in the second innings of his debut match v Middlesex at Canterbury and this remained his highest until his final appearance, when he scored 44 v MCC in the 1869 Canterbury Week. Probably his best innings was 26 for 14 of Kent v England at Lord's in 1862 against Jackson, Tarrant, Grundy etc.

Pepys made his first appearance for Gentlemen of Kent while still at Eton and most of his best innings were in Gentlemen's matches – 54 v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1859, 53 v Gentlemen of Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in 1861 and 77 v I Zingari in 1869, the two latter not rated first-class. In 1861 he was one of only two amateurs chosen for South v North at Lord's. Fortunate in having ample leisure, Pepys played a great deal of cricket for MCC, Oxford Harlequins and Eton Ramblers. His last match was for MCC v Dorset at Dorchester in 1872.

Born to comfortable circumstances, his father a 'fund holder and magistrate' who, when he died in 1878 left 'under £350,000', Pepys was for a time curate at Easingwold in Yorkshire, but by 1871 he was 'living on own means'. Unmarried, he continued to do so until his death when his estate was valued at £101,754 16s 4d.

Thomas Toswill Norwood Perkins (No. 435).

Born: 19.12.1870, Strood. *Died:* 20.7.1946, Tonbridge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1893-1900. County cap 1893.

Educated: St John's School, Leatherhead & Jesus College, Cambridge.
Parents: Rev Thomas Norwood Perkins & Emily Louisa Perkins (*née* Toswill).

Few schoolboy cricketers have had a more remarkable record than Thomas Perkins in 1887, 1,249 runs, 137 wickets, six centuries including 238 v St Bartholomew's Hospital and a hat-trick v Blackheath Proprietary School. On leaving school and prior to going up to Cambridge, he played once for Essex in 1889 and at least once for Hertfordshire in 1892.

At Cambridge he won Blues in 1893 and 1894, heading the batting averages in the latter year, earning him a place for Gentlemen v Players at The Oval. Against Oxford his top score was 24 but in the fixtures against MCC at Lord's, which traditionally preceded the University Match, his scores were 90 in 1893, 52 and 66 in 1894.

Qualified for Kent by birth – his father was Vicar of Strood – Perkins made his debut after the university term in 1893 and on his third appearance scored 109 in 150 minutes, hitting twelve fours and participating in two century partnerships. Unfortunately, in his remaining seven innings that season his top score was four, with three ducks including a pair against Surrey at The Oval.

He had little success in 1894 apart from 45 in an all out total of 110 against Notts at Mote Park and subsequently made occasional appearances when his profession allowed, four in 1899, eight in 1900. In his last season he hit three half-centuries including 88 against Lancashire at Old Trafford when, with 'Pinky' Burnup (200), 221 runs were added for the fifth wicket in 110 minutes. Although often taking wickets in minor cricket, Kent captains displayed little interest in his medium pace bowling.

Between 1904 and 1911 Perkins represented Wiltshire, scoring almost 2,000 runs with three centuries and occasionally keeping wicket. He was prolific in club cricket, hitting eight centuries for Band of Brothers including 243 against Hythe in 1899, the highest in BB history. For MCC he scored 229 v Eastbourne in 1902 and for Lansdowne v Leighton in 1904 he hit 105, 107* and took 13 wickets. Shortly afterwards he scored 100 in 27 minutes for Lansdowne v Bath College. Among his other clubs were Berkhamsted, Quidnuncs, Penzance and Westgate-on-Sea.

Thomas Perkins had a varied teaching career – Assistant Master: Magdalen College School, Oxford (1887), Yarmouth Grammar School (1888-1891), St. Michael's, Westgate (1895), Felsted (1897-1900), Rossall (1900-1903). Joint Headmaster: Weston Lodge, Bath & Ashley Manor, Box (1904-1912) Headmaster: Larchfield School, Helensburgh (1915-1932).

At Cambridge he was centre-forward in the Association Football Eleven from 1892 to 1895, captain in 1894. He married twice. In 1915 he married Petronella Trickey (1878- 1916) at Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, who died at Dumbarton. In 1918 he married Dora Frances Ensor (1881-1948) at St. John's Parish Church, Croydon. On his death his estate was valued at £7,549 10s 4d.

Walter Phillips (No. 492).

Born: 1.4.1881, West Malling. *Died:* 21.6.1948, West Malling.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1903.

Educated: Eastbourne College.

Parents: Thomas Phillips & Elizabeth Lambert Phillips (*née* Hayward).

Walter Phillips was in the Eleven at Eastbourne College in 1896 and 1897 and a highly regarded batsman for Bickley Park, Bromley and the Mote but failed in his only excursion into county cricket (two and one). In his only other first-class match, for Leveson Gower's Eleven against Cambridge University at the Saffrons in 1911, he hit 55 and shared a 147 run eighth-wicket partnership with

Ernest Smith (164*). Between 1901 and 1911 he made 16 appearances for Kent Second Eleven with a top score of 45 at The Oval in 1911.

The son of a prosperous West Malling farmer with additional interests in brewing and milling, Walter Phillips earned his living as a hop factor. *Circa* 1908 he married Liverpool- born Beatrice Mary Sanders. On his death, she was granted probate, his effects valued at £59,584 11s 5d.

Fuller Pilch (No. 103).

Born: 17.3.1804, Horningtoft, Norfolk. *Died:* 1.5.1870, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1836-1854.

Parents: Nathaniel Pilch & Frances Pilch (*née* Fuller).

Although Alfred Mynn probably had a greater impact on the general public, few if anyone did more than Fuller Pilch to establish the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' as the strongest county team in England. By the time he came to Kent he was already generally accepted as the best batsman in the country, standing, to quote the late Rowland Bowen, 'head and shoulders above his contemporaries'.

Using an unusually short-handled bat but making maximum use of his height, over six feet (1.83 m.), Pilch was primarily a front foot player but was said to be the first to play equally well off front foot or back. Excelling his contemporaries in his ability to beat the field, he was also reputedly one of the first to go down the wicket to spinners. At a time when round-arm bowlers operated almost exclusively from round the wicket, he developed a full range of offside strokes from the off-drive, his crowning glory, to the cover drive, of which he was an early exponent, to the late cut. Using his height to reach the ball on the half-volley, contemporaries describe his forward lunge, known colloquially as 'Pilch's poke', as seeming to 'crush the ball'.

On the on-side he used the full-blooded leg hit, much like the modern sweep but usually confined to balls outside leg stump and, like most batsman of the period, he also employed the draw, a curious but then fashionable stroke in which the ball was diverted between the batsman's legs and the wicket. It sounds and probably was difficult to execute but perhaps easier to manage when batsmen customarily took guard with legs well clear of the stumps.

Pilch was one of the first to adopt pads, usually worn under the trousers like shin pads and although originally he wore the customary black silk top hat, batting for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's in 1837, he was dismissed 'hat knocked on wicket. This may well have influenced his later decision to adopt the white cap then coming into fashion.

Sixth of ten children, six boys, three of whom did not reach manhood, and four girls, Fuller Pilch was, like his father and at least two of his brothers, a tailor by trade. Details of his early cricket are scarce. Undue prominence has perhaps been given to a report in *The Sporting Magazine* in September 1828 of a match between MCC and Bury St. Edmunds in which it is asserted that he 'migrated into the North for bread and water at an early age and learnt to handle bats and balls at Sheffield where he became distinguished'. There is no supporting evidence, no obvious connections between the Pilch family and Sheffield and in the following month's issue of the same magazine a friend insists that he 'never left his native Norfolk.' As the rest of the family stayed in Norfolk and prospered, it seems very doubtful at best.

Fuller was still only 16 when he played his first match at Lord's in 1820, for Norfolk v MCC. In the same team were his elder brothers Nathaniel and William, both similarly tall, right-handed batsmen and the three brothers did much to establish Norfolk as an important cricketing county. Both Nathaniel and William Pilch played regularly for Holt and other villages and Fuller is known to have

played alongside them for Holt in the following year. It seems far more likely that most, if not all, of his early cricket was played locally in Norfolk villages.

While presumably continuing with his tailoring, in 1823 he moved to Bury St. Edmunds and in 1824 became the Bury Club's professional. He played for them - and four times for Suffolk which in practice was much the same thing - regularly until 1830 and intermittently until 1847. In 1827 he hit 127 for Bury v Woodbridge, the first of ten centuries in his career – a hundred was an event and his was probably a record at the time. Three of them, for England (1834), Norfolk (1834) and West of England (1845) now rank as first-class.

With a rapidly growing reputation, in 1827 he made his debut for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's and played for England v Sussex in the three 'experimental' matches staged with the purpose of evaluating round-arm 'Sussex bowling'. Round-arm bowling was a highly controversial innovation at the time and, after the second match, Pilch was one of a number of the England players who signed a declaration refusing to play in the third match unless 'the Sussex men played fair; i.e. refrained from throwing'. This would have rather defeated the whole purpose of the matches but fortunately Pilch and his colleagues changed their minds and played the third game. Within in a few years Pilch was dealing with round-arm better than any. Asked in later life about facing the old-time under arm he replied 'Gentlemen, I think you might put me in on Monday morning and get me out by Saturday night'.

By the time Pilch joined Kent his services were much in demand. He had played, sometimes as 'given man', for Cambridge Town, England, Gentlemen, MCC, Norfolk, Players, Suffolk and Surrey in what is now regarded as first-class cricket as well as for other clubs such as Bury and in matches such as Single v Married and Right-handed v Left.

He had attracted a lot of publicity in 1833 following two decisive victories over Yorkshire's Tom Marsden in single-wicket matches for the 'Championship of England'. These single wicket encounters were highly popular at the time but Pilch, the greatest batsman of the day and Alfred Mynn (*qv*) the leading all rounder seem to have been at pains to avoid meeting each other.

In 1834, the year prior to his arrival in Kent, he had totalled 551 runs (avge.61.22) in first-class matches and hit two hundreds, 153* for Norfolk v Yorkshire at Sheffield and 105* for England v Sussex at Lord's as well as 60 for Players v Gentlemen.

He came to Kent, or more specifically Town Malling, at the invitation of a syndicate led by two prominent citizens of the town, Thomas Selby (*qv*) and Silas Norton and with the stamp of approval of the Second Lord Harris. For a salary of £100, he managed the Town Malling ground and the club were able to call on his services as a player. As an additional source of income, he also became landlord of the adjacent tavern.

Kent had first-hand experience of Pilch's ability before he joined them. In 1835, the year he arrived in Town Malling, he hit 59 for England v Kent at Lord's and in 1836, shortly before he made his Kent debut, he scored 107 as given man for Benenden against a Kent attack including Mynn and Hillyer. On his debut for Kent, against Sussex at Town Malling, he began with a duck – bowled James Lillywhite who took nine wickets as Kent were dismissed for 27. In the second innings he scored 44, top score in the match.

Pilch played his last match for Norfolk in 1836 and appeared for Kent for the next 18 seasons. With a population of only around 1,500, a Town Malling-based Kent County Club must always have been a doubtful financial proposition and in 1841 the enterprise was wound up although the Town Malling Club survived and still does. Pilch migrated to Canterbury to manage the Beverley Ground near the Cavalry Barracks and in 1847 moved again to St. Lawrence. Nevertheless, for many years the ground

at Town Malling was still known as 'Fuller Pilch's'. In Canterbury he established a tailoring business in partnership with his nephew William (*qv*).

Leading scorer in 12 of his 19 seasons with Kent, 1837 to 1844, 1847-1848, 1850-1851. Pilch's most prolific year was, 1841, 297 runs (avge.29.70). In 1837 he hit the first of his 11 half-centuries for Kent, against Sussex at Brighton. With Kent needing 152, the highest total of the match, he came in at 30 for five and steered his side to a three-wicket victory with 69*. Of the remaining ten half-centuries, there were five more against Sussex four against England and one against Nottinghamshire.

With no organised programme, county matches were few and far between and, including Kent v England matches, Pilch never played more than seven first-class matches for Kent in a season. There were Kent v England matches every year from 1834 to 1854, two in most years, three in some and as many as four in 1841, at Lord's, Town Malling, Canterbury and Bromley.

In 36 Kent v England matches, in almost all cases against a full strength England attack – the nearest the contemporary game could offer to Test cricket - Pilch scored 1,162 runs (avge.18.15) with four half-centuries, all at Canterbury, two at the Beverley ground, two at St. Lawrence with a top score of 98 in the inaugural Canterbury Week in 1842. He was four times dismissed in the 40s and was once left 49*. In 31 matches for England, four of them against Kent, he scored 937 runs (avge.18.01) with one century and three half-centuries.

Between 1827 and 1849 Fuller Pilch appeared in 23 Gentlemen v Players matches, two as 'given man' for the Gentlemen, 21 for the Players, scoring 492 runs (avge.14.90) with his 60 in 1834 (see above) his highest score and only half-century. He registered two pairs.

Pilch was a founder-member of William Clarke's All-England Eleven and between 1846 and 1852 played at least 65 matches for them, mainly against odds. He hit four half-centuries with a top score of 62 against 18 of Manchester in 1846. He played for five counties in addition to Kent, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex, the last three as 'given man'.

In 1839, while at Town Malling, Pilch was granted a benefit match, Kent v England. Shortly afterwards, he revealed that he had received an offer from Sussex 'too good to refuse'. A few wealthy Kent supporters however rallied round and the matter was dropped. The whole affair has a very modern ring. He did however nurture an affection for his adopted county. He is quoted as declaring 'As soon as a man had been 12 months among the cherry orchards, hop gardens and pretty girls, he could not help becoming Kentish to the backbone'. Whether this was before or after the offer from Sussex is not stated.

Pilch played his last first-class match 1854, scoring ten (run out) and 0 against England in Canterbury Week. Appropriately in a way, this was the last game in the Kent v England series. He continued in minor cricket for a further year, playing his final match for the Beverley Club v Penshurst on 30 and 31 August. He scored six in the first innings but, although he bowled and took three wickets, he presumably suffered some sort of strain and was unable to bat in the second innings. From 1855 to 1866 he umpired regularly, mainly in matches at Canterbury.

Throughout his long career, Fuller Pilch was seldom without at least one other string to his bow. In 1831 he left Bury St Edmunds, returned to Norwich and leased the cricket ground in partnership with his brother William. They also ran a nearby pub and pleasure grounds. In 1849/50, in partnership with Edward Martin (*qv*) he started on the development of the Prince of Wales Ground off Iffley Road, Oxford, his income supplemented by some coaching and branching out into bat manufacture. The pair also sponsored a visit to Oxford of the All England Eleven in 1850.

According to the *London Gazette*, the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent in 1855. In that year Pilch became joint licensee with nephew William of *The Saracen's Head* which stood at the junction of Lower Bridge Street and Burgate, Canterbury until it fell victim to a road widening scheme in 1969. It was a substantial property, accommodating cook, barmaid, housemaid, boots, ostler and two boarders as well as William and his wife and family. According to some accounts, it was also for a time a home for one of Fuller's sisters. In the 1861 Census William is listed as 'innkeeper'; Fuller is still a 'cricketer' although it appears he seems to have had a share in the running of the popular establishment.

From around 1867 Fuller's health began to deteriorate and rheumatism made it difficult, and eventually impossible for him to carry on his duties in looking after the St. Lawrence ground. A subscription was organised among his friends and admirers, boosted by a collection but the overall outcome was disappointing, enough however for a pension of one pound per week.

At about the same time nephew Walter found himself in financial difficulties culminating in imprisonment for debt and bankruptcy. Fuller died of a heart condition known at the time as dropsy but now more commonly called oedema. He was buried in the churchyard of St. Gregory's Canterbury and a memorial with a bronze plaque based on a GF Watts lithograph was erected by public subscription. When in 1978 the church was declared redundant, the pedestal tombstone was moved to the St. Lawrence ground. The bronze plaque is now in the Woolley Stand although not, unfortunately on public view. It is at the foot of the stairs leading to the Committee room.

Further reading.

Rendell Brian, *Fuller Pilch: a straightforward man, Lives in Cricket No. 17*, (ACS Publications, 2010.)

Morrah, Patrick, *Alfred Mynn and the Cricketers of his Time*, (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1963).

William Pilch (No. 114).

Born: 18.6.1820, Brinton, Norfolk. *Died:* 11.1.1882, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1840-1854.

Parents: Nathaniel Pilch & Mary Pilch (*née* Spooner).

Condemned to play in the shadow of his famous uncle Fuller, William Pilch was a useful cricketer in his own right, a steady batsman, good in a crisis, an effective change bowler and among the best long stops of his day. In the latter position Fuller thought him 'As good as ever I saw'.

The son of Fuller's elder brother Nathaniel, William Pilch learned his cricket in Brinton and emulated his father both by playing for Norfolk and, like most male members of the Pilch family, earning his living as a tailor. In 1833, aged only 13 he played alongside his father and uncles Fuller and William senior, for Brinton against Norwich

Purely by chance, he played for Kent before first taking the field for his native county. He happened to be present at Phillip's Field Bromley in 1840 when Ned Wenman was hit in the mouth while keeping wicket for Kent against England in 1840. Wenman had not batted and, despite having at that stage no obvious qualification, Pilch was allowed to bat (scoring one and four) as well as to field in his place.

In 1842 Pilch played his first game for Norfolk, against Cambridge Town on Parker's Piece, and in that same year he is probably the W Pilch (of Brinton) who won two single-wicket matches against W Waller (of Hingham); on the other hand, it could have been his uncle, William snr. He appeared twice

more for Norfolk against Cambridge Town in 1844 but at the end of that season he moved to Canterbury although he continued to play occasionally for his native county, the last in 1847.

Uncle Fuller, a bachelor, had been ill in the winter of 1844 and it was at his suggestion that his nephew settled in Canterbury and shared a house. William set up in business as F & W Pilch, tailors and drapers and in 1846 he married Hephzibah Franklyn (1826-1889) at Walsingham in their native Norfolk. There was one son and one daughter.

In May 1845 Pilch batted No. 3, one place above his uncle, in his first match for the Kent Club (*aka* the Beverley), against the South London Club on the Beehive Ground, Walworth and two years later, again with Fuller, played in the inaugural match on the St. Lawrence ground, for the Kent Club against Woodnesborough.

Although not achieving anything particularly remarkable, from 1846 to 1854 Pilch became a regular member of the Kent team. Among his best innings were 38 in an all out total of 87 at Hove in 1847, 38 again – highest score of the match – in the return at Tunbridge Wells and 27, top score for his team, against Surrey at The Oval in 1854

Chosen twice for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's, on his first appearance in 1847, he was top scorer in the first innings when he hit 32; the next highest was Fuller with 18. Between 1848 and 1851 he made ten appearances for Clarke's All-England Eleven as well as occasionally featuring among the opposition. In 1853 when 22 of Wisbech were dismissed by Clarke and Hillyer, his 13 was the only score higher than six in either innings.

In 1855, with Fuller as a partner, William Pilch became licensee of *The Saracen's Head* in Canterbury. Demolished in 1969 to make way for a ring road, the 17th century (possibly earlier) inn stood at the junction of Lower Bridge Street and Burgate. *Circa* 1867, he ran into financial difficulties due it was said to, among other things, the reduction in the number of visitors staying overnight in Canterbury following the arrival of the London, Chatham, Dover railway.

In 1868 he was arrested for debts of £698, incarcerated in Maidstone gaol and in May 1869 adjudged bankrupt. In the 1871 Census he is a soda water agent, living at 5 Bridge Street close to *The Saracen's Head* with his only son Alfred a brewer. Ten years later, he is at the same address but is now a lodging house keeper with two lodgers, one a solicitor.

Uriah Pillion (No. 72).

Kent 1828.

Another 'One-match wonder', Uriah Pillion remains a shadowy figure, the unusual name notwithstanding. He does not seem to be in the 1841 or 1851 Census Returns. In the Kent history he is noted as 'came from Sevenoaks' but he does not feature in any of the Sevenoaks teams printed in *Scores & Biographies*. He is presumably the Pillion who played for the Camberwell Star Club in 1828, for Blackheath in 1829 and is almost certainly the player who registered a pair for West Kent & Surrey v East Kent & Sussex at Chevening in 1822.

Bell's Life (5 May 1839) referred to him as being 'well known in Kent' and in that same year *The Woolwich Advertiser* reporting a match between Charlton and Old Ford John Bull Club, refers to the latter as being 'headed by the once-celebrated and still formidable Pillion'. Scores of ten and six earned him the description 'the redoubtable Pillion, the Pilch of the John Bullites'. He might be the Uriah Pillen who died in Hackney in 1859.

Joseph Potter (No. 272).

Born: 13.1.1839, Northampton. *Died:* 2.6.1906, Northampton.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1871.

Parents: Thomas & Matilda Potter (*née* Palmer).

Despite numerous and varied engagements as a professional cricketer, throughout his life Joseph Potter is listed in Census Records as an iron and brass foundryman or, in 1861, iron moulder. Only in the 1891 Census does he appear as a professional cricketer. The son of a foundryman, he played his early cricket on Cow Meadow, Northampton and from 1860 to 1865 was engaged as a professional on the Racecourse ground, playing several times in odds matches against the All-England and United All-England Elevens. In 1869 he was top scorer (35) for Colts of the South v Colts of the North at Lord's.

From 1866 to 1872 he was engaged by the Royal Engineers at Chatham and it was while employed there that, qualified by residence, he made his two fairly undistinguished appearances for Kent (highest score six, two wickets). In the 1871 Census his address was a 'Beer Shop' in Gillingham High Street and he was later licensee of *The Cricketers* New Brompton although the pub seems to have been largely run by his wife.

In 1873-1874 he was on the staff at Princes and in the following year joined Surrey where he remained until 1881. Described at the time (inaccurately) as their first 'importation', for Surrey he took 98 wickets at 20.01 including five for 14 v Sussex in 1879 and seven for 31 v Gloucestershire in 1880, both at The Oval. An occasionally useful defensive batsman, it was at The Oval that he hit his only century in county cricket, 105 v Somerset in 1879 (not first-class). In 1881 he played for South v North at The Oval.

In the same year he was appointed coach at Marlborough College and between 1882 and 1886 he played a few games for Wiltshire. From 1882 to 1888, Potter combined his duties at Marlborough with a return to what was then known as Second-Class county cricket with Northamptonshire. Described in *red Lillywhite* as 'still very puzzling', for his native county he took 131 wickets at 9.02, twice topping the averages.

Disappointed at not becoming ground manager and refused a benefit, he left Northampton but returned as net bowler and coach in 1890, an appointment fated to end in some acrimony with a claim for non-payment of wages. Potter played at least twice for the United South of England Eleven, once for the short-lived London United and his name occurs frequently playing in odds matches against the touring teams for sides including Birkenhead Park, Bishop's Stortford, Broughton, Peterborough and Rugby. Between 1891 and 1897 he umpired in 37 first-class matches.

During the late 1890s and early 1900s he was landlord of *The Cricketers' Arms* Northampton and also ran his own foundry business which did not, it seems, make money. In 1859 he married in Northampton Jane Belham (1836-1904) from Wisbech. There were seven daughters and two sons.

William Allan Powell (No. 515).

Born: 19.1.1885, Blundellsands, Lancashire. *Died:* 1.1.1954, Earl's Court, London.

Right-hand batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1912-1921.

Educated: Private & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Joseph & Mary Powell.

William Powell qualified for Kent through residence in Beckenham where he moved with his family in 1894 on the appointment of his father as manager of a fire insurance office. A genuinely fast bowler in short spells, he was not chosen for the Trials at Cambridge but success with Beckenham led to his debut for Kent Second Eleven at Hove in 1908, when he scored 33* to accompany match figures of

eight for 74. In the following season he made his entry into first-class cricket with three matches against the Universities for HDG Leveson Gower's Eleven, one at Fenner's and two at the Saffrons in the last of which he took five for 40 against Oxford.

While continuing to perform usefully for the Second Eleven, not until 1912 did he make the first of his intermittent first team appearances, two in 1912, eight in 1913, one each in 1914 and 1921.

In successive games in 1913 he played his best innings, 48 against Northants at Wantage Road when he shared a 101 run sixth-wicket partnership with Ted Dillon (53), and produced his best bowling, against Yorkshire at Bradford when he claimed the wickets of David Denton, George Hirst and Roy Kilner for 37 runs. For the Second Eleven between 1908 and 1912 he took 44 wickets at an economical 18.77 and scored 324 runs (avg.17.05) with a top score of 76 v Dorset at Poole in 1912.

A stalwart of the Beckenham club, he also played for Band of Brothers and occasionally for Folkestone. He represented Cambridge at Association Football. In the wider world, he followed his father into insurance. Holder of a number of directorships, he retired to Cooden Beach. He died in a nursing home, his estate valued for probate at £4,589.13s.4d.

Harold Edward Westray Prest (No. 505)

Born: 9.1.1890, Beckenham. *Died:* 5.1.1955, Shalford, Surrey.

Right-hand batsman.

Kent 1909-1922. County Cap. 1909.

Educated: Abbey School, Beckenham, Malvern College & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents. Stanley Faber & Emily Charlotte Prest.

The son of a director of an engineering company, Harold Prest was in the Eleven at Malvern from 1906 to 1908) and in the latter year finished top of the averages with 596 runs (avg.49.66) with a top score of 174* against Old Malvernians. *Wisden* doubted 'if he had a superior among schoolboy batsman of his year' and described him as having 'a full quiver of strokes everywhere except point'. Picked for Public Schools v MCC at Lord's, he scored 48 and 62.

At Cambridge, despite hitting 53 in the 1909 Freshmens' match, he was not chosen for the opening fixtures but scores of 51 and 54* for Leveson Gower's Eleven against the University at Fenner's (on his first-class debut) earned him a Blue. Against Oxford he scored 54, adding 94 for the sixth wicket with JF Ireland (65). In four games for Kent he scored 43 v the Australians and 57 v Hampshire at Bournemouth, enough to earn him his County Cap.

Due to injury, Prest played no cricket in 1910 but he gained a second Blue in 1911. Although doing little against Oxford and playing no long innings, he was consistent, scoring 400 runs in 17 innings with ten scores of between 24 and 57. In nine appearances for Kent that season he scored 347 runs (avg.34.70) including his only first-class century, 133* in 150 minutes at Taunton, including partnerships of 108 for the seventh wicket with Fred Huish (48) and 128 for the eighth with Douglas Carr (48). Against Worcestershire at Mote Park he hit 64, sharing a 143 runs sixth-wicket partnership with Jack Hubble (84).

Apart from four matches for Kent in 1912 and two in 1922 in which his top score was 20, for the remainder of his career Prest's cricket was restricted to club cricket with Beckenham, Old Malvernians and Yellowhammers.

At Cambridge he also won Blues for Association Football and golf.

During the First World War he joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment in September 1914 and was commissioned in the Third Battalion in November of that year. In May 1916, by now promoted to Lieutenant, he was posted to the Second Battalion, 8th Division, in France. He was fortunate to be one of the small reserve 'left out of battle' on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in which the Division suffered 66% casualties but he subsequently distinguished himself with the rebuilt Battalion during an attack on a hill overlooking Bouchavesnes in the same sector in March 1917. For his actions in recapturing ground lost to German counter attacks he was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Croix de Guerre.

He was subsequently Chief Instructor in a Lewis Gun School and later commanded a Lewis Gun and Light Mortar School with the acting rank of Major. He relinquished his commission in 1919, retaining the rank of Major. In the Second World War he rejoined the Army serving as a Lieutenant with the Eighth (Home Defence) Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment. He left the Army in October 1941 due to ill-health. In 1944 he married Alice Lauriston. On his death his estate was valued at £20,611 5s 8d.

Henry John Berridge Preston (No. 501).

Born: 25.10.1883, Bareilly, India. *Died:* 23.4.1964, Hastings, Sussex.

Right-hand batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1907-1913. County Cap. 1910.

Parents: John Stephen Preston & Mary Preston. (*née* Malumphy).

When Henry Preston joined the Nursery staff, Kent were already well endowed with talented young cricketers and would within a few years become the strongest team in the country. Unfortunately for him, he was a contemporary of Bill Fairservice, only two years his senior and, as a bowler, similar in method. Even so, with very limited opportunities, Preston did enough to win his County Cap and to show that, at another time or with another county, he would in all probability have gone on to a long and successful first-class career.

The son of a Battery Sergeant Major of the Royal Garrison Artillery who, on retirement, settled with his Irish wife and family in Snodland, Henry Preston came for a trial at Tonbridge in 1902 and was adjudged 'very promising' as a bowler. He joined the staff in the following year and in 1904 took six for 40 on his Second Eleven debut against Surrey Seconds at The Oval. Although bowling consistently well for the Second Eleven, his chance of first team cricket did not come until 1907, immediately after returning match figures of ten for 129 v Middlesex Second Eleven at Lord's and nine for 94 v Sussex Seconds at Hove.

On debut, against Essex at Leyton, he began with three for 52 but was not chosen again that season and over the following six years played only intermittently. The closest he came to an extended run was three successive games in 1909 and five in 1910. In all but five of his 19 matches, Fairservice was also in the side. His best performances were four for 8 & four for 27 v Somerset at the Nevill in 1910 and five for 23 & three for 66 v Northamptonshire at Wantage Road in 1912.

Although unable to hold down a place in the first team, Preston was for most of his career a mainstay of the Second Eleven attack. In inter-county Second Eleven matches between 1904 and 1913 he claimed 287 wickets at 14.22, 29 times five in an innings, twelve times ten in a match. Among his best performances were seven for 17 v Sussex Second Eleven at Town Malling in 1908, six for 29 & six for 38 v Surrey Second Eleven at Gravesend in 1909, six for 22 & nine for 74 v Wiltshire at Chippenham in 1911, seven for 15 & eight for 20 v Cornwall at Truro in 1912, and nine for 15 & four for 43 v Surrey Second Eleven at Tonbridge in 1913.

In 1914 Preston left Kent and played for Nelson as their professional in the Lancashire League, taking 23 wickets at 11.26 in an abbreviated season. Shortly after the outbreak of war he joined the Kent

Fortress Engineers, serving with the 1/1st Field Service Company in Egypt and Gallipoli 1915/1916 and with 495th (Kent) Field Service Company RE in Palestine and Syria 1915/1919, reaching the rank of Second Corporal.

Post-war, he was a prolific wicket-taker in Scottish League cricket and represented Scotland against the Australians in 1930 when he took the wickets of Bill Woodfull and Percy Hornibrook and Sir Julian Cahn's Eleven in 1936. He subsequently became groundsman at the Angel Ground Tonbridge and post-war at the Central Ground, Hastings. He played for Hastings Priory until in his 60s. His career ended when his right hand was amputated following an accident with a mowing machine.

Charles Prickett (No. 53).

Born: 1796, Pensworth, Surrey. *Died:* 1866, Hailsham, Sussex.
Kent 1826.

Another case where facts are scarce. He probably played for the Hawkhurst club and is almost certainly the Charles Prickett who was landlord of *The Post Boy*, Goudhurst in the 1840s. In the Census for that year, although the pub is shown as his address, his occupation is given as 'farmer' as it is in the 1851 Census. In addition to his two first-class matches in 1826 - against Sussex at Brighton and at Hawkhurst - in the following year he opened the batting for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Sevenoaks.

In the scores of the two Sussex matches published in *Scores & Biographies* and in *Kent Cricket Matches 1719-1874* he appears as '- Pritchard'. He is also shown as Pritchard in the 1907 Kent history. If he is the Charles Prickett who kept *The Postboy* in Goudhurst, he married Mary Ann Watkins at St. George's, Southwark in 1817. There were for sons and two daughters.

Purcell (No. 85).

Kent 1829.

Other than that he is shown in the 1907 *Kent History* as being 'of Bromley' nothing is known of this cricketer. Following his one appearance for Kent against Sussex at Brighton, according to *Scores & Biographies* a return was played at Sevenoaks but the scores have not survived. No Purcells living in the Bromley area appear in the 1841 Census.

Rev William Rashleigh (No. 393).

Born: 7.3.1867, Farningham. *Died:* 13.2.1937, Balcombe, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1885-1901. County cap 1887.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: William Boys Rashleigh & Frances Portia King.

As many have observed, fame can be fickle, nowhere perhaps more so than in cricket. The team Andrew Stoddart took to Australia in 1894/95 is generally considered by those in the know to be the nearest to a full-strength England side ever to tour at that point in the game's history. William Rashleigh was invited to join the party but had to decline. The editor of the 1895 *Wisden* wrote that 'if an England team had been chosen this year 'it is practically certain that Mr Rashleigh would have been asked to play'. In Rashleigh's obituary in the 1938 *Wisden* he 'as nearly as anyone has done, deserved the description of the perfect batsman'.

And yet, only 25 years later, to another *Wisden* contributor he was 'relatively little known'. In the most recent (1988) history of Kent he does not rate a mention and is similarly ignored in Dean Hayes' *Kent Cricketing Greats* (Spellmount 1999). He does however scrape in with half a line in *Barclays World of Cricket* (Willow Books, 1986), albeit only in the Oxford University section.

Rashleigh's father, who farmed 320 acres (790.72 hectares) at Farningham, played for Gentlemen of Kent in the 1840s as did his uncle Charles, a solicitor. As a small boy Rashleigh, coached by his father, played cricket 'all day and every day' when allowed. He entered Tonbridge School at the age of ten and, coached by 'Tiny' Wells and later by William Draper, he played his first match for the First Eleven in 1882. A regular member of the First Eleven from 1883 to 1885, he averaged over 60 in each of the first two years and hit four centuries including 203* against Dulwich College.

Labelled by *Wisden* as 'the famous schoolboy batsman', at the end of his final term he played two matches for Kent, hitting 54 v Hampshire at Tonbridge on debut and 59 v Middlesex at Mote Park. Expectations were high when he went up to Oxford in 1886 but, after performing adequately in the Trials, he started badly with 0 (bowled second ball by Fred Spofforth) and five (bowled Tom Garrett) against the Australians and one and 0 against Surrey. Against Lancashire, after another failure in the first innings, Rashleigh was himself again in the second innings with what *Wisden* described as a 'beautifully played 63' but his troubles were not over. He managed only two and 19 against MCC and had a bad day in the field. So much so that WG Grace, who had scored 104 and taken ten for 49 in Oxford's second innings, advised the Dark Blues captain, Herbert Page, not to pick Rashleigh against Cambridge.

He was duly dropped for the return against Lancashire at Old Trafford, but luck intervened when Lyonel Hildyard was unable to travel. Rashleigh took his chance with scores of 44 & 28, followed by 49 v MCC at Lord's and culminating in 21 & 107 in the University match. The first time a Freshman had scored a century in the most important match of the university season. Rashleigh scored his runs in 195 minutes with 19 fours and shared a then record opening partnership of 243 with the future Surrey captain Kingsmill Key (143).

Rashleigh was four years in the Oxford Eleven, 1886-1889, but, although he scored 1,297 runs (avge.27.02) with one more century, 105 v Surrey in the Parks in 1887 (58 of them in boundaries), 75 in the return at The Oval and seven half-centuries in all, in his three remaining University matches his top score was 16.

Captain in 1888, he had a modest record, drawn four, including the match against Cambridge, lost four. In an interview in *The Cricket Field*, January 1895, he is engagingly frank about his year in charge. At Old Trafford, Lancashire, having followed-on, ended the second day 138 for nine, a mere 38 ahead. Next morning Rashleigh missed Alec Watson at mid off - 'the easiest catch in the world'. Other chances went down but eventually Oxford needed only 62. Wishing to 'give some of the doubtful men an extra trial'. Rashleigh changed the order and saw his side collapse for 42 (Briggs four for 25, Watson five for 17). Putting himself in No. 7, Rashleigh was top scorer with 16.

During his time at Oxford Rashleigh played regularly for Kent in the vacation, nine matches in 1887, but, although his interview in the *Cricket Field* rather implies the opposite, the best of his cricket for Kent was after he came down. An exception was in 1887 when he scored 423 runs (avge.28.20), including his maiden hundred for the County, 108 v Gloucestershire at Clifton. In view of his earlier encounter with WG, the innings (265 minutes, one five, nine fours) must have been especially satisfying, the more so in that Grace was restricted to two tail-end wickets.

On coming down from Oxford, from 1890 until 1900 Rashleigh was an Assistant Master at Tonbridge and for most of the remainder of his career his first-class cricket was, with very occasional exceptions, confined to Tonbridge Cricket Week in June and the school holidays in August. He missed the whole

of the 1890 season but played ten matches in the following year, as many as 12 in 1898 and as few as two in 1892, the year of his Ordination. His most successful seasons were 1893 when he led the Kent averages with 482 runs (avge.37.07), 1894 when he topped the averages again with 620 (avge. 36.47) and 1896, 528 (avge.35.20).

In the latter year he played his highest and, arguably his best innings, 163 in 150 minutes v Middlesex at Tonbridge, 114 of them before lunch, and shared the highest of his four century partnerships with Jack Mason-199 for the second wicket (Mason 66). In Canterbury Week in the same year he hit 109 in 100 minutes against a full Lancashire attack including Briggs and Mold. After a run of failures against Nottinghamshire early in his career, he scored 101* in 170 minutes at Canterbury in 1893, 95 out of 118 in 90 minutes at Trent Bridge in 1894, 62, top score, on the same ground in 1895 and 74 in a team total of 136 (next highest score 19), again at Trent Bridge, in 1898. He twice hit centuries against Warwickshire, 106 in Canterbury Week in 1894 and his last, 120 at Catford in 1899 when, with Mason (119), 182 was added for the fifth wicket in 105 minutes.

Whatever his other faults, there have been few better judges of a batsman than Charles Fry. In his *Book of Cricket* (George Newnes. 1901) he is full of praise for Rashleigh. His style is of the very best. No one plays the true forward stroke better. His cutting is perfection', 'a very fine driver, especially to the on. He pulls strongly on slow wickets and is clever at placing to leg. He is, when set, as fine a punishing bat as there is'. He does however identify a weakness. 'He is rather an uncertain starter.', a judgment strengthened by Rashleigh's record of 25 ducks, including three 'pairs' and 57 other single figure scores.

His record against the Australians, 235 runs (avge.16.78), and Yorkshire 203 (avge. 20.30) is undistinguished. Even though he scored 765 runs against Surrey with one century and four half-centuries, there were 16 single figure scores and a relatively modest average of 21.25. Although most of his runs came when batting between No. 3 and No. 5, he was no stranger to opening and three of his centuries were scored at the top of the order.

There is little doubt that, at the commencement of his career, Rashleigh had the reputation of being unreliable in the field. In the interview with *The Cricket Field* referred to above he describes himself as being 'in a mortal funk while I was fielding until recently. I suppose I was by nature a bad field, and that I became nervous, but to a large extent I have got over my nervousness'. Coming from a Rugby Blue who carried no obvious surplus weight and had played full-back against Cambridge in 1888 and 1889, 'by nature a bad field' sounds a bit unlikely. As early as 1888 he held 14 catches in 16 matches and his overall record of 56 catches in 127 matches is surely reasonable by the standards of the day, especially for one who did not habitually field near the wicket.

From 1900 to 1903, Rashleigh was a Minor Canon at Gloucester Cathedral and this effectively ended his first-class career. He played in the 1900 Tonbridge Week against Sussex and Middlesex with a top score of 46 against the latter. In the 1901 Week he scored 20 and four against Middlesex in Walter Wright's benefit match but the Sussex match ended sadly with a pair.

Rashleigh was an extremely active club cricketer for clubs including Band of Brothers, Bickley Park, Crystal Palace, Farningham, High Elms, Oxford Authentics, St. Lawrence, Sevenoaks Vine, Tonbridge and Tonbridge Rovers,

As a Churchman, after Gloucester, from 1903 to 1911 he was a Minor Cannon of Canterbury Cathedral, Curate of St. Mildred' Canterbury, (1904-1911), Rector of St. George's, Canterbury (1911-1916), Vicar of Horton Kirby (1916-1927), and Vicar of Ridgemount, Bletchley from 1928 until he retired.

In 1902 he married Harriet Frances Jane Eddowes (1879-1919) in the Church of St. Mary Lode, Gloucester. There were four daughters and two sons. In 1919 he married Katherine Maria Theodosia (1879-1974). There were three daughters and one son.

On his death William Rashleigh's effects were valued at £3,961 17s 1d. In 1957 one of Rashleigh's grandsons toured England with the Canadian Junior team and played against St. Lawrence.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a new gallery of famous players*. George Newnes, 1899.

Colonel Herbert Edward Rawson CB (No. 299).

Born: 3.9.1852, Port Louis, Mauritius. *Died:* 18.10.1924, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1873.

Educated: Wallace's Cheltenham, Westminster School & RMA Woolwich.

Parents; Sir Rawson William Rawson & Sophia Mary Rawson (née Ward).

The son of the Secretary of Cape Colony 1854-1864 and Governor of the Bahamas 1864-1875, Herbert Rawson was in the Eleven at Westminster in 1869-1870, primarily as a wicketkeeper although in 1870 he hit exactly 100 for the School against I Zingari at Vincent Square.

He continued to keep wicket for the RMA Woolwich and from 1873 to 1895 for Royal Engineers. In *Cricket in 1899* he is described as 'For many years the best wicketkeeper in the Corps', standing well up to the wicket against the fastest bowling, in fact in later years he much preferred doing so to standing back'. For Royal Engineers v I Zingari at Garrison Stadium, Gillingham in 1874 he dismissed five batsmen (three caught, two stumped) in the first innings.

In 1873 Rawson played his one game for Kent, against WG Grace's Eleven at Gravesend, a benefit match for George Bennett. He was dismissed for a pair but caught one, stumped three and allowed only two byes in 168.1 overs. He was asked to play in the 1874 Canterbury Week but turned down the invitation. The 1907 *Kent History* states, wrongly, that he had been ordered abroad. In fact, he played in the annual Royal Engineers v Royal Artillery match at Woolwich in the following week.

In 1889 while stationed in Canada, Rawson played twice against Toronto, for the Halifax Garrison and for Halifax when he scored 56 and held two catches. In 1875 he appeared for 18 of North Kent v the United South of England at Gravesend; his last match of importance was for MCC v Devonshire at Exeter in 1897.

Herbert Rawson gained greater sporting honour at Association football. He played for his school in 1869-70 and 1870-71, captaining in the latter season. He was in the Royal Engineers teams when they were beaten FA Cup finalists in 1873-74 and winners in 1874-75, drawing 1-1 with Old Etonians after extra time and beating them 2-0 in the replay. Also in the RE side was Henry Renny-Tailyour (qv): the Old Etonians team included Alfred and Edgar Lubbock (qv). A centre-forward, Rawson scored five goals for Royal Engineers in 1875-76 when High Wycombe were beaten at home 0-15.

In a distinguished military career Herbert Lawson was gazetted Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers 1872 and initially specialised in what was then termed submarine (i.e. under-sea) mining. In 1877 he was posted to Bermuda where he was engaged in construction of the defences. He was seconded to the Treasury from 1880 to 1884 and in the latter year gained his captaincy. In 1885 he was stationed in Malta and from late 1885 to 1889 he was in Canada training militia in sub-sea mining. He served as Secretary of the RE Committee and the War Office Ordnance Committee from 1890 to 1894. He was promoted to Major in 1894.

He served throughout the Second Boer War (1899-1902), taking part in several engagements including Tugela Heights, Relief of Ladysmith and Laings Nek as well as the Battle of Itala while commanding on the Natal/ Zululand border. He was latterly CRE Line of Communication. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1900 and full Colonel in the following year, for his services he was awarded the South Africa Medal with four clasps, twice mentioned in despatches and made Companion of the Order of the Bath

Post-war he was a Member of the Natal Defences Commission in 1902 and of the Natal Native Affairs Commission 1906-1907. He was Chief Engineer and CRE South Africa 1905-1907 and Chief Engineer Northern Command from 1907 until his retirement in 1909.

In 1875 he married Elizabeth Georgina Stuart Armstrong in Dublin. On retirement Rawson settled in Heronsgate, Hertfordshire and was the author of a number of papers on aeronautics and meteorology. He became Vice-President of the Meteorological Society and was on the council of the African Royal Aeronautical Society. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and was involved with the Hertfordshire Natural History Society. On his death his estate was valued at a relatively modest £2,536.

Further reading:

Phillips, Andy. *First in Last Out: the story of Sapper cricket 1863-2016*. (Institution of Royal Engineers, 2017).

Thomas Razell (No. 18).

Kent 1815.

Another about whom little is known. In 1801 he married Elizabeth Norris at Saltwood near Hythe and played cricket for Hythe in the following year. He is almost certainly the Thomas Razell who was landlord of *The Duke's Head* in the town. He played for East Kent in 1804 and 1806 and in July 1807 for 23 of Kent v Thirteen of England at Lord's he top scored with 16 in the first. He was top scorer again with 18 in the return later the same month at Penenden Heath. In the 1907 Kent history he is described as being 'of the Penenden Heath Club'.

On the 1807 Penenden Heath game referred to above, *Scores & Biographies* quotes *The Sporting Magazine* 'In this match the straight-arm bowling introduced by John Willes Esq was generally practised, and fully proved an obstacle to getting runs, in comparison to what might have been got by the straightforward bowling'.

Razell's score of 12 made him joint top scorer for Kent v England at Wrotham in 1815 and he is presumably the Razell who scored 0 and 11 for the oddly titled Four First Chosen with Seven Others against England at Lord's in 1809.

He may well have later moved out of the county. Between 1817 and 1819 a player of his name appears playing for Epsom, Twenty-Two of Middlesex and as 'given man' for Bungay. The name occurs frequently in the Epsom/Dorking area in the first half of the 19th century.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Reid (No. 81).

Kent 1828.

Another case of doubtful identity, 'Reid' is shown in the 1907 Kent history as 'coming from Sevenoaks. He is almost certainly the 'Read' who took two wickets, held two catches and scored one run in two innings for the Players of Kent v the Gentlemen of Kent at Sevenoaks Vine in September 1828 and two years later scored three and 0 and took one wicket for Sevenoaks Vine against Town Malling.

George Henry Remnant (No. 254).

Born; 20.11.1846, Rochester. *Died*: 24. 2.1941, Rochester.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1868-1878

Parents: Charles Remnant & Maria Remnant (*née* Butler).

Described by Lord Harris as 'one of the finest fields I ever saw', George Remnant was a heavy scorer in minor cricket – at times almost Bradmanesque – but, although he appeared for Kent intermittently over a period of ten years, he only once exceeded 50, progressed beyond 20 on only four other occasions, registered 18 ducks and only once took five wickets in an innings.

He was a friend and protégé of Charles Dickens. According to his obituary in *Wisden*, as a boy he played for Highham village in a field adjacent to the novelist's home at Gad's Hill and on one occasion drove a ball into a trap in which the Dickens children were sitting with their governess. When the pony bolted, Remnant set off in pursuit and brought it under control.

Remnant's first match of note appears to have been in 1867 at Tunbridge Wells when he took four wickets for 16 of Southborough against Gentlemen of Kent. Later that year he played for the North and South of England Eleven in the second of the three matches that made up the brief life of one of the least successful of all the itinerant elevens. In May the following year he scored four and 25 for Fourteen Colts of Kent captained by South Norton (*qv*) against Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend. There followed the first of his six appearances for the County that season when he opened the batting against Sussex at Hove.

Although his top score was 19 and he was not called on to bowl, over the next decade he appeared in almost half (42%) of Kent's fixtures, playing seven matches in 1870 and 1878 and six in 1868 and 1877. Presumably picked largely for his fielding, only once did he aggregate more than 100 runs in a season - 1877 when he totalled 112 (avge.14.00). This included his personal highest, 62 (8 fours) against Hampshire at Canterbury when he added 97 for the last wicket with Edward Henty (53*). In the following fixture, against MCC in Canterbury Week, he scored 26, the third highest of his career but never again scored more than ten. With four not outs, his last 20 innings produced just 50 runs,

Not much used as a bowler, his best all-round performance was on the Winchester College ground in 1875 when he had figures of 15-4-24-5 bowling unchanged with George Hearne (four for 9) as Hampshire were skittled in their first innings for 34. When Kent batted, he scored 25 and followed with two for 28 as Hampshire subsided to defeat by an innings and 217 runs.

In addition to Higham and, according to some accounts, Charles Dickens' own Gad's Hill team, Remnant played for Gravesend, Nunhead, Chatham and Ashford as well as for another transitory travelling eleven, New United South of England for whom, in 1879, he took 26 wickets in a match against Twenty-Two of Dover, 11 in the first innings, 15 in the second. He was professional to the Alexandra Club, Southport in 1870 and was employed by Charles Hardy at Chilham Castle in 1869 and from 1872 to 1879.

For the latter he scored particularly heavily. In 1872 he hit 952 in five innings, 238 v East Cliffe House Margate, 211* v Canterbury Citizens, 185 v 23rd Regiment, 165 v Royal Artillery and 143 v Ashford as well as 111 for Chartham v Bridge. Next year he scored 105* for Chatham v Nonnington and in 1873 132 v Boughton Aluph, 109 v Dunkirk and 34* in an all-out total of 55 against Lord Harris's private team Belmont. In 1875 he coached at Eton.

Although his summers were devoted to cricket, George Remnant appears in the Census as a joiner. Originally apprenticed to his father, he lived and worked most of his life in the Medway towns, apart from a period in the early 1880s when he worked as a foreman joiner in Croydon and a brief spell when he ran a pub in Willesborough, near Ashford. Poignantly, in the 1911 census, he appears as an 'Out of work joiner.'

Between 1896 and 1898, George Remnant umpired in 33 first-class matches. The Kent CCC Managing Committee minutes for March 1899 carry a note that Remnant 'did not satisfy the county captains as an umpire'. In 1875 George Remnant married Julia Mary Clinch. There was one son and one daughter. Their son Edgar (born Purley, Surrey) played 121 matches for Hampshire between 1908 and 1922.

Colonel Henry Waugh Renny-Tailyour (No. 295).

Born: 9.10.1849, Missouri, North West Provinces, India. *Died:* 15. 6.1920, Newmanswalls, Montrose, Forfar, Scotland.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1873-1883. County cap 1883.

Educated: Cheltenham College & RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Thomas Renny Tailyour of Borrowfield & Isabella Eliza Cook Renny-Tailyour (*née* Atkinson).

In his (ghosted) autobiography *Cricket* published in 1891 WG Grace describes Henry Renny-Tailyour as 'one of the finest batsmen in England against second-class bowling' adding that he 'rarely came off in first-class matches'. Judging by an interview with *The Cricket Field* in 1895 Renny-Tailyour rather resented this, which is understandable, but a modest career average and failure to reach double figures in 51% of the first-class innings in which he was dismissed adds some weight to Grace's judgment.

Nevertheless, although his standing as a batsman rests largely on his performances in Services cricket, closer examination of the Colonel's record, suggests that he might well have achieved far more in cricket at top level had not Army duties intervened. Making his debut in 1873, he played no first-class cricket at all between 1875 and 1881 and appeared in just one match in 1882. Only in 1875 (seven matches), 1881 and 1883 (six matches in each) did he appear with anything approaching regularity. And when he did 'come off' it was almost invariably against high quality bowling when runs mattered.

When he scored his only first-class century, against a Lancashire attack including three of the leading bowlers of the day, Dick Barlow, Alec Watson and William McIntyre, the runs were scored out of 211 in 120 minutes with three sixes and 15 fours; the next highest score in the match was Lord Harris' 45. For Kent & Gloucestershire v England in the 1875 Canterbury Week, facing England bowlers including Alfred Shaw, Fred Morley and Allen Hill, his 54 was joint highest score of the match (with England's Andrew Greenwood), notwithstanding the array of batting talent on show which included Grace and half a dozen of the country's other top batsmen. He top scored again with 72 for Kent v Surrey at Mote Park in 1881 and was top scorer in the match with 88* for Kent v MCC at Lord's in 1883. This was, incidentally, one of the rare occasions on which MCC started two first-class matches one the same day. Chosen twice for Gentlemen v Players at Prince's, his top score was ten.

The son of a Colonel of the Bengal Sappers & Miners, Henry Renny-Tailyour was in the Eleven at Cheltenham in 1867 and hit the first of his 52 centuries (in all cricket) for the College against Newnham – not the Ladies College as he points out in his interview. In the following season he hit 109 for the RMA Woolwich against I Zingari but it was not until after he was commissioned in 1870 that he began to establish his reputation in Army cricket in general and for Royal Engineers in particular. Generally regarded as the best batsman ever to play for the Corps, between 1870 and 1898 he scored 12,671 runs in RE matches, including a record 32 centuries with a top score of 331*(in 330 minutes) against the Civil Service at Gillingham in 1880.

In the annual match with Royal Artillery he hit 2,536 runs with seven centuries and a top score of 285* in 1875. He was captain from 1871 to 1875, 1878 to 1880, 1885 to 1888 and in 1895. He was Secretary in 1871 and 1879. During his service in Gibraltar from 1891 to 1894, he averaged over 50 in each of his three seasons and scored over 1,000 runs in the first year. He was instrumental in the introduction of matting wickets into the colony.

Despite his fairly unremarkable first-class record, Renny-Tailyour at times attracted press attention. In the *Cricket Field* interview he quotes with amusement following one of his innings against I Zingari -:

The hitting powers of this gentleman are enormous and woe betide the bowlers if it happens to be one of his days. When posed at the wicket taking guard, his attitude would supply a splendid model for a sculptor, his muscular and well-knit frame presenting the very personification of defiance and the freedom with which he hits amounts to a positive abandon.' His batting had 'lately provoked the warmest admiration in a lady correspondent in a daily paper' – 'we have no desire to pander to the morbid or prurient taste of any section of the British public. We will therefore, refrain from enlarging on the exquisite proportions of the Engineering Antinous. Sufficient for us to say that a visit to the Lines of Chatham when any Zingaro is bowling will amply compensate for any disappointment attending a ramble through the waxen galleries of Madame Tussaud'.

He also hit hundreds for Band of Brothers, I Zingari, Addinton Park, School of Engineering and Strathmore for whom, in 1881 he scored 240 against St. Lawrence. While in Scotland he played a few matches for Aberdeenshire.

Although very much a change bowler for Kent, Renny-Tailyour often produced some notable performances in minor cricket. For IZ v Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury in 1873 he took five for 5 from 40 balls and four for 12 in the corresponding fixture in the following season. For RE at Gillingham that season he also claimed nine wickets in Harlequins' first innings. As one who was also a noted footballer, he excelled at cover point or long leg.

An international at both Association and Rugby football, Renny-Tailyour was rated as one of the best forwards of the day with a reputation as a goal poacher before the term had come into general use. He played for Royal Engineers in three FA Cup Finals, 1872 when they lost 1-0 to Wanderers, 1874 when they lost 2-0 to Oxford University and 1875 when he scored the equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Old Etonians and scored again when REs won the replay 3-0.

He represented Scotland in the first unofficial International with England at The Oval in 1871 in which the entire Scottish team were London residents and played again in 1873 in the first official International when the Scottish FA could only afford to pay for eight players to travel and made up the rest of the team from London residents. Renny-Tailyour scored the first ever goal for Scotland's in their 2-4 defeat.

Renny-Tailyour played Rugby for Royal Engineers and once for Scotland, against England at The Oval in 1875. While at the RMA he won the mile, half-mile and throwing the cricket ball. After retirement, he devoted himself to fishing, shooting and golf. He was Honorary vice-President of Montrose FC.

In a distinguished Army career, Renny-Tailyour was promoted Captain in 1882, Major 1888, Lt.Colonel 1895, Colonel 1899. In 1876 he was ADC to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in 1877-1878 he served in Gibraltar, 1878-1880 he was Assistant Instructor in Telegraphy, Chatham, 1881-1884 Instructor in Fortification RMA Woolwich, 1884-1888 Assistant Instructor Field Fortification, Chatham, 1888-1891 OC Royal Engineers Gibraltar, 1891-1894 OC RE Defences New South Wales, 1894 -1899 OC RE Training Battalion, Chatham, 1899 Retired.

On retirement, he was Assistant Managing Director, Arthur Guinness & Co, Dublin and Personal Assistant to the owner, the First Earl of Iveagh. He became Managing Director of Guinness in 1913, retiring to the family estate Newmanswalls in 1919. He was a JP for Forfarshire.

In 1875 he married Emily Rose Wingfield-Stratford at East Malling. There were two sons and five daughters. Their youngest son, Lieutenant HFT Renny-Tailyour RE was killed at Ypres in November 1914. Their daughter Mrs Rosalind Lilian Porteous was killed in April 1943 when the SS *Port Victoria* was torpedoed 500 miles off the West coast of Ireland.

Further reading:

Phillips, Andy. *First in Last Out: the story of Sapper cricket 1863-2016*. (Institution of Royal Engineers, 2017).

James Francis Reynolds (No. 415).

Born: 2.5.1866, Tonbridge. *Died*: 6.9.1950, West Malling.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1890-1897.

Educated: Private.

Parents: Edwin Joseph John West Reynolds & Annie Elizabeth Reynolds (*née* Humphrey).

Although he played only twice for Kent, with a seven-year interval between his first and last first-class appearances, the only time James Reynolds was given a chance to bowl he claimed three good wickets – HW Bainbridge, ‘Dick’ Lilley and Sydney Santall. He took another three top order wickets for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Town Malling in 1889.

A highly successful allrounder with the Tonbridge Club, he registered three centuries in 1897 and in 1901 scored 214* against Hastings, sharing a first- wicket partnership of 309 with JH Kelsey (119). Originally a fast bowler, he later settled for medium-pace. When taking all ten wickets against Tonbridge School in 1891, his analysis was 14.4-13-3-10, the only runs coming from a no-ball.

For most of his career a solicitor’s clerk like his father, from 1871 until at least 1891 he lived with his parents in Park Place (later Row), Tonbridge. In 1892 he married Kate Tyrell (1868-1951) and lived in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge. There were three sons and one daughter. While apparently continuing to work as a solicitor’s clerk he also became later Manager of the Tonbridge Waterworks Co.

On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £13,705.

Henry Adair Richardson (No. 241).

Born: 31.7.1846, Bayswater, London. *Died*: 17.9.1921, Hastings, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace, round-arm bowler, wicketkeeper.
Kent 1866-1868.
Educated: Tonbridge School & Trinity College, Cambridge.
Parents: Dr William & Eleanor Richardson.

In his *Wisden* obituary Henry Richardson is described as 'a brilliant batsman who for one season was quite in the front rank' and is credited in part for establishing Tonbridge's reputation as a cricketing school. Judged on his record against the stronger school opposition, the latter seems a touch flattering but he was in the Eleven from 1861 to 1865 and in his last year scored 157 v the Rev D Ingram's Eleven and 150 v East Surrey.

He had played one match for Gentlemen of Kent in 1864 and it was with Kent that he first gained wider notice. Going up to Trinity College in 1866, he failed in the Trials and played only once for the University but for the County he hit 50 against Sussex at Hove in the second innings of his debut match and 92 in the return at Gravesend.

Next season he gained the first of his three Blues and, although achieving little against Oxford at Lord's, he twice more passed 50 for Kent, 63* v Hampshire at Southampton and 76 v Sussex at Eastbourne and hit three centuries in matches which, although not first-class, carried a certain amount of prestige, 133* for Cambridge University v Gentlemen of Norfolk & Suffolk at Fenner's, 103 for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari at Canterbury and 111 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Gravesend.

The 'one season' referred to in *Wisden* was 1868. Beginning with 97 & 51 for 16 of Trinity College against a strong United South of England attack on the College ground, he headed the Cambridge averages with 264 runs (avge.37.71), hit 60 against MCC and a much-praised 143 in 120 minutes against Surrey at The Oval when, according to *Wisden* he gave a 'dazzling display of hitting' and treated the off-spinner James Southerton 'as he had never been treated before'. Chosen for Gentlemen v Players, probably on the strength of this innings, he failed at Lord's but scored 55 at The Oval. At Gravesend he scored 0 and 32 against Surrey, his final appearance for Kent, and three weeks later 0 and 56 against the same opponents at The Oval on his debut for Middlesex.

Richardson did little of note in his final first-class season for Cambridge. Although never on the losing side against Oxford, in his last University Match he scored a modest ten and 12, equalling his previous best. Behind the stumps he caught three and stumped three.

After 1869, business gave him little time for cricket but he appeared in one first-class match, for MCC in 1870 and at Lillie Bridge in 1871 made the last of his four appearances for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North. His club cricket included Sevenoaks Vine, Southgate, Gentlemen of West Kent and the Cricket Company.

Known to his friends as 'Jumper', Richardson was Champion Billiards Player at Cambridge in 1868 but lost against Oxford and was Champion again in 1869, winning the singles against Oxford but losing in the doubles.

The son of a West London GP, after leaving Cambridge, Richardson was for a time in business in Bombay (now Mumbai) but in the 1871 and 1891 Census Returns he is a 'West India Merchant', living in Paddington in 1871 and Lee in 1891. In 1901 he is in Hamilton Terrace, Marylebone and of 'Independent means'; In 1911 he is Chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank and living in Hampstead.

.In 1905, aged 58, he married Frances Eliza Walker, 25 years his junior, at St. Helen's Church, Kensington. There was one daughter. In 1906 he became a Freeman of the City of London. His estate was valued for probate at £42,435.

Arthur William Ridley (No. 340).

Born: 11.9.1852, Hollington, Hampshire. *Died:* 10. 8.1916, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm under-arm lob bowler.

Kent 1877.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Nicholas Ridley & Frances Ridley (*née* Touchon).

One of the leading allrounders of his day and one of the last of the great exponents of lob bowling, Arthur Ridley played one match as 'given man' for Kent against England in the 1877 Canterbury Week. Kent were only too well aware of his quality. For Hampshire in the previous season his record against Kent was eight, 50, six for 58 and six for 36 at Southampton, 104, five for 52 and five for 61 in the return at Faversham.

Ridley was in the Eleven at Eton in 1870 and 1871 and in the latter year scored a century against Harrow. He was also single and doubles racquets champion. At Oxford he gained his Blue every year from 1872 to 1875 and although his top score against Cambridge was only 21, he took 16 wickets at 12.06. His greatest success was in his final year when, as captain, he put himself on with Cambridge needing only 14 with three wickets in hand. The three wickets fell for seven runs, two of them clean bowled by Ridley's lobs.

Between 1873 and 1883, Ridley was selected 14 times for Gentlemen v Players, eight at Lord's, three at The Oval and three at Prince's. He took 19 wickets against the Players and at Lord's in 1876 he scored 103 out of 138 in 152 minutes.

After University, like so many amateurs, his cricket was limited by business. In addition to his one appearance for Kent, he played ten matches for Hampshire and 16 for Middlesex. In club cricket he hit at least two double hundreds, 221* for Harlequins v Royal Engineers at Chatham in 1875 and 204 for I Zingari against the same opponents on the same ground in 1881. He played on at least one occasion for Lord Harris's Belmont team, against Chilham Castle in 1875. He served on the MCC Committee from 1875 to 1882, 1884 to 1888 and 1889 to 1893.

The son of the vicar of Hollington, near Newbury, for most of his life Ridley lived in Central London. In 1882 he married Adriana Elizabeth Newton (1854-1910) at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton. There were three daughters and two sons. At the time of the 1911 Census he is living in Carlyle Mansions, Chelsea and is listed as 'a Director of Companies'. He held a number of directorships including the Cannon Brewery Co. His estate was valued for probate at £23,702

A younger brother, Alfred Bayley Ridley played twice for Hampshire in 1884-1885 and his son-in-law Philip Pearson-Gregory three matches for Nottinghamshire between 1910 and 1914.

Charles Augustus Rocke (No. 73).

Born: 5.10.1800, Calcutta (now Kolkata), Bengal, India. *Died:* 1849, Borneo.

Kent: 1828.

Educated: Eton College & Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: Richard Rocke & Susannah Rocke (*née* Pattle).

Another case of doubtful identity. In *Scores & Biographies Vol. II* no initials are shown for the Rocke who played twice for Kent in 1828; in *Kent Cricket Matches 1719-1874* he appears as 'Mr Rocke' in the first match and is given the initials 'CW' in the second. Subsequent research has identified the player as Charles Augustus Rocke who was educated at Eton and played for Cambridge University

against Cambridge Town in 1822, twice for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1827 as well as for MCC against Kent at Lord's in the same year. He had also played at Lord's in 1826, for Benjamin Aislabie's Eleven against Henry Kingscote's Eleven (not first-class).

Curiously, he is not listed in *Cambridge University Alumni 1261-1900* but in the entry for his brother Richard he is mentioned as having entered the University (in 1821). Equally curious, although Charles Roche played at least six times at Lord's – including of course for Gentlemen v Players - Haygarth did not include his biography in *S & B*.

A Charles Roche of 'independent means' living in lodgings in Grafton Street, St Pancras appears in the 1841 Census and according to research, Charles Augustus Roche 'emigrated' to Borneo in 1849 which would explain his absence from later returns. The family is reputedly related to the 'White Rajahs' of Sarawak but there seem to be no record of why he travelled to Borneo. He seems to have died there shortly after his arrival. Possibly he went as a missionary. His elder brother Richard and younger brother Thomas were both clergymen.

The doubts arise largely from the entry for Roche in the 1907 Kent history which is one of the shortest in the book – '- Roche of the Kent Eleven of 1828 was a Gravesend man'. No Roche (or Roche) appears to have played for Gravesend nor is there evidence of anyone of that name living in or around Gravesend at the appropriate time. It seems unlikely, to put it no stronger, that if the Roche who played for Kent, had been at Eton, played for the Gentlemen, for Cambridge and MCC, Lord Harris, who edited the Kent History, or Ashley Cooper who did most of the research, could have been unaware of it and would not have mentioned it in the biographical note.

There is nothing to indicate that Charles Augustus Roche had any Kentish connections. There are however three instances of a 'Roche' playing for Kent clubs. In June 1823 '- Roche Esq.' played for the Royal Artillery Club v Clapham at Woolwich in 1823 and in the following month presumably the same player opened the batting for West Kent v Epsom on Epsom Downs. In 1827 a Roche appeared for the Kent Club against Harrow School at Harrow. It is not of course impossible that Charles Augustus was the Roche who appeared in some or all of these matches but, on balance, it seems unlikely.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

Sir John Pickersgill Rodger KCMG (No. 267).

Born: 12.2.1851, Marylebone, London. *Died:* 19. 9.1910, Mayfair, London.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1870.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Robert Rodger & Sophia Rodger (*née* Pickersgill).

The son of a 'landed proprietor and magistrate' who later became High Sherriff of Kent, John Rodger was in the Eleven at Eton from 1867 to 1870, a contemporary of Lord Harris. A useful but not especially prolific batsman and occasional wicketkeeper, his top score in the more important College fixtures was 43 against Eton Ramblers in 1870.

His only appearance for Kent, in which he scored four and three, was against the Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week 1870, his final year at Eton. At Oxford, he came no nearer a Blue than the Next Sixteen but he played at club level for MCC, Band of Brothers, Harlequins and Bullingdon, as well as making a number of appearances for Gentlemen of Kent.

Rodger was called to the Bar in the Inner Temple in 1877 but practised only briefly, if at all. Entering the Colonial Service, he was British Resident at Selangor from 1884 to 1885, at Pahang from 1888 to 1896 and at Pedak from 1902 to 1904. He was Governor of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) from 1904 to 1 September 1910 when he relinquished the post due to ill-health and died shortly afterwards. For his services he was appointed CMG in 1899 and KCMG in 1904.

In 1872 he married Maria Louisa Charlotte Tyser (1850-1927) in Tonbridge. There was one daughter. His estate was valued for probate at £9,122 2s 11d. He was the elder brother of William Walter Rodger (later Rodger-Cunliffe) (*qv*).

William Wallace Rodger (later Rodger-Cunliffe) (No. 246).

Born: 13.1.1847, Marylebone. *Died:* 23.10.1888, Barming Heath.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1867-1873.

Educated: Eton College & Exeter College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir Robert Rodger & Sophia Rodger (*née* Pickersgill).

Although never progressing beyond the Twenty-Two at Eton, nor as far as the Next Sixteen at Oxford, William Rodger appeared intermittently for Kent and for Gentlemen of Kent during the periods following his matriculation at Oxford in 1865 and his call to the Bar in the Middle Temple in 1874. He also played a great deal of club cricket for the Mote, Sevenoaks Vine, Town Malling, Tonbridge, and Tunbridge Wells as well as, on three occasions, for United South of England.

Rodger seems to have had some local reputation as a batsman but he only once passed 30 in his 17 appearances for Kent. This was against Sussex at Crystal Palace in 1870, one of the rare occasions on which he opened the batting. He appears to have scored one half-century for Gentlemen of Kent - against Gentlemen of Sussex at Gravesend - when he also had match figures of nine for 68, a game not ranked as first-class. In a match between Gentlemen of Kent and I Zingari in the 1873 Canterbury Week, Rodger was hit on the leg while batting and the ball rolled half-way back down the wicket. Although the ball was stationary, Rodger ran down the wicket and hit it for four.

Born in Gloucester Place, Marylebone, for much of his life William Rodger lived at Hadlow Castle, bought by his father, a JP and High Sherriff of Kent. He inherited the property on his father's death in 1882. When his mother died in 1887, under the terms of her will, he assumed the additional name of Cunliffe by Royal Grant.

In 1874 he married Annie Kentfield in the chapel of the British Legation in Brussels. They divorced in 1880 on grounds of his wife's infidelity. There was one son and one daughter. In January 1888 he married, again in Brussels, but this time in the house of the British Ambassador. His wife, Jeanne Clementine Louse Feliate Withelmne Maria Schmedding was a naturalized Dutch girl of 21. In October that year he died in Barming Asylum after a short illness. There was a posthumous daughter.

With no male heir, the Hadlow Castle Estate passed to his father's brother who sold it in 1891. Probate of his personal estate, £7,121 19s 6d. was granted to his widow.

An accomplished billiards player, he twice won the 'Champion Cue' and played against Cambridge from 1867 to 1868. In 1870 he made a match for £200 a side, best of three events with Lord Albert Pelham Clinton, winning at 'pyramids' (a forerunner of snooker) and pigeon shooting. The third event, a ten-mile walk was called off. He won, with profit, several other matches with contemporary leading exponents of billiards.

Batchelor Roper (No. 97).

Born: 1801, Hollingbourne. *Died:* 10.1.1876, Hollingbourne.

Kent 1835.

Parents: Batchelor Roper & Mary Roper (*née* Hudson).

There are doubts about the identity of this cricketer. In the match score printed in *Scores & Biographies* for the MCC v Kent match at Lord's in 1835 the 'W Roper' playing for Kent has been identified as Batchelor Roper (born in 1801). If this is correct, there can be little doubt that he is also the 'B Roper' who played in home and away matches for Kent against Benenden at Leeds Park and Hempstead Park in the same year, again at the same venues in 1836 and also for England v Sussex at Brighton in 1833.

From around 1823 a regular member of the Leeds side, Batchelor Roper frequently played in the same team as Alfred Mynn, opening with him on several occasions. In 1834 he played alongside Mynn in the Leeds team which beat MCC by nine wickets in two days at Lord's and by ten wickets at Leeds Park. At Leeds Park in the following year he was in the side when Surrey (with Marsden and Redgate) were defeated by six wickets. For Leeds against Maidstone in 1829 Roper bowled six batsmen.

He appeared for other local clubs including Bearsted, Hollingbourne, Lynsted, Marden and Penenden Heath. So far as match records show, his top score appears to be 16. Age might be against him, but it seems possible that he is also the B.Roper who appeared for 18 of Maidstone v the All England Eleven at Mote Park in 1854 although one of the other younger Batchelor Ropers (see below) is possibly a candidate.

In 1836 the Batchelor Roper born in Hollingbourne in 1801 married Susannah Hudson in Stockbury, Hampshire. There were five daughters and three sons.

However, in view of the wrong initial appearing in *Scores & Biographies*, there remains the possibility that it was Batchelor Roper's younger brother James (born 1803) who played in the 1835 MCC match. The two brothers were in the Kent teams against Benenden in 1835 (but James was absent in 1836) and, like his brother, James featured regularly in the Leeds Eleven. In 1829 he hit 72 and 31 for Leeds v Meopham and Gravesend. Again like his brother, he played for Bearsted and for Hollingbourne.

The brothers both farmed, Batchelor Roper at Manor House, Hollingbourne where, according to the 1871 census, he had 460 acres (186 hectares), employing seven men and two boys. James farmed at Green Oakes and latterly at Greenaway Court, Hollingbourne where in 1861 he was farming 178 hectares and employing 30 hands. He later seems to have given up farming and moved into Manor House Farm where he died in 1871.

The brothers were well-known in the hunting field until 1859 when they reputedly sold their pack to the Empress of Austria. They were also said to be 'among the best shots on Kent' 'Men of substance in more respects than outward build', when their estates were valued for probate, Batchelor's was 'under £1,500, John's 'under £3,000'.

Confidence in positive identification is undermined to some extent by the existence of other Batchelor Ropers. The father of Batchelor and John Roper was also named Batchelor as was his grandson, Batchelor junior's eldest son, born *circa* 1838. In the 1871 Census the entry immediately preceding Manor House Farm shows Pen Court, Hollingbourne farmed by another and clearly related Batchelor Roper, born Thurnham *circa* 1824. He died at Pen Court in 1887. Yet another Batchelor Roper died in Hammersmith in 1889, aged 77.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Robert Edwin Rumsey (No. 315).

Born: 17.2.1844, Greenwich. *Died:* 12.6.1884, Greenwich.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1875.

Parents: Robert Rumsey & Phoebe Rumsey (*née* Starr).

The son of an engineer (also Robert) employed at John Penn & Sons at Deptford, Robert Rumsey appears to have lived his whole life in Greenwich and would himself spend most of his working life as a pattern maker with the company, the leading marine boiler manufacturers of the day (see Penn family above). For some years he captained the company cricket team, Ravensbourne.

Rumsey managed to combine his employment with Penn & Sons with coaching engagements with, the Rev Bradley at Southgate in 1871-1872, where according to *Scores & Biographies Vol XII p 657* 'he gave great satisfaction', and at Gore Court in 1875. By the time of this latter engagement, he had already made his mark with Kent. In a match played behind *The Bull Inn*, Tonbridge in 1874, he took six for 44 and five for 29 for WH Fryer and G Bennett's team of Colts against a Colts side led by Ned Willsher.

Although rather elderly for a 'colt' in May the following year he scored 62 and took two wickets for 14 Colts of Kent against Kent at Catford Bridge. This presumably led to his first-class debut for Kent v Hampshire at Catford in June that year. He failed to score and was not used in the first innings but when Hampshire followed on, he helped to clinch a Kent victory with five for 48. He took a wicket in each of his remaining two matches and rounded off his first-class career with a pair.

Kent were not over-endowed with professional talent in the 1870s and whether they were not interested because of Rumsey's age, the player himself preferred the greater security of Penn & Sons or it was a question of health is unclear. In 1876 he took seven wickets for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend. Later in that year he took five wickets and scored 40 opening the batting for Ravensbourne v the Penn family Eleven. His opening partner, who scored 73 was Henry Wood (*qv*).

In 1866 he married Emily Malyon at St. Paul's Church, Deptford. There was one son and one daughter). Two months before his death in 1884, a benefit match was played for Rumsey at Blackheath between 'An Eleven' and 18 of West Kent Wanderers. *Scores & Biographies* referred to him as being 'seriously ill'.

Rev Philip Menzies Sankey (No. 151).

Born: 17.4.1830, Brompton, Kensington, London. *Died:* 9.3.1909, Montreux, Switzerland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm bowler.

Kent 1852.

Educated: King's School Canterbury & Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Richard Sankey & Mary Thomason Sankey (*nee* Boys).

Philip Sankey played for 16 of Oxfordshire against Kent on the Prince of Wales ground Oxford in 1849 while he was a pupil at King's School and he was still at King's when, later that year, he made his debut in first-class cricket. This was for Cambridge University against Gentlemen of Kent at Canterbury. Other than the fact that his mother was born in the county he had no Cambridge

connections and it seems likely that he was drafted into the side as a late replacement. On going up to Oxford, he played against MCC in 1850 and in 1852, the year of his one game for Kent, he appeared against Cambridge at Lord's in 1852 when he scored 27 opening the batting and took eight wickets.

Between 1849 and 1852 he played club cricket, for Farnham where his father was Rector, for Gentlemen of Surrey, Bramshill, Godalming and the Beverley Club. In 1850 he played for 22 of Oxfordshire v the All-England Eleven on the Christ Church Ground, Oxford and in 1851 scored 38 and took three wickets for Gentlemen of England v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove (not first-class).

From 1852 to 1855 Philip Sankey was an Assistant Master at King's School. Ordained a Deacon in 1853 and a Priest in 1854, he was Curate of Holy Cross & St. Alphege's, Canterbury 1854-1858 and Rector of Highclere, Hampshire 1859-1868. From 1869-1872 he was Chaplain at Pegli, Italy and from 1879 to 1906, Chaplain at Montreux, Switzerland.

He was author of *Catechistical & Devotional Manual*. *Catechism of Old Testament History*. In 1858 he married Helen Filmer (1836-1905), a daughter of Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart., President of Kent 1874. There were two sons and two daughters. On his death, Sankey's estate was valued for probate at £402 10s 2d.

William Godfrey Molyneux Sarel (No. 514).

Born: 15.12.1875, Dover. *Died:* 5.4.1950. Whitechapel. London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1912-1914.

Educated: Stubbington House School, Fareham, Oxford Military College & Loudwater, Westgate-on-Sea.

Parents: Lieutenant General Henry Andrew Sarel CB & Margaret Jane Phyllis More Sarel (*née* Molyneux).

An aggressive, mainly front foot, batsman who had the reputation of often getting out through playing shots too early, William Sarel – known to his friends as ‘Smiler’ – had only a brief career with Kent but succeeded in combining a busy and successful Army career, much of it overseas, with a great deal of cricket.

He was in his School Eleven in 1889 and 1890 but played only minor cricket until 1904 when he made his first-class debut for London County against Surrey at The Oval. He had already played one match for Surrey Seconds in the previous year without getting to the wicket. Later in 1904 he made two first-team appearances for Surrey v Cambridge University, captaining in the second game at The Oval. For Surrey Second Eleven against Kent at The Oval he scored 94, his highest in senior cricket to date.

While serving as ADC to the governor and C in C Trinidad in 1905, Sarel played four times against Lord Brackley's touring team, once for a combined West Indies side, twice for Trinidad and once for Queen's Park, the latter not first-class. In the following year his 48 was top score for Trinidad when they lost by 16 runs to Barbados in the Final of the Inter-Colonial Tournament. Back in England in August, he scored 51 for IAF Weigall's Eleven v the Gentlemen of the Netherlands at Southwood, Ramsgate.

In 1909, in his last appearance for Surrey, he scored 57 against Oxford University at Reigate, a match notable for the fact that Surrey played two matches over the same three days, losing by an innings at Reigate but beating Lancashire by an innings at The Oval.

At the time of the 1911 Census Captain Sarel was living in Hawkhurst and employed as a 'Special Revenue Officer'. In that year he made five appearances for Kent in the Minor Counties Championship, scoring 81 v Devonshire at Exeter and 136 & 73 in the return at Beckenham. He scored two centuries for Band of Brothers, in 1910 and in 1911 hit another four, among them 222* against the Royal Marines at Chatham.

In 1912 he made an inauspicious first-class debut for Kent – 0 & one v MCC at Lord's – and, apart from a useful 30 against Sussex at Hove, did little else in half a dozen games that season. His Kent career concluded with three appearances in 1914, in the first of which he scored 93 v Oxford University in the Parks when he shared a partnership of 184 in two hours with Lionel Troughton (104).

In 1919 Sarel was appointed Secretary of Sussex CCC. A popular and energetic Secretary, in his first year he had the probably unique distinction of enrolling over 1000 new members and scoring a century on debut for his new county, 103 in 115 minutes against Oxford University at Hove. He was not in fact qualified and did not play his first county match until 1921. At the end of that year he left Sussex to take up the position of Secretary at Beaconsfield Golf Club and subsequently moved to Royal Berkshire. His successor at Hove was another who had played for Kent, WL Knowles.

As well as Band of Brothers, for whom he scored in all seven centuries, William Sarel played for Free Foresters, Greenjackets, Incogniti, with whom he toured North America in 1913, MCC, Mote Park and Oatlands Park. For the Mote he scored 238* v Band of Brothers in 1912 and 183 v Marlborough Blues in 1910. As late as 1925 he played for Greenjackets against Household Brigade and twice for MCC, the last against an Anglo-Argentine Eleven at Lord's.

The son of a Lieutenant General, William Sarel served as a Lieutenant with the 3rd (Militia) Battalion, Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment in the Second Boer War, subsequently transferring to the regular Army with the 2nd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. For his service he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with Orange Free State and Cape Colony clasps and the King's Medal with 1901 & 1902 clasps.

He returned from his ADC service in Trinidad in 1906 and in the following year was posted to Peshawar as part of the North West Frontier Expedition which earned him the India General Service Medal with North West Frontier clasp. In 1909 he resigned his Regular Army commission and joined the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Recalled to the Army on the outbreak of war, Sarel was transferred to the 10th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade with the rank of acting Major at the special request of the Officer Commanding, who had served under him in the Northumberland Fusiliers. They had also toured the USA together with Incogniti. The Battalion landed in France in 1915 and in September was involved in a support role the battle of Loos. The remainder of the year was spent on routine frontline duties but in December he fell ill with 'nervous exhaustion'.

Returned to the UK, he was further handicapped by cartilage trouble and it was not until January 1917 that he returned to duty, in an administrative capacity in the Military Secretary's Office. He suffered further trouble and spent time in hospital with a recurrence of nervous exhaustion but in September 1918 he was appointed Staff Officer Third Grade at the Directorate of Air Organisation at the Air Ministry with the RAF rank of Major. After the war, he left the RAF and rejoined the Rifle Brigade. He resigned his commission in 1920, retiring with the rank of Major.

In 1906 he married Ellen Margaret Heysham (1876-1961) in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. There was one daughter. On his death William Sarel's estate was valued at £2,891 11 9d.

James Saunders (No. 64).

Born: 27.5.1802, Haslemere, Surrey. *Died:* 27.3.1832, Haslemere, Surrey.

Left-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1827.

A butcher by trade, James Saunders played twice as given man for Kent, v Sussex in 1827 at Sevenoaks and in the return at Brighton when, with his cousin William Searle (*q. v.*) as a second given man, he scored 31 and 23. In the same season he scored 36 and took two wickets, again as given man, for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent, also at Sevenoaks, in a match not awarded first-class or important status.

Fairly unusual at the time for batting left-handed, his debut in first-class cricket was in 1822 for Godalming v MCC. Later that season he made the first of nine appearances for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's. In the 1825 match he was run out for 99. Two years later he scored exactly 100.

In a tragically short career Saunders appeared six times for Surrey, three times for Sussex and 16 times for England. He appeared in all three of the England v Sussex trial matches played in 1827 to evaluate the 'Sussex' (i.e. round-arm) bowling and possibly his most notable innings was 44 in the third at Brighton; the next highest in the match was 24. In 1824 he scored 156* as given man for the Artillery Club v MCC (not first-class)

He married his wife Mary, probably in Haslemere in the late 1820s. There was one daughter. His death was from tuberculosis

William Searle (No. 67).

Christened: 14.2.1796, Thursley, Surrey. *Died:* February 1837, Clandon, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1827-1829.

Parents: Richard & Elizabeth Searle (*née* Flutter).

William Searle appeared for Kent against Sussex as a given man, at Brighton in 1827 alongside his cousin James Saunders (*qv*) at Sevenoaks in 1828 and, again in 1829, when he scored 48 out of a team total of 96. Highly regarded in his day, between 1822 and 1832 he played ten times for Players v Gentlemen with a top score of 60 in 1827.

In 12 matches for various 'England' sides his highest score was 87, against Sussex at Lord's in 1829. He opened the batting for England v Sussex at Brighton in the third of the three trial matches staged in 1827 to evaluate round-arm bowling. Like his cousin associated with the Godalming Club, he played six times for Surrey and twice, as given man for Suffolk.

In a varied career, Searle was landlord of *The Three Lions* in Godalming and for two years acted as parish guardian. He also worked in the Godalming area as a farm bailiff before becoming steward to a Colonel Sumner at Clandon where he died. In 1816 he married Mary Collier at Norton, York.

Thomas Selby (No. 107).

Born: 4.11.1791, Gillingham. *Died:* 7.5.1874, Boulogne, France.

Kent 1839-1841.

Parents: Thomas & Mary Selby.

Thomas Selby has a modest record for Kent as a player – 0 and one in his first match, a pair in his second, 17 and one in his third – but he was a useful batsman for Town Malling (now West Malling) and was, above all, an enthusiastic and generous patron of cricket. As such, he made an important contribution to the game in the County. He played the leading role in the setting up the Town Malling based Kent County Club and the ‘Great Old Kent Eleven which between 1836 and 1841 played its home matches on the field behind *The George Tavern*.

Possibly more important, together with his business partner Silas Norton (father of William South Norton (*qv*) and Selby’s second cousin), and the Third Lord Harris, he was instrumental in persuading Fuller Pilch to come to Kent and in keeping him there when Sussex came up with a better offer.

A solicitor and attorney by profession with a practice in Town Malling High Street, Selby played his early cricket for Sevenoaks Vine and *circa* 1827 formed the Gentlemen of West Malling Club which later amalgamated with a club formed by local tradesman to become the Town Malling Cricket Club.

Selby managed and played in most of their matches up to around 1840. Pilch first came to play for the club as a given man in 1832, drawing a crowd of 8,000 and in 1835/1836 was persuaded to settle for a salary of £100 a year for which he not only played, but looked after the ground and became landlord of *The George Tavern*. Selby was also Alfred Mynn’s main backer in his single-wicket matches with James Dearman.

With its small population, a county club based in Town Malling was never viable as a long-term proposition but the townsfolk, and by association Selby, had their moment of glory. If West Malling is indeed the model for the All Muggleton v Dingley Dell cricket match in *Pickwick Papers*, then Selby achieved a certain immortality of his own. Dickens refers to ‘a red brick house with small paved courtyard’ in the High Street ‘which anyone must have known belonged to the attorney’.

Circa 1835 he married his wife Marie who was born in Asch, Belgium. There were three sons and three daughters. Selby was a talented musician as was one of his sons who for some years played oboe in the orchestra in Canterbury Cricket Week. By the time of the 1861 Census he and his wife seem to have settled on the Continent where he died.

Robert Page Sewell (No. 386).

Born: 3.9.1866, Maldon, Essex. *Died:* 7.2.1901, Surbiton, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1884.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School.

Parents: Thomas Charles & Ellen Sewell.

The son of a wine merchant, Robert Sewell was in the Blackheath Proprietary School Eleven at the early age of 13 and was not yet 18 when he made his two appearances for Kent. Both were in June, at Derby and Old Trafford, the second and third fixtures on Kent’s northern tour. At the time many amateurs were reputedly reluctant to undertake the journey to the more plebeian Northern grounds. Sewell was a member of the Blackheath club where he played alongside numerous Kent cricketers but his selection at such an early age may have been influenced by the fact that his elder sister, Grace Ellen, was married to Frank Penn (*qv*). At the time Sewell was living with his family in Blessington Road, Lee.

He made only one other appearance under a White Horse banner, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Mote Park in July 1884 when he scored 14 and 11* in a match which does not carry first-class status. From 1885 to 1891 he played regularly for Essex, not then a first-class county. The highest of his three half-centuries for the county was 75 v Hertfordshire at Leyton in 1886.

In 1895, under the captaincy of the Middlesex amateur Robert Slade Lucas, he was a member of the first English team to tour West Indies. In eight first-class matches he was leading scorer with 269 runs (avge.24.45) with a top score of 77 against 'Jamaica Born' at Sabina Park. He bowled relatively little in England but matting wickets appeared to suit him. He claimed 11 first-class wickets (avge.17.18) with a best of four for 29 v Demerara at Bourda, Georgetown. He also took part in another eight matches not rated first-class. Against United Services at Bridgetown Barbados he scored 40 and had match figures of seven for 32.

A stockjobber by occupation, Sewell was a member of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and in 1887 became a Freeman of the City of London as had his father 22 years earlier. When he died of a cerebral haemorrhage, on the death certificate his occupation was shown as clerk (mercantile). His estate was valued for probate at £2,030 18 1d with probate granted to his father. A subsequent valuation in 1917 granted probate to his elder brother Charles, value £532 19s.11d.

Thomas Sewell senior (No. 155).

Born: 5.5.1806, Mitcham, Surrey. *Died:* 1.11.1888, Riverhead.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, under-arm bowler.

Kent 1852.

Parents: James Sewell & Ann Sewell (*née* Doust).

Thomas Sewell senior's distinguished career as an active cricketer was nearing its end when he played his two games for Kent in which his top score was 19*. After taking over as landlord of *The Chequers* in London Road, Riverhead in 1849 he played in only a handful of 'important' matches, the last for Kent & Sussex against Clarke's All-England Eleven on Tunbridge Wells Common in 1853. Five years later, he scored two and 12 for Eighteen Veterans v England at The Oval, a match staged as a benefit for 'Topper' Hillyer.

In his *Sketches of the Players* William Denison describes Sewell as 'one of the few who, having practised against underhand bowling in the days of his youth, still retains the plan of occasionally running in to meet the ball'. His batting is described as 'very showy and generally very effective'. Originally a calico printer, he was engaged for many years by MCC but, as far as records show, he did not appear in a match for them until 1833 and in a first-class match until 1836. His two first-class half-centuries were for MCC.

Sewell appeared for Players v Gentlemen at Lord,'s from 1839 to 1842 and from 1844 to 1847 but with limited success, never managing a score higher than 15. Between 1839 and 1848 he played 36 matches for 'England' and as a member of the England side took part in each of the first seven Canterbury Weeks. He scored 30* in the 1845 fixture but registered five ducks including a pair in 1847.

His two appearances for Middlesex preceded the formation of a Middlesex club and two of his nine appearances for Surrey were before Surrey CCC existed. Prior to his move to Kent, he appeared regularly for his native Mitcham, for whom he scored his only recorded century, 121 v Weybridge at Mitcham in 1848. There may well have been others but many early records of Mitcham cricket have not survived. In 1847 he hit 63 for the AEE v Eighteen of Manchester at Moss Lane, one of 16 appearances for the All-England team of which he was a founder member.

Throughout his career Sewell's services were much in demand as an umpire. He umpired the first of his 104 first-class matches in 1827, three years before he had actually played in a first-class match. He stood in his last first-class match in 1864 but as late as 1878 he officiated in a match between Sevenoaks and I Zingari. In 1873 he left *The Chequers* for *The Gate*, Hildenbrough but in the 1881 Census he is back in London Road, Riverhead and his occupation is listed as printer.

In 1828 he married Martha Lane (1806-1884) at St. George's in the Borough, Southwark. There were five sons and one daughter. In later life he received annuities from both MCC and Surrey but his estate was valued at a relatively modest £66 16 6d. His brother William played regularly for Mitcham and appeared in two first-class matches for Surrey in 1844.

Thomas Sewell junior (No. 180).

Born: 15.3.1830, Mitcham, Surrey. *Died:* 13.6.1871, St. John's, Sevenoaks.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1856-1866.

Parents: Thomas Sewell senior. & Martha Sewell (*née* Lane).

Granted a place in cricket's Hall of Fame by being a member of the first English team to tour Australia, Thomas Sewell jnr. was short, 5 ft. 4½ in. (163.8 cm), broad-shouldered and sturdily-built, although not apparently quite 'as broad as he was short' as rather unkindly suggested by the Surrey amateur Edward Dowson. With a lively, fun-loving disposition, he was highly popular with both players and spectators and his activity in the field and free stroke play earned him the nickname 'Busy Tom.

He was living with his father at *The Chequers*, Riverhead when he played his first game for Kent. At the time he was professional with the Grange Club, Edinburgh, where he was engaged from 1856 to 1859. While with Grange he also appeared against the United England Eleven for various Twenty-Twos north of the border including Glasgow, Clydesdale, Kelso and, in 1857, Scotland.

He first came to the notice of the wider world when, in 1846 at the age of 16, he scored 29 for Players of Surrey v Gentlemen of Surrey at The Oval (not first-class), presumably chosen on the strength of his performances for Mitcham. When his father scored his century against Weybridge two years later his son contributed 34 and in 1851 he appeared at Lord's for Under - 30 v Over-30, in a benefit for John Bayley. The Under -30 team was far from representative with several notable absentees and again presumably Sewell's performances for Mitcham got him into the side. He failed to take a wicket and his scores were 0 and two.

In his first game for Kent, against Surrey at Tunbridge Wells in 1856, he took three for 28 and followed with four for 24 and two for 74 on his second appearance, against Sussex at Gravesend in the following year. Sewell made two appearances for Kent in 1858 and one in 1859 but now began to widen his horizons by turning out for his native Surrey and by joining the first of the three short-lived New All-England Elevens. In four odds matches for the latter in 1859 he enhanced his reputation with 58 wickets. In his second first-class match for Surrey, against a combined Kent and Sussex side at The Oval in 1859, he scored 39* and earned himself a one pound bonus for bowling figures of five for 36.

In 1860, although continuing to make the odd appearance in Scotland and the North in odds matches, he ended his engagement with Grange and joined the Surrey staff. From 1860 to 1866 Sewell played for both counties but henceforth he was primarily a Surrey cricketer. In 1860 he played four games for Kent but only a total of 11 over the next six years.

With Kent he did little with the bat apart from his 42 against Sussex at Hasting in 1865 but his best efforts with the ball were four for 5 from 48 balls for 15 of Kent v England at Lord's in 1861, a performance which reputedly cemented his place in the team for Australia, six for 55 for Kent v England at Lord's in 1862 and eight for 45 & four for 46 for Thirteen of Kent v England in the 1863 Canterbury Week. For Surrey he was more of an allround success with 1,756 runs and 248 wickets. He was chosen for Players v Gentlemen at The Oval in 1864 and 13 times in South v North representative matches.

In 1860, in addition to joining the staff at The Oval, he became a member of the United England Eleven and remained with them until 1865 when he defected to the break-away United South of England Eleven and stayed with them until 1868. Without doing anything remarkable, he twice appeared in the prestigious annual AEE v UEE match, at The Oval in 1860 and at Old Trafford in 1861.

At The Oval in 1862, Sewell took one wicket and bagged a 'pair' in the bizarre game between the New All-England Eleven and New England Eleven, staged to decide who should be allowed to use the full title. In the event, it hardly mattered. Neither venture survived longer than a couple of seasons.

On the trail-blazing tour of Australia, he did not bowl in the first innings of the opening match against Eighteen of Victoria at Melbourne but took seven for 20 in the second innings including the first five in the order. He finished second in the tour bowling averages with 55 wickets (avge. 5.04), helped by 17 for 34 v Geelong and 14 for 58 v New South Wales. He did little with the bat, only four times reaching double figures, with a top score of 41.

Sewell's last match of importance seems to have been for Twenty-Two of Bishop's Stortford v the USEE in 1869. Between 1860 and 1867 he umpired in half a dozen first-class matches and also stood in a number of 'odds' games.

In 1864 he married Louisa Shoebridge at St. Matthew's Church, Bayswater. There were three daughters. At the time of his death he was landlord of *The Railway Tavern*, St John's Hill, Sevenoaks. He died of 'heart failure', his estate valued at £800.

James Seymour (No. 485).

Born: 25.10.1879, West Hoathly, Sussex. *Died:* 30.9.1930 Marden.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1902-1926. Kent Cap 1902.

Parents: Owen Seymour & Susan Seymour (*née* Stoffell).

Coming into the game in an era when the conventional view was broadly that the amateurs played the strokes and the professionals provided the solidity, Jim Seymour possessed, in the words of the Kent historian RL Arrowsmith, 'perhaps the widest range of strokes of any batsmen in England'. With an open stance and holding the bat with both hands low on the handle, he played all the orthodox strokes plus some of his own including a highly profitable flat-batted stroke past cover to a ball just short of a length on or outside off stump and numerous variations of the late and back cut. When in the mood, he employed the old-fashioned, full-blooded leg-hit off the front foot and the even more venerable under-leg or 'dog' stroke. With a sound back foot technique and the ability to play the ball late, he played many valuable innings on the spin-friendly (uncovered) wickets frequently encountered in his day.

Seymour could field almost anywhere but was regarded as one of the finest slip fielders of the period. Six times he held 40 or more catches in a season. Nobody else was to do so for Kent until Woolley in 1923 and Seymour's 45 in 1913 (51 in all matches) was a Kent record until 1978. Against the South Africans at Canterbury in 1904 he held six catches in their second innings.

One of eleven children, Jim Seymour came from Sussex farming stock. His father originally farmed at Maresfield, subsequently at Grovelands, West Hoathly, but in the 1880s he changed direction and by the 1891 Census, he is at Lower Green, Pembury and is now a 'butcher and baker', son Owen (19) is assisting him with the former, sons Henry (24) and Thomas (15), with the latter. The two future county cricketers, Jim (11) and John (nine) are still 'scholars'.

Ten years later Jim is living in Romford Road, Pembury with brother Owen and wife Martha. Owen is now a 'baker and bread maker' (there is a difference presumably). Jim too is shown as a bread maker but in fact by then he had taken the first steps in his career as a cricketer. Nevertheless, unlike most professionals of his day, he had a relatively lucrative trade to fall back on if it all went wrong.

With brother John, Jim Seymour learned his cricket on Pembury Green and with the village team. Here he learned enough to be taken on as a ground bowler with the Crystal Palace Club. With the formation of London County, he caught the eye of WG Grace and, having cut his teeth in London County's numerous minor matches, in June 1900 he made his first-class debut, against Derbyshire at Derby. Batting No. 8 in a team including Grace, Billy Murdoch and future county colleague Fred Huish, he scored one and, dropped to No. 9, 25*. He held his maiden first-class catch and took two for 54 as first change after Grace.

On his next first-class appearance, v MCC at Lord's, he opened the batting with Grace but was bowled by 'Sailor' Young for 0. He did slightly better in the second innings with seven but had the misfortune to see his illustrious opening partner run out before he had scored. It was apparently a direct hit but, whoever was responsible, Grace being Grace, it is not difficult to guess who probably got the blame. On his next and, as it turned out, last appearance for London County, v Derbyshire at Crystal Palace in 1901, Seymour batted No. 11 and did not bowl.

However Grace may have felt about the run out, it was on his recommendation that Seymour came to Kent. In August 1900 he hit 66* (top score) for Kent Club & Ground against Gravesend, joined the Nursery at Tonbridge in the following season and made his Second Eleven debut against Sussex at Hove in July 1901. In 1902 he scored 26 and two on his first-class debut for Kent at Old Trafford, playing in 20 of Kent's 25 matches and finishing his season with 575 runs (avge.18.54) including two half-centuries, 60 as opener against MCC at Lord's and 62 v Sussex at Hove.

Perhaps a little surprisingly, he was capped that year and, even more surprisingly, found himself summoned from 12th man duties at Bournemouth to join an England Eleven playing the Australians at Bradford. The match was a hastily arranged affair to fill in a gap caused by the cancellation of the Coronation due to the King's illness. Of the scratch English team, which included three Bradford club players, only four ever actually played for England.

In 1903 Seymour hit his maiden hundred, 127 in 210 minutes with 20 fours against Lancashire at Old Trafford, and was only once left out of the side. Next year he reached 1,000 runs for the first time and in scoring 108 and 136* v Worcestershire at Mote Park, became the first Kent batsman to score two hundreds in a match.

Remarkably consistent for a batsman who always tried to dominate, between 1904 and his retirement in 1926 he only three times failed to reach his 1,000 – 1912 when he fell short by only 23, 1919 when there was a limited county programme and 1925 when he missed more than half the season due to a broken collar bone. Seven times he totalled over 1,500 in Kent matches – 2,088 in all matches in 1913. Three times he averaged over 40; in 1922 he hit six centuries and averaged 47.97.

His 53 hundreds were spread around all of the then 15 other first-class counties except Sussex. He scored nine against Essex, including two in a match at Leyton in 1923, six each against Somerset and Worcestershire, five each against Hampshire, Lancashire and Surrey. He hit three double hundreds, two against Essex. His 204 against Hampshire at Tonbridge in 1907 was the first double century by a Kent professional and included a hundred before lunch. On nine other occasions he passed the 150-mark including 196 at Old Trafford in 1911 and a particularly satisfying 193 against Middlesex in the 1910 Canterbury Week. He had been told he would not be playing – room had to be found for six

amateurs – but ‘Pip’ Fielder cried off. Scoring his runs out of 374, he led a Kent recovery from 115 for five to 393 for seven and hit 25 fours.

Seymour took part in 15 double-century partnerships including 307 in 165 minutes for the second wicket v Worcestershire at Kidderminster in 1922 (Hardinge 151, Seymour 170), 240 in a little over two hours for the third wicket at Derby in 1908 (Seymour 171, Hutchings 102) and 230 in 100 minutes for the fifth wicket v Somerset at Taunton in 1907 (Seymour 104, Mason 119*). He shared two century last-wicket partnerships with Fielder.

With hindsight, it seems incredible that the nearest Seymour came to the England team was a single appearance in a Test Trial in 1912. He was chosen three times for Players v Gentlemen, twice at The Oval, once at Scarborough, never at Lord’s. At The Oval in 1913 he scored 80 (48 in boundaries) in a 146 run fifth-wicket partnership with JW Hearne (126) which ensured a draw and very nearly gained an unlikely victory.

Wisden in 1911 may provide a clue to this selectorial neglect. When Seymour and ‘Punter’ Humphreys were respectively 10th and 11th in the national averages, *Wisden* said ‘Whether Humphreys and Seymour are up to England form is open to grave doubt’. 19 years later in Seymour’s obituary the line was ‘he never rose to the highest standard of representative cricket for in his day that standard was very high’ – ‘even in those days his stance was too modern’. Even Arrowsmith thought ‘doubtless (he) was always taking too much of a risk to be a strong candidate for representative cricket’. Readiness to play strokes did not prevent his Yorkshire contemporary David Denton, whose methods were broadly similar, gaining 11 England caps or similarly adventurous amateurs such as Reggie Spooner and Morice Bird ten each.

When War broke out in 1914, Seymour was initially over the age for military service and was running a taxi business in Pembury with a partner, a Mr Rendell. When, in 1915, the Kent committee wrote to all their professionals to discover what they were doing for what was popularly known as the ‘war effort’, Seymour replied that he was serving as a special constable. He and his partner had recently expanded their business by taking over a garage and motor repair workshop with a full-time engineer.

When conscription was introduced in June 1916, he applied for exemption on the grounds that he had invested his money in the business and, if called up, would be obliged to sell it, at a loss in wartime conditions. He was granted four months exemption, followed by a further three. Although the papers have not survived, he did eventually serve in the RAF, almost certainly on home service as there is apparently no medal entitlement.

The story of the attempt by Inland Revenue to levy income tax on the gate money portion of Seymour’s benefit in 1920 is fairly well-known. Less well-known is that he was within two votes of not getting a benefit at all. Since 1900, Kent had operated a scheme whereby, instead of the beneficiary receiving the gate money from his benefit match less expenses, he was given the average for the fixture over the previous five years. Should the takings be above the five-year average, he received the higher figure.

As a means of preventing a player’s benefit being ruined by the weather or a sub-standard wicket, the scheme worked admirably up to 1914. Post-war, what with inflation, larger crowds and higher admission charges, the five-year average was clearly no longer equitable and Seymour was quick to realise he was about to be a loser. He wrote to the committee, pointing out the disadvantages and asking for £1,000 in lieu of the five-year average. Unfortunately some committee members chose, rightly or wrongly, to read into his letter a ‘threat to withdraw his services’ – something of a red hot potato in the prevailing political climate. Several committee men were in favour of outright rejection and no benefit but, not for the first time, Lord Harris took a more liberal view. He saw that Seymour

had right on his side and thought the request should be granted provided Seymour expressed regret at the tone of his letter.

After much discussion, a proposal by Stanley Christopherson, seconded by WH Patterson, was carried by nine votes to seven. This recognised the inequalities of the five-year system in present circumstances and granted Seymour the gate money of his benefit match which, after deductions for expenses amounted to £939 16s 11d. A counter proposal for outright rejection from George Marsham, seconded by Kenneth McAlpine was lost. Presumably Seymour apologised but no letters survive. The final figure, boosted by collections and donations, was £1,492 8s 6d.

When he was assessed for tax on the gate money, Seymour's appeal was granted by the Tax Commissioners and upheld by Mr Justice Rowlatt in the High Court but in the Court of Appeal, the decision was reversed in favour of the Crown. With Lord Harris in the background pulling every available string and calling in every possible favour, the case was taken to the House of Lords and, in May 1927, the Lord Chancellor and two colleagues – one of them Harris's cousin Lord Phillimore – found in Seymour's favour and in favour of all subsequent cricket beneficiaries.

The hand of Lord Harris can be glimpsed in the payment of the portion of the legal costs not met by the Crown amounting to £511 13s 11d - MCC 25%, Kent, Lancashire and Yorkshire 15% each, Middlesex and Surrey 10% each, Notts and Warwickshire 1.5% each, Sussex 1%, Derbyshire £5. It is not clear from the Kent minutes whether the other eight counties were approached.

After the war, Seymour became senior professional and right-hand man to a succession of captains. On Seymour's death, Stanley Cornwallis (*qv*) wrote a charming letter of condolence to 'Mrs Jim' on the loss of 'the cleanest, straightforwardest and loyalist of men', referring to Seymour as 'my cricket father when I started playing for Kent and only I can know what his encouragement and staunch friendship was worth to me when I was captain'.

In June 1926 Cornwallis had wanted to see the Test match at Lord's and expressed his intention of passing on the captaincy of the team against Northamptonshire at Dover to Seymour. This drew an admonitory letter from Lord Harris pointing out that neither Cornwallis as captain, nor he as Chairman of the Committee, could authorise the 'revolutionary introduction' of a professional as captain when 'an amateur is procurable'. Of the two amateurs concerned, Alan Hilder had played ten first-class matches, Jack Deed – who eventually captained the side – 16. Seymour, in his final season, had at that stage played 538.

Seymour holds the record for the most consecutive first-class appearances for Kent, 187 between 1902 and 1909 and the most consecutive appearances in the County Championship, 196 between 1902 and 1911.

In 1908 Seymour married Nottinghamshire-born Margaret Widnall in Tonbridge. There was one daughter. On retirement, Seymour became coach at Epsom College and invested his benefit money in a fruit farm in Marden and a sports goods business in Epsom which survived into the 21st century. During his time in Marden he became a highly respected figure in the community and did a great deal for Marden Cricket Club. Once a year he brought down a team of Kent cricketers to play the club. Unfortunately, he did not live long to enjoy the proceeds of his hard-won benefit.

He died of pulmonary tuberculosis, leaving his wife Margaret an estate valued at £5,490 4s 9d. Brother John played 42 matches for Sussex (1904-1907) and 94 for Northamptonshire (1908-1919).

George Shaw (No. 285).

Born: 20.5.1839, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. *Died:* 17.8.1905, Loose.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm, fast-medium bowler.
Kent 1872.
Father: Solomon Shaw.

Like many Northern professionals of the period, George Shaw was a self-employed framework knitter as was his father. In the 1851 Census father, Solomon, a widower, and son (aged ten) are working together in Sutton-in-Ashfield. Ten years later George Shaw is still there, similarly occupied, but living in lodgings. Presumably having learned his cricket in his home town, between 1866 and 1871 he played three times for Sutton-in-Ashfield as well as for Retford and Mansfield in odds matches against the AEE, the UEE and the USEE but without particularly distinguishing himself – a total of five wickets and a top score of 16. In April 1867 he was one of 22 Colts of Nottinghamshire who played against the county side at Trent Bridge.

Mansfield was the first of his numerous professional engagements. His others included Sunderland, the Western Club, Manchester, St. Lawrence, Canterbury, Christ Church College, Oxford, Durham University and Chilham Castle as well as an unnamed club in the Birmingham area. In 1871 he was engaged as practice bowler at Canterbury from the first week of May to the last week of August for the sum of £2 10s per week; from 1871 to 1874 he played for St. Lawrence.

It was during this period that Shaw made his two first-class appearances for Kent. A somewhat surprising selection for 13 of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in the 1872 Canterbury Week, he even more surprisingly batted No. 11 in the first innings and four in the second. Although failing with the bat – 0 and four – he justified his selection with four for 55 in the first innings, one for 8 from 29 balls in the second. Kent attempted to play him in their next fixture at Hove but Sussex objected, probably on the grounds that he was not qualified. William Fryer, who was on the ground as umpire, played in his place, Shaw taking over his umpiring duties.

Shaw was left out of the team for the next fixture, against Surrey at Mote Park, but was restored to the side for the return at The Oval where presumably Surrey raised no objection. Once again he more than justified his selection with one for 26 and five for 89 including the highly-prized wicket of Harry Jupp. Nevertheless, his services were not called on again.

The rest of Shaw's life is a bit of a mystery. He played for Chilham Castle from 1874 to 1879 and in the latter year scored 129 against Pluckley. He seems somehow to have been overlooked in the 1881 Census but in 1891 he is living with his wife Hannah in Frimley, Surrey, and still described as a 'cricket professional'. His address is in Yorktown which suggests he may have been employed at the Royal Military Academy.

There is no trace of him in the 1901 Census. He may have emigrated or he may be the Sutton-in-Ashfield-born George Shaw, farm labourer, who died at Loose, near Maidstone in 1905.

John Monson Shaw (No. 238).

Born: 1.10.1832, Rochester. *Died:* 4.9.1912, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1865-1866.

Educated: Eton College & Merton College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Robert William Shaw & Sophia Shaw (*née* Cornwall).

The son of the Rector of Cuxton, John Monson Shaw was born in the Bishop's Palace, Rochester and, according to *Scores & Biographies*, preferred the river to cricket while at Eton and during his time at Oxford. On coming down from university he took up farming and at the age of 19 was farming 150 acres (60.7 hectares) and employing eight labourers on a farm adjacent to his father's rectory in

Cuxton. Ten years later he is at Rowe Place Farm, Aylesford, farming 200 acres (81 hectares), with a live-in farm bailiff and employing nine men and three boys. By 1871 this had increased to 12 men and two boys.

Turning to cricket relatively late in life, Shaw was a defensively inclined batsman who frequently opened the batting. From 1857 to 1866 he played regularly for, and occasionally captained, the Town Malling Club, albeit at a time when the Club's great days were behind them. In 1857 he made the first of 12 appearances in the traditional Town Malling v Cobham fixture, scoring an unbeaten four and 0 in a match in which, although only 30 wickets fell, there were 16 ducks. Shaw's personal best against Cobham was only 17. He also played odd matches for Mote Park and at least once for Sevenoaks Vine.

Shaw opened on his debut for Kent against Sussex at Gravesend in 1865 and again on his second appearance at Hove in the following year but the results were modest – 13, eight, 0 and one and nine and 0 in his third game, against Surrey at The Oval. He was more successful in Gentlemen of Kent matches. Between 1858 and 1867 he appeared in 27 Gentlemen of Kent matches in which he scored 652 runs with a top score of 90 against Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1866.

In a difficult period financially for Kent County Cricket Club, Monson Shaw served as Treasurer from 1862 to 1867. He seems to have been a highly competent administrator and by the time he resigned the Club was out of debt. He continued to serve on the committee until the amalgamation in 1870.

In 1872 he married Sarah Pain Francklyn (1842-1887) in Boxley; there were no children. He continued to farm until at least 1891. Despite the unusual second forename, it has not been possible to locate him in subsequent census returns; possibly he lived abroad for a period following retirement. He is a retired farmer on his death certificate. After his death from senile dementia his estate was valued at £490 9s.3d. As a Church Warden, his name appears on three of the bells in St Peter's Parish church, Aylesford.

Vero Kemball Shaw (later Shaw-Mackenzie) (No. 323).

Born: 14.11.1854, Belgaum, Bombay, India. *Died:* 18.12.1905, Hastings, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1875-1878.

Educated: Haileybury College & Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Parents: Charles Forbes Hodson Shaw (later Shaw-Mackenzie) & Ellen Eliza Shaw (later Shaw-Mackenzie) (*née* Ramsey).

Vero Shaw was in the Eleven at Haileybury in 1870-1871 but on going up to Cambridge in 1872 he was obliged to wait until 1875 before making his debut for the university. Despite scoring 60 and producing match figures of ten for 81 in the 1873 Freshmens' Trials he was ignored that year and in subsequent years his fortunes in the annual Seniors' Trial match, Cambridge University v the Next Sixteen, were distinctly mixed – 1873: 1*, 0, 0 for 19 & one for 6, 1874: 0, three for 42 & three for 47, 1875: a pair, six for 44 & five for 68 in the first trial, 23*, four for 61 & one for 48 in a second. This was enough to gain him a place in the university team for three matches but a top score of ten not out and five wickets was insufficient to gain him a Blue.

In 1876 Shaw appeared in his sixth university trial match (probably a record), this time for the University Eleven but with unimpressive results – 0 and one for 40. Nevertheless, he retained his place and at last appeared at Lord's against Oxford, again, sadly, with little success – 0 and 0 for 33.

Nor were the results for the whole university season very much better - 52 runs (avge.8.66), ten wickets (avge.30.70).

In county cricket he met with more success. A tailender for most of his university career, he was given the chance to open on only his third appearance for Kent and responded with 54 against Hampshire at Winchester in 1875 and it was as an opener that he reached his top score of 74 against Surrey at Maidstone in 1876. His third half-century for Kent, 56 in the return at The Oval, was from No. 9.

Originally played primarily for his bowling, he turned his arm over less and less as time went on, claiming only seven wickets in his final two seasons. As fifth change, Shaw was one of ten bowlers used by Kent when Grace played his innings of 344 in the 1876 Canterbury Week but he delivered only four overs. It was his catch low down at mid off which eventually brought the epic to an end. In minor cricket Shaw played for Quidnuncs up to 1880, Will o' the Wisp up to 1881 and possibly a few games for MCC.

Vero Shaw's father, who added Mackenzie to his name in 1854, was an official in the Bombay Civil Service and in 1862 was appointed a Judge of the Bombay Presidency. Back home, he was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Ross & Cromarty as well as being 18th Chief of Clan Shaw and 13th Chief of Clan Ay of Tordarroch.

On his father's death in 1904, Vero Kemball Shaw-Mackenzie (as he was now known) became 19th Chief of Clan Shaw and 14th Chief of Clan Ay but died, unmarried, of 'cerebral apoplexy' in the following year. He was succeeded by his brother John Alexander.

Unlikely as it may seem, there was another Vero Kemball Shaw, a second cousin three years older, also born in Belgaum and whose father was similarly in the Bombay Civil Service. Qualified as a solicitor, he chose not to practice and became a journalist, editor and noted artist whose pictures of dogs are still collected. He played cricket for the Sporting Press v the Jockeys at Hove in 1879 and could well be the VK Shaw who played a few games for MCC in 1871. Unfortunately, MCC records do not indicate whether both were members or, if only one was a member, which?

Eustace Beverley Shine CB (No. 456).

Born: 9.7.1873, Port of Spain, Trinidad. *Died:* 11.11.1952, New Milton, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1896-1899. Cap 1896.

Educated: King Edward 1V School, Saffron Walden & Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Eustace Shine acquired his place in cricket history in the 1896 University Match when, to prevent Oxford from following-on, he bowled three successive balls (two of the them no-balls) to the boundary, presumably on the instructions of his captain Frank Mitchell. Under the Laws in 1896, a side 120 runs in arrears was compelled to follow-on; Oxford at the time were 131 for nine. In the event, Oxford, needing 330 in the fourth innings, won by four wickets but the incident resulted in a lively kerfuffle with arguments in the pavilion and a rash of angry comment in the press. Two highly distinguished and influential cricketing brothers, Alfred and Edward Lyttelton, wrote letters to *The Times* expressing strongly-worded but diametrically opposed views. The eventual outcome was that in 1900 Law 53 was changed making the follow-on optional.

The son of George Shine, a 'merchant', Eustace Shine went up to Cambridge in 1894 but did not participate in the Freshmens' Trial that year or the Seniors' Trials in 1895. He nevertheless made his debut in 1895, against CI Thornton's Eleven with the distinguished scalp of Stanley Jackson as his first wicket. This was the first of five appearances that season but, although he played against MCC

at Lord's, the fixture immediately preceding the University Match, Cambridge were over-endowed with right-arm pace bowlers and he missed his Blue.

Shine began 1896 with scores of 46 & 48* and match figures of nine for 117 in the Seniors' Trial and henceforth played in every match of the University season bar one. This was when, instead of playing against Notts, he made an impressive debut for Kent with four for 22 & seven for 55 against MCC at Lord's. He took only two wickets in the controversial University Match but finished the Cambridge season with a respectable 23 wickets at 22.60.

At the end of term he went straight into the Kent side, justifying his selection with 46 wickets at 22.58 and, with the advent of Bill Bradley (*qv*) affording Kent on occasions the unaccustomed (and at the time unfashionable) luxury of a two-pronged pace attack. Against Warwickshire at Mote Park he took seven for 45, against Somerset at Taunton six for 101.

In his final year at Cambridge Shine missed only one match and improved on his 1896 record with 33 wickets at 17.60 as well as now and again contributing useful late-order runs and winning praise from *Wisden* for his fielding at mid off. In the second innings against Oxford he hit 45, sharing a 72-run ninth-wicket partnership with Clement Wilson (77) and took four for 28 in 19 overs as Oxford subsided to a 179-run defeat.

For Kent he could be expensive, his 38 wickets in ten matches cost 27.22 each, but on his day he could be a match winner – match figures of ten for 182 v Somerset at Blackheath where Kent won by 213 runs, five for 43 & three for 59 v the Philadelphians at Mote Park and five for 55 v Surrey at Beckenham.. Against Warwickshire at Tonbridge, when hitting his personal best 49, he took part in a ninth-wicket partnership of 158 in an hour with his captain Frank Marchant (144*).

After university, Shine seems to have played little serious cricket apart from one appearance for Kent in 1899, against Lancashire in Canterbury Week. In 1900 he began a highly successful Civil Service career. Commencing as an Inspector with the Board of Agriculture, he went on to become Private Secretary to the Secretary to the Board, Sir Thomas Elliott (1905-1907), Private Secretary to the President of the Board, Viscount Wendover (Earl Carrington), (1907-1911), Head of the Livestock Branch, Board of Agriculture, (1911-1920), Establishment Officer with the rank of Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (1922-1933). He became a CB on his retirement in 1933.

Shine lived most of his life in Wimbledon. In 1900 he married Mary Venables at St. Luke's Church, Jersey. Following her death, he married Ida Jessie Cornwell at the church of St. Saviour's with St. Thomas, Southwark in 1912. On his death his estate was valued at £26,490 12s.

John Shuter (No. 310).

Born: 9.2.1855, Thornton Heath, Surrey. *Died:* 5.7.1920, Blackheath.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1874.

Surrey Cap. 1884.

Educated: Winchester College.

Parents: Leonard Shuter & Caroline Shuter (*née* Warner).

It is not clear why John Shuter eventually chose to play for Surrey rather than Kent. Although born in Surrey, he lived most of his life in Kent, much of it in Shooter's Hill Road, Blackheath which was his home at the time of his death. Both his parents were Kent-born, most of his club cricket was for Bexley and even after he had taken over as Surrey captain, he turned out at least once for the Gentlemen of West Kent.

In the *Wisden* obituary it is suggested that, after his brief association with Kent, 'his value as a batsman was not realised' but, considering how Kent tended to struggle for players early in the season, Shuter's record with Bexley and his membership of Band of Brothers, it seems more likely that a metropolitan club was easier for combining cricket with business. Shuter went into the family firm – coopers, stave and timber merchants - but by 1911 he was a hop merchant. The fact that his elder brother Leonard, similarly a Kent resident and a regular for Bexley, also chose Surrey and played his first game for them in 1876 may have been a contributory factor.

Shuter was in the Winchester College Eleven from 1871 to 1873 and captained in his last year when he headed the batting averages with 507 runs at 33.80, more than 20 runs higher than the next batsman. Next year he failed (three & one) in his one and only appearance for Kent (also his first-class debut) but did better with 35 (top score) for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari in the 1874 Canterbury Week. Next year he hit a stylish 18 in a low scoring match between Kent and Kent Colts at Catford Bridge but in 1877 he made the first of his 274 appearance for Surrey.

Widely considered one of the finest captains Surrey have ever had, he led the side from 1880 until 1893 winning five Championships - 1887, 1888, 1890, 1891 and 1892 - and scoring 9,369 runs (avge.21.89) with eight centuries during a career lasting until 1909. He scored more runs against Kent (1,205 avge.21.90) than against any other county, Sussex excepted. He was chosen once for England, v Australia at The Oval in 1888, and nine times for Gentlemen v Players.

Shuter scored at least ten centuries for Bexley. Playing for them against Emeriti in 1884, he hit 304* in an unfinished opening partnership of with T Ashdown (62*). Among his other clubs were BB, Incogniti and West Kent.

In September 1919 Shuter was appointed Secretary of Surrey CCC in succession to William Findlay but died of a haemorrhage less than a year later. His estate was valued at £827 17s 4d. His grave in St. Paulinus Churchyard, Crayford was restored in 2011 with funds provided by Surrey CCC and Bexley Borough Council. It was at this church that he married Constance Thorley Horner in 1882. There were two sons and two daughters.

Ernest Herbert Simpson (No. 453)

Born: 17.12.1875, Clapton, Essex. *Died:* 2.10.1917, St Omer, France.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1896.

Educated: Malvern College.

Parents: Frederick Henry Simpson & Rose Simpson (*née* Jack).

Ernest Simpson's short career with Kent was unusual in that he joined the team for the first match of the 1896 season, remained in the side for the next seven matches and, it seems, never played serious cricket again apart from a few games for Malvern Wanderers. A contemporary at Malvern of 'Pinky' Burnup and 'Tip' Foster, he was in the Eleven from 1893 to 1895, captain in his final season. In 1894 *Lillywhite* described him as 'a batsman of the stone-wall type with a rather clumsy style' but 'a good field'. By his final season he had progressed to having 'shown great defensive powers and saved his side from defeat on more than one occasion'. 'He knows the game and has proved an excellent captain'.

He made his Kent debut the year after leaving Malvern and did so in the company of Charles Osborn Cooper (*qv*) who had married one of his four sisters. On his debut, he improved on a first innings duck with 17 in the second innings and followed it at Old Trafford with a gritty 94 out of 234, scored against Arthur Mold and Johnny Briggs at their best. Moving on to Headingley, he was run out for 29, ending a 72-run second-wicket partnership with Jack Mason (50). In the next match, at Edgbaston, he

was top scorer with 37 in Kent's second innings. In his remaining six innings, against on the whole weaker opposition, there were two ducks and a top score of 13.

The son of a stockbroker, Ernest Simpson settled in Beckenham and spent the remainder of his working life on the Stock Exchange, latterly specialising in the US market. On the outbreak of war he was over the original age limit for enlistment but, with conscription looming, the limit was raised and on 7 December, just short of his 40th birthday, he enlisted as a private in the Army Reserve. It was May 1916 before he was actually called-up and in June he was accepted as an Officer-Cadet and enrolled for a Royal Garrison Artillery Anti-Aircraft training course. Commissioned in August as a Temporary Second Lieutenant, in October he was posted to France with 201st (AA) Section RGA.

In December he was transferred to the 29th Section (AA), equipped with the new three-inch (76.2 mm.) mobile anti-aircraft gun, a gun which was still in service with the BEF in 1940. In August 1917 he was transferred to G Battery, RGA attached to the ANZC Corps, Second Army. On 27 September 1917, during an air raid he was severely wounded by a bomb near Vlamertinghe and died of his wounds in hospital at St Omer. He is buried at Longue (St Omer) Cemetery, Grave Number IVE21.

His estate was valued at £7,845 1s 6d. Probate was granted to his widow, Mabel Violet (*née* Bishop) whom he married at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square in 1913. Ernest Simpson's obituary appeared *The Times* but, possibly because he was serving with the Australians, his name does not appear in the Roll of Honour in the Kent History nor did his obituary appear in *Wisden*. His name was added to the War Memorial at St. Lawrence after the other World War One casualties.

Lt. Col. Kanwar Shumshere Singh MRCS LRCP (No. 482).

Born: 21.6.1879 Bahraich, Oudh, India. *Died:* 12.5.1975, New Delhi, India

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent: 1901-1902.

Educated: Rugby School & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Hon Sir Harnam Singh KCIE & Priscilla Golaknath.

A grandson of Ranhir Singh, Maharaja of Kapurthala, Kanwar Singh entered Rugby School in 1893 aged 14 and, although it seems reasonable to assume that life might have been a bit difficult for a young Indian boy – however well connected - at a Victorian Public School, he excelled academically and represented the school at both Rugby and cricket. A talented wicketkeeper, he played in ten matches in 1896, including the Lord's fixture with Marlborough, but missed several games through injury. Going up to Cambridge in 1897, he failed to win a Blue but appeared once for the University, scoring 16 and 18 against Surrey at Fenner's in 1901. He hit at least two centuries for his College including 149 v King's College in 1899.

Presumably qualified by residence, one of his brothers lived for some years in Gravesend, his debut for Kent in 1901 was at Bramall Lane against Yorkshire, then in the process of winning the second of three successive Championships. Facing an attack including George Hirst, Schofield Haigh and Wilfred Rhodes, he scored 17 in a total of 218 and 11 as Kent were bowled out in the second innings for 80. In the following fixture, against Worcestershire at Mote Park, in a Kent side including Cuthbert Burnup, 'Dick' Blaker, Frank Marchant and Alec Hearne, he was top scorer with 45 in an all-out total of 133 and followed with 22 in the second innings. In his final appearance of the season, at The Oval v Surrey, he hit 39 in a sixth-wicket partnership of 113 in an hour with 'Joe' Murrell (68*). He played one more match, at Bournemouth in 1902, but failed to score.

After leaving University (with a BA) he studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, qualified in 1905 and in the following year joined the Indian Medical Service. He was promoted Captain in 1909, Major in 1918 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1926. He served with the Indian Army in

the 1914-1918 War, initially on the Western Front, and was awarded the 1914 Star as well as the British Defence Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. He later received the Silver Jubilee Medal (1935) and the Coronation Medal (1937).

In December 1906 Kanwar Singh married Juliette Alice Maud Anderson D'augier at All Soul's, Langham Place Kensington. She was a daughter of the Rev Ernest Cornet D'augier who died in 1894. There were two children, Beryl (1908-1948) and Hector (1910-1945). At the time of his death he was Kent's oldest cricketer.

His father-in-law had a very varied career. A graduate of St. Clare's College Cambridge and at one time curate at St. Luke's Ramsgate, he was declared bankrupt in connection with a private school in Walmer but subsequently became the first Headmaster of St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate and at the time of his death was Headmaster of Alleyn's School, Stone, Staffordshire. His son had a distinguished naval career and served at the Battle of Jutland while among members of the extended family were a professional hypnotist and a Tiller Girl.

Edward Sivewright (No. 74).

Born: 10.11.1806, Old Windsor, Berkshire. *Died:* 1.1.1873, Earley Hill, Reading, Berkshire.

Kent: 1828.

Educated: Eton College & Downing College, Cambridge.

Parents: John & Frances Sivewright.

Edward Sivewright played for Eton against Harrow at Lord's from 1823 to 1825, scoring 20 in 1823 and 21 in 1825. Although not apparently in residence until 1842, he played in the 1829 University match and scored 16 in the Cambridge first innings.

Sivewright's first-class career was unusual. Apart from his appearance in the University Match, his first-class cricket consisted of two matches played for two different counties between 18 August and 17 September 1828. With no apparent qualification he scored two and 12 for Kent against Sussex at Sevenoaks. On the same ground on 4 and 5 September he played for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent (not first-class), scoring six and 43. In a match commencing 16 September he changed sides and played for Surrey against Kent at Godalming. After contributing four in the first innings he appears to have missed the rest of the match due to injury. Ten years later he appeared for Gentlemen of Sussex (with Fuller Pilch) v Players of Sussex at Brighton. His highest score in good quality cricket appears to be 72 for MCC v the Percy Club at Lord's in 1828.

Sivewright's (or his father's) original intention was that he would study Law but, after taking articles he changed careers in favour of a commission in the 12th Lancers. He retired with the rank of Captain.

In 1839 he married Fanny Page Crosbie (1808-1887) at St. George's Hanover Square. There was one daughter. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at 'under £2,000'.

Stephen Smith (No. 172).

Born: 8. 4.1822, Camberwell, Surrey. *Died:* 20.2.1890, Blackheath.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent: 1855-1856.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School.

Parents: Benjamin Smith & Susannah Smith (*née* Pellatt).

Stephen Smith was one of the first pupils of Blackheath Proprietary School which his father, Benjamin Smith had helped to establish. Subsequently Stephen was himself trustee and treasurer.

With his friend Henry Wych Andrews (*qv*) he helped to found *circa* 1840 the Blackheath Paragon cricket club which was to become one of the strongest in the area. He played for Paragon at least until 1868, scoring several half-centuries, 80* v Streatham in 1851 apparently the highest.

In 1851 he played his first match for Gentlemen of Kent, when he scored 41 and 15* v Gentlemen of England at Canterbury. His subsequent appearances in this fixture were less successful, 0 at Lord's and a pair at Canterbury in 1852, two and one not out at Lord's in 1853. In other Gentlemen of Kent matches (not recognised as first-class) he did better – 72 v Gentlemen of Sussex at Gravesend in 1855 and 64 in the corresponding match in 1856.

He achieved nothing comparable in his two appearances for Kent in 1855 and 1856, or in the several matches for MCC (only one of them ranked as first-class). Although he never seems to have bowled in 'important' matches, he reputedly took nine wickets in an innings v Clapham in 1865. He also kept wicket occasionally.

Stephen Smith followed his father into business as a Silversmith and became Prime Warden of the Goldsmith's Company in 1885/1886. Some of his work is still collectable. In 1867 he followed his father in becoming a Freeman of the City of London.

Much involved in the sporting and social life of the area, he resided all his life in Metropolitan Kent, originally in Blackheath Park, then, on his marriage, in Eton Terrace, Lee, subsequently to Morden Road and finally to Eliot Place Blackheath where he died. Smith appears in the 1907 Kent History as 'Seth Smith' but there is no evidence that he was ever known by that name.

A noted local painter, Stephen Smith was largely instrumental in the founding of the Blackheath School of Art. He was examiner in art for his old school. In 1847 he married Mary Sophia Greaves (1823-1906) at Radford Semele, Warwickshire. There were seven daughters and three sons. On his death his estate was valued at £ 5,600 15s 4d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Smith (No. 112).

Born: 10.2.1819 Gravesend. *Died:* 6.2.1883, Gravesend.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent: 1840-1857.

Parents: George & Mary Smith.

The son of a grocer, William Smith was described in *Scores & Biographies* as a 'powerful hitter' and first played for Gravesend *circa* 1839. A considerable figure in Gravesend cricket, he appears to have had a shared interest in the Bat & Ball ground with Tom Adams (*qv*) but whether, as stated by some authorities, he actually took over the ground from Adams seems open to question.

He opened the batting on his debut for Kent against England at Town Malling in 1840, the first of three appearances in the fixture; the others were at White Hart Field, Bromley in 1842 and at Lord's in 1844. His highest score in these matches was only 15 but in 1850 he hit 136 in an all-out total of 208 for Six Players of Gravesend v Twelve Amateurs. Although there are no records of Smith having bowled in first-class or 'important' matches, later that season he apparently took nine wickets in an innings for Gravesend v Charlton Swan – presumably a club connected with the pub of that name in Charlton village.

In the 1851 Census he is a licensed victualler in East Street, Milton but shortly afterwards he emigrated to Australia where he became a government officer at Port Augusta, South Australia.

Cricket was thriving in the Colony and Smith clearly played as he was known as 'Pads & Gloves Smith', reputedly because he was the first to use them - in South Australia if not necessarily in Australia as a whole.

There seems to be no record of how long he remained in Australia but by 1856 he was back in England and played three times for Kent, once against MCC at Gravesend where he scored 24, his personal top score in first-class cricket, and twice against Sussex at Hove. He kept wicket in all three matches.

He also played twice for West Kent v East Kent (not first-class), at Canterbury, where he scored 27 (top score) and 21, and at Gravesend. He was behind the stumps for Kent in the following season, against MCC at Lord's, and is almost certainly the Smith who scored 61 for Gravesend v Ham Hill in 1861.

In the 1861 Census Smith was the landlord of *The Three Crowns*, Gravesend. He later moved with his wife Sophia to *The Prince of Wales*, East Milton and by 1871 he was at *The King's Arms* in King Street, Gravesend. In the 1881 Census he is a 'Retired grocer', living in Shrubbery Road.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

William Allan Smith-Masters (No. 325).

Born: 13.3.1850, Humber, Herefordshire. *Died:* 27.8.1937, Meopham.

Kent: 1875.

Educated: Marlborough College & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev William Alan (Cowburn) Smith-Masters & Rebecca Mary (Cowburn) Smith-Masters (*née* Randall).

William Smith-Masters was named Cowburn until 1862 when his father changed the family name to Smith-Masters, presumably for inheritance reasons. Formerly Rector of Humber and latterly Vicar of Tidenham, Gloucestershire, Rev William Smith-Masters played three games for Oxford University in 1841 (under his original name) but his son was less fortunate both at Oxford and earlier at Marlborough. He did however play for Brasenose College, notably against the All-England Eleven in 1872.

Smith-Masters did little in his one game for Kent (seven in his only innings) and was slightly less successful in his one appearance in the same year for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari in Canterbury Week. He was however an extremely active club cricketer for Band of Brothers, Cobham, Farningham, Marlborough Blues and North Kent. He hit at least three centuries including 103 for Farningham v Bickley Park in 1879 and two in 1884. As late as 1892 he scored 27 for Marlborough Blues against the RMA Woolwich.

In 1875 he inherited the Camer estate in Meopham where the family had lived since the 16th century and was appointed to the Commission of Peace for the County of Kent (Rochester Division). In the 1881 Census he is shown as a magistrate, JP and farmer living at Camer House, Meopham where he farms 670 acres (271 hectares) and employs 20 men and six boys as well as five house servants. He remained at Camer House for the rest of his life but in subsequent Census Returns he is of 'independent means'. Among his public offices were Warden of Rochester Bridge, Member of Strood RDC and Member of the Borstal Prison Visiting Committee. He was Lord of the Manor of Luddesdown and Dode and a member of the West Kent Hunt.

In 1876 Smith-Masters married Mary Coxe (1852-1915) at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Paddington. There was one daughter. In 1919 he married Kathleen Amy Gore (1876-1965) at Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire. On his death his estate was valued at £5,984 1s., probate granted to his widow. The estate is now a country park.

In addition to Smith-Masters senior, two other members of the extended family played first-class cricket – Brothers-in-law: Sir Fleetwood Isham Edwards (I Zingari 1866) and Spencer William Gore (Surrey 1874-75). Nephew George Pym Gore played for Durham (1906-1911).

Benjamin Smyth (No. 188).

Born: 20.6.1838, Calcutta (now Kolkata), Bengal, India. *Died:* 5.10.1906.Clapham, Surrey. Kent 1858.

How and why Benjamin Smyth came to play for Kent against Sussex at Hove in 1858 remains a mystery. Assuming posterity has identified the correct Benjamin Smyth, he does not appear to have had any connections with Kent nor does he seem to have played any club cricket in the county; or indeed anywhere else. According to the 1907 Kent history he was a long-term member of Surrey CCC. He seems to have lived most of his life ‘a short stroll from The Oval’.

At the time of the 1851 Census he was at school on Wimbledon Common – presumably the Old Central School – but he seems to have spent almost the whole of his adult life residing at Number 10 Albert Square, Stockwell. At least, that is his address in every Census from 1861 to 1901. In the Kent history he is said to have been in the Indian Civil Service but this seems a bit unlikely unless he just happened to be on leave each time the census was taken. Even were this the case, it is odd that, apart from 1871 when he is listed as a solicitor, the space for ‘occupation’ is blank until 1891 when he is of ‘independent means’.

In the 1861,1871 and 1881 Census Returns the head of the household is his mother Isabella who is ‘living on income from dividends’. At no time is there any reference to a father which might suggest that it was the father who was in the Indian Civil Service. Both her daughters and all but one of the four sons were born in India.

Curiously, although in the 1881 Census Benjamin Smith is shown as married, at no time does a wife appear as a member of the Albert Square household. In 1881 it consisted of mother Isabella (64), sons Thomas (44), Benjamin (42), Robert (40) and Sydney (30), daughters Mary (35) and Evelina (34) plus two servants. Ten years later, Thomas and Robert have gone but the rest remain, even, the same two servants. In 1901 when Benjamin is head of the household, Mary, Evelina and Sydney are still there as are the servants plus one extra. Nevertheless, when Benjamin died, probate was granted to his widow Mary. All distinctly odd. His estate was valued at £2,507 18s 5d.

Arthur Owen Snowden (No. 513).

Born: 7.5.1885, Ramsgate. *Died:* 22.5.1964, Canterbury.

Right-hand batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent: 1911.

Educated: Rugby School & Trinity College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Harcourt Charles Vaux Snowden & Augusta Louisa Snowden (*née* Daniel).

Arthur Snowden was in the Eleven at Rugby from 1901 to 1903 and in his final year, as well as captaining the side, he headed the bowling averages. In his three matches against Marlborough at Lord's he picked up 25 wickets at 10.92 each, backed by a useful 158 runs at 31.60. He could perhaps consider himself a little unlucky not to have been given more opportunities during his four years at

Oxford. In 1904, his first year, he took wickets in both the Freshmens' match and the Trial but it was not until 1905 that he got his chance.

In the wake of an innings of 95 (top score) in the Seniors' Match, he made his first-class debut against the Gentlemen of England in the Parks when, although not called on to bowl, he scored 54 against an attack including WG Grace and the Surrey fast bowler Neville Knox. This was enough to gain him further opportunities, against Notts in the Parks and MCC at Lord's in which he did nothing of note. This concluded his career in university cricket apart from a match in 1905 against Oxford Authentics in which he scored 36 and took three for 26 and appearances in the 1906 and 1907 Seniors' matches.

In 1908 he made his debut for Kent Second Eleven, against Sussex at Town Malling but he did not play again until 1911 when he distinguished himself with 69 opening the batting against Buckinghamshire at Folkestone and 56 v Devonshire at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham. This was the year of his one first-class match for Kent - also Lord Harris' last - in which he scored 12 and 0* and bowled four unrewarded overs for 13 runs.

In all, between 1908 and 1914 he played 11 Second Eleven matches but only once more did he exceed 30. In his last match, against Staffordshire he was bowled by the great Sydney Barnes for scores of 0 and one. Barnes' match figures were ten for 25.

Snowden took part in several matches for MCC, two of them first-class and played a great deal of cricket for clubs including Band of Brothers, Broadstairs, Free Foresters, Old Rugbians, St. Lawrence and St Peter's. He played for Band of Brothers up till 1939 and hit five centuries, the highest 143* v St. Lawrence in 1920.

For most of his working life Snowden was Headmaster of Hildersham House Preparatory School for Boys in Broadstairs. During the First World War he attested in 1915 under the Derby Scheme but was not actually mobilised until June 1918 when he was posted to the Inns of Court Regiment at Berkhamsted. It was an officer training unit but he was not apparently accepted as a cadet. Possibly due to his profession, he was part of the training set-up, presumably in a fairly minor role. At least, he remained a Private.

On retirement Arthur Snowden moved to Canterbury, latterly at The Oast, Old Dover Road. As an administrator he gave long service to Kent, on the General Committee from 1947 to 1950 and 1952 to 1955 and on the Accounts and finance Sub-committees from 1950 to 1962. He was Honorary Librarian from 1954 until his death. In 1913 he married Mary Woodman at St Barnabas' Church, Pimlico. There was one son and one daughter. On his death his estate was valued at £28,864.

Frank de Lisle Solbé (No. 419).

Born: 1.6.1871, Chefoo, China. *Died:* 12.1.1933, Bickley.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1891-1892.

Educated: Dulwich College & Blair Lodge Academy.

Parents: Edward Solbé & Catherine Sophia Solbé (*née* Smith).

Frank Solbé's father seems to have combined a Government post in China with highly successful trading as a merchant' and it was as a merchant that he became a Freeman of the City of London in 1882. Frank had the rare distinction of gaining a place in the Eleven at two public schools, Dulwich College (1887-1888) and Blair Lodge (1889-1890). In his last year at Dulwich he was chosen for Public Schools v The Parsee touring side at Leyton. In 1889 he scored 117 for Blair Lodge v the 20th Regiment (Lancashire Fusiliers) and 186 for his father's Eleven against Lord Sheffield's Eleven at Sheffield Park.

On his first appearance for Kent, against Warwickshire at Gravesend in 1891 (not first-class) he scored 21* and 33. The magazine *Cricket* thought he 'shaped in very promising style' while *Lillywhite* commented that he 'played with great confidence'. Unfortunately, he was unable to live up to his promise, at least at first-class level. In four Championship appearances, one in 1891, three in 1892, his top score was nine. In his only first-class match for MCC, v Kent at Lord's in 1898, he was dismissed for a pair. For Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Tonbridge in 1892, his scores were three and one.

At Club level he did much better. His first club was Bromley but most of his cricket was for Plaistow and Bickley Park. Between 1892 and 1900 he hit at least ten centuries for these two clubs against sides such as Eastbourne, Horsham, Kensington Park, Seaford and three against Crystal Palace. In 1897 he registered five hundreds, four for Plaistow and one for Bickley Park. He joined the latter in 1889 and, beginning in 1894, served on the committee for almost 40 years, 11 of them as Chairman. His other clubs included Mote Park and West Kent.

A member of the Bromley Hockey Club, he was capped three times for England, twice against Ireland and once against Wales.

Like both his father and his son Edward, who played 15 matches for Kent between 1921 and 1924, Frank Solbé lived most of his life in and around Bromley and devoted his entire working life to politics. For 28 years he was Secretary of the Association of Conservative Clubs, having previously served as Assistant Secretary. He was for many years Conservative Party Agent for what was then the West Kent Division. In 1926 he made a short visit to Rangoon, apparently in some official capacity.

In 1901 he married Mabel Phillips (1854-1943) at Bromley. Edward Solbé was their only child. On his death, Frank Solbé's estate was valued at £1,061 14s, probate to his wife.

Stephen Southon (No. 45).

Born: 28.10.1806, Benenden. *Died:* 10.3.1880, Albany, New York State, USA.

Wicketkeeper

Kent: 1825-1826

This player has, at least so far, evaded positive identification. He is very possibly one of the ten children, eight sons, two daughters, born to the Benenden village butcher Thomas Southon and his wife Elizabeth. Stephen was baptised on 3 February 1807 and his birth registered on 19 February the same year at the Wesleyan Chapel, Rye. In 1827 he emigrated to the USA where he died. There are however several other possibilities including a Stephen Southon, agricultural labourer, who was living in Sellinge in 1841.

His four 'first-class' matches, in which his highest score was three, were all against Sussex, two at Hawkhurst and two at Brighton. He also played for Kent against Hawkhurst in 1823 as did his brother Charles, also a noted local cricketer.

John Sparks (No. 29).

Born: 9. 4.1778, Bramley, Surrey. *Died:* 5.3.1854, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland.

Slow under-arm bowler.

Kent: 1822.

Parents: John & Mary Sparks.

County affiliation had little or no meaning in the early years of the 19th century and, even though he played two matches for Kent, John Sparks does not appear to have had any connections with the county. Among the most highly regarded cricketers of the time, for some years he was engaged at Lord's and played five times for 'Middlesex' before any such club existed but most of his cricket under a county banner was for the county of his birth, again before any Surrey Club existed.

Originally a gamekeeper according to Haygarth, he was a 'slashing hitter and in the latter half of his career was rated one of the best slow bowlers in England. Similar in method to Tom Ashby (*qv*), he was said to bowl 'with his arm extended from his side' – a first step towards genuine round-arm. Haygarth also describes him as 'the best runner between wickets of his day' although in fact he seems to have been run out rather more frequently than some of his contemporaries.

His first matches of importance were for Surrey v England. Although his top score in these matches was only 13*, as early as 1804 he appeared for England v MCC, the first of 16 appearances for England in matches now recognised as first-class; his last in 1829. By 1806 he had impressed the right people sufficiently to open the batting for the Players against the Gentlemen in the second match of the series. The game, played on the original Lord's ground, was the second that year and was unique in that it started on 21 July and did not resume until 25 July. In the Players' second innings Sparks was top scorer with 27 (run out), one of only two of the professionals to exceed 20.

In all he appeared seven times in the Players v Gentlemen fixture between 1806 and 1827 with a top score of 63 in 1821. This was in the middle of a remarkable patch of all-round form in matches at Lord's – 25 & 36 for England v Hampshire, five, 89 and at least two wickets for MCC v Hampshire, 63 and at least one wicket for Players v Gentlemen, 26, 36 and at least seven wickets for MCC First Nine (with three others) v MCC Second Nine (with three others), 17, 20 and at least five wickets in each innings for MCC First Eight (with three others) v MCC Second Eight (with three others).

In his first match for Kent, against MCC at Lord's, he scored 36 (run out), second highest scorer for Kent in a match in which 514 runs were scored for the loss of 30 wickets. This was the occasion on which John Willes (*qv*), opening the bowling for Kent, left the field and rode out of Lord's after being no-balled. In addition to his engagement with MCC, John Sparks spent a year with the Lansdown Club in Bath and also played for Sheffield and Bury St Edmunds.

In 1833 at the age of 55 he was persuaded by Edward Horsman MP to accept an engagement with the Grange Club, Edinburgh, one of the leading cricket clubs in Scotland and the first to own its own dedicated ground. Horsman, one of the founders of The Grange, defined Sparks' duties as 'to bowl all day, bowl in our games and on practice days if required, to stand umpire in matches and do everything for £20, he paying his own expenses to and from Scotland'.

Unpromising as it might sound, in the event it proved a profitable venture. The club prospered and when they moved to their new Grove Park ground there was a groundsman's house, built for him. The ground became known as 'Sparks Ground' and for the remainder of his life he combined ground keeper's duties with the running of a livery stable.

According to the Grange Club history, when Lord Bessborough and the Hon Robert Grimston visited Edinburgh they cancelled a visit to Holyrood House in favour of a visit to 'Old Sparks'. At the suggestion that they go on to Holyrood, Grimston replied 'I don't want to see anything else in this beastly country now I have seen Old Sparks'. Curiously, when Haygarth tried to find details of Sparks' birth, death etc. for *Scores & Biographies* his daughter refused to co-operate, asserting that her father 'played cricket against the wishes of his friends'.

William Hugh Spottiswoode (No. 412).

Born: 12.7.1864, Belgravia, London. *Died:* 20.8.1915, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire, Wales.
Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm under-arm bowler
Kent: 1890.
Educated: Eton College & Balliol College, Oxford.
Parents: William Spottiswoode & Eliza Spottiswoode (*née* Taylor).

William Spottiswoode was unable to find a place in the Eleven at Eton or at Oxford but he captained his college team and for a few years played with considerable allround success in club cricket until business restricted his sporting activities. At the age of 25 he became a partner in the family firm, Eyre & Spottiswoode, printers to the Queen and, incidentally, publishers in 1907 of the first volume of *The History of Kent County Cricket Club*. His father, also William, was a master printer who became President of the Royal Society and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Qualified for Kent by residence in Bexley, Spottiswoode's brief experience of first-class cricket started badly. Due to play against Yorkshire at the Wigginton Road ground, York, owing to an administrative mix-up, by the time he and two other members of the Kent side, Stanley Christopherson and Walter Hearne, arrived, Kent – or what there was of them – had been dismissed in an hour for 46. Yorkshire managed only 114 and in Kent's second innings, Spottiswoode was second highest scorer with 37 but it was all over in two days, the home side winning by eight wickets.

In the next match, against Warwickshire at Edgbaston (not first-class), Spottiswoode suffered a pair and on his final appearance, against Gloucestershire at Gloucester in which rain saved his side from another heavy defeat, he was run out for 11 and bowled for three. In club cricket he scored several centuries, mainly it was said on slow wickets, and against lesser opposition he had days of success with his lobbs. His clubs included Authentics, Band of Brothers, Bexley Wanderers, Eton Ramblers, Sevenoaks Vine, Waterlow Printers, West Kent and Wildernes Park.

In addition to his partnership in the family firm, William Spottiswoode was also chairman of *The Tatler* and *The Sphere* and in 1903, while chairman of the Printers' Pension Corporation, founded *Printers' Pie*, a popular magazine which survived into the 1930s. Originally intended as a one-off souvenir of his year as chairman, *Printers' Pie* and its shorter-lived sister publication *Winter's Pie* evolved into Pie Publications with all profits going to the Printer's Pension Corporation and five other related charities. He was also a director of the piano manufacturers John Broadwood & Sons Ltd and of the Royal Academy of Music. For some years he was manager of the Royal Institution and a member of the committee of the Royal Literary Fund.

In 1893 William Spottiswoode married Sylvia Mary Tomlin (1870-1922) at St. George's, Hanover Square. There was one son and one daughter. He died suddenly of heart failure, leaving an estate valued at £37,000. His younger brother Cyril (born 1868), a Chartered Accountant and prominent member of the Old Stagers, died in the same year.

Alfred Staines (No. 225).

Born: 22.5.1838, Charlton. *Died:* 13.6.1910, Sydenham.
Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.
Kent: 1863-1864.
Parents: Joseph Staines & Caroline Staines (*née* Knight).

Seriously short of talent, in 1863 the Kent committee decided to play two Colts' matches, Gentlemen Colts v Professional Colts at Mote Park and Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at The Oval. Alfred Staines, who kept wicket for the Charlton Club, was chosen for both matches and impressed sufficiently to gain selection for a run of three matches as replacement for William Fryer who, following the loss of an eye, had finally decided to give up keeping. Although his top score was only two including, a pair

against Notts at Cranbrook, Staines caught three and stumped three, all from the bowling of George Bennett. There were 48 byes which may or may not be significant.

At the start of the 1864 season he kept wicket for Colts of North of the Medway against Colts of South of the Medway at Town Malling and for the first time achieved double figures –14. He was chosen for the two opening games of 1864, both resulting in defeat by an innings, and for the remainder of the season the committee preferred Richard Bennett (*qv*). Although again failing with the bat, Staines caught one and stumped two; there were another 22 byes. In 1866-1867 Staines was professional with the Old Change Club. In 1866 he played for Twenty-Two of Charlton v the United South of England Eleven in Charlton Park but does not seem to have kept wicket.

One of nine children of an agricultural labourer, Alfred Staines lived most of his life in Charlton. In the 1851 Census he was an errand boy but by 1871 he had progressed to 'letter carrier'. Possibly he devoted some time to study as ten years later he is a solicitor's clerk in which occupation he continued until retirement.

In 1862 he married Annie Maria White at St. Thomas' Church, Charlton. There were two daughters. He died at Vernon Road, Sydenham of 'inguinal hernia, general decay and heart failure'.

Hon Edward Stanhope PC (No. 207).

Born: 24.9.1840, Belgravia, London. *Died:* 21.12.1893, Chevening.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium –pace bowler.

Kent: 1861.

Educated: Harrow School & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Philip Henry Stanhope FRS LLD, Fifth Earl Stanhope & Lady Emily Harriet Stanhope (*née* Kerrison).

The second son of a noted historian, Edward Stanhope was in the Eleven at Harrow in 1859 and scored a steady 17 when Eton were beaten by an innings at Lord's. At Oxford he played for the Next Nineteen and for the Next Sixteen against the University Eleven on the Magdalen College ground in 1860 and for 16 of Oxford University against Surrey at The Oval in 1861 without finding a place in the Eleven. His best score in these matches was 31 when the Next Nineteen beat the Eleven by an innings.

In 1861, his second year at Oxford, he played his only match for Kent, qualified by residence with his brother at Chevening. His scores were 16 and 17, as opener in the second innings when he shared a first-wicket partnership 40 with Ned Willsher (24).

Although there seems to be no record of his election, in 1864 he was on the Managing Committee of Kent CCC but seems to have drifted off by the end of 1866 although again there seems to be no record of any resignation. He does not seem to have been involved in the negotiations leading to the amalgamation with the Beverley Club in 1870.

After Oxford, the Law and politics restricted him to club cricket, mainly for Harlequins, Free Foresters, Lords & Commons and chiefly for I Zingari. For the latter he scored 59 v Windsor Garrison in 1878 and 80 v First Life Guards in 1882. In the mid-1860s he seems to have flourished as a bowler for IZ claiming nine wickets in a match v Sevenoaks Vine in 1863 and twelve v Westminster School in 1864.

Although by then Under Secretary of State for India, in 1879 he played two first-class matches, for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North and for I Zingari v Yorkshire, both in September at Scarborough. He also appeared in several club matches. One of them, MCC v Nottinghamshire on the

Duke of St Albans' ground in Bestwood Park, might well have been rated first-class. Stanhope's last match of significance seems to have been in 1882, for Lords & Commons v Wildernesse Park near Sevenoaks.

Edward Stanhope was called to the Bar in the Middle Temple in 1865 and built up a substantial practice at the Parliamentary Bar. He stood for Parliament as a Conservative in 1874 and won the seat of Mid-Lincolnshire which he held until the redistribution in 1885. He then won the seat of Horncastle which he held from 1885 until his death. Originally talent spotted by Disraeli, he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (1875-1878), Under-Secretary of State for India (1878-1880), Vice President of the Council for Education with a seat in the Cabinet (1885), President of the Board of Trade (1885-1886), Secretary of State for the Colonies (1886-1887) and Secretary of State for War (1887-1892).

In the latter office, in the face of strong opposition from the notoriously reactionary Commander-in-Chief the Duke of Cambridge and other elderly general officers, he introduced a number of reforms and innovations, including the introduction of the magazine rifle. He initiated the formation of the Army Service Corps and the reconstruction of barracks and improvements in living conditions, much of which only came to full fruition under later administrations. In 1882 he became a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery.

Stanhope played football at Eton and was a keen fisherman and high class shot. He was a Fellow of All Souls from 1862 to 1870 and in 1879 was the subject of a 'Spy' cartoon in *Vanity Fair*. He was missing from the list of cricketers featured in the magazine *The Cricketer* compiled by John Arlott in August 1953 and from the supplementary list produced by JW Goldman in September that year. Nor is he mentioned in Russell March's *The Cricketers of Vanity Fair* published in 1982.

Stanhope was a JP, an Alderman and Chairman of Lindsey County Council. Lord of the Manor of Revesby; his country home was Revesby Abbey near Boston. He also had a town house, 111 Eaton Square. In 1870 he married Lucy Constance Egerton (1847-1907) at St Peter's, Eaton Square. There were no children. On a visit to his brother at Chevening Edward Stanhope was struck by a severe attack of gout and died suddenly of 'paralysis of the heart.' He was buried at Revesby. He had made his last speech to the Commons on 9 December 1893. His estate was valued at £51,878 18s 5d. His biography appears in *The Dictionary of National Biography, Volume 18, Page 895*.

William Stearman (No. 105).

Born: 1813, Aldborough, Norfolk. *Died:* 11.4. 1846, Thurgarton, Norfolk.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1836-1840.

Parents: John Stearman & Sarah Stearman (*née* Muniment).

A cooper by trade according to *Scores & Biographies*, William Stearman was a member of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' from 1838 to 1840 but, other than his birth and death, little detail of his life seems to have survived. He might be the William Stearman who was living in West Malling at the time of the 1841 Census but his occupation is shown as 'chemist'.

According to *Scores & Biographies* Stearman was 'taken' to Town Malling by Fuller Pilch but he barely rates a mention in Pilch's recent biography and he seems to be best remembered as the first of Sam Redgate's three wickets in four balls in the famous Kent v England match at Town Malling in 1839. More often than not opening the batting, he began in 1836 with 26* on his first appearance for Kent, against Sussex at Brighton. This was the highest score of the match and would be his highest for the County. Although he never again exceeded 18, he did however achieve double figures in 39% of his innings for Kent, consistent by the standards of the day.

In 1843 Stearman returned to Norfolk and played for the county of his birth until the year before his death. In the annual match between Norfolk and the Cambridge Town Club he scored 34 (highest score in an all-out total of 98) on Parker's Piece in 1842 and 39 (top score in the match) on the same ground in 1844. He died young of phthisis pulmonatis and is buried in an unmarked grave.

In volume one of Altham & Swanton's *History of Cricket*, Stearman is named as the player who, at Trent Bridge in 1817, after being reprovved by Lord Frederick Beauclerk for slackness in the field, 'lost his temper, and, when the chance came returned the ball so violently' that he dislocated one of his Lordship's fingers, coming near to setting up 'lockjaw'. Possibly quite a few players would have relished the chance of hurling the ball at Lord Frederick (*qv*) but Stearman was only five years-old at the time. The offender, if that is the right word, was probably John Sherman.

Dr Haldane Campbell Stewart (No. 426).

Born; 28.3.1868, Notting Hill, Middlesex. *Died*: 16.6.1942, Oxford.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1892-1903. *Cap* 1893.

Educated: Magdalen College School, Oxford and Magdalen College, Oxford.

Parents: John Stewart, Sixth Baron Stewart of Appin & Ann Stewart (*née* Winslow).

The youngest of four sons of a barrister, Haldane Stewart was described by Charles Fry in his *Book of Cricket* as batting in 'a very graceful and attractive style, such as would have delighted the heart of the purest critic of the last generation'. Essentially a forward player, he scored the majority of his runs with wristy drives and cuts and, although in most seasons his profession restricted him to the school holidays, he generally did enough to justify his place in the Kent side when available.

According to contemporaries, grace and elegance were hallmarks of all his sporting activities, not only in football, golf (where he played off two), tennis and on the river but even when playing billiards. A Tonbridge contemporary remarked 'I think he lights a cigarette better than any man I know.'

Entering Magdalen College School as a chorister at the age of ten, he gave early indication of his cricketing talents at the age of 15 with a score of 109 against Abingdon School. In 1888 he won a classical exhibition to Magdalen College but failed in the Freshmen's match and, although he scored runs and took wickets for his College and scored at least two hundreds for Oxford University Authentics, he was not given any further chances. On coming down from Oxford he began his career as a teacher.

In 1892, his second year in the profession, he hit 78 for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Foxgrove Road Beckenham and shortly afterwards made his County debut. Opening the batting against Middlesex at Lord's, he scored 23 and 11. On his third appearance, still as opener, he hit 50 v Sussex at Hove. Over the next four seasons, coming into the side in late July/early August, he played several useful innings, notably 90 (top score) in 120 minutes v Sussex at Hove 1894, 52 in an opening partnership of 101 with Alec Hearne (70) v Middlesex at Lord's in 1895 and 83 in a 124-run sixth-wicket partnership with Lord Harris (119) at Taunton in 1896.

In 1897, after leaving Wellington and prior to taking up an appointment at Tonbridge, he was able to play virtually a full season. Beginning with 142 against a strong MCC attack at Lord's, he hit 853 runs (avge.29.41) (the second highest aggregate) including 114 v Sussex at Hove, and three half-centuries. In September he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Hastings where, in the amateurs' second innings, in appalling light and against a formidable attack including Tom Richardson and Bobby Peel he scored 22 in an all-out total of 67. Only one other batsman managed double figures.

With teaching (and increasingly music) occupying more of his time, Stewart played only two matches in 1898 but he found time for ten appearances in 1899 and 12 in 1900. In 1899, opening the batting against the Australians in Canterbury Week, he hit 71 in 85 minutes (top scorer but twice missed) and, coming in at No. 9 in the second innings due to injury, scored 15*, sharing a 27 run unfinished partnership with Gerry Weigall to steer his side to a two-wicket victory. He was top scorer again in the 1900 Week with 77 in 70 minutes against Worcestershire.

After 1900, Stewart played only three more county matches, one in 1901, two in 1902 but he opened the batting for Kent on the tour of the USA in 1903 with a top score of 40 v All New York on Staten Island (not first-class).

An active club cricketer, he continued playing until 1919 when he took up his post at Magdalen College. As well as Oxford Authentics, his clubs included Band of Brothers, Blackheath, Bluemantles, Claysmore, Free Foresters, MCC, Sutton, and I Zingari, For Blackheath he averaged 179 in 1896 and in the following year hit 203* against Granville (Lee).

Haldane Stewart began his teaching career at Lancing College where he was an Assistant Master and latterly Director of Music (1891- 1896). Subsequently he was an Assistant Master at Wellington College (1896-1897) and Director of Music at Tonbridge School (1898 to 1919). He also conducted the Tonbridge Symphony Orchestra where Colin Blythe was a first violin. When Kent toured the USA in 1903, Stewart entertained the passengers with two piano solos at a concert on board *SS Cedric* on the outward journey from Liverpool. The concert committee included such diverse personalities as Sir Thomas Sopwith, Seymour Hicks and Kent's Jack Mason.

Stewart's musical career reached its peak in 1919 when he returned to Magdalen College as Organist and Choir Master where he did much to maintain the high standards traditionally associated with the College. As a composer he produced some 20 published works including two hymns, several songs and two carols, '*Winds of Bethlehem*' and '*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*'. He retired in 1938 but returned when his successor joined the RAF in 1941; he died in office. He was Bachelor of Music (1915) and Doctor of Music (1919). His death resulted from back injuries sustained from a fall on the staircase at his home in Oxford. His estate was valued for probate at £3,985 17s 7d.

In 1913 Stewart married Elinor Dorothy Hunt, a noted cellist and teacher, in Bromley. There was one son and one daughter. The family gave concerts as a string quartet, Haldane Stewart (viola), Elinor Stewart (cello), daughter Jean and son Lorn Alistair (violins).

The two children adopted very different career paths. Whereas Jean Stewart (1914-2012) became a noted concert performer on the viola, son Lorn (1917-2005), professionally known as 'Johnnie', pursued a career as a producer with the BBC. Starting with the Effects Department, his credits included '*The Wakey Wakey Tavern*', '*Christmas Night with the Stars*', '*Juke Box Jury*' and most famously, '*Top of the Pops*'. He was very familiar to devotees thanks to his weekly pose on screen as the closing credits rolled. This change of direction is not perhaps as surprising as it may seem. One of Haldane Stewart's more musically erudite obituarists claimed to detect 'jazz themes' in some of his compositions.

Further reading.

Fry, CB. *The Book of Cricket: a new gallery of famous players*. George Newnes, 1899.

Frederic Stokes (No. 273).

Born: 12.7.1850, Greenwich. *Died:* 7.2.1929, Inhurst, Berkshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast round-arm bowler.

Kent: 1871-1873.

Educated: Rugby School.

Parents: Henry Graham Stokes & Elizabeth Stokes (*née* Sewell).

Better-known as a Rugby footballer and first-ever England captain, Frederic Stokes was a solicitor, one of the nine children (six sons, three daughters) of a distinguished solicitor who became Proctor to the Admiralty. He was in the Eleven at Rugby in 1867 when, opening the batting, he scored 66 v Marlborough at The Oval, 93 v Butterflies at Rugby and carried his bat for 64* v MCC at Lord's. While living with his father in St John's Park, Blackheath, two years later he appeared twice for Gentlemen of Kent, v Kent Colts and v Gentlemen of Buckinghamshire, both at Gravesend.

His introduction to first-class cricket came in 1871 when he appeared for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North at Lillie Bridge, West Brompton, followed shortly afterwards by his first-class debut for Kent, against Lancashire at Gravesend. Opening the batting, he was top scorer in both innings – 65 and 38 – and took two for 38 with his 'very fast' round-arm bowling. This proved to be his only success with the bat for Kent in a first-class fixture but in 1872 he scored 46 and took four for 20 for Kent against the Prince's club at Prince's. *Scores & Biographies* did not it seems approve of the fixture and signified displeasure with a caustic footnote 'A great cricketing county playing a new club. Fall indeed!' At Hove in 1875 when Sussex hit the Kent bowling for 414 (JM Cotterill 191), Stokes did more than his share of the hard labour with figures of 53-15-123-2. In his last game for Kent, against Hampshire at Winchester in the same year, his second innings figures were 10-8-8-1.

Stokes appeared twice for Gentlemen v Players at Prince's, in 1873 and 1874, with a top score of 36 in the latter year. It was at Prince's in 1874 that he made an unscheduled appearance in a first-class match. Playing for Gentlemen of South v Players of the North, his brother-in-law, William Penn (see below), damaged his collar bone in taking a catch and Stokes took his place, batting No. 10 and claiming two wickets in the second innings.

In 1877 Stokes married Isabella Penn, sister of the Penn Kent cricketing fraternity (*qv*), in Lewisham. There were three daughters and two sons. Already brother of two first-class cricketers, Graham and Lennard Stokes (*qv*), by marrying Miss Penn he became brother-in-law of three and uncle of two more.

On occasions, he appeared for the Penn family Eleven in their matches at The Cedars, Lee. A prolific scorer and on occasions destructive bowler in minor cricket, his clubs included Blackheath, Butterflies, Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, Gentlemen of Essex, Mayflies, Upton Park and West Kent,

Described as 'one of the best and most brilliant of forwards' and also a capable half-back, in common with his five brothers, Frederic Stokes played Rugby for Blackheath. He captained the club for several years and in 1871 accepted a challenge to take a team of 20 to play Scotland at Edinburgh and captained the England side in the first-ever Rugby International. England lost but he was captain again when they won the return at The Oval in 1872 and drew in Glasgow in 1873

He virtually retired from Rugby Football at the end of the 1873 season. He was present at the meeting in Pall Mall leading to the formation of the RFU and in 1874-75 became the Union's second President. His fellow Rugby International Joseph Green married Ellen Penn, sister of Isabella.

Stokes was a successful solicitor, latterly practising in Christchurch but by 1901 he has retired at the relatively early age of 51 and was living in Suffolk with his wife, three daughters, one of his sons and twelve servants. His son, Frederick Frank seems to have managed to retire even earlier. In the 1911 census he is a 30 year-old 'retired farmer' living with his father, mother and sisters at Inhurst House, Basingstoke. They still employ six live-in servants but, a little surprisingly, when Frederic died in 1929 his estate was valued at a fairly modest £2,190.16s.6d.

Graham Stokes (No. 362).

Born: 22.3.1858, Greenwich. *Died:* 19.12.1921, Blackheath.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1880-1881.

Educated: Bath Proprietary (Sydney) College, Bath.

Parents: Henry Graham Stokes & Elizabeth Stokes (*née* Sewell).

A solicitor like his father and brother Frederic, Graham Stokes' serious cricket seems to have been confined to the period 1878-1881. His first-class cricket consisted of one match for Kent on Tunbridge Wells Common in 1880 and three in August/September 1881, two at Mote Park, in the first of which he reached his top score of 27 against Derbyshire, and one at the Oval in which he suffered a pair.

He did rather better in club cricket for Band of Brothers, Blackheath and West Kent. When his brother Lennard scored 285 for R Page's Eleven v Colchester Garrison at Bradwell-on-Sea in 1879, Graham contributed 62 to his team's total of 527. Like all the Stokes brothers, he played Rugby for Blackheath.

Stokes began his legal career in Kidbrooke as articled clerk to his brother-in-law Christopher Lethbridge. In 1900 he married Swansea-born Esther Frances Bath (1880-1959). There were two sons and two daughters.

He lived most of his life in South East London but in 1911 he is at Gloucester Place, Paddington with his wife, one son, two daughters and five servants. His estate, probate to his wife, was valued at £25,926 16s 10d.

Dr Lennard Stokes MRCS LRCP (No. 332).

Born: 12.2.1856, Greenwich. *Died:* 3.5.1933, Upton, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, under-arm spin bowler.

Kent: 1877-1880.

Educated: Bath Proprietary (Sydney) College, Bath & Guy's Hospital Medical School.

Parents: Henry Graham Stokes & Elizabeth Stokes (*née* Sewell).

Like his brother Frederic, Lennard Stokes' sporting eminence rests largely on his record as a Rugby footballer. Nevertheless, like his brothers, he was a useful cricketer. On his first appearance for Kent, against 17 Colts of West Kent (with G Marsham) at Mote Park in May 1877, his lobs claimed 12 wickets and, although in his four first-class matches for Kent he only once achieved double figures, against Surrey at The Oval in August 1877 he took three for 56 and one for 45.

His club cricket was for Blackheath, Broadwater, Eastbourne, Esher and Oatlands Park. For R. Page's Eleven at Downe Hall, Bradwell-on-Sea, he hit two double hundreds, 224* v Chiswick & Turnham Green in 1878 and 285 v Colchester Garrison in 1879.

Rated by some as the greatest Rugby footballer of his day, Stokes is credited with having played a major role in converting Sydney College from the Association game. He played as a full-back or three-quarter back for Blackheath from 1873 to 1881 and captained them from 1875. During his reign as captain the team won 68, drew nine and lost only six. He was largely responsible for the club's move to Rectory Field. From 1874 to 1881 he also played for Guy's Hospital.

Between 1875 and 1881 Stokes played five times against Ireland, six times against Scotland and once against Wales, five times as captain. He was President of the RFU 1886-1888.

Stokes studied medicine at Guy's where he became House Surgeon and Resident Obstetrician. He was also Honorary Surgeon to St John's Hospital, Lewisham. He subsequently went into general practice in Blackheath and, from 1921, in Basingstoke. In 1888 he married Ethel Spurling (1860-1943). There were seven sons.

Richard John Streatfeild (No. 176).

Born: 7.11.1833, Chiddingstone. *Died:* 22.3.1877, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Kent: 1856.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Christ Church College, Oxford.

Parents: Lt. Col. Henry Streatfeild & Maria Dorrien Streatfeild (*née* Magens).

Despite being a member of one of the best known sporting families in Kent, as a cricketer, Richard Streatfeild is an oddly elusive figure. Although he played only once for Kent, he appeared in five other first-class matches, played alongside Alfred Mynn and between 1854 and 1864 took wickets in top quality club cricket yet there seems to be nothing in contemporary writing to indicate how he bowled, fast or slow, right-arm or left-arm, over-arm, round-arm or under-arm. We do not even know which way round he batted.

His Eton and Cambridge educated father was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, late of the First Life Guards, latterly CO of the West Kent Yeomanry and owner of Chiddingstone Castle. In the 1851 census his occupation is given merely as 'Esq'. Streatfeild senior is buried in Chiddingstone Church where the family crest adorns a hatchment on the wall.

Reginald Streatfeild was a gentlemen farmer with 170 acres and employing seven men in 1861. Ten years later he is at Chested Farm, Penshurst with his wife Harriet whom he married at Speldhurst in 1858, his two sons and five servants, his occupation described as 'Farmer & secretary'. His wife was the daughter of Colonel Armytage of the Foot Guards.

Streatfeild presumably played cricket at Tonbridge At any event, in 1854, his second year at Oxford, he played twice for the University, taking six wickets against Oxford University Second Eleven and three against 'Players Engaged at Oxford'. He also represented his College, taking eight wickets against Wheatley and three against Trinity. In July he made his first-class debut, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's. While Alfred Mynn took 12 wickets, Streatfeild was allowed only four overs, failed to take a wicket and batted No. 11 in both innings.

His next first-class appearance was in a curious North v South match on Tunbridge Wells Common in 1855. Organised by the United England Eleven, neither side was remotely representative and Streatfeild, together with the better-known George Wells (Sussex & Middlesex), played for the North. Streatfeild did not get a bowl and he was similarly sidelined on his next first-class appearance, his only match for Kent in which he scored ten. His final three first-class matches were for the Gentlemen of Kent in Canterbury Week. In the second, v Gentlemen of MCC in 1861, he produced far his best performance in first-class cricket, five for 42 and three for 27.

Below first-class level, among his more notable achievements were 11 wickets in the match for Christ Church College v Pilch & Martin's Eleven in 1855 when his victims included Julius Caesar (twice), George Parr, HH Stephenson, CD Marsham, Nixon & Lockyer, and six wickets in an innings (including Fryer, Hollands, Willam Pilch & Saunders) for West Kent v East Kent at Canterbury in 1856. His best with the bat was 62 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Tunbridge Wells

in 1861 when he also took three wickets for two runs from 69 balls as the Sussex Gentlemen were bundled out for 24.

Playing for Gentlemen of Kent v the South Wales Club at Tunbridge Wells in 1862, his three wickets for 39 included that of the youthful EM Grace. His other clubs included Band of Brothers, Oxford University Authentics, Peshurst, Sevenoaks Vine, Tunbridge Wells and I Zingari. His last game of note was in 1864 when he changed allegiance to take three for 17 & one for 20 but failed to score for Sussex v Tunbridge Wells.

He died at Chested Farm from phthisis exhaustion, his estate valued for probate at 'Under £4000. On his death certificate his occupation is given as 'gentleman'.

Alexander McNeill (Streatfeild) Streatfeild-Moore (No. 394).

Born: 17.10.1863, Chart's Edge, Westerham. *Died:* 30.12.1940, Newbury, Berkshire.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm bowler.

Kent: 1885-1888.

Educated: Charterhouse School & Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

Parents: Alexander Edward Champion (Streatfeild) Streatfeild-Moore & Helen (Streatfeild) Streatfeild-Moore (*née* McNeil).

Born Alexander McNeill Streatfeild – the Moore was added by Royal Licence in 1885 – Streatfeild played his first game for Charterhouse in 1879 and was a regular member of the Eleven in 1880-1881. In 1880 he scored 68* against a strong MCC attack including Wilf Flowers, Billy Midwinter and Bobby Rylott and was described in red *Lillywhite* as 'a tremendous scorer off loose bowling and sometimes off good, his score against MCC being beyond praise'. Next year he took four for 9 v Wellington College and was praised in the same publication as 'the best allround man in the Eleven'. Entering the RMC Sandhurst in 1883, he carried his bat for 118* in the annual match with the RMA Woolwich and finished the season second in the college averages but, fortunate to be of 'independent means', he remained at the College for only a year

A free scorer in club cricket, Streatfeild – or Streatfeild-Moore as he would become before the end of the year – made his Kent debut in August 1885, scoring three and one v Middlesex at Mote Park. His remaining five appearances were spread over three seasons, two in 1886, one in 1887 and three in 1888. Twice he reached 30, 33 v Derbyshire at Derby in 1886 and 36 v Notts at Trent Bridge in 1888 but possibly his best innings was at Gravesend in 1887 when he was top scorer with 22 as Kent were dismissed by Johnny Briggs (seven for 44) for 106.

In contrast with many amateurs of the period, he was willing to tour the Northern Counties, playing at Old Trafford and Fartown, Huddersfield as well as at Derby and Trent Bridge. In 1888 he scored 56 for Gentlemen of Kent v the touring Parsees at Rectory Field.

Streatfeild-Moore was an active club cricketer for Band of Brothers, Bickley Park, Free Foresters, MCC and Old Carthusians. Qualified by residence, in 1897 he played one match for Buckinghamshire. Together with his brother Edward (Cambridge University & Surrey), Streatfeild-Moore played for an Eleven of Streatfeilds against Squerryes Court, Westerham. The team was captained and organised by the brothers' uncle Frank N Streatfeild CMG, a regular columnist on country sports for *The Field* and *The Tatler*. His book *Sporting Recollections of an Old 'Un* (Eveleigh Nash, 1913), includes a photograph of the side, unfortunately without any identification of the individual players.

On his father's death in 1887, Alexander Streatfeild-Moore inherited the family property Woodcock Hill, Northchurch, Berkhamsted where at the time of the 1891 Census he was a JP living with nine

servants. By 1909 he had disposed of Woodcock Hill and moved to Little Rissington Manor, Bourton-on-the-Water, originally as tenant, latterly as owner. He sold up in 1919 and moved to Newbury.

In 1917, aged 54, he married his cousin Evelyn Agatha Gatyana Streatfeild (1884-1975) at All Saints Marlylebone. On his death, his estate was valued at £2,493. 9s 3d 'saved and excluding settled lands,' the latter later valued at £85,000 10s. Streatfeild-Moore was the great-grandson of Elizabeth Fry. In addition to his brother Edward who played 38 first-class matches in all, his brother-in-law George Barne appeared once for Somerset in 1904.

Francis Edward Street (No. 318).

Born: 16.2.1851, Hampstead, Middlesex. *Died:* 4.6.1928, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1875-1877.

Educated: Uppingham School.

Thomas Henry & Jane Elizabeth Street.

A prolific batsman at Uppingham and in club cricket, Francis Street played four matches for Kent between 1875 and 1877 while living in Brasted but was unable to reproduce his club form. Beginning with 12 and 6 on debut, his subsequent scores were a pair, 0, 3 and 0.

Much of his club cricket was for Uppingham Rovers, in the 1880s one of the strongest club sides in the country, frequently taking on then minor county sides such as Derbyshire, Essex, Leicestershire and Northants. He shared several century opening partnerships with AP Lucas. His other clubs included Beckenham, Bickley Park, Chislehurst, Free Foresters, Incogniti, MCC, Richmond and Will-o'-the-Wisp. At Chiswick Park in 1888 he played for Gentlemen of West Middlesex v the Parsee tourists.

The son of a solicitor, Francis Street became a Chartered Accountant, living for much of his life in Teddington. In 1883 he married Sarah Anne Partridge at St. Peter's Church, Regent Square, Camden. There were three sons and two daughters. He died while on a visit to Australia.

Henry Boyd Sutherland (No. 279)

Born: 4.12.1844, Croydon, Surrey. *Died:* 27.8.1915, St Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent.1871

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: John Sutherland & Mary Sutherland (*née* Boyd).

The son of a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the County of Surrey, landed proprietor and fund holder, Henry Sutherland was in the Eleven at Eton from 1861 to 1863 and in his first year took six for 19 and three for 12 against Winchester, followed a fortnight later by a pair and 0 for 36 against Harrow at Lord's. Described in *Lillywhite* as 'a very steady and excellent bowler but uncertain as a bat, being rather too fond of the hit', for the rest of his time at Eton, he occasionally scored useful late order runs – notably in 1863, 26 v Harrow at Lord's and 34 v the Gentlemen of West Kent at Eton. He rarely played without taking a wicket or two and twice took five in an innings.

On leaving Eton, Sutherland studied Law but changed direction with a commission in the Second Battalion of the 4th Regiment, (the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment after the Cardwell reforms). Service in Canada and South Africa did not prevent him from playing a great deal of club cricket for Eton Ramblers, Gentlemen of Cheshire, Gentlemen of West Kent, Hawkstone (Cheshire), High Elms and I Zingari as well as Army cricket. In 1870, he hit what seems to be his highest score,

97 opening the batting for Hawkstone v Shropshire at Shrewsbury. For Eton Ramblers in 1873, he took seven wickets in Eton's first innings, his victims including the highly regarded brothers Edward and Alfred Lyttelton. For I Zingari against Royal Engineers at Gillingham in the same year he had figures of seven for 43 & five for 39.

Sutherland's two appearances in first-class cricket were both in Canterbury Week and both in Kent v Gentlemen of MCC matches. In 1871 he played for Kent (seven runs & two wickets), in 1873 for MCC. This seems to have been his only match for MCC which prompts the thought that he may have been called in as a late replacement. If so, contemporary accounts do not mention it. In 1869-1870 Sutherland played seven matches for Cheshire, taking 17 wickets and scoring 124 runs with a top score of 38. One of his last matches was for his own team against Worcestershire in 1884.

Henry Sutherland retired from the Army in 1912 with the rank of Captain. In 1889 he married Harriet Jennings in Kensington. There appear to have been no children. On his death, his estate was valued at £263 9s 5d. An elder brother was in the Eton Eleven 1855-1858.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

John Swaffer (No. 293).

Born: 10.11.1852, Ruckinge. *Died:* 26.7.1936, Orsett, Essex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1873.

Parents: John Swaffer & Harriet Swaffer (*née* Maylam)

Swaffer was described as a 'useful batsman' in the 1907 *Kent History* and as a 'good batsman' in *Scores & Biographies* but neither publication mentions any club he might have played for or on what evidence their judgement was based. In his only match for Kent he scored 18 in his first innings and failed to score in the second, one of Kent's five run outs in the match. He seems to have played as an amateur.

In the 1861 Census John Swaffer was living with his parents, three brothers and four sisters on a 500 acre (202.5 hectare) farm employing eight men and two boys at Kingsnorth. His father died in 1862 and by the 1871 Census John Swaffer's life has changed. His eldest brother has inherited the farm and John is one of 19 live-in draper's assistants, 12 male, seven female, at what became Weeks department store in Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells. Readers familiar with HG Wells' *Kipps* will recognise the type of establishment.

Apart from a short spell as a licensed victualler in Tonbridge *circa* 1881, he remained in the business for the rest of his life, subsequently in Ashford and latterly in Hastings. In the 1911 Census he is a 'clothier's clerk', living in St. Clement's Road, Hastings, with his wife Sarah Ann (*née* Kemp) whom he married in Dover in 1876), a boarder (a teacher) and one servant. He also has three visitors, two ladies of 'independent means' one with a lady companion. Presumably by then their three sons and three daughters had left home.

John Swaffer was an elder brother of Henry Joseph Swaffer, likewise a draper (in Folkestone) and father of Hannen Swaffer, one of the most famous, sometimes controversial, popular journalist/critics of his day.

Edward Gibbon Swann (No. 128).

Born: 13.8.1823, Coppett, Geneva, Switzerland. *Died:* 20.12.1900 Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Right hand batsman.

Kent: 1844-1845.

Parents: Frederick Dashwood Swann & Charlotte Catherine Swann (*née* Brydges).

The son of Captain in the Grenadier Guards and the third daughter of Sir Samuel Egerton Brydges of Lee Priory, Ickham, Edward Swann was living at Lee Priory when he played for Kent. Three years earlier, in 1841, he had scored 0* and three for Ickham in a tied match against the South London Club. He had also played for East Kent v West Kent and several matches for the Beverley Club with a top score of 43 v Leeds Park in 1843. It was on the Beverley ground that he made what is now classified as his first-class debut, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in the second match of Canterbury Week.

Highly regarded as long-stop – notably by Fuller Pilch - in June 1844 he scored 22* and four in the Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England fixture at Lord's and made three appearances for Kent including two against England. In the first, at Lord's he scored 17 and two; in the second, in Canterbury Week, he bagged a pair. In 1845, against England in Canterbury Week, he played his best, and as it turned out his last, innings for Kent, 30 when the County, having led by 44 on first innings, was dismissed for 87 and lost by 31 runs.

In the following year Swann fielded long stop for Alfred Mynn in his single-wicket match with Felix at Lord's. In the same season he suffered a pair against Sussex at Lord's in his only first-class match for MCC. He played three more matches for Gentlemen of Kent, one in 1846 and two in 1848, his last against Cambridge University on the St. Lawrence ground.

In the 1850s he became a JP for Kent but, while remaining a JP and retaining an interest in Lee Priory, in 1858 he moved to London where he had business interests in the City. He lived, first in Richmond Terrace, Bayswater and *circa* 1861-1866 in Westbourne Terrace. The last 30 years of his life were spent in retirement in Burgess Hill.

In 1848 he married Mary Anne Goldsmith at St Luke's Church, Old Street. There was one daughter. On his death Edward Swann's estate was valued at a modest £750.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Thomas Francis Swinford (No. 302).

Born: 9.5.1839, Margate. *Died:* 23.1.1915, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent: 1874.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School.

Parents: John Swinford & Frances Hudson Swinford (*née* Smithett).

A professional soldier, Thomas Swinford had retired from the Army when he made his debut for Kent in 1874, playing in four of the five matches which made up the County's modest first-class programme for that year. His first, Kent's first-ever against Derbyshire and the only one ever staged on the Wirksworth ground, was a curious affair in which 40 wickets fell for 233 runs and no innings total reached three figures. Swinford scored six (in an all-out total of 25) and one but did better on his second appearance with 50 against Lancashire at Old Trafford, the highest score of the match. Back on Kentish soil, he failed to reach double figures in his remaining two matches, the return with Derbyshire on Tunbridge Wells Common and v Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week.

Thomas Swinford played at least once for Gentlemen of Kent and occasionally for Blackheath and East Hampshire but why he did not play more often is unknown and if he played cricket while in the Army, records have not survived.

His father seems to have been relatively well-heeled but his son's commission was in a rather unfashionable regiment, the 98th, which in 1881 became the Second Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He served on the North West Frontier *circa* 1860-63 but, possibly following the death of his father in 1869, by 1871 he had retired with the rank of Captain which he continued to use throughout the remainder of his life.

In 1867 he married Mary Frances Cobb (1845-1924) at a church in Thanet. In the 1911 Census they are living in a 17-room property in Eastbourne with five servants. His estate was valued for probate at a healthy £36,578 15s 9d.

Dr Anton Hugh Syrée MRCS. LCA (No. 351).

Born: 21.10.1839, Port Corrie, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. *Died:* 9.1.1924, Cheslyn Hay, Staffordshire.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm bowler.

Kent 1879.

Educated: St John's School Leatherhead & King's College, London.

Anton Syrée was in the Eleven at St John's Leatherhead and in 1881, while studying medicine, played for King's College, Strand. He played for a number of clubs in Kent including Ashford, Charing, Chartham and Chilham Castle as well as for Lord Throwley's Eleven. On at least one occasion in 1878 he appeared for the Gentlemen of Sussex.

He was the son of the Rev Peter Syrée who, while in South Africa, was joint translator of the *Book of Common Prayer* into the 'Kaffir language', the first to do so. Having previously held curacies at Bonnington & Bilsington, Boughton Malherbé and Charing, in 1875 the Rev Syrée became the first chaplain of the newly opened St. Augustine's Mental Hospital, Chartham.

In Anton Syrée's one game for Kent, early in the season against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury, he was twice bowled by Fred Morley (0 & 7) and never played again. At the time he was working at Kent & Canterbury Hospital and on qualifying in 1883 he became Assistant Surgeon there. He does not appear to have been a member of either of the two main Canterbury cricket clubs.

He married at St. George's Hanover Square in 1886. According to the England & Wales Civil Registration Index 1837-1915 he married John Lloyd Shirreff, which sounds unlikely. At any event by 1890 he was a widower. Possibly his wife, whoever she was, died abroad. By 1893/1894 he was surgeon on two cable laying ships operating in the Mediterranean. From the two unpublished journals of his voyages it seems he had a second wife in prospect but there is no evidence that he married again. He died a widower.

It is also clear from his journals that he was interested in buying a practice and *circa* 1900 he found one in Cheslyn Hay, near Walsall where he remained for the rest of his life. His death was at *The Lord Nelson Hotel*, Cheslyn Hay from strychnine poisoning, self-administered. His estate was valued for probate at £350 2s 9d.

Col. Edward Taswell (No. 202).

Born: 21.6.1826, Canterbury. *Died:* 1.6.1889, Worthing, Sussex.

Kent 1860-1861.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.
Educated: Tonbridge School & Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.
Parents: George Morris Taswell & Anne Taswell (*née* Gipps).

The son of, a 'fund holder' and JP for Canterbury, who lived in St. Martin's Hill Canterbury, Edward Taswell was a professional soldier who combined a distinguished Army career with a great deal of cricket mainly for Royal Artillery (1846-1867), I Zingari and Gentlemen of Kent. All but one of his first-class matches were in Canterbury Week. In 1861 he scored 12 and 13 for Fourteen of Kent v England and, promoted to open the batting, 21 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC. In the same fixture in the following year he again opened in the first innings but, dropped to No. 3 for the second innings, he reached his personal first-class best, 26.

In lesser cricket he hit 70* for I Zingari v Eton at Eton in 1847, 62 for IZ v Woolwich at Woolwich in 1865, 59* for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1855 and 59 for Royal Artillery v Household Brigade at Lord's in 1860. For I Zingari v Eleventh Hussars at Hampton Court in 1850 he stumped four batsmen. In addition to the clubs named above, Taswell played for Band of Brothers and Portsmouth as well as one match for Hampshire in 1848 and one for the Northumberland Club in 1852. In 1860 he appeared for Kent v the Next 15 at Town Malling.

Taswell entered the Royal Academy Woolwich in 1841 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in 1845. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1846, Captain in 1854, Major in 1867, Lieutenant Colonel 1868 and retired on full pay as a Colonel in 1870. He served in the Crimean War and was awarded the Crimean Medal with Inkerman and Sebastopol clasps as well as the Turkish Medal.

In 1868 he married Sarah Ellen Hawkins (1832-1911) at Marylebone Parish Church. There seem to have been no children. On retirement the couple lived at Montague Place, Bryanston Square with three servants before moving to Marine Parade Worthing where he died. His estate was valued for probate at £18,377. 6s 1d.

The 1907 Kent history appears to have confused him with his younger brother Henry who played one match for Oxford University and died in 1874 in Canada at the early age of 24.

Further reading:
Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Robert Frederick Tayler (No. 240).

Born: 17.3.1836, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. *Died:* 1.1.1888, Motcombe Lodge, Woking, Surrey.
Right-handed batsman.
Kent 1865.
Parents: George Robert & Harriet Tayler.

When Robert Tayler, an officer in the Royal Marines, made his first-class debut for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in the 1865 Canterbury Week, he seems to have played little cricket at senior level previously although he had appeared in odds matches for Twenty-Two Gentlemen of Hampshire v the UEE at Southampton in 1860 and for Twenty-Two of Southampton v the AEE in 1862. No doubt he had played services cricket and could well be the Robert Tayler who scored Twenty-Two for Liverpool v Warrington in 1861.

His was an unusual first-class debut. Reputedly a defensive batsman, he opened the batting but failed to score. Dropping down the order in the second innings, he scored eight. On his second appearance, against Yorkshire at Gravesend, there was an exact repeat except that his second innings score was

seven. He scored 20 in his second match for Kent and, again opening the batting, reached his personal best on his debut for Hampshire, 42 v Surrey at The Oval in 1866.

Below first-class level, as well as in Gentlemen's matches for Kent and Hampshire, Tayler played for Knickerbockers, an Army team, MCC, Royal Marines and at least once for MCC. In 1866 he played his two first-class matches for Hampshire and in all cricket hit 1,267 runs. This included 55 for Gentlemen of Hampshire v Players of Hampshire at the Antelope ground, Southampton, 46* for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Hampshire at Gravesend and 22 (out of an all-out total of 107) for the Rest of the Army v Royal Artillery & Royal Engineers at Lord's.

Tayler appears to have been based in Chatham for most of his service career but *circa* 1871 he was in charge of a recruiting office in York. Apart from 1881 when he was living in Portsea, in most years the Census seems to have passed him by. He retired, unmarried, with the rank of Major and lived with his mother in Woking. When he died of thrombosis of the cerebral artery his estate was valued at £1,243 5s 9d.

Rev Edward William Tetley (Jones) Taylor-Jones (No. 438).

Born: 28.5.1866, Sydenham. *Died:* 15.9.1956, Sittingbourne.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1894.

Educated: Herne House School, Margate & Queen's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev William (Jones) Taylor-Jones & Elizabeth (Jones) Taylor-Jones (*née* Tetley).

Edward Jones, the Taylor and the hyphen were added in 1891, was in his school Eleven in 1880-1881 and 1884-1885; his father was Headmaster. At Cambridge he failed to make the trials but, following ordination in 1889, there seems to have been no shortage of cricket throughout his life. His clubs included Band of Brothers, Chartham, Incogniti, MCC, Rodmersham, St. Lawrence and Thanet Wanderers. He played his last game for Rodmersham aged 65.

Taylor-Jones' first appearance for Kent Second Eleven was in 1893 against Surrey at Tunbridge Wells and in the return at The Oval he was top scorer with 59. His introduction into first-class cricket in 1894 was not a happy one, one and five at Old Trafford, five and 11 v MCC at Lord's, but he did better for the Second Eleven later in the season – six, 21, one for 46 and three for 62 v Middlesex Seconds at Lord's.

His only other first-class match was even less successful, a pair for MCC v Notts at Lord's in 1901. His highest in club cricket appears to be 104* for Thanet Wanderers v Deal & Walmer in 1895. Touring the Netherlands with MCC In 1902, he had scores of 24, 21, 24 and one.

Although Taylor-Jones held the curacy of Worthing from 1891 to 1894, in the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census returns he still appears as Assistant Master to his father, Head Master of Herne House. He was curate of St. Paul's Margate (1915), Chartham (1915-1920) and Rodmersham (1920-1922), Rector of Milstead & Kingsdown (1922-1947). He was the family's third generation of clergymen. When his father married Elizabeth Tetley, one of the Tetley tea family, the Rev George Jones, father of the bridegroom, officiated.

In 1922 Edward Taylor-Jones married Edith Gladys Strouds at Rodmersham Church. There was one son. Surprisingly perhaps considering that he lived beyond 90, *Wisden* carried no obituary although his death was mentioned in the Kent Annual. His estate was valued for probate at £2,685 1s 8d.

Charles Henry Templeton (No. 86).

Born: 24.11.1806, Calcutta (now Kolkata), Bengal, India. *Died:* 2.3.1834, Paris, France.
Kent 1829.

Educated: Winchester College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Thomas Templeton & Sophia Lee Templeton (*née* Murdoch).

Charles Templeton played in some historic matches but, apart from his BA in 1830 he seems to have made little other mark in his short life and information about him is sparse. He scored 0, 38 and took a wicket in the inaugural Winchester v Harrow match at Lord's in 1825 and in 1827 played at Lord's in the first-ever University match.

For Cambridge University against Bury St. Edmunds at Bury earlier that year he contributed four when his side was dismissed for 37 but nevertheless won by an innings. He scored 0 and two in his only match for Kent but did better with 21 for Cambridge University v Cambridge Union Club in what was subsequently deemed to be his first-class debut.

Robert Jenkin Terry (No. 205).

Born: 27.1.1829, Lydd. *Died:* 23.2.1908, Ramsgate.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1860.

Parents: Stephen Terry & Sarah Terry (*née* Blake).

The son of a grazier, Robert Terry was a useful allrounder in club and village cricket but only once achieved double figures in matches now recognised as first-class. Batting No. 16 on his only appearance for Kent he remained undefeated, albeit without getting off the mark. For Gentlemen of Kent v IZ (not rated first-class) at Canterbury in 1858 he scored 21 when opening the batting and took two wickets.

As well as for his home village Lydd, where he played alongside younger brothers Frederick and Edward, Terry turned out for Beverley, East Kent Mounted Rifles, in which he served as a private, Hythe and New Romney. Unless he was the 'R Terry' who scored 57 for Folkestone v Mersham in 1857 his best effort with the bat seems to have been 37 & 39 for Lydd v Beckley & Iden in 1859. He twice took eight wickets in an innings for Lydd, once 14 and once 13 in a match. He also claimed 14 in a match for New Romney.

In 1853 Robert Terry married May Hannah Hatcher Collings at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury. There were two daughters and one son. He appears to have farmed in New Romney in the 1860s but in the 1871 Census he is a 'retired miller' living in West Ashford with his wife and two young daughters. In 1891 he is in New Romney 'living on own means'. The cause of his death was bronchitis.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, More *Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Frederick George Theobald (No. 213).

Born: 1.2.1839, New Brompton, Gillingham. *Died:* 5.1.1888, Chatham

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1862.

Parents: Thomas Theobald & Ann Olive Theobald (*née* Spinks).

Another of Kent's 'one match wonders' who built up a considerable reputation as a club cricketer, Frederick Theobald was described in the 1866 green *Lillywhite* as 'a first-rate left-hand fast bowler

and effective bat.’ Kent never really put this judgement to the test. In his only appearance for the County he was not called on to bowl although the three bowlers used delivered 110 overs. He played in three Kent Colts matches, v Surrey Colts at The Oval and at Maidstone in 1862 and v Gentlemen of Dartford & District in 1864, but only in the last was he handed the ball when he took two wickets. In the two Surrey matches, both low scoring encounters in which only once did a team total reach three figures, he proved to be an ‘effective bat, with scores of 17, 12, five and 15. The *Maidstone Journal* wrote of him as ‘a young player from Gillingham whose fine hitting, especially to leg, was much admired’.

Theobald played representative cricket, of a sort, for 18 of Chatham & District v the AEE in 1861 (when again his bowling was ignored) and for 22 of Chatham & District v Kent in 1862 when he took six wickets. For Chatham Garrison in 1862 he claimed ten of the 14 West Kent wickets which fell in the match and top scored with 21 in Chatham’s second innings. Most of his club cricket was for Rochester & Chatham Star but he also appeared for Alliance United Juniors, Chatham Albion and Hundred of Hoo. He took 11 wickets in a match for Chatham Albion v Cobham and eight in an innings for Star v Wateringbury. His highest score appears to be 43 for Alliance United v Gravesend in 1865.

Most –possibly all – of Frederick Theobald’s cricket was as a professional. Fortunately perhaps, he had another string to his bow. In the 1851 Census his father Thomas is a gardener at Cooling Castle and is living in Cooling cottages with his Tipperary-born wife, son Frederick and two daughters. Ten years later they have moved to Gillingham, Thomas is an agricultural labourer and Frederick is a carpenter in Chatham Dockyard.

In 1865 Frederick married Elizabeth Ann Rawlinson (1847-1883) at St. Margaret’s-next- Rochester. There was one daughter. By 1881 he has progressed to ‘Leading Man of the Shipwrights’ and when he died in 1888 from heart disease he was ‘Inspector of Shipwrights, HM Dockyard’. His father too had progressed – not necessarily upwards depending on one’s point of view - to licensed victualler.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Richard Thomas (No. 99).

Born: 1792, Chatham. *Died:* 30.5.1881, Eyhorne House, Hollingbourne. Kent 1835.

Parents: Burford Thomas & Mary Thomas (*née* Young) .

As well as his single appearance for Kent, Richard Thomas played twice for England against Sussex, once for MCC against Gentlemen of Kent and once for Gentlemen of Kent v MCC without ever quite getting into double figures. All these matches received first-class accreditation.

In the 1830s he was a regular with the Leeds club where the likes of Alfred and Walter Mynn, Ned Wenman etc. were frequently team mates. His highest for Leeds seems to be 33 v Gravesend & Meopham in 1833 but possibly his proudest moment in a modest playing career came in the year before when, for Leeds & Bearsted v Town Malling, his 15* was the only double figure score for a team including Alfred Mynn, William Clifford and Batchelor Roper. The Hollingbourne Club played in the grounds of his Georgian home, Eyhorne House.

A substantial landowner and local magistrate, in 1838 he married Louisa de Vismes (1810-1911) at St. Nicholas Church, Brighton. There were six daughters and one son. He left £63,179 19s 8d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Henry Shepherd Thomson (No. 331).

Born: 4.6.1854, Ramsgate. *Died:* 19.7.1899, Cape Town, South Africa.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1876.

Educated: Hurstpierpoint College.

Dr John Buck Thomson & Margaret Thomson (*née* Plumbe).

Henry Thomson does not seem to have found a place in his school Eleven but, although brief, his first-class career was an eventful one. On his first appearance, in the 1876 Canterbury Week when Kent totalled 473 and only one batsman failed to reach double figures, he contributed a useful 27. When Gentlemen of MCC batted he claimed the wicket of WG Grace and in MCC's second innings fielded while Grace compiled his record 344 in six hours 20 minutes (fifteen minutes according to some accounts). His second match, although less noteworthy, was the only first-class game ever staged at Faversham.

Several aspects of Thomson's life are unclear. The son of a surgeon, he studied law and practiced as a solicitor and public notary in Ramsgate. In 1881 he married Annie Bailey and shortly afterwards moved to Margate. There were two sons and one daughter.

He continued to practice in England until the mid-1880s, but subsequently moved to South Africa where it would seem he forsook the Law. He died after being hit by a locomotive while apparently working in Cape Town Harbour.

Alfred James Thornton (No. 383).

Born: 17.1.1856, Folkestone. *Died:* 14.6.1931, Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, under-arm lob bowler.

Kent 1884-1891. Cap 1886.

Educated: Winchester College & St John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Richard Napoleon (Lee) Thornton & Margaret Thornton (*née* Hart).

The son of a Middle Temple barrister with homes in Portland Place and Sidmouth, Devonshire, Alfred Thornton was the middle of three cricketing brothers; Richard (*qv*) – familiarly known as 'The Parson' - and Walter, an Oxford Blue (1879-1882) whose county cricket was confined to Devonshire, were the others. Alfred Thornton was originally Alfred Lee. His father, a prominent member of the Sidmouth Club, Devonshire County Cricket Club and MCC and inflected with the forename Napoleon, adopted the surname Thornton in 1860. At Winchester Alfred played one match, against I Zingari in 1873, but otherwise got no nearer the First Eleven than 12th man against Eton.

At Oxford he did not get as far as the Trials but while still at Winchester played with some success for the Gentlemen of Devonshire and in time developed into a useful county cricketer. A versatile batsman, in his first-class career he batted in every position except number 11. As an exponent of the dying art of lob bowling, he could be a useful partnership breaker and, as was often the case with lob bowlers of some ability, at club level he was on occasions destructive.

Thornton's first first-class match was for MCC v Sussex in 1879 and between 1880 and 1881, while living in Hove, he played five matches for Sussex, the last against Kent at Hove where he scored 30*, his highest score for his adopted county. In 1884, possibly at the instigation of brother Richard who was already playing for Kent, he switched to the county of his birth, beginning with 86* (top score) v

Somerset at Taunton in the season's opening fixture and embarking on the northern tour in June taking in Sheffield, Derby and Manchester. Although, other than 31 against Yorkshire, he did little, the fact that he was prepared to tour will have done him no harm with Lord Harris who at the time was always hard put to find amateurs willing to travel to the more plebeian northern grounds, more so early in the season.

Over the next five seasons Thornton turned out for Kent intermittently, six matches in 1886 when for the first and only time he played in Canterbury Cricket Week and was awarded his cap, five in 1887 when he averaged 34.37. Among his most notable innings were 59 v Hampshire at Southampton in 1885 where he put on 75 for the first wicket with Frank Hearne (25), 72* (top score) v Gloucestershire at Blackheath in 1887, when, coming in at 63 for three (all three wickets falling to WG Grace), he shepherded the total to 202 all out, and 137 v Sussex at Hove, scored in 315 minutes with eight fours. Again with Frank Hearne (74) as partner, 181 were added for the third wicket.

The best of Thornton's occasional successes with lobbs were against Sussex, four for 20 at Hove in 1885, four for 49 at Tonbridge in 1886. He probably derived satisfaction from the fact that in the process he three times dismissed Walter Humphreys, leading and not overly popular, contemporary exponent of lobb bowling. Although he appears to have left Oxford without a degree, in 1888 he was in the Oxford & Cambridge Universities Past & Present side against the Australians at Portsmouth. Under the captaincy of Lord Harris, he opened the bowling and produced figures of 42-14-39-3, his victims including three leading batsmen – Percy McDonnell, George Bonnor and Harry Trott - the two former among the most renowned hitters of the day.

In 1891 he returned to the Kent team for one match, against Middlesex at Beckenham, but managed only seven and 0. He also played against Warwickshire at Gravesend, a match not granted first-class status, in which he again failed with the bat but took five for 50 in the visitor's first innings. For Gentlemen of Kent he played against both the Gentlemen of Philadelphia (at Mote Park) and the Parsees (at Blackheath). Against the former in 1884 his lobbs brought him five for 56.

In 1885 Thornton visited the USA and Canada on a short tour organised by EJ.Sanders in a party captained by 'The Parson' and including another Kent cricketer, Henry Hayman. In the first of the two fixtures against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia, the only games recognised as first-class, Thornton was top scorer in both innings with 55 and 41. The home team won by 109 runs, the first time an English team had been beaten in the USA. In lesser matches Thornton took five for 19 v Fifteen of the Peninsular Club in Detroit and 11 for 27 v Fifteen of Montreal. He toured again in 1898, this time to Portugal on a tour organised by TE Westray who took a strong side including England cricketers Pelham Warner and Hugh Bromley-Davenport. The visit, a convivial affair, is described in Warner's book *Cricket in Many Climes*.

Before and during his time with Kent, Thornton played occasionally for Devonshire, the last time in 1887 against Hampshire at Exeter. Like brother Richard he was extremely active in club cricket. As well as the Devonshire and Kent Gentlemen's teams, his clubs included Band of Brothers, Blackheath, Bluemantles, Butterflies, Free Foresters, Gentlemen of Hampshire, Gentlemen of Sussex, Incogniti, MCC, Mote Park, Oxford University Authentics, Sidmouth, Teignbridge and Warnham Court, Horsham. He claimed 12 wickets in a match for Sidmouth v MCC in 1881 and as late as 1893, took seven in an innings for Free Foresters v Royal Artillery at Woolwich.

Away from cricket, Alfred Thornton seems to have had a varied career. In the 1881 Census he is living with his first wife Ernestine in Hove and is 'a holder of Foreign Investments'. His sister is living with him and is 'a holder of home investments. 20 years later he is Hammersmith with second wife Rose and is a stock jobber. In 1911 he is a company director living in Brighton.

His fortunes seem to have fluctuated. In 1881 his establishment included butler, nurse, nursemaid, cook and two housemaids. By 1911 he is down to one servant. On his death his wife Rose was left a fairly modest £1,024 5d. He married Ernestine Alice Hawker in Honiton, Devon, in 1877. There were two sons and two daughters. Following the death of his first wife, he married Rose Thompson in Fulham in 1905. There was one daughter.

Charles Inglis Thornton (No. 251)

Born: 20.3.1850, Llanwerne, Herefordshire. *Died:* 10.12.1929, Marylebone, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, under-arm bowler.

Kent 1867-1872.

Educated: Eton College & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev Watson Joseph Thornton & Frances Anne Thornton (*née* Webb.).

Widely considered the greatest hitter of his day and one of the game's outstanding 'characters', Charles 'Buns' Thornton was a son of the Rector of Llanwerne and Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral.

Even with the advent of modern bats, his ability to regularly drive cricket balls over vast distances has rarely, possibly never, been equalled. Playing for Kent v MCC at Canterbury in 1871 he made a hit off WM Rose measured at 152 yards (138.98 metres) and repeated the feat in 1878 off Harry Boyle for the Orleans Club v the Australians at Twickenham. His hit over the old Lord's pavilion in the 1868 Eton v Harrow match was thought to have been longer. In first-class matches there were at least four other hits of between 132 and 140 yards and at practice in Brighton in 1871 he made hits of 168 yards two feet (154.22 metres) and 162 yards (148.13 metres). Both were measured by the cricket historian James Pycroft.

For Kent v MCC in 1869 he hit every ball of a (four ball) over from Vyell Walker out of the St. Lawrence Ground. In contrast with the other great hitters who for the most part played fast-footed, he was quick on his feet and regularly moved down the wicket. All this without pads and only towards the end of his playing career with the occasional assistance of gloves. He was however said to have sometimes worn football-style shin-pads beneath his trousers.

Thornton's nickname 'Buns', originally 'Jam Buns', stems from Eton days. According to legend, while fielding in a College match he had just bought a jam bun from a passing vendor when he was called on to make a catch. Accounts vary, one version says he swallowed it (the bun) whole, another has him stuffing the bun, jam and all, down his trousers, but most agree that he took the catch. At any event, the name stuck throughout his long life.

Arriving at Eton in 1861, he was in the Eleven from 1866 to 1868 and captained in his final year but without ever being on the winning side against Harrow. He was however Eton's top scorer (46*) when Harrow won by an innings in 1866 and did the same again with 44 in 1867 when Harrow's winning margin was seven wickets.

It was at Eton that he first came to know the Fourth Lord Harris. While at Eton, Thornton's home was in Canterbury Cathedral Precincts and the two became lifelong friends. Thornton lived with his uncle the Venerable Benjamin Harrison and his wife Isabella (*née* Thornton). Harrison was at the time Archdeacon of Maidstone and Residentiary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral – not Archdeacon of Canterbury as Lord Harris suggests in the 1930 *Wisden*. Thornton and Harris spent much time in each other's company, not only on the cricket field – Thornton played regularly for Harris's side at Belmont – but in decimating the local wildlife in hunting and shooting forays.

While still at Eton and suitably qualified for Kent by residence, Thornton made his first-class debut, for Gentlemen of Kent v MCC in the 1866 Canterbury Week. He distinguished himself by hitting a six

in his first innings of 26 and two in succession in the second innings when his 24 was top score in Kent's 75 for three. The game is a curiosity in that it was the third of the Week, starting after the conclusion of the Gentlemen of the South v I Zingari match and finishing on the following day. Many such 'extra' matches were played between 1846 and 1877 but this seems to be the only time three games in the Week have all been granted first-class status.

By the time he went up to Cambridge in 1869, Thornton had appeared for Kent in two more Canterbury Weeks and in two county matches. In the first of the latter, against Surrey at The Oval he reached his then top score of 36 and against Sussex at Gravesend, when Kent needed 26 to win, he hit 21* in 12 minutes including a six from the bowling of James Southerton into the adjacent workhouse. He was chosen that year for England v Surrey & Middlesex at The Oval, a benefit match for Julius Caesar.

At Cambridge, he hit 66 in the Freshmens' match and went on to win his Blue, the first of four in successive years. In his first University match he was top scorer in both Cambridge innings (50 & 36) but thereafter did nothing remarkable against Oxford but had the satisfaction of being on the winning side in three of the four meetings. In 1872, when Thornton was captain, Cambridge won by an innings and 166 runs. His highest score for Cambridge was , against the Gentlemen of England at Fenner's in 1870, inevitably rounded off with a hit over the pavilion.

Thornton's best season for Kent was 1869 when in five matches he scored 398 runs (avge.44.22) with two centuries, 124 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells Common with nine hits out of the ground and 110 v Surrey at The Oval, scored out of 154 with 2 sixes (one all run when the ball hit near the top of the Racquet Court), two all-run fives and six fours. When Kent were dismissed for 114 by Nottinghamshire at Tonbridge he hit 76 out of 110; the next highest score was eight. During an innings of 45 (top score) for Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in the 1870 Canterbury Week he made a 132 yard (120.70 metres) drive off FC Cobden into fields at the Nackington Road end (measured by William de Chair Baker).

Against Surrey on the same ground in the following season he was top scorer in both innings with 47 (one six and six fours) and 111, scored in 93 minutes with 18 fours one of which pitched 'high up in the I Zingari tree'. On coming down from Cambridge in 1872 he found little time for cricket and appeared in only two Kent matches. His highest score in Kent colours was a spectacular 156 out of 204 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Brighton in 1869 (not first-class). From 1870 when Kent CCC amalgamated with the Beverly Club, until 1872, he served on the Kent Managing Committee.

After University, calls of business necessitated a move to London which ended his career with Kent and dealt a considerable blow to his friend Harris' team building plans. Between 1875 and 1885 Thornton made 29 appearances for Middlesex but most of his cricket was for teams such as Gentlemen of England, Gentlemen of the South, MCC, the Orleans Club and invitation teams of his own, raised annually to play against Cambridge (sometimes Oxford), the tourists, favoured opponents such as the Clergy Orphan's School, Canterbury against whom he hit three centuries, and in the Scarborough Festival.

Surprisingly perhaps, Thornton played only three times for Gentlemen v Players, never at Lord's - at The Oval in 1869, at Brighton in 1871 when he hit 34 from nine balls and Prince's in 1875 when he bagged a pair. He did however hit 61 in 47 minutes for Gentlemen of the South v Players of the South at The Oval in 1871 of which the highlight was a 140-yard drive off James Southerton over the Racquet Court. Of his five first-class centuries his personal favourite was 107* for Gentlemen of England v I Zingari in 1886, made in 29 hits and famous for his 138 yard drive off AG Steel, out of the Scarborough ground, over a four storey house and into Trafalgar Square.

Thornton seems to have played no serious cricket after 1897. His last first-class innings of substance was for his own Eleven v Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1889 when, batting No. 10, he hit 58* out of 74. In minor cricket he hit three centuries in 1885, three in 1886, two for the Orleans Club in 1888, including 193 v Merchant Taylors School and two for the Lyric Club in 1890, including what seems to have been his last, 180 v 93rd Highlanders.

Oddest of his centuries was his 188 out of 216 in 120 minutes for the Rev H Munro's Eleven v Oakham School in 1873. He happened to be on the ground and, nobody knowing who he was, he was asked to fill a last minute vacancy. There were 13 shots out of the ground and the next highest scorer was extras with 16.

Very much an occasional change bowler, Thornton bowled fast under-arm 'grubs' with, it was said a 'bias from leg'. For reasons not readily apparent, he bowled with particular success for Cambridge University v Surrey at The Oval – four for 36 in 1870, three for 24 in 1871, 4 for 19 in 1872. He dismissed leading Surrey batsmen Richard Humphrey four times and Harry Jupp three. He also claimed the wicket of the Middlesex and England amateur Alexander Webbe three times. For his own team against King's School, Canterbury in 1879 he clean bowled all ten batsmen.

As well as the clubs already mentioned, Thornton played for Band of Brothers, Brighton. Dover, Eashing Park, Esher, Eton Ramblers, Free Foresters, Gentlemen of Lincolnshire, Gentlemen of West Kent, Hildenborough, I Lazaroni, MCC, New Forest Rangers, Southgate and Warnham Court. He was a member of MCC and of the Orleans Club for over 50 years and was a regular at Lord's almost to the end of his life.

Thornton was largely instrumental in the origination of the Scarborough Festival and did more perhaps than anyone to turn it into one of the leading cricket events of the year. In appreciation he was made a Freeman of the Borough and presented with an engraved silver loving cup. Tall (six feet) and powerfully built, Thornton restricted himself to field sports in later life but at Eton participated in the Wall and Field Game, won the School Fives in 1867/1868, Throwing the Cricket Ball in 1867 and Double Racquets and Putting the Weight in 1868.

His other interests included the cinema and the study of crime; he carried with him a folder of newspaper clippings relating to prominent murders, robberies etc. An enthusiastic motorist, he travelled through Japan, pre-Revolution Russia and Siberia and, in Berlin at the outbreak of the 1914-1918 War, narrowly escaped internment. Unfortunately, he did not write his cricket reminiscences but in *East, West & Home Again* he described a trip round the world.

Thornton retired in 1912 after 35 years in the timber trade as a partner in Rafferty & Thornton Ltd, based in the City. He was also a director of the Royal Brewery, Brentford. He lived most of his life in Central London in Belgrave Road, Hanover Square, St. Ermins Street, Westminster and Montagu Mansions, Dorset Street, Marylebone. In 1902 in the City of London he married Frances Jane Dowell, daughter of Charles Dowell of Croydon. There were no children. In his will he left £72,597 8s.

Rev Richard Thornton Thornton (No. 369).

Born: 28.3.1853, Folkestone. *Died:* 30.5.1928, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace/under-arm bowler.

Kent 1881-1888. Cap 1885.

Educated: Private & St John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Richard Napoleon (Lee) Thornton & Margaret Thornton (*née* Hart).

One of the 'characters' of county cricket in the 1880s and widely known in the game as 'Parson' Thornton, Richard Thornton was originally Richard Thornton Lee, - see Alfred Thornton above – and

intended for Winchester like his younger brothers Alfred and Walter. Unfortunately his tutor forgot to put his name down in time and he was educated privately. Or so Thornton says in a long and entertaining interview given to the magazine *The Cricket Field* of 15th June 1895. As 'RT' or sometimes 'Incog', Thornton was himself a regular contributor to the rival and longer lasting publication *Cricket* and gave an interview to the journal in 1886.

Going up to Oxford in 1873, he did not progress beyond the Seniors' Trial in 1876 and in his *Cricket Field* interview he asserts that it was not until he adopted spectacles on coming down from Oxford in 1877 that he began to make runs regularly. This may not be entirely true. In 1874 he scored 116 for St. John's College against Corpus Christi and in 1875 104* for Herbert Webbe's Eleven v Prince's Club & Ground as well as playing for Devon, Gentlemen of Devon and Sidmouth before and during his time at University.

Nevertheless, at this stage he was undoubtedly inconsistent. In the aforementioned *Cricket Field* interview Thornton also maintains that he had difficulty in getting a game for MCC. According to his version it was only when MCC were due to play South Wales on a wet and blustery day in 1876 that he got his chance by turning up on the off-chance that somebody would, in the language of the day, 'chuck the match'. Somebody did and he did indeed play, opening the batting when somebody else was reluctant to do so and scoring 41 but he had in truth played for MCC v West of England in the previous season (and made three).

His first-class debut, for MCC v Kent at Lord's in 1881, led directly to his association with the county of his birth. Having scored 55 in MCC's second innings, he overheard talk of a team being picked for Kent's visit to Bath for their first ever match with Somerset. Stressing his Kentish birth, he ended up captaining the side and winning the match (not first-class) by nine wickets. At this stage of his career Thornton was in the habit of 'pretending to back up to encourage overthrows. According to his account, in the MCC match Lord Harris and Edward O'Shaughnessy (*qv*) 'engaged in a regular shying match' which eventually brought him a run.

Although never perhaps quite an automatic selection when Kent were at their strongest, Thornton played intermittently for seven seasons, ten matches in 1884 and 1886, nine in 1885. In 1884 he hit his first half-century, 75 against Somerset on Tunbridge Wells Common although his most valuable innings that year was arguably his 26 against Surrey at The Oval when, going in at 45 for four, he shared a partnership of 46 in 105 minutes with 'Harry Pat' Patterson (73*), faced ten bowlers and contributed hugely to saving the match.

In 1885 he finished second in the Kent averages with 446 runs (avge.34.30) and four half-centuries. He again earned his corn at The Oval with 79 and a 108- run opening partnership with Lord Harris (37) who batted for the last 35 minutes with his right arm in a sling. Again Surrey were denied victory. Captaining Kent to a five wicket victory over Sussex at Gravesend, his 59 was top score in the match and *Wisden* commented that 'he had a great deal to do with his team's triumph'. Against Middlesex at Lord's he was Kent's top scorer with 60, 40 of them in fours.

His form fell away somewhat in 1886 but he hit two half-centuries including 64 v Sussex at Hove where he shared an 84 runs last-wicket partnership with Alec Hearne (27). In his final two seasons his top score was 37. In his early career Thornton bowled slow-round-arm but later switched to lobs with which he was occasionally successful in minor cricket. His three victims in first-class cricket were not undistinguished, Maurice Read and the Australians Alec Bannerman and Jack Blackham. Most of his 42 catches were taken at point where he was a specialist. As an occasional Kent captain his overall record of won five, lost six, drawn one is better than most who captained the County in the last quarter of the 19th century.

In 1885 he captained EJ Sanders team to North America. He had registered a pair against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Mote Park in 1884 and began his tour little better with scores of 0, one, one and 0 but things improved with 107 against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Germantown, one of the two first-class matches of the tour and his first and only first-class hundred. He hit another hundred (not first-class) against the Philadelphians for MCC at Lord's in 1889.

Against the Australian tourists he played four times, in 1886 for GN Wyatt's Eleven at Portsmouth when he scored 25 and 51 (joint top scorer), in 1888 for Oxford University Past and Present at Leyton, for an England Eleven at Birmingham and for Oxford & Cambridge Universities Past & Present at Portsmouth.

Between 1871 and 1880 Thornton played regularly for Devonshire and the Gentlemen of Devonshire. A formidable club cricketer, he scored at least 38 centuries including 12 for Bickley Park, four for Band of Brothers and three each for Blue Mantles, Eastbourne and Torquay. He hit three double hundreds, 207 for Blue Mantles v Shorncliffe Camp, (1884), 201* for Sidmouth v Chardstock College (1883) and 200* for Mote Park v Shorncliffe Camp (1896). For Incogniti v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1885 he scored 116 in a 222-run opening partnership with DD Pontifex (123), notable in that both wore glasses. Among his other clubs were Linton Park, MCC, Oxford University Authentics, Seaton, Teignbridge, Tunbridge Wells, West Kent Hunt as well as the Dorset and Kent Gentlemen's teams. He twice represented Oxford against Cambridge at Association football.

Richard Thornton served on the Kent committee from 1885 to 1897. While Lord Harris was in India in 1894, a Special General Meeting was held at Willis's Restaurant in St. James's to discuss importing players. Thornton proposed that – 'It may be deemed advisable to secure services of young players not required by other counties'. The motion was carried, an Imported Players Committee was set up and £200 voted to cover expenses. Five young cricketers were selected – the eldest 23, the youngest 19, none with county experience – and farmed out to local clubs.

At the end of the season all were judged unsuitable with ratings varying from 'feeble in the extreme', 'not by any means useful to the county' to 'not likely to get runs in good company'. It was resolved 'Next time will not engage anyone without first seeing them'! Not the Club's finest hour and what Lord Harris thought if he heard about it is not on record.

Thornton was ordained in 1873 and was Assistant Curate at Sidmouth from 1873 to 1883 which seems to have given him plenty of time for cricket. In 1892, while living in Tunbridge Wells he was Acting Chaplain to the Royal West Kent Regiment.

In 1897 he resigned Holy Orders and appears to have lived the remainder of his life, latterly in Eastbourne, on 'private means' except during the 1914-1918 War when, at least in 1915 at the age of 61, he spent some time in France as an ambulance driver with the French Red Cross.

He married twice, both wives dying before him. In 1877 he married Ellen Sophia Pulford (1851-1891) at Newton Abbott. There were two sons and two daughters. In 1897 he married her younger sister Eliza Marion Pulford (1864-1909) at All Saints Church, St Helier. On Richard Thornton's death from pneumonia he left £6,031 15s 7d, probate granted to a son and two daughters, all from his first marriage.

Viscount Throwley (George Edward Milles), later Second Earl Sondes (No. 374).

Born: 11.5.1861, Lees Court, Faversham. *Died:* 1.10.1907 Marylebone, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium -pace bowler.

Kent 1882-1884

Educated. Eton College and Magdalene College, Cambridge.

George Watson Milles, First Earl Sondes & Charlotte Sondes (*née* Stracey).

Eldest son of the First Earl Sondes who was President of Kent in 1873 and again in 1887, Viscount Throwley played three matches for Eton in 1879 and became a member of the Eleven in the following year when his highest score was 40 against CI Thornton's Eleven. In the majority of matches that year he opened the batting with Viscount Curzon as his partner.

At Cambridge in 1881 he scored 19 in the Freshmens' Match and five in the 1882 Seniors' Trial but, despite 115 for his college against Clare, he progressed no further. In the vacation that year he scored 123 in a first-wicket partnership of 404 for AE Fellowes Eleven v Huntingdonshire at Huntingdon, his partner, Walter Forbes, going on to score 331 in a team total of 667.

Throwley made an inauspicious start to his short first-class career with Kent, - a pair against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane - but in his first home match he hit 82 in a first-wicket partnership of 208 with Lord Harris (176). Sussex fielded badly and both batsmen were missed several times but this rare all blue-blooded partnership – possibly unique in a 'modern' county match – remained a Kent first wicket record until 1901. He played two more matches in 1882 and two in 1884.

In the winter of 1884 Throwley broke his collar bone hunting with the Tickham foxhounds and subsequently restricted himself to club cricket until 1891 when, together with his brother the Hon Henry Milles, he toured the USA and Canada in a team raised and captained by Lord Hawke. The itinerary included two first-class matches with the Gentlemen of Philadelphia in the first of which he scored 23. His highest score on tour was 26 v Eastern Ontario. Most of his club cricket was for Band of Brothers, I Zingari, the Orleans Club, MCC and his own Lees Court side.

Throwley became the Second Earl Sondes in 1894. He was a JP, Deputy Lieutenant and much involved in the life of the County. He was President of Kent CCC in 1891 and served on the Kent General Committee from 1892 to 1907. A Captain (later Acting Major) in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, in 1900-1901 he served in South Africa with 33 (East Kent) Company, 11th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. While in South Africa he contracted pleurisy and, back in England, complications set in, necessitating two operations and eventually leading to his death. He died, unmarried, from tuberculosis. His estate was valued at £111,584,11s 4d.

Edward Thwaites (No. 46).

Born: 4.10.1801, Staplehurst. *Died:* 18.1.1872, Hastings, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1825-1826.

Parents: Stephen Thwaites & Mary Thwaites (*née* Simmons).

A member of the Hawkhurst club, Edward Thwaites' four appearances for Kent were all against Sussex. In the second, at Hawkhurst in 1825, he scored 27 and 16, top score in both innings. Later that year he played for England against the Bs at Lord's contributing 14 and four.

Qualified by residence, in 1826 he played his first match for Sussex, against Surrey and Hampshire at Petworth, and, although he appeared for Kent in home and away matches against Sussex later that season, thereafter he switched his allegiance exclusively to the latter, playing six times against the county of his birth.

In 1827, he was chosen for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's where he scored 0 (run out) and 16. Said to be of 'notably slight build' 5ft 7in. (170.1cm.) and 10 stone (63.5 kg.), his highest score in 'important matches' was 37* for Sussex v England at Sheffield in 1827. In addition to his appearances

for Sussex, between 1826 and 1837 he played regularly in the then annual East Sussex v West Sussex home and away fixture.

Until his death he was by occupation a tallow chandler in Hastings, living originally in the High Street. In 1833 he married Mary Standen (1807-1885) at St. Clément's Church, Hastings. There were six daughters and two sons.

Thomas Tidy (No. 258).

Born: 9.2.1846 Southborough. *Died:* 26.2.1892, Adrington Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1868.

Parents: Thomas & Jane Tidy.

There is some doubt about the identity of this cricketer but he is probably Thomas Tidy, a Southborough blacksmith and son of a Southborough blacksmith, also Thomas. His brothers, George and Henry were similarly blacksmiths. Thomas senior, who in 1851 combined his trade with the duties of constable, had a local reputation as a cricketer and his son emulated him by appearing for 16 of Southborough v Gentlemen of Kent at Southborough in 1867.

The doubts arise in that he seems to be the same Thomas Tidy who played for Chalk in 1866 and it is as Thomas Tidy (Chalk) that he next appears, playing for Fifteen Colts of Kent (with Mr Norton) against the Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend in May 1868. Only Norton did better than Tidy's 22 and 44 (run out) and it was presumably on the strength of this that he was a somewhat unlikely choice for Kent v England in the 1868 Canterbury Week – his only first-class match.

Why a Southborough blacksmith should have played for Chalk, and also apparently Gravesend and Milton remains a mystery, not least because in the 1871 Census he was still plying his trade in Southborough. Nevertheless, Census Returns do not reveal any more likely candidate living in the Gravesend area.

His subsequent career is a little odd. In 1877 he married in East Grinstead Mary Mann (née Pace), born 1840, widow of Thomas Mann junior, one of a family of extremely well-known Hastings photographers. Mary Mann's parents were inn keepers in Tunbridge Wells which raises the possibility that the couple knew each other prior to her first marriage. In the 1881 Census they are living in Southborough, he is still a blacksmith and they have living with them their two daughters, Mary (three) and Rose (two and a half months) together with three children by Mrs Tidy's first marriage, Kate (16), Annie (13) and Herbert (11). Another, Edith (17), is a visitor.

Ten years later, all has changed. They are living at *The Eastern Hotel*, Kemp Town, Brighton, Thomas Tidy is 'of no occupation'; Mary is the hotel keeper. There are no children, the other occupants are a boarder, Ernest Dyer, insurance agent, and one servant. The Tidy children were not far away. Mary, now 13 and Rose (ten) are in Brighton at Agnew House a 'Home for Training Female Servants'.

It seems likely that Thomas and Mary split up. In February 1892 Thomas was found drowned on the beach opposite Walshingham Terrace, Adrington which is approximately half way between Hove and Shoreham. There was 'no evidence to show how or by what means he got into the water'. His occupation is given as 'iron fence maker' so presumably he had started some sort of business.

In 1894 Mary Tidy married Stephen Dyer, her former boarder, 29 years her junior and by now a pianist. Together they ran another Kemp Town pub but the union did not last. Of the Tidy children, Mary married, had four children and died in Hackney in 1963. After 1891, there seems to be no trace

of Rose. In old age Mary Dyer, formerly Tidy, formerly Mann, went to live in Brighton with her youngest Mann daughter Annie and died there in 1924 aged 84.

Rev Henry Charles Lennox Tindall (No. 436).

Born: 4.2.1863, Margate, *Died:* 10.6.1940, Peasmarsh, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1893-1895

Educated: Dane Hill House School, Margate & Christ's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev Henry Woods Tindall & Sarah Jane Tindall (*née* Bousfield)

At school Henry Tindall took six wickets in seven balls against Aberdeen House, Ramsgate but on going up to Cambridge in 1883 he failed to make his mark as a cricketer apart from a few matches for Cambridge University Long Vacation Club. On the other hand, he was among the most distinguished of his generation on the running track.

A stylish batsman and on occasions highly destructive fast bowler in club cricket, mainly in Sussex, in 1892 he scored 28 and 26 and took two for 32 for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Beckenham but did little in his two matches for Kent apart from an innings of 32 against Oxford University in 1895.

Thanks no doubt to his local associations, he played two other first-class matches, both in the Hastings Festival – for South v the Australians in 1893 and for Gentlemen v Players in 1894. Most of Tindall's cricket was in the Hastings area, for Hastings & St Leonard's Priory, Hastings Priory and South Saxons, but he also scored centuries for Peripatetics and Tooting. For South Saxons v Reigate Priory in 1894 he had match figures of 12 for 47 and for Hastings Rovers v Rye in 1906 he took all ten for 25.

On the running track he gained Blues winning the quarter-mile and half mile at Cambridge from 1884 to 1886 inclusive and 100 yards and quarter-mile at Oxford in 1886. In 1889 he won the Amateur Championship quarter-mile and half-mile as well as winning the Northern Counties 1,000 yards in 1888 and quarter-mile in 1889. He broke the 600 yards record three times with a best time one minute 12 seconds and also in 1889 broke the existing records for 440 yards and quarter-mile. He played Rugby Football for Rosslyn Park and was one of the founders of Rye Golf Club where he was a Trustee and committee Chairman.

The son of a clergyman and Head Master of Dane Hill House, Henry Tindall was ordained in 1890 and was Deacon of Chichester in 1891, curate of Ore 1886-1907, Assistant Master Hurst Court Preparatory School, Ore 1886-1905, Head Master 1905-1924, Rector of Iden 1924 to 1932 when he retired to live in Peasmarsh.

In 1898 he married Muriel Caroline Papillon (1866-1954) in Battle. There were two daughters and one son. On his death his estate was valued at £8,947 1s 10d. His brother Sidney, a noted hockey player, played 42 first-class matches for Lancashire and eleven for London County. He later emigrated to Australia where he was briefly Secretary of Melbourne CC.

William Fox Tomson (No. 208).

Born: 18.5.1842, Ramsgate. *Died:* 12.6.1882, Ramsgate

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1861.

Educated: King' School, Canterbury.

Parents: William Tomson & Harriet Cockburn.

Born into the Ramsgate brewing family whose brewery was at one time claimed to be the oldest in England, William Tomson was in the Eleven at King's and in 1867 played in the Freshmen's Match at Oxford University. He does not however ever appear to have entered the University.

In May 1861 he scored 35 for Gentlemen of Kent v Players of Kent at Canterbury and in July that year played his only first-class match, 15 of Kent v England at Lord's. In 1872 he played for Kent again, against the Prince's Club, improving on his previous performance in the sense that he scored two without being dismissed.

Between 1861 and 1872 he made seven appearances for Gentlemen of Kent, taking a few wickets but, as far as can be ascertained, never scoring more than 14. He played with more success in club cricket, for Band of Brothers, Butterflies, Minster (Thanet) and St. Lawrence. In 1879 playing for St. Lawrence against Lord Harris's team at Belmont, he took seven wickets in the first innings. In 1862 he endeavoured to take a team to play on Goodwin Sands but, like many before and since, miscalculated the behaviour of the tides.

William Tomson devoted his life to the brewing industry. In 1878 he married Eliza Laura Roberts in Ramsgate. There was one daughter. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £33,443 8s. In 1968 the brewery was taken over by Whitbreads, who, as was their wont, subsequently closed it.

John Norton Tonge (No. 388).

Born: 9.7.1865, Otford. *Died:* 8.7.1903, Morant's Court, Chevening.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1884-1897. Cap 1887.

Educated: Cheltenham College.

Parents: William J Tonge & Anna Penelope Tonge (*née* Bird).

At a time when Kent had difficulty in persuading amateurs to play in away matches on Northern grounds, John Tonge was rare among Kent's expenses only fraternity in that he played more often on away grounds than at home venues. Although he worked in London (as a stock jobber) and divided his time between London and Kent, he actually played more frequently at Old Trafford (five matches) than at any other ground except Lord's (seven) and more often at Sheffield (twice) than at Canterbury (just once.)

He was unable to find a place in the Eleven at Cheltenham but in 1884, following an innings of 110 for Kent Second Eleven v Gravesend, he made his first-class debut, scoring 15 against Derbyshire on the Bat & Ball ground. He played no more that year but in 1885 he appeared in four matches and, given a chance to open in the last two games, responded with 53 v Hampshire at Tonbridge and 54 v Middlesex at Mote Park. Against Hampshire he shared a second-wicket partnership of 105 with George Hearne (76) and against Middlesex he put on 91 for the third wicket with 'Harry Pat' Patterson (84).

Apart from a gritty innings of 40 against Yorkshire at Sheffield, 1886 was disappointing but his bowling was an unexpected bonus with three for 14 at Derby – including the brothers Frank and Walter Sugg – and three for 36 v Surrey at Beckenham where Walter Read was among his victims. He became almost a regular in 1887 with 9 matches out of Kent's 14 match programme and although his overall figures, 274 runs at 17.12 are unimpressive, he played several valuable innings, usually in low-scoring games – 40 (top score) & 23 v MCC at Lord's, 39 v Sussex at Hove, 32 & 35 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and 38 v Gloucestershire at Clifton. In 1888 he achieved his personal best, 60 v Lancashire at Old Trafford, but, although he played intermittently until 1897, he only once more passed 30.

In his last first-class match in England, for Kent v Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Maidstone, John Tonge, who opened the batting, was hit and retired hurt before a run had been scored. The Philadelphian captain, John Lester, allowed the Hon Henry Milles (*qv*) to take his place. At the end of the season Tonge toured North America with a team led by Pelham Warner. He played two first-class and three other matches with a top score of 24 v Twenty-Two Colts of Philadelphia on the Germantown ground. He served on the Kent General Committee from 1897 to 1903.

An enthusiastic club cricketer, John Tonge hit five hundreds for Band of Brothers (four of them against Royal Engineers), at least five for Bickley Park and two for Blackheath. He also played for Sevenoaks Vine and in minor matches for MCC. In 1888, playing for Wildernesse, near Sevenoaks, against Lord's & Commons, his four wickets included those of Sidney Herbert (later Fourteenth Earl of Pembroke) and Herbert Gladstone, son of William Ewart.

In 1892 John Tonge married Edith Boosey (1865-1893) at Bickley. There was one daughter. On the death of his father, a landowner 'living on own means', Tonge inherited Morant's Court, Chevening, a Grade II listed mansion dating in part from the 15th century. When he died there in 1903 from phthisis his estate was valued at £3, 6870 12s 9d, probate to 'Anna Penelope Tonge, widow, and William Tonge, Major in HM Army'. This misled some researchers into assuming Tonge married twice but the widow is clearly his mother who died in 1917 aged 80.

William Tonge is his brother who retired as Colonel William Tonge DSO. He played two matches for Gloucestershire in 1880 and a few matches for Norfolk.

Dr Edward Tootell MRCS, LRCP (No. 286).

Born: 22.11.1849, Thurnham. *Died:* 20.3.1878, Mitri, Sind, India.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1872.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School, Chatham House, Ramsgate & London University.

Parents: Joseph Tootell & Matilda Mary Hazell Tootell (*née* Wright).

The son of an auctioneer, surveyor and valuer, one time Mayor of Maidstone, Edward Tootell played his three matches for Kent while studying medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and London University. Beginning with a duck against Sussex at Hove, in the second innings he was top scorer with 24, one of only two batsmen to reach double figures. In his remaining four innings he failed to reach double figures but against Surrey at Mote Park he claimed the wicket of the 'unbowlable' Harry Jupp, albeit from a catch.

Tootell played club cricket for the Anomalies, Gentlemen of Kent and Mote Park as well as St Bartholomew's Hospital where he was captain in 1873/74. In *Throwing the Cricket Ball* in the Hospital Sports he made a throw of more than 100 yards (91.4 m.).

On qualifying in 1874, Edward Tootell joined the Indian Medical Service but died four years later. Probate was granted to his father for a personal estate valued at 'under £200'.

William Matt Torrens (No. 413).

Born: 19.10.1869, Sundridge Park, Bromley. *Died:* 18.2.1931, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1890.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: Alfred Torrens & Ann Ommanney Torrens (*née* Scott).

Matt Torrens was in the Eleven at Harrow in 1886 and 1887 and kept wicket at Lord's against Eton in both years. His father, a Captain in the 66th (Royal Berkshire) Regiment was in the Eleven in 1848 and 1849 and a younger brother, Attwood Torrens (later as Major Torrens RA killed in the First World War) played for the School in 1892. William Torrens' early career was in banking but, following the death of his father in 1903 when he inherited Baston House, Hayes, he became a stockbroker.

A regular wicketkeeper in club cricket with Band of Brothers, Beckenham, Private Banks and, occasionally MCC, he came into the Kent side for four matches in 1890, one of five wicketkeepers called on that season. According to *Wisden* he 'kept wicket fairly competently until his hands gave way. He was a conspicuous failure against the Australians at Maidstone' (his last match) 'but he had cut his hand badly on the day of match and, would have acted wisely had he declined to play altogether'.

In fact, he held a catch and conceded 16 byes, not unreasonable by the standards of the day. The Australian keeper, captain Billy Murdoch, gave away 27 byes! To be fair, Murdoch, whose regular wicketkeeping days were long past, was only behind the stumps because, on the boat coming over, the man chosen for the tour as reserve keeper, Tasmanian E.J.K.Burn, was found to have never kept wicket in his life.

Torrens scored 43 in the second innings of his debut match at Gloucester but thereafter his highest score was ten. In club cricket he scored centuries for Band of Brothers and for Private Banks.

In 1906 he married Lilian Edith Fardell (1874-1965), daughter of the local MP at St. John's Church, Paddington. There were two sons and two daughters. Baston House was sold and turned into flats and in the 1911 Census he was living in Prickly Wood, Hayes with his wife, a nurse and three servants. On his death he left a fairly modest £534.

Charles (Crepin) Town (No. 19).

Born: 1796, Sutton Valence. *Died:* 31.7.1845, Sandgate.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1815-1823.

Parents: Joseph & Agnes Town.

There is a certain amount of confusion concerning Charles Town's early life and little is known of his early cricket. Even more puzzling is why he did not appear more often in 'important' matches. Although he only scored two and eight in his first game, against England on Wrotham Napps, in his two matches against MCC, at Lord's and Chislehurst in 1823, his scores were 51, four, 45 and 47, almost 'Bradmanesque' by contemporary standards. The bowlers included Edward Budd and Lord Frederick Beauclerk, two of the best amateur bowlers of the period.

By occupation Town was a grocer and general dealer in Sandgate. In 1823 he married Ann Page (1796-1882) in Maidstone. There was one son and one daughter. According to one family account, under the name Crepin he had previously married Mary (unknown) by whom he had three sons and three daughters. His parents used the name Town so there is no obvious explanation for a change of name – if such there was. He died following an injury to his arm. In the words of *Scores & Biographies*, 'mortification set in'.

Rev Chauncey Hare Townshend (No. 68).

Born: 10.4. 1798, England. *Died:* 25.2.1868, Norfolk Street, Park Lane, Mayfair, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1827

Educated: Eton College & Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
Parents: Henry Hare Townsend & Charlotte Winter Townsend (*née Lake*).

Chauncey Townshend was a poet in his own right but is now best remembered as a friend of Charles Dickens who dedicated *Great Expectations* to him. Townshend, who also numbered the Poet Laureate Robert Southey among his friends and acquaintances, made Dickens his literary executor, a gesture greeted by the recipient with some surprise and, seemingly, distinctly mixed feelings.

Born Chauncey Hare Townsend, the 'h' in Townshend was added in 1835, he was the only son of Henry Hare Townsend who owned substantial properties in Godalming, Surrey, Tottenham, North London, Walpole, Norfolk and Switzerland. Chauncey Townsend is presumably the 'Townsend Esq' who played for Eton v Harrow at Lord's in 1818 but according to Cambridge University records he had entered Trinity Hall in the previous year and had already won the Chancellor's prize for a poem on the subject of Jerusalem.

Although he batted No. 3 on his one appearance for Kent on the cricket field, it seems likely that he was a late replacement. According to *Scores & Biographies*, on the morning of the match William Ashby, George Mills and Herbert Jenner were 'found absent' and 'their places had to be filled by' gentlemen who happened to be on the ground'. There were already three 'given men', William Caldecourt, James Saunders and William Searle.

After graduating, BA 1821, MA 1824, Townshend was ordained but, due to 'ill health', he held no church appointments or, apparently, ever performed any other clerical function. Among his interests, and one he shared with Charles Dickens, was mesmerism, a subject on which he became a leading authority. Described as 'dandified' and variously portrayed as dilettante and hypochondriac, Townshend published a book of poems in 1827 but it was 30 years before he produced another – *Sermons & Sonnets with other Poems* (London 1851). Probably his best known work is *The Burning of the Amazon. A Ballad* (London 1852) but the Dictionary of National Biography judged his poetry as 'too often commonplace'.

In 1826 he married Elizabeth Frances, daughter of Sir Amos Godsill Norcott; they separated in 1843 due to 'unhappy differences'. In the latter part of his life he lived in Lausanne and spent much of his time travelling in Europe, adding to his large art collection. On his death, he left his library to the Wisbech & Fenland Museum and the balance of his collection including 186 oil paintings, 177 water colours, 390 drawings, 832 volumes, 1815 prints and numerous precious stones, cameos etc. to the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria & Albert). His portrait hangs in the museum.

In addition to those already mentioned his chief published works were *Description of a Tour of Scotland* (Brussels 1840), *Facts in Mesmerism* (London 1840), *Mesmerism Proved True* (London 1842), *Three Gates* (London 1859). The English portion of his estate was valued for probate at £16,000.

William Frederick Traill (No. 203).

Born: 7.1.1838, Lewisham. *Died:* 3.10.1905, South Hampstead, London.

Right-hand batsman, right-arm, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1860-1866.

Educated: Merchant Taylors' School & St. John's College, Oxford.

Parents: James Traill & Caroline Traill (*née Whateley*).

The son of a, Greenwich Police Magistrate who lived in Blackheath, William Traill entered St. John's College in 1856 where he studied Law and continued his studies in the Inner Temple. He was called to

the Bar in 1865 and, with chambers in Lincoln's Inn Fields, was awarded his Law Doctorate in the following year.

Among the best amateur bowlers of his day in the late 1850s and early 1860s, it seems likely that Traill would have played for Kent more frequently had his career not restricted his availability. Although he played a great deal of club cricket, mainly for I Zingari, apart from Oxford and a single match at Badminton, he rarely seems to have played anywhere outside Southern England. He played three times against Cambridge and appeared seven times for Gentlemen v Players between 1859 and 1867, five times at Lord's, twice at The Oval.

On his first appearance against Cambridge, in 1858 when Oxford won by an innings, he bowled only three overs but in the following year, when he was on the losing side, he took three for 45, two for 40 and batted usefully. He was on the losing side again in 1860 when the ground was, according to *Scores & Biographies* 'in a dreadful state of mud' and Oxford were skittled for 59 and 57. He did more than his share for his side with six for 35 and five for 18.

During his time at Oxford Traill took 26 first-class wickets at 10.22, and produced some impressive figures in lesser fixtures – five wickets in each innings against Oxfordshire in 1859 and 15 wickets in the match against 19 Freshmen in 1860, top score (26) and a match analysis of 13 for 79 against Professionals Engaged at Oxford in 1859 probably gave him particular satisfaction.

Traill made his first appearance in Kent colours while still at University, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1859 where he took four for 42 and one for 77. Later that season he took two for 14 and four for 34 in the return at Canterbury, a little surprisingly perhaps, his only appearance in the Week.

In July 1860 he made a highly successful debut in county cricket, against Sussex on Tunbridge Wells Common, where he scored 49, his career highest, and took five for 35 and three for 33. He did well again in 1861 with 40 (joint top score) for 15 of Kent v England at Lord's and five for 24 v Surrey at The Oval as well as five for 21 for South v North at Lord's. For Eighteen of Chatham v the AEE in September that year he suffered a pair but his six for 49 in England's first innings included the wickets of Richard Daft, Tom Hayward (senior), George Parr and Frederick Bathurst.

Although he continued to appear occasionally for Kent until 1866, he did nothing of note in the remainder of his first-class career apart from three for 41 for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1864 and four for 17 for MCC v Surrey at The Oval in 1866. His last first-class match was Gentlemen v Players at The Oval in 1867.

In club and other 'minor' cricket it was very different. Many of his best performances were for I Zingari. In a 12-a-side game v Gentlemen of West Kent at Chislehurst in 1863 he took ten wickets in the second innings, 13 in the match. Against South Wales at Lord's he took nine for 43 & four for 79 and in all IZ matches between 1859 and 1873 he claimed at least 210 wickets, 13 times five or more in an innings, three times ten or more in a match. It was for IZ that he achieved what seems to be his highest score, 96 v School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness in 1872. As well as clubs already mentioned, he also played a lot of the cricket for Harlequins and Southgate as well as occasionally for The Bar, Inns of Court and Will-o'-the-Wisp.

Traill served on the Committee of MCC for several years but when Kent CCC amalgamated with the Beverley (aka the Kent Club) in 1870, he declined the offer to serve as a Vice - President. While at Oxford he was a member of Bullingdon and in 1882 he published a book of short stories *Tales of Modern Oxford*. One story entitled 'After Long Years' features two Alumni, returning after a long absence, recalling Bullingdon cricket. 'Wickets always fell fast after a Bullingdon lunch, however

good the batsman and however weak the bowling. It made the eye deceptive so that it saw several balls bowled but always induced the batsman to hit all the wrong ones’.

Traill never married and seems to have lived most of his life with his unmarried sister Wilhelmina, in Paddington in 1891, Chichester in 1901 and South Hampstead in 1905. On his death she was granted probate, his estate valued at £5,727 18s 4d.

Lt. Colonel Lionel Holmes Wood Troughton MC (No. 502).

Born: 17.5.1879, Seaford, Sussex. *Died:* 31.8.1933, Southwark, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1907-1923. Cap.1914

County Captain. 1914-1923.

Educated: Dulwich College.

Parents: William Henry Thornton & Kate Wood Troughton (*née* Wood).

Over the many years when it was considered *de rigueur* for a county team to be captained by an amateur, Kent were more fortunate than most in that only rarely were they obliged to call upon someone as skipper who would not have otherwise been able to justify a regular place in the side. By general consent, Lionel Troughton was one such but in the event he proved to be a popular, highly-respected and tactically astute captain who, in terms of the percentage of matches won to percentage of matches lost, ranks second only to the most successful of them all, Ted Dillon.

Equally important perhaps, he played a major role in the career of ‘Tich’ Freeman, guiding and encouraging him, placing his field, and teaching him to detect and exploit weaknesses in opposing batsmen. Although difficult to prove one way or the other, it has been suggested that Freeman was never quite the same bowler under any other captain.

In the 1881 Census Troughton’s father is shown as a wine & spirit merchant in Seaford employing seven staff but ten years later he is a solicitor and his son followed him into the profession with a practice in King Street, Gravesend.

Lionel Troughton was in the Eleven at Dulwich in 1897 and played his first game for Kent Second Eleven, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, in 1900. Over the next half dozen seasons he continued to make intermittent Second Eleven appearances and in 1906 hit his first hundred, 105 v Middlesex Second Eleven at his home ground, Gravesend.

In 1907, following successive scores of 82 v Middlesex Seconds at Lord’s and 90 v Sussex Seconds at Hove, he got his chance in the first team, hitting 46 against Essex at Leyton and sharing a 108-run fifth-wicket partnership with ‘Wally’Hardinge. In 1908 he scored 85 for GJV Weigall’s Eleven v Cambridge University and every year between 1907 and 1913 made occasional first team appearances for Kent, 18 in all, five in 1911, only one in 1908, 1910 and 1913. In that time his record for the County was a modest 611 runs (avge.17.97) with a top score of 48 v Gloucestershire at Gravesend. In contrast, over the same period for the Second Eleven, latterly as captain, he totalled 2,220 runs (avge.32.64) with five hundreds and eight half centuries including two scores in the 90s.

When Dillon stood down as captain at the end of the 1913 season, quality amateurs able to spare time for a season’s cricket were a rarity and, although in the words of the 1915 *Wisden*, ‘not up to the requisite standard as a batsman’, Troughton, as Second Eleven captain, was the obvious choice. He led the side in 30 matches and, all things considered, his first year went well, Kent winning 17 Championship matches, losing seven with six draws and finishing third behind Surrey and Middlesex in what, overshadowed by the imminence of War, turned out to be a fairly meaningless season.

Personally he began well with 46* v MCC at Lord's and scored his only hundred in his third match in charge, 104 v Oxford University in the Parks when he put on 184 for the fifth-wicket with William Sarel (93). There were several other useful innings including 59 v Yorkshire at Tonbridge but against this there were six ducks, ten other single figure scores and a final record of 776 runs (avge.18.47).

At the end of the season Troughton enlisted as a private in the 18th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (the Public Schools Bn.) and five months later was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant in the 10th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade, the requisite references provided by two County colleagues – William Sarel, an officer in the Battalion, testifying to his character and Lord Harris to his education.

In July 1915 the Battalion arrived in France, part of 59 Brigade, 20th (Light) Division. The Division took part in the later stages of battle of the Somme and in August/September 1916 suffered very heavy casualties in the Battle of Guillemont where Troughton, one of only two officers to emerge unscathed, was awarded an MC for conspicuous gallantry in action. 'He led his men with great determination, reforming at each objective and then leading them on. Between the first and second objective he took a rifle and rushed forward, firing into the enemy trench. Finally he found himself in command of the Battalion and consolidated the objective under heavy fire'. In March 1917, when the CO was wounded in a training accident, Troughton, now a Temporary Lieutenant Colonel, was formally appointed to command of the Battalion and in April was awarded the *Legion d'Honneur*.

Under his command the Battalion made a successful attack on Metz Courtureng, took part in the Third Battle of Ypres and in the capture of Bourlon Wood. In November 1917, by now tired, understrength and containing a high proportion of under-trained reinforcements, they participated in the Battle of Cambrai. In the closing phase, on 30th November, the counter-attacking Germans employed for the first time on a major scale the infiltration tactics which they would later use to such effect in their March 1918 offensive.

By the end of the day 20th Division had lost almost half its strength in killed, wounded and prisoners. Troughton's Battalion, like several others was overrun, his headquarters surrounded and he, together with seven surviving members of his staff, joined more than 6,000 British prisoners taken that day. The 10th Battalion never saw action again and was disbanded in February 1918 although it was reborn in World War 2. It was with the 10th Battalion that Tony Pawson (qv) fought his war.

The closing phase of the Battle of Cambrai was not one of the most glorious episodes in the history of the British Army and, although four months later no fewer than 18 unwounded battalion commanders or equivalent would be captured on the first day of the German March offensive, for a senior officer to be taken prisoner either without a wound or otherwise incapacitated was still apt to be viewed with disapproval in some quarters, especially by those with a limited acquaintance with the exigencies of modern war.

Troughton's obligatory official account of his capture written after he was repatriated in December 1918 makes poignant reading and, on first returning to civilian life, he was reputedly reluctant to socialise for a while. Fortunately he was able to carry on where he left off as Kent captain and in 1919 came agonisingly close to winning the Championship.

Beginning well personally with 48 for Lionel Robinson's Eleven against the Australian Imperial Forces at Attleborough and 50 for MCC v Yorkshire at Lord's, he failed when captaining MCC against the AIF but with Kent hit 74 v Essex at Leyton and 54 in a resounding innings victory over Sussex at Tonbridge. Although unable to sustain this form, he ended his County season with 388 runs (avge.25.86). Kent remained in contention for the Championship until the last match of the season.

Matches in 1919 lasted only two days and the title was decided on percentage of wins to matches played. With Yorkshire playing 26 matches and Kent (and five other counties) only 14 the method had obvious faults. When the last round of matches began, Yorkshire had 12 wins in 25 matches, Kent six in 13. If both sides won, the title would be shared; if only Yorkshire won they were Champions, if Yorkshire failed to win and Kent won, Kent were champions. The first day of Yorkshire's game at Hove was rained off making a draw inevitable. At Lord's, Kent made Middlesex follow-on but when stumps were drawn the home side were 12 runs ahead with one wicket standing. Yorkshire were Champions with 46.15% to Kent's 42.85 %.

Kent never again came quite so close between the Wars but, despite an unbalanced attack relying largely on spin, during the remaining four years of Troughton's captaincy they were never out of the upper reaches of the table – fourth in 1921 and 1922, fifth in 1920 and 1923. Their most successful season was 1922 when they won 16 and lost only three. Gloucestershire, Sussex, Warwickshire and Worcestershire were all beaten twice and two of the defeats were at the hands of Champions Yorkshire, at the time easily the strongest team in the country.

Not helped by usually either batting down the order or acting as stand-in opener, Troughton never again averaged over 20; his best season was 1921 when he totalled 761 (avge.19.51). In those last four seasons he hit five half centuries with a top score of 66 v Essex at Leyton in 1920 and 66 again v MCC in 1921. Possibly his best innings was 44 against Gloucestershire at Gravesend in 1920 when only one other batsman passed 30. At the end of the 1923 season he led the team on a five-match tour of the North of Scotland.

In 1912 Troughton toured South America with an MCC team led by Archie MacLaren. In the first of the three matches against Argentina which were rated as first-class, he scored 59*. Against Combined Camps at Buenos Aires (not first-class) he hit 112*. His club cricket was for Band of Brothers, for whom he hit two centuries, Gravesend, for whom he scored 203* v Cobham in 1903, Greenjackets and MCC.

In 1925 he married Gwendeolen Henderson (1893-1968) in Canterbury and settled at Court Lodge, Bishopsbourne. There was one son. While at Bishopsbourne he did much to encourage local cricket and, partly through cricket, renewed his friendship with the author Alec Waugh whom he had first met in Karlsruhe while they were POWs.

Troughton was involved in the Club's administration almost from the beginning. He served on the Managing Committee from 1908 to 1911, 1913, and 1922 to 1923 and on relinquishing the captaincy, took over as Manager of Kent CCC following the sudden death of Tom Pawley in 1923. He was still Manager when he died in Guy's Hospital, like his predecessor, dying 'in harness'. A cousin of Mowbray Troughton (*q.v.*) he was a director of the Gravesend & Milton Gaslight Company and of the Gravesend & Milton Waterworks. On his death he left £5,457, probate to his widow. At his funeral service in Canterbury Cathedral the address was given by the Essex batsman Canon FH Gillingham.

Medhurst Albert Troughton (No. 229).

Born: 25.12.1839, Milton-next-Gravesend. *Died:* 1.1.1912, Campden Hill, Kensington, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow round-arm, underarm bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1864-1873.

Education: Private.

Parents: Medhurst Troughton & Sophia Gladwill Troughton (*née* Twiss).

From a well-known and influential Gravesend family, Medhurst Troughton was the son of a magistrate and was himself a JP as well as an alderman and, in 1877, Mayor of Gravesend. In 1855 he was articled to an attorney but does not appear to have qualified or practiced. In every Census

between 1861 and 1911 he is shown as 'of no occupation', 'owner of property' or 'living on own means'.

Said to drive 'like a kicking horse', Troughton played most of his early cricket in and around Gravesend, primarily for the Mid-Kent club where he was Secretary from 1858 to 1874. In 1864 he made his first appearance for the Gentlemen of Kent and two years later came his debut for the County, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

From 1864 until 1869 he was one of the small band of amateurs who appeared regularly for the County and, although never a heavy scorer, he played several valuable innings notably, 87 v Yorkshire at Gravesend in 1865, when, with Kent struggling at 88 for five, he added 113 for the sixth wicket with Ned Willsher (47) as well as 47 v Sussex at Hove in 1867, (top score for Kent in the match), 69* v Cambridgeshire at Fenner's in 1868 and 33 (top score again) against Middlesex at Islington in the same year when Kent were dismissed for 94.

Although never more than a change bowler in county cricket, in 1865 he took five for 70 with lobs when Surrey totalled 368 at The Oval, including the wickets of Harry Jupp, Will Mortlock, HH Stephenson and Tom Lockyer. He played only twice in 1870 and, although he served on the committee of the original Kent CCC from 1868 to 1870 and on the enlarged Club's Managing committee from 1874 to 1874, he played only once more after the amalgamation with Beverley. This was against WGGrace's Eleven at Gravesend in 1873.

Troughton played a lot of (non-first-class) cricket for Gentlemen of Kent where he enjoyed a much greater level of success with scores including 51 & 116 v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1865 and 130 against the same opponents at Gravesend in 1867. His highest score was 206* for Gentlemen of Mid-Kent v South Norwood at Gravesend in 1873. In successive matches in 1868 he hit 80 for Gentlemen of Kent v the Australian Aborigines at Gravesend, 56 in each innings and 5 for 40 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Lancashire at Old Trafford and 53 for Gravesend v Town Malling.

Medhurst Troughton contributed much to cricket in Gravesend and District. When he retired as Secretary of the Mid-Kent Club (subsequently Gravesend & Milton) in 1874 he was presented by the Earl of Darnley with an appropriately inscribed silver epergne. He played for several other clubs including Gravesend, Incogniti and South Essex,

In 1868 he married Annie Josephine Renton at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Brixton. There were three daughters and one son. In later life he lived mainly in his London house in Campden Hill where he died, his estate valued at £39,134 0s 4d, probate granted to his widow.

Carleton Fowell Tufnell MICE (No. 347).

Born: 20.2.1856, Northfleet. *Died:* 26.5.1940, Chelsea, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace/spin bowler.

Kent 1878-1879.

Educated: Eton College & Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, Egham.

Parents: Thomas Robert Tufnell JP & Frances Howard Tufnell (*née* Hutchinson).

The son of a magistrate of 'independent means', Carleton Tufnell left Eton at 16, too young for the Eleven but at Cooper's Hill he was in the Eleven from 1876 to 1878 and captained in his final two years. Even before leaving College, he had already played for I Zingari and in 1876 took six for 27 and six for 29 for Eighteen of Edenbridge in a drawn match with the New United South of England Eleven. In the following year, for Tunbridge Wells v MCC, he again claimed five wickets in an innings, seven in the match.

At the end of his final term, Tufnell made his debut for Kent, contributing to Kent's victory at Derby with three for 31 & two for 41. He claimed another four wickets on his second appearance when Kent beat Surrey at Mote Park but, chosen for two matches in Canterbury Week and against Surrey at The Oval, he did little bowling and failed to take a wicket. At Trent Bridge at the end of the season however he returned to form with two highly prized wickets, William Oscroft and Arthur Shrewsbury, as well as one much less prized, that of Fred Morley, for 55.

He also did well in minor matches, twice taking six wickets in an innings against MCC, for the Royal Indian Engineering College and for Tunbridge Wells, as well as picking up three wickets for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Other Counties, a 'fill up' match in Canterbury Cricket Week, ultimately ruined by rain. He did not bowl in his only county match, v Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1879, but took three for 77 in what proved to be his last appearance in first-class cricket, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week.

In 1879 he married Laura Gertrude Charsley (1860-1911). There were seemingly two ceremonies, at All Saints Church, Derby and at Trinity Church, Twickenham. In the winter he sailed for India to begin service as a Civil Engineer with the Department of Public Works in Simla. There were four sons, the first two born in India, and three daughters. He was reported to have died while in India and thus joined the small band of cricketers who have had the doubtful pleasure of reading their own obituaries.

While on leave in 1888, he scored 36 and 12 for Gentlemen of Kent v the Parsees but when the 1891 Census was taken, he had retired from service with the Department of Public Works and was an insurance broker and underwriter living in Beckenham. By 1901 he had moved to Waterdone Manor, Kenley with his wife, two sons, one daughter and six servants.

After returning to England he played for Crystal Palace and for I Zingari, for the latter as late as 1913. In 1915 he was the author of a paper *Economical River Training in India*. In 1912, following his first wife's death in the previous year, he married Anne Elizabeth Tufnell at St. Nicholas Church, Guildford. On his death his estate was valued at £93,286 12s 5d

One of Carleton Tufnell's sons, Lt Col Neville Tufnell RE won a Blue at Cambridge, played one match for Surrey and toured twice with MCC, New Zealand in 1906/07 and South Africa in 1909/10. On the latter tour he played one Test Match, deputizing for Herbert Strudwick. Another son, Lt. Carleton Wyneham Tufnell was killed in action with 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards in November 1914

Major John Sackville Richard Tufton (later Second Earl Hothfield) DSO (No. 461).

Born: 8.11.1873, Hothfield Place. *Died:* 21.12.1952, Bayswater, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent. 1897-1898

Educated: Eton College.

Parents: Henry James Tufton, First Earl Hothfield & Lady Alice Harriet Argyll Hothfield (*née* Stacey-Clitherow).

The Hon (as he then was) John Sackville Tufton came from a family long associated with cricket in the County. His father, Henry James Tufton, the first Earl, was President of Kent in 1877. The son, although highly regarded in club cricket, failed to gain a place in the Eleven at Eton and, due in part perhaps to his career as a professional soldier and his many other interests, without actually failing, produced only moderate results in his brief career in first-class cricket.

As a batsman at first-class level, he was never more than useful. On his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven, against Middlesex at Tonbridge in 1896, he opened the batting and scored 0 and 41. Next season, in his introduction to first-class cricket, he scored 21 and two for MCC v Leicestershire at Lord's followed shortly after by remarkably similar scores in his first county match, 22 and one v Yorkshire at Halifax. In five more matches that season he only once failed to reach double figures but his top score was 25 – twice – v Warwickshire at Edgbaston and v the Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Beckenham when he added 70 for the first wicket with Jack Mason (92).

Apart from one game at Edgbaston in 1898 in which he did not bat and a Second Eleven match in 1899, that was the end of his on-field career with Kent although he played a handful of matches for MCC in 1898 and 1899.

On leaving Eton in 1892, Tufton was commissioned into the Third (Militia) Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1892, transferring two years later to the Regular Army with a commission in the 1st Life Guards. In May 1896 he resigned his commission, possibly to concentrate on his extensive agricultural interests. He had already been appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Westmoreland and later that year married Lady Ierne Augusta Arundel Hastings, daughter of the 14th Earl of Huntingdon at St. George's Hanover Square. There were three sons and two daughters.

Following the outbreak of the Second Boer War, he rejoined his old unit, Third (Militia) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, and in March 1900 embarked with them for South Africa, the first time Militia units had served overseas. The Battalion was employed primarily on the lines of communication and on static guard duties, although at least one company served as mounted infantry in the Transvaal and in Orange River Colony. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps.

After the Peace of Vereenniging, the Battalion was deployed to St. Helena for POW guard duties. A certain amount of cricket was played between the guards and the guarded but there is nothing to indicate whether or not Tufton participated.

On returning to England, Tufton continued to serve with what was now the Third (Reserve) Battalion, a depot and training unit based in Chichester. Promoted Major in 1913, he moved with his unit to Dover on the outbreak of war.

In February 1915 he left the Battalion on being posted to France to the Sixth Infantry Division as Assistant Provost Marshal. He remained with the Division throughout the war, his services gaining him the DSO and two Mentions in Despatches. He was also awarded the Legion D'Honneur, Chevalier Ordre of Leopold, Croix de Guerre and Chevalier Pour le Merite Agricole. He retired with the rank of Major. Following the Armistice, he served with the Division in the Army of Occupation, finally relinquishing the post of APM in April 1919. He retired from the Army in 1925 with the rank of Major.

As a club cricketer Tufton played for Band of Brothers, for whom he scored two centuries, Free Foresters, his 'family team' Hothfield Place and I Zingari. With the latter he took part in the club's first ever overseas tour, to Egypt in 1913/1914. His chief personal contributions were 53 v Egypt and 87 v Alexandria Cricket Club. In 1912 he scored 74 in an hour against Wye College when Hothfield Place were faced with scoring 110 in 65 minutes.

He served on the Kent CCC committee from 1897 to 1909 and again in 1914 when he resigned following some fairly acrimonious correspondence with Lord Harris ('Dear Johnny' on one side, 'Dear Lord Harris' on the other) over the Club's decision to continue to play county matches after the outbreak of war. Harris had strong City connections and, like many in financial circles, seems to have been of the 'All over by Christmas' persuasion. In a letter to Tufton he argued, with barely credible naivety, that 'cricket was played all through the Napoleonic, Crimean, Indian Mutiny and South

African campaigns'. Tufton in his reply somehow resisted the temptation to point out that already it was clear, at least to those in the armed services, that this would be war on an unprecedented scale, destined to dwarf all previous conflicts.

Tufton was also a talented player of lawn tennis and for some years was judged the best tennis player in the House of Lords. Succeeding to the title in 1926, Tufton shared his father's interest in agriculture and farmed extensively in Yorkshire and Westmoreland where he involved himself in local affairs. He was Mayor of Appleby in 1937/38 and 1938/39 and JP for both Westmoreland and Kent. After the Second World War he was obliged to sell much of his property in the North and in 1947 large areas came on the market, many farms being sold to the tenants. He was Chairman of the South Eastern Railway Company and a Director of Viewpoint Estates.

Following the death of his wife in 1935, he married Sybil Augusta Sant in Westminster. When he died at 74 Albion Gate, his estate was valued for probate at £414,393 6s 11d. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the Hon Henry Hastings Sackville Tufton.

Thomas Turney (No. 82).

Born: c 1801, Westerham. *Died:* 3.4.1887, Westerham.
Kent 1828.

Parents: Thomas Turney & Ann Turney (*née* Marchant).

A carpenter by trade, Thomas Turney gained a considerable reputation as an allround cricketer in local cricket. He played for his local club Westerham, in 1825 for Sevenoaks, and whenever the West Kent Club, one of the strongest in the County, were short of quality players they reputedly sent for Turney, paying his coach fare and other expenses. His highest recorded score was against West Kent, 79 for Bromley and District in 1826.

He was less successful in more exalted company. In September 1828 he scored five and one for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent (with Broadbridge & Caldecourt) at Sevenoaks Vine and at the end of the month he appeared on the same ground for Kent (with Broadbridge) against Sussex, again with moderate results, a duck in the first innings, hit wicket for seven in the second. AJ Turney – probably his brother James (likewise a builder/carpenter) - also played occasionally for Westerham. Thomas is probably the T Turney who played for Lingfield v Leigh; there was an A Turney in the same side, probably a relation.

The son of a builder, Turney later moved to South London where he worked as a builder but by 1874 he was back in Westerham. In the 1881 Census he is a 'retired carpenter' living in New Street. In 1883 his sister Eliza left him £100 and when he died four years later his estate was valued for probate at £334 14s 6d. He left £25 to his landlady, Mary Ann Turney, probably his second cousin, and the balance to his sister Emily, now Emily Brushfield.

Edward Ferdinando Sutton Tylecote (No. 316).

Born: 23.6.1849, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire. *Died:* 15.3.1938, New Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1875-1883. Kent cap 1882

Tests. Six for England.

Educated: Clifton College & St John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Canon Thomas Tylecote & Elizabeth Tylecote (*née* Fereday).

His career figures may be unremarkable but, notwithstanding that he only played 22 matches for his adopted county, examination of Edward Tylecote's record places him firmly in the pantheon of

distinguished Kentish wicketkeeper batsmen. In his obituary, *Wisden* described him as 'one of the greatest batsman wicketkeepers of all-time'. He has a number of notable firsts to his credit. He was the first Kent wicketkeeper to play for England, the first wicketkeeper to score a century for the County, the first Kent cricketer to score a century against the Australians and the first wicketkeeper to score a century for the Gentlemen against the Players. He kept wicket in the latter fixture 17 times, more than any other amateur - 11 at The Oval, three at Lord's, two at Princes and one at Hove.

Of the other amateur stumpers, only Gregor Macgregor (Cambridge University, Middlesex & England) 14, and William Nicholson (Middlesex) 11, approached his record. His profession severely restricted his cricket but his quality was such that in 1886, three years since he had played a first-class match and aged 37, he was picked twice for England and twice for Gentlemen v Players.

Tylecote also seems to have been among the first wicketkeepers to dispense with a long-stop. Credit for this innovation is frequently given to Australia's Jack Blackham but there is evidence that, at the same time or earlier, several English keepers including Tylecote, Henry Phillips (Sussex), George Pinder (Yorkshire) and Alfort Smith (Derbyshire) were all on occasions managing without the additional back-up. According to a piece on Tylecote in *Cricket* for 8 August 1883 (page 302) 'At the wicket he has few, if any, superiors. He stands up to every kind of bowling with equal pluck'. As some evidence of the latter, although naturally most of his 58 stumpings were from spinners - nine each from Alfred Shaw and Allan Steel, four each from WG Grace and 'Dick' Penn- they included several noted pace bowlers of the day, Fred Morley (two), William Foord-Kelcey, Arthur Rylott and Alfred Evans, as well as four stumpings from the left-arm fast medium of Kent's George Hearne.

He did however stand back on occasions (see below). Nor it seems did he entirely dispense with long-stops. In his memoirs Lord Harris claims to have run out two batsmen from long-stop in the Kent v Australians match in which Tylecote made 100*.

As a batsman, he was described in *Scores & Biographies* as 'steadiness itself. With an equable temperament, he 'played himself in carefully' and when set, scored quickly, his best strokes said to be the cut and leg-hit. He batted in every position between one and eleven, in the lower order usually when playing for all-amateur teams which at the time often contained more batting than could be easily accommodated. Generally he appeared in the middle order and played most of his substantial innings while doing so but he hit four half-centuries as an opener and opened the innings on at least 23 occasions. In addition to his three centuries and ten half-centuries, there were 47 scores between 20 and 49.

The son of the Rector of Marston, a Rural Dean and JP, Edward Tylecote learned his early cricket at Kensington Proprietary School and played his first game for Clifton in 1864 before his 15th birthday. He was in the Eleven from 1864 to 1868 and captained in his final year when he hit three centuries and finished with 1,125 runs and an average over 70.

In a minor school game, Modern v Classical, he carried his bat for a then record 404*. Spread over three afternoons, the innings lasted six hours and consisted of one seven, five fives, 21 fours, 39 threes, 42 twos and 87 singles. With the exception of one hit out of the ground, which counted four, he ran every one of the 630 runs scored by his side. Whatever the quality of the bowling and fielding, the innings was a considerable feat of physical endurance.

On going up to Oxford in 1869, he performed moderately in the Trials but, possibly on the strength of his school record, he was picked for the University v the Next Fifteen and made his first-class debut against MCC on the Magdalen College ground in the opening match of the University season. On his second appearance, v Gentlemen of England, he hit 53 and 26 and, although he subsequently reached double figures only once, he was awarded the first of his four Blues.

In his first two years at University the established keeper was William Alexander Stewart and others were also tried. Tylecote kept wicket only once in a first-class fixture, against the Gentlemen of England in 1870 in which he held four catches but in the University match that year, the famous 'Cobden's match', he batted usefully for 25 and 29.

In 1871 he was appointed captain but it was not until the third match of the season, against MCC at Lord's, that he took his place behind the stumps and marked the event by his highest score to date, 83*. His side were unbeaten, won two, drawn two, including an eight-wicket victory over Cambridge in which he scored 42. He also brought off his first stumping in first-class cricket. Outside the first-class game, he scored 180 for the University v Oxford Harlequins.

In July he was selected as wicketkeeper for Gentlemen v Players at both Lord's, where he caught one and stumped three, all off the left-arm spin of David Buchanan, and The Oval. He would go on to appear in at least one Gentlemen v Players match every year between 1873 and 1883.

1872, his second year as Oxford captain, was less successful with three draws and one defeat, the latter by an innings at Lord's against Cambridge. Although the Oxford batting was strong on paper, there was only one half-century throughout the season; even the redoubtable Cuthbert Ottaway (*qv*) never scored more than 33 and the future Lord Harris's top score was 24. Apart from 42* v Middlesex at Prince's and 40 in the University match, Tylecote too had a disappointing season with the bat. In the long term perhaps, far more important was his academic record- Fereday Fellowship 1868, Junior Mathematics Scholarship 1870, First-class in Mods (1870) and First-class in Greats (1872), BA 1873, MA 1876, Mathematics Moderator 1881.

On coming down from Oxford in 1873 Tylecote began a career in teaching and in 1875 was appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, a post he would hold for 20 years. The appointment was of especial significance in the Army of the time when, as a result of advances in military technology, particularly in gunnery, mathematics was becoming a subject of primary importance in the RMA curriculum.

Although active in club cricket, Tylecote played little first-class cricket between 1873 and 1880, just two matches in 1873 and 1880, four in each of the remaining seasons. These included 13 first-class games for MCC and seven appearances for Gentlemen v Players. For the Gentlemen at The Oval in 1875 he caught two and stumped three, all from the bowling of WG Grace and on the same ground in the following year caught five and stumped two. In this match he batted for the first time at No. 11; Isaac Walker (Middlesex) was No. 10 with Kent's Frank Penn at nine. Highest of his two half-centuries in this period was 77 for MCC v Oxford University at Lord's in 1878.

In 1875, his first year at the RMA, Tylecote scored 33, caught one and stumped one in his first match for Kent, against Hampshire at Catford. Tylecote was not at the time qualified for Kent but Hampshire were outside the (unofficial) Championship. In his memoirs *A Few Short Runs* Lord Harris, explaining his decision not to persevere with Harry 'Corker' Wood (*qv*), writes 'I had hopes of getting EFS Tylecote.' Given his responsibilities at Woolwich, it is difficult to see how Harris could possibly have thought Tylecote likely to be available for anything approaching a full season. Even when he had qualified by residence, Tylecote did not appear for Kent again until July 1881, when he played against Yorkshire at Mote Park. He found time that year for five matches, including Canterbury Week. On his third appearance, at Maidstone against Sussex, he hit his maiden century, 104 with 15 fours. He also stumped three batsmen from the bowling of 'Dick' Penn.

In 1882 Tylecote did indeed play something approaching a full season. Beginning with 64 for MCC v Derbyshire at Lord's he scored 561 runs (avge.26.71) in 13 matches with one century and four half-centuries. Behind the wicket he caught 23 and stumped five. For Kent at Old Trafford, his first first-class match anywhere north of Oxford, he played probably the finest innings of his career. Lancashire

in their second innings having, on a rapidly deteriorating wicket, declined from 51 for 0 to 98 all out, Kent were left needing 166. At 138 for four with Tylecote, who opened, going well they looked probable winners but their last six wickets fell for one run, four of them bowled by Lord Harris' *bête noir* Jack Crossland. In what *Wisden* termed 'a magnificent innings', Tylecote was last out, stumped off another alleged thrower, George Nash, for 94. Of the rest, only Edward O'Shaughnessy (17) reached double figures.

In his first encounter with the Australian tourists, for Gentlemen of England at The Oval, Tylecote failed with the bat (0 & one) but allowed only three byes in a total of 334. He did little on his second encounter, for MCC at Lord's, but for Kent at Canterbury he hit 100* (13 fours), chanceless and only the second by an Englishman against the tourists in 1882 - the other was Charles Studd who went on to do so twice. With Cecil Wilson (57) 125 runs were added for the eighth wicket. Spofforth was injured but otherwise it was the full Australian attack of Harry Boyle, 'Joey' Palmer, Tom Garrett and George Giffen.

On his fourth meeting with the Australians, for an England Eleven at Derby, Tylecote (56) was again top scorer for his side and held five catches in the first innings, six in all (three from Bill Mycroft (left-arm fast), three from Billy Barnes (right-arm fast medium). Clearly Tylecote did not *always* stand up. The *Wisden* report comments 'The most curious feature of the game was that ten catches were made by the wicketkeepers when standing back eight or nine yards from the wicket.'

When the team was chosen for the Test match at The Oval Tylecote 'just failed' to gain selection according to *Cricket*, the choice falling on Alfred Lyttelton but Tylecote was one of the first invited for the Ashes-regaining tour with Ivo Bligh in the following winter. Playing in every match and captaining in the first six in Bligh's absence through injury, he caught one and stumped four in Test matches, caught 10 stumped six in all first-class fixtures. In the First Test match, at Melbourne, his 33 & 38 was top score in both innings and in the Third Test at Sydney he scored 66, joint top scorer with Billy Bates with whom he shared a sixth-wicket partnership of 116.

The tour included ten matches against odds. Tylecote played in every one of them and dismissed 62 batsmen (ct.22/st.40). Against 18 of Newcastle he caught four and stumped eight. In some of these matches he was occasionally relieved behind the stumps by Walter Read.

Returning to England, Tylecote played eight matches in what proved to be his final season for Kent. At Hove against Sussex he scored 78 (top score in the match) and played several other useful innings, usually when the team was in trouble. In Canterbury Week against MCC he twice scored 35, adding 94 for the fourth wicket with George Hearne (55) in the first innings, and 70 for the fifth wicket with Ivo Bligh (38) in the second.

The highlight of his season however was 107 for Gentlemen v Players at The Oval against an attack (bowling unit in media speak) including six Test cricketers, Dick Barlow, Ted Peate, Wilf Flowers, George Ulyett, Bates and Barnes as well as the 'one-season-wonder' Yorkshire fast bowler 'Shoey'Harrison. He batted 150 minutes, hit 11 fours and shared a 90-run sixth-wicket partnership with Arthur Ridley (51). According to *Scores & Biographies* he was chosen for the match 'due to the unavailability of Alfred Lyttelton' but neither *Cricket*, *Wisden* nor *Lillywhite* commented on his selection.

Tylecote returned to Australia for part of 1884 and for remainder of that season and the whole of 1885 he was restricted to club cricket. In 1886, picked for CI Thornton's Eleven against the Australians at Chiswick, he opened the batting, top scored in both innings with 31 and 33, caught one and stumped two and allowed only four byes in a total of 345. This was enough to gain selection for Gentlemen v Players at both Lord's and The Oval. In three innings his top score was 11 but he held three catches and, judging by contemporary accounts, missed nothing. He ended his season – and, due to a knee

injury, virtually ended his cricket career – at the Scarborough Festival with three matches, I Zingari v Gentlemen of England, when he caught two and stumped two, Lord Londesborough's Eleven v the Australians and MCC v Yorkshire. In the first and third of these matches he played alongside his brother Henry and kept to his bowling in the first. Against the Australians he scored 31, his highest of the season and added 59 for the ninth wicket with Flowers (82).

Between 1870 and 1879 Tylecote played for the county of his birth but, given his career with Kent, rather less frequently than might be expected – including Gentlemen of Bedfordshire matches, fewer than a dozen matches. His top score in inter-county fixtures was 65 v Hertfordshire at Luton in 1879. He played a lot of minor cricket for clubs including Band of Brothers, Butterflies, Elstree Masters (presumably as a guest, his brother Charles was a master there), Free Foresters, I Zingari, MCC, Orleans, Oxford Harlequins, RMA, Sevenoaks Vine, Southgate, West Kent and curiously, Cambridge University Long Vacation Club.

On retirement from the RMA in 1895 Tylecote was able to indulge his interest in Lepidoptera and became a major collector, travelling widely to do so. In 1905 he married Annie Louisa Tufnell Robson in Lymington, Hampshire. On his death his estate was valued at - settled land £1,900, effects £14,171 18s 11d. His Lepidoptera collection was bequeathed to the Ashmolean in Oxford.

Tylecote's elder brother Charles Brandon Lee Tylecote and younger brother Henry Grey Tylecote both captained Clifton and were prolific wicket-takers for Bedfordshire. Henry went on to win Blues at Oxford 1874-1877 and played 29 first-class matches. He was also a noted middle-distance runner in his Oxford Days.

John Unstead (No. 47).

Born: 9.2.1790, Waldron, Sussex. *Died:* 22.10.1872, Waldron, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow under-arm bowler.

Kent 1825.

Parents: John Unstead & Jane Unstead (*née* Knight).

John Unstead seems to have spent his entire life in Waldron and to have divided his cricket between the Hawkhurst Club and his native village. In *Scores & Biographies* he is described as 'a good forward hitter' and as 'rather slow and twisting' bowler but few records of his achievements seem to have survived, other than his one match for Kent v Sussex, in which he took at least five wickets, and a match between East Kent and Sussex v West Kent and Surrey at Chevening in the same year in which he claimed at least six wickets.

The son of a wheelwright and blacksmith, John Unstead junior was himself a wheelwright, as were at least one brother and two of his sons. He was also noted for his singing and his bell ringing. In the 1861 Census his occupation is shown as 'wheelwright and Parish Clerk' and that of his younger brother James who lived with him as 'wheelwright and sexton'. He seems to have been successful in his trade. There are records of four apprentices, one of them his son George, and in the 1851 Census he is shown as employing two men.

In 1808 he married Jane Tester (1789-1860) who pre-deceased him. There were four sons and two daughters.

William Usmar (No. 116).

Born: 14.10.1813, West Malling. *Died:* 12.5.1879, West Malling.

Kent 1841.

Parents: Oliver Usmar & Ann Usmar (*née* Baker).

A lifelong resident of West Malling, William Usmar failed to score in his only appearance for Kent but had been judged good enough to bat No. 3 in the first innings. For West Malling, he was a regular opening or middle-order batsmen in the late 1830s and early 1840s with a highest recorded score of 21 at Gravesend in 1841.

Like his father, a watch and clock maker and repairer, according to the 1861 Census, he combined the trade with a fruit and greengrocery business from the same premises in West Malling High Street.

In 1840 he married Bridget Terry at Maidstone Parish church. There were four sons and one daughter. On his death, his wife continued with the greengrocery business until her death in 1890 while youngest son George carried on with the watches and clocks. George reputedly made the large public clock which still adorns the High Street and when he retired in 1907 the business was said to have been run from the same shop for over 150 years.

Walker (No. 32).

Kent 1822

Nothing is known about this player other than his statistics, such as they are, and that he opened the batting in his only match for the County.

Conrad Adolphus Wallroth (No. 287).

Born: 17.5.1851, Lee. *Died:* 22.2.1926, Compton, Godalming, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1872.

Educated: Harrow School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Charles William Herman Wallroth & Louisa Wallroth.

The son of a wealthy City merchant, Conrad Wallroth played for Harrow in 1869 and 1870 and in the latter year had the misfortune to be run out twice in the Eton match at Lord's – for 30 in the first innings, without scoring in the second. The first of the run outs occurred when the bowler, Hon GRC Harris, broke the wicket with non-striker Wallroth, out of his ground, an early example of 'Mankading'.

On going up to Oxford 1871, he was in Harris' side in the Freshmen's match and progressed as far as the Next Sixteen but, apart from a minor match against the Harlequins, he did not find a place in the Eleven. Even so, he had his first taste of first-class cricket in two matches against the University, for MCC on Cowley Marsh, for whom he scored 45 and shared a third-wicket partnership of 125 with Harris (107), and for Gentlemen of England on the Magdalen College ground.

In 1872 Wallroth was awarded his Blue and remained in the side for the next two seasons. He failed in his first two University matches but in 1874, when Oxford won by an innings, he was top scorer with 44. In other matches he contributed several useful 20s and 30s but far his best effort was 109 (15 fours) v Middlesex at Prince's in 1873. Although not classified as first-class, given that the opposition included Allen Hill, Ephraim Lockwood and George Howitt, possibly his best innings were 72* & 40 for 16 of Brasenose College v United North of England in 1873.

Wallroth failed in his only match for Kent (five & three) but hit 65 for Gentlemen of West Kent v I Zingari at Chislehurst in 1873 (not first-class) and played for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari in the

1872 Canterbury Week. The Week was one of the wettest and stormiest on record and the match (not first-class) was the third of the Week, staged when the two scheduled games finished early.

In 1878-1879, while living in Mickleover, Wallroth played a few games for Derbyshire, three first-class, and in 1876 had his one experience of representative cricket when he scored 0 and 27 for Gentlemen of the South v Players of the South at The Oval.

An enthusiastic club cricketer he played mainly for Harrow Wanderers and Old Harrovians but his other clubs included Butterflies, Gentlemen of West Kent, Harlequins and Will-o'-the-Wisp. He was particularly prolific for Harrow Wanderers with scores including 78 v Crystal Palace in 1874, 74 v Yorkshire Gentlemen at York in 1872, 68 v Leeds Clarence in 1872 and 60* v Lascelles Hall in 1878 against what was virtually the full Yorkshire attack. Although a regular wicketkeeper for Harrow Wanderers and for his College, it seems probable that he never kept in a first-class match.

In 1876 Wallroth married Liverpool-born Cecilia Willing in the Wirral. He gained his BA in 1874 and MA in 1879 but appears in Census Returns as 'of no occupation'. While living with his wife in Mickleover in 1881 he had a coachman and six servants. He spent some time in the USA and as late as 1925 visited Brazil. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £91,413 8s 2d. His sister Louisa married Alfred Lubbock (*q.v.*)

James Richard Walton (No. 321).

Born: 25.3.1857, Adam's Buildings, Artillery Place, Woolwich. *Dead.* Kent 1875.

The son of a Woolwich dockyard labourer, prior to his single appearance for Kent against Derbyshire at Catford in July 1875 in which he scored 0 & 13 and took one wicket, James Walton played for Kent Colts against the County at Tonbridge in September 1874, when he scored 11 & seven and took four for 16 & one for 40, and at Catford in May 1875 where his contributions were 16, two & one for 6.

In the 1874 game, *Wisden* has him as 'H Walton (Bethesden)' but this is clearly wrong. In the section on the Ravensbourne Club in the 1875 green *Lillywhite* there appears the following 'The club also sent three aspirants to play in Lord Harris' Colts match at Tonbridge, and two of them viz., T Rumsey and J Walton, were specially mentioned as likely to be heard of in future cricket'. In the same section, Walton is described as a 'very steady bat and good field'. In the account of the 1875 colts match in the 1876 'Wisden', in which Walton is shown as coming from Woolwich, he is 'a promising batsman and bowler, and being young enough to improve, he is likely to become serviceable'.

The fact that Walton played for the Ravensbourne Club almost certainly indicates that he worked for John Penn & Sons, probably on the manufacture of marine engines and/or boilers. The club was only open to employees of the company (see Alfred, Frank and William Penn above). Walton does not appear in the section on the Ravensbourne club in the 1876 green *Lillywhite* and he was not in the team in that year when Ravensbourne played the Penn family Eleven which raises the possibility that he had moved on – possibly emigrated.

He might be Richard Walton, a blacksmith born in 1857, who in 1881 was lodging in Bond Terrace, Greenwich. Work with the Penn company is almost certain to have involved metalwork but Walton is a fairly common name – though not, curiously enough, in the Greenwich/Woolwich area at the appropriate time. There is no obvious link with any James Walton in the Census returns for 1861 or 1871 or in any of the later returns although a Richard Walton resident in Woolwich appears in the Electoral Rolls until as late as 1933. It seems unlikely that there is any connection with the JR Walton who played for Professionals of the North against Oldham in 1871, not least by reason of his age.

(Sir) William Henry Walton (No. 83).

Born: 31.8.1799, Holborn, London. *Died:* 22.11.1882, Surbiton, Surrey.

Kent 1828.

Educated: Eton College, Brasenose College Oxford & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Walton KC & Mary Walton (*née* Brooke.)

In addition to his one match for Kent in 1828 against Surrey at Sevenoaks in which he scored six and 13, William Walton (later Sir William) played one match for Gentlemen of Kent v MCC five years later at Chislehurst in which he failed to score.

The son of a KC, he was called the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1836 and became Queen's Remembrancer and Master of the Pleas Office of the Exchequer and at one time Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham. He was knighted in 1875.

In 1834 he married Louisa Hoskins Master (1815-1900) at Oxted Parish Church. There were three sons. On his death, his estate was valued at £38,746 12s 4d,

John Ward (No. 9).

Believed to have died *circa* 1820

Kent 1806.

A baker with a shop in Woolwich, John Ward scored a century against MCC at Lord's in 1800 and in that year reputedly took more wickets than any other bowler in the country. For a few years he was considered one of the leading bowlers of his time and between 1800 and 1805 he played eleven times for 'England' in matches now dubbed 'important' or first-class.

Nevertheless, he is largely ignored by the contemporary chroniclers of cricket and, despite playing frequently at Lord's, he has no biography in *Scores & Biographies*. As a result virtually nothing is known about him; we do not even know whether he was left or right handed.

He is almost certainly the Ward (minus initial) who appears in *Scores & Biographies* taking at least seven wickets (i.e. he bowled seven batsmen) playing for Dartford & Crayford with two (unnamed) men against Sevenoaks & Neighbouring Parishes on Dartford Brent in 1796 and, although there is again no initial, there is little doubt that he is the Ward who took at least two wickets for Woolwich v Rochester (each with two given men) on the Barrack Field, Woolwich in July 1799. He is probably the Ward who later that month claimed at least five wickets for Rochester v Twelve Miles Around Rochester on Barrel's Field behind *The Royal George*, Rochester. In August presumably the same Ward scored 16 for Rochester v Town Malling.

At Lord's in 1800 – now graced with his initial - he scored 111* and took at least seven wickets for Rochester v MCC. At the time a century was an event and he appears to be the first Kent batsman to reach three figures in a conventional double-wicket-match but *Scores & Biographies* adds a dampener 'It must be observed (in justice to other cricketers) that J.Ward's long score was not obtained against the best bowling and fielding.' Even so, there followed further appearances at Lord's that season, for Fourteen of England v Surrey, for Ws and Hs v England, when he opened the batting and took nine wickets, for Nineteen of Kent (in some accounts Nineteen of Rochester) v England and for Fourteen of England v Twelve of Surrey.

He also played for Nineteen of Kent (or Rochester) v England in the return on Marsh's New Field, Rochester. Between 1801 and 1805 he made another nine appearances for England at Lord's in which his top scores were 36 v Hampshire in 1805 and 29 v MCC in 1804.

Other matches at Lord's included Twelve First Chosen v Twenty-Three Next Chosen in 1805, in which, playing alongside such illustrious names as Beauclerk, Beldham, Freemantle, Hammond, Lambert, Robinson and Small, he took five wickets in the second innings. For Sir Charles Lennox's Eleven v Sir George Leycester's Eleven he scored 23 and took five wickets and for Twenty-Three of Kent v Thirteen of England in 1807. His last recorded match seems to have been in 1808 on Dartford Heath for Bromley with Six Players v Dartford with Six Players.

Frederick Warde (No. 276).

Born: 18. 3.1852, Tutsham Hall, West Farleigh. *Died:* 14.5.1899, Aldon, Addington.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1871-1877.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Ambrose Warde & Mary Jane Warde (*née* Argles).

Frederick Warde achieved little statistically on his occasional and widely spaced appearances for Kent but on his debut, against Sussex at Mote Park in 1871, he was top scorer with 18 when Kent were bowled out for 62 and five years later, when, coming on as fourth change, he took two for 5 from 20 balls against Hampshire at Faversham. One of his victims was the visitor's century maker, Arthur Ridley (*qv*). His highest score for Kent was 23 against Seventeen Colts of West Kent at Maidstone in 1877.

Most of his cricket was for Mote Park but he played a few matches for Town Malling and occasionally for Gentlemen of Kent including one match rated as first-class, against MCC in the 1872 Canterbury Week.

At the time of the 1871 Census, Warde was living at Tutsham Hall with his father who was farming 1,500 acres (607.5 hectares) and employing 50 men and 14 boys. Ten years later, still at Tutsham Hall, father farms 470 acres (190.35 hectares) and employs 30 men and seven boys, son Frederick, also at Tutsham Hall, farms 150 acres (60.75 hectares) employing ten men and three boys.

In 1888 he married Brighton-born Lilian Elizabeth Tapsfield at St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden. There were three sons. By 1891, Frederick is a hop and fruit farmer at Aldon, Addington, where he died from 'general paralysis, broncho-pneumonia & convulsion'. His estate was valued for probate at £8,565 7s.

Arthur Cave Wathen (No. 222).

Born: 27.3.1841, Streatham, Surrey. *Died:* 14.3.1937, Bradfield, Berkshire.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1863-1864.

Educated: Blackheath Proprietary School & Wadham College, Oxford.

Parents: Hubert Wathen & Harriet Louisa Wathen (*née* Blunt).

A son of a City tea merchant who was at one time Master of the Worshipful Company of Mercers, Arthur Wathen never exceeded in first-class or 'important' cricket the 42 he scored on his debut, for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North at Trent Bridge in 1861. On his first appearance for Kent, against Sussex at Hove in 1863, he hit 32 and in the second innings of his third match, v Surrey at The Oval, he equalled his best with 42*. These were his only innings of substance in first-class

cricket. His scores on his three appearances for Gentlemen of Kent in Canterbury Week were one and 16 in 1863, a pair in 1864 and 0 in 1866.

In Gentlemen of Kent matches, the dividing line between first-class and non-first-class is at times a shadowy one. In games not classified as first-class or 'important' his best scores were 73* v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1862 and 50 v South Wales at Cranbrook in 1863.

Surrey-born, in 1861 Wathen played for Surrey against Southgate and for Gentlemen of Surrey v Gentlemen of the Midland Counties at Leamington. A little more surprisingly, at The Oval in 1863, at the age of 22, he appeared for Surrey Colts v Southgate.

A competent wicketkeeper, he kept twice for Kent in first-class matches and for Gentlemen of Kent twice made three stumpings in a match. Several of his stumpings were from his elder brother William Hubert's spin bowling (*qv*). Much of his club cricket was for Gentlemen of West Kent but he also played for Band of Brothers and Reigate Priory.

Until 1871 Wathen lived with his family in Beckenham but after being awarded his MA he ran a school in Chesham Place Brighton. In 1883 he married Agnes Ann Richardson (1850-1921) in her home town of Mansfield. There was one son.

In the 1901 Census, although retired, he and his wife are still in Chesham Place together with his younger brother Alfred and his wife. Alfred is a tea merchant like their father. In 1911 (without brother Alfred and wife) they have moved but not very far, to Eaton Place, Brighton. Despite his occupation, Arthur Wathen was a member of the Mercers' Company and a Freeman of the City of London. He died in a retirement home aged 95 leaving property valued at £3,467 5s 8d.

William Hubert Wathen (No. 223).

Born: 5.5.1836, Streatham, Surrey. *Died:* 29.3.1913. Westerham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1863.

Educated: Brighton College, Rugby School & Blackheath Proprietary School.

Parents: Hubert Wathen & Harriet Louisa Wathen (*née* Blunt).

William Wathen often took wickets in minor cricket but did not get a chance to bowl in his only match for Kent, when he scored 38 in the second innings and took part in a valuable 60 run eight-wicket partnership with Ned Willsher (59*). Coincidentally, like his younger brother Arthur, he reached his highest score in 'important' cricket twice, undefeated on the second occasion. He had a long career in minor cricket in which his top score seems to be 53 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove in 1863.

In Wathen's obituary, *Wisden* states that 'he sometimes obtained wickets, though at heavy cost'. This seems more than a little unfair. Clearly he was no world-beater but his seven wickets in first-class and 'important' cricket came at a fairly moderate cost, 14.28 each, and he took wickets for a variety of good-class clubs including Anomalies, Band of Brothers, Crystal Palace, the Cricket Company, Gentlemen of Essex (when he was living in Stanstead Abbots), Gentlemen of Kent, Gentlemen of West Kent, Sevenoaks Vine, South Essex and Southgate and took five or more in an innings on at least eleven occasions, twice ten on a match.

Full bowling figures have not survived but he took seven wickets for Gentlemen of West Kent against I Zingari when they were bowled out for 89 at Chislehurst in 1872 and South Wales scored only 89 and 141 when he took eleven wickets against them at Gravesend in 1865. This was hardly 'at heavy cost' and there were several broadly similar performances.

William Wathen followed his father into business as a tea merchant. In 1859 he married Katherine Cadogan Marshall (1841-1929) at St. Mary's Church in her native town of Bridgnorth, Shropshire. If contemporary records, Census Returns etc. are correct, between 1860 and 1867 she gave birth to six daughters, followed by a son (1869), two daughters (1871 & 1872) and four sons between 1874 & 1878, all of whom survived into adulthood.

The family moved around rather more than was customary for his time and class. In 1861 they were in Chislehurst, in 1864 Sydenham, 1871 Brighton, 1881 Bexley, 1891 Stanstead Abbots, and 1901 Westerham where he retired. Like his father and brother he was a member of the Mercers' Company and a Freeman of the City of London. On his death his estate was valued at £640 11s 4d.

James Watts (No. 192).

Born: 15.12.1835, Hythe. *Died:* 15.12.1919, Bromley.

Right-handed batsman, bowler.

Kent 1859-1860.

Parents: James & Charlotte Watts.

The son of a solicitor, James Watts was originally articled to an attorney and solicitor in Hythe named Edward Watts, almost certainly his uncle, but he appears in subsequent Census Returns as a 'Dealer in Stocks & Shares' without actually using the term stockbroker. He played for both Hythe and Folkestone in the 1850s but from the 1860s until his death, he lived in Bromley and it seems likely that he played much of his cricket in the area but information on his early career is sparse.

James Watts made a few appearances for West Kent in the 1860s but he had played for Gentlemen of Kent & Surrey v Gentlemen of England. in Canterbury Week as early as 1855 which would seem to indicate that he was already a cricketer of some standing. He did little in his two matches for Kent (ten runs in four innings) but in the 1857 Canterbury Week he took two for 22 & four for 33 for Gentlemen of Kent & Sussex v Gentlemen of England and in the 1858 Week scored 37 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England. In 1857 he took six wickets in an innings for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Hampshire at Southampton, a match not granted first-class status. His last match of note seems to have been Gentlemen of West Kent v Free Foresters at Chislehurst in 1875.

In 1880 he married Frances Meynell Picon in Bromley. There were two daughters. On his death, unrecorded in *Wisden*, his estate was valued at £605 11s 10d.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

George William Webb (No. 359).

Born: 23.10.1857, Derringstone. *Died:* 26.12.1931, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1880-1892.

Parents: James Charles Webb & Harriet Elizabeth Webb (*née* Hornsby).

George Webb spent his life in cricket and might have thought himself a little unlucky to have been given so few, not to say such widely spaced, chances in the first-class game. When appearing for 19 Colts of Kent v the Mote at Maidstone in 1879 he did not get a chance to bowl in the first innings and claimed only one wicket in the second but in the following season he took five for 47 & three for 45 for Eighteen Colts v Kent at Mote Park and two for 22 & six for 34 for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at The Oval. This presumably led to his inclusion two months later in the side against Sussex at Hove

but he was allowed only 11 overs (for 30 runs) and failed to take a wicket. It would be a dozen years before he got another chance.

Meanwhile, Webb had been fully occupied with professional engagements – 1880: Christ Church College Oxford & Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway, 1881 Christ Church, Oxford, 1882: Oxford University, Westminster School & Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, 1883: Oxford University, Westminster School & Croome Court, Worcestershire 1884-1888: Oxford University & Croome Court.

By the beginning of the 1890s Webb was professional at Tonbridge School and was playing for the Tonbridge Club. In a match Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent played for the benefit of the Beckenham groundsmen in 1892, he took eight for 51 & one for 42. While the Gentlemen's side hardly contained the flower of the County's amateur talent, the performance nevertheless gained him a place a week later in the team for the fixture with Somerset at Taunton. Walter Hearne and 'Nutty' Martin did most of the bowling and Webb was restricted to 18 overs in which he took one for 45.

Webb's chief contribution to Kent county cricket came after the establishment of the Nursery at Tonbridge in 1897. Until William McCanlis took over in 1900, Webb shared coaching duties with the Tonbridge groundsmen Harry Day. In the late 1890s he established himself as a sports outfitter in Tonbridge High Street, combining his business activities with umpiring. Between 1883 and 1913 he umpired 133 first-class matches. Originally he only stood in matches at Oxford but from 1905 he joined the county circuit and in 1912 umpired three Test matches in the Triangular series.

It seems that the sports goods business eventually ran into trouble. In the Kent CCC General Committee Minutes for a meeting held on 2 March 1914 there appears the following 'George Webb, until last year employed as county umpire, has fallen into very straightened circumstances. 'Donation of £5'.

In 1894 George Webb married Margaret Redfern in Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire. There were two daughters. His father, originally a tailor, became landlord of *The White Horse*, Bridge, a pub with strong cricketer associations. In the 18th century the landlord was arguably Kent's first batsman of true class, James Aylward, and between the wars the licensee was Bill Fairservice (q.v).

One of George Webb's younger brothers, Arthur, scored over 5,000 runs in 49 games as a professional for Hampshire and later played in League cricket in South Wales, playing for – amongst others - Hill's Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil), Briton Ferry Steel, Llanelli and Panteg. His prolific run-scoring led to appearances for Glamorgan and South Wales, whilst after the Great War, he coached for a while at Christ College, Brecon before acting as assistant coach with Glamorgan CCC during the early 1930s. In 1897 an attempt was made to lure him to Kent. In the high-handed way the County were prone to adopt on such matters, he was referred to in the committee minutes as 'the Kent professional now playing for Hampshire' although there is no evidence that he ever played for the County in Second Eleven or Club & Ground cricket or that he was ever given a trial. Unsurprisingly, the attempt failed.

Another brother, Frederick, achieved considerable fame as a jockey and a racehorse trainer. He rode the winner in the 1879 Derby when, according to legend, he was a last minute choice, the original rider having been judged too drunk to ride. It may or may not be significant that the boys' mother was born in Newmarket.

R Webb (No. 233).

Born: 1840 Maidstone. *Dead.*

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1864.

Another 19th century cricketer who has so far proved impossible to identify with any certainty. The R Webb (almost certainly Robert) who played for Kent against Yorkshire at Middlesbrough in 1864 is clearly the player who scored 29 and 16 for Kent Colts v Gentlemen of Dartford & District (with Fryer) in a two-day match earlier that year. The match was reported in *Sporting Life* with the venue unspecified. It can be presumed with reasonable safety that he is the 'R Webb (Maidstone)' shown in *Scores & Biographies* as having scored seven and 15 for Thirteen Colts of Kent v Thirteen Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend in May 1865 and he is almost certainly the Robert Webb who, together with a brother, played for Yalding. He might possibly be the R Webb who played for Hastings in 1874 and again in 1880.

The Census Returns for 1861 and 1871 do not appear to show any Richard or Robert Webbs of approximately the right age living in the Maidstone area.

It is likely that Webb's only first-class match was not an 'official' fixture. *Scores & Biographies Vol. VII page 527* suggests "it was 'got up' by Messrs Dickins, Coates & Vaughan." Dickins was Captain GC Dickins (qv) who played in the match. The Yorkshire side lacked several regulars including the backbone of the attack, Hodgson and Slinn, Kent were without South Norton, their usual captain, and George Bennett nor is there any mention of the match in the Kent CCC minutes. This, combined with the fact that it was played on 19, 20 & 21 September would seem to point to some sort of late-season commercial venture.

Gerald John Villiers Weigall (No. 418).

Born: 19.10.1870, Wimbledon, Surrey. *Died:* 17.5.1944, Dublin, Ireland.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1891-1903. Kent cap 1892.

Educated: Wellington College & Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Parents: Henry Weigall & Lady Rose Weigall (*née* Fane.).

A genuine eccentric with forthright, freely (and frequently) expressed views on most topics, especially cricket, more than 70 years after his death, Gerry Weigall is still remembered as one of the game's great characters. 'Characters' can often be easier to read about than to live or work with but most people who knew him seem to have regarded Weigall with affection – or at worst amused tolerance. When demonstrating what he considered correct batting technique his liberal use of umbrella, stick or any other handy implement could often endanger, mirrors, windows, crockery, bystanders etc., especially when, as he frequently did, he chose to hold forth in relatively confined spaces such as dressing rooms, hotel lobbies, theatre foyers and restaurants.

In company with Archie MacLaren, a man similar in outlook, temperament and regular bouts of impecuniosity, he reputedly held up the traffic in Piccadilly on one occasion while the pair exchanged views (with demonstrations) on the best method of confronting bodyline.

Weigall's many sub-Johnsonian pronouncements on cricket and on life became the stuff of legend. Some of his maxims such as 'Never hook till you have made 84' and 'Never hunt south of the Thames' seem merely quirky; others downright dangerous. On wearing a box '–nonsense – superfluous – quite unnecessary if you play correctly.' Yet others could contain advice worth the taking. 'Never take a single to cover on a hard wicket' still makes sense as did 'Never cut before the third week of May' in the days of uncovered wickets. As for 'Never eat pie at a cricket luncheon', not a bad rule when refrigerators were rare on cricket grounds and sell-by dates, if they existed at all, were not taken seriously.

Although his career figures are unremarkable, he was good in a crisis, with a gift for contributing valuable 20s or 30s when runs were at a premium and even when well into middle-age, he was an

excellent off-side fielder. His method was a little unusual for one so wedded to the orthodox. According to the late Bob Arrowsmith, he scored virtually all his runs on the off side, his only legside stroke 'a tickle round the corner'. Although his cut was considered near perfection, according to Charles Fry, his off drive was played with a deliberate slice so that, depending on the degree of contact, the same stroke might go anywhere between mid off and third man. He was said to be the only batsman who could deliberately drive past first slip.

Gerry Weigall was the third of six sons (and one daughter) of a distinguished miniature and portrait painter, and a daughter of the 11th Duke of Westmoreland. The family home, Southwood House, Ramsgate, boasted a cricket ground where the brothers, reinforced by a few locals, ran a youthful cricket team.

Henry Weigall, sometimes known as Henry Weigall jnr., was probably best-known for his portraits of Benjamin Disraeli and the Duke of Wellington. His work is on display at the National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of Wales, Christ Church, Keble & Merton Colleges, Oxford and Sandwich Town Hall: twelve are owned by the National Trust. He painted the panel behind the altar in the Church of St. George the Martyr, Ramsgate and portraits of Gerry and the youngest of the brothers, Evelyn, are in the pavilion at Canterbury. Gerry's grandfather, Henry Weigall snr. (1800-1882), was a noted sculptor and gem engraver.

Gerry Weigall was in the Eleven at Wellington from 1886 to 1888 where his top score was a modest 40*. *red Lillywhite* described him as a 'brilliant field at point' but 'should learn not to play at the pitch of the ball'.

At Cambridge, he scored 20 in the 1889 Freshmen's Match but progressed no further that year and was not picked in 1890 following a double failure in the Seniors' Match. Relegated to No. 9 in the 1891 Seniors' Match, he was twice not out without reaching double figures and, given another chance batting No. 4 for the Next Sixteen, he failed again. Nevertheless, he gained a Blue. Since arriving at Cambridge, Weigall had scored heavily for his college culminating in 265 against Peterhouse and shortly before the Cambridge side went on tour, he made his debut for Kent against MCC at Lord's where he scored 61 in the second innings against an attack including WG Grace (seven for 38) bowling at his best. These two innings – and possibly his fielding - were enough to win him a place in the final two matches of the tour and against Oxford at Lord's. In three more matches for Kent his one innings of note was 73 in an opening partnership of 116 with Alec Hearne (56). Unfortunately the opposition was Warwickshire, not then first-class.

The 1892 University Match was a classic in which Weigall featured as both hero and, at least in the eyes of some, villain. In the Cambridge first innings he went in at 17 for one and finished 63* in a total of 160. Unfortunately, there were three run outs. Batting with his captain Stanley Jackson, already one of the top batsmen in the country, Weigall ignored one of his own maxims, called for a run to a misfield and then sent his partner back with the immortal words 'Go back Jacker I'm set'. Some critics blamed him for the other two run outs but *Wisden* disagreed 'Wells and Hills seemed to the ordinary onlooker to have quite lost their heads'.

For Kent he played 11 matches that season with a top score of 63 against Notts in Canterbury Week but his best efforts were against Lancashire at Tonbridge. With Mold (four for 62 & nine for 29) and Briggs (four for 33 & one for 21) rampant and bowling unchanged throughout the match, Kent were dismissed for 97 (Weigall 38) and 57 (Weigall 18). The next highest scores were 15 in the first innings, eight in the second. He left Oxford in 1893 without a degree.

Although hardly an automatic choice in July/August when Kent's full cast of amateurs was available, over the next ten seasons he gave good service not least because, in the words of one of his captains, Jack Mason, 'he was always ready and willing to turn out, even at short notice.' In 1899 he played 19

matches, 18 in 1894, only three in 1901, four in 1902. His best seasons were 1897, 449 runs (avge.26.41), 1896, 594 (avge.21.21) and 1894, 598 (avge.19.93). His only hundred for Kent was at the expense of the Gentlemen of Philadelphia. At Gravesend in 1895 when WG Grace scored his memorable 257 and was on the field throughout, Weigall hit 74 in a third-wicket partnership of 173 with Alec Hearne (155).

Although he would take the field for the Second Eleven as late as 1926 and play his final first-class match in 1928, his last first-class appearances for Kent were on the County's ground-breaking tour of the USA in 1903. Although apparently enjoying himself immensely, he had a less happy time on the field with scores of one, 0 and one.

Throughout his career much of his cricket was for MCC for whom he made 49 first-class appearances and hit two centuries including 103 when he captained against the Indians in 1911. In 1904 he scored 27 & 40 for MCC v the South Africans against the new-fangled googly and the pace of Kotze. His last match was for MCC v Tonbridge School in June 1939. He had played for numerous other clubs including Band of Brothers, Free Foresters, Gentlemen of Surrey, Squerreyes Court, Thanet Wanderers and Wellington Blues.

Although there was generally stiff competition from other amateurs, between 1892 and 1899 he played in four Canterbury Weeks and made half a dozen appearances in the Scarborough Festival, one of his favourite venues. Even when in his mid-50s, he would customarily travel to Scarborough with his cricket gear 'in case somebody dies'.

As well as his tour of the USA with Kent, in 1920 Weigall toured Germany with Free Foresters and in 1926/27 visited Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay with an MCC team led by Pelham Warner. In four first-class matches, his top score was 22*. In 1927/28 he travelled to Jamaica by banana boat with Lord Tennyson's team, a mixture of amateurs and professionals. In his one first-class match, which proved to be his last, he scored two and 0. Aged 57, he fielded while Jamaica totalled 609 (Headley 211). In 1917/1919 while serving in India he played in half a dozen first-class matches and hit three half-centuries, for Europeans v Parsees, Europeans v Hindus and 'England' v India'.

In 1912, following the retirement of William McCanlis (*qv*), Kent appointed Weigall as coach at a salary of £150 p.a., his duties including captaincy of the Second and Club & Ground Elevens. With hindsight, it seems a strange choice and probably some thought so at the time. If there were doubts, confirmation was not long in coming. At the end of the 1913 season the First Eleven professionals submitted their views in writing. With the exception of Fred Huish, they were unanimous in condemning Weigall's coaching methods. There was 'great unpunctuality', no fielding or catching practice and what coaching there was had taken place on only 26 days. 'No one took Mr Weigall seriously'.

A report on the complaints by a specially appointed sub-committee (Kenneth McAlpine, Frank Marchant & Jack Mason), while granting that 'rumours' had been prevalent throughout the season, had distinctly illiberal overtones. The hugely experienced Manager Tom Pawley had, in their view, 'rightly or wrongly' canvassed the opinions of the pros – which, of course, in this context, implied wrongly. The professionals, most of whom had four championships under their belts and included three Test cricketers with collectively 36 England caps, 'had no right to take this view'. 'No coach would be appointed by the committee unless they had satisfied themselves that he had great knowledge of the game and was fit to impart that knowledge to the staff' and 'It is most desirable that the coach at Tonbridge should be continued and that he should be a gentleman'.

The latter is odd considering that McCanlis played for Kent as a professional, and 'gentlemen' coaches were almost unknown. The members of the sub-committee had all been coached by professionals, at Haileybury, Eton & Winchester respectively. It was recommended that Weigall be

appointed for 1914. Nevertheless, in what was in effect an admission that all was not well, it was agreed that there had been unpunctuality and lack of method and a programme was drawn up setting out the coach's duties in great detail with times and duration of individual coaching sessions closely specified.

When cricket resumed in 1919 Alec Hearne was coach but, to the surprise of many if not most, Weigall was re-appointed in 1923. Although mellowed a little, he appears to have carried on more or less where he left off. Much of his time was devoted to finding new talent and, while most of his much trumpeted swans turned out to be geese, a lot can be forgiven for his having identified and helped to develop the talents of Leslie Ames. And he did his best, against committee indifference, to prevent Arthur Wellard's departure to Somerset. Weigall resigned in 1929, persuaded by the committee according to some accounts. He then rather spoiled things by losing no opportunity to denigrate his successor 'Punter' Humphreys (*qv*) who went on to become one of the great coaches

Although seemingly of limited private means, Weigall appears at times to have been without gainful employment. This does not seem to have affected his lifestyle – for much of his life he lived at relatively up-market addresses in and around Chelsea. In 1903 he worked on the Stock Exchange as a stock jobber but was suspended for two years after a fairly minor infringement of trading rules and never returned. During his brief trading career, a magazine poll voted him the best-dressed man on the Exchange.

Without ever looking likely to threaten the likes of Cardus or Robertson-Glasgow, he wrote for a number of magazines and during the 1930s was a regular contributor to *The Cricketer*. In 1922 he was the author of an instructional book *Cricket. The Art of Playing the Game*. He applied without success for the positions of Commercial Manager with Kent and of Secretary with Surrey.

Despite his age, on the outbreak of War in 1914 Weigall enlisted as a private in the Inns of Court OTC and was subsequently commissioned in the 1st (Reserve) Kent Cyclist battalion, a Territorial unit. He later served in the 3/1st Battalion under the command of Jack Le Fleming (*qv*), originally engaged on coastal defence duties but primarily a training unit. He reached the (temporary) rank of captain and in 1916 briefly commanded the battalion when it was reduced to cadre.

After it was disbanded, he was posted to the Bedfordshire Regiment and in 1917 sailed for India where he managed to play a lot of cricket, often in company with his brother Louis who was serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment. He appeared in six first-class matches (see above) and at least once captained the Europeans. Demobilised in 1920, he retired from the Territorial force in 1921 on reaching the upper age limit. With the aid of Lord Harris, in 1919 he applied for a post of instructor with the Army School of Physical Training but was rejected as only Regulars were required.

An allround sportsman, he was racquets champion at Wellington and at Oxford won the 100 yards in eleven seconds. In 1892 he won a racquets Blue, losing against Oxford in the doubles with his partner WS Burns. He became a devotee of squash and probably did as much as anyone of his time to promote the game, even travelling abroad to extol its virtues. His wide range of interests included the theatre and the ballet on which he was extremely knowledgeable and numbered the noted ballerina Adeline Genée among his friends.

In 1897 Gerry Weigall married Josephine Harrison (1876-1923) the daughter of a Royal Navy Captain (deceased) at the Servite Church, Fulham Road, Kensington. The couple later separated. There was one son who was wounded in the First World War and became a policeman in Rhodesia.

Of the Weigall brothers, William Archibald had a distinguished Army career, was knighted and became Governor of South Australia. Both Louis and Evelyn played first-class cricket, the former in India (see above), the latter in a single match, for brother Gerry's Eleven against Cambridge

University in 1908. Both played for Kent Second Eleven and Band of Brothers. Louis played eight matches for Lincolnshire as well as for St. Lawrence; Evelyn (known as 'Bucky') was President of Kent in 1946.

During the Second World War Weigall suffered a fall in the blackout. He moved to Dublin shortly afterwards, staying at the Athenaeum on his periodic returns to London, but never fully recovered and died in the Royal Dublin City Hospital. His effects were valued for probate at £1,369 19s 4d.

Much has been written about Gerry Weigall, most of it focussing on his peculiarities. Perhaps the last word should be left to Raymond Robertson-Glasgow. 'Yet far above the trivialities of the world, Gerry Weigall kept throughout something particularly fine, an innocent belief in what was best. He never turned his back on anyone and his strongest condemnation was 'Oh he's a wrongheaded sort of fellow'.

Further reading.

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James Turner Welldon (No. 247).

Born: 3.8.1847, Tonbridge. *Died:* 6.2.1927, Ashford.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1867-1869.

Educated: Tonbridge School & St John's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev James Ind Welldon & Elinor Welldon (*née* Turner).

James Welldon was in the Eleven at Tonbridge, where his father was a highly influential Headmaster, from 1863 to 1866, captain in his final year. At the time a genuine allrounder, against Brighton College in 1866, he took four wickets and scored 73. In 1867, before going up to Cambridge, he played two matches for Kent, against Hampshire at Southborough, where he was run out for 37, and against Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week. He also made his debut for Gentlemen of Kent.

At Cambridge, he captained his college but missed the 1868 Freshmens' match. He nevertheless played three matches for the University that year, one of them, against MCC, first-class. He again appeared in Canterbury Week, when he scored 51 for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari (not first-class); he also played for Lincolnshire. Considering he was not a Freshman and had already played for the University, he was an odd choice for the 1869 Cambridge Freshmens' match in which he scored 34 but, although he again played against MCC at Fenner's, he missed a Blue.

Two more matches in 1869, for Kent, v Sussex at Crystal Palace and for Gentlemen of England v Cambridge at Fenner's, concluded his first-class career. For Gentlemen of Kent he scored 59 v Gentlemen of Buckinghamshire.

On coming down from University, Welldon became an Assistant Master at Felsted where he did a great deal to promote cricket. In 1876 he made his debut for Essex and in 1878 hit 136 in 150 minutes against Hertfordshire at Brentwood, believed to be the first inter-county century for Essex.

In 1879, he opted for a change of career and began studying Law. Admitted as a solicitor in 1882, he joined the practice of Hallet, Creery, Fuller & Co in Ashford where he remained for the rest of his career. He continued with his cricket with Incogniti and Kennington (near Ashford). He also played for Tunbridge Wells.

Wellton excelled at other sports. At Tonbridge he won the Schools fives championship and at University, steered the college boat. He played Association football for London and for the Wanderers and was the first captain of Hythe Golf Club. He was a Captain in the 1st (Volunteer) Battalion, the Buffs.

In 1883 James Wellton married Ethel Porter at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury. There was one daughter. On his death, his estate was valued at £18,837 16s 9d.

Joseph Wells (No. 215).

Born: 14.7.1828, Penshurst. *Died:* 14.10.1910. Liss, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm fast bowler.

Kent. 1862-1863.

Parents: Joseph Wells & Elizabeth Wells (*née* Bloomfield).

A 'very fast' bowler according to *Scores & Biographies*, in 1862 Joseph Wells achieved a certain immortality by becoming the first bowler to take four wickets in four balls in a first-class match. But he has another claim to fame; he was the father of Herbert George (HG) Wells. It is not merely a matter of having sired a famous author. Thanks to the son, far more is known about the father as a man than is usually the case with cricketers of his or any era. Aspects of his life and personality surface in characters in several of his son's semi-autobiographical novels. Although Wells wrote that the character was based on his elder brother Frank, there are distinct echoes of Joseph Wells senior in Alfred Polly with his daydreaming, his love of books and of nature. Also, perhaps although to a lesser extent, in Arthur Kipps. Polly and Kipps have much in common and, like Joseph Wells, both undergo a change of lifestyle through an inheritance.

The Wells family were tenant farmers but Joseph Wells' father (also Joseph) was working as a gardener when his son was born in Penshurst. His brother-in-law, Joseph jnr.'s uncle, was Timothy Duke of the famous cricket bat and ball manufacturing dynasty. Joseph jnr/ became a gardener like his father but had already acquired a love of cricket. From 1842 to 1847 he played regularly for the Penshurst Club but from 1848 to 1855 cricket was of necessity pushed into the background. Times were hard and his occupation took him to wherever he could find work, in Cheshire, Middlesex, Staffordshire, Sussex and Warwickshire.

In 1853 Joseph Wells married at St. Stephen's Church, Coleman Street, City of London, Sarah Neal (1822-1905) from Chichester, the daughter of an innkeeper. There were three sons and one daughter. Change came in for the family in 1855 with an unexpected inheritance which enabled Joseph to lease, on 'reasonable terms' through a cousin, a china and crockery business at No.47 Bromley High Street. The shop was hardly a goldmine but with a solid base, he again turned to cricket. He was a founder of Bromley Cricket Club and supplemented his income by turning professional, from 1857 to 1869 with the socially up-market West Kent Club at Chislehurst and played against clubs such as Eton Ramblers and Sevenoaks Vine.

It was while at Chislehurst that Wells came to the notice of Kent. In 1862, as a rather elderly colt, he took five for 13 & four for 11 for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at The Oval and one for 11 & four for 10 in the return at Mote Park. Less than a month later he took three for 20 and one for 9 on his first-class debut, against Surrey at Canterbury, his victims including William Caffyn, Julius Caesar and Thomas Sewell Jun. On his second appearance, at Hove, he did even better – six for 35 & three for 7. In the first innings he bowled Jemmy Dean with the last ball of an over, Spencer Austen Leigh, Charles Ellis and Richard Fillery with the first three balls of the next. As well as being the first time anyone had taken four in four in a first-class match, when the second wicket fell, the father of HG Wells had bowled the great-nephew of Jane Austen.

The remainder of Joseph Wells' first-class career was pure anti-climax. In four more matches for Kent that season and one in 1863, he took just one more wicket. In four innings he was not given the ball at all. There was one other first-class match, for the New England Eleven v the New All-England Eleven at The Oval. The match, a strange affair in which he took one wicket, was staged to decide which of the two was entitled to use the word 'All' in their title.

Wells continued to combine shop keeping with cricket. From 1870 to 1872 he was professional with nearby Bickley Park; from 1873 to 1875 at Norwich Grammar School where, we are assured by *Scores & Biographies* 'he gives great satisfaction'.

According to her son, the long-suffering Sarah Wells was rather less satisfied, convinced – probably with justification – that her husband thought more about cricket than he did about the business (another faint echo of Mr Polly). The latter problem was resolved however in 1875 when Wells fell off a ladder while pruning a grape vine and thereafter was confined to umpiring. Nevertheless, life remained a struggle, only partially alleviated by branching out into cricket equipment on credit from Dukes. Still they survived somehow and in the 1891 Census he is 'living on own means' in the idyllic village of Harting and ten years later, he and Sarah, still living on their own means, are in a house in Liss provided by their son.

On his death, the effects of Joseph Wells were valued at £353 3s. 10d., probate granted to HG.

Charles Wenman (No. 75).

Born: 1797, Benenden. (baptised 16 April).

Kent 1828.

Parents: John Wenman & Ann Wenman (*née* Shewsmith).

A half-brother of Edward Gower 'Ned' Wenman (*qv*) by their father John Wenman's first wife who died in 1797, there can be little doubt that Charles Wenman played for his home village but, although numerous Wenmans, with or without initials, appear, a C Wenman does not feature in any of their recorded matches. At the time, Benenden was one of the strongest sides in the County. He does not appear to have batted in the second innings of his only match for Kent but *Scores & Biographies* expresses doubts as to whether the scorecard is complete.

At the time of the 1841 Census he was living in Brixton with his wife Mary and working as a carpenter. He does not appear in the 1851 Census.

Edward Gower Wenman (No. 48).

Born: 18.8.1803, Benenden. *Died:* 28.12.1879, Benenden.

Right-handed batsman, slow right-arm (under-arm) bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1825-1854.

Parents: John Wenman & Ann Wenman (*née* Gower).

Few contributed more to the fame of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' than Ned Wenman. Not only was he the earliest in Kent's illustrious line of wicketkeeper batsman and a more than useful bowler. He captained the side during their great days and much of their success was attributed to his leadership and tactical know-how. With Fuller Pilch, he shared the responsibility for arranging fixtures, team selection, finance etc. To this he added a rare gift for finding and developing talented young cricketers, both amateur and professional.

As a wicketkeeper he was judged by many the best of his day, the amateur Herbert Jenner (*qv*) and the Sussex keeper Tom Box probably his only serious rivals. Around six foot one (185 cm) in height and weighing about 15 stone (95 kg.), he was by modern standards heavily built for a wicketkeeper but techniques were very different in the 1830s. Wenman stood up to everything and for much of his career wore neither pads nor gloves and when gloves began to appear they were unlined, unpadded leather or doeskin, often worn on only one hand. Pads, when they eventually came into use, were little more than flimsy shin guards.

For a wicketkeeper to stand back was unheard of and, with much of the bowling delivered round the wicket, long-stop was a key position. The keeper was not expected to attempt to stop every ball and much of his skill lay in knowing which balls to take and which to leave to long stop or long stops - two were not uncommon with a fast bowler operating on a hard wicket. According to Fuller Pilch, Wenman had no doubts on the subject 'What is the good of Mr Walter Mynn for long stop if I am to do all his work and knock my hands to pieces? No; let him do his work and I will do mine'. (The brother of Alfred, Walter Mynn was widely considered among the best long-stops in the country).

Most wicketkeepers left alone anything on or outside leg stump but Wenman, considered unique in his skill with his left hand, excelled on the leg side, especially in stumping, which was normally carried out one-handed. Pilch describes Wenman in action 'with his eyes on the batsman's foot and the crease, and as sure as a man showed a sign of drawing his foot, he took the ball close to the bails and just broke the wicket'. Anyone who has kept wicket, even for just a couple of overs, will probably find it difficult to imagine how all this actually worked in practice but clearly it did.

For most of Wenman's career, catches and stumpings were not credited to the bowler in the published scores but he is known to have stumped at least eight and caught at least eight from the fast bowling of Alfred Mynn and stumped three and caught six from Mynn's chief rival as the leading fast bowler of the day, Nottinghamshire's Sam Redgate. He stumped batsmen off several other prominent fast bowlers including Tom Barker, Jemmy Dean and Ned Willsher (*qv*). From the medium-pace 'Topper' Hillyer he caught at least 25 and stumped at least 12.

As a batsman he played almost exclusively off the back foot. as was not uncommon at the time. Most of his runs came square on the off side and behind the wicket. According to the 1907 Kent history 'it was considered one of the sights of cricket' to see a partnership between Wenman and Fuller Pilch 'the forward play of the one contrasting with the back play of the other'. Judged against 21st century values Wenman's career figures are of course modest but taking into account the rough, usually scythe-cut, pitches of his era, it is probably advisable to multiply by between two to two and a half for any sort of valid comparison. In addition to his eight half-centuries, he top-scored on 38 occasions.

Contemporary accounts contain little about his under-arm bowling but he took five wickets in an innings in successive matches in 1831, for Single v Married and for L-Z v A-K, both at Lord's and seems to have been rather more than a useful partnership-breaker. As late as 1853 he claimed ten wickets in a match for Benenden v Hollingbourne. It probably means nothing in particular but he appeared three times for Slow Bowlers v Fast and once for Fast Bowlers v Slow.

It is not clear if Wenman's captaincy of Kent pre-dates the formation of the Town Malling-based Kent County Cricket Club but there seems no doubt that he was in charge when Pilch joined Kent in 1835. Interestingly considering the later structure of county cricket, although there were always amateurs in the side, notably Felix and the Mynns, Wenman played as a professional as did his usual deputy Fuller Pilch. The amateur / professional relationship would be very different by the final quarter of the 19th century. Felix, one of the most distinguished of Kent's amateurs, wrote of Wenman's captaincy - 'Many and many a match have we played *sub silentio* when we were under the superior generalship of Wenman. He had only to look and we moved like the stars obeying the dictates of a great centre'. It is

hard to imagine Lords Harris or Hawke – or WG for that matter – writing anything similar about a professional captain.

Between 1830 and 1844 Wenman played 15 times for the Players v the Gentlemen (372 runs (avge. 18.60) with two half-centuries, ct.11/st.11, and once, in 1829, as a ‘given man’ for Gentlemen v Players. Between 1831 and 1843 he made 18 appearances for ‘England’ (382 runs (avge.13.17) with one half century (ct.13/st.13).

A lifelong resident of Benenden and, as a cricketer, a product of the local club, Wenman was a wheelwright and carpenter, a trade he practiced throughout his cricket career and continued to do so after he retired. His was a cricketing family. His father played for the Benenden Club as did his cousin also John, who scored 18, when Benenden lost to Wittersham in 1798, the only double-figure score for his side and top score in the match. Two half-brothers, at least one other cousin and all three of his sons also played for the Club.

By the 1830s. the Benenden Club had become one of the strongest in England with regular fixtures against the County. In 1835 they issued a challenge to play ‘11 other natives resident in another parish’ for £100. William Clarke accepted on behalf of Nottingham but balked at travelling to Benenden.

Following an uneventful debut in 1825, Wenman did nothing of note in his first half a dozen first-class or important games and did not even reach double figures until his fifth. In 1828 however he took six wickets (all bowled) against Sussex at Sevenoaks, caught two and stumped three in the return at Brighton and in the final match of the season, against Surrey at Sevenoaks, top scored with 73, caught two, stumped four and took a wicket. In 1830 he made the first of his 26 first-class appearances for MCC and in the following year distinguished himself at Lord’s with 35 and 24, top score in both innings, and eight wickets (all bowled) in a match for Single v Married. In 1832 he hit his first half-century at Lord’s, 64 for Sir Vincent Cotton’s Eleven v Lord Strathavon’s Eleven. Only one other batsman exceeded 30 in the match.

In 1834 Wenman achieved what William Denison described in his *Sketches of the Players* (Simpkin Marshall 1846) as ‘probably the greatest feat of his life’. At Wittersham, Wenman and Richard Mills (qv), playing as ‘Two of Benenden’ took on Eleven of the Isle of Oxney. The Benenden pair were not allowed fielders, taking it in turns to bowl and keep wicket and when they batted, as soon as a wicket fell the innings was over - scores: Two of Benenden 150 (Wenman 65, Mills 84*) & 48 (Wenman 16*, Mills 29). Isle of Oxney, 55 & 77. Wenman bowled 11 & caught two, Mills bowled two and caught two. There were two run outs and an unaccredited lbw.

For South v North at Leicester in 1836 Wenman scored 64 and shared a century partnership with Alfred Mynn (125*). There is no complete scorecard but this was the much written-about match in which Mynn batted throughout with a runner due to an injured ankle and subsequently came within an inch of losing his leg altogether.

1839 was the busiest (12 matches) and most successful season to date - 332 runs (avge. 18.44) and 28 dismissals (ct.17/st.11). For England v Nottinghamshire & Sussex at Lord’s he made three stumpings from the bowling of Mynn and for Players v Gentlemen he top scored with 58 and shared a 56-run fourth-wicket partnership with Fuller Pilch (28). In the same year he top scored in both innings (45* & 44) and took three wickets for MCC v Sussex at Brighton and when Kent beat England by two runs in Pilch’s benefit match at Town Malling, Wenman (37) and Pilch (35) were the only Kent batsmen to exceed 20.

The early 1840s were the busiest years of Wenman’s first-class career, 12 matches in 1841, 11 in 1842, ten in 1843. In 1841 he scored the second of his two half-centuries for Kent, 52 (top score) v

Sussex at Brighton and with scores of 35, 0, 27 & 22* was top scorer again in three of his four innings in two Slow Bowlers v Fast Bowlers matches played that year at Lord's.

With 333 runs (avg.19.58) 1843 was statistically his most successful as a batsman. For England v MCC at Lord's he contributed 49 to a third-wicket partnership of 163 with Felix (105) and for Players v Gentlemen scored 73 in a team total of 137; the next highest score was 21. This turned out to be his last first-class half-century, although he came near with 45 (top score again) for MCC v Sussex at Brighton

In August, a Kent v England match, followed by a dinner, was staged at Hempsted Park, Benenden for Wenman's benefit. Kent won by 99 runs in two days, England collapsing twice for 63 & 37 (Mynn 11 wickets, Hillyer nine) and, apart from Kent's Emilius Bayley (33) no batsman on either side got beyond 18. Wenman's contribution was 13, 0, ct.1/ st.2.

Wenman had an unremarkable season in 1844, playing eight matches and twice passing 30. In his last game of the season, playing 'given man' for Single v Married at Tunbridge Wells, he scored virtually all of his 34 (top score) with one hand following an injury. He played no first-class cricket at all in 1845 and, although he continued to turn out for Benenden, henceforth he gave more time to his craft of wheelwright and carpentry as well as engaging in some small scale farming. Judging by his typically circumlocutory comment in *Sketches of the Players*, Denison approved - 'he was more beneficially employed in reference to his own pecuniary interests'.

Apart from 1848 when he again abstained from cricket, Wenman continued to make occasional appearances until 1854, four in 1851 and three in 1853. Against the AEE at Cranbrook in 1851 when Kent were dismissed for 107, Wenman (30) and Pilch (37) shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 59, at one stage batting through 32 overs from William Clarke and Daniel Day without scoring a run. In 1853 he made his only appearance for the AEE, against I Zingari at The Oval. In his last first-class match, for Kent v England at St. Lawrence, Canterbury he scored 26*, & 33, his highest score since his one-handed effort ten years earlier.

Wenman's final match of note was for Eighteen Veterans v England at The Oval in 1858, a benefit match for 'Topper' Hillyer. He scored 0 & 12 and held one catch. In the second innings he batted for a while with Alfred Mynn who, on being dismissed reputedly shook hands with his partner and said 'Good-bye my fellow cricketer, we have played many a happy match together, and our career is now over' – or, some may be inclined to suspect, words to that effect.

Few cricketers played for a wider variety of teams, generally as a 'given man', than Ned Wenman. These included Cambridge Town, Hadlow, Hampshire, Hempstead Park, Leeds Park, Norfolk, Sussex as well as Gentlemen's teams, among them the Gentlemen of England, Hampshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire and Sussex. As well as Benenden and he occasionally gave his services to other local clubs until into his 70s.

In 1875, in company with cousin John (71) and Richard Mills (77), he issued a challenge to play any other three of similar age for 100 guineas. There were no takers. When Kent CCC was formed at Maidstone in 1859, Wenman was on the original Managing Committee but he seems to have resigned before the end of the year.

On 1 January 1830 Ned Wenman married Hannah Richardson (1805-1886) at Marylebone Parish Church but, notwithstanding, in 1831 he played for Single v Married across the road at Lord's. There were three sons (all bigger than their father) and two daughters. On his death his estate was valued at 'Under £1,500'. His grandson William (known as Reg) was prominent in Canadian cricket and his great grandson James played against Kent Second Eleven while touring England with a Canadian team in 1974 (see William Wenman below).

An image of Ned Wenman appears on sign outside his home village.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

George Wenman (No. 50).

Born: 27.10.1805, Benenden. *Died:* 19.1.1837, Brookland.

Left-handed batsman.

Kent 1825-1834

Parents: John Wenman & Elizabeth Wenman (*nêe* Gude).

A brother of John Gude Wenman and cousin of Charles and Ned, George Wenman's record in 'important' matches is moderate to say the least (66 runs in 19 innings) but he was nevertheless considered good enough for the Players at Lord's. He played for his home village from 1822 until 1834 and appeared in his first match for Kent in 1825 when he registered 0 and two against Sussex at Hawkhurst.

In 1828 he made his first appearance at Lord's, for Left-handed v Right-handed and between 1833 and 1834 played four further matches at Lord's, for Left-handed v MCC, England v Sussex, in which he contributed 0 and one, Kent v England and Players v Gentlemen when he scored three in his only innings. In his five appearances for Kent he twice achieved double figures, ten v Sussex at Brighton in 1828 and 19* (his highest in 'important matches') against the same opponents on the same ground in 1829.

George Wenman's top score in recorded matches seems to be 28 for Benenden v Kent on Benenden Green in 1828. He also played for Hawkhurst and for Leeds Park.

By occupation he was a linen draper and grocer in Brookland. He died young and is buried in Benenden.

John Gude Wenman (No. 49).

Born: 11.8.1803, Benenden. *Died:* 25.11.1877, Chobham, Surrey.

Left-handed batsman.

Kent 1825-1837.

Parents: John Wenman & Elizabeth Wenman (*nêe* Gude).

Like his younger brother George, John Gude Wenman was rated sufficiently highly as a batsman to gain selection for the Players at Lord's in 1836, for South v North at Leicester in the same year and for England v Sussex at Brighton in 1838, as well as for Kent. Nevertheless, the innings for which he was best remembered was in 1826 in his native village when, according to *Scores & Biographies Vol II* p377), in a single-wicket match between JG Wenman, G. Mills and R Mills of Benenden v E Thwaites, Fielder and Sawyer of Hastings for a stake of £40, he batted 'almost the whole two days' 'scoring near 100 runs'. Unfortunately the scores – and even the result – have not survived.

Played under the Laws then existing, for the casual watcher without a financial interest, single-wicket cricket must have been one of the most boring sporting spectacles ever devised. The batsman could only score in front of the wicket, he was not allowed to move out of his crease to hit the ball and to score a run he had to run twice the length of the pitch. The once popular American pastime of pole-squatting comes to mind as the nearest equivalent. Even so, Wenman's innings was a considerable feat of physical endurance.

Wenman played for his native village and is probably the J.Wenman who (batting No. 11) played alongside his cousin Ned v Horsmonden in 1819. He achieved double figures in 'important' matches four times, 13 for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's, 1836, ten and 14 for South v North at Leicester, 1837 and 11 for Left-handed v MCC, Lord's 1838. In lesser cricket his best scores appear to have been 32 for Beckley (with six of Benenden) v Rye (with Lillywhite, Thwaites, Sawyer & Best, at Rye, 1835, and 29 for Kent v Town Malling at Town Malling, 1836. He failed to gain selection for the Left-Handed v Right-handed matches played at Lord's in 1828 and 1835.

In the 1841 Census John Gude Wenman was a grocer in Brookland. Presumably he had some business connection with his younger brother George or took the business over when the latter died. By 1851 he is living with his first wife and farming 240 acres (97.2 hectares) at Shoemith Farm, Wadhurst where he employed 15 labourers. He was still there in 1871, with the farm grown to 285 acres (115.4 hectares) and the work force to 14 men and five boys. Also farming with him is his son Richard (born in Brookland) and son-in-law Newton Taylor. He presumably retired to Chobham where he died leaving his estate, valued at 'under £4,000', to his second wife Emily.

In 1831 John Gude Wenman married Bethnal Green-born Sarah Smith (1808-1845) at St John's Parish Church, Hackney. There were five daughters and three sons. In 1874 he married Emily Cook (1842-1926) at Holy Trinity Church, Newington. The union produced a further two sons and two daughters one of whom, Mary Gude Wenman (1875-1926) married the Kent allrounder Walter Wright (qv)

William Wenman (No. 220).

Born: 22.5.1832, Benenden. *Died:* 23.11.1921, Souris, Manitoba, Canada.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1862-1864.

Parents: Edward Gower Wenman & Hannah Wenman (*née* Richardson).

One of three sons of Ned Wenman (qv), William was of similar build to his father, 6ft 2in (188 cm) and 13 stone (82.5 kg.), and, like his father, made his living as a carpenter and joiner. At the time of the 1851 Census, together with an elder brother, he was working as his father's foreman. Ten years later he has come up in the world and is at New House Farm, still in Benenden, married with two sons and a daughter and combining a building business with farming 25 acres (10.1 hectares) and employing eight men.

Like his brothers, most of his cricket was for Benenden but club records are sketchy. In 1851 and again in 1852 he played for Stilebridge against Town Malling. In 1854 he appeared in representative cricket of a sort – for Eighteen of Maidstone v the AEE, in which he opened the batting and scored 15, and for Kent v 18 of Town Malling. In 1862 he was asked to appear in a Colts match against Surrey but did not in the end play but later in the season he was picked for Fourteen of Kent v England in Canterbury Week, his first-class debut. Although only scoring seven in each innings, in the following year he appeared in nine matches for the County. As well as his top score of 29 against Surrey at The Oval, he scored 23* v Sussex at Hove and twice reached 20, v Cambridgeshire at Maidstone and v Sussex at Sandgate. He was again chosen for Canterbury Week, for Thirteen of Kent v England.

Despite what was, by the standards of the day, a promising start, he made only one more appearance for the County, for 13 of Kent v England at Lord's in 1864.

William Wenman described himself as a builder when in 1856 he married Amelia Buckland, the daughter of a professor of chemistry, at the Parish Church of St. Mary, St. Denis & St. George, Manchester. There were two sons and one daughter. *Circa* 1870 the family emigrated to Canada and

became one of the first families to settle in the still small town of Souris, Manitoba. He continued to play cricket and appeared in a match as late as 1906, aged 75.

His son, William Reginald Gower Wenman, known as Reg, was an important figure in Canadian cricket. A prolific scorer and useful medium-pace stock bowler for clubs including British Columbia, Vancouver, Victoria and Incogniti, he hit 37 centuries (at the time a Canadian record) and during the 1930s played against the Hollywood Club including David Niven, Errol Flynn, Boris Karloff etc.

When an Australian side toured Canada in 1932, he played against them five times, once for Canada and twice each for British Columbia and Vancouver with a top score of 48. He played against MCC touring sides in 1937 and 1951. Reg's son James, great grandson of Ned, played for Canada in 1974 and on tour in England with Canada in the same year, played against Kent Seconds at Folkestone.

Thomas Brand Whitby (No. 106).

Born: 2.11.1813, Eynsford. *Died:* 7.12.1881. West Hackney.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm bowler.

Kent 1837.

Parents: John & Elizabeth Whitby.

Thomas Whitby achieved little in his two appearances for Kent but he was a useful support bowler with Town Malling for whom he played four times against Kent. As for much of his career it was the custom to only credit bowlers when batsmen were bowled or lbw, it is difficult to assess his true value but, even so, he is credited with four wickets in an innings on at least five occasions. Although according to available records his top score was only 18 (v Chislehurst in 1833 and v Kent in 1836), he frequently opened the batting.

Originally a corn miller and merchant in West Malling High Street, by the 1861 Census, although still in West Malling High Street and living with his wife Elizabeth and daughter, he is described as a corn merchant's clerk. He is still a clerk at the time of the 1871 Census but now living in Pendlesham Road, Hackney. Ten years later, now a widower, he is a 'retired corn merchant, still at the same address where he lodges with a brass finisher.

Edward Albert White (No. 244).

Born: 16.3.1844, Yalding. *Died:* 3.5.1922, Chiswick, Middlesex.

Right-handed batsman.

Educated: Marlborough College.

Kent 1867-1875.

Parents: Alfred White & Mary Elizabeth White (*née* Winton).

From a prosperous farming family who farmed 776 acres (314.28 hectares) and employed over 60 men and boys at Court Lodge Farm, Nettleshead, Edward White became a major figure in the hop industry. While at Marlborough, he failed to find a place in the Eleven but proved a useful acquisition for Kent when their fortunes were at a low ebb and throughout the 1860s and early 1870s he played a great deal of club cricket, notably for the Mote and Town Malling. He was a regular member of the Gentlemen of Kent Eleven between 1865 and 1873 and in 1866 scored 96 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of Sussex at Hove, a match notable in that Kent totalled 503 without a century (MA Troughton 91, JM Shaw 90, HA Richardson 87). Two years later he hit 83 v Gentlemen of Bedfordshire at Woburn and 81 v Gentlemen of Lancashire at Gravesend.

White opened the batting on his debut for Kent and on his third appearance, v Sussex at Hove in 1867, he was top scorer with 28* as James Lillywhite and Southerton bowled unchanged to dismiss Kent for

126. Although never invited to play in Canterbury Week, over the following eight seasons he was in the Kent side with varying degrees of regularity ranging from only two matches in 1868 and 1873 to seven in 1871, five in 1869 and reducing to just one in 1874 and 1875. When reaching his top score, 81 v Surrey in 1871, he shared an opening partnership of 115 with William McCanlis (33). Against Lancashire at Gravesend in that same season, he played an innings of 55 including 39 singles when adding 93 for the second wicket with Frederick Stokes (65).

White, who kept wicket at least once for Gentlemen of Kent, appears to have possessed a gift for scoring runs when others failed. Against Middlesex on the Islington Cattle Market ground in 1868, he scored 48* when Kent were all out for 103. The next highest was 13. Against MCC at Lord's in 1871 his 41 was in an all out total of 77. Among other similar efforts were 36 (105 all out) v Sussex at Hove in 1872 and 26 (94 all out) in the following match v Surrey at Mote Park. In his final appearance for Kent, v Sussex at Catford, he had the misfortune to suffer a pair. His only experience of representative cricket was for Gentlemen of the South v Gentlemen of the North at Islington in 1867.

Married in 1873 to a widow, Mary Filder (*née* Whisson) by 1881 Edward White was installed on a 385 acre (155.9 hectares) hop farm at Beltring which would expand to become the largest in the country. Living there with his wife, two daughters, grown-up step-son, teenage step-daughter and employing 20 men and five boys, by the 1890s he was a highly influential figure in the industry, instrumental in introducing numerous improvements in production techniques, oast design and hop drying processes.

Sometimes known as 'the Father of the Hop Industry', in 1908 he played a prominent role in the 'Great Oast Demonstration' when the industry united in demanding protection against the increasing use of imported hops. His photograph features on the dust jacket of *The Encircling Hop* by Margaret Lawrence, published in 1990 and widely regarded as the definitive work on the industry in Kent.

In 1922 White sold his farm to Whitbreads and retired to Chiswick. Although very successful and relatively prosperous – in the 1891 Census he is on holiday at the Palace Hotel, Brighton where, among other well-heeled guests is the past and future Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone - when he died he left a fairly modest £4,275.

The hop farm is now one of Kent's major tourist attractions and in recent years a venue for pop concerts.

Lt Colonel Lionel Algernon White (No. 260).

Born: 9.11.1850. Wateringbury. *Died:* 25.6.1917, Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman

Educated: St. Paul's School

Kent 1869

Parents: Thomas White & Louisa Frances white (*née* Winton).

A cousin of Edward White (*qv*), Lionel White's father owned 174 acres (70.4 hectares) and employed 21 labourers at Park House Farm in Wateringbury. At St. Paul's, Lionel White captained the Eleven in 1868 but service as a regular soldier, much of it overseas, later restricted his cricket. Most of his serious cricket was in 1869, the year in which he joined the 53rd (Shropshire) Regiment. In that year he played for Town Malling and twice for Gentlemen of Kent, on one occasion opening the batting with cousin Edward. He also opened the batting on his first appearance for Kent and in the second innings scored 34. but in three further matches there were two ducks and a top score of 17.

On returning to England from Africa in 1880 he played club cricket in Cheshire while stationed in the county, but his best score in minor cricket appears to be 153 for Past of St. Paul's v Present in 1872.

Much of White's overseas service was in West Indies but he served in the Zulu War in 1879. In 1880 he married Florence Emily Astwood (1857-1924) in Roath, Glamorgan. There were two daughters. In 1892 he retired to Tunbridge Wells with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In his will he left £1,224 9s 2d.

George William Edendale Whitehead (No. 517).

Born: 27.8.1895, Bromley. *Died:* 17.10.1918, Lauwe, Menin (now Menen), Belgium.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin bowler.

Educated: Cordwalles Preparatory School, Maidenhead, Clifton College & RMA Woolwich. Kent 1914.

Parents: Lord George Hugh Whitehead & Lady Gertrude Grace Whitehead (*nêe* Ascroft).

Youngest son of a stockbroker and JP for the County of Kent, George Whitehead was an outstanding schoolboy cricketer. In the 1919 *Wisden* his obituary reads 'Among the many public schools cricketers lost during the war perhaps none, except John Howell of Repton, had better prospects of winning distinction at the game'. He captained the Eleven at his preparatory school and was in the side at Clifton from 1911 to 1914, as captain in the two latter years. Remarkably consistent, he averaged over 40 in every season from 1912 to 1914. In 1912 he scored 259 against Liverpool but his best seasons were 1913, 706 runs (avge. 46.73) with three centuries, and 1914, 485 runs (avge.40.42) and 36 wickets (avge.13.61). During his time at Clifton he scored over 2,000 runs.

He was selected for Public Schools v MCC in 1912, 1913 and 1914 and for Lord's Schools v The Rest in 1913 and 1914. Whitehead played for Band of Brothers, represented Clifton at Fives and was two years in the Rugby Fifteen.

When moving up to the next level as a cricketer, Whitehead failed to replicate his success in school cricket in the limited time left available to him by the outbreak of war. In August 1912 he made his Kent Second Eleven debut against Dorset at Poole and played a further two Minor County Championship matches after 4 August 1914 but in six innings he managed only 61 runs with a top score of 16 (twice) and conceded 15 runs without taking a wicket. He was selected for Kent's final County Championship matches in 1914 but in four innings he failed to achieve double figures and did not get a chance to bowl.

Entered for Trinity College Oxford, he opted instead to join the Army and, on the strength of his service with the Clifton OTC, gained admission as a cadet to the RMA Woolwich. Commissioned in July 1915, he was posted to 75 Brigade, RFA, a unit briefly in the 16th (Irish) Division and subsequently in the Guards Division. With the latter, he fought as a gun section commander and forward observation officer at the Battle of Loos in 1915 and in the second stage of the Battle of the Somme until, taken ill with appendicitis, he underwent an operation in November 1916 and was invalided home.

Passed fit for service again in 1917, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps (the Royal Air Force after April 1st 1918) and, after training at Reading, Stamford and Worthy Down, qualified as a pilot.

In September 1918 he joined 53 Squadron on the Western Front flying RE8 two-seaters. Popularly known as the 'Harry Tate' after one of the greatest comedians of the era, by 1918 the RE8 was the work horse of what were known as the corps reconnaissance squadrons, employed primarily on unglamorous but vital artillery spotting and short-range photo-reconnaissance duties. It was while engaged on locating enemy gun positions that Whitehead's aircraft was shot down near Lauwe, Belgium by ground fire from German machine guns, killing both the pilot and observer, Lt Reginald Griffith MC.

In his *Wisden* obituary an 'Old Cliftonian' describes George Whitehead as 'the perfect flower of the public schools' and 'intellectually, far above the average' but if the circumstances of his fatal crash were as described by the Mayor of Lauwe in a letter to Lord and Lady Whitehead, their son's death stands out as utterly pointless in a war in which casual, almost incidental, death was commonplace. According to this account, as the inhabitants of Lauwe celebrated their liberation after four years of German occupation, Whitehead made a series of low-level passes over the town while, raising himself in the cockpit and waving a flag amid the cheers of the population. The machine guns caught the aircraft near the railway station. The bodies were originally buried in the town cemetery and the grateful people of Lauwe re-named the road 'Place George Whitehead'. Both men were later re-buried in Harlebeek New British Cemetery.

After nearly one hundred years it would be wrong to be judgemental, not least because prior to his volunteering for the RFC George Whitehead had been diagnosed with neurasthenia, but to fly an RE8 (maximum speed 102 mph) at low altitude on a straight and level course for no serious purpose and for an extended period while still in machine gun range of German positions was foolhardy to put it no stronger and resulted, not only in totally unnecessary loss of life, but also in loss of the aircraft and with it the information it had been sent to obtain.

Apart from the feelings of the family of the unfortunate observer, one can, if so inclined, speculate on what the CO of 53 Squadron might have said had Whitehead survived the crash. His death was all the more tragic in that, in a letter written shortly after he joined the RFC, he assured a friend that he would not run any unnecessary risks.

Apart possibly from impromptu matches in France, the only cricket he seems to have played after leaving Clifton was at Lord's in July 1918 when he captained a Public Schools Eleven against No.1 Royal Field Artillery Cadet School which was based in St John's Wood. His estate was valued for probate at £788.18s.11d.

His elder brother James Hugh Edendale Whitehead played for Kent Second eleven and first-class cricket for MCC. A Second Lieutenant in the Royal West Kent Regiment, he died in 1919 of illness contracted on active service.

Charles Gustavus Whittaker (No. 108).

Born: 8.9.1819, Barming Place, Barming. *Died:* 15.11.1886. Barming Place, Barming.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1839-1847.

Educated: Westminster School.

Parents: Charles Gustavus Whitaker & Camilla Whitaker (née Andrus).

Charles Whittaker lived all his life at Barming Place, near Maidstone where he farmed between 170 and 200 acres (68.8 – 81 hectares), originally with his father, a JP, latterly in his own right. They also owned and leased out other property in the area and in the 1881 Census he is 'Living on income from land and houses.' In 1874 he married Anne Sophia Dadson (1849-1880), the daughter of an 'Engine Designer' at the Church of St. Dunstan in the West, City of London. There were two sons and two daughters. Following the death of his first wife, he married Emily Anne Meyler, a widow, in Dyfed, Pembrokeshire in 1882.

The first President of the Mote, Charles Gustavus Whittaker senior had played for Town Malling and his son seems to have played most of his cricket for the Club. Primarily a change bowler according to *Scores & Biographies*, and generally batting in the lower order, he is not easy to evaluate as a cricketer, not least because full bowling analyses do not exist for most of his matches. Nevertheless,

with five appearances for Gentlemen v Players and 36 matches for Kent he was clearly a far better player than his figures indicate.

There is no record of his playing for Town Malling before 1838 and it is likely that he had already distinguished himself with other, probably lesser, local clubs. At any event, in July of the following year he played for Kent v Sussex at Brighton and at the end of the month took three wickets for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's so clearly he had some sort of reputation.

Over the next seven seasons he was a regular member of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven', usually batting in the bottom three and coming on as first or second change to Alfred Mynn and 'Topper' Hillyer. He reached his top score for Kent, 24* v Sussex at the Beverley ground, Canterbury when batting number ten and in 1847, against Sussex at Brighton, he was again number ten when he scored 20* in a ninth-wicket partnership of 30 with William Pilch (27*). Against Surrey at The Oval that year he scored 17, all in singles. He played in the inaugural Canterbury Week in 1842 and in the second fixture, Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England, he was run out in both innings, something he would repeat in the same fixture at Lord's five years later. In all, he was run out 14 times in 'important' matches.

Apart from three wickets in an innings on his first appearance, he achieved nothing of note in his five Gentlemen v Players matches but between his third appearance in 1841 and the first innings of his last match in 1845 he made successive scores of nine, nine, nine (run out), nine* and nine.

Statistically, much of his best cricket was for MCC and Gentlemen of Kent. For MCC v Cambridge University on Parker's Piece in 1841 he took four wickets in each innings and, opening the batting, scored 37 (top score). In the same fixture next year he claimed six wickets in the second innings. For Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's in 1845 he was top scorer with 35 (run out) in the first innings and reached his personal best, 55, in the second.

In June 1848 he scored 41 for Gentlemen of Kent v Cambridge University at Canterbury but in catching a ball thrown in from long leg by George Dickins (*qv*), he suffered a compound fracture of the right thumb which necessitated removal of the bone between the second and third joint. The removed section of bone was mounted in silver and used as a 'tobacco stopper' either by William South Norton (*qv*) or Whittaker himself (accounts vary). The injury put an end to Whittaker's serious cricket although he continued to play for Town Malling, at least until 1860. Playing against Cobham in 1858, he was again run out in both innings. From the 1840s he played intermittently for I Zingari as well as for Bearsted, Wateringbury and at Lord's in 1841 for Fast Bowlers v Slow.

Whittaker was one of the original Trustees of the Alfred Mynn Benevolent Institution and, as well as writing material for the Old Stagers, played the double bass in the orchestra. Highly rated as a shot, he was also a talented lightweight boxer. On his death from apoplexy his widow inherited £3,396. She later sold Barming Place and moved with her children together with some of the servants to Switzerland.

George Wigzell (No. 152).

Born: 6.5.1812, Sevenoaks. *Died:* 1875, West of Bonham, Fannin County, Texas, USA

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1852-1860.

Parents: John Wigzell & Dinah Wigzell (*née* Lee).

In the light of his success for Kent in 1859, it is odd that George Wigzell was not seen more often in 'important' matches. In addition to playing as a professional for Kent, he was in the Lancashire team in the first ever Roses Match, had other engagements in Lancashire, as well as in the Birmingham area

and at Cambridge and Oxford universities. Curiously, at no time does he appear as a professional cricketer in the Census Returns.

The son of a Sevenoaks brewer, in the 1841 Census George Wigzell is a wine merchant in Sevenoaks High Street, living with his wife Charlotte (née Luckhurst), whom he married in at St. Mary's Church, Newington, Southwark in 1838. There were eventually six sons and two daughters. He is probably the George Wigzell who, in 1847, applied for, but failed to obtain, the position of letter carrier in Sevenoaks. His first wife died in 1850 and in 1851 he is a brewer living in Halstead with four sons, one daughter and a housekeeper, Sarah Scott (1827-1906) whom he married later that year at the Parish Church of South Hinksey, Berkshire.

In 1861 he is living in Chipstead Lane, Riverhead, with his wife, four sons and two daughters. Of these, three sons and both daughters appear to be from his second marriage. There would be one more son and one more daughter, making the total from the two unions, ten sons and four daughters. He is now 'formerly a wine merchant'. In 1867 he emigrated to the USA.

In the early 1840s Wigzell clearly had some standing as a local cricketer. When Sevenoaks (with seven given men) played Tunbridge Wells (with six given men) at Tunbridge Wells in 1840, among the four local Sevenoaks players considered good enough to appear were G and J Wigzell, the latter possibly a brother. George is probably the Wigzell who in 1844 scored 28 for Wrotham Napps (and a ten miles scope) against Gravesend.

By 1849 he was a professional in Lancashire and played twice that year for Lancashire against Yorkshire, at Hyde Park, Sheffield in July (the inaugural Roses match), where he took six wickets, and at the Botanical Grounds, Manchester in August. Later that month, he took eleven wickets for Liverpool v Shropshire at Wavertree.

1852 found him back in the south where he made two appearances for Kent. Against England at Lord's he failed to take a wicket but, promoted to open in the second innings, he was top scorer with 35. In the return fixture in Canterbury Week there were mutterings when Felix, in good batting form, was left out of the side, apparently to accommodate Wigzell. The move was hardly justified by results - scores of eight not out, six and one wicket, albeit the important one of George Parr. Felix did not play for Kent again although he took the field for Gentlemen of Kent in the second half of the Week. In 1854 Wigzell was a professional at Oxford University and by 1857 he is engaged in the Birmingham area and playing for 22 of Birmingham v the UEE at Small Heath.

In 1859 Wigzell was back in Kent for a complete season with the newly formed Kent County Cricket Club, finishing leading wicket-taker. Against MCC at Mote Park he took four for 38 & four for 41, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, five for 51. His batting however seems to have deserted him, top score nine not out. With the new club struggling for players, Wigzell seemed assured of a regular place in the Eleven but in the event he played only two more games for his native County.

At the beginning of the 1860 season he appeared for Professionals Engaged at Cambridge against the University. For Kent v the Next Fifteen at Town Malling he bowled unchanged with Ned Willsher to dismiss the 15 for 37 (Wigzell seven for 17, Willsher seven for 20) and took three for 13 in the second innings but he did not play for 15 of Kent v England at Lord's in early June. On 14 and 15 June he was in the Kent side against MCC at Lord's but bowled only nine overs in which he took one for 10 and, batting No. 11 scored one. This apparently ended his cricketing career.

Nothing in the Kent records explains Wigzell's brief career with the County. The problem, if any, was probably finance or even possibly injury but, if so, the Kent CCC minutes do not support the supposition.

By 1869 George Wigzell was settled in Texas. According to one account, together with two of his sons, he made an earlier visit to the USA on a sort of reconnaissance. In Texas, Wigzell became, somewhat improbably, a schoolmaster. In Hollywood Westerns, Texas schools are usually run by nubile young ladies with a weakness for ageing cowboys but presumably Wigzell had – or appeared to have - some sort of qualification. One, rather doubtful, version of his time in Texas, has two of his elder sons joining the family when discharged from Royal Navy ships in US ports. Two of his sons, not necessarily the same sons, worked on the Texas-Pacific Railways.

Rev Edmund Henry Lacon Willes (No. 156).

Born: 7.7.1832, Dibden, Hythe, Southampton, Hampshire. *Died:* 9.9.1896, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast round-arm bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.
Kent 1852-1853.

Educated: Winchester College, Wadham & Queen's Colleges, Oxford.

Parents: Captain George Wickens Willes RN & Ann Elizabeth Willes (*née* Lacon).

A genuine fast bowler who bowled straight and used his height (six foot two, 188cm) and a useful batsman, usually in the lower order, Edmund Willes was in the Eleven at Winchester from 1848 to 1850 and in the latter year took four wickets (all bowled) at Lord's against Harrow and five against Eton, when he bowled unchanged with FG Barker throughout Eton's innings of 119.

In August that year he played his first 'important' match, for Fourteen of Hampshire v All-England on Daniel Day's ground, Southampton. On going up to Oxford in 1851, he took five wickets against MCC on the Magdalen College ground but was not picked against Cambridge. In August he scored 69 for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC in Canterbury Week.

Willes' qualification for Kent originated from a short period in which, while at Oxford, he lived in Lauriston Place Dover with his widowed mother. Both his appearances for Kent were against England, in Canterbury Week in 1852, and at Lord's in 1853 where he reached his top score (for Kent) of 17. He was not called on to bowl.

In his half dozen matches for Gentlemen of Kent he met with more success. At Lord's in 1852 v Gentlemen of England he was top scorer with 40 and, playing under the pseudonym 'Edmunds', top scored again in the return at Canterbury with 22 when Kent were dismissed for 90. Against I Zingari at Canterbury in 1855 (not classified as 'important') he claimed five wickets. In the 1855 Week Willes appeared for a combined Kent & Surrey team against England and for Gentlemen of Kent & Surrey v Gentlemen of England but contributed only three runs and one wicket.

Edmund Willes not only gained his Blue at Oxford in 1853 and 1854 but captained the side to victory against Cambridge by an innings in both years. Although never again reaching a half-century in an 'important' match, he four times reached 40 with a top score of 48 for MCC v Hampshire in 1866. In cricket below 'important' level Willes played frequently for MCC as well as for Gentlemen of England, Gentlemen of Hampshire, Gentlemen of Warwickshire, Cranbury Park, Crusaders, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire.

Willes played little cricket after 1866. Ordained at Oxford in 1856, he was Curate of King's Sutton, Oxfordshire (1857-1860), Assistant Master at Winchester (1860-1865), Rector of St. Swithin's, Winchester (1863-1865), vicar of Helston, Cornwall (1865-1866), vicar of Ashton Magna, Leicestershire (1866-1886) and vicar of Monk Sherborne, Hampshire from 1887 until his death. He was an Honorary Canon of Peterborough and a Fellow of Queen's College. At Monk Sherborne he was also a JP. In 1865 he married Helena Mitchell, a 'fundholder' at Ponypool, Monmouthshire. There were no children.

His cousin George Edward Willes played for Cambridge University in 1865 and 1866 without winning a Blue. Another cousin, Henry Charles Willes played for, among many other teams, Free Foresters and Gentlemen of Warwickshire. On his death, Edmund Willes' estate was valued for probate at £14,683 13s 10d.

John Willes (No. 10).

Born: 1778, Headcorn (christened 23.8.1778, Hollingbourne). *Died:* 5.8.1852, The Moat, Staunton, Worcestershire. (The Moat was in Worcestershire, Staunton itself in Gloucestershire).

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace, round-arm bowler.

Kent 1806-1822.

Parents: John Willes & Sarah Willes (*nêe* Snelling).

If not, as stated on his tombstone, the first to introduce round-arm bowling, John Willes played a pivotal role in its development. As well as bowling round arm himself, he employed one of its leading exponents, William Ashby (*qv*), in some capacity on his estate in Sutton Valence and, when Alfred Mynn moved to nearby Harrietsham, Willes did more than anyone to bring about the metamorphosis from raw and erratic village green slinger to one of the most formidable pace bowlers of his generation.

John Willes was a landowner with extensive estates in Kent and Sussex – Lancing College is built on what was part of his property. For much of his life he lived in Sutton Valence where he had considerable influence on local cricket. An allround sportsman, he was acknowledged as one of the finest shots in Kent, a highly-skilled and famously fearless horseman and a boxer with a considerable local reputation but cricket played a large part in his life. Unfortunately, scores of most of his matches have not survived.

There are conflicting accounts as to how he came to take up round-arm bowling. He liked to practice in the winter with his family and his dog as the fielders and one account has him having trouble playing the bowling of his two sisters who, encumbered by the voluminous outfits of the day, were obliged to raise their arms above the hip. Another account has his mother throwing the ball to him. Either or both versions could be true but round-arm is a natural progression from under-arm. Anyone who has experimented with under-arm for any length of time in social matches, in the nets or in the garden, is likely to have very soon experienced the tendency to raise the arm in order to gain greater pace, bounce or turn.

By 1806 Willes was sufficiently well-known to be chosen for the first ever Gentlemen v Players match on 7 July at the old Lord's Dorset Square ground as well as in the return match at the same venue. The latter was a curious affair, started on 21 July and resumed four days later. The Gentlemen won both matches but if Willes bowled round arm, history does not mention it. Possibly not; Lord Frederick Beauclerk, one of the most influential among the opponents of round-arm and a bad man to cross, was one of the Gentlemen. On the other hand, it was said of Lord Frederick that he tended not to object to the new method when he was on the same side and only denounced it when it was used against him.

In the published scores at this time bowlers are of course only credited when they hit the stumps. In the two matches, eight of the Players were bowled, Willes credited with three of them. In August 1806, Willes scored 0 and two for Kent against England at Bowman's Lodge on Dartford Heath, the first time the two sides had met since 1800. Kent won by 127 runs but, if Willes bowled, he did not hit the stumps. The Kent team included Beauclerk, William Beldham, John Hammond and William Lambert as given men and these four scored 76% of the runs and had a hand in at least 55% of the wickets.

In the following year two matches were played, the first at Lord's with a return on Penenden Heath – Twenty-Three v Thirteen of England. Willes played in both and in the second, described in the press as 'the greatest match played in Kent for upwards of 20 years', we have the first clear reference to his method of bowling. The *Sporting Magazine* reported 'In this match the straight-armed bowling introduced by John Willes Esq. was generally practised, and fully proved an obstacle to getting runs, in comparison to what might have been got by the straightforward bowling.' Judging by the England scores, this seems to have applied as much to the first match as to the second – at Lord's where Kent won by twelve runs, 65 & 70, at Penenden Heath where the margin in Kent's favour was 70 runs, 75 & 87.

Willes seems to have played no more top level cricket until 1815, a month after the Battle of Waterloo, when Kent lost an eleven-a-side match to England on Wrotham Napps. Willes and Ashby each took at least three wickets and it is likely that both were bowling round-arm but by now and for the rest of the decade there was steadily growing opposition from the traditionalists. Willes and his followers frequently found themselves barred from matches and were largely restricted to local cricket. A match on Penenden Heath was played to the accompaniment of hostile reaction from a noisy crowd, among whom the old Kent cricketer John Crawte was one of the noisiest. The match was eventually abandoned when the crowd invaded the pitch and uprooted the stumps.

A new Law 10, passed in 1816, largely at the instigation of Beauclerk and the leading amateur batsman of the day, William Ward, attempted to outlaw round-arm but it was clumsily worded, umpires found it confusing and bowlers continued much as before. In 1822, Willes decided to grasp the nettle and raised a Kent team at his own expense to play MCC at Lord's. The MCC, including both Beauclerk and Ward, batted first and Ashby, who did not bowl with the back of his hand uppermost and consequently did not, at least in part, contravene the new law, bowled the first over without incident. On Willes commencing to bowl the second, he was no-balled. Accounts differ as to which umpire did the no-balling, Harry Bentley or Noah Mann, but he was acting, it was rumoured, on the instructions of Beauclerk.

For the quick-tempered Willes this was the end. Throwing the ball down, he walked off the field – 'in high dudgeon' according to *Bell's Life* – mounted his horse and rode out of Lord's leaving his team to carry on without him. They did so, with a vengeance. Drafting in a substitute who batted (almost certainly Thomas Battersbee) they thrashed the powerful MCC side by an innings and four runs, skittling them for 48 in their second innings.

In his *History of Cricket* Harry Altham writes that Willes 'rode away out of Lord's and out of history' which reads well but is not quite true. He seems to have played some local cricket and certainly devoted himself to the development of cricket in the area, which flourished with teams such as Harrietsham, Leeds and Sutton Valence. It was his custom to leave bottles of whisky, brandy etc. outside his hall door together with glasses and a bucket of water for the Sutton Valence players when they were returning late from an away match. The team, in turn would thank him by singing his favourite hunting songs. And of course, he was the first to spot, and then develop, the potential of the great Mynn. He was present in 1846 when Mynn played his famous single-wicket match against Felix at Lord's in 1846.

Although Willes gave up the struggle over the issue of round arm, the baton passed to George Thomas Knight (*qv*) and by 1835, round arm was legal. With time on his hands, Willes spent more time shooting and hunting, for which he bred his own pack of hounds.

There is no record of his having ever married, although he reputedly very nearly eloped with a young lady from Harrietsham. Arriving outside her house driving his own coach and four, the lady was waiting and the pair drove off together but when the lady's father jumped on his horse, pursued and

seemed about to overtake them there was a change of heart. Willes stopped the coach, the lady alighted and her lover drove off at speed to avoid the inevitable parental wrath.

For reasons as yet unexplained, Willes fell on hard times in later life and was described in *Scores & Biographies* as being in 'fearfully reduced circumstances'. In the 1851 Census he is still shown as a farmer but no longer in Kent. He is at the Moat, Staunton and the only other occupants of the house are a 72 year-old visitor named Ann Castle and 30 year-old dairy maid named Esther. Her surname is indecipherable but it does not look like Willes. She is nevertheless shown as Willes' daughter. There was also a son.

On his death from typhoid, his body was returned to Sutton Valence and buried in an unmarked grave but a party of his old friends rallied round and subscribed to an ornate tombstone surmounted by a stag's head. The inscription describes him as 'a patron of all manly sports and the first to introduce round-armed bowling to cricket. This memorial is erected by a few friends, who remember him as a genuine sportsman, a staunch friend, a kindly neighbour and a genial companion'.

William Willes (No. 20).

Christened: 20.1.1777, Maidstone. *Died:* 1.10.1832, Sutton Valence. Kent 1815.

Parents: John Willes & Sarah Willes (*nêe* Snelling).

Whether William Willes, elder brother of the famous John Willes (*qv*), truly belongs among those who have played first-class or 'important' cricket for Kent is open to question. According to the 1907 Kent History he played three matches, two in 1807 and one in 1815. From published scores, the matches concerned can only be, in 1807, Thirteen of England v Twenty-Three of Kent at Lord's commencing 6 July and the return on Penenden Heath commencing 27 July, and in 1815, Kent v England commencing 17 July on Wrotham Napps. The latter, an eleven-a-side game, is now classified as 'important' i.e. first-class.

Two players named Willes participated in all three of these encounters. John Willes was one; the doubts arise about the identity of the other (or others). In the two 1807 matches the 'other' Willes' scored four batting No. 20 at Lord's and 15 and six batting No. 10 on Penenden Heath. In *Scores & Biographies, Vol 1, pages 339-441* he is 'G Willes Esq.' and in *Kent Cricket Matches 1719-1874* compiled by Lord Harris and FS Ashley-Cooper he is 'Mr G Willes'. Other sources, including Bentley, suggest 'Y Wills' at Lord's and 'G Wills' on Penenden Heath.

In the 1815 Wrotham Heath match the 'other' Willes bats No. 11 and scores one and 0. In *Scores & Biographies* he is '- Willes', in *Kent Cricket Matches* 'Mr G Willes'.

As far as can be gleaned from the fragmentary records of the period, there was no 'G Willes in John Willes' extended family nor does the name occur in local cricket. Y Willes might be Young Willes, another brother of John Willes, (born *circa* 1792) but he died prior to 1815 and could not have played in the Wrotham match.

The true identity of the 'other Willes' will probably never be known but the main concern here is the first-class or 'important' match at Wrotham and with the 1907 Kent History (pages 361 & 429) to back him, William Willes seems much the most likely candidate. In the averages on page 429 of the History Willes' record appears as 25 runs (avge.8.33) in 1807 with a top score of 15, and one run (avge. 0.50) in 1815, top score one. This agrees with the scores attributed to the 'other' Willes in all published sources. It seems therefore that it is at least highly probable that William Willes played, not only at Wrotham in 1815, but in the two 1807 games at Lord's and Penenden Heath.

He could possibly be the William Willes who married Emily Howard at East Lavant, Sussex in 1823. For some years he lived in Lancing.

Alfred Edward Augustus Williams (No. 239).

Born: 20.11.1844, Ashford. *Dead.*

Left-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1865.

Parents: John Alexander Williams & Catherine Williams (*née* Small).

Alfred Edward August Williams was the son of a wine merchant, who, at the time of the 1861 Census, was living in High Street Ashford with his wife three other sons and two daughters. In May 1863 Alfred Williams played for Professional Colts of Kent (under 25) v Gentlemen Colts of Kent (under 25) at Mote Park and later that month his innings of 31 was top score for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts at The Oval. In 1864 he appeared in two more colts matches, Colts South of the Medway v Colts North of the Medway at Town Malling and Kent Colts v Gentlemen of Dartford & District, venue unknown. At the end of May in the following year he played one more Colts match, against Gentlemen of Kent at Gravesend.

Apart from his 31 at The Oval in 1863 and 20 against Gentlemen of Dartford & District in 1864, Williams had done nothing of note in any of these matches but nevertheless in July 1865 he made his county debut, v Sussex at Gravesend where he scored 13* and claimed three useful wickets for nine runs, James Lillywhite junior, George Wells and Henry Hyndman, the latter better known as one of the pioneers of Socialism. In his two remaining matches, v Yorkshire at Gravesend and the return at Sheffield, he failed to take a wicket and his scores were eight not out, five (as an opener) and 0.

This was his last appearance for Kent but in 1867 AE Williams Esq. opened the batting in two matches for Gentlemen of Kent, v Gravesend at the Bat & Ball and v the Gentlemen of Middlesex at the Cattle Market Ground, Islington. It is of course possible that this was the same Williams but, given the mores of the period, a move from professional to 'Gentlemen' within two years would be unusual to say the least. In the same year, AE Williams, without the 'Esq.', took three wickets in each innings for Twenty of Ashford v the United South of England Eleven.

In Williams' brief biography in *Scores & Biographies Vol. IX, page 181*, he is described as having 'long resided in his native place, where he was a wine merchant, but having left it in or about 1870, his address could not be found or a circular of information procured from himself.' The particulars were provided by 'a friend'.

In the 1871 Census Alfred Williams is still living with his father in Ashford; the father is a widower and 'retired wine merchant,' Alfred is a 'wine merchant (out of employ)' which probably explains his leaving the district. In the 1881 Census an Ashford-born Alfred Williams is Assistant Head Teacher at AE Biggs School and living in Redland Road, Westbury-on-Trym. If this is Alfred Edward, which is possible but a bit unlikely, there is no trace of him thereafter and emigration is the most likely explanation.

Rev Charles Francis Willis (No. 149).

Born: 15.4.1827, Hawkhurst. *Died:* 19.11.1895, Bassingham, Lincolnshire.

Kent 1850

Educated: Tonbridge School & Brasenose & Corpus Christi Colleges, Oxford.

Parents: Charles Willis & Mary Willis.

During his time at Oxford, Charles Willis had an impressive record as a bowler but such contemporary accounts as exist give no clue as to whether he bowled, fast, medium-pace or slow, right-arm or left-arm and, surprisingly for a player who appeared three times against Cambridge, twice at Lord's, there is no biography in *Scores & Biographies*. The ACS *Who's Who of Cricketers* merely describes him as a 'lower-order batsman and useful bowler' but with 24 wickets in three University matches he was surely rather more than that. *Cricket Archive* provides no clue, nor does the 1907 Kent History. Perhaps most surprising of all, he does not get a mention in James Pycroft's *Oxford Memories* which deals at length with Oxford cricket of the period. That he played for the University at all is in itself remarkable as at the time Oxford cricket was largely the preserve of Etonians, Harrovians and Wykehamists.

Charles Willis was at Brasenose College when he matriculated in 1844 but it was not until 1847 that his name appears in the Eleven, by which time he was residing at Corpus Christi. In the 1847 Trial match, playing for the University against Oxford University Second Eleven (with five Players) he suffered a pair (bowled each time by 'Topper' Hillyer) but took a wicket and went on to a highly successful first season with the ball. Admittedly at the time cricket at Oxford was a pretty haphazard business and the team played for the most part against relatively modest opposition – Cowley, Eton College, Lansdowne & Clapton - but he claimed 35 wickets and another seven in his first 'important match', against MCC on the Magdalen College ground. At Lord's against Cambridge he took three wickets in each innings.

In the following year he took ten wickets against Cambridge on the Magdalen College ground, seven in the first innings, three in the second, and another ten against MCC at Lord's, eight in the first innings, two in the second. In 1849 his haul included four wickets in each innings against Cambridge at Lord's, six against MCC and ten against Eton. Without taking a wicket, he also appeared that year for 16 of Oxfordshire v Kent, on the Prince of Wales Field, Oxford and in July for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England at Lord's.

In 1850 he played for Old Oxonians v Oxford University but was back in the University Eleven in the following fixture when he took eight wickets against Cowley. He did not however play against Cambridge or the MCC.

As well as playing his one match for Kent, against the AEE at Cranbrook, he appeared twice for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England, at Lord's where he did not bowl, and in Canterbury Week where his six wickets, proved to be his only wickets when playing in Kentish colours.

Willis remained in residence at Corpus Christi until 1853 and was a Fellow of the College from 1853 to 1857 but his last cricket of consequence seems to have been in 1851 when he took four wickets for 16 of Oxfordshire v the AEE on the Christ Church Ground. They were four notable wickets – Tom Box, William Caffyn, Fuller Pilch and Felix.

In 1847 Charles Willis married Rose Anne Cleather (1836-1909) in Hungerford, Berkshire. There were four daughters and two sons. He was ordained in 1853, Rector of Letcombe Bassett, Berkshire 1856 to 1876, of Church Brampton, Northamptonshire 1876 to 1879 and of Bassingham, Lincolnshire from 1879 until his death in 1895. His effects were valued at £2,909 16s.

Thomas Wentworth Spencer Wills (No. 173).

Born: 19.8.1835, Molonglo, New South Wales, Australia. *Died:* 2.5.1880, Heidleberg, Victoria, Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm slow underarm/ fast round-arm bowler.
Kent 1855-1856.

Educated: William Brickwood School, Melbourne & Rugby School.

Parents: Horatio Wills & Elizabeth Wills (*nêe* Wyre).

Tom Wills' career with Kent was brief and relatively uneventful but he was a major figure in the formative years of Australian sport. Writing in *The Australasian* the Test batsman/sporting journalist Tom Horan described Wills as 'the WG Grace of Australia'. He was not perhaps quite that but, although the personification of a flawed genius, he was undoubtedly a considerable allround cricketer, the first Australian - born player of significance and one who did more than most to raise playing standards in the country. At least as important, he was the prime mover in the introduction of Australian Rules Football.

Contrary to what might be inferred from some Australian accounts of Wills' life, there is little evidence that during his time in England (1850-1856) he was considered much more than a highly talented young cricketer - William Clarke reputedly invited him to join his itinerant All England Eleven. Aged 15 when he arrived at Rugby, his academic record was distinctly moderate but he excelled on the sports field. Captaining the School at both cricket and football, he was an athletic, versatile fielder with a powerful throw but, like most Australians at the time, he bowled under arm. Under the guidance of the Rugby coach, John Lillywhite, he learned quickly and developed into a dangerous fastish round-arm bowler who varied his pace and still on occasions reverted to slow under-arm lobs.

As a batsman, at a time when style was valued above all else, he was unorthodox. Using a three pound (1.36 kg.) bat – some accounts say four pound - according to *Scores & Biographies* he 'scarcely moves his bat unless the ball is pitched up, when he hits hard'.

The fact that throughout his career doubts were expressed about Wills' round-arm action is in a sense surprising, given that his coach at Rugby was John Lillywhite who is best remembered for having no-balled Ned Willsher (*q.v.*) at The Oval in 1862. He was still playing when it became legal to raise the arm above the shoulder but the most frequent accusation in Wills case seems to have been that on occasions he threw.

Wills played his first game for Rugby in 1852, taking ten wickets in the first ever-match with Westminster School and twelve against MCC on his first appearance at Lord's. In 1854 he scored 22 and 29 when Twenty-Two of Rugby Club & School beat the United England Eleven but curiously he was not called on to bowl. In fact, he did not bowl in more than half of his 'important' matches in England – possibly an indication that not all captains were happy with his action.

During school holidays he lived with a wealthy aunt and uncle in Bayswater and it is not clear how, or even if, he was qualified for Kent but later that year he took five wickets in the first innings for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of England in Canterbury Week, his first 'important' match.

In 1855, almost 20 and in his last year at school, Wills took eleven wickets when Rugby won at Lord's in the inaugural match with Marlborough. Qualified or not, he also played county cricket for Kent twice, against Sussex at Gravesend, where he took two wickets, and in the return at Hove where, one of nine bowlers used, he delivered only five overs. For Gentlemen of Kent & Surrey v Gentlemen of England he took one for 14 & five for 23 at Lord's and two for 23 & two for 62 in the return in Canterbury Week when he opened the bowling with Alfred Mynn.

In two matches not rated 'important', for Gentlemen of Kent against Gentlemen of Sussex, Wills claimed nine wickets in an innings at Gravesend and at Hove scored 32, his personal best in Kent colours. In one of a number of appearances for MCC, he scored 42 & 35 v Surrey at The Oval, his best in England.

Before sailing for Australia in October 1856, Wills enjoyed one more English season. In June he became a rather unlikely Cambridge Blue. He was never in residence or enrolled at any college but he played for MCC against the University and almost certainly practiced with the Cambridge team. He is also reputed to have played one match for Magdalene College and a week before the Varsity match he was somehow included among 16 Undergraduates of Cambridge & Old Cambridge Men who played against the United England Eleven at Lord's. On the day of the University Match Cambridge, already without Alfred Du Cane, one of their best bowlers, and Edward Horne, were apparently one short and Wills was allowed to play. In the event, his contribution was modest - five and one for 12 in nine overs. Rather oddly, on the day before the University Match, Wills, together with Joseph Marshall and John Fuller of the Cambridge team, played for 'A Scratch Eleven' against Harrow School.

In his third and last match for Kent, v MCC at Lord's, he did not bowl nor was he called on when, one of only two amateurs in the team, a combined Kent & Sussex Eleven lost by four runs to a strong England side at Lord's. For Gentlemen of Kent & Sussex v Gentlemen of England at Lord's he produced statistically his best bowling figures, six for 82 in the first innings and scored 24 and took four wickets in the return in Canterbury Week. At the end of the season Wills toured Ireland with MCC and in his last match in Europe his 25 was top score for United Ireland v Cork.

Tom Wills' background was, by any standards, colourful. His paternal grandfather, Edward Wills, born in Islington in 1778 was convicted at Kingston-on-Thames Assizes in March 1797 of having, with two accomplices, used arms to rob one John Martin of his watch, half a guinea, a sixpence and eighteen halfpennies. All three were sentenced to death but, following a petition signed by, among others, the victim, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

In December 1798 the three sailed for Botany Bay in the transport *Hillsborough*, Wills accompanied by his wife, Sarah and infant daughter. *Hillsborough* became known as 'The Death Ship'. Of the 300 convicts on board only 205 were alive when the ship docked and, of these, six died shortly afterwards. Nevertheless Mr and Mrs Wills prospered and in 1810 he was granted a full pardon. By the time of his early death in the following year they were respected members of the Sydney business community.

At the time of her husband's death, Sarah Wills was pregnant with her sixth child, Horatio Wills, Tom's father. In the following year she married George Howe, owner, printer and editor of Australia's first newspaper *The Sydney Gazette* and when Horatio reached the age of 15 he was apprenticed to the business where he eventually became editor. Before he was 21, Horatio Wills had established his own newspaper *The Currency Lad* which he used to promote his own nationalist - and republican - agenda.

In 1834 Horatio Wills abandoned the newspaper world and with his wife Elizabeth embarked on the long journey to Victoria to set up a sheep and cattle station on the Molonglo River where his son Thomas Wentworth Wills was born. This proved an unhealthy spot and in 1842 the family settled at Lexington, some 140 miles north-west of Melbourne where the youthful Tom first came to know the local Aboriginal people. While at Lexington, Horatio Wills sent his son, first to the William Brickwood School in Melbourne, where he played his early cricket, and subsequently to England, to Rugby.

By the time Tom Wills landed back in Australia in December 1856 the family was living near Geelong and his father was a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. Although ostensibly studying law with a firm of Melbourne solicitors, for the next few years cricket became the main pre-occupation. At some time or other he played for, and in many cases captained, most of the clubs in and around Melbourne including the prestigious Melbourne Cricket club where he had a brief, often acrimonious, spell as Honorary Secretary.

For Victoria in his first 'Intercolonial' match against New South Wales at Sydney in 1857 he took six for 25 & four for 40 and at the MCG in the following year led the team to their first victory over their great rivals. His personal contribution was match figures of eight for 59 and an innings of 49*. This remained the highest in a first-class match in Australia until 1862 and the highest by an Australian batsman until Wills himself scored 58 against the same opponents in 1865. In twelve matches against New South Wales between 1857 and 1876 he scored 323 runs (avge.20.18) and claimed 72 wickets (avge.10.22), eight times five in an innings, twice ten in a match.

Despite the attraction of the impending visit of the first-ever English touring team, Tom Wills' forsook cricket in 1860 when he was summoned by his father to join him in his most adventurous venture yet, a journey to Cullin-la-Ringo in Central Queensland, 200 miles inland from the port of Rockhampton where the plan was to establish a station for cattle, horses and 10,000 sheep. In October 1861, before the party reached their destination, tragedy struck when Horatio Wills, together with 18 other settlers including women and small children, were murdered by local Aborigines. Fortunately for Tom Wills he was absent attending to a broken down wagon, one of only three survivors.

After a short spell of running the Cullin-la-Ringo station for the family had ended amid accusations of mismanagement, Wills returned to Melbourne in time for the 1863 Intercolonial in Sydney and was on hand to meet George Parr's English team in 1864. He captained Victoria against the visitors and, like several others, he followed the visitors around, even to New Zealand, appearing among the opposition 11 times, claiming 48 wickets, five times five in an innings, and with a top score of 32 for 22 of Ballarat.

Although after the Cullin-la-Ringo massacre, Wills had encouraged, even though not participating in, the subsequent bloody reprisals, during his time at Lexington he had gained knowledge of the language and culture and in 1866 he began coaching the Aboriginal team which later toured England.

When WG Grace's English team arrived in 1874 Wills played against them four times but took only four wickets and only once reached double figures. He captained Victoria in his last Intercolonial match in 1876 but he was by then past his best and failed to take a wicket against a New South Wales opposition including Fred Spofforth and Billy Murdoch.

Circa 1864 Tom Wills 'married' Sarah Teresa Barbor who was in fact already married. For the full story of Wills' turbulent domestic and business life, his career as a footballer and of his decline into alcoholism, hallucinations and general mental degeneration readers should consult Greg de More's biography. In 1880 Wills was admitted to Melbourne Hospital under restraint but escaped and stabbed himself to the heart with a pair of scissors.

Further reading:

De More, Greg. *Tom Wills. His spectacular rise and tragic fall*. Allen & Unwin, Sydney. 2008.

Flanagan, Martin. *The Call. (a biographical novel)*. Allen & Unwin (Australia), 1998.

- *adapted as a play* by Bruce Miles. Currency Press (Australia) 2004.

Perrin, Les. *Cullin-la-Ringo: the triumph and tragedy of Tommy Wills*. The author. 1998.

Edgar Willsher (No. 148).

Born: 22. 11.1828, Rolvenden. *Died:* 7. 10.1885, Lewisham.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1850-1875.

Parents: John Willsher & Charlotte Willsher (*née* Winser).

The 1907 Kent History names Ned Willsher as 'one of the finest cricketers Kent ever produced'. In his autobiography *Seventy One Not Out* (William Blackwood, 1899) William Caffyn writes 'Of Edgar

Willsher as a cricketer it is almost impossible to speak too highly.’ – of his bowling ‘I should put him down as *the* most difficult I have ever met’. To Richard Daft in *Kings of Cricket* (JW Arrowsmith, 1893) Willsher was ‘the best left-handed bowler we ever had’ – ‘I never played against a more difficult bowler’. Both were well qualified to pass an opinion. Caffyn lost his wicket to Willsher on 21 occasions in first-class cricket, Daft 11.

Like Alfred Mynn, Willsher walked up to the wicket with ‘a quick-march sort of step’ so it seems fair to assume that, while he would have been dangerous on the primitive pitches of the day, he was hardly fast by modern standards. Views differed, even among his contemporaries. Daft thought his pace ‘tremendous’. To Caffyn he was ‘as sheer pace goes’ not so fast as ‘Foghorn’ Jackson or ‘Tear ‘em’ Tarrant but more difficult to play than either. His round-arm action, which caused controversy, produced unexpected bounce – the ball ‘rose like lightning’ according to Daft. His stock ball moved from leg to off.

Whether he bowled round or over the wicket is not clear from contemporary accounts, but most right-arm bowlers of the era bowled round the wicket and it is possible that the left-arm Willsher did likewise although over the wicket seems more likely. There is no contemporary reference to a ball that goes with the arm but 53% of his wickets were bowled.

Probably his greatest merit was accuracy. Daft thought that among fast bowlers, only Nottinghamshire’s Fred Morley excelled him in this respect. For South v North at Canterbury in 1871 Willsher commenced with 16 successive maiden overs. Ten years earlier in an odds match for the AEE against Broughton he bowled 100 balls for one run. For the USEE against a strong 15 of Southgate in 1867 he had a spell of 27 overs for two runs and one wicket.

Whether fast, fast-medium or slower, Willsher took a lot of wickets. He never played more than 17 first-class matches in a season but he took over 1,000 wickets, the sixth to do so and not until 1900 did anyone (Alec Hearne) exceed his 786 wickets in Kent matches alone. He took one hundred first-class wickets in 1868 and from 1856 to 1871 his seasonal haul only twice fell below 50 at costs varying from 80 at 9.32 apiece in 1860 to 80 at 16.73 in 1863. For the AEE, UAEE and USEE in matches against odds he took at least 2,143 wickets. To quote Daft again, writing in *Cricket*, ‘Willsher was a bowler one was always glad to see taken off’.

Willsher is, somewhat unfairly, perhaps best remembered for his pivotal role in the lifting of restrictions on the height of the arm in the bowling action. According to Caffyn, ‘nine out of ten’ bowlers infringed and he seems to have been in the majority, at least among professionals, in thinking the existing law ‘an absurd one.’ The MCC committee was, however, unwilling to change.

Arguments had rumbled on for years, matters coming to a head in the England v Surrey match at The Oval in 1862 when, after a warning, umpire John Lillywhite, who had himself been no-balled in the past for raising his arm above the shoulder, no-balled Willsher six times in succession. After the sixth call, Willsher left the field, accompanied by the other eight professionals. Play was suspended and resumed next day with a different umpire.

The subject, quite a complex one, is dealt with at length by Willsher’s biographer Giles Phillips. Although Willsher was considered by some the most blatant offender, hence ‘*Willsher’s hand is very high*’ in the Prowse poem – or perhaps just the most dangerous – there were some, Daft for one, who saw no infringement., while *Scores & Biographies Vol. IV p.377* considered his delivery ‘perfectly fair in every respect.’ As far as can be learned from contemporary accounts, in his delivery Willsher raised his arm high but brought it down to shoulder level as the ball left his hand; difficult to detect when adjudication was entrusted to the umpire at the bowler’s end.

Lilywhite and Willsher were and remained, close friends and, given that there was, except in the eyes of the MCC committee, a widely perceived need for change, it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that there was a strong element of stage management about the whole affair. At any event, things moved quickly. By 1864 a bowler was free to raise his arm as high as he wished.

In his autobiography Lord Harris takes the view that Willsher was never the same bowler afterwards. It is not easy to see why this should be so and, making due allowance for advancing years, better wickets and improved batting techniques, there is no supporting evidence. From 1850 to 1863, Willsher took 665 first-class wickets at 11.42 each; from 1864 to 1875, 664 at 13.40.

At mid-19th-century values, a career batting average of 12.41 is just about enough for Willsher to rank as an allrounder. In 17 seasons he averaged double figures and in 1863 fell short of a 500-run aggregate by only six. As well as 12 half-centuries, there were 25 scores between 30 and 49.

An adaptable batsman, he occupied every position in the order, as far as contemporary published batting orders can be trusted, most frequently batting No. 3 (16% of his innings), opening (15%) and No. 10 (14%). Four of his half-centuries were as an opener, three at No. 9, two, including his highest, at five and one each at three, six and seven. He took part in century partnerships for the first, sixth, seventh and eighth wickets as well as one of 93 for the tenth. Although a quick scorer at times, he seems to have had something of a reputation as what was at the time known as a 'stonewaller'. For Kent & Surrey v England at Canterbury in 1855 he batted almost four hours for 20, without scoring a run for the last 45 minutes.

Five feet eleven (1.8 m.) and relatively lightly built – 10 stone eight pounds (67.13 k.g.) according to *Scores & Biographies*, Daft thought Willsher 'cadaverous in appearance'. Lord Harris preferred 'attenuated and consumptive – looking'. No doubt, but, given the overs he bowled, the number of times he bowled unchanged through a complete match and his comparative freedom from injury during a long career, he does not seem to have been lacking stamina.

Scores & Biographies thought Willsher 'one of the most amiable, as well as one of the staunchest cricketers' but Lord Harris, who played fewer than 20 games with him, seems to have had reservations. He did not think Willsher 'had much idea of the science of the game' and, 'beyond his own bowling', took much interest in it'. A curious judgement from a young man who was at the time still a fledgling in terms of top-level cricket. In contrast, Willsher, with well over 3,000 wickets to his credit, had far the greater captaincy experience, having led strong 'England' sides both on tour and at home, the Players against the Gentlemen, South against North and for close on a decade had skippered the USEE. He had, furthermore, played for the 'Great Old Kent Eleven' under Ned Wenman. Harris mellowed in later life, but at this stage, whatever the difference socially, as far as 'the science of the game' goes, they could hardly have conversed as equals.

According to Harris, Willsher had 'a curious far-away look in his eyes' and 'used to look up at the sky as one talked to him'. Possibly Willsher's generation, accustomed to professional captains, was less deferential than the later Victorians and his attitude may have been interpreted as what the Army used to call dumb insolence. Wrongly it seems; in *Cricket* George McCanlis (*qv*), a run-of-the-mill Kent professional, confirms the sky gazing.

From farming stock, Edgar Willsher was the youngest of 14 children, nine boys, five of whom died before Edgar was born, and five girls. At the time of his youngest son's birth, John Willsher was a tenant farmer in Rolvenden and he is still farming there but at a different farm, in the 1841 Census. At the time of his death, three years later, he is landlord of *The Chequers*, Goudhurst, where their customers included the local cricket team. He left 'under £50'. The family then moved to Maidstone, and in the 1851 Census they are living at Madginford near Mote Park.' Mother Charlotte is head of

the household, brother William a farm bailiff and Edgar is an 'assistant on the farm' but cricket had already entered his life.

Not unexpectedly, Willsher seems to have learnt the rudiments of the game from his brothers, particularly from William (born 1814) and George (born 1824) both of whom were distinguished club cricketers; William played one match for the County. Young Edgar no doubt played while still at Rolvenden and according to Arthur Haygarth, when the family moved to Goudhurst, he played in a 'boy team' against other village boy teams. With his mother serving 'ordinaries' to the Goudhurst village team on match days, he may well have learned from them too.

He first comes to notice of the local press in 1847 taking at least seven wickets for Bearsted v Aylesford on Bearsted Green, playing alongside brother William (*qv*) who was top scorer with 42. Over the next two years further success in village cricket rounded off with a decisive victory in a well-publicized late-season single-wicket encounter between Two of Bearsted v Two of Aylesford helped to make his name known beyond village cricket circles. That Bearsted was Alfred Mynn's home club probably helped. The upshot was a call to play for the County against Surrey at The Oval in July 1850.

Under the leadership of Fuller Pilch and in company with other heroes of his boyhood including Mynn, Adams, Hillyer and Hinkly, the young man came on as seventh change and took four good wickets – George Brockwell, who had scored 50, William Martingell (*qv*), Tom Sherman, who had inflicted a pair on Willsher's brother William on his Kent debut three years earlier, and Tom Lockyer – all bowled. Batting No. 10 he was 0* as Kent collapsed for 52 and, opening the batting in the second innings, he scored eight. At the time it was not uncommon for the not out batsman in the first innings to be deputed to open in the second.

A fairly satisfactory start notwithstanding, Willsher was back to club cricket until July the following year when he was called in at Cranbrook against an England Eleven led by William Clarke (AEE in all but name). Captained by Ned Wenman, the Kent team contained all the, albeit ageing, giants of the great days including Mynn, Felix and the Pilchs as well as William de Chair Baker (*qv*) as the only amateur; the opposition included George Parr, Caffyn, Joe Guy and John Wisden. Not apparently over-awed by such illustrious company, Willsher responded with a useful performance, one for 22 and three for 48 including the wickets of Wisden and the Yorkshire 'model of manliness' George Anderson.

He was not picked for the next county match but was back in the side for the most important match of the Kentish season, against England in Canterbury Week. When Kent were dismissed for 105 (Grundy eight wickets); only Adams (36) and Willsher (24) passed 20. When England batted, Willsher's six victims for 37 were the cream of the opposition, Guy, Tom Box, Parr, Caffyn, Grundy and Wisden. His career was launched.

For the next 22 seasons Willsher would be an automatic choice for Kent whenever available. Not that Kent played that often. In his first ten years he took part in a total of only 30 Kent matches and in his entire career never more than nine in a season. As the Mynn/Pilch generation departed, for much of the time Willsher was the only top class professional in the County. Brief fixture list notwithstanding, between 1860 and 1874 his season's haul of wickets for the County only twice fell below 30. In 11 of his 26 seasons he was Kent's leading wicket-taker, his best seasons 1868 - 78 wickets (avge.9.19), 1861, 51 wickets (avge.8.68) and 1870 56 (avge. 9.83).

During the difficult period between the formation of the present Kent CCC in 1859 and the amalgamation with the Beverley in 1870, Willsher and Bennett plus the amateur Bob Lipscomb (*qv*) when available, virtually carried the Kent attack. accounting for 76% of the wickets (run outs

excluded): Willsher alone claimed a little over 37%. 11 times he took seven wickets in an innings in Kent matches, three times eight with a best of eight for 27 v England at Canterbury in 1861.

In Kent matches, Willsher bowled unchanged through a complete match three times, twice with Bennett, once with Fred Hollands. At Bramall Lane in 1865, after Kent had totalled 159, Yorkshire collapsed for 59 (Willsher six for 19, Bennett four for 39) and 30 (Willsher six for 9, Bennett three for 19). Willsher 37 (run out) was top scorer in the match. 25 times he bowled through a complete innings, 12 with Bennett, six with Lipscomb, once each with rather less familiar names - George Coles, William Draper, Walter George, William Marten and George Wigzell (qv).

Most of Willsher's half-centuries for Kent, three against Surrey, three against Sussex, one against MCC, were in low-scoring matches and in all but one he played the highest innings of the match. At Hove in 1863, the score was 29 for three when he came in. He was still there with 59* (top score) when the last wicket fell at 156. In the return at Sandgate, he top scored again with 89 (his personal best) in a total of 169. Against Surrey at The Oval in 1865 he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 97 with George Kelson (Willsher 58, Kelson 73) and against Yorkshire at Gravesend in the same year added 113 for the sixth wicket with Medhurst Troughton (Willsher 47, Troughton 87). Against Surrey at Crystal Palace in 1869, he arrived at 87 for seven and shepherded the tail to a total of 204, adding 93 for the last wicket (Willsher 70, Henty 37*), to which he added match figures of ten for 105.

Although Willsher played before the advent of Test cricket, in deference to the modern fashion of evaluating cricketers solely by their performance in international cricket, it might perhaps be worth considering his record in 'representative' matches. His first was at The Oval in 1853 when he was chosen for South v North. In what was once a lucrative fixture when the teams were right, he claimed 162 wickets (avge.12.48) in 34 matches. In contrast, he found run-getting difficult with a single figure batting average and a top score of 20.

Willsher played 15 games for teams playing under the name England. The 'England' sides were not always truly representative but the opposition was usually fairly strong and he finished with 66 wickets (avge. 13.54). Beginning well in 1854 by scoring 41 against Sussex at Brighton and taking five for 24 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, he had match figures of ten for 76 when MCC were beaten by 209 runs at Lord's in 1856. Against Surrey at The Oval that year he took six for 49 and scored 54 in a first-wicket partnership of 124 with Jemmy Grundy (95) and in the same fixture in 1866 produced match figures of nine for 43. Captaining England (including WG and G.F.Grace) against a strong MCC side at Lord's in 1868 he suffered a pair but, operating unchanged with Frank Silcock, bowled his side to a 92 run victory (Willsher seven for 57 & five for 46, Silcock three for 47 & four for 28).

In 23 matches against England his record is 117 wickets (avge. 12.67), eight times five in an innings, four times ten or more in a match. Of these wickets, 90 were taken for Kent. He was often at his best for Kent against England. Perhaps never more so than in 1860 and 1861 when Kent won all four encounters, twice by an innings. Admittedly Kent had the advantage of 15 men at Lord's, 16 in the first Canterbury match, 14 in the second, but this cannot detract from Willsher's bowling - in 1860, five for 33 & four for 22 at Lord's, eight for 16 & three for 14 at Canterbury, in 1861 four for 20 & one for 29 at Lord's, eight for 27 & four for 52 at Canterbury.

Five times in these four matches Willsher bowled through a complete innings, twice, with George Bennett, through a complete match. In all four matches England were at or near full strength as shown by some of the batsmen Willsher accounted for - Caffyn (twice), Richard Carpenter (twice), Daft, George Griffith (twice), Grundy (five times), Haygarth, Tom Hayward (three times), Tom Hearne, Charles Lane (twice), Lockyer (three times), William Nicholson (three times), Parr (four times) and Vyell Walker.

At Lord's in 1856 Willsher made his debut in what was at the time the most prestigious fixture of them all, Players v Gentlemen. This was the first of 21 appearances, 11 at Lord's, nine at The Oval and one, the last, in 1873, at Prince's; his 75 wickets cost 15.37 apiece. On his debut, he bowled unchanged with Wisden through the first innings as the Gentlemen were dismissed for 50 (Willsher five for 20, Wisden four for 25). He went on to bowl unchanged through an innings in Players v Gentlemen matches at Lord's a further six times, twice through a complete match - with Jackson in 1861 (Jackson 11 for 99, Willsher six for 70) and Tarrant in 1864 (Tarrant 11 for 49, Willsher nine for 55). He scored 497 runs (avge.21.50) with two half-centuries, 73 at Lord's in 1860 (where he also took two for 22 & six for 29) and 77 (top score in the match) at The Oval in 1863 when he shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 133 with Lockyer (76*). His only hat trick was for Players of the South v Gentlemen of the South, at The Oval in 1868 - Isaac Walker, Henry Estridge and Frederick Miller, all bowled.

The touring Elevens, especially the All-England Eleven and the United All-England Eleven, came close to dominating cricket in the mid-19th century. Willsher's first contact was in 1852 when he took five for 53 for 18 of Gravesend against the UAEE. In the following year he twice had a hand in inflicting defeats on the UAEE with 12 wickets for 22 of Stowmarket and nine for 18 of Maidstone. Before the end of the season, he was playing the first of three games for them, against 22 of Stockton.

Willsher's reputation was growing and in the following year he was recruited into William Clarke's All-England Eleven. While still playing the odd game for their rivals and missing a few matches through other engagements, he managed to avoid quarrelling with Clarke and remained with the AEE for ten years. There was considerable rivalry between AEE and UAEE but Clarke was a quarrelsome, not to say litigious, character and only after his death in 1856 did matches between the two become practicable.

Usually staged at Lord's in aid of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society charity and played between well-matched sides, the fixture became one of the highlights of the season. A then record 10,000 attended the first in 1857. Willsher took seven wickets in the first meeting, four for 46 & five for 16 in the second. He played in 14 matches in all, the last in 1864 when he signed off with five for 55.

In the odds matches which were the staple diet of both teams, he claimed at least 1,335 wickets in AEE matches alone. Twice he took more than 200 wickets, 275 at 3.14 each in 1855 including 29 wickets for 42 v 22 of Spalding. He was less successful with the bat for the AEE with one first-class half century, against the UAEE, and two in odds matches.

Following Clarke's death, Willsher served on the AEE committee until November 1864 when a long-running series of spats between player factions led to the formation of the United South of England Eleven with Willsher as Secretary/captain and John Lillywhite (the umpire in the no-balling incident), as Treasurer. Playing a higher proportion of their matches in the south than the AEE or UAEE and once breaking new ground by visiting the Channel Islands, the USEE eventually became something of a Grace family fiefdom with light-fingered cousin Walter Gilbert as Treasurer.

The full, somewhat convoluted, story of the itinerant Elevens is in Professor G.Derek West's *The Elevens of England* (Darf Publishers, 1988). Willsher claimed 15 wickets (avg.13.93) in half a dozen first-class matches for the USAEE and at least 750 in odds matches, five times over 100 wickets in a season, the last in 1871 at the age of 42.

Some writers have tended to downplay the quality of the cricket in these odds matches. Whatever the standard of bowling, scoring runs against 18 or 22 fielders was hard work and teams were very rarely made up entirely of raw 'cross-batted village greeners'. The 18s and 22s almost invariably fielded at least a couple of hardened pros, usually quite devoid of all local affiliation. Taking as a random example 1863, when Willsher finished with 196 wickets, at different times he faced WG, EM

and Henry Grace (twice each) as well as county stalwarts like John Berry, Isaac Hodgson, Joe Rowbotham, Billy Slinn, Edward Stephenson, John Thewlis and George Wootton: Luke Greenwood (Yorkshire) turned out against the AEE six times that year. Defeat was no stranger to the Elevens.

In 1868 Willsher captained an England team to the USA and Canada. He was originally to have been a member of the side George Parr took to America in 1859 but withdrew, probably due to the death of his first child, three-month-old John Edgar. While at his peak, he was also absent from the teams to Australia in 1861/62 and 1863/64.

The 1868 side was invited on the initiative of the St. George's Club of New York and chosen by Vuell Walker. It was something less than fully representative although it included, as well as Willsher, Harry Jupp, Henry Charlwood, James Lillywhite and Alfred Shaw, all of whom would play in the inaugural Test match at Melbourne nine years later. Also included was England's best fast bowler on the season's form, George Freeman, Five matches were won, two by an innings, one, with 22 of Philadelphia, narrowly by two wickets. The match with Canada was drawn due to rain. They also played some baseball. Willsher reputedly handled the side well and, with figures such as 14 for 23 v the St. George's Club at Hoboken and eight for 13 v Canada at Montreal, culminating in final figures of 62 wickets at 2.35 each, did all that was required of him.

With the limited county programme of the time, it was difficult, even for the top professionals, to make ends meet by just playing cricket even if they supplemented their income by turning out as 'given man' for a village club. To quote a single example, in 1852 Willsher's presence was chiefly responsible for Chartham's victory over Boughgton Aluph. Most pros were obliged at times to take coaching work. Willsher's engagements included the Broughton Club, Manchester, Enville Hall, the home of Lord Stanford, Oxford University, West Wickham and various schools.

In 1871 he was engaged as 'manager and principal bowler' to the Prince's Club and began to cut down on his cricket. In 1872 he played only five odds matches, all in southern England, but still appeared in nine first-class matches, five for Kent in which, at 19.00 apiece, his 30 wickets were his most expensive since 1852.

Aged 44, Willsher was back to his economical self in 1873 with 34 wickets at 13.91 each. Against Lancashire at Gravesend, after he had bowled his team into a winning position with match figures of 11 for 75, Kent, needing only 82, were struggling at 48 for six when he came to the wicket. This soon became 50 for seven but, in company with Henry Croxford, Willsher steered his side to a three-wicket victory (Willsher 21*, Croxford 13*). At 45 he was even more economical with 35 wickets at 12.40 including five for 26 for USEE v Yorkshire at Bradford, six for 36 & seven for 22 v Derbyshire at Wirksworth and seven for 55 v Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Ned Willsher's first-class career ended with two matches in 1875. Against Hampshire at Catford, his last appearance for Kent, he bowled unchanged through the first innings with fellow left-armed Walter George as the visitors subsided for 64 (Willsher four for 32, George six for 32.). In the second innings he bowled only 7.3 overs but his last first-class wicket, John Galpin (27) caught at mid-wicket, ended a troublesome 66-run last-wicket partnership.

His final appearance, for South v North on Tunbridge Wells Common, was pure anti-climax. He was not in the original South team on the first day as the North scored 176. On the second, Richard Fillery (Sussex) was taken ill and Willsher was allowed to replace him. Unfortunately, the South (including WG & GF Grace) were bowled out for 56 and 62 (Willsher one & 0) and the North had no need to bat again.

Willsher continued playing odd games for the USEE until 1878, his last against 22 of Erith in which he claimed four wickets. In 1880, captaining an Eleven of the South v 22 of Chelmsford & District,

he took 11 for 24 in the first innings and he continued playing occasional games for various clubs, mainly in Metropolitan Kent until the year of his death. In what was probably his last game he captained 20 Kent Colts against the County.

He had stood as umpire in a first-class match as long ago as 1859 and did so with increasing frequency as his playing career came to an end. As well as minor matches he officiated in 102 first-class games, his last at Derby in 1885.

Willsher had demonstrated his talents on at least 145 different grounds and during his long career claimed the wickets of virtually every batsman who mattered. Of those who lost their wickets to him more than 20 times in first-class matches, Jemmy Grundy, reputedly no lover of fast bowling, heads the list with a remarkable 44, followed by Griffith and Lockyer with 25, John Lillywhite and George Parr 22, Caffyn and HH Stephenson 21 and Tom Hayward. 20. Further down the list come WG Grace (seven) and EM Grace (five).

In 1879 he left the ailing Prince's Club and set himself up in business. The family had moved to London in 1874, originally to New Cross but they were in Lewisham when in 1875 he set up a 'cricket outfitting depot' in Greenwich. The venture flourished for a while but by 1881 he had been obliged to abandon it. In his obituary, *Score & Biographies* blamed lack of support from Kent CCC which was possibly true up to a point but he probably lacked the capital to succeed in what was becoming an increasingly competitive market in which the major players spent lavishly on advertising in the sporting press.

As long ago as 1869 Willsher's services had been recognised by 'a select circle of friends' with the presentation of a gold watch and chain but in terms of £.s.d. Kent did nothing until 1871 when a match, Married v Single at Lord's, was announced as being 'under the patronage of Kent CCC'. The match suffered from the weather but a second game, Kent v WG Grace's Eleven (originally to be Kent v Gloucestershire but three Kent players had to be drafted in as late replacements) was staged at Mote Park. It raised the not inconsiderable sum of £794 2s 4d.

Nevertheless, although he derived some income from umpiring, times were hard and in 1881 the Kent committee minutes were recording that Willsher was 'in a distressed state'. He was granted £20 from the Alfred Mynn Memorial Fund. Ironically, he had himself contributed to the Mynn fund and had been a long-serving, hard-working and highly influential committee member of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society.

For some years Willsher had played odd games for West Kent Wanderers who played on Blackheath and in 1881 a benefit match on his behalf was staged on the heath between West Kent Wanderers and 'An Eleven' including Willsher (captain), his son Edgar junior, Harry 'Corker' Wood the England, Surrey and Kent wicket keeper and three Kent players, Henty, Robert Haywood and Robert Rumsey (*qv*) which no doubt raised a modest amount. In 1882 his request for a second benefit was turned down by the Kent committee but he was granted a further £5. Two years later he took over the running of the billiard room at *The George & Dragon* on Blackheath Hill. When he died of cancer at Lethbridge Road, Lewisham he left £175.

Edgar Willsher married Sarah Johnston (1827-1891), daughter of an Army Quartermaster at St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, now Southwark Cathedral, in 1858. There were three sons, one of whom died in infancy, and two daughters.

Following Willsher's death Lord Harris and 'one hundred gentlemen and professional cricketers of England' subscribed to a memorial in Ladywell Cemetery. Lord Harris, three Hearnese, Harry Wood and umpire Bob Thoms were among those who attended the funeral. Today, thanks to the ministrations

of the Luftwaffe and later to mindless vandalism by local pond life, only a forlorn, overgrown, base remains of the memorial, the inscription barely readable.

In a way, the state of the grave is symbolic of the extent to which Willsher, once considered by many the best bowler in England, is in danger of becoming one of cricket's forgotten men. His picture is nowhere on show at Kent's Canterbury headquarters and not so long ago one formerly high up in the Kent hierarchy confessed 'I had no idea he was that important'.

Further reading:

Phillips, Giles. *Edgar Willsher: the lion of Kent*. ACS Publications, 2012.

William Willsher (No. 140).

Baptised: 12.10.1814, Rolvenden. *Died:* 30.11.1861, Barming Heath Asylum. Kent 1847.

Parents: John Willsher & Charlotte Willsher (*née* Winsler).

An elder brother of Edgar (*qv*), William Willsher appeared only once for Kent but played a great deal of local club cricket for his home village of Rolvenden as well as for Benenden, Goudhurst, Bearsted, Staplehurst, West Malling, Mote Park and Boughton Monchelsea where he is known to have played as late as 1859. In 1847, for Bearsted v Aylesford, immediately before he was picked for Kent, he scored 42, highest of the match which probably led to his selection, against Surrey at Preston Hall, Aylesford. Appearing in the august company of both Mynns, both Pilchs, Hillyer and Dorrington, he batted No. 11, was bowled for a pair by Tom Sherman and did not get a bowl, Alfred Mynn and Hillyer bowling unchanged throughout the match. He did however catch Tom Sewell.

In 1853 he appeared, together with Edgar, for 18 of Maidstone v the UEE in Vintners Park, his scores 0 and three (run out). Again, he was not given a chance to bowl.

Sixth of 14 children (nine boys, five girls), Willsher was of yeoman stock. In the 1820s his father John Willsher farmed 160 acres (64.8 hectares) at Little Halden Farm Rolvenden and later took over *The Chequers, Goudhurst* where his wife provided 'ordinaries' for Goudhurst CC who played in the adjoining field. Following John Willsher's death in 1843, the family moved to Madginford, Maidstone and in the 1851 Census William Willsher is living with his mother and is a farm bailiff.

Two years later he is landlord of *The George Inn*, Gabriel's Hill, used by players after matches at Vintners Park and is subsequently providing 'ordinaries' for matches in Mote Park. He was still at *The George* in 1858. He died in Barming Asylum of 'dementia, general paralysis & epilepsy'.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John. *More Early Kent Cricketers*. The author, 2002.

Erasmus Albert Willson (No. 466).

Born: 13.10.1878, Sittingbourne. *Died:* 17.4.1948, Sittingbourne.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1898.

Educated: Borden Grammar School.

Parents: James George Willson & Catherine Priscilla Willson (*née* Twort).

The son of a dentist, Erasmus Willson was in the Eleven at Borden Grammar School from 1893 to 1897. On leaving school, he came for a trial at Tonbridge Nursery and was judged 'very useful, with a

good delivery'. Given a chance in a Second Eleven match against Sussex at Tonbridge he took four wickets and was taken on the staff for 1898 with one pound per week pay over the 1897-1898 winter.

In the event, Willson changed his mind and played as an amateur. He took only one wicket (AO Jones) in his one first-class match in 1898 but was more successful in two Second Eleven matches against Sussex – 55 at Hove, 33, two for 17 & five for 80 at Tonbridge.

Preferring a career in banking, in 1903 Willson married Nora Beatrice Champion in Wandsworth and moved to Mitcham, later to Streatham. There was one son.

During the First World War, Willson attested under the Derby Scheme in December 1915 but was not called until May of the following year. Posted to the Second Battalion of the Artist's Rifles, an officer training unit at Romford, he served as a private, presumably in an administrative capacity for the remainder of the War. In his later years he returned to Sittingbourne where he died, unrecorded in *Wisden*. His estate was valued for probate at £314 6s 6d.

Right Rev Cecil Wilson (No. 375).

Born: 9.9.1860, Canonbury, London. *Died:* 20.1.1941, Bunbury, Western Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1882-1890. Kent Cap 1882.

Educated Tonbridge School & Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: Alexander Wilson & Caroline Wilson (*nêe* Pitman).

Strong off his legs and willing to graft if necessary, Cecil Wilson appears to have been a bit more than the typical public school/Oxbridge batsmen of his period, similar in method to AP Lucas according to *Cricket*. He was also a good and versatile fielder, averaging almost a catch a match and, although never more than a change bowler at county level, he was on occasions a useful partnership breaker.

Like his elder brother Leslie (*qv*), he acquired his qualification for Kent in 1873 when his father Alexander Wilson, a stockbroker, moved from Islington to Beckenham with a family consisting of wife Caroline, three daughters and one other son, Alexander his eldest who was already a Stock Exchange Clerk. Entering Tonbridge School the same year, Cecil Wilson was in the Eleven from 1877 to 1879 and captained in the latter year when, in addition to heading the batting averages, he struck a profitable patch of form as a bowler with five for 17 v Dulwich, five for 29 v Lancing and seven wickets against Brighton College. Over the holiday period he hit 179* for Jesus College Long Vacation Club, 160* for Beckenham v Nutfield and 110 for Sidmouth.

At Cambridge he was unfortunate in the 1880 Freshmens' Match to arrive at the wicket in the middle of a violent hailstorm and depart caught first ball. Although he played in that season's Seniors' matches and for the Next 16 in the two following seasons, with a top score of 21 and a few wickets he did not do enough for a place in the Eleven. He was however a prolific scorer for his college, particularly in 1882 when he was captain and the team were unbeaten.

Following his success with Kent, he was offered a place in 1883 but was obliged to decline as he was already committed to accompanying the First Earl of Londesborough's 18-year-old son William (the future Second Earl) on a trip to the Continent, presumably as some sort of tutor/companion.

On his debut for Kent against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane in June 1882, he had the unusual experience of batting No. 4 and carrying his bat for eight, the last seven batsmen contributing only two runs (Peate seven for 31). In the second innings he had the misfortune to be run out for 0 when opening the batting with Lord Harris.

On his second appearance, v Sussex at Gravesend, he scored 62* and gained selection in Canterbury Week for Kent's first-ever match against the Australians. Arriving at the wicket with the scoreboard showing 91 for seven, he scored 57, sharing a 125-run partnership with EFS Tylecote (100*). 85 in arrears, Kent narrowly failed to avoid the follow-on but, promoted to open in the second innings, Wilson's innings of 50 helped to knock off the arrears in a second-wicket partnership of 78 with 'Pat' Patterson (59). In all he played seven matches and at the end of the season 299 runs (avge.33.22) placed him second to Lord Harris in the Kent averages. At Beckenham in less taxing surroundings he hit 218 for Mr Baker's Eleven against 'Officers' Sons'.

In 1883 Wilson was confined to five matches, all in August, in which his top score was 19 but 1884 was more productive. Beginning with 60 and an opening partnership of 89 with Frank Hearne in the early season fixture with MCC, he followed with 71 (top score) for MCC v Derbyshire. Although not again passing 50 there were several other useful innings and on his second meeting with the Australians in Canterbury Week he was top scorer in Kent's first innings with 37 on a difficult wicket against Spofforth, Giffen, Palmer etc. He ended the season with 339 runs (avge.24.21). In 1885 studies restricted him to two matches in the Scarborough Festival, for I Zingari and MCC.

1886, his last year at Cambridge, proved to be the last in which he would find time for any regular cricket. He played in Kent's opening match against MCC at Lord's in May but did not appear again until Canterbury Week when, having missed the opening game against the Australians, he scored 127 (255 minutes, 13 fours) against Yorkshire. With George Hearne (117) 215 were added for the third wicket. At The Oval, coming to the wicket with the score 0 for three, Wilson checked – or at least postponed – a collapse with 55 (5 fours). Rounding off the season with 86 for I Zingari v Gentlemen of England at Scarborough, he totalled 323 runs (avge.35.88) in seven matches, enough to place him fifth, one above Grace, in the national averages.

Two matches for Kent in 1887 and two in 1890, concluded Cecil Wilson's first-class career. In his penultimate match, against Sussex at Hove, he was run out for 46 but sadly his final appearance ended in a pair. In club cricket, as well as MCC and I Zingari, he played for Band of Brothers, Beckenham and the Lyric Club.

Ordained in 1886, Wilson had a distinguished career in the church, beginning as curate of Portsea (1886-1891) where in 1889 he married Alice Ethel Julius (1877-1957), second daughter of Archbishop Churchill Julius, Primate of New Zealand. There were two daughters.

He was vicar of Moordown, Bournemouth (1891-1894) Bishop of Melanesia (1894–1911), Archdeacon of Adelaide (1911-1917) and Bishop of Bunbury, Western Australia (1917-1937).

As Bishop of Melanesia he served a vast, sprawling see stretching from the New Hebrides to the Solomon Islands and reputedly had head-hunters and cannibals within the diocese. One of his last visits within the see was to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, destined to be famous as the first island recaptured from the Japanese during the Second World War. The first bishop, John Coleridge Patterson, – Wilson was the third - was murdered on Nukapu in the Santa Cruz Islands in 1871.

Leslie Wilson (No. 378).

Born: 16.3.1859, Canonbury, London. *Died:* 15.4.1944, Bohemia, Hastings, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1883-1897. Kent cap. 1883.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Alexander Wilson & Caroline Wilson (*nêe* Pitman).

A stockbroker like his father, Leslie Wilson does not seem to have been rated quite as highly by the experts as his younger brother Cecil (*qv.*). In his obituary *Wisden*, while praising his driving and cutting, thought he ‘sometimes erred on rashness’ although *Scores & Biographies* commended his ‘good style and excellent judgement’. His career average is unremarkable and 82 single-figure dismissals might indicate that *Wisden* had a point but he appears to have had a talent for scoring valuable runs when others failed and figures are not perhaps a true indication of his value to Kent.

At least as important, he tended to be available when other, often more gifted, amateurs were not. Despite having a living to earn, apart from captains Lord Harris, Frank Marchant and ‘Harry Pat’ Patterson, no other amateur of the period played so often. He appeared in every Canterbury Week between 1886 and 1892, nine in all.

The frequently heard suggestion that amateurs picked their fixtures was certainly not applicable in Leslie Wilson’s case. Approximately 58% of his matches were on away grounds including six visits to Old Trafford, five to Trent Bridge and journeys to ‘unfashionable’ venues such as Bradford, Derby, Dewsbury, Gloucester and Wigginton Road, York. Seven times he appeared in the early season match at Lord’s against MCC, a fixture for which Kent always struggled to field a viable side.

Wilson opened the batting for his School in 1876 but, although he was scoring runs for Beckenham, it was not until 1883 that he received the call from Kent. He began well with 32 against MCC at Lord’s but disaster struck on Kent’s northern tour, a pair at Old Trafford, two and 0 against Yorkshire at Dewsbury. Back in the south, he justified his place with 25 & 33* at Hove and 27* & 59 v Middlesex at Lord’s, top-scorer in each of the last three innings when Kent were dismissed cheaply. He hit 39 against MCC in his first Canterbury Week.

Business restricted Wilson to ten matches over the next three seasons but he again shone in a low scoring match at Derby in 1886 with 48 when Kent were bowled out for 106 – the next highest score was ten – and 41 in the second innings. Available more often in 1887, his 366 runs (avge.28.15) included 54 & 57 at Trent Bridge and 63 & 79 v Middlesex in Canterbury Week when in the second innings he put on 147 for the fifth wicket with Patterson (99).

From 1887 until 1894 he played more frequently, his best year 1889 when he hit his only century, 132 v Gloucestershire in Canterbury Week. He again did well at Trent Bridge with 40 & 53, top scorer in both innings, and ended the season with 360 runs (avge.36.00). In 1890 he scored 482 runs (avge.20.08. Interspersed with 86 v Gloucestershire at Maidstone and 84 & 56 v Middlesex at Tonbridge were three ducks and fourteen other scores below 20. 1891 was similarly disappointing statistically but, as so often, he was at his best when Kent were struggling – 35 v Middlesex at Beckenham when Kent were all out for 100, 36 v Somerset at Maidstone when Kent’s total was 106 and 32* v Surrey in Canterbury Week when Kent collapsed for 104.

Wilson came close to a second hundred in 1893, 91 v Middlesex at Lord’s, and in 1894 he again proved his value under adverse conditions. On rain affected (and never very reliable) pitches in two matches at Catford he was top scorer in three out of his four innngs – v Surrey 38 & 42 (team totals 113 & 112), v Sussex 0 & 33 (team totals 35 & 121). He ended the season with 476 runs. He played only twice (and hit two 50s) in 1895 and once in 1897, v MCC at Lord’s. In this, his last first-class appearance, he appeared in the press as ‘L Kent’.

The nearest Leslie Wilson came to representative cricket was for the South against the Australians at The Oval in 1893 and for Gentlemen of England v I Zingari in the 1888 Scarborough Festival. He did however play for MCC v the Australians at Lord’s in 1893 and CI Thornton’s Eleven against the 1888 side at Norbury when he was bowled twice by Charles Turner without scoring. Although not a specialist close fielder he held four catches in an innings at Hove in 1891 and twice took four in a match.

In club cricket Wilson was a prolific scorer for Beckenham for whom he hit two double hundreds, 246* v Bexley in 1885 and 250 v Bickley Park in 1886. He hit four hundreds for Band of Brothers; his other clubs included Carshalton Park, Linton Park, MCC, Old Tonbridgeans, Sevenoaks Vine, Sidmouth and West Wickham. He seems to have played little cricket after leaving Beckenham.

In 1896 he married Ida Josephine Edgell (1855-1935) at St. George's Parish Church, Esher. There was one son and one daughter. In 1901 they were living in Norbiton and appear to have spent most of their married life in the area although at the time of his death he was living in Rye. His estate was valued for probate at £13,502.

Edward Winter (No. 11).

Born: 1773, Dartford. *Died:* 10.3.1830, Dartford.
Kent 1806-1815.

Like many of the lesser cricketers of the period, not a great deal is known about Edward Winter. According to *Scores & Biographies* he played in at least nine matches at Lord's but Haygarth does not accord him a biography. With his wife Mary, also born in Dartford, Winter had two sons and four daughters. When his daughter Maria (born 1813) was baptised her father's occupation was given as plumber; when his youngest Emma (born 1818) was baptised he appears as a glazier.

He later became landlord of *The Eleven Cricketers* in Dartford. Researchers appear to be agreed that he is the E Winter who played in six matches for the Oldfield Club in Bray, Berkshire in 1794-1796 but there is no information as to how he came to be playing for Bray or how, why or when it was that he returned to Kent.

In half a dozen matches for Oldfield he scored 34 v MCC at the original Lord's ground in 1794 and 24 against Kent on the same ground two years later. For Kent, in addition to two eleven-a-side matches against England – at Bowman's Lodge in 1806 and at Wrotham Napps in 1815 – he appeared for Kent v England in odds matches, at least one at Lord's in 1800 and one at Penenden Heath in 1807.

For unknown reasons four Kent v England odds matches were staged in 1800 in the space of five weeks. Winter probably appeared in two of them but accounts of the match at Barrack Field, Woolwich differ as to whether the player concerned was named Winter or Constable. In all of these matches, his top score was nine.

Although *Scores & Biographies* gives no initial, it seems likely that he was the Winter who scored 15 for Dartford & Crayford v Sevenoaks & Neighbourhood at Dartford Brent in 1796, 11 for the Bexley Club v England at Bowman's Lodge in 1805 and 20 & 15 for Dartford (with six Players) v Bromley (with six Players) on Dartford Heath in 1808.

In 1809 he played for Surrey against England at Bowman's Lodge, but much of his better quality cricket was at Lord's – in 1796 for Lord Darnley's Eleven v the Earl of Winchelsea's Eleven, in 1810 for Over 38 v Under 38 and for Captain Blaggrave's Eleven v Colonel Byng's Eleven in the same year when he scored 27, his only other recorded innings of substance. This is reputed to be the last match played on the old Lord's (Dorset Square) ground.

Further reading:

Goulstone, John, *Early Kent Cricketers*. International Research Publications, 1971.

John Wisden (No. 165).

Born: 5.9.1826, Brighton, Sussex. *Died:* 5.4.1884, Cranbourn St., Leicester Square, London.
Right-handed batsman, right-arm, round-arm/slow under-arm bowler.
Kent 1854.
Parents: Thomas Wisden & Lucy Wisden (née Hazelgrove).

Thanks primarily to his immortal *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, John Wisden's name is probably better and more widely known than any other name in cricket. In addition to establishing the Annual and the sports goods (and cigars) company which bore his name, he was joint organiser of the first-ever overseas tour by English cricketers and, with county colleague Jemmy Dean set up the United All-England Eleven in competition with Clarke's AEE.

Over and above his considerable entrepreneurial talents, he was arguably the finest allrounder of his times, scorer of over 4,000 runs and with over 1,100 wickets to his credit, three times 100 in a season, 39 times ten in a match, 111 times five in an innings, twice ten in an innings. His all-ten for North v South at Lord's in 1850 were all bowled, a unique achievement. If his 178 matches against odds for the UEE and the UAEE are added in, his record increases to over 2,800 wickets and almost 7,000 runs. His playing record season by season is detailed in Number 47 in the ACS Famous Cricketers Series (see below).

He did nothing exceptional in his one appearance for Kent, as one of four 'given men' against England in the 1854 Canterbury Week, but in four matches for Kent & Sussex v England, two at Lord's, two in Canterbury Week, he took 30 wickets including 11 for 100 at Lord's in 1856 and six for 44 at Lord's in 1857. He also played three times for Kent & Sussex v Surrey in 1858/1859 and once for Sussex & Kent v Surrey in 1859. The difference between Kent & Sussex and Sussex & Kent must be a subtle one. In all four games, two at Hove, two at The Oval, the teams played under a Sussex captain and contained a majority of Sussex players.

In 49 matches against Kent, 29 for Sussex, 17 for England, he scored 1,199 runs and took 321 wickets, eleven times ten or more in a match, 34 times five or more in an innings. He made his debut against Kent, at Hove in 1845, taking six for 46 in the first innings, three for 59 in the second and over the next 15 seasons he only once failed to take at least five Kentish wickets in an innings. Seven times he took 20 or more Kent wickets in a season, 38 in 1848, 46 in 1849. At Tunbridge Wells in 1850 he scored exactly 100, the first century for Sussex against Kent.

John Wisden was the son of a builder, one of nine children, six boys, three girls. In 1849 he became engaged to Annie Parr, sister of George Parr, England's premier batsman at the time. Parr was a friend of Wisden, fellow tourist, business partner in the setting up of the Parr & Wisden cricket ground in Leamington and competitor as successor to Clarke as manager and virtual CEO of the All-England Eleven. Unfortunately, Annie Parr died before they could marry and Wisden died a bachelor (of cancer). His estate was valued at £4,233 9s 9d.

Further reading:

Griffiths, Peter & Bartlett, Kit: *John Wisden. His Record Innings by Innings*. ACS Publications, 1999.

Wood (No. 80).

Kent 1828-1829.

With a fairly common surname and no initials, the player who appeared for Kent against Surrey at Godalming in 1828 and against Sussex at Brighton in 1829 has, at least so far, been impossible to trace. In the 1907 Kent history he is shown as being 'of Penshurst' and ' – Wood' appears in *Scores & Biographies* scoring 17* for Penshurst v Sevenoaks in 1830.

Players similarly shown merely as ‘-Wood’ turn up playing for Players of Kent v Gentlemen of Kent at Sevenoaks in 1828, Hawkhurst v Leeds Park in 1832, Tunbridge Wells v Town Malling and Chislehurst v Town Malling in 1833, Kent (with Marsden) v Benenden in 1834 and Kent v Town Malling in 1835. Even if these, or some of them, are the same player, his top score remains the 18 he scored for Kent at Godalming in 1828.

Henry Wood (No. 328).

Born: 14.12.1853, Dartford. *Died:*30.4.1919, Waddon, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1876-1882

Tests: Four for England (while with Surrey)

Wisden Five Great Wicketkeepers 1891 (while with Surrey)

Parents: George Wood & Jane Wood (*née* Woodwards).

Had events panned out differently, Harry ‘Corker’Wood could have been another in the long line of distinguished Kent wicketkeepers. As to how Kent allowed him to escape to Surrey, there are two versions. According to Lord Harris in his *A Few Short Runs*, losing him was ‘a bad blunder’ but ‘I thought his hands would not stand Foord-Kelcey’s fast bowling, and also I had hopes of getting EFS Tylecote’ (*qv*).The latter was at the time (and until 1895) Mathematics Tutor at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich and, with mathematics playing an increasingly important role in the science of gunnery, it is hard to see how he could ever have been likely to find time for a full season.

As to Wood’s hands, like those of all or most professional wicketkeepers of the period, they were not, by all accounts, a pretty sight by the end of his career but, given the skimpy gloves of the period, he seems to have coped remarkably well. True, over his long career he missed some two dozen matches through injury, mainly to the hands, but as Charles Fry pointed out in his in his *Book of Cricket* ‘Harry Wood’s hands must be of iron. For many seasons past he has had the toughest task of any wicketkeeper. He has not only to take the fastest bowling in England year after year, but has generally had to take it from both ends’.

In an interview with *The Cricket Field* in 1895 Wood tells a different story, claiming ‘It was partly my own fault’. When in 1877 he took an engagement at St.Stanislaus College, Tullamore, County Offaly, he omitted to tell Kent and ‘when Lord Harris wrote to me asking me to play, I was nowhere to be found’. This story, more or less repeated in an interview with *Cricket* in 1898, is flawed. Wood was soon back in in Kent, in 1878 as professional to the Private Banks Club in Catford and in 1880-1881 at the Dover Club; Kent can hardly have been unaware of him. In truth it seems he just missed the 1877 season. He appeared 9 times in Kent sides between 1876 and 1882.

The son of a journeyman engineer in a Dartford flour mill, in the 1871 Census the family is living in Quay Street Dartford. His mother, now widowed, and two eldest sisters are ‘labourers in a flour mill’. Harry Wood too is a labourer but where is not stated. Either at the time or shortly afterwards he must have worked for John Penn & Sons, the marine engine builders in Greenwich. From 1873 to 1875 – and possibly later – he played for the Ravensbourne Club, a club set up by the Penn family (see Alfred, Frank & William Penn above) for employees of the company. In the piece on the club in the 1874 *John Lillywhite’s Cricketers’ Companion* Wood is described as ‘very good bat’; good wicketkeeper; handy bowler, winning prize bat this year as well as last’.

In May 1876 Wood appeared for Seventeen Colts of Kent v Kent at Gravesend. He did not keep wicket or bowl but scored 34 opening the batting in the second innings, the highest score for his side and second highest in the match. He also held two catches. Less than a fortnight later he made his first-class debut against Hampshire at the Antelope Ground, Southampton. According to his interview in the *Cricket Field* referred to above, Wood was picked as a batsman/bowler but ‘as the wicketkeeper

was not doing well, somebody told Lord Harris I could keep wicket. So I was tried and was fairly successful, getting six out in the two innings’.

The story may be true although in fact Wood dismissed five not six, two caught, three stumped. He also bowled seven wicketless overs. The ‘other wicketkeeper’ Richard Palmer, even if he had been ‘not doing well’ stumped one in the first innings and was back behind the stumps for the later part of the second when he stumped two more. Alfred and Frank Penn were playing for Kent and would have known of Wood’s wicketkeeping talent from the Ravensbourne Club. It seems more likely that Kent were playing a sort of musical chairs with their stumpers. Between 1876 and the arrival of Fred Huish in 1895, Kent used 24 wicketkeepers. In the very next match, against Lancashire at Rochdale, Kent again played Wood and Palmer plus a third ‘keeper, the experienced Edward Henty (*qv*). It is not clear which or how many of them, kept wicket. They batted nine, ten and eleven, scored collectively five runs, none of them bowled but Wood held a catch.

Harry Wood returned from Ireland in September 1877 to score 53 for Twenty-Two of Erith against a South of England attack including Billy Midwinter, James Southerton and Ned Willsher. In the following year, while employed as professional by Private Banks, Wood played (possibly as wicketkeeper) for Twenty-Two Colts of England v MCC at Lord’s, reaching double figures in both innings but, picked for four matches by Kent, his top score was six (run out). He held four catches but Isaac Ingram seems to have kept wicket in the first two matches, Henty in the remainder.

Apart from an appearance as a rather mature colt against the County at Mote Park in 1880 there were no further calls for Harry Wood’s services by Kent until 1881 when he caught six and stumped two for Kent v Twenty-Two Kent Colts, again at Mote Park. There followed one match against Yorkshire at Bradford in which he kept wicket but suffered a pair and a visit to Bath for Kent’s inaugural meeting with Somerset in which he caught two and stumped one. The match was not granted first-class status. In 1882 his Kent career concluded with two matches against Sussex. At Gravesend he scored 25, his highest for Kent, and in the two matches he caught four and stumped three.

In 1881 Harry Wood became groundsman/professional for the Streatham Club from whence he became qualified for Surrey. Thus began a career with Surrey which lasted from 1884 to 1900 embracing 286 matches plus another 47 against what were then Second Class Counties and a handful of Second Eleven matches.

There seems to be no evidence that Kent made any effort to retain his services. He played one Test match in this country, v Australia at The Oval in 1888 and, although never chosen for Players v Gentlemen at Lord’s, he played twice at The Oval and once each at Hastings and Scarborough. He also appeared for the Players against the Australians in 1888. He played three further Test matches, all against South Africa, two when he toured with Major Warton’s team in 1888/89 and one with Walter Read’s team in 1891/92. All three matches were granted Test status retrospectively and in the last he scored the only first-class century of his career, 134* at Newlands, Cape Town.

Wood was for a time professional with the Honor Oak Club and, on retiring from Surrey he returned for a period as groundsman to the Private Banks Club at Catford; from 1910 to 1912 he was on the first-class umpires list. In the 1911 Census he is living at Headcorn Road, Thornton Heath and is a ‘professional cricketer’ employed by MCC.

‘Corker’ was a great favourite with The Oval crowd and featured frequently in the verses of Albert Craig the ‘Surrey Poet’ but in 1896, in the aftermath of the Players’ ‘strike’ prior to the Oval Test Match, he gave a bitter interview to the recently launched *Daily Mail*. In it he asserted that if he had played as a ‘Gentleman’ he would have made enough out of his expenses to retire. After 20 years he had saved nothing. ‘These gentlemen take their £20 or £30 and sometimes £50 a match while we are kept down to our £5 or £6’. To make ends meet in the winter ‘I’ve had to work here at The Oval

turfing for 26 shillings a week'. He railed against the absence of a pension fund and blamed the Surrey committee for making him take 'a duffing North v South match' for his benefit. I only got £350 whereas with proper treatment I ought to have netted £1000. I believe I was shoved aside for Mr Shuter's testimonial'.

Predictably, the Surrey committee cut him down to size (only 63 inches in any case) and in a suitably contrite response Wood alleged, somewhat improbably but, like many since, that the *Daily Mail* had misquoted him. The fact that the committee took no further action might suggest that they realised that, however inconvenient, Wood was only speaking the truth. After which it is a little surprising – but very gratifying – to learn that on his death Harry 'Corker' Wood's estate was valued at £2,639 14s 3d, a tidy sum in 1919.

He married twice, Edenbridge-born Ellen Bacon (1854–1893)) at Mile End in 1884 and Lambeth-born Mary Matilda Barrett (1872-1953) at Trinity Church, Clapham in 1901. There were two daughters by the second marriage.

Further reading.

Fry, CB *The Book of Cricket: a new gallery of famous players*. George Newnes, 1899.

Frank Edward Woolley (No. 500).

Born: 27.5.1887, Tonbridge. *Died:* 18.10.1978, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada,

Left-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1906-1938. Cap 1906.

Tests: 64 for England – 32 v. Australia, 26 v. South Africa

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year 1911.

Educated: Wesleyan School, Tonbridge.

Parents: Charles William Woolley & Louise Woolley (née Lewis).

Measured by pure weight of his runs, wickets and catches and not the least the longevity of his career, Frank Woolley would have loomed large in the history of Kent cricket. But he was more than that. It was in the manner of his play, particularly as a left-handed batsman that set the standard by which just about every other left-hander, not only in Kent, was subsequently compared.

The clue was in his height, over six feet, and his great reach. He could make strokes in a wide range without obvious adjustment of feet or body. He was always hitting the ball in the air. If it was pitched up he would hit it straight back over the bowler's head or over mid off or mid on. So Woolley was never pinned down and he always took a chance, either hitting the bowler off his length or getting out. Indeed the latter always looked likely. One has only to look at his record to see that the patient building of an innings was not his style. No player can surely match his remarkable record of dismissals in the nineties (35), and that was not through nervousness.

Until a knee injury restricted him after the 1924/25 tour to Australia, Woolley was a very fine slow left-arm bowler. His action was not unlike his great mentor Colin Blythe, bowling slightly "behind the back", although, as his biographer Ian Peebles noted, the arm came from the hip pocket rather than the right armpit, as in Blythe's case. His height again proved of great assistance, giving him a lively degree of bounce on all pitches and with his great power of spin was lethal on a responsive turf. To complete his effectiveness as an allrounder, he remains, probably now forever, the only player to take over a thousand (1,018) first-class catches.

It is perhaps fashionable not to include Frank Woolley in the front rank of Test cricketers. Yet he was an automatic selection for England for 17 years. His figures may not have been exceptional, but in

these days before the expansive scoring of Bradman, Hammond etc., nor really were many others. Also to bear in mind was that exactly half his Tests were against Australia.

Frank Woolley's father was recorded in the 1891 Tonbridge Census as a "dyer and cycle agent", a combination of occupations explained by the dying business, originally based in Maidstone, which he inherited from his father and additionally, Charles Woolley had a serious bent as an engineer. It was while honing his skills for a period in the Ashford Railroad Works that he met and married the owner's daughter, Louise Lewis. As subsequent Censuses show, the Woolley business at 72 High Street, prospered down the years, eventually by the 1911 Census becoming solely a motor engineering establishment in by then the rapidly growing car industry.

Frank was born over the business, a fact marked by a blue plaque over the branch of Starbucks which now occupies the site. There were four Woolley brothers, Frank was the youngest, while the third Claud, not making his way on the Kent staff, joined Northamptonshire and played to some effect from 1911 to 1931. During the First World War, he served in the Kent Fortress Engineers with Colin Blythe, and was wounded in the incident in which the latter was killed.

There was probably during Woolley's youth nowhere better place for cricket in Kent to have lived in than Tonbridge. Games with the brothers on a convenient piece of asphalt at the back of the shop, developed to a very short walk across the road to a favourite tree from where the Angel Cricket Ground, home of the famous Kent Nursery could be viewed. A chance invitation by Tom Pawley, the Kent manager no less, to make up the numbers on a match at the ground was the start.

Woolley snr. had advanced his business to an extent that he had plans to enrol his youngest son at Tonbridge School, just along the road. Woolley was no scholar and, as he recalls in his *Early Memoirs*, the option offered by Pawley of a place of the Kent staff, found him leaving school at 14, crossing the road to the Angel ground and being placed in the charge of the famed Kent coach Captain William McCanlis.

Woolley's Second Eleven debut created an immediate impression. He is first recorded as playing for Kent Second Eleven against Surrey at the Oval in June 1905. In the first Surrey innings he took seven for 28 to be followed by in the Kent first innings second top scoring with 48. The "Blue Book", covering that season, records in all matches played by the Kent young players, Woolley scored 960 runs and took 115 wickets.

Very early in the 1906 it was a chance accident to Colin Blythe that gave the 19-year-old Woolley his place in the side for the first match of the season, at Old Trafford. It was a traumatic debut – dropping Johnny Tyldesley (295*) three times and out third ball. A 64 in the second innings redeemed the situation somewhat. He thereafter played a significant part in Kent's *annus mirabilis* – County Championship winners for the first time. Six wickets in an innings in his second match, a match-winning allround performance at the Oval in his third and a maiden hundred on his first county appearance on his native ground, were notable achievements. Kent's superabundance of amateur talent cost him his place during Canterbury Week, but he impressed *Wisden* sufficiently to produce one of its more famous predictions. "Good as he already is, Woolley will no doubt...go far ahead of his first season's doings. It is quite possible he will be the best left-handed bat in England".

After the high promise of 1906, 1907 was a little disappointing. True Woolley reached 1,000 runs for the first time, but with Blythe available more often, bowling opportunities were limited. Progress was made in 1908, particularly bowling more frequently, while in 1909 he really established himself as the major allrounder in the Championship-winning Kent side with 1,146 (avge. 26.04) runs and 70 (avge. 17.61) wickets. Against Worcestershire at Stourbridge his 185 (one six, 24 fours) in a tenth-wicket partnership with Arthur Fielder (112*) created a then world, still English, record. The Selectors were taking note and at The Oval in final Test against Australia, he began his remarkable sequence of Test

matches. He made no great impact (eight and 0 for 37) but his promise earned the winter trip to South Africa.

Woolley made three tours of South Africa, but on not one of them did he do himself justice. Particularly in batting, the matting wickets never suited him. None the more so than in 1909/10 when, although he hit three half-centuries in Tests, in all matches he averaged only 19.05 with the bat (outside of the Tests only 8.70).

Woolley advanced out of all recognition as a bowler in the outstanding Championship win of 1910, passing a hundred wickets for the first time, consequently completing his first 'double'. The absence of Fielder from the attack for much of the season left a void waiting to be filled. *Wisden* were impressed enough to make him one of its "Five Cricketers of the Year".

An indifferent first half of 1911 with the bat was compensated with a splendid second, averaging in all matches for Kent over 40 for the first time. With Fielder bowling more often again, his wickets fell. Nevertheless it was sufficient to see him on the boat to Australia.

Overall the Australian wickets did not suit Woolley, his tour batting figures flattered by two big not out hundreds. His liking for Sydney, which continued on every trip down under, first showed itself in his most significant innings of the tour – 133* out of 199 in the final Test. Usually he batted down the order, but at No. 3 against Tasmania he made 305* (two sixes, 43 fours), the highest innings of his career, and for 50 years the highest by an Englishman in Australia.

The infamous wet summer of the Triangular Tournament of 1912 saw Woolley supreme as an allrounder. His notable success was at The Oval against Australia where his ten for 49 in the match was decisive in winning the game and the competition. In all matches he scored 1,800 runs (avge.41.86) and took 126 wickets (avge. 14.16). This supremacy continued in 1913 when Kent won the Championship for the fourth and final time in their golden period. Notably, when wickets suited them, Woolley and Blythe were the deadliest bowling partnership in the land. This was seen to no better effect than against Warwickshire at Tonbridge where the visitors were bowled out (both five for 8) on a difficult wicket in 10.2 overs and 45 minutes for just 16. On that same wicket, Woolley then proceeded to score 76 in 80 minutes to ensure victory.

Another unimpressive tour to South Africa followed in 1913/14. There was some success outside of the Tests, but nothing to note in them apart from a single half-century. Topping the Kent batting averages for the first time, and finishing second to Blythe in the bowling, 1914 was an outstanding year. He passed 2,000 runs in all matches for the first time, placing him among the country's leading performers. He also took 125 wickets (avge. 19.45) in all matches.

To date, Woolley had maintained a residence in family home in the High Street, Tonbridge. But in September 1914 he married Dora Sybil (known as Sybil) Fordham, the daughter of a veterinary surgeon in Ashford, where the marriage took place. They remained together for 45 years and produced two daughters and a son.

Surprisingly, initially Woolley was turned down for war service due to faulty eyesight and teeth according to his biographer Ian Peebles, compacted toes according to the Kent CCC minutes. He was directed to his father's works where he was engaged on the production of nose caps for five-inch shells.

A second medical being passed, on the advice of the Essex amateur Richard Keigwin he applied, successfully, for the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). In November 1916 he began training as Aircraftman second class and in March 1917 he was posted to the RNAS seaplane base at Dover where he was promoted to Aircraftman first-class. In February 1918 he was posted to Felixstowe as

coxswain of a rescue launch, tasked with picking up the crews of ditched aircraft which more often than not involved the recovery of bodies. With the RNAS merged into the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918, he was given the new rank of Private First-class and then in July posted to North Queensferry on the Firth of Forth in Scotland. Here he was on the more congenial duty of manning the despatch boat to *H.M.S. King George V*, flagship of the cricket-loving Vice-Admiral John de Robeck, commander of the Second Battle Squadron and a future President of MCC.

As a result, he was able to play some cricket locally on Lord Rosebery's estate at Dalmeny and in August 1918, with the Admiral pulling the strings, managed to get away for England v the Dominions and Captain P.F. Warner's Eleven v Colonel FS Jackson's Eleven, both at Lord's, as well as for Warner's Eleven against the Bradford League.

As to cricket in this period, prior to his call up in 1916, Woolley could be found playing for Keighley in the Bradford League. In July that year, in a match arranged to accommodate the need for major cricket, he appeared for a Yorkshire Twelve against a Lancashire Twelve; then in August opened with Jack Hobbs for a Bradford League Twelve against a Yorkshire Twelve. A week later he transferred his allegiance and scored 116 for Lancashire against Yorkshire.

The war ending, he passed through the Crystal Palace dispersal centre in January 1919 and was transferred to the RAF G Reserve. He was officially discharged the following year.

With Fielder retired and Blythe killed in action, Woolley found himself Kent's front-line bowler and 1919 and the early years of the twenties proved to be peak years in his career as an allrounder. Despite a much reduced season in 1919, Woolley was still able to achieve the "double". He did it again in 1920 with an impressive 1,924 runs (avge. 40.93) and 185 (avge. 14.23) wickets in all matches.

The following winter and 1921 were Ashes seasons. In Australia Woolley hit four half-centuries in the Test series with a top score of 79 at Adelaide and played a brilliant innings of 138 against New South Wales but, like the rest of the English batsman did not quite manage to do himself justice against one of the strongest Australian teams of all time. Back home, Woolley had another splendid all-round season scoring over 2,000 runs and taking 167 wickets. But 1921 is best remembered for his 95 & 93 with little support in the Lord's Test against the full might of the rampant Australian attack of Gregory and McDonald. These would stand as probably the two finest innings of his career.

1922 was Woolley's benefit season (£2,641) and another major allround performance marked it out. Although "Tich" Freeman was by now a major part of the Kent, fears by some commentators, notably *Wisden*, that Woolley was being overworked continued. Another ineffective tour of South Africa followed. Apart from a century in the Fourth Test he did very little in the series – indeed he did not take a single wicket in 64 overs.

Although still achieving the "double", his bowling fell back in 1923. In a wet summer his return should have been better and possibly overwork was taking its toll; although the rise and rise of Freeman was now contributing. His 270 (three sixes, 29 fours) during Canterbury Week was his highest score in England.

All of the reports speak of the splendour of Woolley's batting in 1924. *Wisden* was typical: 'left-handed batting more brilliant and attractive than this on his many good days could not be imagined'. He had a magnificent run around Canterbury Week, failing to reach 50 only once in ten innings. As a bowler, with Freeman to fore and the now the arrival of 'Father' Marriott, he was released from Kent's dependency on him and he bowled rather less.

While overshadowed by Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe in Australia in 1924/25, Woolley did himself more justice than on his previous tours down-under. He was occasionally brilliant and yet again Sydney saw him at his best with 123 in the First Test match and 149 and 80 against New South Wales. Injuries forced him to bowl more than anticipated, aggravating an increasing difficult knee problem to a degree that hereafter it became serious and restricted, and eventually ended, his role as any sort of front-line bowler.

1925 started where he left off in 1924: a double-hundred in his first innings and he finished well clear at the top of the Kent batting averages. 1926 was also a good season although not reaching the batting heights of previous seasons. A decline in the volume of bowling started in the previous season continued. He played in all five Tests against Australia, hit 87 in the Second Test at Lord's and 58 in the Fourth at Old Trafford but The Oval ended his remarkable run of automatic selection stretching back to 1909.

If no longer an automatic England choice, Woolley remained a dominant force in Kent cricket. By his standards a satisfactory season in 1927 was followed by 1928, a season of good weather, and in a golden year for batting, Woolley had the best season of his career well passing 3,000 runs – 3,352 (avge. 60.94) in all matches, with 12 hundreds. He also had a second benefit (£1,853). His bowling was limited, though sufficient in Freeman's greatest year, to take ten wickets in a match on one occasion.

It was probably impossible to emulate the efforts of 1928, but Woolley nevertheless still outscored all others in the country in 1929, and that despite not scoring his first hundred until the end of June. He was restored to the Test side and averaged 126 – with scores of 83 & 95*, 154 (his highest Test score) and 46 – against South Africa.

In the unusual winter of 1929/30 when the MCC contrived to send overseas two Test teams. Woolley found himself on the Australia and New Zealand expedition. It was his last tour and probably his most successful, emerging as the side's main allrounder. He was particularly successful with the bat in Australia, inevitably at Sydney where he scored 219 against New South Wales. In 21 innings on the ground he scored 1,199 runs (avge. 63.10) with five hundreds and three half-centuries. In the Tests played in New Zealand, he was not that successful with the bat, but the wickets suited his bowling and he recovered something of his old skill – his seven for 76 at Wellington being his Test best.

Despite scoring 41 out of 53 in the Lord's Test against the Australians in 1930, Woolley lost his Test place. He continued to stand above his Kent batting colleagues with nearly 1,900 runs for the County. The revival in his bowling was not maintained. All this continued into 1931 which brought a notable batting performance facing Hedley Verity for the first time. – 188 (seven sixes, 16 fours), five of the sixes off the would-be great bowler. There was one more Test against New Zealand scoring 80, but then he was dropped to make way for younger players.

Now 45, Woolley's form in 1932 showed a notable retrogression. He had to make way for Les Ames as Kent's leading batsman and he took only two wickets. This continued into 1933 which started with the worst period of form in his career, unwisely playing under the effects of a heavy chill. Thereafter there were a few patches of Woolley at his best, but he fell to fifth in the Kent Championship averages, in which competition he barely bowled at all.

But this was not the end. In 1934 Woolley confounded his critics with a spectacular return to form. He exceeded his 1933 aggregate by over a 1,000 scoring over 2,500 for Kent alone. By scoring 100 in 63 minutes at Dover, he became the first recipient of the Walter Lawrence Trophy for the fastest hundred of the season. Although playing second best to Bill Ashdown, his 172 in Kent's record innings at Brentwood helped him add a 352 then record wicket partnership for Kent. The selectors came calling

for the Final Test at the Oval, but he had an unhappy time in what was his last Test. He failed with the bat and, with Ames incapacitated, found himself struggling as the stand-in wicketkeeper.

Even though his aggregate was down, Woolley was restored to the top of the Kent batting averages in 1935. He scored consistently throughout the season, reaching a high point with 229 (four sixes, 11 fours) at The Oval against Surrey. But the following year his form fell away badly, averaging well below 30. He was taking visibly longer to play himself in.

In 1937, now 50, Woolley had an improved season after his disappointing 1936. He played a number of innings in his old form. With Arthur Fagg missing the whole season, Woolley eventually found himself the regular opener, where he remained for the rest of his Kent career. With 'Tich' Freeman now retired, he bowled more than for some seasons, and not without success.

Having declared his intention to retire, Woolley's 1938 season was one of affectionate farewells as he progressed around the county circuit. He was not unresponsive. Two centuries at his imperious best, and 81 (one six, one five, 13 fours) in an hour against the Australians was a memorable final innings at Canterbury. He bowled on occasion also, eleven wickets at Oakham being the highlight. In a fitting tribute, he captained the Players at Lord's and was the recipient of a testimonial fund (£1,397).

In anticipation of his retirement, Woolley and his wife had moved to a bungalow built in Hildenborough, close by his native Tonbridge. It was large enough to erect a cricket school and having accepted the post as cricket coach to King's School, Canterbury, this helped. But with the outbreak of war, King's School evacuated to Cornwall, and Woolley moved to Cliftonville where he joined what became the Home Guard, patrolling the seafront. His son, Richard, had become a radio officer in the Merchant Navy. But sadly in November 1940 he was lost in service in the famous action that involved the loss of the *Jervis Bay*. In Spring 1941 they suffered a further loss when, while on holiday in Cornwall, their Cliftonville home was destroyed in a bombing raid. Thereafter they found accommodation in another property nearby where they spent the rest of the war.

After the war the Woolleys moved to a flat in Tunbridge Wells and in May 1946 he made his last serious appearance on the cricket field playing for an Old England Eleven against Surrey at The Oval. In something like his famous old form he made 61.

Woolley was not specifically employed hereafter. He stayed as coach to King's School, Canterbury for a total of ten years and in the early 1950s did a season cricket coaching in the Butlin's holiday camp at Clacton-on-Sea. He was a striking figure, affectionately nicknamed 'The Colonel'.

In 1959 Sybil Woolley died and her widower moved to his younger daughter's home in Longwick in Buckinghamshire. He remained a familiar sight; his ever stately appearance adorning as a spectator those Kent grounds he so graced as a player. For a number of years (1950-1961) he served on the Kent Club's General Committee. A plaque celebrating his career was unveiled on the pavilion wall at Canterbury in 1963.

Into his eighties, he met and married a Canadian widow, Martha Wilson, and emigrated to her home in Chester, Nova Scotia. Even then he could still be found at some Canterbury Cricket Weeks. He died along the coast in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1978 at the age of 91 – and one last statistic, he was at his death, Kent's oldest living cricketer.

After an impressive memorial service in Canterbury Cathedral, the ashes of Frank Woolley were scattered on the St. Lawrence Ground in front of the stand that bears his name.

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James Wootton (No. 360).

Born: 9.3.1860, Sutton-le-Hone. *Died:* 21.2.1941, Leytonstone, London.
 Left-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.
 Kent 1880-1890.
 Kent Cap: 1885.
 Parents: Edward Wootton & Frances Wootton (*née* Bentley).

Another in danger of becoming one of Kent's 'forgotten men', Jimmy Wootton was an important member of the team at a difficult time in the Club's history. Leading wicket-taker in every season from 1882 to 1887 inclusive, in four seasons he headed the bowling averages and, although he played 20 or more matches in only three seasons, he claimed his 100 wickets three times, twice in Kent matches alone.

With three distinguished left-arm spinners, Johnny Briggs (Lancashire) and Ted Peate and Bobby Peel (Yorkshire), all at or approaching their best, it is no great surprise that Wootton never played for England or even for Players against the Gentlemen but for a few years he had strong claims to be considered the best of his type outside the northern counties. Twice in 1884 and three times in 1886 he was chosen for the South against the Australian tourists and in the latter year he was in a strong 'England Eleven' which played the Australians at Lord's in a benefit match for MCC Assistant Secretary, JA Murdoch. It has to be said that his record against the tourists was good but not outstanding, 43 wickets in 12 matches at 21.93 each.

According to *Cricket* in 1886 he bowled 'almost medium-pace' although when he first emerged red *Lillywhite* categorised him as 'fast round-arm' and continued to do so until 1884. As well as the orthodox left-arm spinner's stock ball, he bowled an arm ball which *Cricket* considered his most dangerous. He also developed a well-disguised faster ball and it may be significant that while in his first two seasons most of his wickets came from catches, from 1883 he began to hit the stumps with increasing frequency so that at the end of his career 45.3% of his wickets were bowled, as against 34.7% caught by a fielder other than the wicketkeeper.

This is a high percentage compared with such leading exponents of classical left-arm spin as Colin Blythe, 31.56 % bowled, 52.25 % caught, Wilfred Rhodes, 21.38% bowled and 53.06 % caught and

Hedley Verity 20.3% bowled & 54.7% caught. 8.8. % of Wootton's victims were caught at the wicket, 2.9% stumped, and 4.1% caught and bowled. The latter included some notable scalps, Ranjitsinhji twice in one match, WG Grace, Bobby Abel, Arthur Shrewsbury and Tom Hayward as well as two notorious 'stonewallers' Harry Jupp and Bill Scotton.

In his memoirs Lord Harris describes Wootton as a 'cheerful little cricketer' and 'indifferent to punishment' but takes the view that he had a tendency to serve up half volleys on unresponsive pitches through trying to spin the ball too much. Having been skipper through most of Wootton's career Harris should know but nevertheless Wootton had a more than respectable record on grounds with a reputation for generally favouring the bat – at Hove 59 wickets at 20.61 each, at The Oval 60 at 19.13, and at Canterbury 78 at 17.74.

Wootton's early life was dominated by horses rather than cricket. In the 1861 Census his Brackley-born father is employed by a local landowner and farmer John Russell as 'whipper-in-to-hounds' and ten years later he is coachman to the same family. On leaving school at 14 young Jimmy worked in local stables, probably John Russell's stables, where he became an accomplished horseman, good enough for Lord Harris, when riding with the South Down, to take him along as 'second huntsman'.

Wootton played cricket as a boy in his home village on a patch of ground lent by Russell which, together with 'a group of schoolmasters', he helped to prepare with an ordinary garden roller. In 1874 he took a step up playing for the nearby Farningham club against Bickley Park. For the next three seasons he played for Farningham as and when work allowed, gaining experience against some of the strongest clubs in Kent including Sevenoaks Vine and Chislehurst. Work and horses kept him away from cricket completely in 1878 but in the following year he effected a career change by accepting an engagement as professional with the Yalding club.

In 1880 he moved onwards and upwards to Erith but Kent had learned of his talent and he was picked for a Colts match at Mote Park, K McCanlis' side v Lord Harris' side commencing 6 May. In their first innings Harris' side were bowled out for 28 (Wootton seven for 16). He does not seem to have bowled in the second innings; possibly McCanlis, a shrewd judge, thought he had seen enough. For unexplained reasons Wootton was not in a Colts side which played the County at Mote Park a week later but on 24 May he took the field at The Oval for Kent Colts v Surrey Colts and again made his mark with five for 43 & two for 14.

Back with Erith, Wootton had a remarkably successful season which brought him 74 wickets at a little over four runs apiece but they were obliged to share his services with Kent who, following successive defeats at Old Trafford and Derby, were in the market for new talent. In July Wootton was called in against Sussex at Hove but unfortunately he was not at home when the telegram reached him and Kent were already in the field when he arrived. Backing his own judgement, Lord Harris immediately tossed the ball to the new arrival who proceeded to take three good wickets for 46 and three more for 61 in the second innings. With 'Dick' Penn available, Wootton was not chosen for the following match, v Yorkshire at the Mote, but was brought back for Surrey on Tunbridge Wells Common where he grabbed his chance with four for 55 in the first innings and eight for 34 in the second, bowling unchanged as Kent gained their third successive victory.

Apart from the Derbyshire match at Mote Park, he remained in the side for the remainder of the season, taking six for 54 against England in Canterbury Week and finishing with 38 wickets at 12.57. He contributed rather less with the bat - 0, 0, 0*, 0*, two, 0, three, one not out. Next season he bowled Kent to victory at Derby with six for 81 & five for 72 and at Mote Park bowled unchanged with Penn throughout the match as Sussex were disposed of for 58 & 72 (Penn 13 for 68, Wootton seven for 42) but some thought his 48 wickets at 21.06 each costly. *Wisden* felt that he 'fell off'; a trifle harsh perhaps for an inexperienced cricketer. *Lillywhite* settled for 'less successful'.

1882 and 1883 were somewhat similar but he had his days, notably against Lancashire - match figures of 12 for 91 at Old Trafford in 1882, 13 for 84 at Gravesend in 1883. Against Sussex on a benign pitch at Gravesend in 1882 he was the pick of the Kent bowlers with four for 45 & four for 57 and contributed 14 to Kent's total of 521, his first double figure score in his 36th first-class innings. At that stage he had registered 14 ducks including three pairs.

James Wootton reached his peak as a bowler between 1884 and 1888 with 504 inexpensive wickets in five seasons. For Kent in 1884 he bowled 1135.3 (four ball) overs, 500 more than anyone else in the side, and claimed 112 wickets, 117 (avge.16.77) in all matches. When Surrey were beaten at a rain-affected Mote Park he bowled unchanged throughout the match for figures of four for 20 & seven for 72, the latter all clean bowled. Against Middlesex at Lord's, where conditions favoured the batsmen, he took five for 61 in the first innings and six for 110 from a Herculean 94 overs in the second - 139.1 overs in the match.

When the Australians were beaten by 96 runs in Canterbury Week, much of the credit was rightly given to the youthful Alec Hearne (seven for 66) but in the first innings Wootton claimed the prized wickets of George Bonnor, Billy Murdoch, George Giffen and Billy Midwinter at a cost of 72 runs and in the second innings cleaned up the tail with three for 21 (all bowled) as the visitors declined from 83 for five to 109 all out. Bowling more overs (58.3) than anyone else, he earned his £20 share of the £80 collection made for the four professionals. Although he failed to score 11 times (including three more pairs), he twice reached 40, v Hampshire at Gravesend and Sussex at Hove.

Wootton started quietly in 1885 with a modest 20 wickets in his first half-dozen games but from mid-July onwards he was in devastating form – eight for 39 v Hampshire, Southampton, six for 58 & four for 64 v Surrey, Gravesend, six for 45 & five for 45 v MCC in Canterbury Week, six for 87 & five for 46 v Sussex, Hove, seven for 58 on a rain-affected pitch at The Oval, a run terminated with one for 120 when the wicket reverted to type in the second innings. Helped by a couple of appearances for MCC, he finished with 90 wickets at 15.08 each, in terms of economy, his best season since 1880.

1886 proved to be James Wootton's most productive season, only George Lohmann bettering his 143 wickets (110 for Kent) at 15.95 and only Lohmann bowling more than his 1618.1 overs. Five times he claimed ten or more wickets in a match, 14 times five or more in an innings. Twice he took eight, eight for 28 v Lancashire at Maidstone, (13 for 64 in the match), eight for 55 v Sussex at Hove (14 for 162 in the match). In Canterbury Week the Australian captain 'Tup' Scott put Kent in and lost by ten wickets, Wootton chief destroyer with five for 40 & five for 60; the great Spofforth went wicketless. Earlier he had taken six for 78 for Lord March's Eleven against the tourists at Chichester but in a further four more matches against them at the end of the season his four wickets cost 57.25 apiece. In the first of these however, for the South at Gravesend, he scored 27 and had the (for him) rare experience of finishing joint top scorer in his side's first innings.

1887 was a season of sunshine and hard wickets but, despite being obliged to play some of his early cricket with a badly bruised thumb, Wootton got through 1373.1 overs and 'bore the brunt of the attack' in Lillywhite's words. He finished with exactly 100 wickets. 68 of them for Kent, which again made him their leading wicket-taker. Despite his wickets costing 18.92 each, his most expensive since 1883, he also finished top of the Kent averages. In his second match he took eight for 76 v MCC at Lord's, the last of his eight-in-an innings returns, and with five for 22 & three for 87 was the pick of the bowlers when Kent beat Sussex at Tonbridge, their only victory of the season. When Kent had marginally the better of a draw at The Oval with the eventual Champions, Wootton was the chief contributor with seven for 57 & five for 109.

Wootton had joined the MCC staff in 1884 but played only occasional first-class matches until 1887 in which year he played five first-class games and took 24 wickets, half of them against Nottinghamshire's strong batting line-up at Lord's where his figures were 12 for 156. For Players of

the South v Players of the North at Beckenham, he exploited a pitch never renowned for its lasting properties, taking four for 58 & four for 40, bowling unchanged throughout the match, His victims included William Gunn (twice), George Ulyett, Bill Scotton and five other England cricketers. Despite considerable publicity and a South team chosen personally by WG Grace, the match was sparsely attended and a financial failure.

Bowlers have rarely enjoyed a more fruitful season than 1888. Only three reached their 100 wickets but of the regular performers, no fewer than 18 took their wickets at under 15 apiece. Wootton with 54 at 15.83 was not far behind but nevertheless the season marked the beginning of the end of his career with Kent. *Lillywhite* could still describe him as 'quite in the front rank of slow bowlers' but with 'Nuttie' Martin a regular. Walter Wright now qualified and leading wicket-taker and George Hearne, an automatic choice for his batting, still a useful change. Kent were rather over-stocked with left-arm bowlers. By mid-season, Kent were alternating between Martin and Wootton, the former standing down for three games, the latter for four.

Wootton also missed one match through injury following a severe blow to the ribs by a ball from Yorkshire's Joe Preston at Huddersfield. He returned to the side for four matches but in an interview with *The Cricket Field* in November 1894 he said that 'I caught a cold on top of this accident and was unable to bowl properly for years afterwards'. Prior to the accident he had taken four for 49 for CI Thornton's Eleven against the Australians at Norbury and five for 52 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge but he reserved his best efforts for the end of the season – four for 57 followed by a remarkable five for 8 from 22.1 overs when Middlesex were beaten by an innings at Gravesend, and four for 49 v Yorkshire at Maidstone where his bag included Joe Preston for a duck. .

Jimmy Wootton played occasional first-class matches over the next three seasons, but three games for Kent, five for MCC and one for South v North yielded a combined total of only 12 expensive wickets and in 1891 he took up the position of coach at Winchester College. There seems to be little doubt that, as well as the blow to the ribs, sheer hard work had contributed to his decline. Around this time his left arm was said to be totally devoid of muscle and he was obliged to bowl with his arm in plaster.

At the end of the 1891 season he had asked Kent for a benefit but, on the proposal of Lord Throwley, the committee decided it should be deferred. Not until 1894 was a benefit awarded and, even then, the committee decreed that 'it should not be at Canterbury'. He chose the Surrey match at Catford but rain on the first day prevented play until 2 pm and ended it at 4.30 and on the last day a start was not made till 1.30. The Kent history describes the match (won by Kent) as a 'success', which seems true, up to a point. It raised £316 16s 6d. of which £305 16s 6d, was gate receipts, approximately one third of the total taken at the gate throughout the entire season. Surrey donated five guineas and Yorkshire five pounds but when all expenses were paid, including a payment to the Private Banks Club whose ground it was, the profit was no more than a little over £160. If any collections to boost the total were organised on Wootton's behalf, they are not mentioned in the Club minutes.

By 1893 Wootton had recovered sufficiently to begin playing regularly for the Winchester Club when coaching duties permitted and in 1895 he returned to county cricket with Hampshire. Confined largely to the latter half of the season, between 1895 and 1900 he was a useful addition to what the moderns would call the Hampshire 'bowling unit', taking 69 wickets (avge.27.05), five times five in an innings. His final match was against Kent at Tonbridge, his last wicket that of his long- term team mate Alec Hearne.

As a batsman he enjoyed rather more success with Hampshire than with Kent. Possibly coaching others improved his technique. Whereas between 1880 and 1891, there had been ten scores of between 25* and 40, 62 ducks including nine pairs and in only two seasons had he averaged double figures, with Hampshire he scored 391 runs (avge.12.61 with one half-century, 53 v Somerset at

Southampton, six other scores between 25* and 37 and only two ducks, the last in his final innings at Tonbridge.

In the days when many coaches still preached the doctrine of the immovable right foot, many pros, enjoyed bowling at the 'fancy caps and it seems likely that Wootton was among them. 46% of his victims were from the unpaid fraternity. The batsman he dismissed most frequently was the Surrey captain John Shuter (13 times), followed by the Lancashire skipper 'Monkey' Hornby (12). Among the others were Surrey's Walter Read (9) and Kingsmill Key (7), the Middlesex captain Alexander Webbe (8) and the Sussex captains Robert Ellis (8) and Billy Newham (6). He only encountered the renowned hitter Charles Inglis Thornton on a handful of occasions but he claimed his wicket six times and in contrast, of batsmen best-known for their defence he accounted for Dick Barlow nine times, Scotton (6), Willy Quaife (5) and Louis Hall (4). WG's wicket he claimed four times.

Like most professionals of his time, Jimmy Wootton played a lot of club cricket. In a 12-a-side match between the Mote and Band of Brothers in 1883 he twice dismissed Lord Harris without scoring and finished with an analysis of 32-18-30-8 & 43.3-20-72-9. In this, his only season with the Mote, he bowled 935 overs and took 155 wickets at 8.2 each. In a busy year he took all ten wickets for MCC v Crystal Palace. For Croydon against Streatham he took two hat tricks in one innings and in 1890 hit 101* for MCC v Radley College.

James Wootton married Flora Elizabeth Everest (1862-1941) at the church of St. Peter & St. Paul Farningham in 1885. Farningham-born, she was the daughter of a carpenter. There were two sons and one daughter. At the time of the 1911 Census they were living in Winchester and his occupation is given as professional cricketer and athletics outfitter with an unusual addition for a Census Return 'repairs only done'. Flora and youngest son George (born 1897) are assisting in the business.

In 1915 when eldest son James (born 1891) joined the Army, the family are living in Folkestone although James himself appears to have been working as a shop assistant in Perth. His Army records have suffered severely from war damage but most of his service was with what was then the Tank Corps.

Edward Wormald (No. 268).

Born: 4.12.1848, Islington. *Died:* 16.10.1928, Brighton, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1870.

Educated: Eton College & Trinity College Cambridge.

Parents: John Wormald & Caroline Ellen Wormald (*née* Jeaffreson).

The son of a banker and JP, Edward Wormald first played for Eton in 1866 but did not find a place in the side against Harrow until the following year. He failed to take a wicket and for some reason, *Scores & Biographies* did not afford him a biography. On going up to Cambridge, he took seven wickets in the Freshmen's match but progressed no further towards a Blue. In 1868 he played for Perambulators v Etceteras and in the same year for 16 of Trinity College v United South of England when he claimed the wicket of Tom Humphrey. In the 1907 Kent History Wormald is described as, a touch ambiguously, 'a straight but short bowler, a free hitter and a beautiful thrower'.

In addition to his one first-class for Kent in the 1870 Canterbury Week in which he scored one and 15 and bowled six economical but wicketless overs, he appeared for Gentlemen of Kent v I Zingari in the 1867 Week and in the same fixture in 1870 when he took three wickets. It is not clear what, if any, qualification he had for Kent.

In 1871 he was still living with his parents in Islington and never seems to have lived in the County after his marriage. He did however presumably have some Kentish connections as in 1867 he opened the batting and took six wickets for Nineteen of Dover v Players of the South at Kearsey. Most of his cricket was for Eton Ramblers for whom he was still playing in 1880.

In 1872 he married Annette Louisa Jane Hood (1848-1925), daughter of Sir Samuel Hood, at the Church of St. Matthew, Croydon. Unlike an elder brother who followed his father into banking, Edward Wormald became a partner in a City printing firm and acquired considerable wealth. By 1901 he was living at number 15 Berkeley Square with his wife, three daughters and eleven assorted servants. On his death his estate was valued at £569,165 12s 5d. A younger brother, Percy, played for I Zingari and the RMC Sandhurst.

Charles Robert Worthington (No. 464).

Born: 28.2.1877, Surbiton, Surrey. *Died:* 7.12.1950, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1898.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Caius College Cambridge.

Parents: Richard Burton Worthington & Lucy Ellen (*née* Oldman).

Lancashire v Kent at Old Trafford in 1898 was not a game to remember. There were 6,000 spectators on the first day but they only saw 25 minutes play and next day was not much better. In an hour and a quarter Lancashire took the score to 38 for three (all bowled by Alec Hearne) before the rain returned and brought the match to an end. The most notable feature was that, in the hour and 40 minutes play possible, Kent bowled 46 overs. Charles Worthington was probably one of the few who recalled the game at all. Unique among Kent cricketers, he did not bowl, take a catch – or of course bat – and Kent did not call on him again.

The fourth child of Richard Worthington, who had returned to England after a long career in the Bombay Civil Service, Charles Worthington was in the Eleven at Tonbridge in 1895 when red *Lillywhite* rated him ‘a very good bat, playing in a fine free style, and ‘a good change bowler’. In the match against Dulwich College he was bowled for 56 by Hugh de Selincourt, author of *The Cricket Match* and *The Game of the Season*.

Going up to Cambridge, he scored 66 in the 1896 Freshmen’s Match but progressed no further. Kent however noticed him, and in August he took four for 17 for Kent Second Eleven v Middlesex at Tonbridge. In the following year he again did well in the Trials with a half-century in the Senior’s Match but he still got no further than the Next 16 and it took another half-century in the 1898 Seniors’ Trial to earn a chance in the University team. He marked his Cambridge debut with 42 (top score) v CI Thornton’s Eleven at Fenner’s but in another half dozen matches his only innings of substance was 37 v MCC at Fenner’s when he put on 81 for the first wicket with Cuthbert Burnup (52). Even so, he came tantalisingly close to a Blue. It was only after the MCC match at Lord’s that he lost his place against Oxford (to Harold Marriott who thus played in his fourth University Match).

On coming down from Cambridge Worthington began studying medicine at St Mary’s, Paddington but broke off to serve in the Boer War with the Volunteer company of the Suffolk Regiment where he earned the Queen’s Medal with four clasps; he also contracted malaria. On returning to England, he resumed his studies and, duly awarded his BM (Bachelor of Medicine) and BS (Bachelor of Surgery), began work in 1903 at St. Mary’s, Paddington.

One of the most travelled of all Kent cricketers, Charles Worthington seems to have found it hard to settle. Before the end of 1903 he was working for the Colonial Office as a Medical Officer in

Southern Nigeria and by the end of 1904 he had become a Surgeon in the Royal Navy, where he served for seven years on board the cruiser *HMS Powerful*.

In 1905 Worthington married Monmouthshire –born Winifrid Mary Phillips (1872-1945) at St. David's, Maesmynis, Breconshire. There was one daughter. On his leaving the Navy in 1912, the family emigrated to Canada to begin ranching (or farming, the terminology varies) in British Columbia.

In 1916 Worthington enlisted in the Canadian Army and, a little surprisingly in view of his medical qualifications and naval service, was posted as a private to the 102nd (Comox-Atlin) Battalion of the Canadian Infantry. Arriving in France in August 1916, his unit took part in the later stages of the Battle of the Somme and he remained on the Western Front until at the end of 1916 when, shortly after promotion to Sergeant, he was posted back to England where he was granted a commission in the Canadian Medical Service.

After service in England, prolonged by injuries following a fall from a horse, he was sent back to France in August 1918 with the rank of Captain in the 2nd Divisional Ambulance. From August to November, as part of the elite Canadian Corps, the Division played an important role in the series of battles leading up to the final defeat of the German Army and the Armistice. Worthington remained with the Canadian Corps as part of the Army of Occupation.

Returning to England in April 1919, he retired from the Canadian Army in the following September and promptly re-enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps. At the end of 1919, as a Temporary Captain, he was posted to Egypt where he served with the 3rd Stationary Hospital until April 1920 when he returned to England and retired from the Army. At the time, together with his wife and daughter, he was living in Gloucestershire but in September they returned to Canada and settled back in British Columbia.

Edward Campbell Wright (No. 483).

Born: 23.4.1874, South Shields, County Durham. *Died:* 28.7.1947, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spin bowler.

Kent 1902.

Educated: Clergy Orphan School (subsequently St Edmund's), Canterbury & Keble College Oxford.

The son of the Vicar of St Peter's Tynemouth who died in 1880, Edward Wright played for his school and in 1892 scored 161 for Clergy Orphans School Present v Past. In 1894, three years before he went up to Oxford, he made one appearance for Gloucestershire v Yorkshire at Bristol, presumably qualified by residence. In the following year he made his mark in Kent for the first time with 126 for Thanet Wanderers v the Royal Marines (Walmer).

Arriving in Oxford in 1897, he scored exactly 100 and took six wickets in the Freshmens' match and made his debut for the University against AJ Webbe's Eleven in the Parks. Although he did nothing particularly notable, (28, one for 53 & one for 76), he retained his place and did enough for a Blue. His haul of 25 wickets (avge.20.16) made him second highest wicket-taker. As a batsman, his fortunes were decidedly mixed. His highest score, 83 v Gentlemen of Philadelphia on the Christ Church ground, was sandwiched between four & 0 against Surrey in the Parks and a pair, again in the Parks, against MCC. In both cases however he atoned with the ball, five for 44 against Surrey, three for 19 & three for 58 against MCC. Similarly when dismissed without scoring v Sussex at Hove he responded with four for 24 & two for 40 including the wicket of Ranjitsinhji. He also played three more games for Gloucestershire.

Next year Wright played for the University against the Next 16 and appeared in the matches against MCC in the Parks and at Lord's where he claimed the wicket of WG Grace. Oxford were however rather over provided with bowling and he missed a second Blue. In the first of three appearances for Gloucestershire, v Essex at Leyton, he fell to Charles Kortright for another pair but, as on previous occasions, he compensated with the ball, four for 32 including the wicket of Percy Perrin and Kortright himself (four). In 1899, his third and last year at Oxford, he did well in matches against Surrey, where his four wickets included Tom Hayward and Ernie Hayes, and MCC at Lord's where he took four for 77 and two for 34, but again no Blue.

In the 1901 Census Edward Wright was an Assistant Master at his old school, not yet functioning under its present title of St. Edmunds. In 1902 he performed usefully in his two matches for Kent. In the opening game of the season, against Middlesex at Lord's, he was put on as fourth change and claimed two for 5 in four overs. In their second fixture, at Leyton, Kent in their second innings slid from 25 for five to 92 all out (Mead six for 34). Only two batsmen reached double figures, captain Frank Marchant 12 and Wright 29. He appears to have played no more cricket of consequence.

For the final 35 years of his working life, Edward Wright was Assistant Master at Christ's Hospital, Horsham and a much-liked and respected master-in-charge of cricket. For many years he was also a valuable all rounder for the Horsham Club.

Walter Shooter Wright (No. 399).

Born: 29.2.1856, Hucknall Torkard, Nottinghamshire. *Died:* 22.3.1940, Leigh, Lancashire.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler, occasional wicketkeeper

Kent 1888-1899. Kent cap: 1888.

Parents: Arthur & Elizabeth Wright (*née* Shooter).

In the late 1880s and early 1890s Walter Wright was half of one of the deadliest bowling partnerships on the county circuit. Although Wright and his partner Fred Martin (*qv*) both bowled left arm, they complemented each other. The quicker of the two, Wright could make the ball go with his arm and gain movement off the pitch away from the right-hander but he was best known for his inswinger, this at a time when swing bowling was a novelty, little practiced, still less understood. Referring to Wright in his reminiscences published by Cassell in 1902, Alfred Shaw uses the term 'air breaks' and expresses the view that 'it was generally done before the newness had worn off the ball, and I doubt if he (Wright) knew how the peculiar action was imparted or that he could bowl such a ball to order'.

To most batsmen of the day, coached in the doctrine of the forward defensive and immovable right foot, to whom the front foot off-drive was the epitome of style, a late inswinger could be something of a culture shock. George Hirst, whose inswinger was said by the great Sammy Woods 'to appear to be coming straight but when it reaches the wicket it is like a very good throw from cover-point', reputedly developed it after watching Wright. At medium-pace, Martin in contrast spun the ball away from the bat and also, according to Lord Harris, bowled an outswinger varied with a ball that went with his arm.

Between 1888 and 1891 in Kent matches alone Wright and Martin accounted for 69% of the wickets taken by Kent, Wright 326, Martin 362. To do so they delivered 31,961 balls, more than 68% of the total bowled for the County. Three times the pair bowled unchanged through a completed match and ten times through a completed innings. In those four seasons, teams were bowled out for under 100 on 22 occasions and over 100 but under 150 on another 37.

The son of a self-employed framework knitter, the young Walter was working as a lace maker at the time of the 1871 Census but by 1873 he had his first professional engagement with the Notts Bank Club. In 1875 he appeared alongside several well-known Nottinghamshire cricketers, including

Richard Daft, Martin McIntyre, Fred Morley and Bill Scotton for Eighteen of Beeston v the USEE. Caught off WG Grace for three, he did not get a chance to bowl, not surprisingly perhaps in such company. In 1878 he came south do some early season coaching at Oxford and then to Maidstone as professional to the Mote. Here he quickly made his mark with 151 against Cobham and a match analysis of 12 for 97 against a rather under strength MCC.

In 1879, while still with the Mote, five for 11 for Nottinghamshire Colts against Nottinghamshire followed by a respectable performance for the Colts of England against MCC at Lord's gained him selection for the county side against Lancashire at Trent Bridge. He failed to score and did not bowl but he was picked for four further matches in the first of which, against Kent at Canterbury, he claimed his first wicket, that of Frank Penn. For the Mote he scored a century against Royal Fusiliers and continued to take wickets, including another seven against MCC. He also managed to fit in two matches, presumably as a 'given man', for the Gentlemen of Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and played for the 'United England Eleven' in an odds match against St. Ives.

Although in 1880 his appearances for his native county were limited to one first team match and another for Notts Colts, his was a busy season. Both then and later, his movements can sometimes be difficult to follow. On 2 June a weak, unrepresentative Canadian touring team was further weakened when their captain and leading allrounder 'Thomas Jordan', having been identified as Thomas Dale, a deserter from the Royal Horse Guards (the Blues), was arrested as he left the field at Leicester. Brought in as a replacement, Wright began with 81 and seven for 29 against Crystal Palace, and had collected a further 54 wickets when, probably sensing (rightly) that there was no money in it, he departed after nine matches. The tour was eventually abandoned with ten fixtures unfulfilled.

Shortly after leaving the Canadians, Wright turned out for Crystal Palace against the Australian tourists where he claimed the wickets of Percy McDonnell, Harry Boyle and 'Affie' Jarvis at a cost of 28 runs. In the latter part of the season he was professional with Kidderminster Rovers.

As well as cricket and lace making, Wright had another string to his bow, as a professional sprinter. Evidence is sparse but he was reputedly the second fastest in the world over 130 yards (118.8 metres) and according to some accounts for a few years he concentrated on running more or less to the exclusion of his cricket. In 1880 he won the lucrative Sheffield Handicap.

In 1881 Walter Wright married in Maidstone Frances Mary Field, an 18-year old girl from Brenchley. While living with his wife in Charlton Street Maidstone, he became professional to the Middlesbrough Club and, aided at least in part by a strike among Nottinghamshire's senior players, was also picked for nine matches for his native county. In the first, at Trent Bridge, he took 6 for 10 as Yorkshire collapsed from 61 for one to 113 all out. They nevertheless contrived to win by an innings. He still found time to play at least three matches for Accrington as well as one additional first-class match, for Alfred Shaw's Eleven v the Earl of Sheffield's Eleven at Sheffield Park. At the other Sheffield, he won the Handicap for the second time.

In early April 1882 Wright again played for Nottinghamshire v Notts Colts but he had already moved to Brighton and taken employment as ground bowler at Hove. In early May he took eleven wickets in an innings for 'An Eleven of Sussex v Fifteen Young Players but if he had any plans to qualify for Sussex there is no evidence and, in any case, Nottinghamshire called on his services for nine matches in 1882. Even so, he was back in Sussex in late season playing for the UEE against Sheffield Park.

From 1883 to 1885 Wright moved back to Nottingham and became a first team regular as a replacement for the injured Morley. He was picked for every first-class match in each of those three seasons and, although sometimes expensive, he provided variety in an attack which was otherwise predominantly right-arm medium-pace. His best season was 1885 - 46 wickets (avge. 14.43), 60 (avge.16.33) in all matches. Against MCC at Trent Bridge in 1883 he took five wickets for one run off

28 balls and in 1885 claimed eight wickets in an innings in two successive matches - eight for 74 v Middlesex at Lord's and eight for 53 (12 for 85 in the match) v Sussex at Hove.

Sent in an night watchman against Gloucestershire at Trent Bridge in 1883, he scored his only century, carrying his bat for 127* (3 fours) and batting on all three days, ten minutes on the first evening, four hours 35 minutes on the rain interrupted second day and two hours on the final day. He failed to take a wicket but his team won by an innings. A collection of 'some £16' was shared with the other century maker Bill Barnes (120). Batting No. 9 against Surrey at The Oval in 1884 he scored 50* & 28*.

As well as Nottinghamshire matches, he played for an England Eleven v the Australians at Huddersfield in 1884 and was twice chosen for North v South, at Tunbridge Wells in 1883 and The Oval in 1885 where he gained match figures of ten for 115. He also played, under the captaincy of Billy Murdoch, for Non-Smokers v Smokers at Lord's in 1884, a match between two mixed Anglo-Australian teams which raised more than £500 for The Cricketers Fund Friendly Society. During this period he still appeared in occasional matches for Accrington and, although not apparently on the staff, for MCC. In 1885 he played a single-wicket match against 'Eleven of Nottingham' scoring 61 and bowling his opponents out for six, including four wickets in four balls, and six again, this time taking five in six.

Wright began 1886 in reasonable form with three for 33 v the Australians and six for 19 & four for 26 v Lancashire at Trent Bridge but, following a dispute with the Notts committee over pay, he refused to play in the second match against the Australians scheduled for 8 July. This ended his connection with the club but, oddly enough, he was back at Trent Bridge on 12 July playing for the Gentlemen of Nottinghamshire against the Parsee touring team. Apart from an appearance for 'An England Eleven' v the Australians at Stoke, he spent the remainder of the season back in Kent as professional at Linton Park while still playing the odd match for the Mote. In 1887, although still at Linton Park, he succeeded in taking 77 wickets for the Mote and playing the innings of his life, 237* v Free Foresters.

Now settled in Maidstone and suitably qualified, Wright was an important addition to the Kent attack, their first major signing from outside the County since Fuller Pilch 53 years earlier. On his debut Wright took five for 40 against MCC and finished his first season with 86 wickets in all matches (avge. 14.33) including six for 54 against the Australians in Canterbury Week, match figures of ten for 102 v Lancashire at Old Trafford and 11 for 138 v Gloucestershire at Blackheath. He was chosen for two representative matches at The Oval, Players v the Australians and Players v Gentlemen but contributed only 14* and one wicket in the former and did not bowl at all in the latter.

1889 proved to be his best season with 114 wickets (avge.12.86), 93 of them for Kent. Beginning with match figures of 11 for 76 for AJ Webbe's Eleven v Cambridge University at Fenner's, he took nine for 72 bowling unchanged through the second innings against MCC at Lord's and went on to bowl unchanged through an innings on a further seven occasions that season, three times through a complete match, notably when Kent did the double over Yorkshire. At Maidstone, after consulting his senior professionals, Lord Hawke put Kent in and saw his side bowled out for 71 (Wright four for 22, Martin six for 35) and 62 (Wright five for 29, Martin four for 30) to lose by an innings. At Bramall Lane Kent won the toss, batted and won by 82 runs, Yorkshire 47 (Wright four for 25, Martin six for 21) and 94 (Wright six for 21, Martin three for 43). When Middlesex went down by an innings in Canterbury Week, they were dismissed on an amiable pitch for 90 (Wright seven for 42, A.Hearne three for 20) and 111 (Wright six for 64, Martin four for 43). He was again chosen for Players v Gentlemen at The Oval.

Although never again reaching three figures, Wright claimed 50 or more wickets (in all matches) in every subsequent season but one between 1890 and 1897. He fared particularly well against the Australians. In 14 matches he claimed 58 wickets at 16.87 each. He played an important part when

Kent pulled off an unlikely win in the 1893 Canterbury Week. 102 behind on first innings and obliged to follow on, Kent fought back but when they began their second innings the tourists needed only 97. Wright (five for 109) had been the pick of the Kent bowlers in the first innings. Now he demolished the Australian top order – Jack Lyons, George Giffen, Harry Trott and Syd Gregory at a personal cost of 24 runs and kept one end tight while Alec Hearne (five for 35) cleaned up the tail. All out for 60, only Bill Bruce (23) reached double figures; opener Alec Bannerman carried his bat for seven.

At The Oval in 1890 Wright, attempting to take a return catch from George Lohman, suffered a compound dislocation of his left thumb and spent five weeks in St. Thomas' Hospital, Westminster. Fears of amputation proved groundless but he was left with the upper part of his thumb permanently bent into a crook. In addition to paying for Wright's treatment, fares and accommodation for his wife, the Club donated ten guineas to the hospital.

At the time there were some suggestions that the injury affected his bowling but there is little supporting evidence. In 1891, the season following his injury, he took 84 wickets (avge. 19.20) and, while it is true that from 1892 the seasonal cost of his wickets never fell below 20, there could be other reasons. Pitches were getting better, batsmen were learning to deal with the swinging ball and, of course, wear and tear could have been a factor.

Between his debut for Kent in 1888 and 1891, he had delivered 17,644 balls, 5,037 of them in 1890 alone, and in only three seasons between 1883 and 1898 did he deliver fewer than 3,000. At Canterbury in 1893 he bowled 405 balls (for figures of five for 120) in Nottinghamshire's first innings and in 1890 against the same opponents at Gravesend, 630 in the match for a return of five for 127. The latter remains a Club record. In addition, in every one of the seasons he played a great deal of cricket outside the first-class.

From 1894, particularly under the captaincy of Frank Marchant, there developed a tendency to use Wright as first or second change rather than giving him the new ball as had been customary from the time he became established in the Nottinghamshire team. It seems probable that this affected his performance. Taking his career as a whole, he took the new ball (at least in the first innings) in approximately 65% of the matches in which he bowled. In these matches he took approximately 75% of his wickets. Nevertheless, apart from 1896 where Lancashire League commitments limited his availability (see below), Wright retained his place as a regular in the Kent side until 1898.

With or without the new ball, he was seldom expensive – he conceded 100 runs or more in an innings only nine times in his entire career – and, even if he was no longer running through batting sides, he had his days. At Tonbridge in 1897 Middlesex succumbed to the new ball combination of Wright (six for 50 & three for 63) – all but one a top order batsman - and the pace of Bill Bradley. When Middlesex reversed the result in the return at Lord's, he was unused in the first innings but, belatedly brought on as third change in the second innings he took five for 11 in 12.1 overs as the Londoners declined from 178 for five to 213 all out.

In his penultimate season, sharing the new ball with captain Jack Mason he contributed three for 26 & five for 43 to Kent's six wicket victory over Yorkshire at Mote Park and five for 55 from 47.2 overs at Leyton on his first encounter with Essex. In the opening fixture of the 1899 season, against Gloucestershire at Blackheath, he shared the new ball with Bill Bradley and took two wickets but on two further appearances wickets eluded him. His last victim was the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper Jack Board.

Although one of the best allround fielders in Kent, Wright never perhaps scored quite enough first-class runs for authentic allrounder status but he was a useful batsman, predominantly defensive like most Nottinghamshire batsmen of the period. In a little over 25% of his innings he batted No. 9 which did not help his career figures, but at some time or other he appeared everywhere from one to

eleven. Four of his five half centuries were scored at No. 9. There were also 30 scores between 25 and 49. Never inclined to give his wicket away, in 1893 he was not out in nine successive innings for Kent.

He shared one century partnership, 120 for the fifth wicket v Surrey at The Oval in 1893 (A.Hearne 74, Wright 69) and took part in several valuable late-order partnerships notably 95 in 45 minutes for the last wicket against Yorkshire at Canterbury in 1897 (Wright 37, Bradley 67*). Among others there were, for the seventh wicket, 83 v Warwickshire at Maidstone in 1896 (Marchant 61, Wright 37) and 82 v Surrey at The Oval in 1897 (Wright 38, Martin 57*), for the eighth, 81 v Middlesex at Lord's in 1892 (G.G.Hearne 62, Wright 54), 81 v Notts at Trent Bridge in 1897 (Joe Easby 42, Wright 45). When reaching his top score for Kent, 70* v Sussex at Hove in 1892, he shared partnerships of 91 for the eighth wicket with Jack le Fleming (134) and 55 for the ninth with Martin (34).

In addition to his commitments with Kent, Wright continued as professional with the Mote until 1895. For this he was paid £45 per season of which Kent paid a little over half. He had topped their averages in that final year and would presumably have remained with the Mote but when his request that his fares be paid to away matches was turned down, he asked Kent to find him another club and he was engaged as ground bowler at St.Lawrence.

In most seasons Wright seems to have found time for a variety of extra-curricular matches. In 1894 he played some games for Haslingden and in 1896 became their regular professional in the Lancashire League which restricted his appearances for Kent that year to the first half of the week. He made occasional appearances for Haslingden as late as 1901.

Despite falling out with Nottinghamshire, he seems to have remained on friendly terms. In 1888-1889, he played several times for CW Wright's Eleven and for Richard Daft's Eleven, more than once at Trent Bridge. Every year between 1891 and 1894 he raised his own Eleven to play, somewhat improbably as it seems now, Eton Ramblers. Twice the match was staged at Trent Bridge and once at the Castle Ground Nottingham. Up to 1891 he continued to play occasional games for MCC and when he moved to Reading (see below) he played a few matches for Berkshire, one at least, in 1904, in the Minor Counties Championship.

Of Walter Wright's 976 first-class wickets, 476 (48.77%) were bowled, 433 (44.36 %) caught, of which 72 (7.37%) were caught at the wicket and 41 (4.20%) caught and bowled. 46 were lbw, 19 stumped and two hit wicket. As befits a bowler who used the new ball, Wright broke an opening partnership before it had reached double figures on 69 occasions and 94 times dismissed an opening batsman for single figures, three times both openers..

The list of batsmen who fell to Wright most frequently contains some distinguished names -: 14 times: Sir TCO'Brien, G Ulyett, AJ Webbe, CW Wright, 13: R Abel, WW Read. 12: W Flowers. 11: EM Grace, WA Humphreys, W Newham, 10: JB Hide, R Peel. He accounted for WGGrace seven times. Of the most famous defensive batsmen of the day he dismissed Louis Hall and John Tunnicliffe eight times each, Arthur Shrewsbury and Albert Ward six each, Alec Bannerman five and Dick Barlow four. He took 100 wickets against three counties – Middlesex 118 (avge.16.41), Sussex 111 (avge.18.31), Yorkshire 122 (avge.16.40). His 90 against Surrey cost him rather more at 20.90 each.

Walter Wright was on the first-class umpire's list from 1900 to 1904 and umpired in 99 first-class matches. He remained on the Supplementary List until 1914. In 1900, his first year on the circuit, he was standing in the Somerset v Surrey match at Taunton when the home team's slow left-armer Ted Tyler was no-balled twice from square-leg by Jim Phillips. At the time a concerted effort was being made to eliminate doubtful actions and Phillips had become something of a self-appointed Witchfinder General. Apparently disagreeing with the decision, Wright ignored the call and did not allow the extra

balls. At the time his action attracted some comment and might have attracted a great deal more if one or both of the balls had taken a wicket.

Shortly after finally settling in Kent, Wright started a sports outfitters business in Week Street, Maidstone. It was heavy going and money or lack of it, runs as a constant theme through his life. The state of his finances crops up regularly in the minutes of the Kent CCC Managing Committee. A request to Kent for a benefit was 'deferred' in 1895 and in 1896 he was advised to postpone it until he was free of his creditors. When he asked for financial help, the Club granted him a pound a week from 1 September 1896 to 30 April 1897 provided he maintained his qualification.

In September 1897 he was one of five players granted one pound per week winter pay. In 1898 Wright was advised by the committee that he could not have a benefit until he was discharged from bankruptcy, which is a little odd as in the *London Gazette* there seems to be nothing to indicate that, at that stage, he had actually filed for bankruptcy. Nor does there seem to be any record of his discharge.

By the time Wright was granted the Middlesex match at Tonbridge in 1901 as a benefit he had moved to Reading and was trainer to Reading FC. He was again in business as a sports outfitter as well as doing some coaching at local schools, including Radley. Although blessed with uninterrupted cricket over the three days, as often seemed to happen when the beneficiary was no longer playing, the match was a disappointment, raising a modest £365. This despite being calculated on the recently introduced Kentish system of the average taking in the fixture over the past five years.

By 1902, he was back again, applying without success to Kent for £50 to stock his shop. In September 1907 Wright filed for bankruptcy. Kent CCC donated £10 and a collection among committee members raised another four guineas. His troubles continued. In 1911 Kent paid his rates and there were other subsequent small donations. According to the Kent Managing Committee, 'Through an advertisement in Athletic News work has been found for Water Wright as groundsmen to a club in Leigh, Lancashire but he had no money to pay for the removal of his family and furniture'. Lord Harris had advanced £10 and it was decided to repay this out of the Kent Cricketers' Aid Fund and to make Wright a further grant of £10 to provide clothes for himself and his children. A member present promised to send some left-off clothes. Wright remained in Leigh for the remainder of his life, working well beyond pensionable age. He died of prostate cancer.

Circa 1892 the first Mrs Wright died. At Maidstone in April 1895 Wright married again, this time into Kent's cricketing aristocracy. Born in Wadhurst, Sussex, his second wife was Mary Gude Wenman (1875-1926), a daughter of John Gude Wenman (qv), cousin of the immortal Ned Wenman of the 'Great Old Kent Eleven'. Walter's first marriage seems to have been childless but during his second he fathered four sons and four daughters between 1898 and 1911, which may explain at least some of his financial embarrassment. Interestingly, the two eldest are shown as born in Gravesend which may be connected with his 1898 bankruptcy, if such there was. In the 1911 Census, Mary Wenman is shown as 'Assisting in the business' which refers of course to the Reading shop.

William Yardley (No. 259).

Born: 10.6.1849, Altomont, Bombay (now Mumbai), India. *Died:* 28.10.1900, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium round-arm/slow left-arm under-arm bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1868-1878.

Educated: Eagle House Preparatory School, Rugby School & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Sir William Yardley & Lady Amelia Yardley (*née* Wilkins).

Bill Yardley, or 'Bill of the Play' as he was known to his close friends, never played more than 13 first-class matches in a season (in 1870 & 1873), only twice scored over 500 runs in a season (1870 & 1872) and only three times averaged over 30 (1868, 1872, 1875) but for almost a decade he was one of the country's leading batsmen. He was finished with serious cricket by the time he was 30 but had he not devoted most of his life to other things, first to the Law and latterly to the theatre, he might perhaps be better remembered. He was, to quote *Scores & Biographies Vol. X page 224*, 'pronounced by competent judges to be second only to Mr WG Grace'. One such competent judge, Lord Harris, declared him to be 'one of the finest amateur batsmen England has ever produced'.

Among the fortunate few able to score runs against good bowling with little or no practice, he made full use of his height, six foot one (1.85m.), and excelled in the drive and all the orthodox off-side strokes including the then-fashionable forward cut, as well as being judged among the finest leg hitters of his generation. Genuinely ambidextrous and able to pick up and throw with either hand, he was an outstanding fielder, particularly in the covers. At Rugby he reputedly threw 100 yards (91.4 m.) with his right arm and 78 yards (71.3 m.) with his left. During an innings, he would sometimes switch hit like some of the moderns and he could bowl with either arm. According to his own account in an interview in the *Cricket Field* in 1895, at least once he took a wicket by changing arms in mid-over. Illegal of course if he did not tell the umpire, but he seems to have got away with it.

The son of a judge who became Chief Justice of Bombay, Yardley learned the basics of his cricket in India and when the family, which by then included five sisters and two brothers, returned to England in 1858 he entered Eagle House Preparatory School in Wimbledon where he was in the Eleven for three years. Among his contemporaries at Eagle House was Jack Shuter (qv).

In 1863 he went on to Rugby and, coached by the school professional 'Ducky' Diver of Cambridgeshire and in early season by another distinguished Cambridgeshire man, Tom Hayward senior, he made his first appearance in the Eleven two years later. Despite very nearly losing his foot in a shooting accident in the winter, he made a few first team appearances in 1866 and became a fixture in the team in the following year, initially as an allrounder. He was a prolific wicket-taker in school matches and caught one and stumped three when Rugby beat Marlborough at The Oval in 1867.

Yardley took the gloves from time to time throughout his career but he was an unwilling keeper. In his *Cricket Field* interview he says 'I was not a good wicketkeeper, which is not surprising as I thoroughly detested the position, although by some extraordinary fluke, or succession of flukes, I particularly distinguished myself'. Next year he came into his own as a batsman, heading the school averages and scoring a rapid 67 when Marlborough were again beaten, this time by an innings, at Rugby.

In 1865 Yardley senior had settled the family at Hadlow Park, near Tonbridge, a substantial property with 13 bedrooms and extensive grounds. As a result, his eldest son was qualified for Kent and in 1866 played his first game for Gentlemen of Kent, against Southborough. Next year he made two further appearances for Gentlemen of Kent, the second against I Zingari in Canterbury Week but none of these ranked as first-class. In August 1868 he was back in Canterbury Week for his first-class debut, a 12- a -side match Kent v Gentlemen of MCC. Batting No. 3, he was top scorer in both innings, caught and bowled in the first for 51, run out 24 in the second. Despite the presence of the regular keeper Edward Henty, Yardley also kept wicket for part of the match and brought off a stumping from George Bennett's 'ground bait'.

He played two more Kent matches in 1868, against Cambridgeshire and Sussex, both at Gravesend. In the former he came to the crease at 7 for three and top scored again with 59 (hit wicket) but followed it with a duck in the second innings. In late September he played against the Australian Aboriginal Tourists at Mote Park for a Sporting Press team alongside three other Kent Cricketers, William South

Norton, JC and FF Crawford (qv) Yardley carried his bat for 54* in the first innings and scored 30 in the second, the only batsman on either side to exceed 21. Badly affected by autumnal rain, the game was drawn and took only £27. The resultant deficit, £86, was by some margin the visitors' largest loss of the entire tour.

In October 1868 Yardley entered Trinity College Cambridge and it would be mainly by his achievements at Cambridge that he would establish his cricketing reputation. Beginning well with 154 in the Freshmen's match, 65 (top score) v MCC and 34 (top score again) v Gentlemen of England, all at Fenner's, was enough to gain him the first of his four Blues. Against Oxford he contributed only 19 and 0 but in the following year he scored 51 (top score) v MCC at Fenner's, 90* v Surrey at The Oval and 100 in the University match at Lord's, the first-ever century in the fixture. He hit 14 fours, scored his runs out of 155 and added 116 for the sixth wicket with Jack Dale (67). He also kept wicket and made one stumping. The occasion was notable for more than Yardley's century. This was the famous match in which Oxford, needing 179, were 176 for seven but lost by two runs when Frank Cobden performed one of the most dramatic of all hat-tricks.

Captain of Cambridge in 1871, Yardley had the mortification of being on the losing side against Oxford for the only time in his career. He hit another half-century against Surrey at The Oval and played a number of other useful innings in low-scoring matches including in the University match when he was top scorer in his side's first innings with 25 as in 26 balls they collapsed from 62 for four to 65 all out (SE Butler ten for 38). Once again he was obliged to keep wicket but was relieved of the duty in his final University season.

Apart from 42 v Surrey at The Oval he had done nothing much of note when he took the field against Oxford at Lord's in 1872 but went on to achieve his personal highest score, 130 (20 fours), scored out of 192 in 125 minutes. In the process he gained the unique distinction of being both the first and the second batsman to score a century in the University match. Cambridge won by an innings.

University seasons were very short in Yardley's day and he had a mere seven first-class matches to his credit when in 1869 he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. With run-getting difficult and facing an attack including Ned Willsher, he shared a sixth-wicket partnership of 58 with Isaac Walker (71) in the first innings before being run out for 28. In the second innings he arrived at the wicket at 40 for five and scored 39* of the 58 required for victory. He almost certainly also kept wicket.

He would go on to appear in the already historic fixture in every year until 1874, six times at Lord's, twice at The Oval, once at Prince's. In another low scoring game at Lord's in 1871, he twice scored 51, top scorer in both innings, while in the following year at The Oval he hit 83 in 85 minutes with 1 six, three fives and six fours. In the previously mentioned interview in *The Cricket Field* the interviewer refers, mistakenly but intriguingly, to Yardley's having played for the Gentlemen at The Oval only once 'for reasons unnecessary to mention as they were of a private character'.

On leaving Cambridge, Yardley's cricket was restricted by Law studies. He had been admitted to the Middle Temple as a student member in January 1868 prior to going up to Cambridge and on coming down he continued his studies. In January 1873 he was called to the Bar, with chambers in Pump Court and practicing mainly on the South Eastern Circuit. Presumably due to his legal commitments and later to his theatrical and literary activities, virtually all of his cricket was played in the south-east, a little over half of it on convenient London grounds, chiefly at Lord's.

Fewer than half the matches in which Yardley took part were for Kent but he nevertheless managed at least one, sometimes under an assumed name, in every year between 1868 and 1878 with the exception of 1874 – seven in 1876, eight in 1877. In his only match for Kent in 1871, v WG Grace's Eleven at Mote Park (a benefit for Ned Willsher), he hit 126* in 140 minutes with one six (clean out of the ground off WG's elder brother Henry), and 20 fours.

His six half centuries for Kent included 96 out of a team total of 181 v Sussex at Hove in 1870 and 92 v Surrey at Mote Park in 1876 when he put on 165 for the second wicket with Vero Kemball Shaw (74). A rather brief county career notwithstanding, he played on eight Kent grounds, Canterbury, Crystal Palace, Faversham, Gravesend, Maidstone, Tonbridge, Town Malling and Tunbridge Wells Common. He played in nine Canterbury Weeks which brought him 780 runs (avge.30.00) . In contrast, he played only once at Hove and rarely ventured north, once to Old Trafford, once to Trent Bridge.

There seems little doubt that, like quite a few amateurs of the day, Yardley chose his fixtures, in his case possibly more for financial considerations rather than social. He was much in demand for the more up-market games and, in addition to his nine appearances for the Gentlemen v Players, he made four for Gentlemen of the South, seven for South v North and eight for MCC. In 1878, his final season, his friend Charles Thornton persuaded him to play for his Eleven against the touring Australians in a 'social' two-day match of somewhat dubious first-class status on the picturesque and well-appointed Orleans Club ground at Twickenham. Playing under the name 'L Leigh' he scored 0 (caught and bowled first ball) and 12 but, back behind the stumps for the last time, in the Australians' first innings, he stumped Charles Bannerman and Tom Garrett and caught Tom Horan.

A by-product of this plethora of top matches was that he frequently played alongside or against WG Grace, 42 matches in all – three of them for combined Kent and Gloucestershire teams in Canterbury Week. At the time sections of the press derived amusement from learning that, when the two were on the same side, Yardley was in the habit of backing his runs against Grace's for half a crown (25p). In his interview Yardley insisted that he only wagered 'when in form'. Records show that had he done so on every occasion he would have ended £1.75p worse off. In fact, the difference between the two, statistically at least, was rather more than that. In the fixtures concerned, Yardley hit eight half-centuries with a top score of 83. In the same set of matches Grace also hit eight half-centuries but he also compiled nine centuries with a top score of 180.

Yardley played a great deal of recreational cricket with Band of Brothers, the Bar, Butterflies, Free Foresters, Hadlow, Mote Park and Old Rugbeans as well as, in his youth, Kentish Stars, a rather exclusive young man's club with an upper age limit of 19. In his more mature years he played for the famously convivial Beefsteak Club. At School and University Yardley excelled at racquets and fives and continued with the former into later life. He was also an expert shot and often managed to combine some shooting with his cricket.

As a boy, in 1862 Yardley attended his first Canterbury Week. He played in his first match seven years later and it is around this time that he became involved with the Old Stagers. Always devoted to the theatre, he quickly made a name for himself both as an amateur actor and in writing for the stage.

It seems likely that his legal practice suffered. At any event, he eventually turned professional and achieved considerable success, primarily with burlesques, farces, pantomimes etc. His works were performed at leading London theatres, notably at the *Gaiety*, where he had a spectacular run of successes, *Drury Lane*, *The Garrick*, *The Lyric*, *Opera Comique*, *Prince of Wales*, *Trafalgar Square Theatre* and *Terry's Theatre* in the Strand. Often working in collaboration with other playwrights and adapting existing works, he became recognised as one of the leading comic writers of the day.

In parallel he established a reputation as a sporting and dramatic critic mainly with *The Sporting Times* under the pseudonym 'Bill of the Play, and *The Morning Post* where he wrote a *Cricket Notes* column. He also compiled and edited *The History of a Hundred Centuries* (Upcott Gill, 1895) for his friend WG Grace and was sub-editor of the early volumes in the Badminton Library. Through his work and, not least membership of clubs such as The Beefsteak, he rapidly gathered a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the world of the Arts of whom among the most notable were perhaps

WS Gilbert, with whom he on occasions he collaborated in amateur theatricals, and the artist Rex Whistler.

In 1886 Yardley sailed to the USA where some of his works were performed on Broadway. While there he wrote plays, played a little baseball and married 17-year-old, London-born Maud Hougath Mainwaring (1868-1954). There were three daughters, one of them, the second, adopted, and one son.

On returning from America *circa* 1890, Yardley continued to enjoy a successful career as both dramatist and journalist but does not seem to have entirely abandoned the Law. In the 1891 Census he is living with the family in Barnes and is listed as 'dramatic journalist and barrister-at-Law. In the later years of his life he was plagued by gout and other ailments and had been suffering from jaundice, acute gastritis and, judging by his letters, depression, when he died of a heart attack in the *Sun Hotel*, Kingston.

Sadly for one who specialized in comedy and burlesque, 'Bill of the Play's' life ended on a tragic note. He died intestate with no provision for his wife and children. Why remains something of a mystery. Lord Harris writes of Yardley in his memoirs, 'Life was, I fear, generally an uphill struggle for him'. While writing for the stage when Victoria was Queen was not as lucrative as writing for the cinema or television can sometimes be today, as dramatist or as journalist he never seems to have been short of work. Nor does he seem to have had any notable theatrical failures. The answer probably lies in his lifestyle - wealthy friends, the Beefsteak Club etc. In September 1901 a Yorkshire v The Rest of England match was staged at Lord's which raised £350 for his wife and children.

Both Maud Yardley and elder daughter Gladys Alexandra were authors in their own right. They were living in a seven room house in Wimbledon at the time of the 1911 Census and, politically incorrectly today, both show 'authoress' as their occupation. Maud had at least nine novels published – *Sinless* (1906), *Nor All Your Tears* (1908), *Today's Love* (1910), *Love's Debt* (1913), *For You* (1913), *At the Door of the Heart* (1913), *A Man's life is Different* (1914), *Soulmates* (1917), *Mrs John* (1919). Working in the same genre as her mother judging by the titles, Gladys probably wrote more words than her father. Between 1920 & 1940 she had 25 novels published. On her death in 1954, Maud's effects were valued at £166 10s 11d.

It is gratifying to add that, thanks to the efforts of Greville Simons and his nephew, clubs in rural Gloucestershire now compete for the William Yardley Challenge Cup.

Further reading:

Simons, Greville. *William Yardley. master of bat and burlesque*. Wisteria Books, 1997.

(Sir) Alfred Joseph Karney Young KC (No. 409).

Born: 1.8.1865, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. *Died:* 5.1.1942, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1890.

Educated: St. Mark's School, Windsor (later Imperial Service College) & Magdalen College, Oxford.

Parents: Sir William Young CMG & Cecilia Eliza Cowan Young (*née* Cameron).

Although he failed in both innings against MCC in 1890 (four & six), Alfred Young was one of the most distinguished of all Kent's 'one-match wonders'. He read Law at Magdalen College (1884-1887) and was called to the Bar in the Inner Temple in 1889. His long career in Britain's Colonial judiciary began with his posting to British Honduras (now Belize) where, among other services, he compiled the first list of the Colony's Laws and prepared a report on the Census of 1901. He also found time to assist in introducing cricket to the Colony.

Young was appointed Crown Prosecutor in the Seychelles in 1903, Attorney General, British Central African Protectorate, 1906, Stipendiary Magistrate, Trinidad, 1908, Chief Justice, the Seychelles, 1909, Attorney General & Member of the Legislative Council, Fiji, 1914, Chief Justice, the Leeward Islands, 1920, Chief Justice Fiji & Judicial Commissioner West Pacific, 1921. Knighted in 1923. In 1928 he headed Royal Commission on racial segregation in Fiji and retired in the following year. He later came out of retirement to become Resident Magistrate in Cape Town where he died.

Although he never seems to have been in contention for a Blue, as a batsman Young was, according to his *Wisden* obituary, strong off his pads and a good late cutter. Mainly associated with the Rochester Club, during his short time in England he scored at least two hundreds for his College, against Brasenose in 1885 and Bradfield in 1886, and another for Hundred of Hoo v a Chatham Naval team in the latter year.

Although technically a 'one-match wonder', he appeared in two other matches for Kent, not unfortunately judged as first-class - v Essex at Tonbridge in 1887, when he was run out without scoring, and for The Gentlemen of Kent v the Gentlemen of Philadelphia at Town Mallings in 1889 where his scores were 20 and two not out. He is also probably the Young who scored 108* for Kent Second Eleven v 'The Mallings' in 1888.

Alfred Young was the youngest son of the Colonial Secretary of Vancouver Island who later became Governor of the Gold Coast (now Ghana). In the light of laws passed in South Africa only six years after Alfred Young's death in Cape Town, it is interesting that his mother was the daughter of a mixed race marriage. She was born in Georgetown, British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1832 although in the 1891 Census her place of birth is shown as Edinburgh. By then she was a widow 'living on own means' in Castle View Road, Strood. Educated in Germany, her parents were an itinerant sea captain named Cowan and Cecilia Eliza Douglas (1812-1859), born in British Guiana of Creole origin. In 1832 Cecilia Eliza married David Cameron, from Perth who ended a very chequered career as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas, Vancouver Island.

In 1900 Alfred Young married a widow, Frances May Buckley, daughter of Sir Henry Miller. His elder brother became Sir William Douglas Young, Governor of the Falkland Islands, 1915-1922. His elder sister, Mary Alice, married Frederick Mitchell Hodges, later Governor of the Gold Coast (now Ghana).