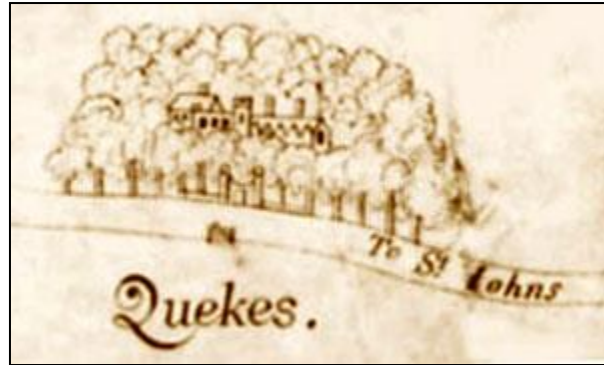


# QUEX & ITS OWNERS

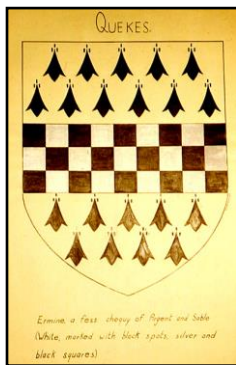
By Alfred Walker

## 1 - Quex - Its situation

Quekes, Quek, Queakes, Queeks and Quex are among the many variations of the seat of an ancient family which bore that name in the Isle of Thanet some five or six centuries ago, within the Manor of Monkton and in the Parish of Wood – or Acol – and Birchington.



## 2 - The name and the armorial bearings



The name of Quek is quite interesting. It was another name for the game of chequers which was played with pebbles or marbles on a board that was divided into alternate black and white squares. The armorial bearings are of argent and sable – or in other words a white shield marked with black spots with a band of silver and black squares across the middle of the escutcheon. These armorial bearings of the Quek family can be seen in the Quex Chapel of Birchington Church and they occupy the place of honour in the Crispe armorial bearings as well.

## 3 - The Parkers

But the Quek family was not the first occupier of the estate. Before them the Johnson family lived there, though we know very little about these people. They were followed by the Parker family who were established on the estate by 1414. We know only slightly more about this family, Mainly based on the fact that their name appears beside their residence on a map drawn by Thomas of Elmham in c. 1414. The original map can be found in the 'History of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury' held at Trinity College, Cambridge. Thomas was a monk and treasurer of the St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. The house drawn on the map and labelled 'Parker' is placed not far from 'Berchington' and near a windmill and a beacon. This house is no longer in existence, having been demolished in about 1806 by John Powell Powell, its new owner. It is thought to have stood on, or slightly north of, the site of the present Quex House.



The family of Parker must have been of some importance in Thanet, as they bequeathed money to Birchington church and also to the church of St Nicholas-at-Wode – or Woodchurch. John Parker, in his will of 1412, asked to be buried in the Church of All Saints, Birchington. The tomb above is almost certainly where John Parker is buried in Quex Chapel.

He also bequeathed £6 to the fabric of the church and also 10s to the fabric of the church at Wode. In 1428 Cecilia Parker, his wife, also of the parish of Birchington, bequeathed 6s 8d to the Altar bequeathed 40d to the Light of the Blessed Mary in the Church of Wode and 40d to the Light of the Torches of Wode. (John and Cecilia's gifts are recorded in the 'Testamenta Cantiana'). In 1426/7, £15 6s 8d was received from the widow of John Parker for one window made in the chapel of 'Byrchyngton' by the receivers of the money for the new work of Christ Church Canterbury. (Archaeologia Cantiana)

#### 4 - The Quek family

1414

The Parkers' heiress married into the Quek family, who first appear as occupiers or owners of land in the Isle of Thanet in 1334/5 (Edward III). In that year Thomas Qyeyk paid 1s 0d and William Queyk paid 2s 10¼d for the fifteenth and tenth - a tax on property [Kent Records Vol. 18 – Lay subsidy for Kent 1334/5]. There is no record of the transfer of the property to a member of the



Quek family, but appears that John Quek married John Parker's daughter and so obtained possession of the manor. In Canterbury Cathedral library there is an indenture dated 1420 (Henry V) witnessing that the trustees of John Parker, after the death of his widow Cecilia, proposed among other things to give 100 marcs for the repair of the king's highway called Park Strete (probably Park Lane) 56s 8d. From other documents in Christ Church Canterbury Cathedral, we know that the Quek family, John, Thomas, Richard, Joan, Christiana and Lawrence all held land in Thanet, mainly in and around Monkton, from the early 1300s until towards the latter half of the 1400s. (C. C. C. Reg. C).

#### 5 - John Quek

The earliest monument to a member of the Quek family in Birchington Church is that of John Quek, who died in 1449 and was buried in Quex Chapel where his brass is now mounted on the north wall. He is believed to have married the widow Cecilia Parker, thus adding Parker's (now Quex) House to the family's estates. He is depicted wearing civilian dress of the period, with an anelace or large hunting knife or dagger hanging from his girdle, with his son at his side (in pigmy size, as was the custom of the time). Both he and his son are wearing a long gown with full sleeves, below which can be seen their pointed shoes. Richard Quek married Juliana, third daughter of John Baker of Coldham, in the parish of Capel-le-Fern, near Folkestone.

John Quek may have rebuilt the house in which the Parkers lived, but, judging by what we see on the various maps, he may simply have added more sections to it. In 1788, 30 years before it was demolished, the drawing of it shows a number of additions to the mansion.





In 1436 John was commissioned to levy a tax to the tenth and fifteenth. He was a comparatively large tax payer in the Ringsloe Hundred. In 1418 he appears on the subsidy roll of the fifteen and tenth as paying 6s 8d. Joan Quyek is charged 6d; Thomas Quyek is charged 4d and Christiana also 4d (Arch Cant. Vol. 12). In his will, John bequeathed the sum of 10 marcs to erect a glass window in the Chancel of St Mary Birchington – now the Quex Chapel, but it was left to his son Richard to fulfil the father's wishes in his will.

## 6 - Richard Quek



John Quek was succeeded by his son in 1449, but he occupied the estate for only ten years before he died. His brass, in Quex Chapel is next to his father's, showing him in a very similar costume to the earlier one, except that he has no anelace at his side. The inscription under it is now missing, but Lewis (in his History of Thanet 1723) gives the inscription as follows:

“Hic jacet Ricus Quek qui obit  
XVIII die mensis Marcij  
An<sup>o</sup> Dni M' CCCCLIX “

Richard was a generous benefactor to the church and in his will dated 1458 (Consistory Court of Canterbury Vol. 2) he asked to be buried in the Chancel of St Mary, Birchington, and bequeathed 12d to the high altar, 4 bushels of barley to the Lights of the Body of Christ and the Holy Trinity light and 3s 4d to the fabric of the church at Wodechurch.

Richard possibly had a brother Lawrence Queke of Birchington, who in 1476 asked to be buried in the churchyard of All Saints, Birchington. He bequeathed 12d to the high altar and two bushels of barley to every Light (candle).

## 7 - John Quek (no pic)

Richard Quek was possibly succeeded by another John Quek, but very little is known about him. Hasted in his 'History of Kent' stated that a John Quek Esq. of Quekes bought Grimgill in the parish of Whitstable in 1483 or soon after and his sole daughter and heiress brought this manor in marriage to the Crispes, with whom it remained until 1605, when it was sold.

## 8 - John Crispe and Agnes Quek

It is thought that the heiress of this John Quek was named Agnes who married John Crispe and as a result of this marriage the estate passed into the family named Crispe and remained in this family until early in 1700s. Owing to a lack of corroborative information it is very difficult to trace the descendants of the Crispes at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, especially as there were other Crispes in Thanet, Canterbury, Whitstable and outside Kent, several of whom were named John.

Hasted, Lewis and the Heralds all agree that John Crispe is descended from the Crispes of Stanlake in Oxfordshire. He may have been the son of Henry Crispe, who married Jane, daughter of Nicholas Dyer of Rotherfield. Barrett in his 'History of the Ville of Birchington' disagrees with both Lewis and Hasted over this John Crispe and the date of his death. Lewis and Hasted both give 1500 as the date, but Barrett produces some evidence to suggest that he lived until 1536.



There is a memorial brass to John Crispe and Agnes his wife in the Quex Chapel, but the effigies of both parents have been stolen and the inscription which remains was not completed after John's death. From the tablet we learn that it was placed here by her husband, for Agnes Crispe (who was Agnes Quek when she married) who died in 1536. The text for John's own demise was inscribed, leaving spaces for the date to be filled in later. Under this brass are their eight sons and seven daughters. There is a will for a John Crispe of Canterbury and Thanet dated 1500/01, which was recorded in the Canterbury Consistory Court, Vol. 8. The date of the will is not necessarily the date of his death. The will was witnessed by William Crispe and others. John willed to be buried next to his wife at the monastery of St Augustine. He bequeathed 3s 4d to the vicar of Monkton for 'tithes forgotten' and to every light in the Church of Birchington 6 bushels of barley, also '66s 8d to the making of a rood loft at Birchington if the parishioners there will one new made'. To the church works at Whitstable, he bequeathed 40s and also 20s to the making of a 'foul' way [was this a drain, perhaps?] between Canterbury and Whitstable. This will rather points to the fact that this is the John Crispe who married Agnes Quek, as Agnes had inherited the Manor of

Grimgill in the parish of Whitstable. This John also had a house in Canterbury. A John Crispe was also Mayor of Canterbury in 1489 / 90.

The Crispe coat of arms is Or, on a chevron Sa., five horse-shoes Ar. – in other words – five silver horse-shoes on a black chevron on a gold shield. These armorial bearings, with those of the Quek family, occupying the place of honour, can be seen in the Quex Chapel in All Saints Church, Birchington. The Crispe coat of arms can also be seen in St John's Church, Margate.

## 9 - John Crispe, the Younger

It appears that the estate passed to John Crispe, the Younger, son and heir of John Crispe and Agnes Quek, so he is one of the eight sons on John and Agnes's brass monument. He is sometimes described as 'of Cleve'. It would appear that Cleve Court may have become the residence of the heir-in-waiting for Quex, as it was brought into the Quex estate by Agnes Quek at her marriage to John (the elder). For three or four generations we find the eldest son of the Quek / Crispe family residing at Cleve while awaiting the move to Quex. Hasted states that Cleve was formally in the possession of the family of Quek. The eldest son of John Crispe the Younger, also named John, is described as 'of Cleave', while Quex in Birchington seems to have been the residence of the second son, Henry, who made it a place of greater importance than it had ever been before.

John Crispe the Younger married three times, according to the brasses in Quex Chapel. His first wife was Alys, daughter of Thomas Denne of Kingstone. Alys died in 1518, by whom John had issue of John Crispe of Cleve, his heir, Sir Henry Crispe of Quek and William Crispe, Lieutenant Governor of Dover Castle, and also some daughters. His second wife was Margaret, daughter of George Rotherham, who died in 1528, who had a least one daughter, depicted in pigmy form in the folds of her dress on the brass. His third wife was another Margaret who died in 1533 after the birth and death of a 'chrysome'd' baby, which has had its head broken off. The baby is represented below Margaret's brass in its baptismal wrapping. A Chrysom was a square of white linen used for covering the child at its baptism, as an emblem of purity. A child who died before it was a month old was buried in its chrysom and was thus called a 'chrysome'd' child.



A brass similar to John's

John Crispe the Younger was Sheriff of Kent in 1518 and his name occurs among those in the Commission of the Peace for Kent in 1517, 1524, 1526 and 1528 (Arch. Cant. Vol. 12). In 1536 his name is included among those of the Kentish Gentry to supply soldiers to fight against the northern rebels, when the people of the North rose up in rebellion following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, when the County of Kent raised 1,600 men (Arch Cant Vol. 12). During this rebellion, known as the Pilgrimage of grace, John Crispe was to abide in Kent to keep order.

He appears as a Quek when the Churchwardens of Birchington commenced their account books in 1531. These account books, some of the earliest in Kent, begin first of all with an account of church lands (now dated about 1350) together with another terrier dated 1526 / 7. The survey starts thus:-

“Itm Imprimus, the reknyng of the Church lands of Berchyngton the xviii yere of Kyng Herry viii and the viiith day of May by John Crispe esquire, Robert Philipp, Thomas Pettet . . . . .

His issue was 2 daughters and 3 sons: his sons were:-

1. John Crispe of Cleve, his heir, who married Ann daughter of Robert Tuck and who was buried in Monkton Church in 1558, and whose will is registered in the Consistory Court in Canterbury.

2. William Crispe who became Lieutenant Governor of Dover Castle and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. He married first Mary, daughter of Avery Randolph of Baddlesmere, and by her had several children. His second wife was Ann, daughter of John Brent.

3. Henry Crispe who succeeded to Quek.

## **10 - Sir Henry Crispe or Regulus Insulae ('King of the Island')**

Sir Henry Crispe was the most famous of all the Crispes and raised the name of Crispe to the highest pinnacle of fame and became known as 'King of the Island'. Hasted says he was "a man of great name and eminence and of singular estimation for his discretion, weight in the management of public affairs of the County, as well as for his hospitality, insomuch that he was reputed to have the entire rule of all this island."

He was the rich man of the family, but how he obtained his wealth is not known, as he was the second son and not the heir. He first married Katherine Scott, a member of the great Kentish family of Scott of Scott's Hall, Smeeth, near Ashford. She died in 1544 as recorded in the Birchington Burial Register. The following year, in 1545, he married in Birchington church a second wife, Ann Haselhurst, daughter and co-heiress of George Haselhurst, when Henry Crispe is described in the Birchington Marriage Register as 'armiger', showing that he had been given a knighthood.

Sir Henry Crispe is first heard of in 1539, when he was Churchwarden and in his warden's accounts for that year it is shown that the wardens purchased the first Bible for the Church at 20s, probably that ascribed to Thomas Matthew, revised and re-issued in 1539 as the 'Great Bible', which Cromwell had ordered to be placed in every church. Henry was Churchwarden in 1540, 1541 and 1557. He was living in Birchington during the Reformation period, and witnessed the changes that took place during those momentous years. He may have had a part in having the sturdy shelf installed to hold the Bible, which is right next to the entry into his chapel.

During the reign of Edward VI, Henry was appointed one of the Goods' Commissioners, who collected inventories of the Church ornaments and furniture within the Hundreds of Kent ('Hundreds' were divisions of the community, initially amounting to 100 households) Arch. Cant. Vol. 12. At the start of the first Birchington Churchwardens' book in 1531, his list of church goods was added. It has no date attached to it, but it is probably the inventory made in 1552, when Sir Henry was on duty as a Goods Commissioner. In 1557, when he was Churchwarden with his nephew Richard Cryspe, there is an entry in the book of £3 16s 4d 'spent at divers times for the materials and labour for the church', which he gave, taking only 24 lbs of wax in return. This was the wax from candles that were no longer being used on all the altars which had been demolished.



This shelf was made to hold the new Bible in 1552

In 1547 / 8 he was appointed, with others, under an act of Edward VI to inquire into Chantry and Obbit foundations and to convert the lands of such foundations as came within the scope of this Act to "good and godlie uses", which really meant providing money for the King's needs (Kent Records Vol. 14 – 'Kent Obbit and Lamp Rents')

Somner, in his 'History of Canterbury' states that Henry Crispe bought a large quantity of bell metal, which came from the Cathedral, but no further trace of it is found.

In 1542 Sir Henry contributed £29 13s 4d to a loan to Henry VIII – a large sum in those days – and for the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> taxes he paid 30s, the highest contribution in Birchington (Arch. Cant. Vol. 12). From the letters sent to, and received from, her majesty Queen Mary I's Council, there is no doubt that he was an important person in the Isle of Thanet and also in Kent at this date. In 1558 he had charge of the North and East sea coasts of Thanet and also from Sandwich through to Dover.

The Birchington Baptism Register, commencing in 1538, contains the entries of the baptisms of three of Henry's children: Anna – 1547, John – 1551, Janna – 1552, but not of Nicholas, who is supposed to be the eldest son, and not Henry.

Sir Henry died in 1575 and was buried in the Quex Chapel of Birchington Church, beside his first wife Katherine Scott. His burial is entered in the Burial Register. Their tomb is the large altar tomb in the north east corner of the chapel. It would appear that the tomb was erected on top of an earlier burial, the name of whose occupant has been lost in the mists of time (quite possibly a Parker ancestor). Henry is arrayed in armour with his sword on the right side and 'Katherine' in clothes of the period. There is no inscription, but the coats of arms of the Crispe and Scott families are on the three visible sides – three catherine wheels for Scott.

In his will Sir Henry bequeathed the sum of 20s to the Church, which was paid to the Churchwardens by his son and entered in their account book.



## The Quex Mansion

The house at this time was rather a long building. This view drawn in 1781 and published in the Gentleman's Magazine of November 1809, with an account of the Crispes, was taken from the 45<sup>th</sup> number of the 'Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica' & showed the building as it once stood (see p.3). The house was mainly built of brick, except for two large windows which had stone frames. According to Hasted there was also some wooden framework visible inside and the roof was tiled. It had some fine suites of apartments and at least one room was used as a bed chamber by royalty.

Sir Henry Crispe almost certainly added to the building while he was in residence there. In the billiard room of the present mansion there is a chimney piece of Kentish ragstone, which has been elaborately carved with the arms of the Quekes, the Crispes and a Tudor rose. This chimney piece came from the old Quek mansion when the present house was built.

## John Crispe of Quekes

Within Quex Chapel there are 7 different spellings of the name of Quek, and the variations in manuscripts are at least as varied, hence the different versions appearing in this account. Sir Henry Crispe was succeeded by his second son, John of Queeks, Birchington, who was baptised in 1551 according to the All Saints Baptism register. Sir Henry's eldest son, Nicholas by Katherine Scott (see monument on p.6), lived at 'Grimgell' in Whitstable, where he died before his father in 1564 and was buried in Whitstable Church. His burial is entered in the burial register of Whitstable as "sonne and heir to Sir Henry Crispe, Knight". Sir Nicholas was Lord Lieutenant of Kent in 1560 and was Sheriff. In his will, registered in the Consistory Court of Canterbury, he asked to be buried in the Parish church of Whitstable and he referred to the property in Whitstable as belonging to his father, Sir Henry. Sir Henry died possessed of it. Nicholas married his first wife Frances Cheney of 'Shrubland' in Sheppey and in the church of Minster in Sheppey there is a shield of Sir Thomas Cheney on his monument, which also bears the coat of arms of the Crispe family impaling those of Cheney (Arch Cant Vol. 12 p. 411).

To return to John Crispe of Queeks, at the age of 22 in 1573, he married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas





Harlackenden Esquire. She died a month later in 1573. Both her marriage and burial are recorded in Birchington registers. A year later in 1574 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Roper of Eltham. This marriage also took place in Birchington and is entered in the register. By Elizabeth he had one son, Henry, who, on the death of his father became heir to his grandfather the 'great' Sir Henry. In the Churchwardens' account book for 1576 it states:-

"Itm. – of Mr John Crispe for the vestments he bought XXXs." By this time the Reformation was well established in Birchington and vestments had been disposed of to any buyers. John's will was proved in the Consistory Court in Canterbury in 1583 (Con. Court Vol. 35 fol. 35). He asked to be buried in the North Chancel of the church of Birchington, between his father and his late wife (Elizabeth Roper). John was only 32 when he died in 1583. His monument is on the 'Six Bust' monument on the north wall of Quex Chapel and he is shown in the centre of the lower section with his two wives on either side.

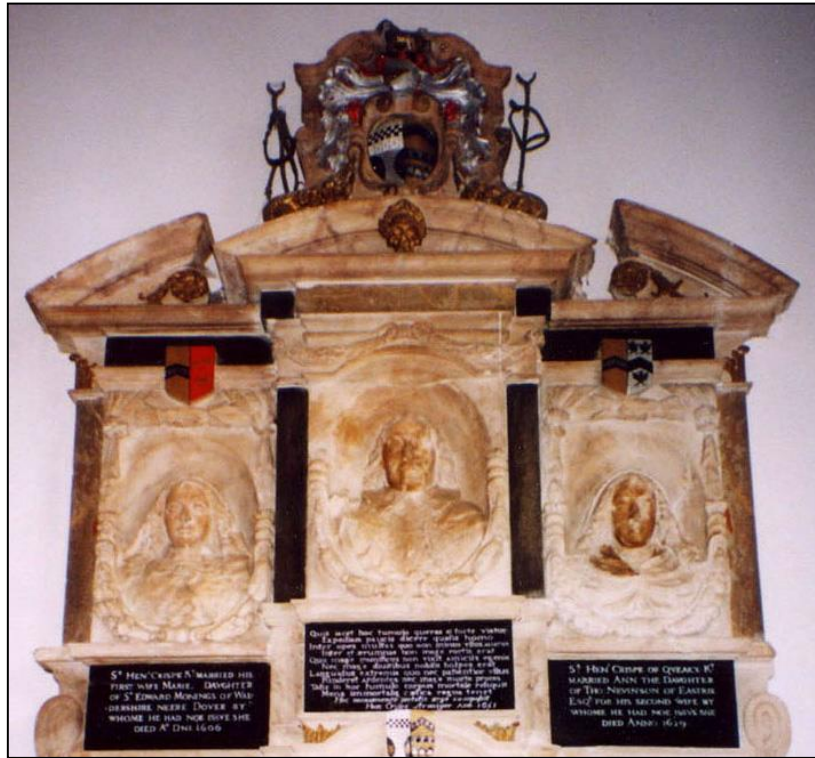
## **The Second Sir Henry Crispe**

John Crispe was succeeded by his young son Henry, who was only 7 years old when his father died. Young Henry's baptism is entered in the All Saints Baptism register in 1575/6 with the names of his God-parents – his two uncles, William Crispe, Lieutenant of Dover Castle and Edward Roper and his aunt, Dame Anna Crispe, who married Mr Philip Browne. His aunt and uncle became his guardians and they took up residence at Quex, where they remained until nearly the close of the century.

Both Dame Anna and Mr Browne were 'presented' (or arraigned) by the Churchwardens at the Visitation of the Archdeacon of Canterbury. In 1590. Anna Browne, gentlewoman, was presented "for that she did openly and in the face of the whole congregation on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August last past, presumptuously usurped and did take upon her the office and duty of our minister as the child of John Hilk of our said parish was brought to be baptizyd, in the signing it with the sign of the cross, contrary to the laws of this nation."

Her husband Philip Browne was presented with others for not receiving Holy Communion (Arch Cant Vol. 25).

Mr Browne paid the contribution of 12s to the Armada Sess (tax), levied in 1588 to raise money towards fitting out the Dover ship to fight against the Spanish Armada (See Birchington Church archives 'The Armada Sess'). On this occasion (as at other times) Birchington parishioners more than did their duty. The sess was fixed to raise £6 7s 9d – but the people raised £7 12s 6d. A copy of the sess is in Birchington's archives. The original was lodged in Canterbury Cathedral Archives in 1996, at the Cathedral's insistence.



In adulthood, young Sir Henry married three times, but only the death of his third wife is recorded in the All Saints register. It is just possible that the other two were buried in their own family parishes. His first wife was Marie, daughter of Edward Monins of Waldershare near Dover: she died in 1606. His second wife was Ann, the daughter of Thomas Nevison of Eastry, who died in 1629. His third wife was Francesca (maiden name unknown) who died in 1646. Sir Henry does not appear to have had any children to succeed him. As a result of trouble between Sir Henry and the relatives of his second wife, Ann Nevison, Sir Henry nearly lost all his lands and it was only by an Act of Parliament passed in 1610, during the reign of James I, especially for Sir Henry's benefit, that he was able to recover his assets.

Barrett, in his *'History of the Ville of Birchington'* repeats the story as it appeared in the Act of Parliament (James I Cap vii) entitled "*An Act to make void all unlawful contracts entered into by Sir Henry Crispe with his wife's relatives fraudulently obtained, which threatened to ruin the ancient estate of Quex.*"

In 1608-9 Sir Henry was one of the Commissioners for the Passage of Birchington. He was also Captain of 200 footmen of the forces raised in Kent, but it appears from a letter he wrote in 1627, that he was not a very popular captain (Barrett's *History of the Ville of Birchington* p. 72). It was during his lifetime, in 1604, that the parishes of Birchington and Wode (or Acol) were united. The order provided that each parish, Birchington and Woodchurch, should appoint one Churchwarden and that each parish appoint two Collectors or Overseers of the Poor and also one or two Surveyors of the Highways (known locally as Waywardens). The custom then commenced of each set of officers keeping separate accounts for the poor and each parish having its own assessments. In all these early assessments, Sir Henry Crispe's name appears rated for his lands and for his revenues – both in Birchington and in Acol.

In 1602 Henry Crispe was presented to the Court at the Visitation of the Archdeacon for pulling down part of the church at Woodchurch and also of the adjoining schoolhouse. It was alleged in court that he had ordered some of his workmen to take the stones from the walls and the lead from the church roof, to his house called Quex, and some of the



timber was taken to his 'new-built' house at Woodchurch (the farmhouse). The church at Woodchurch must have been of considerable size – as large as All Saints, Birchington, as the foundations measure 86 feet from east to west and 80 feet from north to south. Some of the stones from the old church may still be seen in the farm buildings of Woodchurch farm on the other side of the road from where the church stood (Arch Cant Vol. 25). Photos were taken of some of these stones in 2007.

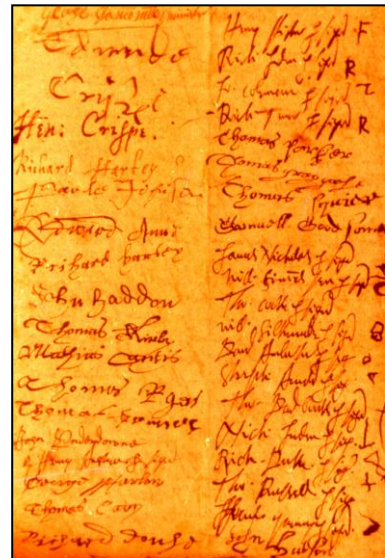
In 1635 and 1636 Henry Crispe was Deputy Lord Warden of Dover Castle to the Earl of Suffolk, who was then Lord Warden.

## Sir Henry Crispe and the Civil War

Sir Henry lived during the Civil War from 1642, but he was too old to take an active part, being nearly 70 years old. There is little doubt that the sympathies of the Crispe family were on the side of the King. It is probably owing to the Crispes that no Nonconformist Minister was appointed to Birchington at this time, as happened in the surrounding parishes. Birchington Church possesses two very rare historical documents dating from this period, The Vow & Covenant and The Solemn League & Covenant. Only five copies of these remain in Kent, as they were ordered to be burnt in 1661 after the Restoration of Charles II. Why Birchington's were not destroyed can only be a matter of conjecture.

Both these documents promising to assist the forces raised by Parliament against the King – and not to assist the forces raised by the King – and promising to preserve the Reformed Religion in England, were signed by all the men of Birchington in the Parish Church, including members of the Crispe family. They were clear evidence of high treason against the crown.

The Vow & Covenant was signed on two Sundays – July 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 1643, by Sir Henry Crispe, Nicholas Crispe, his Uncle, Edward Crispe and Henry Crispe (Bonjour). The Solemn League & Covenant – a slightly longer version – was signed in March 1643, the following year, again by all the men



of the parish, including the same four Crispes. (See note, regarding the date, at the end of this section.)

Sir Henry Crispe was owner of Stonar and patron of the living of Stonar and as such had squabbles with Sandwich over the taking of stones from Stonar to mend Stonar's highways.

Sir Henry died in 1648 and his burial is entered in the register of burials. The memorial to this Crispe and his father John Crispe is the famous 'six-bust' monument in Quex Chapel, by the celebrate sculptor Joshua Marshall, Master Mason to Charles I. This monument to the two Crispes, father and son, each with their two wives, is unique as it is the only one in England with six busts

(**Note** re-date: The New Year began on March 25<sup>th</sup> at this time – we would now date this year as 1644. In Britain, the old Julian Calendar was not altered until **1752**, in accordance with Pope Gregory's order of 1582. Some Protestant countries did not adhere to this order until the later date.)

### **'Bonjour' Henry Crispe**

On the death of the second Sir Henry Crispe, Quex came by the entail of it to his first cousin Henry Crispe of Great Chart, the eldest son of Henry Crispe who married Ann, daughter of Thomas Culpeper of Aylesford. Sir Henry's first wife was Lady Marie Colepepyr of Bedge Burie (Bedgebury - of the Pinetum fame in the 20<sup>th</sup> C.) who died in 1618. Although he succeeded to the estate in 1648, he probably lived at Quex before that date as he signed the Solemn League and Covenant in April 1643 in Birchington Church. On the monument he had erected to Marie's memory, there are a number of armorial arms, including the Martyn one on the right. This side of Marie's family originated from Long Melford in Suffolk, her grandfather Martyn becoming Lord Mayor of London.



In 1650 he became Sheriff of the County, but because of his age (he was over 70) his son Nicholas, who also signed the Solemn League & Covenant, was permitted to carry out the duties for him. 'Bonjour' Crispe did not take up the Royalist cause openly during the Civil War and Commonwealth period, but his sympathies were sufficiently well-known for him to be charged as a 'delinquent' in 1650 and his daughter, Ann Darrel and Mrs Crispe to be listed as Papists.

When 'Bonjour' succeeded to Quex in 1648, there was a reaction in favour of the King and the Royalists of Kent had obtained possession of Sandwich and Dover. But the re-action was short-lived, for at Maidstone, the Royalist forces were dispersed by Sir Thomas Fairfax and soon all the castles on the East coast of Kent were in possession of Sir Michael Livesey. For helping the Royalists, information was laid against 'Bonjour' Crispe, according to a document in the Public Record Office. It was alleged that he entertained the 'Pretender Prince', and Crispe's gardener, 'by his command', gave him £100. So far we have not found any follow-up on this information.

'Bonjour' Crispe is best known. In the history of Birchington, because he was kidnapped in 1657 on the night of 18<sup>th</sup> July, when 40 armed men plundered Quex and forcibly took old Henry in his own coach to Gore End and carried him by ship to Flanders. There he was held prisoner at Bruges until a ransom of £3,000 had been paid. The leader of the raiding party was "one who called himself Captain Lendall". Sir Nicholas Crispe, Sir Henry's eldest son, petitioned Oliver Cromwell,



the Protector, to allow the ransom to be paid and so free his father, but Cromwell would not allow it, as he thought it was a plot to obtain money for the use of King Charles II, then in exile. Unfortunately Sir Nicholas died in November 1657 before anything further could be done.

It now appears that Lady Thomasina Crispe, widow of Sir Nicholas, took up the case with the Protector and the Council, and in the end 'Bonjour' Crispe was released from his imprisonment in March 1658. After eight months absence from England, he returned to Quex, and during those months

the only words of French he learnt were 'Bon Jour'! Tradition has it that after this event, whenever he met parishioners in Birchington, he always greeted them with "Bonjour" – hence he has been known ever since as 'Bonjour' Crispe. Barrett, in his history of Birchington has included a detailed account of the events.



'Bonjour' married first Maria, daughter of Anthony Culpeper of Bedgebury, Goudhurst, who died in 1618, aged 34. In the Quex Chapel of Birchington Church is a fine alabaster monument to the Lady Maria Crispe, showing the kneeling figures of Sir Henry 'Bonjour' Crispe and his wife, with their four sons and one daughter. Some of the children are holding skulls, denoting that

they pre-deceased their parents. The authorship of the monument is uncertain, but it has some of the features that indicate that it may have come from the celebrated Johnson Studio at Southwark. His second wife was

Frances Hooper, widow of John Hooper and daughter of Sir Thomas Roberts of Glassenbury, who died in 1646. Sir Henry 'Bonjour' died in 1663 and was buried in Quex Chapel in Birchington Church.

## Captain Thomas Crispe

The estate passed to Bonjour's nephew, Captain Thomas Crispe of 'Quekes', the eldest son of Bonjour's brother, Thomas Crispe of Canterbury and Goudhurst.

In 1662 Thomas Crispe Esquire paid Chimney Tax for 17 chimneys at Quex and for 6 others in his farm house. No other home in Birchington had that number of chimneys. The next highest number was 12, paid for by John Hayward. The Chimney Tax was a tax levied in the time of Charles II, when every 'Firehearth and Stove therein' was charged at 2 shillings yearly.

Mrs Crispe contributed 1s of a total of 7s 3½d collected by Birchington Church towards the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral. The account is duly set out in the churchwardens' Book and signed by the Churchwardens as follows:-

"What money hath bin gathered in the Parish of Birchington for Poules Church" (St Paul's Church).

Thomas Crispe signed the entry in the same book, when a rate at 4d the acre was made for repairing the 'Poor's House' (the alms house) adjoining the churchyard of Birchington.

Thomas Crispe Esq. married in Holland. He died in 1680 and was buried in linen in the Quex Chapel, where a ledger stone, with an inscription, marks his grave. He is one of only two people in Birchington who were buried in linen, after the passing of the Burial in Woollen Act of 1678, which required everyone to be buried in woollen – a means of helping the woollen trade! The other person was Thomasina Crispe, his wife. The penalty paid for breaking the act is not stated in the Churchwardens' accounts, but was, in fact, £5. At each burial an affidavit was required to be made, that the Act had been complied with, under a penalty of five pounds. A number of affidavits for use of woollen shrouds were entered and signed for, before the entry for Thomas Crispe and each of those entries was certified.



## Joint Owners

On the death of Thomas Crispe in 1689, the estate passed to his four daughters, who became joint owners. The four were Frances, who married Edwin Wiat of Maidstone, Sergeant-at-Law and Judge of Wales; Elizabeth, who married firstly Christopher Clapham of Wakefield, Yorks and secondly Sir Edward Andrews, Governor of Virginia; Maria, who married Richard Breton of Elmstone, Hafham, Commissioner of Customs; and finally Anna Gertruy Crispe, who remained unmarried. Until 1687 it was Mr Wiat, the husband of Frances who paid the sesses made by the Churchwardens for the maintenance of the

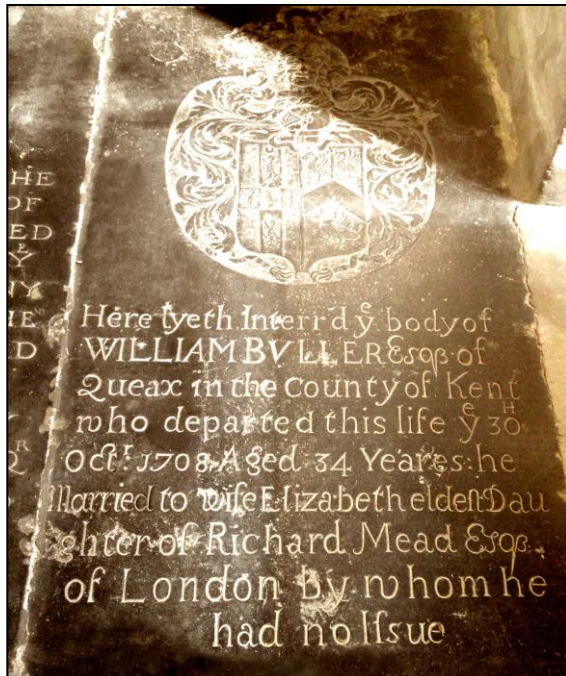
church, and by the Overseers for the relief of the Poor. However, in that year Mr John Buller, gentleman, occupied the estate and continued to pay the sess each year until 1700.

It was during this period, from 1689 to 1700 that King William III, who was also Ruler of Holland, stayed at Quex on several occasions, when waiting for the winds at Margate to be favourable for his next voyage back to Holland. At these times he would take up residence at Quex House. The Birchington Churchwardens' accounts show that the people of Birchington welcomed their sovereign by ringing the Church bells.

- “1691 Gave the ringers when the King landed at Margate 00 – 07 – 06”  
 “1695 Spent when the King landed at Margate 00 – 07 – 06”  
 “1697 May 28<sup>th</sup>, spent on the ringers when the King came to Quex  
 00 – 04 – 06 “

In the Kent Records Office is a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1691, informing their Excellencies, the Lords Justices, that “the wind being S.S.E. his Majesty went on board his yacht near Margate about two this afternoon, but the wind, veering to the Eastward in the evening, and there being an appearance of foul weather, his Majesty is returned to this place (Quex), where he will probably stay until there is a fair wind. His Majesty is lodged at Mr Sergeant Wiat's house in Birchington Parish, within three miles of Margate.”

Before the old Quex House was pulled down, the room occupied by King William III, said to be the 'bedchamber of the royal guest', was shown to visitors. The beautiful State Chair, used by His Majesty, was also used by King George IV at Ramsgate, on the occasion of his embarkation to return from Hanover in 1821.



## First recorded sale of Quex

After holding the estate for twenty years, the four joint owners, the daughters of Sir Thomas Crispe, sold the greater portion of it to John Buller of Morvall in Cornwall and a Merchant of the City of London. The estate sold included not only the land situated in and around Birchington, St Nicholas-at-Wood (Acol & Woodchurch now), St Nicholas-at-Wade and Monkton, but also “all that Isle (aisle) and Building adjoining to the North side of the Parish Church of Birchington aforesaid, belonging or appertaining to the said Mansion House of Quex”. This, of course, refers to the

Quex Chapel, which is still a private chapel belonging to the owners of Quex Park.

Because it is a private chapel, owners are not required to obtain a faculty for the erection of memorials etc. therein. The owners of Quex are still responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of this chapel.

John Buller immediately sold 76 of the 611 acres of the estate to Edwin Wiat, the husband of Frances Crispe. John Buller held possession of the estate for a very short period, as he died in 1702 and was buried in the Quex Chapel, leaving the life interest of Quex to his son William Buller and his wife Elizabeth. William Buller, like his father, held Quex for only a short time as he died in 1708, at the age of 34 and was also buried in Quex Chapel, where there is a memorial stone to his memory. His widow also had a life interest in Quex and married again soon afterwards to Francis Wiat Jun., whose mother was Frances, one of the four sisters and co-heirs of Sir Thomas Crispe. Francis had sold the estate in 1700. Francis Jun. was a nephew of Anna Gertruy Crispe.

## Second Sale of Quex

In 1718 the estate was sold to Sir Robert Furness, son of Sir Henry Furness of Waldershare, subject to the life interest of Mrs Elizabeth Wiat (late Buller). Mrs Wiat held her life interest for 52 years from 1708 to her death in 1760, and so outlived Sir Robert Furness by many years, who had bought her reversion.

## The Crispe Charity

To return to the four co-heiresses, the four daughters of Sir Thomas Crispe, who had sold Quex Park in 1700. Mistress Anna Gertruy Crispe, the unmarried and youngest daughter is well-known in the history of Birchington and it is to her that so many young people of Birchington and Acol owe a debt



of gratitude. Mistress Anna was the founder of the Crispe Charity.

She died in 1708 and the beautiful monument in Quex Chapel was erected to her memory, carved by the renowned London sculptor, William Palmer. In her will she bequeathed 47 acres of farmland, now known as Crispe Farm, to the Overseers of the Poor of Birchington and the Vill of 'Acole'. The farm abuts onto Crispe Road at about the half-way point. She directed that the income from the farm should be used for the following objects -

“to pay Ellen Window for life £3  
to the clerk of the parish yearly 20s  
to see that the Monuments in  
that Isle belonging to Quex are  
kept in good order

to three widows of Birchington, £3 and two of Acole £2 for wearing  
apparel to appear at Church

to keep a school with Dame or Master for 12 boys and girls

to give each on leaving the School a Bible

the Overseers to take yearly 10s

to Dispose of the remaining Money for binding a Schoolboy  
Apprentice

the Overseers to fix up a yearly account of the Receipts and Payments



and pass the Same before a Justice of the Peace”

As a result of this legacy the first Charity School was founded in Birchington, and remained in existence for just over 150 years. Elinor Jarvis was the first Dame of the new school in 1708. When she married Clement Benefield in 1715, she was replaced by Elenor ‘Huse’. Elenor continued to teach the children until shortly after the end of October 1729, when she became ill. The last money due to her was paid to her husband, Michael ‘Hews’ “for his wife’s teaching and school”. She was buried on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1730. When Elenor Huse had to give up, a third Dame took up the post; her name was Elizabeth Mirriams and she remained in the job for 43 years until 1774.

It was at this point that the most well-known master took over – Gilbert Stringer. His gravestone tells us he was Master of the Charity School for 33 years. There is much more to his story, but it is told more fully under the Charity School itself. The school remained the only school in the village until, in 1849, when the school in Park Lane was built under the auspices of the National Society.

It was during the reign of Queen Anne that large numbers of Charity Schools were founded all over England, to educate the children of the poor in reading, writing, (not arithmetic, in the beginning, you notice.) and moral discipline and the principals of the Church of England. The schools were badly needed, for the State did nothing for the education of the poor and most parishes had no sort of endowed schools. So Birchington owes its Charity School to the generosity of Anna Crispe. Under the terms of the will boys and girls could also be apprenticed to ‘some craft or trade’.

The scheme regulating the Charity has been revised on several occasions; in 1862, by the Master of the Rolls when the Charity School was closed; in 1879 by an Order in Council, when part of the income was allowed to be used for exhibition scholarships to higher grade schools as well as apprenticeships for boys and girls. The latest revision was in 1957, when the residue of the nett income could be applied in various ways for the benefit of young persons of either sex who are resident in the parishes of Birchington and Acol. Grants can now be made to young people for the purchase of books etc. or to assist their entry into a trade or profession, to societies or clubs catering for young people, eg, Boy Scouts & Girl Guides.

The number of widows who benefit from Anna’s charity is now ten and the clause covering the upkeep of the Quex Chapel is still an important part of the charity. In 2011 the Trustees were eventually given permission to increase this grant from £28 (set in 1971) to £50. Mr Christopher Powell-Cotton had tried to increase it himself several years ago to £40, but the Trustees were told by the Charity Commissioners that this was not to be repeated, as it did not adhere to the letter of the scheme, despite the money having come out of Mr Powell-Cotton’s own pocket – and for his own personal chapel!

## **Relief of the Poor of Quex**

From earliest times until quite recently, the boundary separating the Parish of Birchington from the Parish of Acol went through the middle of the mansion of Quex and as a result, part of the mansion was in Acol and part in Birchington. This is clearly shown on the Tithe map of 1840, and also on the old Ordnance

Survey maps. This caused many disputes as to which parish was liable if any of the servants living at Quex had to apply for Poor relief from the Overseers of the Poor. In the Churchwardens' Account Books there are three agreements written out and dated 1711, 1736 and 1788, made between the two parishes, which amicably settled the matter each time. It was agreed that all charges should be paid equally by both parishes. Occasionally servants at Quex did have to be relieved by the Overseers.

## The Reversioners

When Sir Robert Furness died in 1733, his children and grandchildren became the 'Reversioners' and the interest in the estate passed to them on the death of Mrs Wiat (late Buller) in 1760. Sir Robert was thrice married, first to Ann Balaam, by whom he had a daughter, Ann, who married Viscount St John; secondly to the Hon. Arabella Watson, by whom he had a son, Henry, who died in 1734 and a daughter, Katherine, who married the Earl Guildford; and thirdly to Lady Ann Shirley, by whom he had a daughter, Selina, who married Sir John Dering. So the estate was divided as follows:-

One-third of the estate went to his daughter Selina and one-ninth to each of the three children of his daughter Ann, Viscountess St John. It would appear though that Mrs Wiat (late Buller) who lived in the mansion house of Quex until her death in 1760, had, at sometime around 1730, had the house divided into two parts and Mr Francis Neame became the tenant in the other half of the house.

## The Third Sale of Quex

Soon after the death of Mrs Wiat the third sale of Quex took place in 1767, a sale which was granted by an Act of Parliament to safeguard the rights of the two infant 'Reversioners'. The purchaser was Lord Holland, or Henry Fox, the father of Charles James Fox, who later became the eminent Whig statesman. Lord Holland did not reside at the old Quex House, although he may have made visits there, for he left behind him several valuable relics, which probably came from Kingsgate. In the gallery at the top of the front stairs of the present mansion is an ancient marble bust - 'The Laughing Philosopher'. It was given to Lord Holland by Lord Burbury in 1770. By this time the old mansion was showing signs of age and decay, although Lewis, in his 'History of the Isle of Tenet' of 1723, says, "It is a large commodious old building, mostly of brick and partly of timber."

*Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica* of 1787 says "This ancient seat, like most others of the same rank, is going fast to ruin; the weather penetrates into most of the apartments, particularly westwards of the porch, which have been the principal ones. The tiles have blown off in many places; the windows demolished and no part of it inhabited or indeed, fit to be, except a small portion at the end, which is occupied by a farmer. A few years will probably reduce this building to what may be seen eastward of the porch, as it is in agitation to pull the remainder down. A very fine suite of apartments at the north-west corner has been demolished this summer (1781) and as any of the inhabited part of the building may want repair or purchasers for the materials can be procured, the next will share the same fate."

Different farmers occupied a portion of the mansion at this time from about 1740. Francis Neame resided in a portion of Quex Mansion & William Neame followed him & farmed the surrounding land. In 1769 the mansion was advertised in the Kentish Gazette to let.

## Fourth and last Sale of Quex

In 1774 the estate was purchased by John Powell, the then Paymaster General to the Forces and from him the estate descended to the present owners. There is an oil painting of John Powell in the Billiard Room of the present mansion.

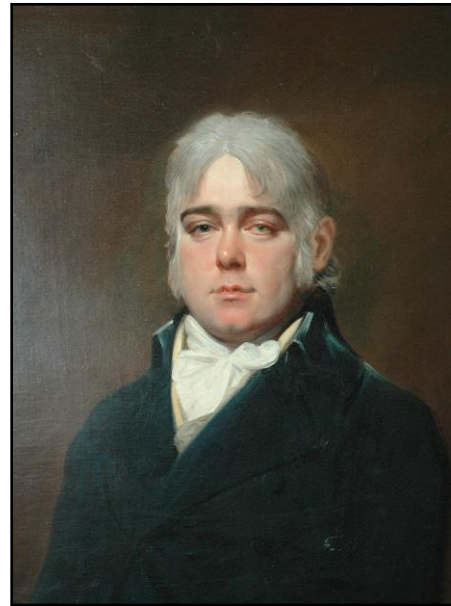
On his death in 1783, the estate passed to his sister Elizabeth, who was married to William Roberts. She was also heiress to an estate in Kilburn. At her death in 1788, the estate passed to her husband, William Roberts. William Roberts held the estate till his death in 1805, when it passed to his second son, John Roberts, who took his mother's maiden name of Powell and was known as John Powell Powell. The Kilburn estate passed to the eldest son, Arthur Annesley Roberts, who also took the maiden name of his mother – Powell. There are memorial tablets to William Powell, his wife Elizabeth and his two sons John and Arthur, in the Quex Chapel.

The Kilburn Estate contained a number of farms which were later developed into housing estates during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The roads were all named after areas and villages in Thanet.

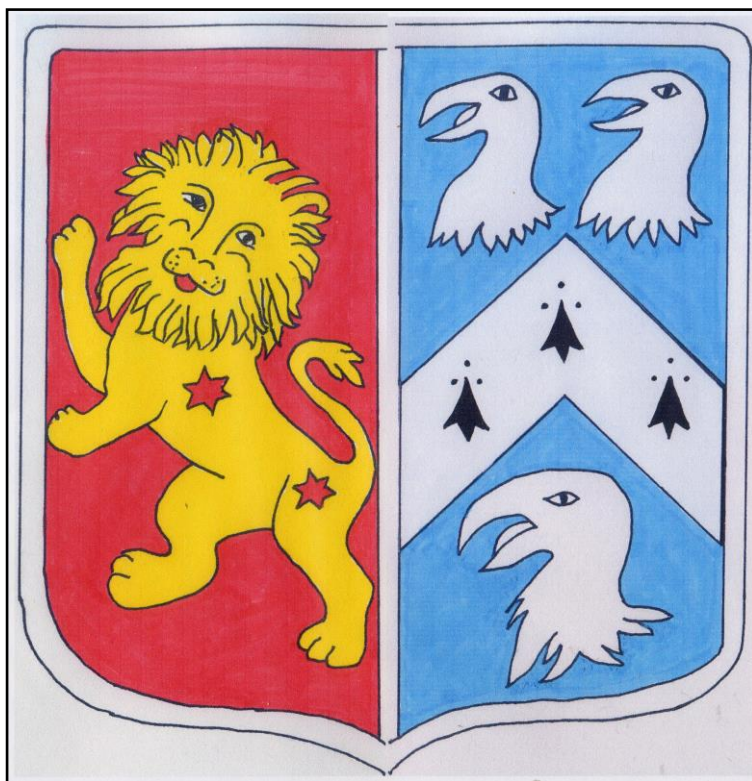
## John Powell Powell

As many parts of the old mansion were in ruins, the first act of John Powell Powell was to make an agreement with three workmen of Broadstairs to take down the mansion house, which was completed on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1806, then to make arrangements for the building of a new mansion. Squire Powell expected the new house to be completed in about two years, but it was not fit for occupation until 1813, when Squire Powell took up his residence at Quex. It is said that the reason for the delay was the drain of workmen from Birchington for the Napoleonic War.

Squire Powell appears to have taken an active interest in both parish and county affairs. He was made High Sheriff of the county in 1822 and in honour of this, the name of the New Inn in Birchington Square was changed to 'The Powell Arms'. In the new wing of the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex there are a number of documents relating to his period of office as Sheriff.



He was Overseer of the Poor of the parish of Birchington in 1818, when no less than five sesses were levied for the relief of the poor. Over £1,000 was collected during this time of severe hardship for the labouring poor of the countryside. His disbursement amounted to almost £1,000 and of this nearly £300 was used on the victualling and clothing of the paupers in Birchington's workhouse.



There were also 39 adults and 35 children who received weekly grants in their own homes, (this was known as 'out relief'). Because of the high price of bread and the low wages of the agricultural labourers, some large families were given 6d a week per head to help buy bread. A number of unemployed men were set to work making wattle hurdles, which were then sold. Others were allocated to picking up stones and flints from the fields, which they would then

use to fill in the holes in the roads around the village. Each parish was responsible for the upkeep of the highways within their parish boundaries. All this was entered in the Overseers' account books.

*Squire Powell Powell's coat of arms*

Squire Powell was also a Surveyor of the Highways (or a Waywarden, as they were known locally) in 1814 and again in 1821.

When the war against Napoleon was ended for a short time, by the treaty of Paris in 1814, J.P. Powell Esq. subscribed £3 towards the cost of the celebrations, the highest subscription in the parish of Birchington.

## Waterloo Tower

Squire Powell was a great lover of bells and there are two versions of the next story, neither of which can be proved, unfortunately. The first version is that he offered to build a tower at the west end of All Saints Church and to place a peal of 12 bells within it - he had just purchased a pre-Reformation bell from the parishioners of St Mildred's Church in Canterbury. This bell is now the Hour bell in the turret over



the stables in Quex Park. The inscription on this bell reads "I. H. S. (Jesus) have merse (mercy) on the Sowles of Thomas Wood and Margaret his wife. An. Dmi MCCCCXXXVI" (1536).

The second version of the 'bell story' states that he offered to enlarge the All Saints' peal of six bells to twelve. This story continues that the parishioners are said to have agreed to this gift - until they realised that they would be responsible for strengthening the tower and seeing to the housing of the bells – which they realised was completely beyond their means. So the gift was then rejected. As his offer was declined, (whichever version is correct), tradition then says that he built himself the Waterloo Tower to house his own collection in Quex Park with a complete peal of twelve bells, cast by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel.

This was the first peal of twelve bells hung in Kent, Canterbury Cathedral at that date having only ten bells. The Waterloo Tower is a red brick building, with an iron superstructure and a spire forming a landmark for many miles around. It cost about £10,000 and was named the 'Waterloo Tower' as a compliment to the Duke of Wellington.

At the grand opening of the peal, two societies of twelve ringers from London were invited and rang peals. The Quex Company of Ringers were formed soon afterwards and John Powell Powell employed an expert ringer to work on the estate and to teach other workers at Quex the art of 'change ringing'. The Quex Park Society of Change Ringers still flourishes, and some of the members ring the bells of the Parish Church in Birchington as well. Hanging in the tower is a Temple bell taken in the First Burmese War by Captain H. P. Cotton and sent to his uncle, Squire Powell. There is also the bell from the "Hindustan", an East Indiaman (wrecked off Margate in 1802) and salvaged from the wreck in 1845.



## The Observatory or Gun Tower

John Powell Powell enjoyed not only bells, but also watching the ships in the Thames Estuary, for which purpose he built the Observatory Tower in 1814 on the north side of the Park. From here he watched the ships of those days sailing up and down the Thames Estuary and signalled to friends on board. In the Powell-Cotton Museum are his telescopes and other instruments. Surrounding the Tower there used to stand a number of cannon. This private collection of historic cannon was gathered together by John Powell Powell and is believed to be the largest of its kind in England.

## The Clock

In 1848 the same Squire Powell offered to provide a clock for All Saints Church Tower. The Rev Whish, the Vicar of Monkton with Birchington and Acol at that time, promised £20 towards installing it. The offer was accepted at the Parish Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> 1848 and “grateful thanks in a respectful letter was to be sent to Mr Powell for his kind gift.”



Three weeks later, however, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the resolution accepting the gift was rescinded and curiously enough, by the same persons, mover and seconder, excepted, who had previously voted for its acceptance. The reason given for declining the clock was that the high Parochial Rates made it imprudent on the part of the parishioners to accept any gift that would later add to the parish’s financial burdens. Squire Powell replied, acknowledging the Parishioners’ thanks and he states that he was fully aware of the propriety of their action in declining his offer of the clock. In the Churchwardens’ Book is written out a copy of Squire Powell’s letter acknowledging the refusal of the gift. The village had to wait almost 40 more years before it had a clock installed on the church tower to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The Methodist Chapel had been given their clock in 1830.

## Spellings of the name – QUEK

Within the Quex Chapel there are six different spellings of the family’s name of Quek. The name first appeared in Thanet in the 1300s, having come over with a family from the Low Countries. One John Quek had married into the Parker family through the heiress Cecilia, the house became know as John’s house – in other words “John Quek, his house”. This gradually became “Quek, his house”, and then the contraction of the possessive ‘s’, which we would write as ‘Quek’s’ was the spoken version. However, the written version could be interpreted in numerous ways. In Quex Chapel we find -

Quek      Queax      Queakes      Quex      Queakx      Queke

In paper form it has also appeared as -

Queek      Queekes      Quekes

## The Birchington Workhouse

When the Isle of Thanet Union was formed and the Workhouse and Infirmary at Minster were built in 1835, the Birchington Workhouse in Park Lane was no longer needed. The land and buildings were bought by John Powell Powell for £225. In 1849, just 14 years later, Squire Powell gave the piece of land that adjoined the stone barn and the remains of the original workhouse, to the Vicar and the Churchwardens for the building of a school in Park Lane, under the auspices of the National Schools Board. A school was built and the Trustees appointed by the Charity Commissioners. This school stood on the site of the present school car park for the next 110 years. By then, further additions had been built - in 1902 (the Girls' School) and 1926 (the Infants' Department), and the large modern block we see from the Lane itself.



## Judge Powell

Squire Powell was a descendant of Judge Powell, who, in the time of James II, was presented with a silver snuff box by the Mayor and Corporation of Gloucester for the interest he took in the release of seven Bishops from the Tower of London in 1688. This interesting relic, as well as a collection of historical treasures relating to Napoleon, is still preserved at Quex.

John Powell Powell's wife, Charlotte, died in 1844 and John died in 1849. There is a memorial stone to them both in Quex Chapel.

## Henry Perry Cotton

On the death of Squire Powell the estate passed to, his nephew, Henry Perry Cotton of Kingsgate on the outskirts of Broadstairs. He was the eldest son of Charles Bowland Cotton, a naval captain in the old East India Company. Henry's mother was Harriet Powell, a sister of John Powell Powell, whose own mother had been Elizabeth Powell.

## Henry Horace Powell Cotton

On the death of Henry Perry Cotton, in 1881, the estate passed to his son, Henry Horace Powell Cotton. It was during his time that part of the mansion (now the dining room) was added in 1888. He died in 1894 and his remains now rest in the Mausoleum in Quex Park, at the foot of the Waterloo Tower. This part was consecrated by the Bishop of Wakefield in 1897.

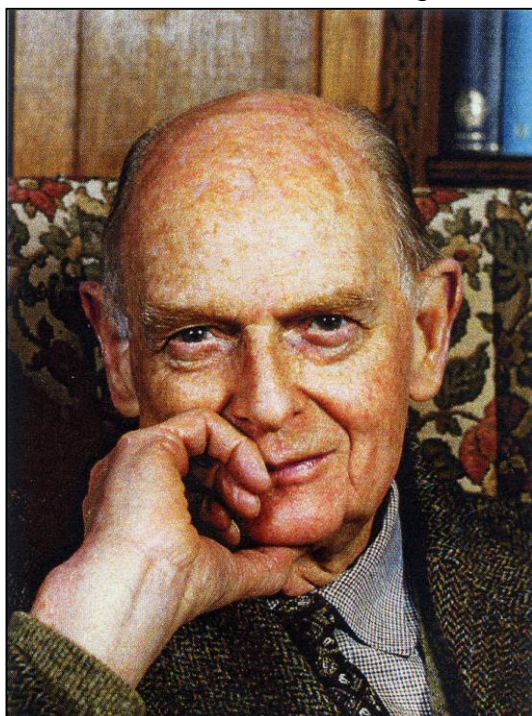
## Percy Horace Gordon Cotton

Percy Horace Gordon Cotton succeeded his father Henry Horace in 1894 and soon after that he adopted the additional name of Powell in conjunction with his surname of Cotton. He has become famous as an explorer and big game hunter and founder of the Powell-Cotton Museum, now with a world-renowned reputation for excellence and information concerning animals in Africa and India.

Percy devoted fifty years of his life to the study and collection of Indian and African fauna, ethnology and kindred interests. Later members of his family, including his wife and daughters, continued to collect ethnographical material and contributed in other ways to the Museum and his son and heir, Christopher, accompanied him on one of his trips to Africa.



The Museum began in a single room in 1896 and was added to in 1901, 1928, 1957 and 1965. Scientists from all parts of the world are attracted to the Museum by the fine study series of skins, skulls and skeletons, the scientific value of which is enhanced by the exceptionally careful and detailed field notes. The most recent additions are archaeological remains excavated in the neighbourhood.



In the First World War, Quex House was opened as a hospital for wounded and invalid soldiers, with Mrs Hannah Powell-Cotton as the Commandant. During the Second World War, Quex was again prepared for and used as a hospital and the Park was used by troops.

### **Christopher Powell-Cotton**

Major Powell-Cotton, as he was known by then, died in 1940 and was succeeded by his son Christopher Powell-Cotton Esq. C.M.G., M.B.E., M.C., J.P., the next occupant of Quex House.

Christopher died at Quex in 2006.