

James Eastland

James Eastland was born in Birchington in 1824. His father, John, was a smuggler and on October 26th 1819 "was sent to Dover gaol by ye Preventative Men for picking up a Tubb of Liqr on ye Sea Shore - fine 4s 3d" (which he could not pay.)

His wife and family were given money while he was in gaol - they had 15/- for the seven children. Later a petition was drawn up by Mr Boys, an Attorney, to liberate John Eastland, which cost the Parish £1 1s 0d. It was probably cheaper to do that than continue to subsidise the family!

James was the youngest child and eventually took up his father's "profession". He was a carpenter by trade and worked at Quex. He was also known as Jimmy Landy, for some unknown reason, and after a life of mixed fortunes in the "Free Trade" he ended his days quietly at South Lodge, Quex Park. Mr Walker mistakenly thought the photo of him at a cottage door was at "Ivy Cottages" which once adjoined The Smugglers. The portrait of him hangs in the Smuggler's Restaurant.

He was eventually buried in the Huntley family's grave in All Saints Churchyard in 1906.