

John Platt Barrett – His wife’s grave on which he is also commemorated – the wording of which reads -

“In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Sarah Barrett, who died at Park House, Birchington, 21st Dec 1883 ‘The winter is passed.’

“Also in memory of our beloved father J Platt Barrett who died at ‘Westcroft’, Forest Hill, 27th Dec 1916, aged 78 years ‘Laus Deo’

“Also in memory of Kate E. Barrett, elder daughter of J Platt Barrett and Sarah Barrett, who died 23rd Aug 1944”

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John Platt Barrett wrote the first guide to Birchington in 1893, under the title “A History of the Ville of Birchington” while he was living here, after the Vicar (the Rev H A Serres) gave him permission to research through our Parish chest. The chest was kept in the church at that time. In 1908 he updated the book, adding a copy of a map that used to hang in the Vestry [dated 1688] until it was stolen a little later, in the days when the churches were left open through daylight hours. He also included early mentions of Birchington with their dates, wills of the Quek family & others, several additional items he felt would interest readers of the original book and also some interesting facts from the early years of the 20th century.

