

### **NEW PICTURE DONATED TO THE MUSEUM, dated c. 1900.**

In looking at the buildings in the painting, it was realised that one of the roofs visible on the top right belonged to 'Darby's' House. The house was originally built in c. 1550. There are some notes on this property gleaned from East Kent Archives, which used to be held at Whitfield, near Dover. (See below)

### **WHITFIELD Archives, DOVER**

#### **R/U 1268 Freehold land 1769 – 1946**

The majority of the deeds in this bundle were connected with the dwelling and piece of land on the corner of Park Lane and Canterbury Road. In the latter part of the 1800s and up until 1907 the Darby family were in occupation. Whether they owned it or not is unclear. It was next used by Andrews and Son, the Monumental Masons. Sometime before 1919, it was demolished, to allow for the widening of the entrance to Park Lane.

The Kent County Council bought the plot prior to this date, as one of the documents in the bundle, dated 22 Dec. 1919, concerns an agreement with Thanet R. D. Council, who wanted to exchange another plot they owned in Park Lane for the Darby House plot.

#### **DOCUMENTS include:-**

#### **T 1 / 12 Lease for 1 year 1769**

Between John Matthews (Cooper – deceased), Joseph and Ann Norwood (Taylor of Ramsgate), and Richard Alaby – lease of two dwellings on the corner of Park Lane. Witnesses include, John Gray, Thomas Wilkinson and M.A. Small

#### **T 1 / 13 1776**

Mortgage between Richard Alaby and Thomas Wilson

#### **T 1 / 14 1788**

Deed granting the mortgage between Richard Alaby and Thomas Wilson (yeoman) + other names including John Matthews, Joseph and Ann Norwood and John Sladden

#### **T 1 / 15 Lease for 1 year 3 July 1778**

Lease was between Richard Alaby (draper and tailor) and Thomas Noilson (yeoman) – for the property, divided into 2 dwellings at the time and included outhouses, edifices, buildings, barn and stable yard and backsides.

#### **T1 / 16 Re-lease July 1778**

Between Richard Alaby and Thomas Wilson - there is mention of Alaby's wife, Sarah.

#### **T1 / 17 Deed of Land 26 Nov. 1778**

Richard Alaby, his wife Sarah, John Cowell of Salmestone (gentleman) and Mary, his wife, Thomas Kobb of Sittingbourne (cordwainer), Thomas Wilson

(yeoman), Samuel Salter of Margate (tallow chandler), William Booth of Margate (gentleman) and William Dew of Woodnesborough (tailor)

**T1 / 19** Will of Thomas Wilson **16 Sept. 1786**

He did not die until 9<sup>th</sup> December 1809 (or just before)

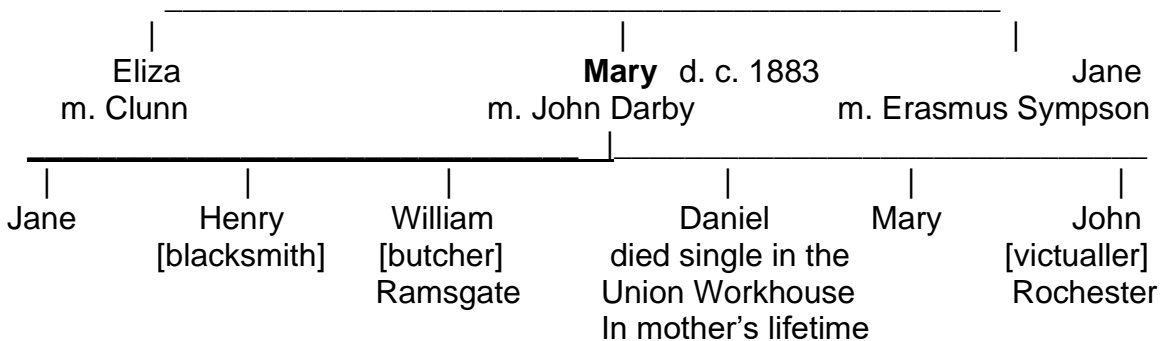
His wife Jane inherited all his estate. When she died, it went to his two sons Richard and Thomas. The house etc. etc. with 7 acres of land (which he was occupying at his death) would then go to his 3 daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Jane.

He also had property in the occupation of Thomas Thunder, Riding Officer buried in All Saints churchyard, and William Hogbin, & land recently purchased from Thomas Smith, amounting to 1 acre 1 rood. The will was signed by - Thomas Keable, Richard Alaby & Gilbert Stringer.

The last named is buried near the east window in the churchyard. He was a great servant of the community, serving them as schoolmaster for 33 years, perpetual Parish Officer for 37 years and treasurer of the Union Workhouse for 30 years.

**T1 / 20** **The Willson (sic) Family Tree** (No date given)

Jane Willson had 3 daughters



After John Darby's wife Mary died in c. 1883, and John's death in 1897, his daughters Jane and Mary, who remained unmarried, lived on in Darby's House until the second one died in c. 1910.