

Sarah Thunder

[mentioned on page 5 of Alan Collie's notes]

Mention is made in the Neame history of Sarah Thunder, who married James Neame c. 1773. She was a daughter of Thomas Thunder, who was one of the Riding Officers in the village. His job was to try and catch the Smugglers, who were very active between 1750 and 1850 in Birchington. Thomas Thunder is buried beside the south Porch of All Saints church. Unfortunately his grave stone has sunk down too low to read it any more and the weather has all but obliterated the inscription, but we have a copy of the wording on it, made in 1979. There was a second Riding Officer living in a large house that stands at the Square end of Station Road (our shopping street.) He insured the property in 1740, so possibly knew Thomas and Sarah Thunder.



Thomas Thunder's headstone which stands on the east side of the south porch of All Saints Church

The text on the grave reads:

**“In memory of John Thunder of this parish,
who departed this life 13 Aug 1794,
in the 71st year of his age.**

**Also Hannah Thunder, wife of the above,
who departed this life 17 Oct 1798, aged 82 years.**

And their three daughters, viz:- Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah.”