

A.T. Walker's notes**CHURCHYARD – Volume 3**

p. 19 Churchyard WALLS first mentioned in **1635** – then in **1817**.

“ - mending the GATE **1531**

“ - mending the STYLE **1533**

P. 20 BURIAL in the Churchyard – no coffins until **1600**

1638 ‘A coffend grave viii d.’] Lewis ‘History of Thanet
‘Noe coffend grave vi d.’] **1723** edition

WILLS – Volume 3

p. 20a

Archaeologia Cantiana Vol. XXVIII p. 92

Wills proved in the Consistory Court of Archbishops of Canterbury.

A John ate See of the parish of All Saints Birchington by will dated **10 Sept. 1460**, desired to be buried in the churchyard of Birchington. Wife Alice to be executor and to dispose of his soul parents etc. and to have all lands and tenements in the Vill of Birchington for her life then to sons John and Rowland ate See and their heir for ever. Le (?) Probate (Vol. II fol. 17)

TOMBSTONES

p. 23 Tombstone on the left of the main path to Birchington church

Isaac Baker Planter in Antigua

Sugar cane

A seated woman in drapery

A ship

A winged cherub holding a medallion (like an anchor)

To the memory of Mr. Isaac Baker late a Respectable Planter of Antigua

where he lived 25 (27?) years He died of a decline **July 7 1794**

a few years after his return to England aged 40 years. (No entry in registers)

P. 26 **Robert Brasier** tombstone.

He was one of the Overseers and Surveyors for Acol, several times between **1691** and **1719**, then **1717-1718, 1723-24, 1724-25**

He died during his last year of office aged 59.

p. 29 Notes on **John ILES** seat.

p. 30 –33 **LYCH GATE** notes

p.35 **WAR MEMORIAL**

P. 45 DOG ACRE

Newspaper cutting **13 June 1975** Isle of Thanet Gazette
Birchington Residents' Association won fight to stop Thanet Planning Committee from granting permission for someone to build a shop on Dog Acre

It had originally been purchased for £74,000 (?) [see note below**] as an open space. A petition containing 1,200 signatures was presented. Decision to reject the application was unanimous.

A.T.W. said,

'It was originally Church Land near 'Butt Accer', where the men of the village practised archery after church on Sundays. Dog Acre got its name because the Dog Whipper had it rent free, as a perk, for carrying out his hob. He also got 8s a year, for removing dogs from the church and churchyard, if they made a nuisance of themselves.'

A footpath was laid across Dog Acre in Nov / Dec 1975. Birchington Chamber of Commerce shared the cost with Thanet Council.

The **first tax on dogs** appeared in **1800**. Almost every household had at least one dog – often used them to help move livestock around for grazing.

In later times, the Dog Whipper also kept an eye on the young lads of the village, trying to keep them in order. The Dog Whipper's office had no statutory origin, but rested simply on immemorial precedent.

Some churches still possess the large wooden tongs used to catch the dogs for removal. The Dog Whipper first appears in 1622 and 1623.

1622 'Old Hayward' was the Dog Whipper – 8 s.

1628 'Old Posier' took over the job until 1643 – still at 8 s.

p. 46 **1685** John Taylor – Dog Whipper – 1 accer of land – no rent

1687 'John Taylor – Dog Whipper, for his office have 1 accer of the said land.'

1694 'One accer now lett out Thomas Penney Dogg Whipper Abutting to the butt acer.'

In **1811**, at the Easter Vestry, it was agreed that James Knott should walk round the Church twice every Sunday during service to keep good order and to be paid by the Churchwardens 6d. each Sunday.

Several more entries of payments to James Knott for 'keeping good order' continued until **1828**.

Later on in the **1800's**, the Parish Clerk was granted the use of Dog Acre.

** It was eventually sold in **1921** for £390 and the proceeds invested in 5% War Stock.

Dog Acre is marked on the tithe Map of **1840** as plot No: 312. It is scheduled as 'arable land' and measured 0 a. 3 r. 31 p. [It only need another 9 perches to make a complete acre.]

It is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of **1872** as 'Dog Acre'. No: 54

VOLUME: 5

p. 16 a – 32 **WOODCHURCH** notes.

p. 29 CHIMNEY TAX – **1671** 15 people from Woodchurch were excused ‘theire chimney money by ye Collector’ – names recorded, including 6 widows. There were 24 names of people excused from Birchington as well.

p. 30 Arch. Cant. 1907 Testamenta Cantiana.
Dedication:

1412 – to the work of the Church of Wode 10 s.
John Parker of Birchington

1429 – OUR LADY – To the light of the Blessed May in the Church of Woode 40 d.
– to the light of the Torches at Woode 40 d.
Cecilia Parker of Birchington [original owners of ‘Quex’]

1559 – to the Church of Wodechurch 3 s. 4 d.
Rich’d Queke of Birchington [brass in Quex Chapel]

1472 – to the light of St Mary of Wode, two bushels of barley.
Thos. Smyth Philpott of St John’s in Thanet

1497 – buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas at Wood, Thos. Holwarding

1523 – THE ROOD – to the reparation of the Cross of St Nicholas of Wodde – 2 s.
John Pettit of Birchington.

1526 – To the church of St Nicholas at Wode 6s. 8d., John Dicar of St John’s in Thanet.

1527 – buried in the churchyard of the church t Wood St Nicholas. Nicholas Palmer

1535 – buried in the church at Wood, Michael Burforth
- John Helling
- Thos. Barges
‘To the reparations of the church of Wood, 5 s. yearly, out of my lands in the parish of Wood for ever more Thos. Barges

1544 – buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas at Wood – Nicholas Coleman
‘To the reparation of the church – 5 s.

There are numerous other references as well.

SOLDIERS' LISTS

p. 73 [in A.T.W's Notes]

HEARTH TAX

1673 –74 George Ruck(?) was Deputy of Birchington and in charge of collecting the Hearth Tax. There were 230 hearths paid for by the occupants of 79 houses.

MONKTON	90 hearths	31 houses	3 excused	
MINSTER	211 “	76 “	8 “	
ST NICHOLAS	94 “	34 “	4 “	
SARRE	47 “	17 “	—	
BIRCHINGTON	230 “	79 “	27 “	**
ST LAWRENCE	253 “	100 “	107 “	
RAMSGATE	234 “	92 “	73 “	

** THE LIST OF NAMES OF THE PEOPLE EXCUSED IN BOTH Birchington and Woodchurch are listed in the Churchwardens' Account Books. Also the following –

1672 – ‘for riting a note for the chimney man 6 d.’

1675 – ‘July ye 6 day paid for a man to goe to Dover with a noat of fireharth 2s 10d’