

A MARK OF RESPECT

On Saturday evening a muffled peal was rung on the bells at the "Waterloo Tower", Quex Park, to the memory of Thomas Clark, who died on the 27th December at the ripe age of 92 years. He was one of the late Mr J.P. Powell's old servants on the estate, being for many years head carpenter, and had continued since, till unable to work longer for the present occupier, Mr. H.P. Cotton, who has kept him in comfort to the day of his death.

This is the second person who has died at the age of 92 during the last month.

Thomas Clark was the last surviving ringer of the old band, raised by the late Mr J.P. Powell, then owner of Quex, and instructed by the celebrated William Shipway, who was engaged by Mr Powell to instruct the young band the art of change ringing, which he did to the highest standard.

Mr Powell offered to build a new tower and present a peal of bells to the parish of Birchington, which was most ungraciously refused. Had they been accepted, Mr Powell would have restored the church. Mr Powell consequently built the present tower in 1815 in his park, at a cost of about £10,000, and out of compliment to the gallant Duke of Wellington and his army, he called it the "Waterloo Tower".

The present ringers are making good progress and receive from Mr H.P. Cotton, out of respect for his late uncle, encouragement.