

**EASTLAND, James (alias JIMMY LANDY)
buried in HUNTLEY grave
H. 657**

“In loving memory of my dear wife Minnie M Huntley,
died 26 May 1935 aged 56 “Rest in peace”

Also Harry Huntley, husband of the above,
died 13 July 1957, aged 79 years”

James Eastland was our last known Smuggler in Birchington. He was employed as a carpenter at Quex Park

Alfred Walker, churchwarden and Parish Archivist for many years, always said of Eastland that he was also known as ‘Jimmy Landy’ but “was buried under the name of Huntley”. I always thought he meant that this was another alias, but it transpired that the young Huntley couple had befriended him in his old age and offered him space in the plot they in their plot they had reserved for themselves. Mr Walker came to Birchington in 1932 and would have known the Huntley’s and probably was told by them what they had done when James Eastland died in 1906.

Because James would never have been able to afford to pay for a plot for himself – and probably hated the thought that he would end up in a pauper’s grave, the couple arranged for an extra depth burial in their plot for James. It would appear that they did not erect a stone for the grave until Minnie died in 1935. This may have even been the moment when Harry Huntley shared this information with Mr Walker, who was headmaster of the Birchington CE Primary School in Park Lane.

The Huntley grave is at the foot of the bank from the old high churchyard, at the point where the path from the west end of the church leads down from the old to the new areas. It lies on the right hand side just as you reach the lower level.