

## BIRCHINGTON FIRE BRIGADE

**These newspaper cuttings were copied from THE PEOPLES GAZETTE, MARGATE. 4 APRIL 1896 and 26 DECEMBER 1896 and were provided by Bob Varnham of Margate on 29 November 2007.**

**A FIREMAN IN TROUBLE**—On Tuesday, at the Cinque Ports Petty Sessions, Margate, before Mr. E. S. Wooton (in the chair), and Dr. A. Flint, *James Cocks*, of Crippens's-cottages, Birchington, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly in Canterbury-road, Birchington, on the 20th March.—Defendant pleaded not guilty.—P.C. Dryland disposed that on Friday last, about 7 p.m., he called upon defendant to warn him against Sunday trading, in accordance with his instructions. He found defendant drunk, he used bad language towards witness, and took off his clothes with the intention of fighting. On his leaving the house, defendant followed witness to the highway, still swearing at him, until he was taken home by his wife.—In reply to the charge, defendant denied that he was drunk, but owned that he used bad language towards the constable. He left his work at Margate at 5.30, and arrived at Birchington at 6.15; he then had one pint of beer, and went home to tea. Pointing through the windows of the Town Hall to the chimney pots of the new school buildings in New Cross-street, defendant declared that he was at work on that scaffold for ten hours previous to going home, and, therefore, he could not have been drunk. He had lived in Birchington 10 years, had never had a stain against his character, and if the police officer spoke the truth he would admit that he had assisted him many times at fires and elsewhere.—The Chairman said as defendant was given a good character by the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, he would only be fined 2s. 6d. and 10s. costs; in default, seven days' imprisonment.

**04 APRIL 1896**

**CHRISTMAS PRIZES FOR THE FIRE BRIGADE**

On Tuesday afternoon a very interesting exhibition of fire brigade drills took place in Birchington square, in the presence of a numerous assemblage, prior to a distribution of Christmas prizes to the members of the brigade. The affair was regarded as an "exhibition" as distinguished from a "competition," the "prizes" (if that term may be used), subsequently taken by each man being equal in value. As a result of the proverbially kind generosity of the Birchington folk, considerably over 120 were subscribed by kind friends, the twelve members of the brigade received £1 15s. each, and the balance was added to the general fund. We are asked, on behalf of the brigade, to express their sincere appreciation of the generosity again shown towards them. The first event on Tuesday was a one-man drill, taken part in by Supt. V. Fumble and Fireman J. Brook, G. Crouch, J. Cook, and W. Pettis. The Superintendent made the best time in this event, coming out with a fraction over 51 seconds. This was followed by a two-man drill, a four-man drill, and a six-man drill, G. Kingdon joining the five men previously mentioned in the latter. Next came a ladder drill, in which each man had to ascend a 40-foot ladder and carry down a man from the roof of a house, time counting from ground to ground. Some remarkably smart work was done in this drill, Fireman Brooks accomplishing the task in a fraction over 39 seconds, and the Superintendent coming within a second of the best man. The exercises concluded with some interesting experiments with the life-line, by means of which a "chick knot" is made, and the rope being attached to a chimney-stack, a person may be brought securely to the ground. In the absence of Supt. Wells (of the Margate Brigade), Engineer Hemptage acted as judge, and Fireman

**26 DECEMBER. 1896**

A Fireman in Trouble—On Tuesday, at the Cinque Ports Petty Sessions, Margate, before Mr. E S Wooton (in the chair), and Dr. A. Flint, *James Cocks*, of Crippens's -Cottages, Birchington, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly in Canterbury Road, Birchington, on the 20th. March.—Defendant pleaded not guilty.- P.C. Dryland disposed that on Friday last, about 7 p.m., he called upon defendant to warn him against Sunday trading, in accordance with his instruction. He found defendant drunk, he used bad language towards witness, and took off his clothes with the intention of fighting. On his leaving the house, defendant followed witness to the highway, still swearing at him, until he was taken home by his wife. - In reply to the charge, defendant denied that he was drunk but owned that he had used bad language towards the constable. He left his work at Margate at 5.30, and arrived at Birchington at 6.15; he then had one pint of beer, and went home to tea. Pointing through the windows of the Town Hall to the chimney pots of the new school buildings in New Cross Street, defendant declared that he was at work on that scaffold for ten hours, previous to going home, and, therefore, he could not have been drunk. He had lived in Birchington ten years had never had a stain against his character, and if the police officer spoke the truth he would admit he had assisted him many times at fires and elsewhere. - The Chairman said as defendant was given a good character by the Superintendent of Fire Brigade, he would only be fined 2s.6d. and 10s. costs; in default, seven days' imprisonment.

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**FOOTNOTE**

These Cuttings were transcribed by William James Cock, later Cox by common use. The persons named below were known variously by the a surname of COCK, COCKS and COX, (and even COOK on one Census record,). However, the true family name appears to be COCK.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>BORN DIED</b>	<b>SERVED FROM/TO</b>	<b>DESCENDENTS</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
JAMES COCK	26.12.1860 to 20.07.1936	01.04.1892 to ??..12.1911		Birchington Fire Brigade - Volunteer
WILLIAM JAMES COCK	23.01.1881 to 15.10.1974	1910 to 1924	Son of James	Birchington Fire Brigade - Volunteer . Active Service August 1914 to April 1919.
DONALD EDMUND HATSON COCK	20.06.1908 to 23.04.1983	Not yet proved.	Son of William James, but not the father of William James.	Kent Fire Brigade. Margate. Either Retained or Auxiliary Fire Service.
WILLIAM JAMES COCK/COX	14/07/1939 to	May 1961 to 31.10.1986	Son of Denys James Hatson Cock who was not a Fireman	Kent Fire Brigade Whole Time Fireman.
JOHN ANTHONY COX	17/03/1973 to	08/11/1993 to	Son of William James Cox	Kent Fire Brigade and Kent Fire and Rescue Service. Whole Time Fireman