



Elham
Historical
Society

September 2024

Volume 14 Issue 2

Chairman's Message

Looking back to my message in our last Newsletter, I see that I was bemoaning the effect of 'age and age's evils', and they certainly haven't gone away in the interim. However, I have managed to put together a new presentation on the Swing Riots of 1830, which I hope will be the trigger to start planning suitable celebrations for the bicentenary in less than six year's time.

Until recently it was unthinkable that Elham would not be represented in parliament by a Conservative, whatever the name of our constituency, but in historical terms that is a relatively recent phenomenon. From the Middle Ages onward, Elham was an 'open' village, with no dominant landowner or resident gentry. It tended therefore to be a radical community, involved in most uprisings from the Peasants' Revolt onwards. The Swing Riots were just the latest manifestation of that radicalism, but not the last, if you count the Tithe War of the 1930s, when Elham was again very much at the centre of activity.

D.M.B.

Forthcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated all events are at 7.00 pm for a 7.30pm start in Elham Village Hall

Fri 20th Sept - The Swing Riots of 1830

A look at the pivotal role of 'the Elham Gang' in the biggest rural uprising since 1381

Fri 25th Oct The Changing Face of Elham Part 3

We continue our illustrated virtual tour of the village showing how it has changed over the years

Nov - TBC The History of Elham in 100 objects - TBC

Evening of 11th Dec TBC EHS Christmas Meal at the Abbott's Fireside - TBC

Talk Admission costs: EHS Members £3 Non Members £5

(There is also a Non EHS Member charge for external visits)

Space at Elham Village Hall may be restricted so please arrive early

THE TITHE WAR

Members may recall that it is some years ago that Dr John Bulaitis of Canterbury Christchurch University talked to us about the Tithe Wars, and in particular the involvement of Elham farmers in the activism of the nineteen thirties, which led to the end of the system, after many years of legislation. As with the Elham labourers, who were pivotal to the Swing Riots of 1830, so a hundred years later the farmers of Elham were central to the sometimes bizarre anti-Tithe campaign. The Tithe was particularly irksome to Methodists like the Cullens at Mount, but Anglicans like Kingsley Dykes were also deeply involved. He kept a scrapbook of the events, which John Bulaitis found very useful.

The publication of John's book has been delayed by illness, but it is now out and the official launch is at 7p.m. on Tuesday 24th September at the Michael Berry Lecture Theatre at the Old Sessions House in Canterbury. This is a free event, and with a wine reception at 6.30. The book will be on sale, but it is priced at over £60,

MICHAEL NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL TWELFTH ANNUAL LECTURE
Sponsored by the Brook Rural Museum and the Centre for Kent History & Heritage

THE TITHE WAR
IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1881-1936
A Curious Rural Revolt

JOHN BULAITIS

TITHE
NO MORE
END

ALTER

'Book launch - Tales from the Tithe War'
Dr John Bulaitis
Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7pm

The poster features a central image of a historical scene where a man is being hanged from a gallows, with a crowd of people gathered around. A sign in the background reads 'TITHE NO MORE END'. A smaller portrait of Dr. John Bulaitis is positioned in the bottom right corner of the poster.

THE TITHE WAR Cont/...

Here are a couple of images from Kingsley Dykes' scrap book:



New Addition to our Digital Archive

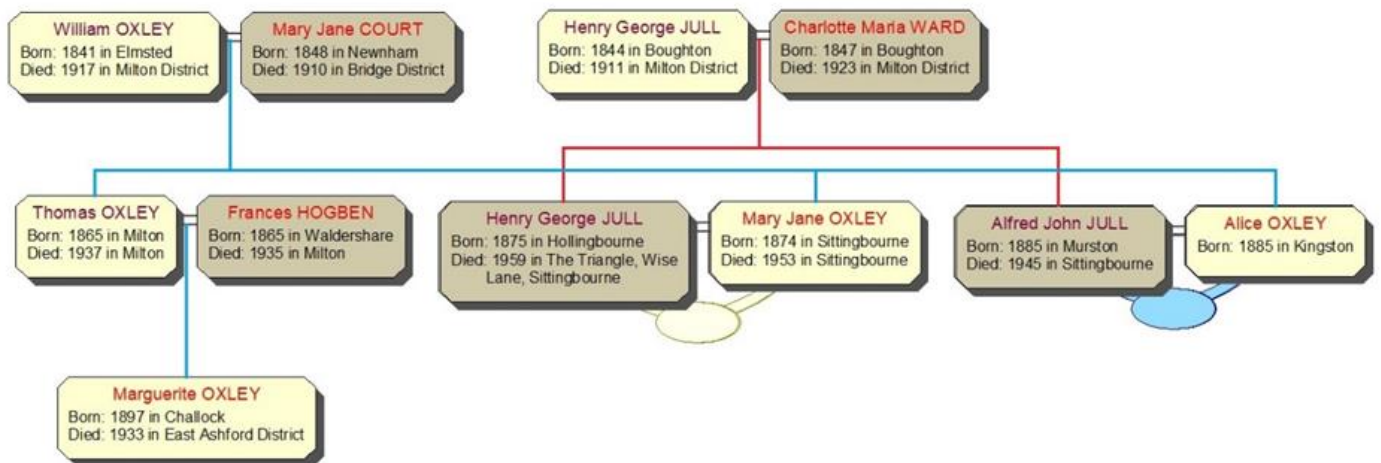
This month the Society has been fortunate enough to scan a rare postcard for our digital archive.



The postcard, written by Margeurite Oxley (known as Rita), is addressed to her grandfather, William Oxley. In her message, Rita inquires whether William recognizes the gentleman featured in the accompanying photograph. The name "Henry Jull" is noted in pencil above the address probably added by the recipient.

Henry Jull, who lived from 1844 to 1911 and was from Milton near Sittingbourne, was connected to the Oxley family through marriage. Two of William Oxley's daughters were married to Henry Jull's sons. Given this close family connection, William should be expected to recognize Henry Jull, as he would have been a significant figure within their family network. See the family tree below.

The porch of the King's Arms is visible in the photograph, so that indicates it was taken after 1902 and Derek has also noted the presence of a post-box between the windows of King Post and the altered brick work to accommodate it, which dates the photograph to post 1908. Therefore we can date the postcard to the period between 1908 and 1911 aligning with Henry's lifespan.



New Addition to our Archive Cont/ ...

William Oxley was born in Elmsted in 1840 to Thomas, a farmer with 55 acres. By 1861, William had moved away from home and was employed as a journeyman blacksmith and servant for Edmund Wakefield at the forge in Elham. In 1871, he was established as a shoeing smith in Sittingbourne. By 1881, he was working as a blacksmith at the Forge House in Kingston. A career shift occurred in 1891 when he became the sub-postmaster and a shepherd in Kingston. He continued in these roles as sub-postmaster and A.R. postman through 1901 and 1911. William died in 1917 in Milton, near Sittingbourne. William and Mary had eleven children. Of them, two emigrated to Canada, and one moved to Australia.

Henry Jull, born in Boughton in 1844, was the son of Thomas Jull, an agricultural labourer. By 1871, Henry was married and working as an agricultural labourer in Ospringe, following in his father's footsteps. By 1876, he had moved to Lenham. In 1881, he was residing in Stone near Faversham. In 1891, Henry worked as a waggoner in Oare, Faversham. By 1901, he had returned to being a farm labourer, living in Bobbing, where he died in 1911. Henry and Charlotte also had eleven children.

Marguerite Oxley, William's granddaughter, was born in Challock in 1897 and never married. In 1911, she was living with her family at World's Wonder in Elham. By 1921, the family had relocated to Ruckinge, where she helped with household duties. Marguerite died in 1933 in Mersham, at the age of just 35.

Harvesting in Elham

The Vincent's harvesting in 2024



Harvesting in 1946 at Exted Farm

The Terry Collection



Harvesting in Elham 2024 Cont / ...



Wartime Harvesting with the help of Land Girls

The Waddenhall Gang August 1943

The Terry Collection



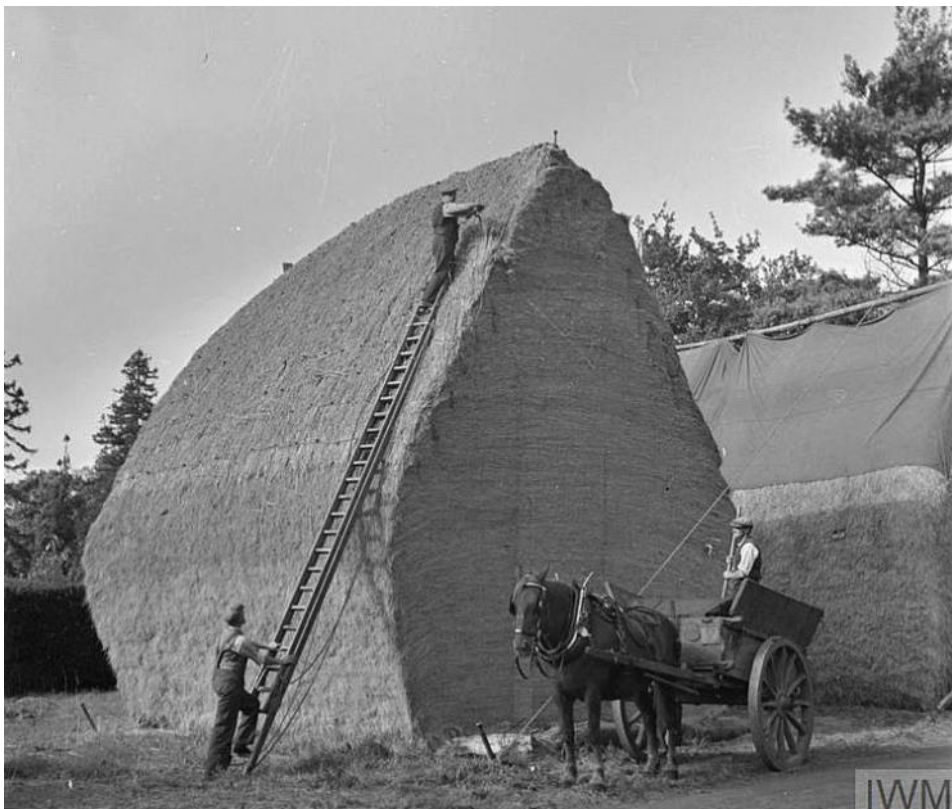
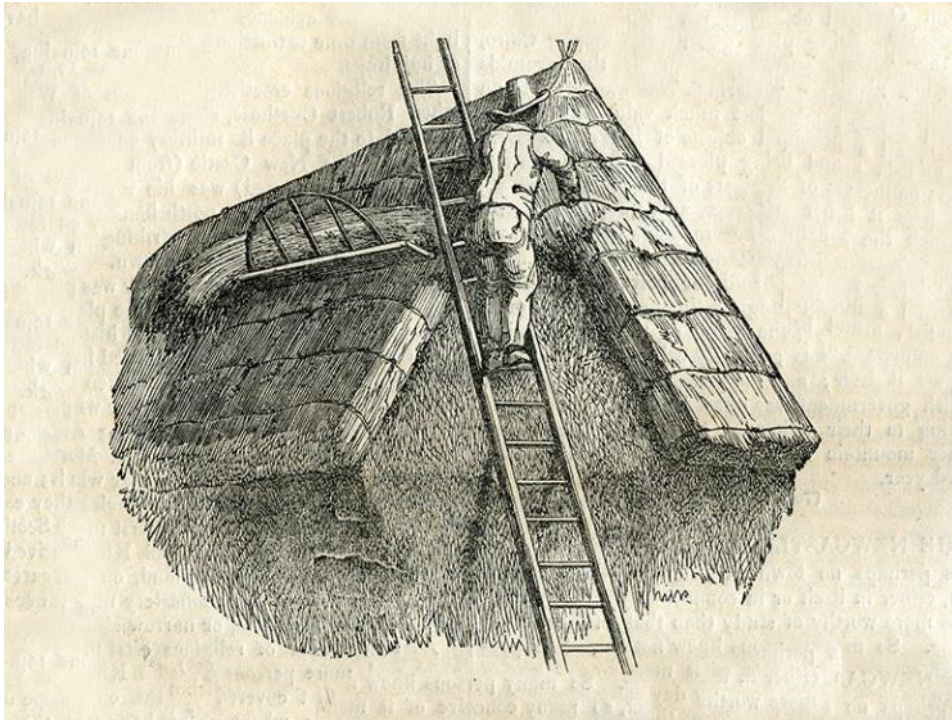
Harvesting in Elham 2024 Cont / ...

Danton Lane Farm 1944
The Athow Collection



Harvesting in Elham 2024 Cont / ...

You may also wonder why the land girls in the Athrow photos are thrashing in March? It certainly confused me! The reason is that thrashing took place long after harvesting. The harvested product wheat, barley etc would be stacked and then covered with a temporary tarp. It would then be thatched as shown here. Thus making it watertight. I often wondered why there were buildings in the middle of fields in old Elham photos, now I know!



Harvesting in Elham 2024 Cont / ...



Harvesting between the two World Wars *The Williams Collection*



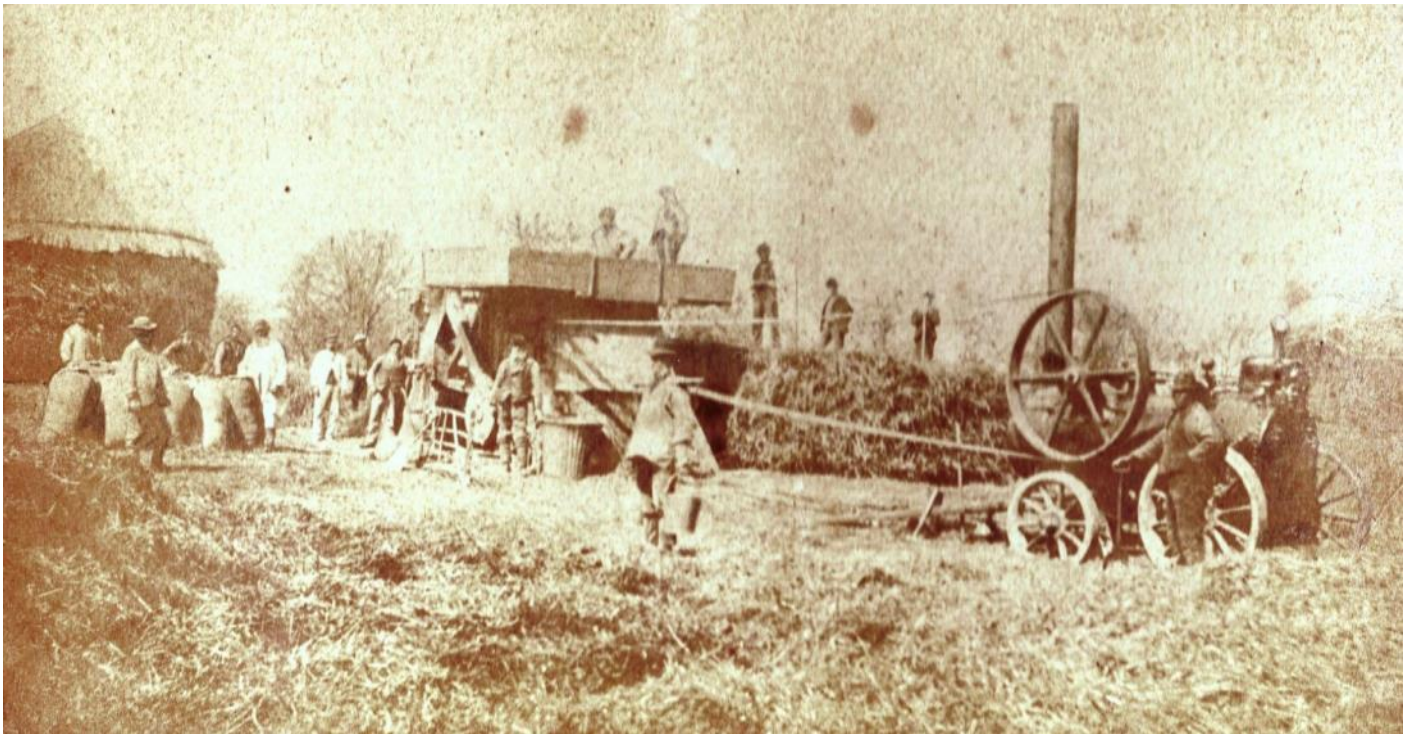
Harvesting in Elham 2024 Cont / ...



Harvesting in Elham 2024 Cont / ...

Thomas Pegden (in smock) threshing with his 8HP Clayton portable at Standard Hill Farm 1874

The Moffatt Collection



The Changing Face of Elham, part 2 – a postscript

At Kingpost in St Mary’s Road, we spoke at some length about Samuel Edward Dunn, watch and clock maker and Elham’s first sub-postmaster. One thing not mentioned was that he was the enumerator at the 1861 Census for the whole of the parish to the right of the road from Lyminge to Barham. He was sixty-two at the time, no bad age in mid-Victorian England, and it must have been a Herculean task to visit all the properties in that area, which ran from Ottinge to North Wingmore, opposite the former Palm Tree, but, more dauntingly, right up to the present A 260 opposite the Black Horse, and right down that road to where the first roundabout into Hawkinge is now sited

Many of his householders would have been at best semi-literate, and probably took time to remember when and where they and their household were born, so probably few visits were quick. He visited 124 households, plus the stable which acted as home for the forty year old labourer George Arnold.

	The Square	1	James L. Knutzel	lodger	Un.	54	Shoemaker / Sewing man	Kent: Preston
85	Do	1	Elizabeth Nichole	Head	Un.	77		So. Elham
			16					
87	Do	1	Robert Nixson	Head	Mar.	82	Grazier	So. Do.
			Mary Nixson	Wife	Mar.	72		So. Stowting
88	Do	1	John Coltham	Head	Mar.	46	Blacksmith	So. Elham
	King's Arms		Mrs Coltham	Wife	Mar.	32		So. Do.
89	The Square	1	Samuel E. Dunn	Head	Mar.	62	W. Watch, & clock & clock maker	So. Woolton
			Esther Dunn	Wife	Mar.	50		So. Upper Handen
			Sarah Dunn	Daughter	Un.	25		So. Elham
			Eliza Dennis	Serv.	Un.	17	Domestic Serv.	So. Stowting
90	Do	1	William Nash	Head	Un.	33	Scholar	Yorkshire: Upper Handen
	Eastend School		Emma Nash	Sister	Un.	19	Housekeeper	So. Do.
91	The Square	1	William Swain	Head	Mar.	67	Ag. Lab.	Kent: Lewis
			Ann Swain	Wife	Mar.	67		So. Stowting
			Hedge Swain	Son	Mar.	25	Ag. Lab.	So. Wye
			Mary A. Swain	Son's wife	Mar.	19		So. Do.
			Ellie Swain	Daughter	Un.	2		So. Do.
			Ann Swain	Daughter	Un.	30		So. Do.
			Ann Barnard	Boarder		13	Scholar	London
			Elizabeth Barnard	Boarder		12	Do.	So.
			Fraunce Barnard	Boarder		8	Do.	So.
			James Barnard	Boarder		7	Do.	So.
			Mary A. Hayward	Boarder		7	Do.	Kent: Brook -
92			Mary Noble	Head	Un.	61	Dress-maker	So. Elham

This is the page, written in S. E. Dunn’s good clear hand, which includes his own household, consisting of himself, wife, unmarried daughter, and a female servant.

At what is now the Old Bakery, there were three generations of the Swain family, as well as four boarders, making a total occupancy of ten. The Swains later established the bakery and continued in business until the nineteen-twenties.

The photo below is probably the first taken in Elham showing figures. In the garden behind his shop, now Wise Follies, S. E. Dunn must have held his pose with his three prong fork for some time to be that well in focus. His daughter Sarah looks very young, while his wife Esther originally Hester, is jauntily wearing a man’s cap. Perhaps to please her, S. E. D. had entered her age as 50; she was actually at least 65, which was the age she admitted to in 1871; by 1881 she was 85!

The photo may be as early as the late 1850s, and certainly before 1865, when Sarah Dunn married William Smith and moved to Mill Hill Farm.

The Changing Face of Elham, part 2 – a postscript Cont/...



S. E. Dunn's colleague as enumerator on the other side of the Lyminge/Barham road was Richard Bowes, who lived at Ivy House (now Coopers). His area was rather more compact, although it ran up to Stelling Minnis at Wheelbarrow Town, and comprised 131 households. If S.E.Dunn was getting on for the job, Richard Bowes was remarkably young, for he gives his age, correctly, as nineteen. He must have been a confident and competent young man, already farming on his own account. Most of his farming career was on a large scale at Stowting Court. His handwriting wasn't as clear as Dunn's, but better than many.

Highstreet -	1	Barth Maynard	Head	Mar	20	Carpenter	Post - Elham
		Isabel Do.	Wife	Mar	25		Camberley Camberley
		William Do.	Son	Mar	25		Post - Elham
		Mary Do.	Wife	Mar	30	Schoolmistress	Do - Do
Do -	1	Richard Forstall	Head	Mar	24	Shoemaker	6th Warrington
		Susannah Do.	Wife	Mar	34		6th Warrington
		Samuel Do.	Son	Mar	9	Scholar	Do Warrington
		William Do.	Son	Mar	6	Do.	Do - Ashby
		Mary Do.	Son	Mar	4		Do - Fothering
		Isabel Do.	Son	Mar	1		Do - Do
Do - Ivy House	1	William Bowes	Head	Mar	19	Landed Proprietor	Do - Elham
		Melissa Do.	Wife	Mar	50		Do - Do
		Elizabeth Do.	Son	Mar	23		Do - Do
		Richard Do.	Son	Mar	19	Farmer employing 2000 sheep	Do - Do
		Samuel Do.	Son	Mar	16	Scholar	Do - Do
		John Do.	Son	Mar	10	Do	Do - Do
High st -	1	Richard Forstall	Head	Mar	23	Carpenter	Do - Fothering
	1	Stephen May	Head	Mar	33	Butcher & Carting Man	Do - Elham
		Elizabeth Do.	Wife	Mar	30		Do - Do
		Henry Do.	Son	Mar	6		Do - Do
		Elizabeth Do.	Son	Mar	6		Do - Do
		Mary Do.	Son	Mar	4		Do - Do
		John Do.	Son	Mar	19	Butcher's Servant	Do - Do
		Mary Do.	Son	Mar	16	General Do	Do - Do

The Changing Face of Elham – a look forward to part three

The Bowes family were fond of having yew hedges in front of their properties, which could grow to quite luxuriant not to say out of hand proportions. This was true at one time at Mount Bottom Farm and Little Standard Hill Farm, but especially true at Ivy House. This can be seen in this photo, which probably dates from just before the First World War. By the nineteen forties, when Miss Bowes was still in residence, it was barely possible to see the house.



D. B.

The Peasants' Revolt and Jack Cade's Rebellion

Bryan has asked me to expand on my brief reference to the Peasants' Revolt in my Chairman's Message, so here is part of an article which I wrote in 2012:

On a cold November night in 2008 I attended a talk in Wingham Church on Life in Medieval Wingham. To compare and contrast is often a useful exercise in history. It was therefore a good talk for a historian of Elham to attend, because there are lots of parallels between Wingham and Elham. The most obvious is that Wingham's Tuesday market received its charter in 1252, just a few months after Elham's Monday market was established the previous year. Just as the stalls you see in Canterbury on a Wednesday appear elsewhere on other days, no doubt there were itinerant traders who started in Elham on Monday, went to Wingham on Tuesday, and so on through the week. Wingham's market did not survive the Middle Ages, but Elham's struggled on till the eighteenth century.

Wingham's church is larger than Elham's because a College of secular canons was established there, also in the thirteenth century. In the Middle Ages the road through Wingham was very much busier, because it linked two of the largest towns in England, Canterbury and Sandwich, an enormously important port before it became silted up. Not surprisingly, Wingham's two surviving medieval inns (now in 2024 just the one) are larger than Elham's. Those two inns alternated the sittings of the Petty Sessions; at Elham, they were all at the Rose & Crown.

But what makes me really jealous of Wingham is that it gets a mention in Shakespeare, which David Eaves, who gave that talk in 2008, was able to quote. It's in Henry VI part 2, Act 4 Scene 2, when two of Jack Cade's rebels are on Blackheath discussing the role of the working man. John Holland says "let the magistrates be labouring men, and therefore should we be magistrates". "Thou has hit it" replies George Bevis, "for there's no better sign of a brave mind than a hard hand". "I see them, I see them," says Holland "There's Best's son, the tanner of Wingham". "He shall have the skins of our enemies to make dog's leather of".

Shortly after, they are joined by Jack Cade, Dick the butcher from Ashford, Smith the weaver, and a sawyer, with *infinite numbers* (as the stage direction says), and it is known that there were Elham men there. There were certainly Wingham men there as well, though Best the tanner appears to be an invention of Shakespeare's.

Jack Cade's rebellion was in 1450, and it is just one of many popular revolts which started in Kent in the Middle Ages, and the reason for this is that Kent as a whole was less under the control of the great baronial estates than most of the rest of the country. There were of course big ecclesiastical estates, especially those of Christ Church and St Augustine's in Canterbury.

If Kent as a whole was lightly controlled by the nobility, this is even more true of Elham. Elham's Manor, though the best medieval house in the village, is no Waldershare, or Acrise Place, or even Sibton Park, and this reflects the status of the manor and its owners. They held the biggest chunk, but there were eleven other Manors with land in the parish: Bladbean, Boyke, Canterwood, Clavertigh, Wingmore, Jacques Court, Ladwood, Mount, Oxroad, Shuttlesfield, and Great Hardres.

The Peasants' Revolt and Jack Cade's Rebellion Cont / ...

Apart from the widowed Countess of Eu in the early thirteenth century, the lay owners of Elham Manor were mostly absentees, and for a century and three quarters it was part of the endowment of St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster (later to become the debating chamber of the House of Commons). Even after 1796, when it was acquired by Sir Henry Oxenden of Broome, the first local owner for the best part of three hundred years, the biggest patrician influence on Elham probably came from the Papillons at Acrise Place.

The most significant of all the medieval uprisings was the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. The immediate cause of this was the Poll Tax, as with a more recent period of civil unrest, but there was a whole raft of social and economic problems just thirty years after the Black Death, which I cannot go into here. The first stirrings of trouble occurred in Essex right at the end of May. In Kent, the uprising probably started at Dartford, where Wat Tyler may have come from. An increasing body of men marched across Kent. They were in Canterbury on Monday the 10th, and then marched via Maidstone, where the renegade priest John Ball was sprung with the other inmates from the Archbishop's prison on Tuesday, and then on via Rochester for London. It is quite remarkable how far our ancestors could travel on foot in quick time.

We do not know their names, but there were certainly Elham men in the vast concourse, also on Blackheath, on Wednesday 12th June when John Ball preached his sermon to the text "When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?" That was perhaps the high point of altruism, but it all turned pretty nasty when they got to London, with the murder by beheading of the Archbishop of Canterbury and several others on the Friday, and the targeting of Flemish weavers. (Resentment against immigrants is certainly not a 21st century invention.) The main part of the Kentish rebellion effectively came to an end at Smithfield on Saturday 15th June, when the young King Richard bravely confronted the rebels, and Wat Tyler was killed by the Lord Mayor of London.

In Canterbury on the same day was the one incident in which we can be sure an Elham man was involved. Henry Bongay, a Canterbury armourer, had proclaimed that John Tece should be killed, and this was carried out by John Bromfield of Elham, along with John Grenelef of Petham, Henry Alleyn of Chartham, and Robert Toneford of Harbledown. This was effectively a lynching, as he was dragged from his horse by John Cook, a Canterbury sawyer, before being despatched. Presumably Tece was a landowner or magistrate who had roused their ire in some way.

D.M.B.

A Reminder to those who have not as yet renewed their Membership

Membership Fees can be paid by Standing Order or Bank Transfer

(Sort code: 523023 Account No: 34762434 Reference: surname + initials)

or by cash or cheque made payable to EHS and delivered to:

Membership Secretary at Cherry Cottage, New Road, Elham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6TQ

Membership is for 12 months starting 1st April. £10 Single and £20 Family.

2024

Who is Who

Chairman

Derek Boughton

Vice Chairman

Dilys Webb

Secretary

Deborah Capon

Treasurer

Bryan Badham

Membership Secretary

Ian Sladden

Postcards

Don't forget our wonderful collection of vintage postcards at a cost of 60p each or £4.00 for a pack of eight. These are always available at our meetings in the Village Hall.



*Keep informed about our latest projects and activities -
www.elhamhistorical.org and www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk*

For more information about local events please visit www.elham.co.uk

Follow us on our Facebook page

We have our own Facebook Page where people (EHS members and non members) can view information and our historical pictures, as well as make comments about Elham's rich history. If you are on Facebook then please take a look.

It's your Newsletter!

We've got lots of good "stuff" to tell you about in these newsletters but we hope that you, our members, will also provide contributions.

Everyone will have their own special areas of interest so, to stop us banging on about our own obsessions, send us your thoughts and photos etc. Letters to the Editor are always appreciated!

Please email me:

elhamhistorical@outlook.com