

Saturday 17 September 2016

SPECIAL ISSUE No 3 - WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

PONDS WELLS & THE JUBILEE PUMP

In history, wells and water butts gave us drinking or 'sweet' water - beer was also popular as it was 'clean' to drink. So, wells were everywhere and were good for us. But old wells were often replaced by new wells. Old wells might be used for emptying your toilet bucket. In Lynsted, wells claimed the life of a lonely woman, Fanny Judges, and of a well-cleaner, William White (due to nasty gases at the bottom of a foul old well). There was danger for careless children

too and a man who kept throwing himself into his well.....John Turner of Greenstreet!

Ponds, on the other hand, were often heavily polluted by human and animal waste – but they sometimes attracted those attempting suicide.

And, finally, the Jubilee Pump in Greenstreet, which created much mirth and merriment.

had been living with his mother at **Rose Cottage, Dadman's**, for about three weeks, as she felt lonely in the village with practically everybody away fruit picking, and nobody to speak to. Before leaving for work about six o'clock on Monday morning he took her up a cup of tea, and she seemed very cheerful. He saw her again at breakfast time and dinner time, and she still seemed the same and when he came home to tea he thought she looked better than she had done for months. They were going to Hastings by motor for a day's outing the following day, and she had been looking forward to it. She had a good tea, and was very cheerful all the evening. In the evening he cut some sandwiches to take with them the next day, and while he did so she stood beside him laughing and joking. Just before they had supper she said "I wonder whether father has closed the gate, meaning the gate leading into the garden, and she then went outside, leaving the door on the jar. Shortly after, his sister

went out to see if his wife had been able to open the gate, as it was difficult to open, and came running back, saying that she was not there. He went out to look for his wife, and on going round the corner of the house he saw that the lid of

TRAGIC AFFAIR AT LYNSTED

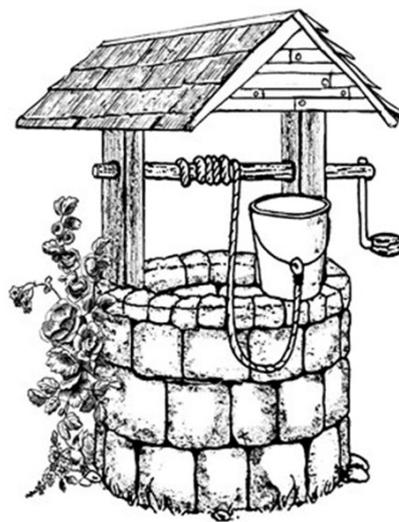
WOMAN DROWNED IN A WELL. HUSBAND'S UNAVAILING EFFORTS AT RESCUE.

In the middle of a smiling orchard in one of the most beautiful parts of this district a tragedy, which caused quite a sensation in the quiet country neighbourhood, occurred on Monday night. The victim was Mrs. Fanny Judges, wife of Charles Henry Judges, a gardener at Lynsted Lodge, and the details, as related at the Coroner's inquest, which was held at Rose Cottage, Dadmans, Lynsted, on Wednesday afternoon, were of a particularly painful character.

Mr. Charles B. Harris, county coroner, conducted the inquest, and the jury was composed of the following gentlemen, viz:- Messrs.

W.R. Farmer (foreman), W. Mears, J.J. Dence, C.R. Busbridge, F. Smith, R.M. Packman, E. Champion, W. Russell, W. Smith, and A.S. George.

Charles Henry Judges, gardener, **Japonica House, Ludgate-road, Lynsted**, identified the body as that of his wife, who, he said, was 44 years of age. Up to about two months ago, he continued, she had very good health, but within the last two months she had been rather strange in her manner; she had expressed fear of her health, and said she thought she would never get over it. She had been attended by Drs Selby and Henderson. She



the well in the orchard was up. The hurdles surrounding the well were not open. His suspicions being aroused, he called his sister back from the top of the orchard, and said to her, "My God, I think she is down the well." His mother and father then came out and he (witness) ran up the road for help. He found Mr. Russell and immediately ran back again. On reaching the well again, his father remarked "I wonder if she has put the well lid up just to frighten us," and to make sure witness called "Fanny" up the orchard. His mother said she thought she heard something down the well, and witness then called down the well, "Lovey, are you there!" and he got the answer "Be quick." He immediately lowered the rope, and called to her to hold fast to it. She did so, and he commenced to draw her up, but she slipped and fell back into the water. The well was 70 or 80 feet deep, and there was 20 or 30 feet of water in it. He ran the rope down again, and shouted to her to catch hold of it, and hold to it, as somebody had gone to get more help. She caught hold of the rope and called up faintly, "Be quick," and witness tried to draw her clear of the water.

The Coroner: Did you lower the bucket? Witness: No. I didn't think of that at the time. The Coroner: If you had it would have been something for her to rest on.

Continuing, witness said he drew his wife clear of the water, but she called out "I can't hold on. Be quick." She then slipped off the rope, and the last he heard of her was a moan and a long breath. He then ran to the forge, and asked Mr. Busbridge to go up with a grab hook, and it was about two hours later when the body was recovered.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said that a man volunteered to go down the well while he (witness) was away, but the curb of the well

was not safe. "Some time ago," added witness, when he thought she was going to swallow her false teeth, he took them from her, and when he would not let her have them again, she said, "I will never do anything to myself, Lovey. I love you too much ever to go away from you."

William Edward Russell, labourer, St. Christopher's row, Lynsted, said that about twenty minutes to nine on Monday night the previous witness came to him, and told him he had lost his wife, and that he thought she might be down the well. They both ran down the road as fast as they could, and when they arrived at the well they shouted down it, but received no reply. Witness went round the orchard looking for her, and when he got back to the well deceased's husband was drawing her up out of the well. Just as witness arrived he heard deceased slip back into the water. The rope was again lowered, and witness ran off to get another rope and more help. When he got back he could hear nothing of deceased in the well.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said that several men would have gone down the well, but the curb was not considered safe.

Dr. J.F. Henderson, Greenstreet, said that about 9.30 on Monday night he received a message about deceased being in the well, and he was present when the body was brought up. Life was totally extinct; rigor mortis had set in, and it was useless to try artificial respiration. There were no external injuries on the body, except slight abrasions on the right arm and right leg, which might have been caused by the grab hook. The cause of death was, in his opinion, drowning. Along with Dr. Selby, he attended deceased in June, when she gave him the impression that there was something on her mind. She had delusions. Neither witness nor Dr. Selby felt justified in certifying

her insane, as it was a border line case. She improved very rapidly, got rid of her delusions, and seemed quite normal again. They warned the relatives, however, to watch her closely, and he thought they did so to the best of their ability. In his opinion deceased had probably had a sudden irresistible impulse to throw herself down the well.

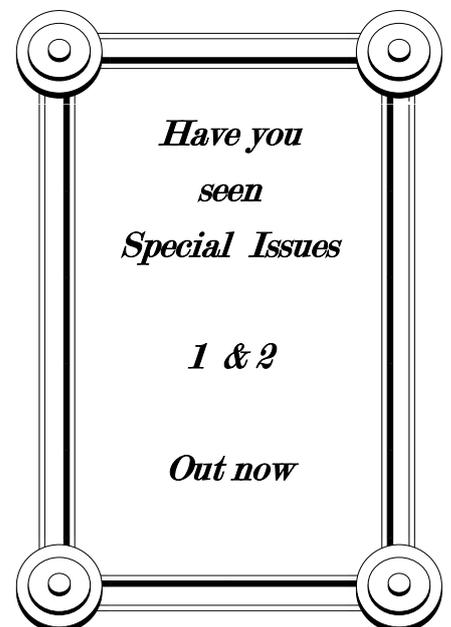
After the Coroner had reviewed the evidence the Jury returned a verdict of "Suicide during a fit of insanity."

After the jury had given their verdict Dr. Henderson said that Mr. Judges, the husband, had been extremely unwell himself for a long time, and he would no doubt be very much upset when he discovered his wife was in the well.

The Coroner said he had no doubt Mr. Judges did the best he could, and the Jury entirely agreed.

1st August 1914: East Kent Gazette: - also in South Eastern Gazette - 1st August 1914.

Deaths Announced: Judges – July 27th at **Rose Cottage, Dadmans, Lynsted, Fanny Frances**, the beloved wife of Charles Henry Judges, aged 44 years. **REPORT (East Kent Gazette)**



DIED CLEANING A WELL

A distressing instance of the effect of mephitic air occurred in the park at **Lynsted Lodge**, on Tuesday last, **WILLIAM WHITE**, of **Doddington**, a man well known for his ability in sinking wells, was employed to cleanse a well in the above park, of about eighty feet in depth, and which had not been opened or used for about forty years; he had descended into the same for the purpose, and had been but a few minutes at the bottom, when he called out for help; a person immediately went down to his assistance, but had scarcely succeeded in tying a rope round the body of **WHITE**, when he was so much affected, that it was necessary to draw him up in order to preserve his life. By farther assistance, after the lapse of three quarters of an hour, the body of **WHITE** was drawn up lifeless. A surgeon having been procured, he was bled, but without avail. The deceased was a man much respected in his walk of life, and it is to be regretted, that aware as he might be supposed to be of the noxious effluvia, he had not taken the necessary precaution to counteract its effects.

22nd October 1821: The Morning Post

ALCOHOLIC IN KINGSDOWN POND SUICIDE

KINGSDOWN. INQUEST.-Yesterday (Monday) week an inquest was held before **T. Hills, Esq.**, coroner, on the body of **Samuel Stevens**, who had been found drowned. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was a maltster, living at **Kingsdown**, and was 32 years of age. He was much addicted to drink, and had on several occasions threatened to

commit suicide, in consequence of which his friends had done all in their power to keep liquor out of his way. On Sunday last, however, deceased had a little drink, but went to bed as usual. About four o'clock Mrs. Stevens awoke, and finding he was not in bed was much alarmed, and immediately called the housekeeper, and after an ineffectual search, fearing he might have carried his oft-repeated threat into execution, they obtained the assistance of **George Brenchley**, who subsequently discovered deceased in a pond about 300 yards from his residence, quite dead, although still warm. **Mr. James Church**, surgeon, of **Greenstreet**, was soon in attendance, but all efforts to restore animation were unavailing. Deceased had been in a desponding state for some time, and it is supposed he committed the act while in a state of temporary insanity, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly given by the jury. We understand the deceased had only been married about six months.

2nd October 1860: Kentish Gazette

LYNSTED POND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

LYNSTED - ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. On Wednesday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a man named **Edward Moss**, about 57 years of age, who lodges at the **Lion Inn, Lynsted**, attempted self-destruction, it is supposed, by throwing himself into a pond, on the grounds of **W.F. Baring, Esq.** The man was in a state of insensibility when found, and **Mr. Adams**, of **Greenstreet**, was sent for, under whose care he speedily recovered. On Friday morning, **Moss** was taken before the **Rev. Dr. Poore**, at **Murston rectory**, in the custody of police-constable **Craig**, when he was admonished by the worthy magistrate, and bound over in his

own recognizance for six months. The man assigns to reason for the act, and asserts that he is ignorant of how he got into the water. He has been in a depressed state for some time. Sentenced six months, suspended.

22nd November 1864: South Eastern Gazette

PLUCKY CONDUCT OF A DOCTOR

A plucky attempt at rescue by a doctor was revealed at an inquest on the body of a little boy aged four, held on Saturday before **Mr. W.J. Harris**, Coroner. The child was playing near a well, at **Lynsted**, near **Sittingbourne**, and fell down it, a depth of 60 feet. Two men at work in a field near at hand declined to go after the little fellow, but **Dr. Prideaux Selby**, of **Greenstreet**, drove to the cottage, and, after divesting himself of his coat, descended the well, and sent the child up by means of a rope. He afterwards got out himself and attempted to restore animation, but the child was found to be dead. The Coroner and jury warmly commended **Dr. Selby** for his gallant, although unsuccessful attempt to save the child's life.

12th August 1899: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald



**MAN PLUNGES DOWN
WELL
.....Four Times!**

A remarkable escape from death occurred at Lynsted last week. An old man named John Turner, living at Greenstreet, who is suffering from a very distressing disease, and who had recently returned home from the Faversham Union Infirmary, went to the back of Mr. James French's premises, divested himself of his coat, boots, and hat, and seizing the rope or bucket slid down the well. Then he called for help. Mr. B. French immediately went to his assistance and succeeded in drawing him up within a foot or two of the surface when Turner let go the rope and went to the bottom. This was repeated no less than three times. At length Mr. F. Court volunteered to descend the well, and thus Turner was rescued. He was seen by Dr. Selby, who examined him and found no bones were broken, but it is feared he has sustained internal injuries. He was removed to the Workhouse Infirmary.

20th July 1901 in Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald



**THE JUBILEE PUMP - GREENSTREET
[‘haunted’ by comedians]**

This is the story of a Memorial that was not built in its planned position (corner of Station Road), did not coincide with Queen Victoria’s Jubilee, nor was it an effective pump....

The first planned well sat at the corner of Teynham Lane (now Station Road) with London Road before it was move to its present site opposite the Dover Castle.

The Parish Councils of Lynsted and Teynham came into existence in the year that the Local Government Act of 1894 was passed. The idea being that local communities should have a legal framework within which to implement and affect the many decisions affecting smaller (village) communities.

**Queen Victoria’s Memorial.
Convalescent Home or
Pump?**

“Greenstreet The commemoration of the Queen’s Long Reign. – There was a joint meeting of the parish councils of Lynsted and Teynham, in the Wesleyan school -room, Greenstreet, on Monday evening to consider in what form Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee should be commemorated by the two parishes. Lieut.- Col. Tyler (chairman, Lynsted Parish Council), presided, and other members of the Lynsted parish Council present were Messrs. R. Lake (chairman), J.F. Honeyball, H.T. Bensted, S. Streetfield, W.H. Crippen, W.J. Read and I. Holmes. A letter of apology for absence was received from Lord Teynham, and a telegram from F. Gorell Barnes, M.P., was read, in which he stated he would agree with any decision made at the meeting. Several schemes came under consideration. Mr. Lake was in favour of a convalescent

home but Dr. Selby thought it was unnecessary, as the isolation hospital already dealt with convalescent people. The doctor suggested that a pump and drinking fountain be erected, at a spot advantageous to the two parishes, as a permanent and suitable recognition in the district to Her Majesty’s long and memorable reign. The proposal met with general approval, and it was suggested that a trough for cattle be added. It was mentioned that the top of Teynham Lane, adjoining the main road would be a suitable site for the pump, which would cost about £100.

Reported: Saturday, 8th May, 1897

**Too grand?
Greenstreet.- The proposed
jubilee memorial.**

A handsome design for the pump and drinking fountain has been submitted by Mr. Aymer Vallance for consideration by the committee. The county council have given their approval to the site, providing it meets with the approval of the county surveyor. *Reported: Saturday, 29th May, 1897.*

The first design and its location were soon abandoned - £105 had been subscribed but this was not enough for the committee to adopt the original design in its entirety. Mr. Vallance has been asked to submit another design.

One Wednesday night some wag beat the committee to it by erecting a comic pump near the intended sign, thus hinting to the committee to get on with the work! “Meanwhile, the parishioners have become impatient, and these feelings found expression in a humorous fashion by the erection of a small

iron pump, similar to those in use for drawing rain water from tanks, which was fastened the other evening to a lamp post, on the identical site of the proposed memorial. The pump in question was decorated with flags, and bore a placard to the effect the foundation stone had been laid by the "Mayor". A drinking cup was also attached by a chain to the "Jubilee pump".

Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald, 28th August 1897.

TOO SMELLY!

A Condemned Well (dirty water overflows from one well to the other):

"At the meeting of the Faversham Rural District Council on Wednesday, the analyst's report was submitted of a sample of water belonging to Messrs. George, at the corner of Teynham Lane, Greenstreet, showing it to be unsafe for drinking. This was the well first sunk for the purpose of supplying the Jubilee memorial pump but the well was abandoned. It was resolved that the clerk should call the attention of the Kent County Council to the result of their action in utilizing the condemned Jubilee pump well for surface water, and ask that they will cease to do so."

Reported: - Saturday, 31st December, 1898

LAMPOONS

Because of these stumbling blocks, the erection of the Monument was delayed until the year after the Diamond Jubilee. This led to some comic reports in our newspapers....

IN MEMORIAM Greenstreet. In Memoriam

The inhabitants of Greenstreet were on Saturday morning surprised at the funereal aspect of the hoarding surrounding the suggested site of the long-talked-of Jubilee pump. Operations for boring for water took place some time ago, but they had to be abandoned because an old cesspool was discovered underneath; and matters since then have remained in abeyance. On Saturday morning the hoarding was surmounted by a black flag while a miniature coffin dangled from a pole attached to the wooden structure. A black-edged placard bore the inscription, "In memoriam of the late jubilee pump." Underneath that was a superscription, indited, "To the mayor and Burgesses of Greenstreet, lamenting the death of the Jubilee pump," while below that were the

significant words: "Sleep on, committee, sleep." Mourning bows adorned the pole, while, to give a realistic effect to the "memorial," the tolling of a bell solemnly sounded the death knell of the Jubilee pump. If it be a fact that the scheme for erecting a pump in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond jubilee has collapsed, the subscribers want to know if their money is to be returned or whether it is intended to retain the money in order that the pump may be completed ten years hence. Generally speaking, the suggested pump does not find favour with the inhabitants.

Reported: Saturday 19th February, 1898.

CONTAMINATED WELL AT TEYNHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL. The Inspector stated that the Analyst's report upon the sample of water taken from the well at the house at the corner of Station Road, Teynham, showed the water to be unfit for drinking purposes. He found that the pollution was caused by the surface, road, and storm water

being turned into the first well that was sunk in Greenstreet for the Jubilee pump. The two wells were very close together and the storm and surface water from the one overflowed into that used for drinking purposes.

The Inspector was instructed to serve notice on the owners of the

well used for drinking purposes to clean it out, and the Clerk was requested to write to the County Council directing their attention to the other well."

Canterbury Journal, Kentish Times and Farmers' Gazette, 7th January 1899

A CURIOUS STRUCTURE **Surely not a pump?**
[unless it is for long-armed orangutans]

Greenstreet. The Jubilee memorial Pump. — A correspondent writes:- Happening to be in Greenstreet the other day I strolled as far as the Mount, where a singular construction at the roadside catches the eye of the passers-by. The body is somewhat squatty in proportion, construction of stone; and it is surmounted by a long attenuated spire, vanishing almost to an invisible point, on the top of which perches a vane. The roof-work of the spire is of oaken tiles, suitably stained. But, unfortunately, the colour has not proved very fast; the recent heavy rains have been more than the colour can stand and at the time of my visit the massive stonework was disfigured by ugly stains, which had washed down from the needle-pointed spire, indelibly smearing it, after the fashion of a blotted page of a copy-book. Closer inspection revealed the fact that this quaint and curious structure is unfinished for although there is a drinking trough at the side nearest the road yet at present there is not any means of raising the water to fill it — for I understand that a well has been sunk at this spot, and that it was intended to erect a pump over it. **But the requisite gear for raising the water still remains to be put in.** And when it is completed I must confess that I fail to see how any human being, unless possessed by telescopic arms, will be able to hold a pail under the pump on one side and manipulate the handle on the other. But why was this extraordinary structure erected? — thought I. Was it extended to direct the attention of the travelling public to the fact that there is a comfortable inn opposite; or did it mark the site of some sanguinary struggle in medieval times? “Oh, no,” said a



resident; “it is our memorial pump, erected by the parishioners of Teynham and Lynsted to commemorate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee!” “But the Jubilee festivities have long passed, and we are nearly half way through another year,” I remarked. “Yes, that’s right enough,” said my communicative friend, “but,” he added, with a merry twinkle in his eye, “it will be finished by the time Her majesty celebrates the seventieth year of her reign!” Armed with this information, I again viewed this incongruous combination of beauty and ugliness with renewed interest, and then subsequently learned that the reason the work is at a standstill is that the architect will not pass it. Whether the architect does not feel proud of it, and will not allow the work to be completed; or whether the contractor would not see his way clear to aid in the further development of this Chinese puzzle, I am at a loss to

know, for here my communicative friend would help me no further. At all events, there it is, unfinished; and, pretty or ugly, as fancy leads, there it will stand, mutely reminding the loyal residents of the district of an aimless expenditure of their subscriptions — unless the deadlock is removed.

