



Saturday 17 September 2016

SPECIAL ISSUE No 8 - 19th CENTURY CRIME & PUNISHMENT

MAGNET FOR OFFENDERS?

SCALE AND CHANGES

It is a sad fact that when collecting newspaper cuttings for our Parish the dominant group falls under this heading. In the 19th Century, our Parish was being transformed by farm mechanisation, which led to high levels of poverty for farm labourers (reflected across Kent). Some of those men found employment in the expanding brick-making and cement works at Conyer and elsewhere. Poverty was also experienced by merchants and craftsmen in Greenstreet as agricultural needs changed and after the opening of the London to Dover Railway in 1850s – the life-blood of passing trade along Watling Street was slowly choked off. This led to rising unemployment in Sittingbourne too, which relied on coaching traffic and supporting local agriculture.

THE BAD BOYS

Very broadly, the reports fall into two offender groups – the poverty-stricken and drunks (often these two groups were indistinguishable). Later in the period, there were more “white collar” crimes concerning fraud, bankruptcy and debt/non-payment of bills. For the poorer classes, breaches of contract were frequent offences for those in apprenticeships or who lived in ‘tied cottages’ – it was an offence to leave that employment without permission from your employer!

PUNISHMENT

The range of punishments for roughly equivalent offences was scandalous – the punishments handed out could include branding, transportation, hard labour, incarceration, sending offenders and their families to the

Workhouse, fines and compensation. In 1876, Lynsted was singled out (not in a good way) in a national debate on this very point when our thieving offender was sent to prison for seven years when, elsewhere, the offence was punished with months rather than years. The criticism was that magistrates were pretty much a law unto themselves in these matters. Transportation ended in 1868, so hard labour became the punishment of choice for sometimes minor offences.

Some crimes were simply bad people doing bad things – “uttering” being one (creating counterfeit coins). For our Parish, the commercial centre and most pubs were in Greenstreet, so this community featured heavily under this heading.

THE STORY OF THE STOLEN LYNSTED WHIP

National outrage at “squint-eyed” justice?

SQUINT-EYED JUSTICE. “Englishmen,” says a contemporary, “pride themselves upon their sense of justice. It matters very little in an English court of law who or what you are; the only question to be considered is the guilt or innocence of the prisoner.” If this be really the case – that Englishmen pride themselves on their judicial system – they have not much to be proud of, as the columns of the

daily and weekly papers painfully demonstrate. Here are a few of **the most recent eccentricities of both paid and unpaid magistrates.** Sir John Mantell, the Salford stipendiary, recently committed a **poor man named Bennett** to three months' imprisonment for an act of vagrancy in sleeping before a watch-fire. Mr. Cross very properly promptly remitted the sentence. But the titled Dogberry

of Salford, not satisfied with this, told the bench that he had since found out Bennett was an old offender, and had been frequently convicted of assaults and wife desertion. For all these offences doubtless he had been sufficiently punished, and the magistrate had no right to punish him afresh by passing a severe sentence for a most trivial offence. Now, granted that all Sir J. Mantell stated is the fact, it is very clear that he

knew nothing about it when he adjudicated on **the warming case**. We are told by the local papers that the magistrates unanimously expressed their sympathy with their brother beak for the snubbing he had received, and that "shortly afterwards a prisoner was brought before the bench, charged with sleeping out, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Sir John Mantell remarking that as long as he sat on the bench popular clamour should not deter him from doing his duty." It is to be hoped that if this last case is as bad as Bennett's, Mr. Cross will show his distaste of the magistrate's proceedings by removing him from his office.

In most of the cases where **unpaid magistrates disgrace the bench**, clerical justices figure conspicuously, and seem to have no self-regard for mercy. Mercy from a clerical beak indeed! A man in the fangs of a tiger, or the folds of a boa constrictor, might as well expect compassion or mercy! Mr. Recorder Cooke, of Oxford, has experienced a hard rap on the knuckles from Mr. Cross for the preposterously severe sentence passed on a **youth named Buckingham**, of five years' penal servitude for stealing a knife—reduced to six months by the Home Secretary.

From a report in the 'Kentish Observer' of the 6th instant of the East Kent Quarter Sessions, held at St. Augustine's, Canterbury on the 4th instant, we read the following:-

1. Two men, named **John Flinn and John Sullivan**, were indicted for robbing Henry Hales with violence, and stealing from his person 17s. 6d., at Rainham, on the 12th of December. The prisoners, who totally denied the charge, were found "Guilty," and each sentenced to six monthly imprisonments, with hard labour.

2. **George Murrell, an old man**, - pleaded guilty to stealing two

razors, of the value of 2s. 6d, the property of Charles Huckstepp, at Wye, on the 4th of November. Seven years' penal servitude.

3. **Thomas Abraham Tucker**, to stealing a whip, of the value of 7s. 6d., the property of Thomas Eley, at **Lynsted**, on the 6th of November. Seven years' penal servitude.

And thus we find that two men who committed a ruffianly and brutal theft get off with a comparatively insignificant punishment to that inflicted on the purloiners of trifling articles!

At Hastings, a **poor fellow named Chapman**, who it was first stated was an honest man, but who the police have since declared to be an arrant rogue, was sent to prison six weeks for taking ten cabbages. Somehow or another, by what process we know not, the moment magistrates get into a mess, the criminality of the accused is magnified a thousand fold. Whether this sudden rise in the barometer of crime be or be not accomplished

by the ingenuity of the police, who, of course, are the obedient humble servants of the magistrates, we do not pretend to say, but certain it is that when magistrates are in difficulties, and the mouths of the convicted stopped, long arrears of crime are forthcoming to prove they were deserving of no mercy, but of the severest punishment that could be inflicted on them. The other day **several persons of high position, "honourables," generals, &c., were charged with obtaining divers sums of money from poor people under fraudulent pretences**. The case was exceedingly strong against them; but Alderman Lusk, doubtless having his eyes on their broad cloth garments, let them go on restoring to their dupes some portion of the moneys they had

foolishly parted with. Would the Hastings magistrates have released Chapman had he consented to return the ten cabbages he had taken from the field to their owner? We suspect not. Such loopholes of escape are only opened to the well-to-do offenders. Shortly several persons are to be tried at Westminster on different charges of fraud, and we confidently venture to predict not one will be convicted, as judges have a keen eye to "position" as well as aldermen and other magistrates. In all this, we are told, Englishmen pride themselves!"

16th January 1876: Reynolds's Newspaper



Treadmill at Dover Prison

RUNAWAY APPRENTICES (1790's)

Run away from his **MASTERS. JOSEPH UCOE**, Apprentice to **JAMES BENSTED**, of the Parish of Lynsted, Cordwainer [shoe-maker]; the said Joseph Coe is 17 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, dark brown curled hair; had on when he went away a dark brown coat, nankeen waistcoat and breeches, and carried with him a blue coat, blue and white striped waistcoat, and velveteen breeches. He has been often heard to express a wish to be engaged as a post-chaise driver, and it is therefore supposed he will offer

himself to someone engaged in that line for that purpose.- If the said Apprentice will return to his MASTER within a fortnight from the date hereof, he will be kindly received; but is not, and he should be apprehended, he and whoever harbours or employs him will be prosecuted as the law in such cases directs. LYNSTED, June 28, 1791.

8th July 1791: Kentish Gazette

APPRENTICE RUNAWAY.

THOMAS COOLING, Apprentice to JOHN HUNT, Blacksmith, in Lynsted, eloped from his said Master on Saturday night last, and no trace of him has been discovered since.- As he has behaved well during the time he has served of his Apprenticeship till very lately, it is supposed that advice through bad connections has induced him to take this imprudent step; in consideration of which his Master declares that he will freely forgive him, and that he will make no farther notice of this part of his conduct, if he immediately returns home; but if he does not, after this public notice, his said MASTER is determined to prosecute any who harbours or employs him, and to treat him with that utmost severity of the Law. The aforesaid Apprentice is in breeches [missing segment]. LYNSTED, September 12, 1793

3rd September 1793: Kentish Gazette

Breaking and Entry and Stealing a blanket

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE

KENT LENT ASSIZES: TUESDAY: JOHN STUBBS BUSBY, 28, for burglary in the house of Stephen Parker, at Lynsted, and stealing a blanket therefrom.

The blanket had been left in the prosecutor's kitchen, which had been entered by a window, and

shortly afterwards found on the prisoner.

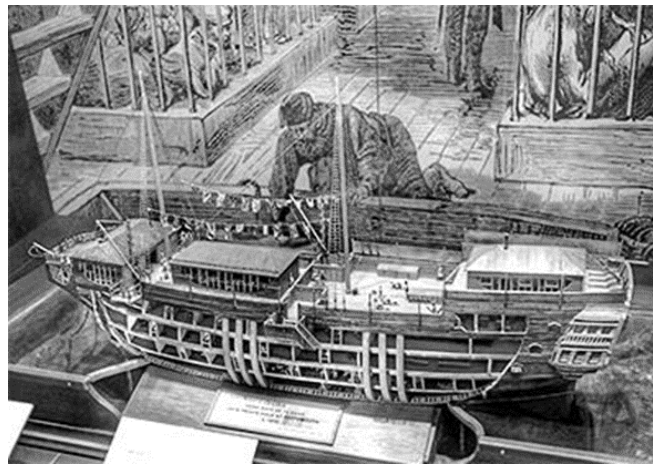
The prisoner was found Guilty, and having been before convicted, and being now detained on six other indictments for robbery, the learned Judge sentenced him to **transportation for life.**

19th March 1839: South Eastern Gazette

[This Punishment was removed from the Statute Books in 1868]

STEALING A HORSE, TACKLE & STANHOPE

"KENT LENT ASSIZES: FRIDAY: MESHACK FERRIS was indicted for stealing a horse, a Stanhope, two sets of harness, a saddle and bridle, value £100, the property of James Church, at Lynsted. Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Bodkin conducted the prosecution.



Model of a prison hulk used to house prisoners while awaiting transportation

James Church stated that he resided at Greenstreet and had a chestnut gelding; on the 25th of May it was safe in his stable, and on the next morning the stable was broken open and the horse, gig, and harness stolen. In the month of July he again saw it in possession of Mr. Stevens, at Rutridge, Dorsetshire. He did not at first know the horse, which had white legs when in his possession, but the colour had been changed to a brown. He went to Southampton and procured a warrant against Ferris

and placed in the hands of the constable, who did not find him at the time.

Cross-examined by Prisoner: I believe it was the first week in July that I was at your house, your wife said that you were gone to Portsmouth, but I did not go there after you because I did believe what she had said.

John Thomas Henright, inspector of police at Southampton gave evidence as in the former case, and added that he told the prisoner he was charged with stealing a horse belonging to Mr. Church, at Greenstreet, in Kent. Prisoner said he had purchased the horse of a man named Foster, for £26.10s., and afterwards took it to Salisbury, where he staid its legs and sold it to Mr. Stevens. Sometime after, prisoner said he went up to London to see the

horse, and told Foster that he would purchase if it was brought down to Southampton; he afterwards brought it down. The man Foster was then in custody. Foster was in Southampton, at the fair, on the 6th of May, and was present when the prisoner was examined before

Dr. Poore, at Sittingbourne.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he bought the horse of Foster, and knew nothing about its having been stolen.

The learned Judge having summed up the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty.

Dann, who was tried on Thursday, was then ordered to be brought to the bar, when his lordship sentenced him to be transported for life, and to be placed in the second class convicts. **Ferris to be transported**

for fourteen years."

*20th March 1841: West Kent
Guardian*

STEALING A RABBIT & 5 SOVEREIGNS

FAVERSHAM: **Julius Baker**, of Lynsted, a boy about 16 years of age, and who is out on bail to answer the charge of stealing a sum of money, was examined before William Rigden, Esq., on Thursday last, charged by Mr. Thomas Monk, of Norton, and committed for trial, for stealing a rabbit from an outhouse adjoining his house at Norton.

*22nd September 1849: West Kent
Guardian*

WEST KENT QUARTER SESSIONS: **Julius Baker**, 15, stealing from a dwelling house five sovereigns, the monies of Israel Champ, at Lynsted, (on bail). Re-committed, stealing one live tame rabbit, the property of Thomas Monk, at Norton. - **Ten years' transportation** for the first offence; three weeks' hard labour for the second.

*27th October 1849: West Kent
Guardian*

See also "*Lynsted Times*," Issue No.1 - "*John Knatchbull*" who was also executed after transportation!

TEN YEARS PRISON

Stealing Watches at Lynsted.— Alfred Skelton, 29, watchmaker, was indicted for stealing, Lynsted, on the January, six watches, the property of Mrs. Jane Punnett — Mr. Russell was for the prosecution.— The prisoner was in the employ of the prosecutrix from July of last year up the January, which day he left without notice, taking with him six watches, which had been entrusted him to be repaired. It was afterwards ascertained that prisoner had pledged the watches at Milton-next-Sittingbourne, and at Canterbury.— A former conviction for a similar offence was proved on which occasion was

sentenced to three years penal servitude. He was now sentenced to ten years penal servitude.— The Court directed that the property should be restored to Mrs. Punnett.

10th March 1863: Kentish Gazette

SIX MONTHS HARD LABOUR

Stolen boots and shoes: "EAST KENT SESSIONS. James Board, 19, for stealing, at Lynsted, a pair of boots, and a pair of shoes, value 16s. 6d, the property of Robert Bonny. - Three months' imprisonment and hard labour. Also for embezzling £2 3s., the property of Robert Bonny, his master. Six months imprisonment and hard labour."

*23rd October 1827: South Eastern
Gazette*

Breaking and entering to steal tame ducks: "JOHN WHITE, 19, for breaking and entering a wood-house of Elizabeth Cornwell, and stealing therefrom three live tame ducks, value 6s, her property, at Lynsted.

It appeared that the poultry-house of Elizabeth Cornwell, of Lynsted, was broken open on the 10th February, and one duck and two drakes stolen. On the next morning the prisoner was seen with three live ducks, and a bag which he threw away. The constable, who apprehended the prisoner, produced three live ducks, which were found on him, and sworn to by the son of the prosecutrix. " *22nd March 1836: South Eastern Gazette*

Found in the Royal Oak, Greenstreet: Stealing a Jacket: KENT LENT ASSIZES. CROWN SIDE. STEPHEN CLARK was indicted for stealing a jacket, a waistcoat, two flannel shirts, and other articles, the property of Edward Harris, at Preston next Faversham.// Edward Harris deposed that the prisoner, who is his brother-in-law, had been lodging with him,

and left him on the 20th of January. The prosecutor sent in pursuit of the prisoner, whom he found at the **Royal Oak beer-shop, at Greenstreet** with the property in his possession. Prisoner, in defence, said that he knew nothing of the matter. Six months' imprisonment and hard labour. *19th March 1844: Kentish Gazette*

Stealing Fowls

"STEALING FOWLS AT LYNSTED. HENRY HAWKINS, 30, and THOMAS BALDOCK, 29, labourers, were charged with stealing nine live tame fowls, the property of Charles Vallance, at Lynsted, on the 4th November. Mr. Russell was for the prosecution, and Mr. Jacobs defended the prisoners, in the place of Mr. Horn, who was engaged in the other court. The prosecutor kept some fowls in an out-house on his premises. On the evening of the 12th December nine were stolen. The staple of the door of the out-house had been drawn. There were tracks of feathers leading to the house of the prisoner Hawkins, who lived close by. He then gave information to the constable.

Mr. Green, superintendent-constable of the Faversham division, went to the fowl-house of the prosecutor, and observed footmarks, which he traced to Hawkins's house. Witness went into the house, and in the back-room found three dead fowls, which appeared to be recently killed, and were skinned. Witness then went to Ballcock's house, at Kingsdown, and upon searching it found a quantity of feathers which seemed to have been recently plucked. He also saw, in the back kitchen, two pies, in which was a fowl cut up. - Each six months' hard labour."

*9th January 1855: South Eastern
Gazette*

Stolen horse collar: FELONY AT LYNSTED. John White, fish hawker, was indicted for stealing a horse-collar and other articles,

value 16s., the property of Edwin Kemp, at Lynsted. Prisoner and another man drove to prosecutor's shop and asked for a collar, front, and bit, which he put on the horse, and after some conversation and an attempt to borrow money off other people to pay the money, they drove him to different houses, and ultimately put him down and went off.- Superintendent Mayne deposed to making inquiries about the prisoner's whereabouts after obtaining a warrant, and he saw him at Meopham races.- Prisoner said prosecutor agreed to trust him for the articles.-Guilty; six months' hard labour.

22nd October 1870: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

FIVE MONTHS HARD LABOUR

Brother robs brother: COMMITTAL ON A CHARGE OF ROBBING BROTHER.- On Saturday last, R.J. Hilton, Esq., committed a discharged soldier, named William Clark for trial, on a charge of stealing a watch, &c., from his brother, a journeyman painter at Greenstreet. Prisoner had been a visitor with his brother, having arrived in an abject state of beggary. His brother gave him better apparel, and behaved to him as a brother should, when, on Sunday morning the 4th, the prisoner suddenly disappeared. Prosecutor's watch, a spoon, and some earrings worn by his wife disappeared also. Ling the policeman went up the road and heard of him, first at Sittingbourne, afterwards at Newington, and at last apprehended him at a public house on Chatham-hill. The watch was in his possession.- Edward Hadlow, a butcher at Newington, said that he was working in his garden, when the prisoner came along, and asked where he could get a pint of something to drink as he had walked from Faversham, and was tired. he said he had lost his

money, but had a spoon which an officer had given him, and which he would sell for a shilling. Witness gave him 4d. for it. The prisoner said he should reserve his defence. He will be tried at the ensuing assizes.

13th July 1869: Kentish Gazette

ROBBERY BY A BROTHER. William Clark, 36, mattress maker, was charged with stealing a silver watch, a door key, and spoon, the property of Edward Clark, at Lynsted, on the 4th July. Prisoner pleaded guilty. The prosecutor, who is brother to prisoner, asked that he might be dealt with leniently, as he believed he was under a misapprehension at the time he committed the theft. He was sentenced to five calendar months' hard labour.

31st July 1869: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

THREE MONTHS HARD LABOUR

Stolen Hen: James Honey, for stealing, at Lynsted, a hen, the property of Charles Murton. *16th April 1839: Kentish Gazette*

Stealing poultry and bells: Edward Hickmott and John Jarratt stood charged with stealing seven tame fowls, the property of James Duncan, at Lynsted, and also with stealing a sack, the property of Thomas Gascoyne Wanstall, at Lynsted - Guilty.

Hickmott was then arraigned for housebreaking, and stealing a set of bells, the property of William Kemp, of Lynsted. Jarratt to be imprisoned three calendar months. Hickmott to be imprisoned four calendar months, with hard labour; for the second offence, two calendar months, with hard labour.

20th March 1841: West Kent Guardian

Stolen hen coop: John George Waters was indicted for having stolen one hen coop, one hen, and

15 chickens, value 7s., the property of Edward Blaxland, at Lynsted.

9th July 1861: South Eastern Gazette

Stolen corn: John Wildish (on bail) was indicted for stealing half-a-gallon of beans, and one gallon of peas, the property of Mr. Charles Murton, at Lynsted, on 17th February. Prisoner's employer asked that a lenient sentence might be inflicted, as prisoner was an industrious man, and had been in his employ for ten years. He was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

11th March 1871: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

Stolen Horse Rug: Richard Hopper, 30, labourer, was indicted for stealing a horse rug and other articles, the property of James Gambell, at Lynsted. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and also acknowledged a previous conviction at Faversham.- Sergeant Fowle said prisoner had not been in trouble since he was convicted at Faversham.-Prisoner was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

22nd October 1887: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

TWO MONTHS HARD LABOUR

Stolen sovereign
EAST KENT QUARTER SESSIONS. ARTFUL TRICK. Amos Edney, 40, charged with having on the 7th October, stolen a sovereign, the property of William Holland, at Lynsted. Jane, the daughter of prosecutor, deposed that she was sent by her aunt to Mr. Killick's shop, at Greenstreet, for some goods, and on payment, she laid on the counter a sovereign—the prisoner being present. He reeled about as if intoxicated, which occasioned her to move from the position she had taken, and when he left, the sovereign was also gone, upon which he was suspected of having stolen it.—Jane Killick stated

that the prisoner was the man who was in her shop on the occasion alluded to, and corroborated the statement of the last witness of her laying a sovereign down and its disappearing with the prisoner. — Selina Martin deposed to prisoner at a subsequent period coming to a beer-shop where she was on a visit, and tendering a sovereign in payment for some beer, having some silver in his hand at the same time. — Prisoner denied that he took the sovereign, and said if they suspected him they ought to have arrested him in the morning, when the offence was alleged to have been committed, instead of leaving him at large till the evening. The money he had about him was what he had received in payment for harvest work. Guilty. Chairman expressed perfect concurrence in the verdict, sentenced him to two months' imprisonment in the House of Correction.

21st October 1856: Kentish Gazette

Assault in The George Inn, Greenstreet

SITTINGBOURNE.— Thomas Sattin, of Greenstreet, was brought up on Monday, before the magistrates, charged with assaulting Mr. Henry Maytum, the landlord of the George at Lynsted, on Sunday, the 23rd of October. The complainant stated that the defendant and another man had made a point of annoying him and his customers on a Sunday evening, by intruding themselves into a private room, and on the night of the day in question the defendant, after making a great disturbance in the house, pushed the complainant out of the door. Fined £4 and costs, and in default committed for two months.

1st November 1853: South Eastern Gazette

THREE TO SIX WEEKS HARD LABOUR

Stealing two bushels of peas: "EAST KENT QUARTER SESSIONS: James Selling and George Wildes were charged with having stolen two bushels of peas, the property of Edward Strouts, their master, at Lynsted. The property appeared to have been taken to give to their master's horses. While Selling sent into the barn to get it, the other watched, and whom the law held equally guilty. The first pleaded guilty, and the other was found guilty. The Chairman reprehended this offence which servants committed to satisfy their own whims, regardless of the waste of their master's property, or of the injury they often inflicted on the animals by stuffing them. In consequence of the good character the prisoners had previously borne, and the recommendation to mercy, he sentenced Selling to six weeks, and Wildes to only three weeks in the House of Correction.

9th January 1847: Canterbury Journal

Stealing Shoes: Richard Smith, 30, butcher, pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of men's button boot-shoes, value 9s., the property of William Henry Fairbeard, at Lynsted. — Six weeks' hard labour.

6th July 1852: South Eastern Gazette

Leaving work without permission: James Rickwood, in the employ of Mr. Philip Barling, of Lynsted, was brought up to answer a charge of having, on the 23rd of October, left his master's service without sufficient cause. Defendant confessed the charge, and said he had run away because he did not like the place, and because the horses had not sufficient provender. Mr Barling said he engaged defendant as mate, from Michaelmas at £6. a year; he had only been eleven days in his employ, when, on the Sunday night he left the place

without feeding the horses, and went, he understood, to Capt. Faunce's - He was sentenced to six weeks in the house of correction, with hard labour.

29th November 1859: Kentish Gazette

Stolen Dung Prong: At the petty sessions on Monday James Gates, a labourer, of Lynsted, was convicted of stealing a dung prong, value 5s. The property of Mr. Philip Barling, and was committed to the House of Correction for twenty-one days.

23rd June 1857: Kentish Gazette

Stealing Ducks: THE CHARGE OF STEALING DUCKS. Daniel Bourne, labourer, of Lynsted, was brought up on remand charged with stealing two live tame ducks, value 6s., the property of Dr. Pritchard, at Greenstreet, on the 25th ult. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

8th April 1880: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

LESSER PUNISHMENTS

Youth found with stolen smock frock coat — Whipped at Police Station

ASHFORD PETTY SESSIONS. Joseph Hadlam, 16, was charged with stealing a smock-frock, the property of Edward Hill. Prosecutor stated that he lived at Lynsted, and identified the frock produced as one he had left at the Queen's Head, Kingsnorth, on Thursday night previous. He missed it on the next day. He saw the prisoner take it off a cart at Charing, and put it under his frock. He then gave him into custody.

The Charing constable said he went in search of the prisoner, and saw him going along a field with something under his frock, and shortly afterwards he saw him get over a fence, having nothing with him. Another witness said he saw prisoner go up the field, having something under his frock, and followed him.

When he overtook him he had nothing with him, but witness went back, and found the frock in a ditch.

Prisoner said his master, John Rossiter, took the frock, and when he found that the constables were on the scent, Rossiter gave him the frock to hide away. He was obliged to do as his master told him, or he would not get any victuals.

Superintendent Gilbert said he had been to Kingsnorth, and found that Rossiter was the person who actually took the frock from the taproom of the Queen's Head.

The magistrates considered the prisoner had the frock with a guilty knowledge, and ordered him to be taken to the stationhouse and whipped. *12th June 1855: Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*

Girl Shot from Privy – She survived, so no punishment!

FAVERSHAM. Extraordinary Offence with a Blunderbuss.—A man named Thomas Avis was charged, on remand Saturday, before W. Rigden and R. J. Hilton, Esqrs., with attempting to shoot a servant at the Teynham Arms, Greenstreet, named Elizabeth Clarke, on Tuesday last. The circumstances the case were these. Prisoner had been drinking and not into an outhouse, where he appears to have been unable to open the door; but whether he had locked himself in or whether the door was fastened from the outside does not appear. At any rate, the prisoner fired a gun through the door, and the prosecutrix happening to be going for some water at the pump had a narrow escape, the contents of the gun lodging in the pump just in front of her. Prisoner stated that he had no intention of shooting the girl, he fired the gun to draw attention to the fact that he was in the closet, and could not get out. The landlord said that if the prisoner had not run away after

he fired the gun, but had stopped and explained the matter he would not have been apprehended. — Mr. Rigden told the prisoner that the very serious charge against him of shooting at the girl would be dismissed. He was, however, still liable to be punished for firing a gun so near the highway, but as he had been in custody four days that charge also would not be pressed upon him, and he would be discharged. Mr. Hilton said that if the prisoner had killed the girl he would have been put upon his trial for the capital offence.

3rd June 1869: Kentish Gazette

Special Case Crime: Suicide

Swan Inn – cut-throat suicide attempt. Canterbury, Feb. 1.- On Friday last the inhabitants of Greenstreet were thrown into great consternation, by a report that a gentleman at the **Swan Inn** had made an attempt upon his life by cutting his throat; on the landlord's going upstairs, he found the gentleman's door locked. On knocking, and not receiving any answer, he got in at the window, when he discovered the unhappy gentleman half out of bed, with his throat cut in several places, hardly any signs of life appearing in him. Mr. Church, of Greenstreet, surgeon, was then sent for, when he found, on inquiry, that besides the wounds in the throat, which were not mortal, nearly two ounces of laudanum had been taken. After emetics and other usual remedies had been tried, but without any good effect, the patent stomach pump was introduced, and after the contents of the stomach had been dislodged, and that organ repeatedly washed out with warm water, the medical gentleman and bystanders, after six hours anxious solicitude, had the gratification of seeing the sufferer gradually restored to the use of this mental faculties, and voluntary motion; which were before the pump was used entirely gone. We are happy to state the

gentleman is now out of danger; distress, it is supposed, drove the unhappy man to commit the rash act.

5th February 1825: Oxford Journal

Alcoholic in Kingsdown, commits 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.

22nd November 1864: South Eastern Gazette - Six months - suspended...

Salts of Lemon Suicide Attempt - acquitted: "Upset by Drink and Neuralgia. At the Faversham Country Police Court on Tuesday before F.B. Cobb, Esq., Emily Dicker, of Filmer's Cottages, the Hill, Greenstreet was charged with attempting to commit suicide by attempting to take a quantity of salts of lemon on the previous day. The prisoner, it appeared, was living with a farm labourer named Frederick William Fagg and had a child ten years of age.

Leonard Yates Abington, chemist, in the employ of Mr. Gibbs, at Greenstreet, stated that between five and half past on Monday evening prisoner came to the shop and asked for two-pennyworth of salts of lemon. He enquired whether she wanted it for cleaning purposes and she said she did, and in reply to a further question she said she knew it was poison. He gave her two penny packets wrapped in blue paper and labelled "Poison".

In reply to the Clerk witness said that the contents of one packet would cause pain and discomfort but he should not think there would sufficient in it to be fatal. He could not say, either, whether

the two packets would be fatal. It was more a question for a doctor. It was not absolutely necessary to label salts of lemon as a poison and it was only done as a precaution. Salts of lemon did not figure in the poisons register.

Alice Ellen Amos, a neighbour of prisoner's, stated that about a quarter to six on Monday evening the prisoner's little girl called her and said her mother wanted her. Witness sent to the door and prisoner showed her something in a blue paper and said she was going to take it. Witness told her not to be so stupid but to put it on the fire and think no more about it. She then went back to her own house but was called again immediately afterwards by the prisoner's child. Witness went in again. The prisoner was then standing by the table on which stood a glass containing a powder similar to what witness had seen the first time. The prisoner poured some milk into the glass and then picked it up and moved it quickly to her lips, apparently with the intention of drinking it. Witness, however, rushed at her and took the glass away, telling her she should not do such a thing in the presence of her child. The prisoner made no coherent reply. She did not drink any of the stuff.

In reply to questions witness said that she saw only one blue paper on the first occasion, and on the second she did not see any. She subsequently gave the glass to Mr. Fagg, the man the prisoner lived with, and he threw the contents on to the garden.

Fredrick William Fagg, labourer, stated that he had lived with the prisoner for four years. On Monday evening he returned from work at a quarter past six and was given the glass produced by the last witness. He threw the stuff on to the garden. The prisoner afterwards told him that she had been trying to make off with herself. She did not say why. Witness could not give any reason for her doing it and he did not suppose she knew herself. She had

been suffering from neuralgia for about a month and about a week ago she had eight teeth out. She had been drinking on Monday.

Asked if prisoner had ever threatened before to take her life witness said that she did about two years ago. He also said that sometimes she took beer to relieve the neuralgia.

P.C. Peacock deposed that at 6.30 p.m. on Monday he was called to Greenstreet Hill. The prisoner was not at home and from what Mrs. Amos told him he sent Fagg down the street to find her. While he was gone witness searched the place but he failed to find any paper that had poison in it. Shortly afterwards Fagg brought the prisoner home. She was very much under the influence of drink. Witness sent Fagg for a cab and afterwards charged the prisoner with attempting to commit suicide by attempting to take salts of lemon. She started crying and said she was sorry for what she had done and that it was all through the drink. Witness received the glass produced from Fagg who had hit it up round the back of the house.

The magistrate remanded prisoner to Canterbury for a week, remarking that during that time she would receive medical attention."

9th July 1910: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

GREENSTREET. ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.-

At the Faversham Borough Police Court on Monday (before F.B. Cobb, Esq.), **Emily Dicker** of Greenstreet, appeared on remand on the charge of attempting to commit suicide by taking a quantity of salts of lemon, on the 4th inst. The prisoner had been drinking during the day, and as the magistrate was doubtful whether she really intended to take her life, he gave her the benefit of the doubt and discharged her.

19th July 1910: South Eastern Gazette