

Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives

Quarterly Report of the Archives & Local History Team to the Kent History Federation, 04 March 2019

[All events and reports relate to the Kent History and Library Centre ('KHLC'), unless otherwise stated]

Projects and Events

At intervals between June and October we will be running a series of free lunchtime talks, interspersed with three special events: a celebration of Kent's historic brewing and distilling industries, on 18 July, a special one-day conference on Kent's diocesan records, on 28 September; and a film night in partnership with Screen Archive South East focusing on Maidstone, on 9 October. The venue for the brewing/distilling Maidstone history event and the Screen Archive South East film night will be the Archbishops Palace in Maidstone. The venue for all other events will be the KHLC. Further details, including a printed leaflet and social media posts will follow in due course, (or ring 03000 420673 for further information.)

The HLF- funded Finding Eanswythe project is led by Canterbury Christ Church University. The project exhibition is open for visit at the Sassoon Gallery, Folkestone Library until the 17th of March 2019. Visitors can find out more about the life of Eanswythe, the Anglo-Saxon princess and patron saint of Folkestone, and also her long afterlife in heritage. The Kent Archives team gave research assistance to the project workers. The exhibition includes material drawn from the Kent Archives collection and from the Folkestone Library local history collection. For example, the exhibition features a copy of the huge Victorian plan of St Eanswythe's watercourse produced by the town surveyor, John Bamford:

https://www.kentarchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/GB51_Fo_P_S_11_1

There is a supporting programme of activities & events. This Thursday the 7th of March 5-7PM, at Folkestone Library, there will be a Research Group Symposium with archaeologists, historians and local researchers sharing the latest research and discoveries.

On Saturday the 9th of March, 2-4PM there will be a drop-in event at Folkestone Library: *What can we learn from Anglo Saxon Skeletons and Burial?*

On Thursday the 14th of March, 6-7.30PM at Folkestone Library there will be an Anglo Saxon Language workshop

On Saturday the 16th of March, 11AM-12PM, a guided tour of the project exhibition and walk around the Bayle and the Parish Church will commence at Folkestone Library

With funding from The Coastal Revival Fund, The Friends of the Leas Pavilion/ Leas Community Trust are working on a Community Archive project to preserve and share the Folkestone theatre's fascinating history. The open-access online archive for the project will include copies of theatre posters and programmes drawn from the Kent Archive & Local History collections and digitised by team at the Kent History & Library Centre. The Friends of the Leas Pavilion also plan to work with local history societies, schools and colleges on the project which will also include an exhibition.

On 26/02/19 the KHLC was the venue for a Major Archive Projects Learning Exchange event. MAPLE was set up in autumn 2007 to support organisations planning or managing large archive projects; primarily capital developments. Over 80 organisations are members of the group, including local authority, university, national and specialist archives. This networking group, facilitated by The National Archives, provides a forum for organisations to share their experiences, knowledge and plans via an email list and through sharing documentation. The MAPLE group meets three times a year to talk about progress of projects and explore common issues. The topic explored at last week's event was 'using barcodes to help manage Archive collections' Sarah Stanley gave a presentation on the barcoding programme at Kent Archives

Cataloguing and Accessioning

Catalogue Transfer Project

The following catalogues have recently been added and will be available on our online catalogue soon:

U17: Deeds of various parishes, 1329-1811

U269/1: Cranfield Papers, 1595-1625

U746: Manorial records, deeds and business papers relating to Tonbridge, 1570-1938

U769: Manorial records, deeds, and maps of Goudhurst, Marden, and district, 1417-1936

U890: Papers of Dr Hubert Hall, 1857-1944

U947: Manuscripts of Selby and Selby-Bigge family of Ightham Mote, 1253-1956

U986: Various deeds, 1547-1841

Sevenoaks Library Collections

U1000/26: Martin family manuscripts, 1703-1917

U1000/44: Hugh D. Knight manuscripts, 1914-1975

U1000/46: Sevenoaks Society records, 1919-1939

U1000/49: Sevenoaks Public Utility Society records, 1933-1936

U1000/50: Sevenoaks Council of Social Service records, 1934-1952

U1000/51: Sevenoaks Youth Committee records, 1939-1942

U1000/52: Sevenoaks Committee, United National Association records, 1941-1948

U1000/53: Sevenoaks and District Polio Research Fund research, 1955-1956

U1094: Architect's plans from the office of H. J. Benians of Goudhurst, 1578-1955

U1105: Deeds of Whitstable and Chislet, 1667-1811

U1153: Deeds and estate papers, 1637-1926

U1243: Sherwood manuscripts, 1582-1966

U1254: Title deeds for various parts of Kent, 1648-1918

U1299: Title deeds and estate papers, Hadlow and elsewhere, 1382-1918

U1301: Title deeds for various locations in Kent, 1653-1919

U1309: Deeds of St Mary Hoo, St Mary Rochester, St Margaret Rochester, Cranbrook, Burwash and Waldron, 1622-1903

U1328: Title deeds and estate papers, Betteshanger, Northbourne and elsewhere, 1625-1947

U1340: Manorial records of Harrietsham, sale particulars of Stede court, and other papers relating to Harrietsham, 1668-1952

U1343: Various Kent deeds, 1670-1908

U1378: Title deeds and estate papers, various parishes, 1618-1909

U1408: Miscellaneous deeds relating to various parishes, 1540-1965

U1424: Court book of Kingsborough Lawday, and deeds of properties in Queenborough and Minster-in-Sheppey, 1628-1920

U1435: Deeds and documents of Beckenham, Herne, and other areas, 1648-1924

U1451: Deeds, family papers and correspondence of the Wilkinson family, 1754-1960

U1702: Tonbridge Division Liberal Association and Royal Tunbridge Wells Liberal Association, 1965-1972

U1724: Stock valuations and accounts of Messrs Fenner and Flint, brewers of Canterbury, 1780-1801

U1736: Filmer account book, 1757-1786

U1753: Literary manuscripts and papers of Miss Kathleen Merrick Merchant, 1928-1966

U1792: Papers belonging to Miss Budds of 73, Staplehurst Road, Sittingbourne, 1684-1772

U1833: Title deeds, Kent and Sussex, 1600-1967

U1897: Title deeds for various locations in Kent, 1842-1922

U1948: Deeds principally of Boughton under Blean and Preston next Faversham, 1774-1897

U2115: Title deeds for property centred on Wingham and Elmstone, 1713-1949

U2117: Personal correspondence of the 2nd Baron and Lady Hardinge of Penshurst, and members of their family, 1920-1955

U2189: Surveys of Kent churches by W. P. Griffith, F.S.A., 1838-1856

U2191: Title deeds, 1632-1949

U2206: Deeds and maps of Shipbourne and district, 1599-1827

U2314: Spencely family papers, 20th century

U2499: Journals, correspondence and photographs of the Revd. Bayliss, 1909-1975

U2554: Deeds and estate records of Chart Place, Sutton Valence, the estate of Major James Eyles, 1804-1974

U3292: Youens family papers, 1804-1943

U1451: Deeds, papers and correspondence of the Wilkinson family, 1754-1960

Hannah Whibley, Archive Collection Assistant:

One of the collections that I have recently completed work on for the Catalogue Transfer Project is U1451, which includes the deeds, correspondence, and estate and personal papers of the Wilkinson family.

A remarkable and unusual fact about this family is that in 1812 the surgeon, Josiah Henry Wilkinson, purchased the embalmed head of Oliver Cromwell. The late Protector died in 1658, but his body was exhumed following the accession of Charles II, tried for treason, and embalmed before being executed and displayed at Tyburn. A lurid account of the ownership history of the embalmed head is provided in **U1451/Z2** [1960], and evidence of the family's ownership is recorded in a draft settlement of the late Josiah Henry Wilkinson's real and personal estate [**U1451/T4** (1842)]. Cromwell's head remained with the family until 1960, when his grandson, Dr Horace Wilkinson, donated it to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where Cromwell had been admitted as a fellow-commoner in 1616. It was subsequently privately buried near the antechapel in the grounds of the College.

Rob Illingworth

Community History Officer

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