

## VILLAGE ECHOES

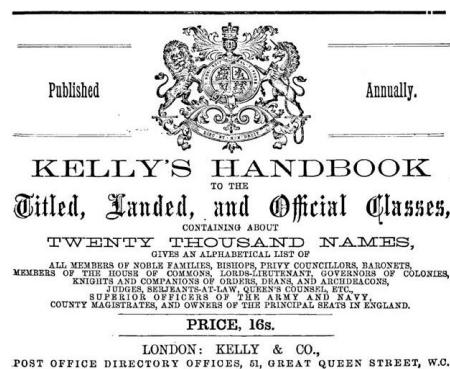
### Postal Directories

A couple of months ago I was explaining how to do a bit of history research without leaving the comfort of your living room when the weather was inclement. (March 2025 – Visible and Invisible History). Although I am writing this at the beginning of June it is a cold, windy day and despite recent lovely sunny days we can expect that there will be days when inside activity will be required from time to time.

Before the time we could Google a link for a description of a village, helpful guides were Postal Directories such as Kelly's, Pigot's or The Post Office etc. These not insubstantial books were divided into regions such as the one shown below for Kent, Surrey & Sussex for 1924. They were annually updated and although there must have been many published, the one below was on sale for £275 this month.



1924



1891

They are an invaluable primary source for historians with first-hand descriptions of cities, parishes, towns and villages that may include geographical, historical and statistical details. If you are researching your family history, they were more frequent than the census giving listings of private residents, traders, trades and professions. If you are just browsing for interest they gave information about local facilities, institutions and associations. They were heavily subsidised by local companies so that today an entertaining aspect is the advertisements.

**GOUDHURST** is a small town and parish, 4 miles north-west from Cranbrook, 5 south from Marden station on the South Eastern railway and 43 from London by road, in the Southern division of the county, hundreds of Marden, Cranbrook and West Barnfield, lathe of Scray, Cranbrook petty sessional division, union and county court district and in the rural deanery of Sutton, archdeaconry of Maidstone and diocese of Canterbury. The place is lighted with gas by a limited company. The church, with a great portion of the town, is situated on a high ridge 419 feet above sea-level, commanding on all sides most extensive and varied prospects. The church of St. Mary is a building of sandstone of unusual size and fine proportions, in the Early English, Decorated and Late Perpendicular styles, consisting of chancel with aisles, nave, aisles and a massive embattled western tower, containing a clock with chimes and 8 bells, rebuilt after being burnt down in 1637: the lower stage of the tower forms a porch: the nave is divided from the aisles by arcades of five Pointed arches on each side, on piers of

varied design: the chancel is separated from its aisles by two Pointed arches on either side, springing from octagonal piers: the tracery of all but two windows had been cut out, but all these have now been restored, and the chancel windows are memorials to the Rev. W. B. Harrison, for 49 years vicar of this parish, and to Charlotte his wife; in the south aisle are two stained windows placed by the Hon. J. S. Gathorne-Hardy M.P. in memory of T. Ridgway esq.: the church is very rich in tombs and monumental remains, some of which are particularly beautiful: within the oriel in the south aisle is an altar-tomb with the effigies of a knight and his lady carved in wood, to represent Sir Alexander Colepeper kt. of Bedgebury and his wife, date 1537; the effigies were restored by Mr. Beresford-Hope in 1843, and the recessed window, in which the tomb stands, filled with stained glass: in one of the jambs of this window is a sculptured tablet representing the same persons and their children, surmounted by a carving of the Trinity, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Child, and St. Michael slaying the

Post, M. O. & T. O., S. B. & Annuity & Insurance Office, North road. (Letters should have S.O. Kent added).—Miss Matilda Mary Stevens, postmistress. Letters arrive via Staplehurst at 5 a.m. & 1.45 p.m. from Paddock Wood; delivered at 6 a.m.; dispatched at 10.30 a.m. & 7.55 p.m. Money orders granted & paid from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WALL BOXES at Chequers, cleared at 8.15 p.m. & Curtisden cleared at 6.20 p.m.

**PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS:—**  
Cemetery, George Hinds, clerk to the burial board  
Weald of Kent Steam Fire Brigade, William Chester Burgess, hon. sec.; B. Wickham, captain; James Gilbert, superintendent, & 8 men

**PUBLIC OFFICERS:—**  
Assistant Overseer & Assessor & Collector of Taxes, William Apps  
Coroner for the Cranbrook District, George Hinds; deputy, Thomas Joyce M.D. Shepherds house, Cranbrook  
Medical Officer & Public Vaccinator, Goudhurst district, Cranbrook union, Robert Samuel Newington  
Registrar of Births & Deaths & Relieving Officer, Jn. Mercer  
Durrant, attends The Institute, at noon every thurs  
Vestry Clerk & Clerk to the Burial Board, George Hinds

**PLACES OF WORSHIP, with times of services:—**  
St. Mary's Church, Rev. James Sanderson Clarke M.A. vicar; 11 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.; litany days 11 a.m.  
Sacred Heart (Catholic), Rev. John Brady, priest; 10.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.; week days, mass 8 a.m.; fri. mass 9 a.m. service 8 p.m.  
Baptist Rev. Joseph James Kendon, minister  
Primitive Methodist, 2.30 & 6.30 p.m.  
Wesleyan, 2 & 6 p.m.

**SCHOOLS:—**  
National (mixed & infants), erected in 1874, for 250 children; there are 270 on the books & an average attendance of 126 boys & girls & 65 infants; John Gripper, master; Mrs. John Gripper, mistress; Miss Jane Canaway, infants' mistress  
Winchet Hill (mixed), built in 1872, for 100 children; on the books 94; average attendance, 70; William Arthur Bloor, master; Mrs. William A. Bloor, mistress  
Catholic School (mixed), for 150 children; on the books, 57; average attendance, 30; Mrs. Palmer, mistress; Miss Palmer, infants' mistress

**CONVEYANCE.—**Vans to Marden, daily; for passengers & goods & to Tonbridge, fri.; Tunbridge Wells, four times a week & Maidstone, daily

**CARRIERS TO:—**  
**BRENCHLEY**—Charles P. Harris (through), wed. goods & passengers

Penfold Richd. blacksmith, The Gore  
Pierce William, farmer & hop grower, Chequer Tree farm  
Powell John, shopkeeper, Curtisden grn  
Prickett Ellen (Mrs.), watch & clock ma  
Rayner Benjamin, shoe maker  
Rootes Edward, engineer  
Rubridge Caroline (Mrs.), shopkeeper  
Small James, beer retailer, Curtisden grn  
Small James, jun. timber merchant, Curtisden green  
Smith Geo. organist at St. Mary's church  
Smith Brothers, farmers & hop growers, Crowborne  
Southon David, butcher, farmer & hop grower  
Stevens Elizabeth Maria (Mrs.), stationer, West house  
Stevens Matilda Mary (Miss), bookseller, stationer & Post office, North road  
Swatland William, farmer  
Tattlebury House Private Lunatic Asylum (Rt. Sl. Newington, propr)  
Taylor Albert Stephen, grocer & outfitter  
Thurgood Frederick Joseph, land surveyor & hop sampler  
Thurgood James, Vine P.H  
Thurgood John, hop agent, North road  
Tyman Henry, farm bailiff to Thomas Wickham esq. Little Combourn fm  
Underdown Walter, farmer & hop grower, Collier's green  
Usherwood Edwin, wheelwright & coach builder  
Walter William, farmer & hop grower, Mount Pleasant farm  
Weald of Kent Fire Brigade (James Gilbert, superintendent)  
Wickham Benjamin, farmer, hop grower & land owner, Gore court  
Wickham Thomas, farmer, hop grower & landowner, Summer hill  
Wilmsburst Charles, hair dresser  
Wilson James, higgler  
Young Horace, blacksmith  
Young John, boot & shoe ma. West rd

As can be seen above from extracts in Kelly's of 1891, the Goudhurst entry has an incredible level of detail.

Luckily for us there is a selection of years on a website for University of Leicester, Special Collections Online, a full collection at Kent History Centre, or some available in reference sections of local libraries. For even less effort, for those who have a subscription, they are published on the Ancestry family history website.

**R. T. BANKS,**  
Baker, Pastrycook and Confectioner.

Cakes, Pastry, Shortbread, Scones, Swiss Jam Roll and Sponge Sandwich, fresh every day.

The following Cakes legal to state or made to order on the shortest notice:

**GENOA, SEED, SPONGE, MADEIRA, SULTANA, CURRANT, COCOANUT, CHERRY, CHRISTENING WEDDING & BIRTHDAY.**

VIENNA, WHEATMEAL AND VAGOS BREAD, MADE FRESH DAILY.

MAKER OF "CARR'S MALT," THE IDEAL BROWN BREAD.

Appetising, Easily Digested, Very Nourishing. The best Bread for Children, Brain Workers and Artists.

GOODS OF THE BEST QUALITY SUPPLIED AT REASONABLE CHARGES.

FAMILIES WAITED UPON DAILY. A TRAIL ORDER RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:  
**High Street, GOUDHURST.**

"THE GLOBE & RAINBOW,"  
KILNDOWN, GOUDHURST.  
PROPRIETOR, JAMES RICHER.

The First Class roomy and comfortable Hotel, situated the White Hart, but now adapting the well-known Ridgeway Arms as its title, offers the best accommodation to visitors and commercial travellers. Excellent Private Rooms commanding fine Views of the surrounding country.

**CLOSE & OPEN CARRIAGES FOR HIRE.**  
CATERING FOR LARGE OR SMALL PARTIES.  
**FIRST CLASS WINES AND SPIRITS.**  
Agents for Jahn & Co.'s celebrated Waterbury Ales, supplied.

	Per Barrel	Per Kilderkin	Per Pickin	Per Gall.
"The Torrita Ale"	47	24	24	12
Red Torrita Ale	47	24	24	12
India Pale Ale	44	22	22	11

**H. M. BROWNING,**  
Family Grocer and Draper,  
POST OFFICE, KILNDOWN.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**  
**BRITISH WINES.**  
Glass & Earthenware. Huntley & Palmer's Biscuits.

**W. TAYLOR & SON,**  
Grocers, & Drapers  
AND  
OUTFITTERS,  
**GOUDHURST.**

Agents for C. ARKCOLL'S Chatham Ales and F. OVERTON'S Celebrated Croydon Ales.

**PRICE LIST.**

Messrs. ARKCOLL & Co.'s Brewing.

	Bar.	Kil.	Per.	Bar.	Kil.	Per.
X Mild Ale	30	15	15	Porter	30	15
XX Pale Ale	30	15	15	Stout	30	15
XXX Strong Ale	30	15	15	Double Stout	30	15
XII Bitter Ale	30	15	15			

**F. OVERTON'S Brewing.**

	Bar.	Kil.	Per.	Bar.	Kil.	Per.
Family Vigour Ale	42	21	10 1/2	XXX	42	21
IPA No. 1 Ale	46	23	11 1/2	XX	42	21
PA No. 2 Ale	42	21	10 1/2	Double Stout	34	17
XX Bitter Ale	30	15	15	Stout	42	21
XXX Mild Ale	34	17	13 1/2	Porter	30	15

**FAMILY MOURNING.**  
FUNERALS FURNISHED.

Weald of Kent & Romney Marsh Directory 1884/5

[www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org](http://www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org)