

Holly Lodge, Cripps Lane

OS grid ref: TR 3591644848



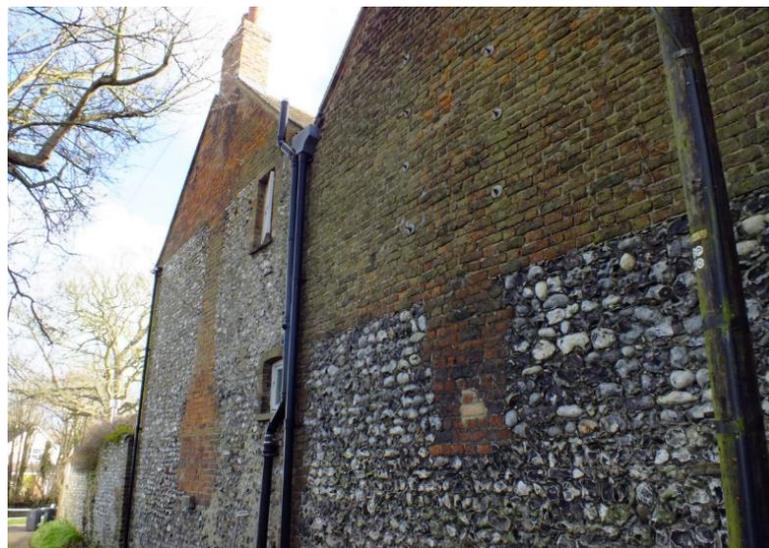
Holly Lodge, front elevation, Photos C Partridge © SMHS 2018

Grade II listed

Hidden away between Knotts Lane, Cripps Lane and Chapel Lane, Holly Lodge is a Grade II listed building believed to date from the late 17th century and altered in the mid-18th century. However, the original house may date back even further than the late 17th century.

In the listing it is described as follows:

“House. Late C17 extended and altered mid C18. Red brick and flint with plain tiled roof. Two parallel ranges, the entrance facade drawn across the 2 short ends. Three storeys with parapet and double span half hipped roofs each with stack. Two wooden casements and central lunette on second floor, 3 sashes on first floor, 2 on ground floor with central door of 6 raised and fielded panels with fluted pilastered cornice surround. Rear elevations, especially of northernmost wing, suggest earlier origin to building.”



*Holly Lodge, rear view.
Photos C Partridge ©
SMHS 2018*

The eighteenth century

One source (unverified) suggests that in about 1730 a John CHITTY sold the property to a Richard SOLLY of Sandwich. This Richard SOLLY and his father, also a Richard SOLLY, were both at times Mayor of Sandwich.

The year 1733 is visible on the west wall but date-stones can be notoriously misleading: this may commemorate a family event, such as a wedding or alterations to the house, and not necessarily be the date of construction. In the front garden wall a header brick inscribed 'R NEWMAN' may relate to some phase of building as the NEWMAN family were indeed brickmakers/bricklayers.

Further marks over the side door include **RB1735** and it has been suggested that this refers to a member of the BRETT family – Robert BRETT? Also visible are the marks **AB1735**, **MB1735**, **XP**, and **HB AB**: could these also be members of the BRETT family who lived in the village at the time? At the back door there are yet more marks: **SF1735**, **FXM** and **IXT**. What is the significance of the 'X' in these? It is unlikely to refer to a name. **XP** may be a representation of the Chi-Rho symbol for Christ thereby bestowing a blessing on the house but this is just a suggestion. **IX** is also a very early monogram for Christ consisting of the Greek letters iota and chi and **IXT** are the first three letters symbolising Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour, in Greek. Similar inscriptions exist on the south wall of the village church tower dating to restoration work which took place in the eighteenth century; it is interesting to see that the date 1735 appears to be repeated so frequently.

Shortly after this it appears that the property was either owned or occupied by John EASTES the elder and his family. EASTES was a blacksmith and schoolmaster and it is recorded that he took on an apprentice by the name of Solomon HARVEY in 1743 at a premium of £10 0s. In 1753 he was still taking on apprentices, this time a Robert ERRIDGE for a premium of £6 0s.

EASTES the elder died in 1769 leaving the property to his son John EASTES (the younger) and his wife of two years, Catherine née DENNE. The younger EASTES was also a blacksmith at St Margaret's and in 1774 was advertising for a journeyman smith (i.e. a qualified tradesman rather than an apprentice) to work for him:

“WANTED A journeyman smith; one who well understands the business of forge work and shoeing may have constant work and the best of treatment by John EASTES of St Margaret at Cliffe near Dover.”

In 1796 EASTES the younger bequeathed his property to his wife, Catherine, for her life and then to his nephew John YOU DEN; this suggests that the couple had no surviving children by the time he wrote his last will and testament. At this time EASTES styled himself ‘headmaster’. He died 20 Oct 1797 and was buried in the village churchyard on 26 October 1797.

The nineteenth century

Probate was granted 4 Oct 1798, a year after EASTES’ death, allowing Catherine, his widow, to enjoy the benefit of the property until her death in 1808. This practice was quite common and ensured that the surviving spouse would have a roof over their head or derive an income from letting the property for the remainder of their life. As per her late husband’s will, on Catherine’s death in 1808, the property passed to his nephew, John YOU DEN, who then sold it to Thomas Kingsford WOOD.

Thomas Kingsford WOOD was a local man, born in the village 23 Aug 1767, and at the time of his purchase of Holly Lodge, was farming 51 acres at West Cliffe. He had been married in 1795 to local girl, Mary PILCHER, but she had died in 1805, several years before he bought Holly Lodge.

Maria’s Commonplace Book

On 14 March 1818 WOOD remarried, this time to Maria LOUD, a spinster, who was born 25 Nov 1790 at Tarring in Sussex; they were married at St Luke’s in Chelsea. Maria has left us an interesting insight into her life in St Margaret’s as, from the time she was married, she kept a diary or Commonplace Book in which she recorded day to day events as well as recipes, and so on.

On 16 March (1816?) she writes:

“Commenced our alterations. Converted the Back parlour into the Men’s Room and the Front Room into a Parlour”

In view of the marriage date, it is probable that this was 16 March 1818 and that she was setting the wheels in motion to alter their new home to that of a family rather than a bachelor.

As well as recipes, records of expenditure (on hats, flannel and calico for example) there are also riddles:

“Three fourths of a cross and a circle complete. Two semi circles in a perpendicular meet. Triangle standing on two feet, two semi circles, and a circle complete.”

Answer: T O B A C C O

R: Illustration from a Kent Life article (undated) about Maria Kingsford Wood.



Although Maria’s Commonplace Book is incomplete it does offer a fascinating insight into her day to day life over a period of some thirty years. For example, we know that Maria hired a new maidservant in 1820 by the name of Elizabeth KINGSLAND; her salary was £5 10s per annum.

For the full article in *Kent Life* go to: https://www.stmargarethshistory.org.uk/catalogue_item/an-article-about-maria-wood-of-holly-lodge

The WOODS were still in possession of Holly Lodge at the time of the Tithe Apportionment in 1841; the property is listed as a ‘homestead and garden’ and the census of the same year shows Thomas, now 73 but still a farmer, Maria aged 50, and their

maidservant, Mary WELLARD, aged 18. Thomas died on 5 September 1845, aged 78. Probate was granted on 1 Oct 1845 and his property passed to his widow, Maria.

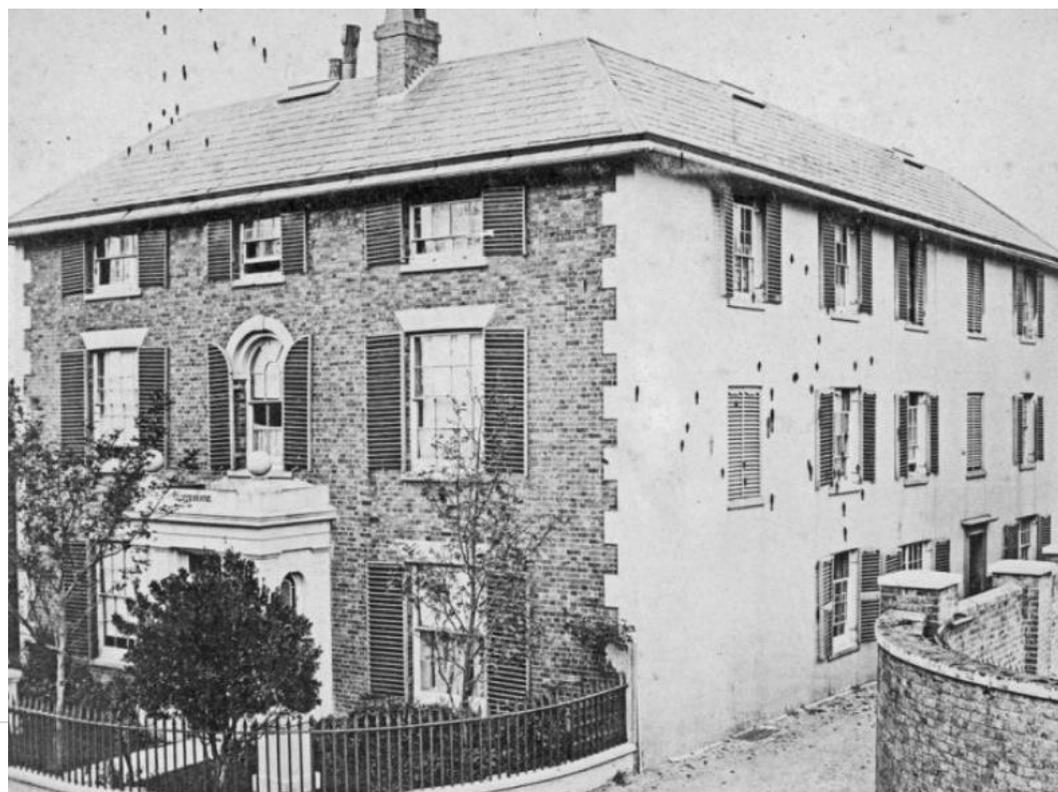
Maria does not appear in the 1851 census and it may be that she was away or living elsewhere at this date, or that the house may have been standing empty or let to a tenant. She died 26 Dec 1853 and was buried in the family vault in the church. It was reported in the local newspaper that “the poor would miss her benevolence”.

The TEMPLEs

In May 1854 Holly Lodge and its adjoining land were divided into four plots and sold by auction at the Shakespeare Hotel in Dover. James TEMPLE (the elder) already owned much of the adjacent property some of which was used as his boarding school, Cliffe House Academy for boys from 1820 or earlier. TEMPLE’s wife ran the nearby Marine School for girls.

*R: Cliffe House School, late 19th century
SMHS archive*

James TEMPLE the elder died 30 Jan 1857 aged 77 and was buried in the family vault in the churchyard. The property passed to his son James TEMPLE (the younger) who is listed as being at Marine House in the 1861 census. At the time of this census Holly Lodge cannot be identified on the listing



In 1867 and 1871 a local directory shows James TEMPLE the younger as a school teacher at Cliffe House. James TEMPLE died 26 September 1871 leaving the property to his wife and three children.

The 1871 census shows James, his wife Mary, and daughter Maria still at Cliffe House rather than Holly Lodge though this may have been for the sake of convenience as they were the proprietors of the school. The following year on 18 August 1872, Mary died leaving the property to their three children: Maria TEMPLE, Ellen Wood WOOD née TEMPLE, and Charles Pilcher Wood TEMPLE. Mary was also buried in the family vault in the village churchyard.

Maria, one of the daughters, continued to live at Holly Lodge and bought out her siblings for £325 in 1873. We know that at this time her brother Charles Pilcher Wood TEMPLE was or had been a Lieutenant in HM 49th Regiment of Foot quartered at Poonah in the East Indies. According to the census Maria was attended by Maria GOLDSACK , a general domestic servant, in 1881. By the time of the 1891 census she was attended by a lady's maid, Annie E LASLETT, and was, at that date, entertaining a visitor, Jessie CHARLTON, aged 28. Maria died at Holly Lodge later that year and was interred in the family vault on 10 December 1891. In her will dated 6 Nov 1872 she left her property to her two siblings; her personal estate was valued at £3191 14s 10d

Early in 1892 Charles and his sister, Ellen, sold Holly Lodge. The conveyance tells us that the property was owned by Colonel Charles Pilcher TEMPLE (late of the Royal Berks Regiment, DSO) of The Cedars, Crescent road, Reading, and his sister Ms Ellen Wood WOOD, wife of John Finn WOOD, a gentleman of Whitstable. The property was sold to John Austin GILFIN, a licensed victualler, for £570. Included in the sale were '... gardens, stable, coach house, buildings and appurtenances ... abutting three roadways known as Knotts Lane, Pond Lane (now Chapel Lane) and School Lane (now Cripps Lane)'. It had 'a good entrance hall, two sitting rooms, five good bedrooms, linen cupboard, kitchen, wash house &c. with convenient wood and coal shed. There is a lawn and flower garden, also a walled-in fruit garden, and piece of kitchen garden together with a three stall stable and coach house'.

The publicans and a buy-to-let investment

Between them, John Austin GILFIN and his son, also John Austin GILFIN, were the licensees of The Bull, Buckland, Dover, from 1883 until 1942. Before that GILFIN senior and his family ran a pub in Dover Road, Folkestone (possibly The Railway Tavern). It seems likely that Holly Lodge was bought by GILFIN senior as a buy-to-let property; GILFIN junior would have only been about 20 at the time of the purchase. That it was bought as an investment is borne out by the fact that Holly Lodge was occupied by “Miss TULLIS and party”, visitors to St Margaret’s in the summer of 1895.

In 1896 the property was let to John Ellery Lardner POLLARD. John POLLARD was 33 and was born at Padiham in Lancashire. His wife was Mary Sophia POLLARD née ALLEN who was 27 and had been born in County Mourne in Ireland. At the time that they moved in they also had a daughter, Dorothy, aged 1.

John POLLARD was a medical doctor who had qualified in Scotland in 1894 and it seems that he was appointed as a medical officer for the area. During his time in the village he was secretary of the village sports committee and Hon. Sec. of the committee set up to found the new golf club in 1899. He was also baptised as an adult at St Margaret’s on 1 December 1898. The family lived at several addresses in the village during their time here: in 1898 they were living at The Parsonage and in 1901 at Ridgeway. On 16 April 1903 they relocated to Hastings and thence to Acocks Green, Birmingham and Canada. The youngest child, Eric Douglas POLLARD, was born 18 March 1898 and baptised 21 Jan 1899 at SMAC but was killed in action 29 June 1915 in Belgium. He is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery.

The reason the POLLARDS were living at The Parsonage may have been because John GILFIN snr. sold Holly Lodge that year. The new owner was Agnes EVENS née ABBOTT. Agnes was the widow of John EVENS, Staff Office RE, who had died 14 October 1897. As with GILFIN it seems that Agnes bought Holly Lodge to generate an income. In 1899 and 1900 a Mrs Elizabeth DAVENPORT was running Holly Lodge as a boarding house although according to the census it was unoccupied in 1901 and in 1902/1903 the house was occupied by Mrs HARRISON.

The EVENS family

At the same time as the purchase of Holly Lodge Agnes also bought 4 acres of downland on the Upper Freedown and in 1898 had a house built there called Platte Saline. (This was also known as the Paper House and has a story of its own!) Platte Saline was home to two of Agnes' daughters, Eunice and Mabel, from 1901 until 1940. Agnes, herself, was living at The Haven, Hackington, Canterbury, where she took in King's School students as lodgers. Platte Saline was gone by 1946 and the sisters moved into Holly Lodge.

R: Platte Saline 1898 © SMHS archive



Agnes EVENS died at her home, The Haven, in Canterbury on 14 March 1909. Probate was granted to her daughter Janet Agnes EVENS; her effects were valued at £3139 5s 10d. From this time onwards it seems that the property was owned by the sisters Eunice and Mabel EVENS.

At some time between 1903 and 1909 Holly Lodge was rented out to the WICKENDENS, Charles ("Charlie") and Ester ("Ecker"). At the time of the 1911 census several others were also listed at Holly Lodge: Charlotte HAYES, a widow of 72, Charles HAYES, a single man of 19, Stanley HILL, a boy of 11, Maria YEOMAN, a girl aged 8, and Polly GREEN, a single girl aged 17.

In 1914 it looks like there was a bit of a clear-out. The Dover Express gave notice of an auction in 146 lots of household furniture which raised £29 15s 3d. The sale included "[a]brilliant toned cottage pianoforte Sandon and Steadman London in burr walnut case £5".

This same year Holly Lodge also became the temporary location of the Post Office. Joseph Beavis MADGE, a local businessman, had given up the post of postmaster in 1913; the telephone exchange moved to Dora Cottage and the Post Office to Holly Lodge.

The WINNs and WOODLANDS

In 1917 Holly Lodge became the home of Albina Ernest WINN and William Charles WINN. Albina and William were brothers, two of the children born to a lighthouse keeper at South Foreland Lighthouse. Both boys, who were 'motor engineers', joined the RNR 'for hostilities' on 29 Oct 1914 as searchlight workers in Dover. For Albina this was just a day after his wedding to Priscilla Annie VINER. Albina and Priscilla both died in Eastbourne in 1973.



*L: William Charles WINN
(Source: Ancestry)*

*R: Albina and Priscilla WINN wedding
photograph 28 Oct 1914 (Source:*



Ancestry)

In 1920 the WOODLAND family were in residence although the property was still owned by the EVENS sisters. Henry WOODLAND was born into a farming family in Ruckinge where his father farmed 180 acres and employed 5 men on Turff's Farm. He married in June

1887. In 1891, 1901 and 1911 Henry and his wife, Jane WOODLAND née MAYLAM, were at Lydden Court Farm. He retired in 1916 but the continued to live at Holly Lodge until his death in 1941.

Henry's wife, Jane, died on 1st June 1929 aged 74. She was buried at SMAC 4 June 1929. Henry was not living alone, however, as his daughters Mary Ethel WOODLAND and Marjorie Olive WOODLAND were also living at Holly Lodge until at least 1939 at the time of the 1939 Registration. Mary worked as a bank clerk and Marjorie looked after her father and the house. Both sisters remained spinsters and died in 1975.

In 1939 Ellen REYNOLDS was also living at Holly Lodge and is shown as a 'domestic servant' although by this time she would have been about 70. Ellen had been their domestic servant for a very long time; she was working for Henry and Jane at Lydden Court Farm in 1911. Ellen died suddenly of a heart attack and was found lying in Frith Road, Dover, on her way to visit her brother on 26 Dec 1939.

Henry WOODLAND died on 28 June 1941 following an operation at Margate Hospital. Prior to this he had been living at St Augustine's in Minster. Henry left his estate to his two daughters; his effects were valued at £4571 1s 6d.

The Second World War

During the Second World War Holly Lodge was used as a WVS canteen. It was staffed by Miss C WILLIAMS and her ladies providing food, drink and pleasant surroundings for members of the services. Their final balance sheet also showed that they had raised a considerable sum for various charities.

On 12th September 1945 a letter was published in the *Dover Express*:

Dear Sir

At last the opportunity has arrived for a Serviceman to express his thanks on behalf of all service men and women in the St Margaret's area for the noble work done by the good ladies at Holly Lodge Canteen. This little place in a very pleasant spot

behind the scenes at St Margaret's at Cliffe, has supplied every comfort to the men and women in service dress since March 1942. With excellent food and drink well prepared, and always served with a smile. The canteen remained open throughout all the period of enemy action. Now with the war over and troops leaving the district, the time has come to close this little Rendezvous with its old world garden and quiet rest rooms. The boys will miss the radio and piano, the little library and the kindly folk working hard in the kitchen. Despite the fact that one could always have big eats for a very modest sum (we challenge anyone to find a cheaper place) we believe that over £500 has been given to deserving charities. So to Miss C Williams and the gallant band of ladies who have supported her in this voluntary war effort over so many months – a big Thank You – it has been good to know you all. From the lads and lassies in khaki and both shades of blue “Good Luck and Good Bless You!

*John R A Bowling
Marine*

In fact the canteen raised £702 which was distributed to the Red Cross, County Military Welfare and Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society.

Holly Lodge almost escaped the war unscathed but suffered some damage late 1944. It was noted in the ARP log that “Mr Melhush reports damage to the roof caused by gunfire.”

The EVENS sisters return

Eunice and Mabel EVENS returned to the village and Holly Lodge after the war during which they had evacuated to Farnham in Surrey. As well as Holly Lodge being used as a canteen their house, Platte Saline, had been requisitioned by the War Department and was subsequently destroyed. The compensation for Platte Saline was £199 19s 9d.

Mabel died on 30 July 1957 aged 90. She was buried in SMAC and left estate valued at £7876 1s 11d.

Her younger sister, Eunice, died at Holly Lodge on 16 November 1966 aged 95. Her obituary read:

“Miss Evens died peacefully at her home Holly Lodge on 16th November [1966]. She had not been outside her garden for several years and probably few people in the village knew of her existence but she enjoyed good friends from all periods of her life. She was never nostalgic, sentimental or bitter – her fiancé was killed in 1914 but she bore no grudge against the Germans – she lived in the present and took things on their merit; she was perennially young and stimulating. In 1963 a relative wrote in her diary: “She is marvellous – so amusing and on the spot. If I want anything remembering she is the most reliable; she never complains, is always cheerful and uncritical of others - except for the odd crisp and to the point remark. A most remarkable person.”



L: Eunice EVENS (SMHS archive)

Latterly one of her pleasures was watching the activities of swallows outside the kitchen window. She admired their elegance and courage in seeing off predatory cats. She had green fingers with vegetables and animals.

An old friend writes, “ve seen her go up to an unbroken, unhandled colt in a field, bridle it and mount it within half an hour...She rode side saddle and looked beautiful in the saddle having ‘hands’ denied to most.’

Her Kent connection was through her mother. The Abbots had been sailors and coastal farmers since Elizabeth I and probably 200 years

earlier. The furthest inland they went was Canterbury. In 1898 they came back to the sea when her widowed mother bought Holly Lodge and 4 acres of downland for its lovely view. On the land Platte Saline (now Upper Freedown) was built and there Eunice and her sister Mabel lived till 1940. At first life was simple, drinking water brought by donkey; gradually it evolved as a centre for friends and relations but still it was essentially a simple life making the most of the land with skill and enjoyment. By 1946 Platte Saline was no more and the two sisters lived at Holly Lodge.



Nowadays, four generations are often contemporary. Miss Evens' father was born in 1822 eight years after Waterloo; her grandfather in 1784 one year after American Independence; her great grandfather in 17?? within eight years of Marlborough's death

Eunice had been engaged to an Arthur Fluke but he was killed in action on 22 June 1915 and she died a spinster despite having had another proposal of marriage from long-time admirer Cuthbert HANCOCK."

L: Cuthbert HANCOCK

**Research and narrative by Carol Partridge
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Using a wide range of documents and other resources, every attempt has been made to produce an accurate history of Holly Lodge and its owners and tenants. The conclusions drawn are my own and it is almost inevitable that subsequent or additional discoveries may change the 'story' somewhat. Should such information come to hand, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Society so that we may set the record straight.