

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Vi Bridger towards the end of 2016. Vi had been with us as a volunteer on Saturday mornings for many years and is much missed. Our sympathy is with Janet and her family.



These late 18th and early 19th century pictures demonstrate one of the values of Hastings History House. We are always discovering new things and like to share them with you.

The sketch [left] was a discovery by one of our FOH Cemetery volunteers who discovered the work of the Yelloly daughters whilst doing her own family history. Hastings Museum, The Keep and the V and A Museum all have examples of their work. The one illustrated here is of the Cupola in Belmont Road where the family stayed in 1838-9. They came from Norfolk so it is possible they knew the North family and may even have rented the Cupola from them.

The drawing right, courtesy of Yale University, is from a large collection they hold of works by Thomas Hastings. This was drawn to our attention by a researcher from the British Museum. She came in seeking the location of several of his depictions, some of which we were able to help with. When we looked at the Yale collection other locations could also be identified.

Thomas Hastings travelled and sketched many places in England, including Hastings. Born Thomas Barnett he changed his name in 1812. After a career in the army he became a customs officer in 1819 so perhaps that was why he visited Hastings, as many of his drawings are dated 1820.



The extracts below are the Hastings entries in a fascinating transcript of Churchwardens Presentments from the 1670s that we found among David's collection. It is taken from volume 49 of the Sussex Record Society publications now out of print.

1674

All Saints nothing to present

St Clement: For not paying their church tax; William Stryde 9d, Samuel Mills 9d, Alexander Lucas 9d, Moses Swan 6d, Francis Norwood and Margaret his wife for neglecting their duty of receiving the sacrament of the Lord's Supper...five years past. We present Joane Baker for having of a bastard.

1675

All Saints: We present Samuel Otes (excommunicated) for his cattell annoying the churchyard and breaking down the fence; secondly for leaving his cure and being absent from his benefice for 32 weeks; Titus Otes (excommunicated) for presuming to preach not having orders. We present the chancel and churchyard fence is out of order, the parson to repair both. Titus Oates, curate as pretended, from serving a sub-poena in the church on Francis Norwood, one of the Churchwardens; the said Titus for being a malicious, disorderly, scandalous person.

[A note adds 'The Rector Samuel Otes, was the father of the infamous Titus Otes who had indeed left Cambridge before graduating, later briefly became a Jesuit, was expelled, then in 1678 hatched the "Popish Plot" pretending the Jesuits were planning to murder King Charles, and finally joined the Baptists but was again expelled as a hypocrite']