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Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

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Kent Archives Office

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Records of the Medway Navigation Company,
1627-1912.

Deposited by the Kent River Board, November
1955, and by Messrs. Whitehead, Thomas and
Urmston, May 1950.

Catalogued: F. Hull, November 1955.

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HISTORICAL MSS.
5452
178
DGP COMMISSION

Medway Navigation Company

General note: The Medway, as the principal navigable river of Kent, has had a chequered history from at least the 16th century. At that time it was under the control of the Commission for Sewers from Lombards Wall to Sheerness and from Sheerness to Penshurst Bridge. In the early 17th century there was a long dispute between the owners of properties adjoining the river and those who wished to develop a navigation. It may be that the ultimate outcome of this dispute was the Act of 16 & 17 Car. II, c.11 (1664) 'for making the River of Medway navigable in the Counties of Kent and Sussex'. Under this Act a body of Commissioners was appointed but little if anything transpired. In 1739, however, a new Act, 13 George II, c. 26, established the proprietors as a limited company free from the interference of any Commission of Sewers and the records for this new body date from 1740. It seems that the functions of this company were limited to the limits Forest Row (co. Sussex) to Maidstone, so that the lower and tidal reaches of the river were still controlled by the Commissioners of Sewers. In 1802, however, under an Act of 42 George III, an additional company was created known as the Lower Medway Navigation Company. This dual arrangement continued throughout the 19th century and was extended by the new Upper Medway Navigation Act of 1911. Under the Land Drainage Act of 1930, however, the duties of the Upper Medway Company passed to the newly formed Kent River Board.

Medway Navigation Company

S/MN A Administration

- AM1-16 Minutes of Medway Navigation Company set up under the Act of 13 George II, c. 26 (1739) [retained by Kent River Board] (16 vols.) 1765-1912
- AM17-19 Minutes of Lower Medway Navigation Company as set up under Act of 42 George III (1802) (3 vols.)* 1824-1889
- AZ1 'An Account of the Proceedings of the Commissioners of Sewers towards making the River of Medway navigable between Maidstone and Penshurst...' [Includes a survey of the river and copies of orders at meetings of the Commissioners.] (1 vol.)* 1627-1630
- AZ2 Letter book mainly relating to the shipment of goods [volume originally used for 'Riverage Account received by the toll collector' giving detail of nature of cargo, place to which transported and weight (1806-43)] (1 vol.) 1806-1843, 1844-1845
- AZ3 Register of transfer of shares (1 vol.) 1888-1911
- AZ4 Inventory book for Upper Medway Navigation Company, giving details and valuation of barges, tools, timber, tackle, etc. (1 vol.) 1902-1904

S/MN F FinanceFJ Journals - general series

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------|---------------|
| FJ1 | 1823--1834 (Journal 4) | FJ7 | 1870-1876 (G) |
| FJ2 | 1844-1851 [1835-43 missing] | FJ8 | 1877-1884 (H) |
| FJ3 | 1852-1856 (Journal 8) | FJ9 | 1884-1892 (I) |
| FJ4 | 1856-1859 (Journal 9) | FJ10 | 1892-1900 (J) |
| FJ5 | 1859-1863 (Journal E) | FJ11 | 1900-1910 (K) |
| FJ6 | 1864-1869 (F) | | |

*Part of Acc. 251 received from Messrs. Whitehead, Thomas and Urmston, King Street, Maidstone, 10. 5.1950.

200

Medway Navigation Company

S/MN Fjf	<u>Freight Journals</u>		
FJf1	1867-1872 (Journal G)	FJf4	1884-1895 (J)
FJf2	1872-1875 (H)	FJf5	1895-1904
FJf3	1876-1884 (I)		
FJz	<u>Miscellaneous journals</u>		
FJz1	Tunbridge Wells Coal journal, 1848-1850		
FJz2	Ditto, 1852-1856		
FJz3	Journal [very roughly kept], 1901-1903		
FC	<u>Cash books - general series</u> (a) early group, (b) later series		
FCa1	1757-1768 (no. 1)	FCa4	1801-1810 (no. 4)
FCa2	1768-1781 (no. 2)	FCa5	1810-1812 (no. 5)
FCa3	1781-1801 (no. 3)		
FCb1	1814-1822 (no. 3)	FCb7	1864-1875 (no.11)
FCb2	1841-1843 (no. 6)	FCb8	1875-1887 (no.12)
FCb3	1843-1846	FCb9	1887-1889 (no.13)
FCb4	1846-1851	FCb10	1889-1892 (no.14)
FCb5	1851-1854 (no. 9)	FCb11	1892-1903 (no.15)
FCb6	1854-1864 (no. 10)		

Medway Navigation Company

FCz	<u>Miscellaneous cash books</u>		
FCz1	Cash payments account, 1836-1843		
FCz2	General cash receiving account at Branbridges, 1835-1844		
FL	<u>Ledgers - general series, including indexes</u>		
FL1	1740-1757	FL11	1844-1847
FL2	1757-1769	FL12	1846-1853
FL3	1769-1789	FL13	1853-1863
FL4	1787-1803	FL14	1863-1870
FL5	1801-1819	FL15	1870-1880
FL6	1806-1818	FL16	1880-1887
FL7	1811-1821	FL17/1,2	1888-1892 [a-m; n-z] (2 vols)
FL8	1818-1832	FL18/1,2	1892-1894 [a-k; l-z] (2 vols)
FL9	1833-1842	FL19/1-3	1894-1903 [a-g; h-r; s-z] (3 vols.)
FL10	1842-1844	FL20	1904-1905
FLc	<u>Coal Account Ledgers</u>		
FLc1	1853-1861	FLc4	1882-1886 (Ledger H)
FLc2	1872-1876 (Ledger F)	FLc5	1886-1887 (1)
FLc3	1877-1882		
FLf	<u>Freight account Ledgers</u>		
FLf1	1793-1820	FLf5	1851-1858
FLf2	1822-1844	FLf6	1858-1867
FLf3	1829-1844	FLf7	1860-1870
FLf4	1847-1851		

Medway Navigation Company

FLs	<u>Supplementary Ledgers</u>		
FLs1	1870-1875	FLs3	1885-1895
FLs2	1875-1885	FLs4	1895-1905
FLz	<u>Miscellaneous Ledgers</u>		
FLz1	Bargemen's Ledger (G), 1884-1896	FLz5	Branbridge Ledger, 1825-1842
FLz2	Ditto, 1904	FLz6	Yalding Ledger, 1833-1846
FLz3	Sailing barges freight ledger [with letter book, additions for 1844], 1831-1844	FLz7	Ledger [name missing], 1828-1844
FLz4	Stations Ledger, 1853-1864		
FZ	<u>Miscellaneous Financial Archives</u>		
FZ1	Waste book, with list of subscribers to and proprietors of the Navigation		1740-1786
FZ2	Purchase book [fully classified]		1897-1906
FZ3	Day book, giving name of barge and particulars		1902-1903
FZ4	Register of barges for Upper Medway Co., giving name, places from and to which sailing, nature of cargo and toll		1904-1910
FZ5	Wages book for Upper Medway Co.		1902-1904

MEDWAY NAVIGATION

S/MN

(Acc. A218)

S/MN

Administration

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| AM21 | Minutes of the Upper Medway Navigation and Conservancy Board (appointed under the Upper Medway Navigation and Conservancy Act, 1911), 1911-1915, with minutes of preliminary meetings of the Conservators, 1910-1911, with index (1 vol.) | 1910-1915 |
| AM22 | Ditto, with index (1 vol.) | 1915-1930 |
| AM23 | Ditto [✓] The functions of the Board were transferred to the River Medway Catchment Board on 1st April, 1934/ (1 vol.) | 1930-1934 |
| AM24 | Finance Committee Minutes (1 vol.) | 1911-1934 |
| AM25 | Law Committee Minutes (1 vol.) | 1911-1934 |
| AM26 | Works Committee Minutes (1 vol.) | 1911-1927 |

Financial: Miscellaneous

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| FZ6 | Statement of accounts of the Conservators of the Upper Medway | 1930-1931 |
| FZ7 | Ditto | 1932-1933 |

Kent Archives Office

S/MN (Addn.) Acc. 603

Records of the Upper Medway Company and the
Upper Medway Conservancy Board, 1888-1917.

Deposited by the Kent River Authority,
Maidstone, October 1971.

Catalogued by J.A.V. Rose, November 1972.

Administration

AC

Correspondence

AC1

Letters mostly from Tarry, Sherlock and King
[some relating to Ellis V. Medway Co.]

1902-1903

AC2

Letters from Tarry Sherlock and King

1902

AC3

Ditto [one letter for 1907]

1905

AC4

Ditto

1905

AC5

Ditto

1905

AC6

Ditto [some letters relating to Lloyds Bank
and the Medway Company]

1904-1906

AC7

Ditto

1906

MIDWAY CONSERVA

Administration

AC	<u>Correspondence</u>	
AC 8	General Correspondence	1911
AC 9	Ditto	1911
AC10	Ditto [including correspondence with Curtiss's & Harvey relating to the weir at Tonbridge]	1911
AC11	Ditto	1911-1912
AC12	Ditto	1912
AC13	Ditto [some relating to Addlestead Farm]	1912
AC14	Ditto	1913
AC15	Ditto	1913
AC16	Ditto	1913
AC17	Ditto	1913
AC18	Ditto	1914
AC19	General Correspondence	1914
AC20	Ditto	1914
AC21	Ditto	1914
AC22	Ditto	1915
AC23	Ditto	1915
AC24	Ditto	1915

AC	<u>Correspondence</u>	
AC25	General Correspondence	1916
AC26	Ditto	1916
AC27	Ditto	1917
	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
AZ5	Register of Plant [Inventory book]	1911-1917
F	<u>Finance</u>	
	<u>Journals</u>	
FJ12	General Journal [roughly kept]	1912-1917
	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
FZ 8	Works cost book	1914
FZ 9	Register of mortgages	1912-1914
	<u>Maps and Plans</u>	
P1	Artists impression of the suggested altered position of Loose valley railway bridge over the Medway at Tovil	[?.1870]
P2	Plans and sections for South Kent Waters	1888

Kent Archives Office

S/MN (Addn.) Acc. 735

Further records of the Upper Medway Company

Deposited by the Southern Water Authority,
Maidstone, April 1975

Catalogued by R. E. Harris, July 1975

Legal

L 1

Copy accounts (1873-1898) compiled in connection with
Lloyds Bank v. Medway Navigation Co.

1905

JAN 1982

KENT ARCHIVES OFFICE

S/MN (add)

Additional records of the Upper Medway
Navigation Company and the Upper
Medway Navigation and Conservancy
Board 1824 -1914

Deposited by the Southern Water
Authority, Regional H.Q. , October 1981

Catalogued by M. Carter, November 1981

UPPER MEDWAY NAVIGATION AND CONSERVANCY

S/MN (act)

L LEGAL

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| L6 | Printed copy of Medway Navigation Acts 16 + 17 Car II (1664) and 13 Geo. II (1739) (1 small vol .) | 1824 |
| 7 | Typed copy of Medway (Upper) Navigation Act 55 & 56 Vict (1892) | n.d. |
| 8 | Printed copy of Upper Medway Navigation and Conservancy Act 1911 | 1911 |
| 9 | Printed copy of " " : " " " " 1914 | 1914 |

Z MISCELLANEOUS

Z3 Byelaws under the Upper Medway Navigation and Conservancy Act 1911

1924

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KENT ARCHIVES OFFICE

S/MN (addn.)

Acc. A886 (part)

Records of the Upper Medway Navigation Company
and the Upper Medway Navigation and Conservancy
Board, 1829-1932

Deposited by the Southern Water Authority, Regional
H.Q., November 1978

Catalogued by M.P. Gasson, May 1980



INTRODUCTION

By the early 20th century the Upper Medway Navigation Company was in serious financial difficulties. The County Council intervened, and under the Upper Medway Navigation Act of 1911 the Upper Medway Navigation and Conservancy Board was created. This complemented and assumed many of the activities of the company, which gradually became defunct. Most of the following records concern the early period of the Board's existence.

A	ADMINISTRATION		
Ac	<u>Correspondence</u>		
Ac 28	General Correspondence	(1 file)	1911
29	Correspondence with Price Waterhouse, accountants, concerning the form in which the books of the newly-formed Conservancy are to be kept	(1 file)	1911
30	Correspondence with Messrs. Gurney of Hampstead Mills concerning the water level at Teston	(1 file)	1911
31	Correspondence concerning Roger Leigh's right to take water from the Medway, and a consequent discussion of Riparian property in general	(1 file)	1911
32	Correspondence with William Arnold & Sons concerning complaints about the manner in which their Mill Head is being interfered with	(1 file)	1911
33	Correspondence with the Town Mills, Tonbridge	(1 file)	1911-1917
34	Correspondence and related documents concerning the "Upkeep Scheme" (2 files) [Note: These papers were deposited in a loose form and do not correspond to original files]		1917-1931
35	Correspondence and related papers concerning "Recovery of Traffic on the Upper Medway"	(2 files)	1927-1930

F	FINANCE	
FT	<u>Toll Accounts</u>	
FT1/1	Toll Collector's weekly returns (1 file)	1935-1936
FZ	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
FZ/10	Copy of Third Report of the Development Commissioners containing a chapter on "Inland Navigations", referring to the funding of the Upper Medway Conservancy under section 1 (1) (f) of the Development and Road Improvement Funds Act (1 item)	1913
11	Statement of accounts (1 file)	1918-1919
12	ditto	1928-1929
13	ditto	1929-1930
14	ditto	1931-1932

- L LEGAL RECORDS
- L2 Transcript of the case of the Upper Medway Navigation Company v. Mr. Christie, concerning the latter's interference with the navigation of the river following his possession of a mill near Tonbridge Lock (1 bundle) 1829(?)
- 3 Conditions of sale, draft and incomplete, of certain properties of the Upper Medway Navigation Company (1 item) 1904
- 4 Draft petition to the Justices of the High Court against the Upper Medway Navigation Company (1 bundle) 1909-1911
- [Note: The petition was compiled in 1909 with later additions. It is related to the financial difficulties of the Upper Medway Navigation Company and the creation of the Upper Medway Conservancy]
- 5 Draft Agreement as to a landing stage at East Farleigh (1 item) 1929