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U2555

RECORDS OF STROOD WATER COMPANY 1848-1912
WITH MISCELLANEOUS PRINTED MATTER AND
PICTORIAL MATERIAL RELATING
TO THE MEDWAY TOWNS c.1850-c.1943

U2555 Deposited by Mr. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Slough, London [REDACTED]
on permanent loan to Kent County Council at Kent Archives Office, County Hall,
Maidstone 2 August 1982

Transferred to Rochester-upon-Medway Studies Centre, Civic Centre, Strood 20 July 1995

INTRODUCTION

Strood Water Works were established in 1849 by a private company "who thought that some better supply of water was required than was afforded by the Parish Pump and a few private wells" (Souvenir, below).

The first buildings were erected by Henry Patterson of Strood and additional plant was added in 1858, while a cottage for the "engine driver" was built in 1865. Patterson and Semark of Strood extended the premises in 1868 including a second reservoir. Engines throughout the period were provided by William Simpson & Co.

The Works supplied the area comprising the parts of Frindsbury and Strood lying below the level of the reservoir.

A private proposal to supply Rochester with company water in 1853 came to nothing but Rochester City Council promoted the City Improvement Act of 1880 by which they acquired the company as part of its wider schemes for developing Strood and Frindsbury as districts within the expanding City geographical jurisdiction. From 1880 therefore further records of Strood Water Works and supplies may be found among the archives of the City of Rochester, for which see below.

It should be noted that the distinguished local antiquarian, naturalist and author William Coles Finch was employed at Strood Water Works by Rochester City Council. Coles Finch was also involved with the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company and later became resident engineer of the Chatham and District Water Company. Coles Finch died in 1944 aged 79

Several of Coles Finch's works are available at this Centre including "Water: its origin and use" 1908 (Y081.COL) and "Romance of Reality: Water in Nature" c. 1910 (Y081.COL). The archives at this Centre contain a number of MS items by Coles Finch for which see below and the Guildhall Museum, Rochester also holds numerous Coles Finch MSS and collectanea, available by appointment.

It would appear that the collection stems from F.G. Patterson of Strood (see items Z/1 and Z/7/16/1) who presumably was a member of the family of engineers of Strood who undertook work on the pumping station. Patterson no doubt added the remainder of the material as of personal local interest to himself although not directly related to the records of Strood Water Works.

A final point of interest in the collection is Patterson's acquaintance with Edwin Harris of Rochester, which gives the collection another connection with a local historian, many of whose published works are available without formality in the local studies collections at this Centre (Z/7/16/2). Please ask staff for information via the local studies manual card index.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(All below sources held at this Centre)

- History of Strood Henry Smetham, 1899* 942.STR
containing "Strood Waterworks", chapter xxxiii,
pp.366-368
- The Strood Waterworks Souvenir 1903* VF/STR628.1
(facsimile) Rochester City Council
- Strood Water Works: Conditions as to Supply* VF/STR628.1
and scale of charges, City of Rochester 1885;
printer Sweet, Strood
- Strood Water Works: Conditions as to Supply* VF/STR628.1
and scale of charges 1890, printer Mackay,
Rochester
- Charges and Regulations of Strood Water Works* VF/STR628.1
Company; printer Sweet, Strood.
c.1849
- Printed notice issued by City of Rochester* VF/STR628.1
concerning health scare in connection with
Strood Water Works, 1913
- "Evening Post" newsarticle (facsimile) reporting* VF/STR628.1
on Southern Water's supplies to customers via
old Strood Water Works, 26 June 1990
- Obituary of W. Coles Finch June 1944* Brain
 scrapbook
 19 p.60
- See also Local Studies manual card index under* Please ask staff
Coles Finch

OTHER ARCHIVAL SOURCES AVAILABLE AT THIS CENTRE

<i>Rochester City Council Waterworks Ctee. minutes 1881-1923</i>	RCA/A2/112-121
<i>Rochester City Council Waterworks Ctee. Report Books 1880-1923</i>	RCA/A4/219-247
<i>Book of Reference for Strood Waterworks 1897</i>	MP/S/6
<i>Plans and sections of City of Rochester improvements to Frindsbury and Strood water and sewerage, Gotto & Beesley civil engineers 1879</i>	MP/S/7 ufp as at 28.7.1995
<i>Rochester Sewerage Scheme , Strood Low Level area plans and sections c.1900?</i>	MP/S/8
<i>Strood Waterworks mentioned in Rochester City Council legal papers 1880</i>	RCA/L2/53
<i>Rochester City Council legal papers concerning tithes and Strood Waterworks 1896</i>	RCA/L2/96
<i>Bundle of draft leases and agreements mentioning Strood Waterworks 1887-1896</i>	RCA/L2/43
<i>Strood Waterworks account book 1881-1889</i>	RCA/N5/43
<i>Various Coles Finch MS items and Coles Finch-associated items late 19th.- early 20th. centuries</i>	DE351 DE358
<i>[See also archives manual card subject index in public searcher, please ask staff. Headings: water, reservoirs, sewerage and drainage, waterworks]</i>	

CONTENTS

-	<i>Strood Water Company</i>	1848-1912
A	<i>Minutes</i>	1848-1869
C	<i>Correspondence</i>	1848-1912 [Gaps]
F	<i>Finance</i>	1850
SC	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	1903
Z2-Z11	<i>Miscellaneous- Medway Towns General</i>	c.1850-c.1943

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| A | Administration | 1848-1869 |
| A/1 | Minute book | 1848-1869 |
| | <i>Inc.</i> lists of shareholders, appointments of officers and copies of letters | |
| | 1 vol./ c.80pp. | |
| C | Correspondence | 1848-1912
[Gaps] |
| C/1/1 | Letter book | 1848-1865 |
| | <i>[See C/1/1-2 for removed enclosures]</i> | |
| | 1 vol./ 56pp. used | |
| C/1/2 | Bill from London, Chatham and Dover Railway Co. | 1868 |
| | <i>[Removed from C/1]</i> | 1 item |
| C/1/3 | Bill for road watering | 1873 |
| | <i>[Removed from C/1]</i> | 1 item |
| C/2 | Loose correspondence about the installation of new machinery including specifications (C2/16) | 1912 |
| | 1 bundle/ 16 items | |
| F | Finance | 1850 |
| F/1 | Cheque book stubs | 1850 |
| Z | Printed Matter | 1903 |
| Z/1 | <i>Original copy of printed booklet entitled "The Strood Water Works Souvenir 1903" (z/1/1) with preparatory material comprising draft MS signed by W.T. Patterson (z/1/2/1-14) and black and white photographs of subterranean wells, adits and site plan of wells and adits consisting of backed 6" x 4 1/2" photographs with MS captions varying from book's captions where photographs duplicated (z/1/3/1-10) and unbacked prints 10" x 8" (z/1/4/1-18)</i> | |

[NB Guildhall Museum, Rochester holds original glass negatives of the above photographic prints; access by appointment]

1 bundle

Z2-11 *Miscellaneous- Medway Towns General* c.1850-c.1943

Z2 *Printed item entitled "Sole Official Souvenir and Programme of Rochester Historical Pageant and Industrial Exhibition, Civic Week June 22-27, 1931"* 1931

Inc. *photographs of Cllr. George Jenner, Mayor and Mrs. Jenner, Mayoress*

Inc. *photographs of dignitaries and ctee. members*

Inc. *costume designs of historical characters*

Inc. *group photographs of actors and participants*

Inc. *illustrated section on Rochester history entitled "Notes on places of interest in Rochester" by Canon S.W. Wheatley [for whose MSS please see collection DE53/1]*

Inc. *map of Dickensian Rochester by Edwin Harris*

1 vol./ c.60pp.

Z3 *Printed item entitled "A Medway Millenium: 947-1947" commemorating the festival year of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Chatham.* 1943

Inc. *photograph of Dr. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury*

Inc. *Winget advertisement for engineering equipment p.8*

Inc. *photograph of ancient Greek inscription of c.300 BC from St. Mary's church p.12*

Inc. *photograph of parish silver plate p.33*

Inc. *photograph of Dr. Geoffrey F. Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury p.34*

Inc. *photograph of Dr. Christopher M. Chavasse, Bishop of Rochester*

Inc. *on rear map of Medway Towns and inset of Kent*

[See parish records held at this Centre, collection P85]

1 vol./ 40pp.

Inc. photograph of George M. Arnold, Mayor of Gravesend
p.3

Inc. offprint "the story of Royal Eltham: app. II, discovery
of the ancient plan of Eltham Palace"

1 vol./ 56pp.

Z5 Printed item entitled "Rochester, Chatham & Gillingham as an industrial centre and as a residential neighbourhood" c.1907

Inc. coats of arms of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham corporations on front cover

Inc. section on Strood Water Works p.36

1 vol./ 66pp.

Z6 Three black and white photographs of Railway Street, Chatham looking from viaduct towards Town Hall and one photograph of Victoria Gardens, Chatham showing bandstand and looking towards Great Lines c.1910

Each 6" x 4"

1 bundle/ 4 items

Z7 Collection of printed matter and photographs relating to the Medway Towns, comprising: printed notice describing the weather vane atop the Guildhall in Rochester High Street 12 1/4" x 8 1/2" (Z/7/1); printed order of ceremony of City of Rochester's proclamation of King George V 10 May 1910 (Z/7/2); coloured photographic postcard of facade of Rochester Guildhall captioned "here Pip was bound apprentice, Great Expectations" (Z/7/3); black and white photograph of facade of Guildhall, Rochester dressed for proclamation of King George V 1910 (?) (Z/7/4); black and white photograph of floodlit castle, Rochester at nighttime, on rear advertisement for Charles Willies & Scoones, County Fire Office Ltd., St. Margaret's Bank, Rochester (Z/7/5); sepia photograph of Rochester Bridge showing sailing barge passing under arch with masts collapsed and Rochester High Street and Esplanade in background 11 1/2" x 7 1/2" (Z/7/6); engraving of Rochester Castle, Bridge and Frindsbury with windmills on Frindsbury Hill by C. Marshall and W. Henshall 6" x 4 1/2" (Z/7/7); sepia photograph of Rochester Castle and Cathedral looking across River Medway from Strood Esplanade with sailing barge in middle ground 8" x 5" (Z/7/8); coloured engraving of Rochester Castle, cathedral and Bridge from Frindsbury Intra, embossed F.J. Harvey, bookseller, Rochester 6 1/2" x 4" (Z/7/9); colour postcard map of Rochester and Strood, G.W. Bacon & Co. Ltd., 127 Strand, London (Z/7/10); black and white photograph of Rochester Bridge looking from Rochester Castle towards Frindsbury Intra showing 3 windmills on Frindsbury Hill, c.1880 (Z/7/11); sepia photograph of Rochester Cathedral c.1910 unless otherwise stated

from east showing east transept, central tower and Gundulf's tower 7 3/4" x 5" (Z/7/12); 2 black and white interior photographs of the Choir, Rochester Cathedral looking west towards organ pipes (duplicates) 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" (Z/7/13/1-2); 3 black and white photographs looking across Limehouse Reach, Rochester towards chimney stacks and harvest comprising 2 views, one a duplicate each 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" (Z/7/14/1-3); 2 exterior photographs of Temple Farm, Strood showing half-timbered cantilevered annexe to brick portion 4" x 3" (Z/7/15/1-2); 1 black and white photograph of Toll Cottage, Cuxton Road, Strood 4" x 3" (Z/7/15/3); Christmas greeting booklet of engravings from Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Harris and family, Eastgate, Rochester, containing mainly Rochester views but with three of Minster-in-Sheppey, Malling Abbey and Allington Castle *inc.* engraving of Hogarth playing hopscotch under Guildhall colonnade 1732, remainder chiefly castle, cathedral, Guildhall and City Coffee House, Rochester, with envelope addressed to Mr. F.G. Patterson, 59 Gordon Road, Strood 1902 (Z/7/16/1-2).

1 bundle/ 16 items
excluding sub-items

- Z8/1 Black and white photographs of The Gables, High Street, Strood by H. Boughton, "Broad View", Frindsbury, showing two fireplaces (Z8/1/1-2); the landing (Z8/1/3); staircase (Z8/1/4); exterior view from street showing middle-aged man in cloth cap and galoshes standing by lamppost looking toward camera, with St. Nicholas' Church in background (Z8/1/5); envelope addressed to W.T. Patterson, 58 Bryant Road, Strood, postmarked Greenwich, annotated to effect that contains photographs of The Gables, 1936 (Z8/1/6) 1927 [1936]

1 bundle/ 5 items

- Z8/2 Black and white photograph of staircase at unknown site, entitled on rear "The Grand Stairs", taken by H. Boughton, Frindsbury, showing wooden balustrade with pineapple finials and armorial crests atop end posts and corner posts c.1927

1 item 6 1/4" x 4 3/4"

- Z8/3 Sepia photograph of Strood High Street under flood with watching crowds and motor vehicles, stamped on rear "Ostler, Strood" 1 Nov. 1921

1 postcard

- Z8/4 Black and white postcard photograph of tram driving along Strood High Street westwards on Strood-Gillingham service, no. 40, other parked motor vehicles in view, St. Nicholas Church in background inscribed on rear "Mr. Patterson, 58 Bryant Rd., Strood" c.1920s

1 postcard

- Z8/9 *Sepia photograph of interior of Strood Water Works reservoir c.1900 showing worker on ladder.*
3" x 2 1/2"
- Z8/10 *Sepia postcard photograph aerial view of Strood looking north-west along axis of Bryant Road with St. Nicholas' Church in middle ground. Inscribed on rear W.T.P.[?] 18 Oct. 1924* c.1924
1 item
- Z8/11 *Blurred sepia photograph of St. Nicholas' Church, Strood, taken from High Street and looking north-east, with man, horse and cart in right foreground.* c.1920
4" x 3"
- Z8/12 *Sepia photograph of St. Nicholas' Church, Strood, taken from High Street towards south-east corner. Mounted on card.* c.1920
8 1/2" x 6" excl. card
- Z8/13 *Composite, panoramic black and white photograph of 58-62 Bryant Road, Strood, captioned. Mounted on card. [W.T. Patterson lived at 58 Bryant Road, q.v.]*
6" x 4" excl. card
- Z9 *Sepia photograph of S.S. Merthyr frozen-up in the River Medway surrounded by smaller vessels, with youthful male onlooker in foreground. Mounted on card.* Feb. 1895
10" x 8" excl. card
- Z10/1 *Sepia group photograph of Mission to Seamen service in progress on weather deck of vessel, with brass musical accompaniment, showing middle-aged man leading service at right and young and middle-aged men at left and rear, all holding hymn books. Rigging in view. [Defaced slightly by fingerprints] Inscribed on rear.*
4" x 3"
- Z10/2-3 *Two group photographs of schoolboys at St. Nicholas' Church School, Strood, with master. Posed outside brick buildings.* c.1890s
4 1/4" x 2 1/2" (Z10/2)
6" x 4" E. Stockham, 26 Russell Road, Kensington, London, school

photographers (Z10/3)

- Z10/4-8 *Five exterior group photographs of Rochester City Council's Corporation Outing, as follows: c.1920*
- Z10/4 *View of three coaches each drawn by a team of four horses, with pedestrian group to fore, all facing camera, Kings Head Hotel (C. Bates) in background Postcard*
- Z10/5 *Coach, embarked passengers and team of four horses with attendant, parked in front of brick building. Postcard*
- Z10/6 *Large group of men and two children with trees in background, all facing camera Postcard*
- Z10/7 *Variation of Z10/6 but with subjects' hats in place Postcard*
- Z10/8 *Men, women and children spectators behind wooden fence, with Rochester City Council flag flying on pole in right background, venue possibly extemporised racetrack. Postcard*
- Z11/1 *Notebook containing monumental inscriptions, mostly contained within diagrams of gravestones with dimensions given, for about 50 persons or families buried in churchyards throughout the area to the west of the River Medway north of Cuxton, also giving builder's quantities supplied. Apparently compiled partly retrospectively and by at least two hands, front page inscribed William Patterson. The burials relate to the period 1833-1890. Possibly compiled by the authors in a contractual capacity. c.1850-c.1890*
- [See below for removed enclosures]*
- 1 vol./ c.40pp.*
- Z11/2 *Loose items removed from Z1/1 comprising Rochester Cathedral services calendar for Lent 1907, stating in places "we may not join with Dissenters" and "nor may we submit to the Pope". There is also an address to women, 1 printed item (Z11/2/1) and MS notes on Strood Water Works c.1903 possibly by W.T. Patterson, see /Z1 above, 1p. (Z11/2/2) c.1903, c.1907*

*City Archivist
August 1995*