

Gregory, and the ground levelled out, by direction of John Smith, "who immediately afterwards began from time to time to enclose such beachy ground with walls made of flint stones and chalk as the same was from time to time levelled and prepared". Obviously this work was taking place from about 1781 onwards, if Gregory was engaged upon it from about the age of seven. He relates that one day, when he had been working on the site for about five years, he saw two gentlemen in a balloon (whom he was informed were Dr Jeffries and Mr Blanchard) on their passage from Dover Castle to France. (editor's note: Blanchard's crossing took place on 7 January 1785).

A large part of the document is concerned with Gregory's declaration that all the land at East Cliff Estate was owned by John Smith. It lists all the details of the enclosed land, buildings and caves which comprised the property, relating these to the position of the properties occupied in East Cliff in 1849. It also mentions the erection of capstans upon the shingle and the use of the beach for keeping boats and for bathing. Possibly, the new owners of properties along East Cliff required clarification on the original ownership and use of the land, as it affected their title deeds. Whatever the reason for the affidavit, it provides an invaluable insight into the origins of Smith's Folly.

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The Golden Triangle: Castle Street to the Sea

A. F. (Budge) Adams

PART 4

Camden Crescent, ten tall and rather distinguished looking houses, extended from New Bridge to the garden of 'The Round House' and until the middle twenties were all, with the exception of No. 1, in single occupation. The ground floor of No. 1 housed the costumiers' and milliners' business of the elitist Misses Todd and Harnden who remained in occupation until the late twenties or early thirties. By 1930/31 the conversion of the other houses in the crescent into four, and in some cases five, flats had been completed and were soon fully occupied. By about 1935, the conversion of No. 1 was also completed, but by then the Misses Todd and Harnden had been replaced by Charles Stewart, a

tailor. In 1940 Nos. 8, 9 and 10 were destroyed by enemy attack along with the south-west end of Liverpool Street, and at the same time the Grand Hotel was damaged beyond repair. In the late forties, when attempts were being made to schedule and repair war damage No. 1 housed the East Kent Joint Planning Committee. The local Fuel Overseer and the offices of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Family Association were also there. Later the houses that exist today were used as an annexe to the White Cliffs Hotel and the Hotel de France and later still, as their shipping operation developed, Townsend's took over No. 1 and used it for their operating offices, and eventually, until they bought and moved into the A.A. building in Russell Street now used by P. & O., they occupied the whole of the crescent.

The Granville Gardens, on the same site as the present garden between the sea and Camden Crescent, were, since the turn of the century and until 1939, the scene of much social activity. There had been a bandstand in the gardens since about 1911 and then, in the twenties, a pavilion with glass walls and a glass roof was



THE BURLINGTON HOTEL IN ITS HEYDAY

Saturday evenings and on Sunday afternoons and evenings during the summer, military bands gave concerts of popular music and throughout the year there was dancing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and roller-skating on Mondays and Fridays. During the band concerts the young people of the town, of whom, happily, I was one, would link arms in lines of eight or nine and would march around the gardens, the girls moving, say, clockwise, and the boys in the other direction. Many interesting collisions occurred and many friendships were formed as a result. However as time went on the Dover Corporation was forced to accept the principle that military band engagements could only be entered into at the same rate as would be charged by a professional civilian band. The Corporation realised that its budget would not allow it to maintain the frequency of performances to which the townspeople were accustomed and as the frequency declined so did the attendances and the vicious spiral of costs exceeding revenue took its toll until, some little time before the outbreak of the 1939 war, military band engagements were no longer possible and resort was made to intermittent performances by

amateurs. Before this situation arose the charges levied by the military had been relatively small and as far as the regiments were concerned they could well have been thought of as a contribution to their Band funds. It has to be said, however, that the military preoccupation at that time was not with its social commitments to the community but with the grisly problems that lay not very far ahead.

Liverpool Street did not make the same deep impression on me that had been made by the other streets in my Golden Triangle - it was monochromatic, grey, cold and architecturally monotonous, and was relieved only by the interesting shapes and the white mass of the huge Burlington Hotel. Woolcomber Street ended at Liverpool Street but the road continued, as Marine Place, to the sea front. My mother was born in Marine Place and I had distaff relatives in Liverpool Street, though that did not necessarily endear me to it. Two hundred metres north-east from the Burlington, Liverpool Street ended in a wide open space, with Trevanion Street and the site of Dover's first gas works at the inshore side, the R.F.A. (T.A.) Drill Hall and its Riding School (where my older half-brothers learnt to ride) directly ahead and with Douro Place towards the sea.

Regretably pressure on space has made me curtail this part of The Golden Triangle. I hope there will be enough space next time to complete it.

THE COUNTY SKATING RINK, later the Territorial Drill Hall

