

HILLMAN & BOND Copy Letter Book 1912-13

LRM Research Team members – Penny Bartholomew & Julie Faber, 2009

These extracts are from letters dated from 11th July 1912 to 8th April 1913, and were sent from the Lyme Regis office at 10, Broad Street. They cover the period during which Major Arthur Thomas Mallock Bond died, and Mr. Harold John Ramsbotham took over, not only the business, but several other civic offices as well. The letters cover topics like the coming of electricity to the town, the increasing use of the railway, telegraphs and telephones, and typewriters, all of which I have grouped together under the general heading of the March of Progress! Another major development at this period was the sale of Rhode Hill Estate, breaking it down into much smaller plots – there is a great deal of information about it in the book, too much to include here, but I have selected a few passages to give a flavour of what went on – Penny Bartholomew.

RHODE HILL ESTATE

20th Sept. 1912 to (?) re. Rhode Hill Estate Lot 33, Colway Manor

“Dear Sirs,-----It is important that our client should have possession of the property at the earliest possible time“ (obviously to a letting agent, asking if tenancies can be wound up as soon as possible)

24th Sept. 1912 to Messrs. Blount, Lynch & Petre re Rhode Hill Estate sale

“Our client understands that the Vendors are willing that two thirds of the purchase money should remain mortgaged at 4 %-----Are there any manorial rights existing which have to be considered? He understands also that there is appurtenant to his property a right to a certain seat in the parish Church-----“

25th Sept. 1912 to Blount, Lynch & Petre re Rhode Hill Estate Lot 30

“Dear Sirs, We would be obliged if you could kindly send us a copy or abstract of the lease of Horn Cottage and also of the agreement----- by which the orchard is let to Mr. H. Fairburn. Before going further, our client would be glad to know if there is a right of way from the Orchard gate to the road over the part(?) of No. 110, as he states the road does not touch the orchard at any point”

25th Sept. 1912 to Blount, Lynch & Petre re. Rhode Hill Estate Lot 33

“We understand that Mr. Spiller only holds a very small portion of your client’s land, besides that recently purchased by Mr. Harris-----we will give the necessary notice on behalf of Mrs. Talbot-----Mr. Brown , we may point out, holds no other property on the Estate”

28th Sept. 1912 to J.(?)try Esq. Rhode Hill Estate Lot 33

“Dear Sir, Would you kindly give notice to Mr. W.H. Spiller and Mr. John Brown who are, we believe, tenants of the fields and plots recently purchased by our client , Mr. Harris at the auction held last June-----we understand Mr. Spiller and Mr. Brown are Michaelmas tenants, and the former at least requires a full year’s notice.”

28th Sept. 1912 to Mr. John Brown, Colway Cottage, Lyme Regis -----notice to quit, as property had been sold to "Samuel Harris of Lyme Regis"----"situate at Colway Farm, Lyme Regis, Dorset, on 29th day of September 1913"

28th Sept. 1912 to Mr. William Henry Spiller, Slopes Farm, Lyme Regis-----as above, notice to quit, as Samuel Harris has bought field "no. 79(?), part of Colway Farm, occupied by your tenant."

25th Nov. 1912 to Messrs. Blount, Lynch & Petre re. Talbot Settled Estate
"Dear Sirs, We hear on very good authority that Mrs. Talbot is contemplating the sale of the Rhode Hill Estate at the price of £18,000.
On behalf of Mr. F.J.R. Talbot we must strongly protest against such a sale at such a low figure, the value of the property being far in excess of any such figure.
Our client will do all in his power to prevent such a sale, and is now on his way from Ceylon to inquire onto the whole position of the trust, of which he has frequently been refused details., Yours faithfully, Hillman and Bond"

28th Nov. 1912 to Messrs. Blount, Lynch & Petre re. Talbot Settled Estate
"Dear Sirs, We duly received your letter of yesterday relating to the above, and are relieved to learn that we are misinformed as to Mrs. Talbot's intentions"

13th March 1913 to F.J.M. Bowman, solicitors re. F.J.R. Talbot
"Dear Mr. Bowman, The above gentleman called on me today and asked me to write to you as to his affairs, he is shortly leaving England for New York, without, so far as I am sure, any definite prospect of immediate employment. He has assigned a policy on his life for £250 to Mrs. Bond, to whom he owes a considerable sum by way of a mortgage for £150 with a covenant to pay interest at 4% and also to pay the premiums.
Mrs. Talbot, mother of our client, owes Mrs. Bond about £350, which her son informs me she will be able to pay as soon as the contract for the sale of Rhode Hill is signed"

ELECTRICITY

26th July 1912 to the Secretary, Sun Fire Office, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

"Dear Sir, Will you please issue policy :-

Frederick Cheshire of the Power House, Coombe Street, Lyme Regis
Dorset, Electrical Engineer

- on his household goods etc. situate as aforesaid, brick or stone built and tiled and private, £50

The cottage adjoins the Power station of the Lyme Regis Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd., but we presume this will not mean any increased premium. The Electric Co. already have the station insured with you.

Yours faithfully, Hillman Bond

9th Aug. 1912 to Sydney Morse Esq. 1, Kingsway W.C.

"Dear Sir, Lyme Regis Electric Light & Power Co. to C. H.

We duly received your letter of the 29th inst. Mr. G. H. Wallis, who conveyed this property to the company, obtained it under his Mother's will. She died seized in

unencumbered fee simple in 1889, and bequeathed this and other property to Mr. Wallis absolutely, and we can easily give you a Tithe from that Will.”

22nd Aug. 1912 to Messrs. Bridgeman & Co., 2, College Hill, Cannon Str. E.C.
(trying to establish who is living at Bay Cottage, Lyme Regis)

“One of our clients who is connected to the Electric Light Co. went to the house to take a reading of the Company’s meter, & he saw a person described as a lady help, but so far as he could gather, Mr. Clarke is not staying.

The house has been occupied since Tuesday by a Mrs. Bellott of the Mill, High Ham, Somerset, aged about 50, who is staying there with her son, aged about 20. They previously lived at the house about 5 years ago, & have taken it for 2 or 3 weeks-----
-----We also enquired of the police at the Post Office. They do not think Mr. Clarke is staying.-----We understand Mrs. Bellott is expecting friends to motor down to see her. “

20th Sept. 1912 to Sydney Morse Esq. re. Lyme Regis Electric Light Co. & County of Dorset Electric etc.

“Dear Sirs, -----in reference to Clause 9 we understood from Mr. Woodroffe, the Chairman of our Company, that the capital to be subscribed had been altered from £30,000 to £20,000 and it is as in our executed copy?”

Undated. The following is clearly a response to a set of questions, which Major Bond has answered in his capacity as Town Clerk.

1. 2,294 is the population of the town itself, but the Census authorities have included 473 persons on a battleship which was lying in the bay, & 5 on a sailing schooner, making a total of 2,772.

2. Both.

3. Private companies

4. June 1909. Their capital expenditure to March last was about £5,200. Their initial expenditure was, I believe, about £3,500.

5. The local authority were approached by the promoters of the Electric Light Co., prior to the company being registered, as to whether they could secure the public lighting, & the Council agreed to enter into a 1 year(?) contract with them for lighting the public streets with 90 electric incandescent lamps, 16 to be of 75 candle power, & remainder of 25 cp. For £240 a year. No provisional order was obtained, but the agreement provides for the Council for same at any (price?), giving the company the first option of leasing------(rest illegible),

6. Yes. The Company have a station in the centre of the town, the current being generated by oil engines. The Company have also a turbine working in the stream running through the town.

7. (1) 6d per unit
(2) 6d- - - - -Demand
(3) very limited

8. This information can only be obtained from the Company concerned:-
The Lyme Regis Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd. I
9. Osram & Taut lamps of 25cp.- metallic filament
10. About 40 yards.
11. Partly overhead and partly underground mains. The cables are laid underground in the principal streets. Practically all services are laid underground.
12. As to unsightliness, this must be rather a matter of opinion. As to danger, the cables are insulated, & the only danger would be in the cable breaking & striking anyone. Nothing of the kind has occurred here. Of course, underground cables are preferable, but owing to expense, not appropriate.
13. Profit. 4% paid last year, & nearly £200 carried to reserve Account. The capital issued as previously stated amounts to about £5,200.
- 13(a) (1) 4/6
(2) So far as I am aware, there is little or no demand for power.
(3) No public lighting
14. The two companies have really not been put into competition, hence I cannot well say:
Electricity certainly appears efficient & economical.
A.T.M. Bond – Town Clerk

LYME REGIS COTTAGE HOSPITAL

15th Aug. 1912 - to Mr. Budgett Esq., Hon. Sec. Cottage Hospital, Lyme Regis.
“Dear Sir, Re. Policy no. W.13478 Committee of Lyme Regis Cottage Hospital
In reference to your enquiry re. above, the rate of premium charged is 7/6 per cent=
18/- on £238, as follows:

Matron – 65
Assistant nurse – 60
2 Probationer Nurses – 80
Charwoman – 33
£238 Yours faithfully, Hillman & Bond “

15th Aug. 1912 – (recipient illegible) - a letter about the adjustment of the above policy to include emergency employment of additional nurses in case of “for instance an epidemic should suddenly break out.”

22nd Aug. 1912 - to Mr. Budgett Esq. The Grove, Lyme Regis, re. insurance policy, Lyme Hospital.

“Our Head Office writes “with regard to the suggested minimum of £50 for the casual labour-----negotiating an appropriate amount for engagement of extra staff in case of epidemic”

19th Sept. 1912 to The Secretary, S.F.O., Threadneedle Street, E.C.

“Dear Sir, Please issue policy in the name of the Committee for the time being, of the Lyme Regis Cottage Hospital to cover the contents of the Hospital being the furniture etc. including the contents of the operating room and the personal belongings and clothing of the interim and resident nurses, the whole amounting in value to £250. The Hospital is a detached house stone built slate roof. Yours faithfully, Hillman & Bond.”

2nd Sept. 1912 “The address of the above hospital is Church Street, Lyme Regis.”

DRILL HALL

28th Oct. 1912 to E. A. Hocksley, Clerk of the Peace, Dorchester.

“Dear Sir, Having taken over the Drill Hall for the time being, will you please send me a licence for stage plays as from tomorrow. H. J. Ramsbotham.”

30th Oct. 1912 to Messrs. Barlow, Barlow & Lyde, Solicitors,. Ingram House, 165, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

“Dear Sirs, Drill Hall & Cottage

You will probably have already heard of the death of Mr. A.T.M. Bond, the lessee of the above premises, which took place on the 14th inst.

I enclose a cheque for the year’s rent of the premises to the 29th inst.:-

Year’s rent - £25

Less tax at ½ in the £ - £1-9-2

£23-10-10

I am taking over the business of the late Mr. Bond, & have been thinking of taking over the remainder of the lease, but the roof of the main building requires the Lessor’s attention, letting in the rain somewhat badly.

Yours faithfully, Harold John Ramsbotham.

4th Nov.1912 “Dear Hill Drill Hall I am making up the accounts of the above and it appears that the Scouts have not paid anything since April. Mrs. Bond does not appear to know exactly what they pay, but I take it there is a considerable amount due. I am probably taking over the Hall to the end of Mr. Bond’s lease & have promised Mr. A.J. Woodroffe to let the scouts continue on the old terms.

There is a ceiling down below which I understand the Scouts have undertaken to repair as a pleasant experiment. It should be match boarded.

Yours sincerely, Harold John Ramsbotham.”

19th Nov.1912 to Messrs. Barlow, Barlow & Lyde Drill Hall & Cottage

“Dear Sirs, I have looked into the matter of repairs at the Drill Hall & I find that the late Mr. Bond carried out practically all you asked him to do, except such repairs as it is useless to attempt until the roof is properly repaired. The caretaker of the Hall informs me that the roof leaks in, I think, 19 places.

The roof of the cottage for which your client is responsible is in an equally unsatisfactory condition, and I must ask that both roofs be put in repair without further delay. This is I believe(sic) by no means the first representation which has been made of the condition of the premises.

Both the tenant of the cottage and his son have been ill with rheumatism which is directly attributed to the damp state of the house.

Please let me hear from you on the matter.

Yours faithfully, Harold John Ramsbotham.

24th Nov. 1912 to Messrs. Barlow, Barlow & Lyde re. Drill Hall & Cottage
- urging progress with repairs to roof – “I note that Mr. & Mrs. Wiscombe will inspect the premises on your behalf, but I entirely fail to see how their inspection can possibly affect your liability for the roofs.”

28th Nov. to Messrs. A. & F. Wiscombe re. Drill Hall & Cottage
“I should be glad to meet you when you are going over same, and may say that this afternoon & Thursday afternoon will be inconvenient the hall being let on those days”

16th December 1912 to Messrs. Baring Bros., Montpelier Chambers, Cheltenham.
Re. Drill Hall

“Dear Sirs, In reply to your letter of the 14th inst., full particulars of this hall were sent to you by Mr. Bond, the then lessee of the hall.

There are no bookings whatsoever after Aug. 4th onwards.

Bill poster – Mr. Legg, Silver Street

Local paper – Bridport News & Lyme Regis Me (?) (Mercury?)

Booking office – Mrs. Dunster, Broad Street

Best Nights – Thursdays or Saturdays

No-one shares, but I should expect £2/2/- which is for the Hall itself & what chairs & bench (sic), then these are limited exclusive of gas. Yours faithfully,
Harold John Ramsbotham.

7th Jan. 1913 to E. A. Ffooks Esq. re. Drill Hall

“Will you please send me a Stage Play Licence for the above for one month from today Harold John Ramsbotham.

9th Jan. 1913 to Mrs. Bond re. Drill Hall

“Dear Mrs. Bond, I received the conveyance of the Drill Hall & Cottage all right. Shall I see Down as to the champagne & port bought on Dec. 14th 1908, or would you care to write, or shall I to Mr. Linklater the amount paid was I see for the champagne and port in November of that year.”

20th Jan. 1913 to Mr. Jimmy Wood re. Drill Hall

“Dear Sir, I am writing to you as to the above. I have seen the County Surveyor, & I shall have to make slight alterations to the Hall to meet his requirements. I hope will be complete by the end of the month (sic), in which case I will be happy to book you for any date in February. Yours faithfully, Harold John Ramsbotham.

24th Feb. 1913 as above “Dear Sir, I have filled up your questions as well as I can. I believe you know the hall pretty well.

All nights at end of March are free except Easter Monday 24th & the 3rd of April”

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

22nd Aug. 1912 “I regret our telephone conversation was unsuccessful this afternoon, but owing to the line breaking down, we had to speak to you in the Post Office instrument room.” (to Messrs. Bridgeman & Co.)

3rd. Oct. 1912 “Thank you for your telephone message” “- - - as he asked me to tell him over the telephone”

21st Nov. 1912 to the District Manager, P.O. Telephone Service, Castle Street, Exeter. Re. Telephone 2 @ (?) Lyme Regis. “Sir, In reference to account for trunk calls sent to us this morning, we should be much obliged if you would give us particulars of these which amount in all to 5/- and which we have no means of checking.”

4th Dec. 1912 – to The Postmaster, Lyme Regis – “Dear Sir, (re. late delivery of letters posted at 8.30 the previous evening in London) “It seems to us that it is quite bad enough to have to wait until midday for the delivery of London correspondence posted at such an early hour the previous evening.”

6th. Dec. 1912 to Messrs. Townsend & Sons, Printers etc. Exeter. “Dear Sirs, We are today in receipt of the No. 3 Smith Premier Machine and will return the other by passenger train to Exeter tomorrow, and are posting you the spare ribbon..- - -The spring which controls the carriage is certainly liable to slip off and should be cased. The space bar also works very hard but this will probably wear off. Yours faithfully, Hillman & Bond.”

9th Dec. 1912 to Messrs. Townsend & Sons, Printers, Exeter. (in red at top) TEL. no.2 “Dear Sirs, We are more than surprised at the unsatisfactory working of this machine. We have only had it since Friday, and yet the following day the spring came off. It is difficult to understand any firm sending out a machine with a spring such as this one without its being cased, and although we do not profess to be typewriter experts, the operator has been using a No. 4 Smith Premier for the last 4 years. It is only by having a second person in attendance that it can be used at all, and is a most unsatisfactory article. We have a lot of work for this machine at the present moment and this kind of thing is most annoying, and unless we can be supplied with a decent article, we must go elsewhere. Perhaps you will telephone on receipt of this letter (in red).

Yours faithfully, Hillman & Bond

10th Dec. 1912 to the Solicitors Law Stationery Society Ltd. 104/7, Fetter Lane, London E.C. “Dear Sirs, The notepaper ordered was duly received today & is highly satisfactory and also my new brass plate, but the sealing wax was smashed all to pieces and so I return same by separate parcel and should be glad of a substituted supply. Yours faithfully, Harold John Ramsbotham.”

THE DEATH OF MR. BOND

8th Oct. 1912 - “we regret to say our Mr. Bond is lying very seriously ill, and that there is little or no hope of his recovery”.

14th Oct. 1912 - “I regret to inform you that Mr. Bond died early this morning. The funeral takes place on Wednesday afternoon, & if it is your wish, I will call a

meeting of the local committee as soon after as possible to fill the vacancy” (to the Hon. Sec. of the local branch of Royal National Lifeboat Society) signed Harold John Ramsbotham.

16th October 1912 – to “The Mayor Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lyme Regis, Your Worship & Gentlemen - - - - (Mr. Ramsbotham applies to take over Mr. Bond’s position of Town Clerk) I should mention that I am retaining the services of Mr Long who has been Mr. Bond’s managing clerk for many years.”

(no date) – testimonial written to support Mr. Ramsbotham’s applications for posts of Town Clerk, & Clerk to Justices of the Borough – “As a Public School & University man you have the education and culture which fits you for such a position - - - -“ (signature faded)

19th Oct. 1912 – to “His Honour Judge the Honourable W.B. Lindley – Sir, The office of Registrar having been rendered vacant by the death of my esteemed colleague Major Bond, I respectfully beg to make application for the post.

I greatly regret to say that the widow of the deceased is left in very straightened(sic) circumstances with three young children wholly dependent on her - - - -In the event of your honouring me with the appointment, I should, of course be in a position to offer the widow better terms for the practice - - - I shall be taking out my fifth certificate next month, and thus will be fully qualified, - - - - Your obedient servant, Harold John Ramsbotham.”

22nd Oct. 1912 – “Dear Mr. Wren, I was very pleased to get yours of the 16th inst. & duly conveyed the message of condolence to Mrs. Bond, & asks me(sic) to give you her sincere thanks - - - Mr. Ramsbotham was wondering whether you would object to being a bondsman with (notary? Illegible), as Mr. Bond left no will. Mrs. Bond will take out the letters of Administration, & in all probability will subsequently go abroad, giving Mr. Ramsbotham a Power of Attorney to complete the winding up, as he is taking over the whole control of the business. Mrs. Bond & family will not be very well off as when everything is settled up I doubt whether we shall be able to hand them over more than £1,000 - - -Perhaps you will let him (Mr. R.) have a line as to the question of Bondsman. He will of course see that you are amply protected in every way, against any possible liability. - - - -We could get a local person, but is not always (sic) a good advertisement for the whole town to know that a solicitor has not made a will, especially in a small practice like this - - -with kind regards, Yours sincerely, H.W. Long”

23rd. Oct. 1912 Around this date, there were many letters from Mr. Ramsbotham to companies in which Mr. Bond had held shares, to ascertain their value at the time of his death ,e.g.:-

the Patent Block Tar, Motor Oil & Asphalt Co. Ltd.	The
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co. Ltd.	The West
Rand Consolidated Mines Ltd.	Ceryton? Consolidated
Estates Ltd.	The City & Suburban Goldmining
& Estate Co. Ltd.	St. John Delray Mining Co. Ltd. , and
many others.	

23rd. Oct. 1912 to C.E. Fitch Esq. 1, Garden Court, Temple E.C. from Harold John Ramsbotham at Red Lion Inn, Lyme Regis - - “I notice the enclosed fees still appear to be unpaid. I therefore enclose my cheque for £6/16/0.I understand that

there are other fees owing to you in the case of Mr. R. Kent but I may inform you that Mr. Bond was far from rich, and there is no possibility of any costs being recovered from Mr. Kent, who is a hopeless waster.”

15th Nov. 1912 – to the Postmaster, Lyme Regis.

“Dear Sir,

We shall be glad if all correspondence addressed as follows can be delivered at our offices, 10, Broad Street:

1. Messrs. Hillman & Bond,

2. Mr.

A.T.M. Bond

3.

Secretary, Lifeboat Institution

4.

Town Clerk

5. Urban

Clerk

6. Cobb Clerk

8.

7. School Attendance Clerk

9.

Secretary, Manager, or Proprietor, Drill Hall

Secretary, Assembly Rooms

10. Mr. H.J.

Ramsbotham

11. Hon. Sec.:- “Our

Log Book”, National Refuges Homeless Children Anything, however, addressed to Mr. Ramsbotham, Tudor House, he would like it to be still delivered there, Yours faithfully, Harold John Ramsbotham”

5th Dec. 1912 “full names of Miss Bond are Violet Mallow”

6th Dec. 1912 - re. Mrs. Bond’s estate “will probably work out at about £700, & besides this, Mrs. Bond herself about £40 per annum.”

16th Dec. 1912 – to The Secretary, Solicitor’s Benevolent Assn.

“Dear Sir, Mrs. Annie Bond, the wife of Mr. Arthur Thomas Mallock Bond who died here on 14th October last, is making application to your society for a grant of relief.”

(Goes on to say that she will need another way of proving her age, as she was born & baptised in Carachi(sic), thus no birth certificate available)

MARINE PARADE

21st Sept. 1912 - to Messrs. Blount, Lynch & Petre, “Dear Sirs, Our client Mr. Henry Lane of this town has purchased the hut which you allowed Mr. August ?Comben to erect on the Parade for his concert party during this summer. Mr. Lane would be obliged if you would allow him to keep the hut in its present position at a nominal rent until Easter, after which he is prepared to pay the same rent as Mr. Comben, which we understand to have been 2/6 a week. Mr. Lane would, like Mr. Comben, require to use the space of the four buttresses at the end of the row. We understand he intends to use the space for a summer tea-garden “

24th Sept. 1912 “ Land on Parade - Mr. Lane ----- would be prepared to pay 6d a week until Easter ----- After Easter he would be willing to pay 5/- a week for the use of the space. Until Easter, he would simply keep the hut where it is now.”

PEOPLE & PLACES

S.H. Jenks Esq. , Herne Lea, L.R.

A.J. Woodroffe Esq. Lower Ware Cottage (leased to Mrs. Hallett)

Miss Day, Lower Ware House

Mr. Woodman, Church Street

Mr. Bradford, Underhill Farm

Smith(sic) “purchased a small field above Morgan’s Grave”. On 21st Aug. 1912, applied to Board of Agriculture & Fisheries to redeem tithe, as he was thinking of dividing the land into building plots.

Mr. Reid, 9, Broad Street

J.A. Hinton Esq. ,Hotel Alexandra

F. Thom, Monmouth House (later sold to Mr. Bragg for £350, which Mr. Ramsbotham describes as “larger than could be reasonably expected”

Mr. W.G. Darby, Broad Street

Mrs. A.E. Arnopp, Sherborne Lane

Mr. Bert Lane, 22, Broad Street, Outfitter

Miss S. Hitchcock, Georges Court

Mr H.J. Edwards, East Cliff

Mrs. J. Camplin, Church Street

Mr. H.J. Ramsbotham writes to Yerbury(sic) on 23rd. Oct. “I have now settled definitely with Mr. Lane that he will let me have this house (Broad Street) as tenant for seven years. I shall be perfectly willing to let you have the part of it I do not require for my office at £35 per annum “. (later referred to as Pyne House)

Mr. J. Corbett (from Virginia U.S.A.) enquires of Radford & Radford on 24th Oct. 1912 about leasing Summerhill. “Mr. Street holds the premises on lease, with just over 14 years unexpired.” On 19th Nov. Mr. Ramsbotham writes, “our client has for many years past resided in the United States, ----- He belongs to a county family well known in Shropshire, ----- we may mention he has furniture stored at Axminster to the value of £800.”

Mr. Frederick Cheshire, Power House, L.R.

Mr. J.W. Johnstone, Bell Cliff , Solicitor

Mr. F. Boswell (tenant), 7, Sherborne Lane (also occupied by a Mr. Leaver)

Mrs. Harry Legg, 14, Silver Street, (“Dear Madam, Mrs. Frank Curtis of 15, Silver Street has consulted us with reference to the abusive and insulting language which you have used towards her - - - “)

Mr. Emmett, Coombe Street, (seems to have been a builder)

Summerhill – (to London Solicitor) “Dear Sirs, Herewith we send you draft Assignment for approval. There are reasons which make it desirable that Mrs. Radford should not approach Mr. Risdon for the license, as there has been some personal feeling between them”.

Messrs. Bradford & Sons of Lyme Regis, Merchants

Herbert Edward Foxwell, Broadway House, L.R., trading as H.&T. Foxwell, Plumbers, Painters, Glaziers, & House Decorators.

Miss Newenham of Fortis Cottage, Bath, held mortgage on Dorset House

George John Rendall, London House L.R., Churchwarden & School Manager

Cliff Land to Shaper (solicitor), “Dear Sir, A Post Card Poll of the Burgesses of this town has been taken in the question of For or Against the Purchase of the above and was resulted in a majority of 107 in favour(sic). The total poll was 449 - - - - (?) 323 on the Burgess Rolls.”

Charles Minchinton - clerk to Mr. Ramsbotham

Pyne House - (letter to a lady interested in renting it) “-----a term of 7 years, but if you wished this term could be broken after 3 years. The house contains quite a dozen rooms, bathroom etc, & a conservatory -----& entrance to the Marine Parade, & has been disinfected.”

Burrige Charity (letter of 12th Dec. 1912, to Mr. Henley, asking him to take over Mr. Bond’s position as trustee), “The Charity is distributed each New Year & consists of gifts of blankets & hymn books to the Poor of the Church, Baptists & Congregationalists selected by the Vicar and ministers.”

The Lyme Regis Cement Co. Ltd. ,The Cobb, Lyme Regis.

Miss Coode(sic) – letter of 15th Jan.1913 re. policy for Workmen’s Compensation - “premium now payable is 7/6”

“House & Town Planning Act 1909” (letter from Mr. Ramsbotham in his capacity as Town Clerk – no date) “Certain minor difficulties have arisen here in carrying out the provisions of the above act. The Inspector of Nuisances & Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of section 15(2) have given notice to certain occupiers of small cottages in the town, of their intention to enter and view the state and condition thereof. The occupiers have refused to accept such notice, or to admit the two officers on the grounds that they are themselves the owners of the properties.”

Pimley v. Lane 25th Oct. 1912 – to” C.J. Sanders Esq Solicitors, Crewkerne”

The following is a brief resume of a long, densely-written letter relating an incident which occurred on Saturday Aug. 10th 1912, in Lyme Regis. A Mr. Pimley,(“an engineer of the London & South Western Railway”),arrived in Lyme with his family, having previously booked some rooms in Broad Street owned by Mr.& Mrs. Lane. However, he did not take the lodgings because “the rooms were not over clean ,& - - -the tea service was also dirty, & - - -both Mr. & Mrs. Lane were under the influence of drink”. Mr. Pimley went out and found alternative lodgings, but when he returned to collect his, and his family’s luggage, Mr. Lane “refused to hand over their belongings”. After a long protracted wrangle involving, gradually, the other Lyme solicitor, Mr. J.W. Johnstone, the late Mr. Bond’s managing clerk, and a police constable, an inspection of the premises was carried out, and little evidence of dirt was found,(except for the tea service – “one cup was a little brown inside”), and likewise, no evidence of intoxication, though it was pointed out that the Lanes would have had plenty of time to rectify these matters in the intervening few hours! Mr. Lane then requested Mr. Pimley’s watch as security for handing over the luggage, and as compensation for the lost revenue, and he also asked for an undertaking “not to mention the matter of the detention in any proceedings he might find necessary to bring against our client for recovery of the £9 rent” .Both of these requests Mr. Ramsbotham refused. The luggage was eventually handed over at 11p.m. Having kept the rooms vacant for the 3 weeks Mr. Pimley had booked, the Lanes then issued a default summons which was served on the Pimley’s on 23rd September. The case came up in correspondence till 30th November, when Mrs. Lane, the plaintiff, accepted £3, and 9/- costs, thus settling before it went to Court, and the Pimleys had, in Mr. Ramsbotham’s words, “the satisfaction of knowing that the Plaintiff has got very little, & has to pay her solicitor’s costs”.