

# John Powell Powell

John Powell died unmarried and his sister's son, another John, inherited Quex from his uncle. As young John's second Christian name was Powell, he decided to take Powell as his surname, in honour of his uncle, making himself **John Powell Powell (7)**. When he took over the estate in 1806, he decided to demolish the old house, with its medieval, Tudor and Carolean extensions. Like his uncle, he realised there was a huge amount of repair work needed on the old structure to make it habitable and to bring it up to date. As with so many people of his time, he saw no merit in ancient things, so had no compunction about demolishing the old house. John Powell Powell's new building was designed in the 'modern' Georgian style of his day, with lofty ceilings and symmetry being of major importance and the property was completed by 1813. In 1818 he built himself a mausoleum and bell tower, now known as the Waterloo Tower. It contains a peal of 12 bells, for which he employed specific men on his estate as ringers, who also undertook the usual tasks of the maintenance of the buildings and farmland.

Comparing maps of the early and later 19<sup>th</sup> century, it would appear that the new house was built slightly further south from the original one. Perhaps one day a "Time Team-style" dig might be possible, in order to establish where the old house stood. John Powell Powell ordered a complete survey of his new acquisitions in 1834 and had all the maps, plans and drawings bound into one large volume, now held in the library at Quex House. It is from this survey that we learn what All Saints Church looked like at the beginning of the 1830s. This was an eye-opener when it was first discovered, because so many of the features in the church had been removed by the Victorians in their restoration in All Saints from 1863 to 1883.

John P. Powell was a man of great drive and had a passion for ships and the sea. He was responsible for the building of the tower in the meadow on the north west of the mansion, from which he could observe the shipping travelling along the coast to and from the Port of London.

## **NOTE: 2016**

John P. Powell was High Sheriff of Kent from 1822-23. In 1823, the then owner of the Inn beside All Saints Church, asked the 'Lord of the Manor' if he could change the name of his establishment from '**The New Inn**' to "**THE POWELL ARMS**" in his honour. This request was duly granted and so it has been ever since – until this year when the new owner has changed it to simply "THE POWELL".