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BARE FIST FIGHTS

A Gruelling Prize Fight

In 1810, when the illegal bare fist prize fights were a favourite sport, Birchington, considered to be too remote for interference by the Authorities, saw many a thrilling combat.

One of the most gruelling encounters, fought at Epple Bay on the hottest day of an exceptionally hot summer, between the black Champion of America, Tom Molyneux and a veteran English boxer called Tom Tough, otherwise Blake.

Molyneux who was released from slavery as a reward for his prowess in the ring gained a hard-earned victory after a prodigious number of rounds.

Mr Friend of Birchington was the referee and the umpires were Lord George Sackville and Captain Prideaux.

[The Mr Friend mentioned above may have been Mr 'Brooksend' Friend or the Mr Friend who resided in Birchington Hall. As the extra qualification was not included in his title in the newspaper, it would be most likely that he was from Birchington Hall.]