

'Jones, Staff-Surgeon KH'

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JONES, STAFF-SURGEON K. H.

7/13/15

H.M.M.

27 April 1915.

Dear Mr. Jones,

Very many thanks for your kind letter enclosing your charming photograph of the Church of St. Cosmas and St. Damian at Blean. It is much better than the one I obtained last year, and I will have an enlargement made for the Museum.

I am sure you are having a busy and a trying time of it, and I sincerely trust you will come safely through the war. As you say, it has upset everything for the time, but I trust all will come right again.

With many thanks and kind regards,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

THE WATDOFF HOUSE,
ST. STEPHENS,
CANTEBURY.

26.4.1915

Dear Mr Thompson.

At last a photo. of
S^r. Cosmas & S^r. Damian
in the Blean.

I have got S^r. C. & S^r. D. at
Challock too did I send
it? This beastly war has
upset everything to such an
extent that I don't know
where anything is. Of course
usually I am in the North Sea &
only on leave for a day or two.

Yours sincerely
K. H. Jones

Jones (K. H.)

From Staff Surgeon V. H. Jones
H. N. S. "Euchantress" R.N.

St. Cosmas & St. Damian in the
Blean near Canterbury.

This little church is mentioned in
Domesday book 1086 A.D. & may
be of Norman or Saxon foundation;
which is not known.

The church was restored in 1862
& there is not much of the old portion
left & there are no effigies of the
saints.

There is a modern stained glass
window representing the saints & put
up in 1877.

St. Damian is shown holding a pestil
& mortar in his hands.

It is supposed that the church was
dedicated by some knight or person
of consequence as a thank offering for
regained health.

There are it appears only 4 churches
in Gr Britain dedicated to St. Cosmas
& St. Damian. Blean & Challock in
Kent: Keymer in Sussex: &
Sherington in Wilts.

With regard to the last named it is of
interest to note that the church has been

St. Cosmas & Damian

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for generations supposed to be dedicated to St. Michael & all Angels & it was only the discovery by the rector of the will of the Rev. & T. H. Heard (formerly the incumbent) dated 1553 in which it is alluded to as "the Church of St. Cosme & Damie of Sherrington in the County of Wilts."

It appears probably that the falling of the feast of St. Michael & all Angels of Sept 29th from its importance was shadowed that of St. Cosmas & St. Damian on Sept. 27th & that the latter at length was lost sight of altogether.

This may be true of other Churches in England.

The Saints were twins & were martyred in the Diocletian persecution.

Dr. Jones

The Church of St. Cosmas and St. Damian in the Forest of Blean.

Referred to in Domesday Book in 1086.

The first vicar was appointed in 1243 non-resident.

The living was in the gift of Canterbury and first resident vicar was appointed in 1375.

At Challock in Kent is another church dedicated to S.S. Cosmas and Damian. The only ancient part of the church remaining is the old oak altar rail dated 1691. Up to the end of 1490 the church was in the gift of a hospital in Canterbury. Modern window with figures of Saints 1877.

H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS.

C/o G. P. O.
London.
8. 7. 14

Dear Mr. Thompson,
I am ashamed
to think that yours of
June 17th re SS. Cosman &
Damian should have so
long remained unanswered.
I am greatly obliged to you
for your information & am

glad to say that I have
now got quite nice photos of
the churches of the two Saints
at Blean & at Challock.

I hope to send you some
prints very shortly & I trust
you will then be able to get one
of the church at Sherington
near Bath. The Blean photo
is $\frac{1}{4}$ pl. but I can easily enlarge
it to match the others.

Yours sincerely
K. H. Jones.

G. T.

17 June 1914.

Dear Dr. Jones,

I have pleasure in enclosing you a few notes respecting SS. Cosmas and Damian, the patron saints of medicine and pharmacy.

There are, I believe, many more traditions in connection with the Saints which can be found after some searching, particularly in Italy where they are still revered.

One can quite conceive from what is known of their history how votive churches were erected to them in various parts of Europe.

Trusting these few notes will answer your purpose,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

G. T.

Jones—

SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN.

SS. Cosmas and Damian are regarded throughout Europe and in many Catholic countries as the patron saints of medicine and pharmacy. Tradition states they were brothers and lived in the fourth century in Egea in Cilicia, where they ministered to the poor and the sick with great self-sacrifice.

During the Diocletian persecution of Christians they were arrested and condemned to death by drowning. It is stated that they were brought to the river-bank for that purpose when an angel descended and severed their bonds, so that they were enabled to swim and gain the shore. They were ordered to be burnt, but fire is said to have come down upon their persecutors, many of whom perished. They were then fastened to a cross in order to be stoned to death or pierced by arrows, but the stones and arrows are said to have been turned from them and to have struck those from whose hands they had come. Eventually they suffered death by decapitation and their souls took flight heavenward. Their bodies were taken to Cyrus in Syria where they were laid in a tomb which became a shrine where miracles of healing were performed.

In the sixth century the Emperor Justinian, who believed he had been cured of a serious illness through their intercession, fortified and restored the ancient Syrian city, and also built a church which he dedicated to the Saints in Constantinople. Pope Felix at a later date removed the relics to Rome, where they still remain in the present church consecrated to their names.

In most parts of Europe the 27th September is regarded as the day of

celebration for SS. Cosmas and Damian.

Hum

2 June 1914.

Dear Dr. Jones,

Very many thanks for the excellent photograph of the church of St. Cosmas and St. Damian at Keymer. It is very kind of you to remember us, and I was interested in your account of the church although a modern one.

I think it would be well if we could obtain photographs of all the churches dedicated to the two medical saints, mount them in one frame and place them in the Museum. I should like a good one of Blean, Challock and Sherynton, when possible, to complete the set.

I will jot down all the details I know about St. Cosmas and St. Damian as soon as I can find time, and will let you have a copy.

The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum was re-opened last Thursday as a permanent institution, and we shall be very pleased if you will call any time you are in town and can spare a few minutes to see the additions that have been made to it since last year.

Again thanking you for the photographs and with kind regards,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

BT

H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS.

C/o G. P. O.

London.

31. 5. 14

Dear Mr. Thompson.

I enclose a
photograph of the church of
St. Cosmas & St. Damian
at Keymer in Sussex.

I wrote to the vicar & found
out that the old "11th Century
church was pulled down in 1875.

& the present edifice built
on the Site.

I took the enclosed, but it
is not a thing of beauty.

Inside were two very modern
Wall paintings of the two
medical Saints, but nothing
of much interest otherwise.

The Vicar has a photograph
of the church before it was
restored & I am trying to
get a print for you, for he
has the negative.

I can promise you I think to

obtain the photos of ^{the} Churches at
Blean & at Challock ^{this June} & if you can
get one of that at Sherrington in Wilts,
we shall have the lot.

I am going over to Salisbury to see the
figures on the West front & I will try
get a photograph of the same.

I shall be glad of any information
about the twin Saints, for I have a notion
to write a small article about them.

With kind regards.

yours sincerely

K. H. Jones.

H. M. M.

6 March 1914.

Dear Dr. Jones,

Very many thanks for your kind letter of the 26th ult., which I have just received on my return to London after an absence of a month.

I think you are far from "faithless" when you have so kindly remembered your promise and have sent us the highly interesting objects to add to our Museum. I know you must be very busy and have far more important things to remember.

We have no specimens of the silver nail protectors or the other objects which you so kindly sent us.

I shall write to Sir Thomas Gimlette as you suggest, and hope I shall be able to persuade him to lend us the interesting dentist's outfit you describe. We should be particularly glad to have it this summer, as we are making a special display for the International Dental Congress, which meets in London in August.

It is most unfortunate about your photograph of Blean Church, as mine also turned out very badly owing to the darkness of the afternoon.

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I hope you will have better luck when you visit Challock.

I do not know if I told you when you called here, that I had written to the Rector of Sherrington (Wilts.) as the church there is dedicated to St. Cosmas and St. Damian. The Rector, who is evidently something of an antiquary, wrote a very kind letter and asked me to go down and see the church, but said that as far as he knew there was nothing of antiquity there. He gave me, however, a very interesting piece of information, namely, that there are two sculptured figures of St. Cosmas and St. Damian, probably of the fourteenth century, on the west front of Salisbury Cathedral. If you are ever in the neighbourhood, I am sure you will be interested to see them.

I hope you will not forget your promise to look in at the Museum when you are in town.

Again thanking you very cordially for your kind and interesting gift to the Museum,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

ET

H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS,
PORTSMOUTH.

28. 2. 1914

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I am much
afraid that you must have
thought me faithless, when
I promised to send the
enclosed items for your
admirable museum.

Anyhow, here they are, two
Silver protectors for overgrown
finger nails, two bone ear picks

a pair of native made
sunglasses! (all brought by me in Hong
Kong.)

I am sorry to say I could
not get to Challock when I
was last on leave at Canterbury,
but I have been promised
a run over there in a friend's
motor next time I am at
home & I will get the photo.
of the church then. My
photo: of Blean church
would have been excellent
had I not made two exposures
on the same plate!!

I hope to get both these churches done
for you in May & to go to Keymer near
Brighton, Someday soon to photo: the
Church there: it at only leaves Sherington
near Bath to be done.

I have a brother near there & I'll try him
for a photo.

The ^{name} address of the officer who has that
wonderful Chinese dentist's outfit with all
the extracted teeth strung like beads is
- Sir Thomas Gimlette, K.C.B.; Hazeldean,
Sadbroke R^d. Epsom.

If you write him a very polite letter & mention
me I'm sure he'll lend it to you for your
exhibition of dental things.

I hope to look in when I am in Town & I
shall still keep my eyes open for the
old stethoscope.

With kind regards

Believe me

yours sincerely

K. A. Jones.

U

Hum

22 December 1913.

Dear Sir,

I was much interested to learn that the church at Keymer was dedicated to St. Cosmas and St. Damian, the patron saints of medicine and pharmacy. We have many paintings of them in this Museum.

I was not aware until I visited Blean a short time ago that any churches in England were dedicated to the medical saints.

I should be much obliged if you would kindly let me know if there are any ancient tablets, sculptures, windows or figures ^{in the church} presenting the saints/at Keymer. If so, I should much like to visit it some time when I am in the neighbourhood and photograph the same.

Apologising ~~for~~ troubling you and thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

The Vicar,
Keymer,
Sussex.

The Vicar,
Sherrington,
Wilts.

25 November 1913.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your kind letter of the 21st inst. enclosing particulars about the little church of St. Cosmas and St. Damien in the Blean. When I was staying at Hythe in September, I went over one afternoon to see the church and photographed it. I was very disappointed to find it so much restored, and there were no old traces of either of the saints in it and nothing referring to them excepting the little panel in the modern stained glass window.

I heard about the church dedicated to the medical saints at Challock, but was not able to get over and see it. It is very good of you to take all the trouble you have done in the matter, and I should be very glad to know if there are any heads or figures of the saints at Challock.

I could write to the vicars of the other churches you mention and ask if there are any ancient traces in their churches.

Many thanks for your kind promise to send us the old stethoscope. We shall be only too pleased to have it when you are able to come across it, also any other curios of a medical nature which you may

2.

find on your travels. It is most kind of you to make us this offer, which we gratefully accept.

I shall be in town about the 20th of next month, and shall be very glad to see you if you can call.

Again thanking you very cordially,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Staff-Surgeon K.H. Jones,
H.M.S. Enchantress,
Portsmouth.

Jones

H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS,
PORTSMOUTH.

21.11.1913

My dear Sir,

I enclose a few
lines about St. Cosmas &
St. Damian in the Blean
on list of the other three
churches dedicated
to them.

I have a photograph of
Blean

but have not as yet
developed it.

If you like, I will make
a point of visiting Challock,
which is not very far
from my home at Canterbury,
when I go there at
Christmas time.

The ancient stethoscope
I promised you for your
Museum I haven't yet
found

get which is not wonderful in such a
crowded house full of curios as my place,
but I shall unearth it eventually for
you.

I have a few Chinese curios of a
medical kind, & ample opportunity
of getting more, & I shall be glad to
give you any thing you think useful
& interesting.

I am always anxious to help in any
of these kind of matters. If you are
to be in Town about 20th of next month
I can come in & see you then.

Believe me

Yours sincerely
K. A. Jones.

Ham

25 September 1913.

Dear Sir,

When staying in Kent recently, I was much interested in learning that the old Church at Challock was dedicated to St. Cosmas and St. Damian, the patron saints of medicine and pharmacy. We have many paintings of them in this Museum.

I was not aware until I visited Blean a short time ago that any churches in England were dedicated to the medical saints.

I should be much obliged if you would kindly let me know if there are any ancient tablets, sculptures, windows or figures representing the saints in the Church. If so, I should much like to visit it some time when I am in the neighbourhood and photograph the same.

Apologising for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

The Vicar,
Challock,
Nr. Ashford,
Kent.