



Barges at Vange Wharf

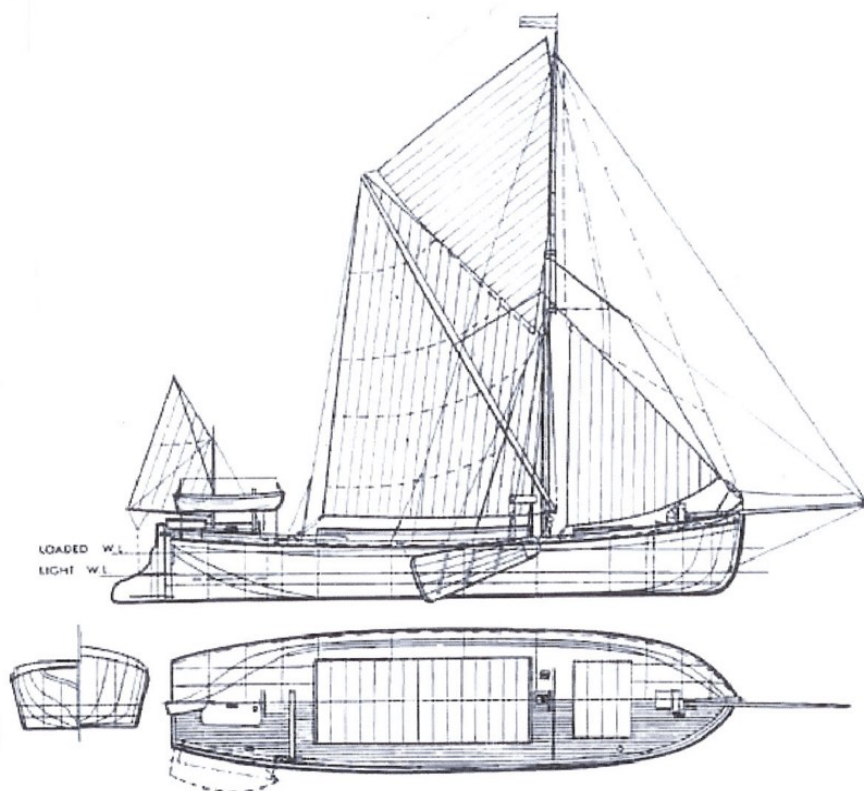


19pages

£2.10



Photo from Spritsail Barges of the Thames by Edgar J March



The spritsail barge has been in operation on the East Coast of Britain for centuries, but the industrial revolution fuelled the evolution of this vessel into one of the greatest trading craft the world has known.

Taken from a book called *Spritsail Barges of the Thames* by Edgar J March 1948. *So Many of the picturesque craft which once traded in our waters have gone for ever without record having been made of their activities or crews.*

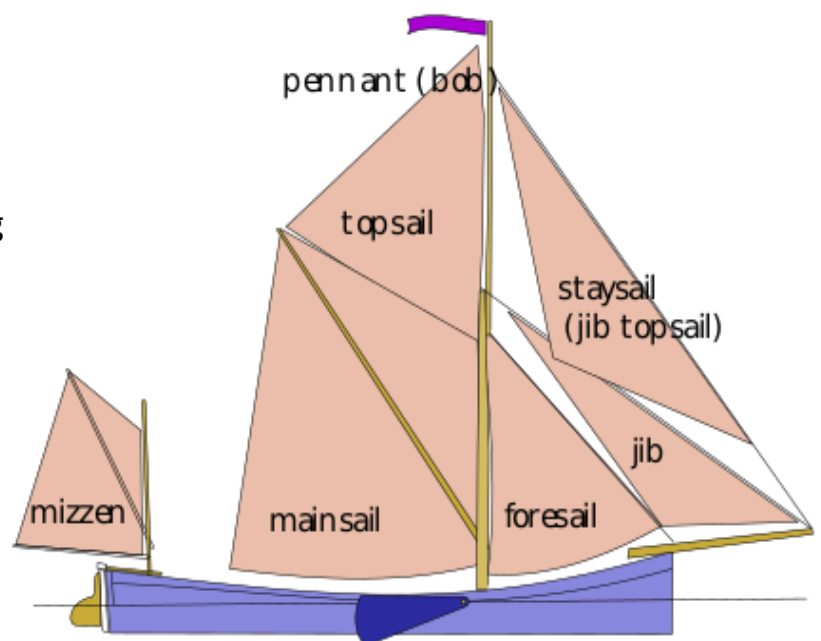
The spritsail rig has undeniable advantages in rivers and confined waters and combined with a flat bottom hull, provides the ideal craft for working up creeks or across shallow waters



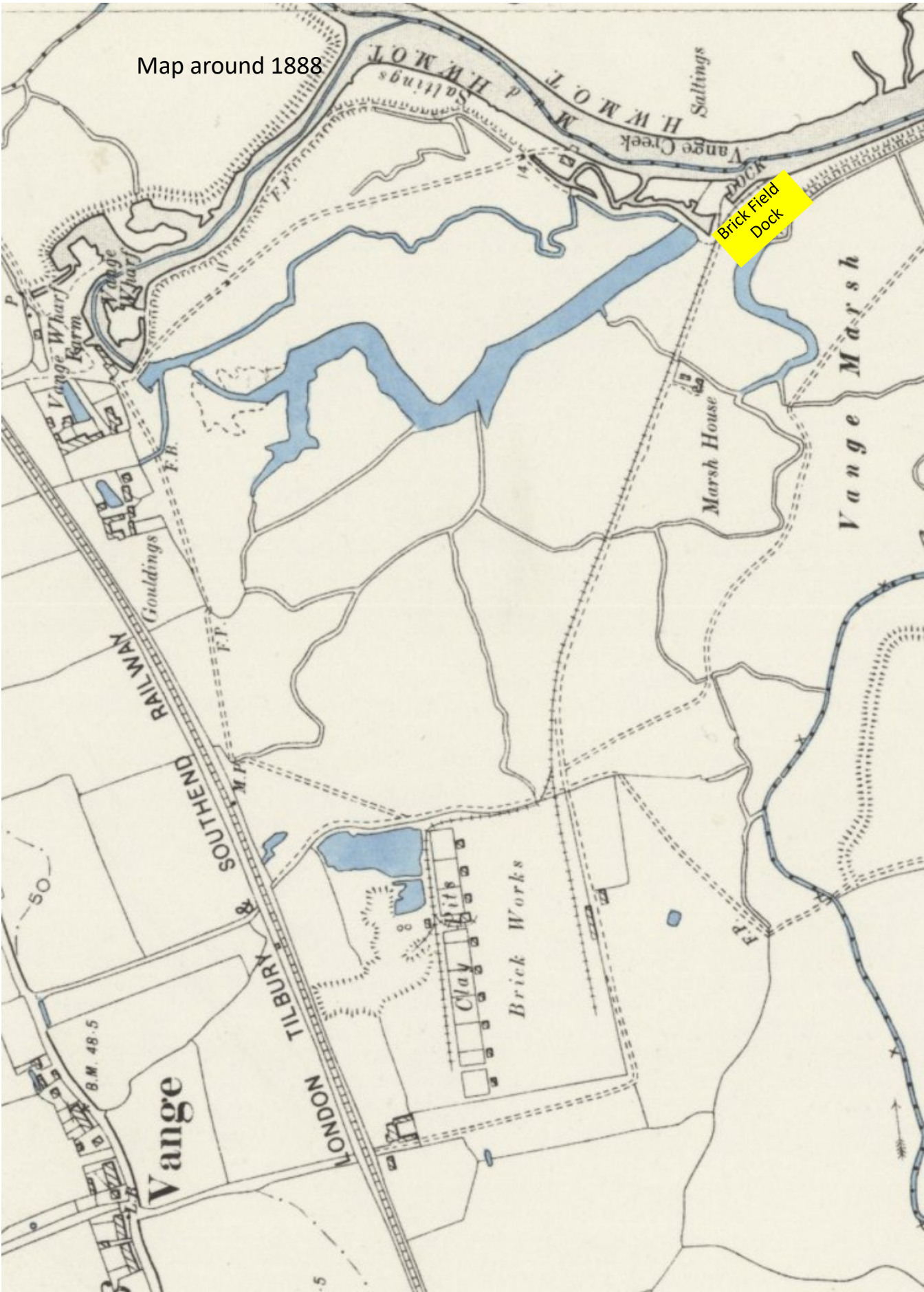
Photo from *Spritsail Barges of the Thames* by Edgar J March

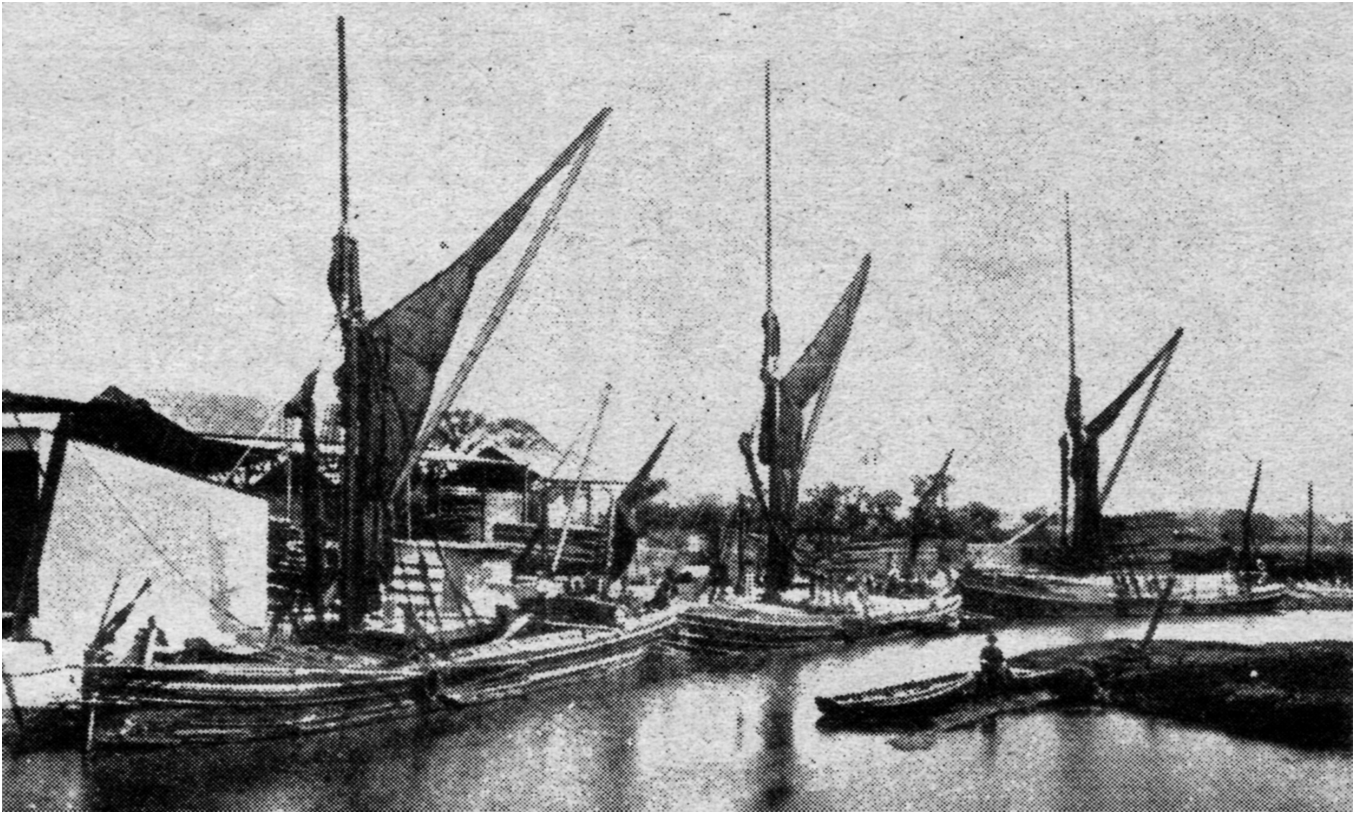
The Thames and Medway spritsail barges traded under sail over a century ago at Vange wharf carrying all types of cargo. From hay into London to feed horses and bringing refuse, manure and sludge out of London to be used on the fields of Vange.

Showing the sails of a spritsail rig the mizzen would be used to help turn the rudder.



The head of Vange creek and the wharf, at one time navigable to deep laden sailing Barges.

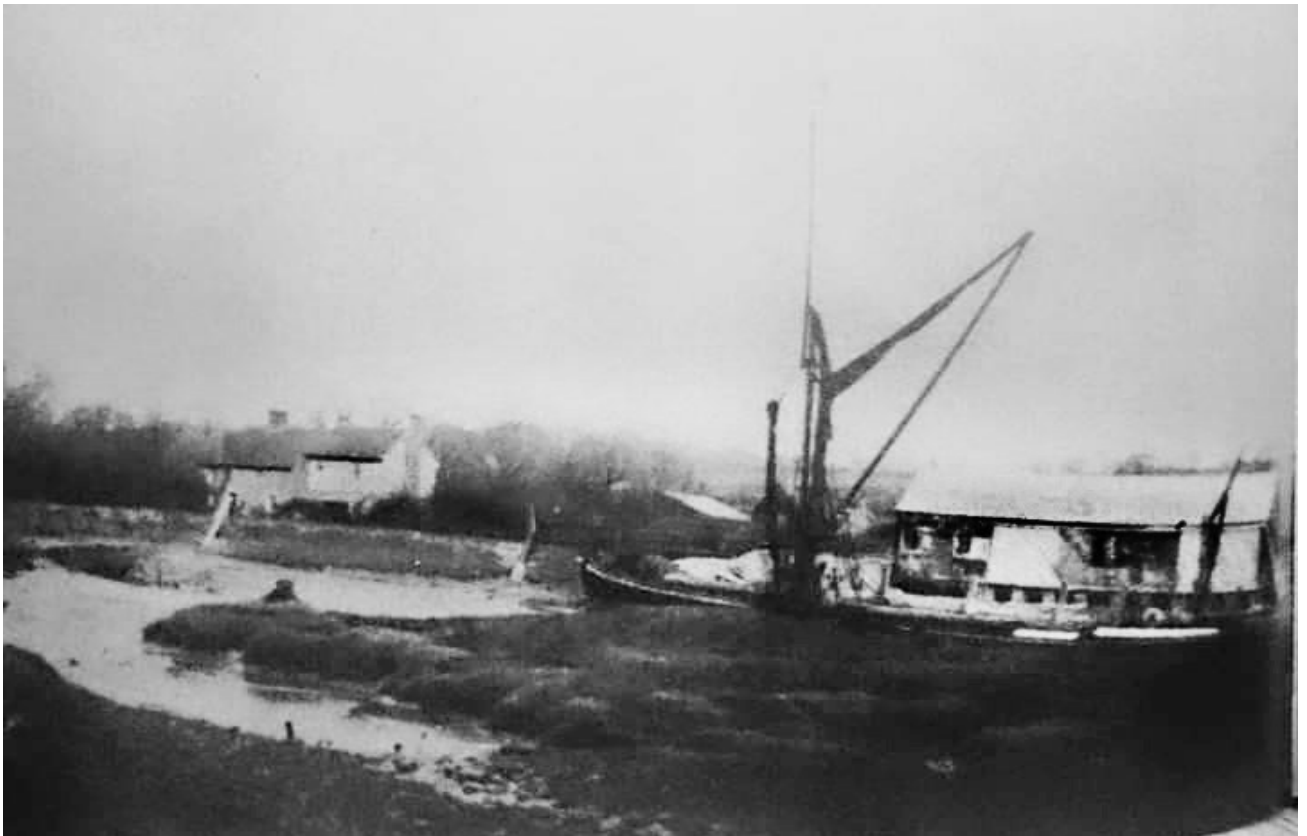




Cessex Mouldings at Vange wharf timber mills c1900.

Photo's from Basildon Heritage

Barge at Merricks farm Vange



1813 William Benton B 1764 Great Wakering Died 1831 South Benfleet.

*Essex Standard 1831 Past away at his son's house at South Benfleet, Mr William Emberson
Benton, of White House Farm, Rayleigh, Essex.*

And Barge master, and coal merchant at Vange Wharf .

1813 William Emberson Benton B 1792 Rayleigh, Essex. Died 1836 South Benfleet

On His Death his brother James Emberson Benton was an executor of his will.

1813 Joseph Playle Barger

Mary Playle

George Playle B 1813 Vange Essex

1847—1847 Vange Village Thomas Blows B 1821 Bargeman North Benfleet Essex.
Died 1854 Vange

Susannah Blows / Walford B 1820 East Mersea Essex.

Alfred Blows B 1843 West Mersea Essex.

Fredrick Blows B 1847 Vange Essex.

1847 - 1854 Vange Frederick Blowers Bargeman

Susanna Blowers

Thomas Blowers B 1847 Vange

Maria Blowers B 1854 Vange

1848—1856 Vange George Livermore Bargeman B 1828 South Benfleet Essex.

Kings Cottage Vange (Neptune Trading Company Vange to London.)

Mary Ann Livermore B 1832 Messing Essex

Henry Livermore B 1848 Vange

George Livermore B 1856 Vange

WATTLE 1865 built in Rochester 39ft Sprintsail owned by George Burkill and
Captain by James Bacon Landlord of the Barge Inn.

JAMES 1868 built at Sittingbourne 43ft Sprintsail owned by George Burkill.

On the death of Mr Edward Brasier four top sail barges were sold in 1888.

One was **THREE FRIENDS** sold for £115.

THREE FRIENDS 43 ton of Ipswich, built at London in 1830 and owned in 1890 Moss
Captained by William John Brown and Mate H. J. Burns

ROYAL FREDERICK 45 ton Rochester built at Faversham in 1825 and owned in 1890

JOESPH & JOHN 41 ton of Maldon, built at Lambeth in 1852 owned in 1890 by
Moss and the only one of the fleet registered with single letters, (P C J R) indi-
cating that she was used for coastal work.

All three were old barges when brought by Alfred John Moss from Ambrose Ellis of
South Benfleet

*Forgotten Thameside Vange Creek pt 2 By Peter Ferguson (Topsail Magazine)
a interview with Jessie Payne .*

Two Men Drown off Canvey Island

Barge Capsizes

*During the great gale of Friday night, the barge “ Three Friends” owned by Mr
Alfred Moss of Vange laden with breeze from London and bound for Vange
Wharf was anchored off Canvey Island, capsized and sunk in deep water ,the cap-*

Breeze was ash and coal dust for use in brick making

Mr Alfred John Moss was Jessie Payne’s grandfather of Merricks farm owned
Vange Wharf

CANVEY 24 ton of Maldon built in 1876 Sittingbourne.

Captained by William Coker of Trend-de-Hayes Rayleigh Essex

Alfred John Moss bought the barge in 1920 from George Francis of Old Charlton, Kent.

He then sold it to William Coker for Two hundred and twenty pounds allowing him to pay by instalments to be deducted from profits of each respective freight within seven days from the safe delivery of each freight. And to be paid within 12 calendar months from the date herewith.



Barge Unity carrying hay to London on the Thames

Photo courtesy Mersea Museum /Hervey Benham

85 Gracechurch Street & Coal Exchange,
London 25th Jany 1896

E.C.

A.J. Moss Esq.

D^r to Lambert Brothers.

1896 Jany 18	To 63T Hetton Lyons Coal ex Steamer @ 14/- & 1 per ton " Lighterage. Vange 63T @ 1/6 per ton Nett £	44 7 3 4 14 6 49 1 9
<i>E.W.B.</i>	By Cheque p Lambert Brothers A.S. Ingram 17/2/96 per S/barge "Amy" ex "Sardinian" s/s	

Amy 39 ton was properly owned by E. J. Goldsmiths of Grays built in 1880 at Teynham Kent .

85 Gracechurch Street & Coal Exchange,
London 20th March 1896

E.C.

Alfred J. Moss Esq.

D^r to Lambert Brothers.

1896 Mch 18	To 60T Lambton Wallsend Coal ex Steamer @ 12/3 & 1 per ton Nett	37 0 0
<i>E.W.B.</i>	By Cheque p. pro Lambert Brothers A.G. Benn 24/4/96 per S/b "Royal Frederick" ex "Burham" s/s	

85 Gracechurch Street & Coal Exchange,
London 23rd Sept 1896

E.C.

A.J. Moss Esq.

D^r to Lambert Brothers.

1896 Sept 3 rd	To 60T E H'pool W'end D.S. coal @ 13/6 per ton into bge ex Steamer at Rochester Nett H.S.	40 10 0
	per barge Joseph & John By Cheque p. pro Lambert Brothers A.G. Benn 15/10/96	

1871 James Phillips Born Vange B 1843 – 1929 ? Bargeman Vange wharf

Sarah Ball/Phillips Born Tilbury 1849 Grocer

Vange censuses 1881 & 1891 living Vange

1901 James Phillips and Sarah living in Stanford le Hope

1911 Sarah was a Widow living in Stanford le Hope with son Sydney

1871 Joseph Martin B 1831 Sth Benfleet (Bargeman Vange Wharf)

(1881 Bargeman in Corringham Essex.)

1875 John Philips B 1860 Burnham (Bargeman Vange Wharf.)

1877 Alfred Smith Bassildon Bargeman

Martha Maria

Lilian Mary Aug 26th 1877 Vange

Workers at the Wharf

1854 Vange William Reason Born Shadwell wharfinger at Vange

Elizabeth

Mary Anne July 28th 1854

1863 James Mitchell Vange Wharf

Mary Ann

Behind Canvey Island, up Hole Haven Creek, Curtis's brickfield at Vange

Down Tops by Harvey Benham 1951

James Jennings B1881 Bradwell on Sea Essex

1901 waterman Vange Wharf

1891 St Lawrence Essex.

Albert Nunn B 1876 Fobbing Essex

1901 (waterman Vange Dock)

1891 Fobbing as a Bargeman

1875 John Philips B 1860 Burnham (Bargeman Vange Wharf.)

Stephen Croucher B 1880 Sittingbourne Kent

1901 waterman Vange dock

Ellis Hawkins

Thomas Anderson

1863 James Mitchell Vange Wharf

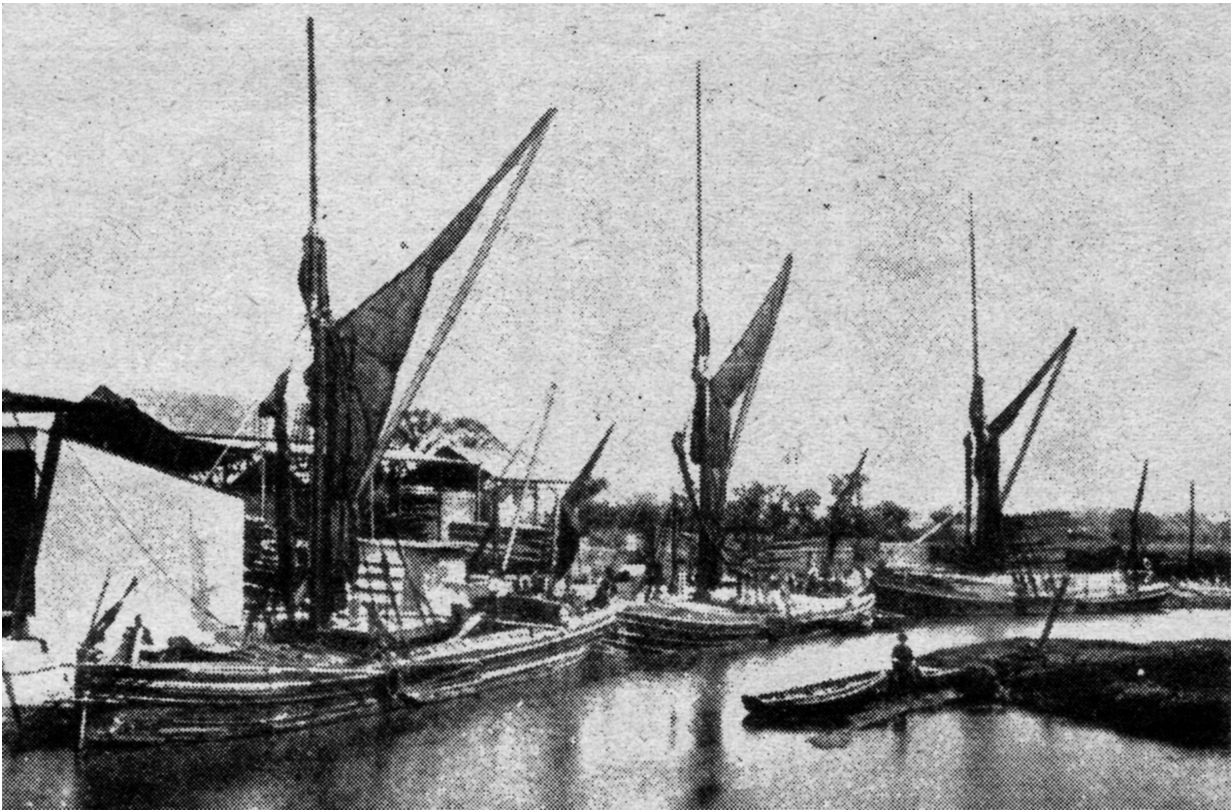
Mary Ann

Alice Jan 25th 1863

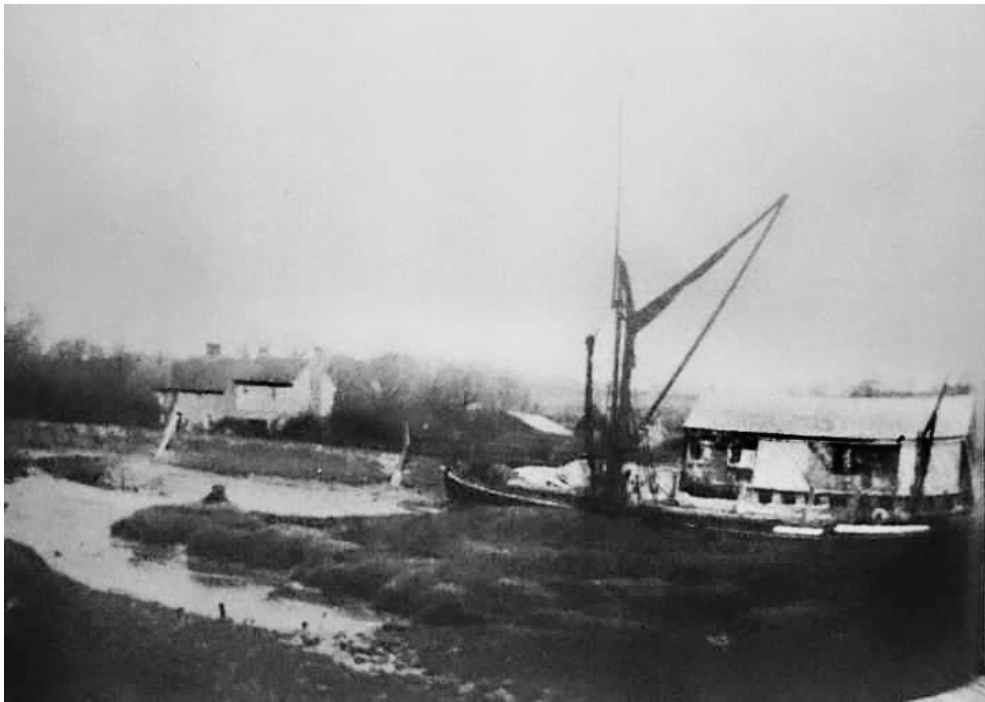
Suffolk and Essex press June 1892

Like the Wherry, the Thames sailing barge in all her details and bright colours, dates back for centuries, and even to day a very flourishing old world craft indeed. It is found economically well adapted for the carrying not only of heavy goods like bricks and machinery, but of lofty deck loads like Straw and hay; while her very light draught makes her one of the handiest of vessels for the winding navigation of the Thames both above and below London, and enables her to work her way close in shore and takes advantage of every tidal eddy in playing wind-ward against the tide.

The sprit of a London barge is certainly the largest spar of it's kind. And a vessel with a draught of some 3ft can handle by two men and carry 60 to 80 tons of bricks or coal.



Grays and Tilbury Gazette & Southend Telegraph August 1900



Barge at Merricks farm Vange

VANGE

Found dead — News reached Vange on Saturday

That the son of an old and respected parishioner named

Mr Warren had been found dead on a barge in the

river Thames. The deceased was a bargeman and is supposed

To have to have been suffocated from the fumes arising from a cargo.

Robberies At Vange — Joseph Dyson, 18 labour was indicted for stealing a waist coat the property of George Livermore of Vange. Joseph was in the employ of the Neptune Trading from Vange to London. The waist coat was stolen from the vessel while laying at Vange on the 5th November. Thomas Anderson another bargeman gave chase. with Livermore to Hadleigh.

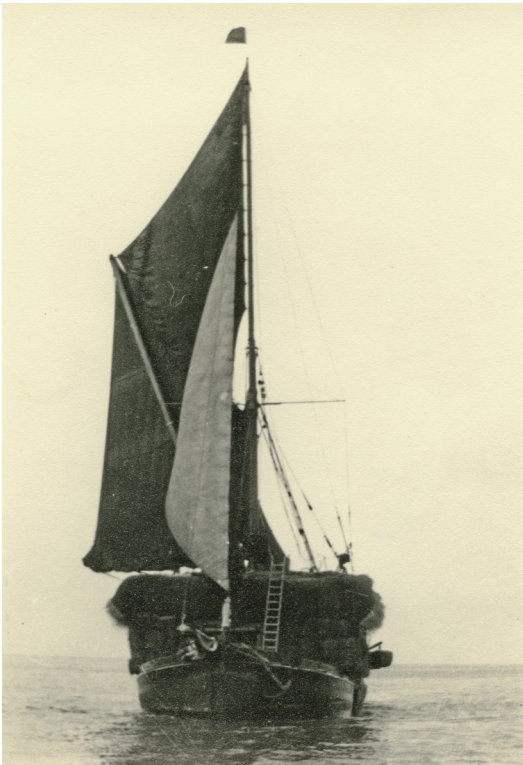


Photo courtesy of Mersea Museum / John Leather Collection

Essex County Chronicle September 1903

On Monday, at Billericay, William Rose, of Lower Murston, Kent captain of the barge Victoria, and Christopher Douglas Wood, also of Lower Murston, mate of a barge, were charged with stealing a pair of top boots, value 10s from the barge Wattle, the property of Captain James Bacon. They were also charged with stealing from the barge Fobbing, the property of Captain John Jennings.

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To have to have been suffocated from the fumes arising
from a cargo.

Chelmsford Chronicle July 1836

TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

*All Persons having any Claim or Demand
against the Estate and Effects of WILLIAM
EMBERSON BENTON, Hoyman, Bargemas-
ter
and farmer late of South Benfleet, are
hereby requested to send particular of such
demand to Mr James Emberson Benton of
Vange Wharf.*



*Photo from Spritsail Barges of the
Thames by Edgar J March*

Under Bye-Law 16 of the Thames Conservancy. It is provided that there should be 15" inches freeboard (from the bottom of river and the bottom of the barge). And that the gunwale should be at least 3" inches above the water. These were often ignored in order to carry more cargo and many barges sunk.



West Kent built in 1865 at Deptford Kent 45 ton Sprintsail Barge owned by William H Theobald Leigh on Sea possible moored Vange marshes.

West Kent was one of the Vandervord Barges. And later passed to a Waking owner

Vandervord was a great name in Southend barge history. They came to Essex to escape the Duke of Alva's persecution at the end of the sixteenth century.

They were three brothers one returned ,one lived at Benfleet and one lived at



"Vange," later the "Da Vinci"

(Vange) barge built in 1887 at Blackwell London. For owner T. Scholey & Co East Greenwich.
She was a sprintsail 40ft Barge and mention in being in use at Vange Wharfe .

Barges working at the brickfields Vange Hall Dock owned by
Robert Leabons Curtis were

BASSILDON built in 1874 at Brentford 31 ton Sprintsail owned by Robert Leabons Curtis.

Would carry 44 thousand bricks. Sold to Ambrose Ellis of Stanford-Le-Hope.

FOBBING built in 1891 at London 39 ton Sprintsail owned by Robert Leabons Curtis.

Captain John Jennings and mate William Holden.

PITSEA built in 1887 at London 40 ton Sprintsail owned by Wm J Howlett, Charlton Kent.

Captain John Riley and mate Robert Riley

VANGE—Vang built in 1887 Blackwell 40 ton Sprintsail owned by Robert Leabon Curtis

HENRY built in 1827 London 39 ton spritsail Owned by Richard Salmon, Dartford.

Captain Thomas and mate Charles Taruiss



A barge loader's would typically load between 40-50,000 bricks a day.

Photo courtesy of Mersea Museum / Hervey Benham / Nautical Photo Album

I would like to thank Tony Millatt and Ron Green from Mersea Museum

Together with

Richard Walsh and Don Wright at The Society for Sailing Barge research.

For their assistance

GRAVESEND COUNTY COURT.
TUESDAY.—Before His Honour, Judge Homersham Cox.
A STEAMER, A BIG SWELL, AND THE ROPES GO OVERBOARD.
Curtis v. Smith.—This was claim for £8 by Mr. Curtis, owner of the barge *Fang*, against Mr. Geo. Smith, pilot, of Gravesend.—Mr. A. D. Scoales was for the plaintiff and Mr. G. Clinch (Messrs. Tolhurst, Lovell and Clinch) for the defendant.—Capt. Ronaldson was the assessor.—The plaintiff's case was that on the 7th of December, 1892, a barge, the *Fang*, was proceeding up the Thames from Hole Haven to Wandsworth with a cargo of bricks. About half-past one the barge was at Half-way reach. There was a nice breeze, and the weather was fine and clear. She was running up the river in mid-stream to the west, about a point free. When the barge was abreast of the point, about four lengths from the shore, a steamer was observed coming down the river, 300 yards above them; the steamer afterwards turned out to be the *London*. She was on the starboard in mid-channel and coming down at a great speed. The steamer passed the *Fang* about two barge lengths away, and the swell washed the hatches of the barge clear, about 75 fathoms of Manila rope going overboard. There was 17½ inches of free board, being two inches more than the regulations required.—James Nunn, master of the *Fang*, said the steamer was going from fifteen to seventeen knots an hour.—Alfred Nunn, mate of the barge, and Alfred Thorpe, master of the barge *Maria*, also gave evidence.—Alfred Perkins Curtis said the value of the rope washed overboard was £12 7s. 6d. when new.—Mr. Clinch then called George Smith, the defendant, who said the *London* was going at a speed of about nine knots. The barge was both decks in the water.—By the Judge: He was certain the rope was not washed out of the barge.—Capt. Hayward, pilot, said it was impossible for the wash of a steamer going at nine knots to wash the ropes off the deck.—Captain Holland, pilot, said a fair speed below Barking was ten or eleven knots.—Verdict was given for plaintiff for £8 with costs.

VANGE BOOKLETS

All Saints Church Hall 1931 £2.10
Barges at Vange Wharf £2.10
Cashes Well No5 £2.10
John (Paddy) Hemingway £1.50
The Barge Inn 1832 – 2015 £2.50
The Bull Public House 1878— 1961 £1.50
The Vange Crystal Well £1.50
Vange Board School 1876 £5.80
Vange Fire Station 1934 – 1962 £3.90
Vange Hall Brick Works 1886—1921 £3.30
Vange Reservoir & Southend Water Company £2.00
Vange Swimming Pool 1933-1952 £2.00
The Shops of Vange London Road & High Road £5.00
The 1st Pitsea and Vange Scouts 1913—1970 £4.50
3rd Battalion Essex Home Guard. Vange and Pitsea. £2.80
Royal Observer Corps, Monitoring Post, Vange, Essex. £2.10

BASILDON BOOKLET

Locarno Mecca Dancing £6.00 1961 - 1971

PITSEA BOOKLETS

W. J. Wager Dairies £1.50
Tuskite Works Pitsea Hall Lane £1.50
Broadway Cinema 1930—1970 £3.00
Pitsea United 1909—1971 £8.70
The Old Pitsea Market 1924—1969 £2.60



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Basildon Heritage

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