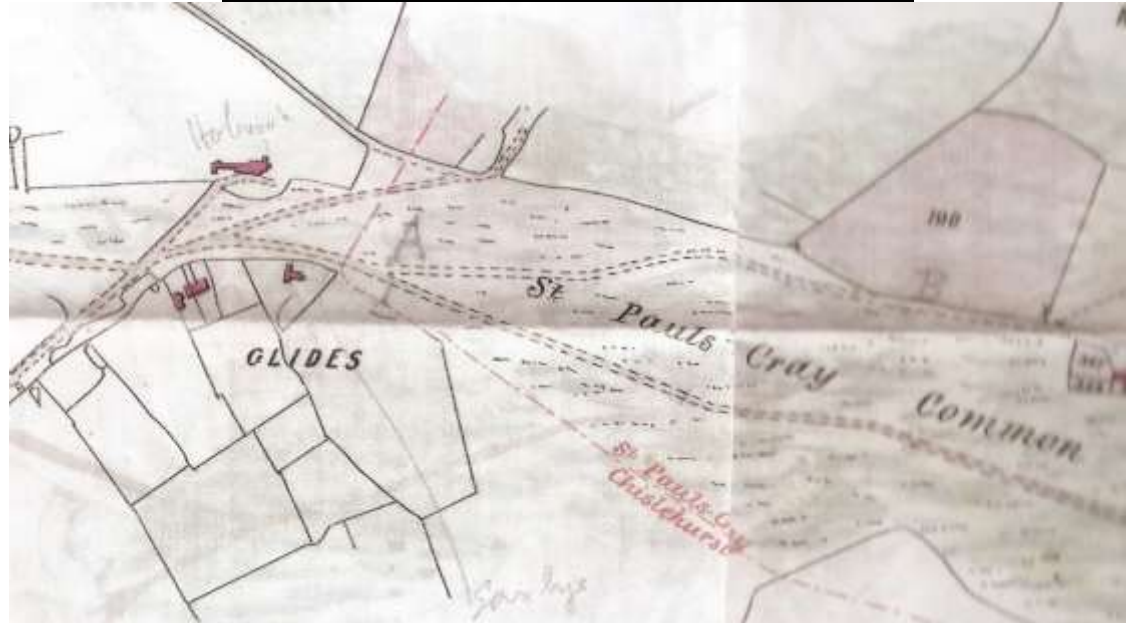




This is one of twenty "Tales from the Commons."

The Old Road to St. Mary Cray



Until 1854, the road to St. Mary Cray followed what is now the footpath shown as A – B on this map.

It had become increasingly dangerous.

An accident involving a waggon pulled by a team of horses, and a dog-cart, a light horse-drawn vehicle, was reported in 1851. The dog-cart "*containing two gentlemen, came at a rapid speed*" and "*the night being very dark and the roadway narrow, the rear wheels of the cart came into contact with the waggon.*" The waggoner tried to climb the bank but slipped, and the two gentlemen were thrown out. All were badly injured.

The coroner noted that there seemed to be no system for dealing with complaints about roads, which had previously been heard at a special county court.

Lord Sydney oversaw the re-routing of the road to its present position and the old road became a footpath.

The junction at Leasons Hill has been altered several times.

The Act that protects the Commons made no provision for funding.

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