

## Offa's People



**RUSSELL CLAUGHTON** continues the story of Bexhill's smugglers through one of their descendants, Christine Shoesmith (above).

BEXHILL librarian Christine Shoesmith has provided details of her forbear Edward Shoesmith's fate after the Sidley Green fight of 1828.

"When Edward was transported to Australia for smuggling (a life sentence) he left his wife Hannah and five young children in Bexhill," says Christine.

"In Australia Edward eventually remarried and had a second family of at least 11 children. He eventually died on August 29, 1859.

"Of the remaining five children in this country, two died at a young age. A son James and daughter Anne eventually married in Hastings and their descendants are still in the area.

## The fate of a smuggler

"Another son, George, went to join his father in Australia in 1841 and settled there. One of his descendants has recently contacted me in an attempt to find out more From the New South Wales archives office come details of the convict indents for the ship Claudine, which carried Edward Shoesmith to Australia in 1829.

Name: Shoesmith, Edward  
Age: 26  
Education: Read and write  
Religion: Protestant

Single/married: Married  
Family: 5  
Native place: Sussex  
Trade or calling: Ploughs, reaps, indoor servant  
Offence: Smuggling  
Where tried: London  
When: 10th April, 1829  
Sentence: Life  
Height: 5' 5"  
Complexion: Sallow, much freckled  
Colour of hair: Light brown  
Eyes: Light hazel  
How disposed of: Jas. Davidson, Lower Wilberforce  
Small scar over right eye  
Woman on right arm  
Edward Shoesmith, prisoner No 29/2686, was granted a ticket of leave on 18th March 1838 conditional upon his remaining in the district of Patrick Plains. A conditional pardon was granted on 13th August 1845.