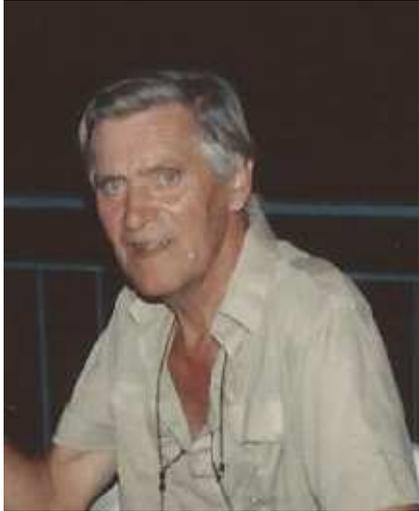


# BRUCE TAPPENDEN AND THE MILLERS OF WICKHAM

## BRUCE TAPPENDEN



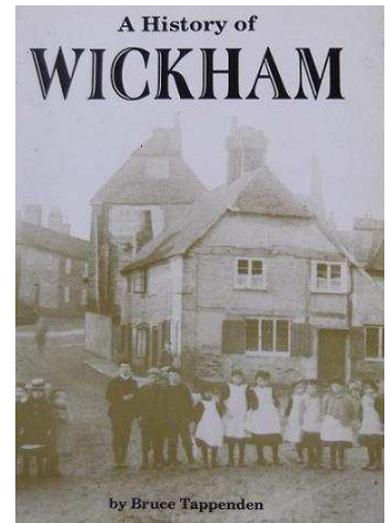
John Bruce Tappenden was born in 11 May 1930, the son of the miller of Wickham, employed by T. E. and J.H. Edney to whom he was related by marriage, and who purchased the Mill from the Carpenter-Garnier family in 1919.

Bruce went to school in Fareham, then worked in the Mill all his life, apart from a period of national service. In time, he inherited the mill from the Edneys. He retired in 1979 and the mill closed in 1986. Bruce married three times and had two children. He died in 2006, survived by his wife, Sylvia,

He had an abiding interest in local history and gained a diploma in the subject around 1986. Bruce wrote “**A History of Wickham**”, a fascinating illustrated book covering the history of the village.

You can obtain a copy of his book from this Society – for information click **HERE**.

Bruce’s mill has a gripping history. Built in 1820, its timbers come from a captured American frigate, USS CHESAPEAKE. For the full story, click **HERE**.



## THE MILLERS OF WICKHAM

Such information that we have has been compiled by **Bruce Tappenden**, last of the millers.

The Domesday Book states that in 1086, Wickham was a typical village with a population of around 120, with two millstones for the grinding of grain for the villagers to make flour for bread and also to process animal feed. The earliest records that we have of the millers of Wickham, however, begin in the earlier part of the eighteenth century.

c1733 A 3 grist mill in Wickham was owned by the Hon. Charles Earl of Carlisle, whose mother, Elizabeth, was the last representative of the elder branch of the family of Uvedale. Millers were: Edward Allen Screaves, Henry Galloway (d.31 Dec 1764), Benjamin Uffman.  
(For more information about Lords of the Manor of Wickham – click **HERE**)

5Jul 1733 A mortgage is raised and ownership passes to Francis Hewitt and then by default to Thomas Prior (d.1802).

Mar 1800 The mill is mortgaged to John Strugnell (d.11 Jun 1805) for £500. His will of Jul 1800 did not take effect (mortgage in arrears). Thomas Prior, on the death of his son, also Thomas, takes ownership. On His death, ownership passes to 5 brothers-in-law: Henry and Mary Kennett, John and Hester Prior, George and Catherine Harwood, Richard and Fanny Clark, John and Ann Chidell

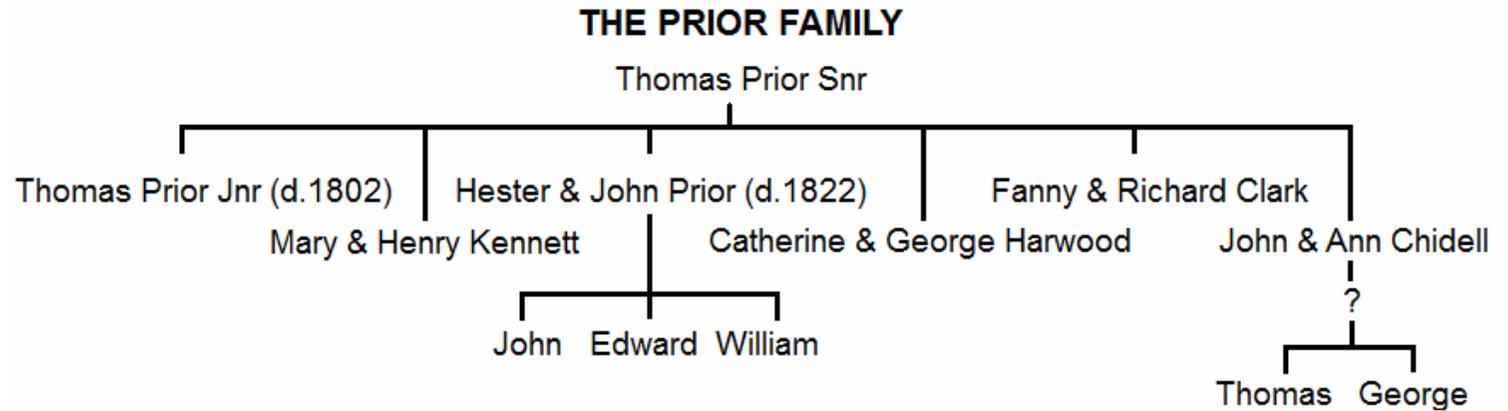
Before 1820 John Prior in ownership. He builds the 5 grist Chesapeake Mill in 1820.



*Charles Earl of Carlisle*



*Old Chesapeake Mill*

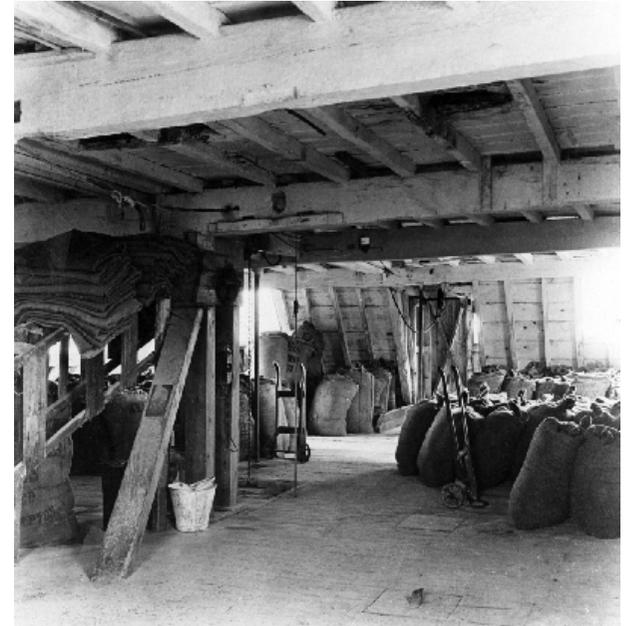


- 9 Mar 1822 John Prior wills the mill to his wife Hester and son John.
- 14 Jan 1823 John Prior owes £7600 to his mother and raises a mortgage, due 14 Jul 1825.
- 26 Mar 1828 Hester Prior buys out her son John's interest for £390, leaving £1500 to pay off the mortgage to John Strugnell. The mortgage is cleared to William Waller, nephew of John Strugnell. A mortgage is raised from William Gunner of Bishops Waltham for £2000.
- 27 Mar 1828 The mill is leased to William Gunner for one year for 10/- Plus £1.18.4 land tax.

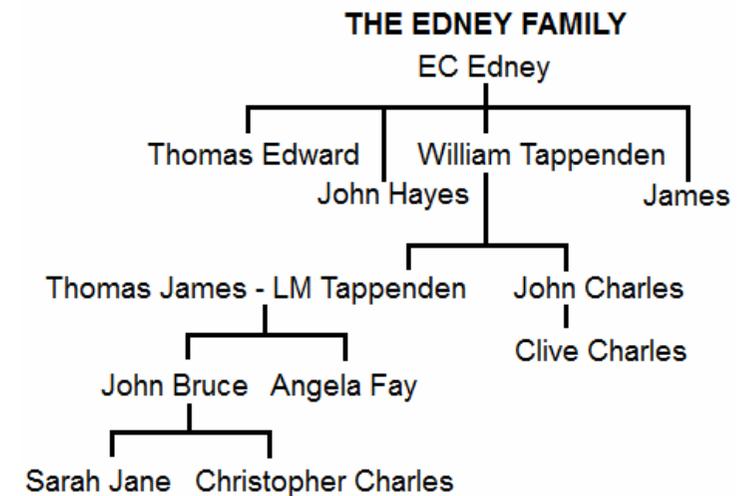


*Interior of the working Chesapeake Mill*

- 19 Jun 1830 Hester Prior and Mansell(?) in ownership. William Gunner and Hester Prior lease the mill to William Higgens (d.28 May 1833) of Fairfield House, Hambledon for 5/- plus £1.18.4 land tax.
- 20 Jun 1830 William Gunner and Hester Prior make an assignment of a mortgage to William Higgens for £3000, of which £2000 goes to William and £1000 to Hester.
- 27 April 1831 Ownership passes to George and Thomas Clark of Bishops Waltham for £4500. Hester Prior receives £1500 and William Higgens £3000.
- 18 Dec 1833 William Higgens dies and James Godfrey Higgens is his beneficiary. He pays off all debts on 3 Aug 1842.
- 4 Aug 1842 Thomas and George Clark sell the mill to William Goodrich of Durley for £3800
- 25 Mar 1862 The Edney company is founded in Fareham.
- 26 Apr 1865 The mill is leased for 21 years to Henry John Hawkins for £250 per year. It is sold to Phillip Bell – trustee William Edwards.
- In 1866 The mill is sold to John Carpenter-Garnier and trustees for £4802.10.0.
- In 1912 Leased to the Edney family for a peppercorn rent.



*Interior of the working Chesapeake Mill*



28 Nov 1916 The mill is sold to Thomas Edward Edney and John Hayes Edney.

In 1919, Bruce Tappenden's father bought the mill and he and his son were engaged as millers until the mill ceased to grind grain in 1986.

Today, the mill contains a variety of small shops selling antiques and curios, a café and a small museum largely dedicated to the story of the taking of the USS Chesapeake by HMS Shannon on 1 June 1813.



*Chesapeake Mill today*

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