

# The Windmills of Appledore



Appledore Local History Society

2024

# Foreword

This booklet draws upon material from a variety of sources, including books, articles, websites, and documents and notes from the archive of the Appledore Local History Society. The information gathered was previously scattered in dozens of locations, many of them not easy to access.

In the course of checking the material there were discoveries. Previously unknown millers have been found. A dusty corner of the internet has yielded the earliest record yet of an Appledore miller (apart from one who was simply 'Geoffrey the miller'). This should serve as a challenge for someone to find an earlier one...

This is not an academic survey, so not every source is individually referenced. A general list of sources is provided at the end of the booklet.

Some pictures may be subject to copyright, but this is hopefully 'fair use' in the context of a non-commercial booklet primarily intended for a small number of history enthusiasts in Appledore...

The narrative text is my own, with occasional borrowings and quotes.

Thanks should go to past and present members of Appledore Local History Society who have conducted research, or have had the good sense to keep documents and scraps of information that would otherwise be lost forever. With enough pieces, a jigsaw becomes a picture.

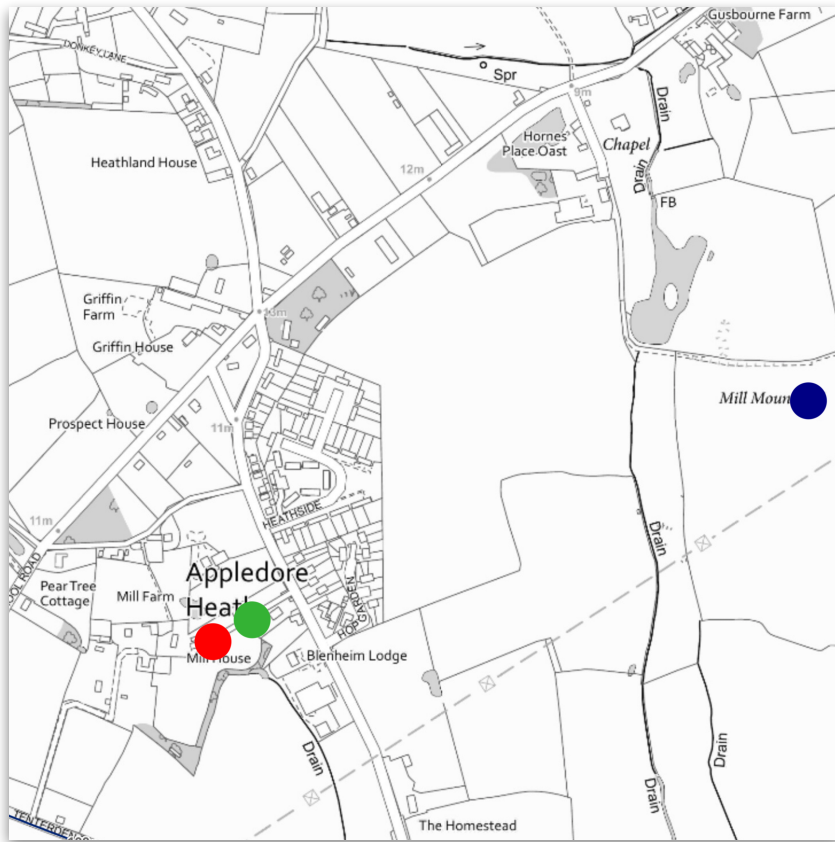
**Alan Tribe**

Appledore  
2024

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# Locations of Windmills



- Horne's Place Mill
- Appledore Heath Smock Mill
- Appledore Heath Post Mill



- Court Lodge Mill



# Horne's Place Mill

Recorded from 1265-1472, 1596, 1736.

## The Demesne Farms of Christ Church Priory

The mill would not have been known as Horne's Place Mill in 1265. The land on which it stood was the demesne farm of Appledore, property of the Christ Church Priory at Canterbury (Canterbury Cathedral in the period when it was also a monastery).

A demesne, under the feudal system, was land held for use by the lord of the manor, rather than sublet to others. The lord of the manor was Prior Eastry, but the management of the farm fell to a layman who submitted accounts to the Prior. These accounts, known collectively as the 'Bedel's Rolls' remain in the archive of Canterbury Cathedral, and list building expenses from 1265 to 1472.

To give some historical context for the date of 1265, evidence of windmills in England dates from the 12th century. The earliest reference for a windmill in Kent is around 1200 at Canterbury, when a mill was granted to the Hospital of Eastbridge by the Priory of St Sepulchre.

The demesne farm in Appledore was at two locations, and moved from one to the other. The first 'manorial farm' was on the site now occupied by Horne's Place and Gusbourne Farm. The second, from 1380, was on the site now occupied by Court Lodge Farm. Both of these demesne farms (or manors) had windmills, and the Bedel's Rolls have accounts of them.

The first reference to the mill is in a list of general repairs carried out in 1265. There are then subsequent references to buying oil and soap to grease the mill, and buying canvas to mend the sails. In 1318 there was an item: 'Mending the shop - 4d' which suggests some commercial activity.

The sails needed repair or replacement on a regular basis. A new one was purchased in 1312 for 4s 7d. It was transported to Appledore by water from Newenden, and the cost of fitting it to the mill was 8s 5d. Another was purchased in 1347, brought by boat from Agney (a manor at Old Romney).

Repairs in 1383 suggest that the mill may have been damaged in the French raid of 1380 and/or the Peasant's Revolt of 1381. The mill stood empty in 1384 with substantial renovation in 1385.

Alternatively, the windmill may have been damaged by an earthquake. The earthquake of 1382 had its epicentre in the Dover Straits, and was also felt across the Channel in the Low Countries. The bell-tower at Canterbury Cathedral was destroyed, and in London there was damage to St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

In Canterbury, the Archbishop had convened a synod on the day of the earthquake. The synod was considering the writings of John Wycliffe and the challenge of the Lollards. As the monastery shook, it was argued that there was a parallel with the perilous instability of the English Church. The court branded Wycliffe a heretic and allowed Lollards to be prosecuted and executed.

Amongst other work, the mill received new mill-stones. One was chosen by the miller in Folkestone and then shipped to Appledore by sea. The stone cost 41s. 8d, the transport by boat cost 10s. 2d. Together with expenses and food for labourers, the total cost was £2 14s (maybe equivalent to £2,500 in 2023).

The 'Manor Farm' was leased out by the early 1400s, together with the mill, and in 1472 the mill was referred to as 'Horne's Mill'. The last specific mention of Horne's Mill in the Bedel's Rolls was in 1484, when there was a mention of 'iron work' being carried out on the 'antique molendium'.

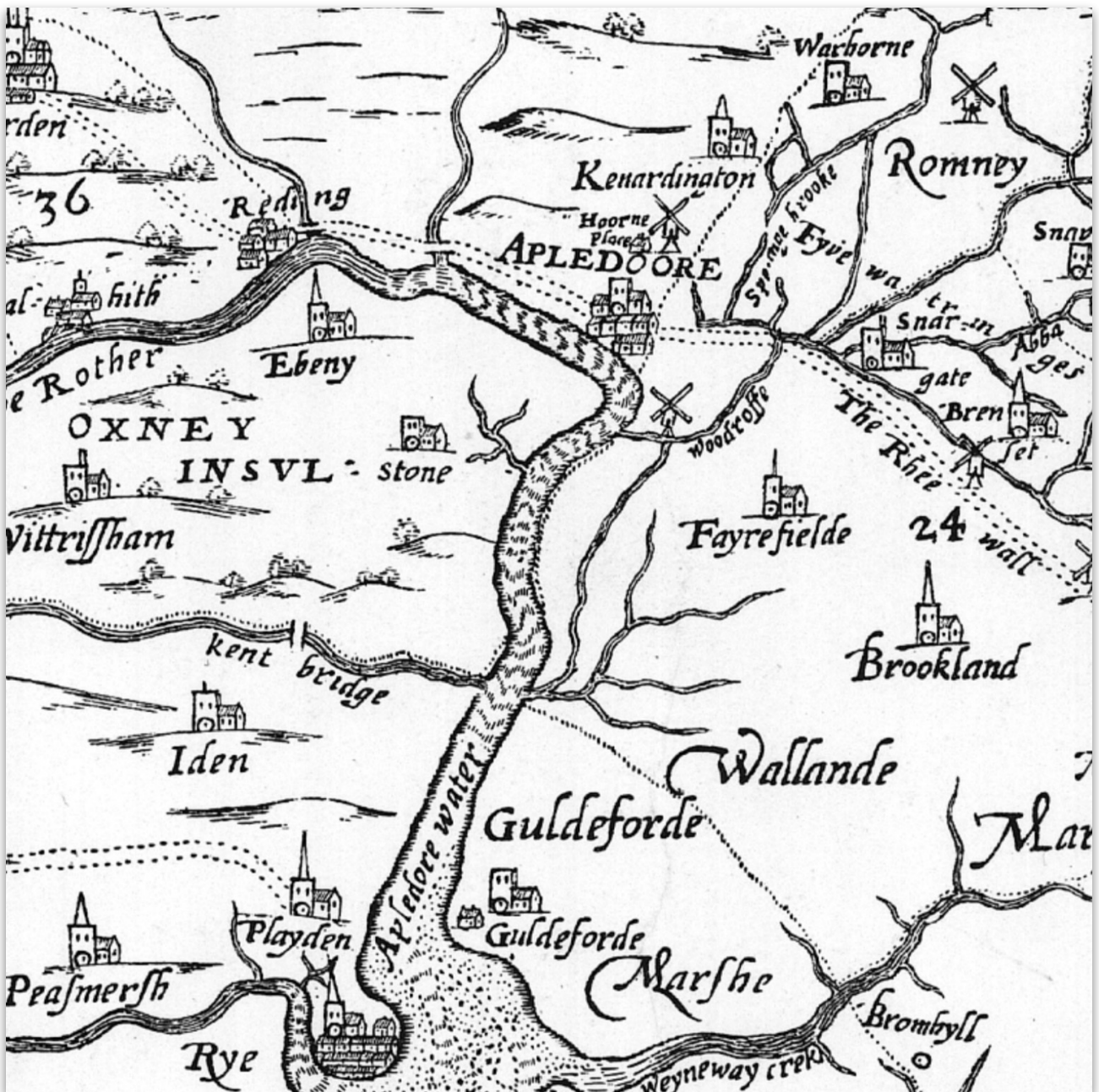
The last recorded date of the Horne's Place Mill is not clear. A note in the ALHS archive says that it does not appear on a map in 1610. This would be John Speed's map.

Sir John Winnifrith, in 'A History of Appledore' refers to a map of 1628, which is Ambrose Clogger's map of the Chute Estate. The Mill is shown on this map. He then refers to a map of 1769, where the Mill is not shown, concluding that the Mill fell down sometime between 1628 and 1769. A further reference says that the Mill is shown on Emanuel Bowen's map of 1736. None of these maps are available for close inspection.

Perhaps not too much should be made of the absence of a mill on a map. Symondson's map of 1596 shows thirty-nine windmills in Kent, John Speed's map of 1610 shows twenty. It is unlikely that nineteen windmills disappeared in fourteen years. The mill could have been inactive in 1610.

Horne's Mill either fell down or was demolished around the middle of the 18th century, and that's probably all we need to know.

Symondson's Map of Kent (1596), showing Horne's Place Mill and Court Lodge Mill -



Before moving on, we should note that there were two mills at Horne's Place, spanning around 500 years. The first was in place by 1265, but may have been there for some time. Prior Eastry had a new mill built in 1305, at a cost of £16 2s 5d (£15,500 in 2023), which was presumably a replacement for the earlier one. There is nothing to show what happened to the old one, and there is only one mound, which could suggest a direct replacement on the same site.

Horne's Place Mill was a post mill, the earliest type of windmill in England. The whole body of the mill, including the grinding machinery and grain store, was supported on a large central post. Early post mills were fairly small because the miller had to turn the whole mill into the wind. Later types had fantails that automatically turned the mill. Rolvenden Mill is a local surviving example.

Post mills were usually built on artificial mounds that gave greater height for stronger winds. The mounds might also cover the bottom of the wooden structure, making it more stable in high winds. A mill could be built on a pre-existing mound, and there are mill mounds in other parts of the country that might originally have been ancient burial mounds, such as Bronze Age barrows.

The mound for Horne's Place Mill survives, and it is a prominent structure. Ordnance Survey maps have always identified the feature as a mill mound, but could it predate the windmill?

In 2005, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust carried out a survey and assessment for the National Trust. The survey was primarily related to the Trust's properties in the village, but addressed the wider context of Appledore's history and archaeology. The survey says:

*"There is no evidence for the ancient harbour and Viking base at Appledore but this must have been of some size to accommodate a fleet of 250 ships, a major waterway presumably lying close to the south-eastern end of the village, on the edge of the present marsh. The origin of the church is unknown but its position on a slight rise overlooking the present marsh would suggest early settlement was focussed in this area, close to the early harbour site. The significant mound later the site of the Court Lodge windmill, is notable for its prominent position on a spur overlooking the marsh to the south-west, a location very suitable for a burial mound of this date. In the same way the even more prominent mound on the forward edge of the hill above Horne's Place should also be considered as another potential burial mound, later re-used for a post mill."*

There is no archeological or other evidence for the creation of the mounds in the 9th century, but the Vikings were in Appledore for long enough, and in sufficient number (maybe 5,000), for the erection of burial mounds. However, the likeliest explanation for a mill mound must be that it's a mill mound, made for mills.



# Court Lodge Mill

First recorded 1480, demolished about 1790.

The account in the Bedel's Rolls reads: "Payment to John Style, mill-wright, for working and making a new wind-mill at Appledore with timber bought for it, and all materials and necessities bought for the said mill as can be seen on the particulars beyond this account. £4 3s. 5d."

In 1631, there is also a record of water mill at Court Lodge, although nothing is known of it other than the name of its miller, Joseph Comfort. In 1675, the Court Lodge Mill was rented at £6 a year (around £960 in 2023). The last man to be its tenant was William Monk (or Munk).

The date for the demolition comes from 'Watermills and Windmills' by William Coles Finch, published in 1933, quoting Dr. F. W. Cock of Appledore. Court Lodge Mill was a post mill, like the mill at Horne's Place. The mound survives, 600 metres south-west of Appledore church.

The mill mound at Court Lodge has sometimes been associated with the site of a former castle, but the notion of an 'Appledore Castle' has long been debunked. The myth probably derives from a passage in Camden's *Britannia* of 1586:

*"Apledore, where a confused rable of Danish and Norman Pirates, which under the conduct of one Hasting had sore annoyed the French coasts, loaden with booties, landed and built a Castle, whom notwithstanding King Aelfred by his valour enforced to accept conditions of peace."*

The Vikings would have built a temporary fortress, or occupied the half-built fort they are said to have destroyed, but there is no evidence of an enclosure that could have accommodated a Viking horde that arrived in 250 ships. The mound has a shallow circular ditch, but that isn't unusual, and could be the remnant of a quarry ditch that provided the material for the mound.

There are defensive earthworks in Kenardington that could be from the period, but they haven't been dated. The Vikings came, and then the Vikings went, and for Appledore that is all we know.

As noted above, there is some speculation about the mound being a pre-existing burial mound. It's not inconceivable, but what luck - both times the Christ Church Priory wanted to build a mill, there was an ancient burial mound in just the right place. Knowing the history, and looking at the mound today, most would probably agree with the Ordnance Survey - *"That's a mill mound."*



*The Court Lodge mound. It looks like whatever you want it to be.*





Saying that the Court Lodge Mill was demolished in 1790 makes this picture a bit of a puzzle. It's an oil painting by James Webb (1825-1895), titled 'Near Appledore, Kent', dated 1856, some sixty or seventy years after Dr Cock said that it was demolished. Dr Cock knew Court Lodge well, having been born there in 1858, and both his father and grandfather were farmers at Court Lodge. Dr Cock was a meticulous local historian, and would have known what stood on his family's land two years before he was born.

The topography makes it clear that this is a picture of the post mill at Court Lodge. The viewpoint is probably from Court Lodge road looking roughly south. James Webb was a well-known painter, inspired by the romantic styles of Constable and Turner. He was prolific, and his subject matter was mostly seascapes and windmills. Perhaps he cheated a little with this one. Knowing that a windmill once stood on this mound, and knowing what type, he might have recreated the scene. Perhaps he never left his studio and based it on an earlier sketch or painting by somebody else.

Whatever the explanation, it's a striking representation of the Court Lodge mill, and it may be the only one that exists.

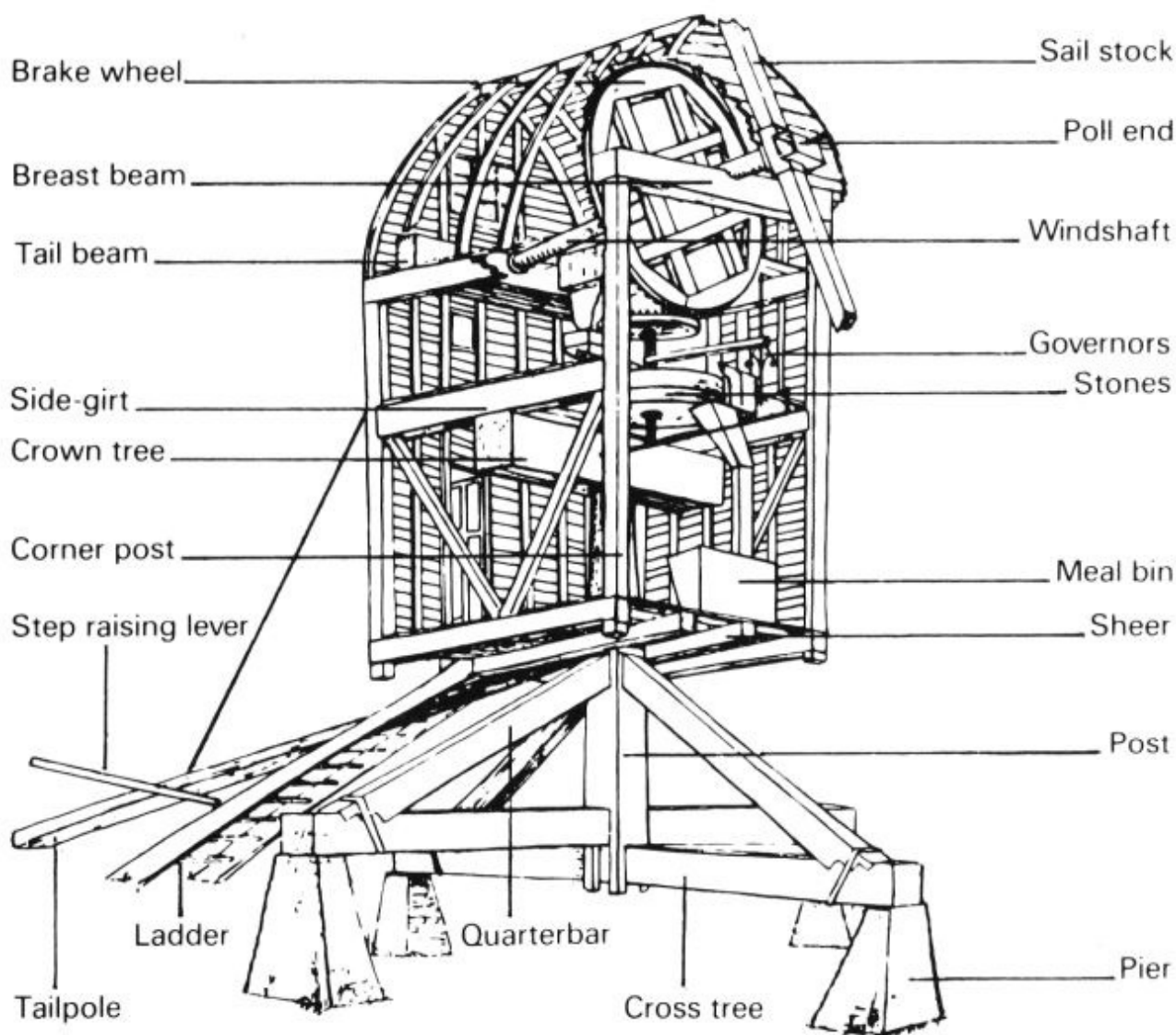


# Typical construction of a post mill

Other than the painting above, which may be dubious, there are no pictures or descriptions of the post mills at Horne's Place or Court Lodge - or none that have been found. Generally, the mills will have conformed to the diagram below, either with the lower trestle exposed or enclosed. They may have been relatively lightweight structures with the trestles sunk into the ground for stability.

The body of the mill was turned around the post to catch the wind. On early examples, the miller turned the entire superstructure by hand, using the tail pole. Later examples had a fantail which automatically turned the mill into the wind.

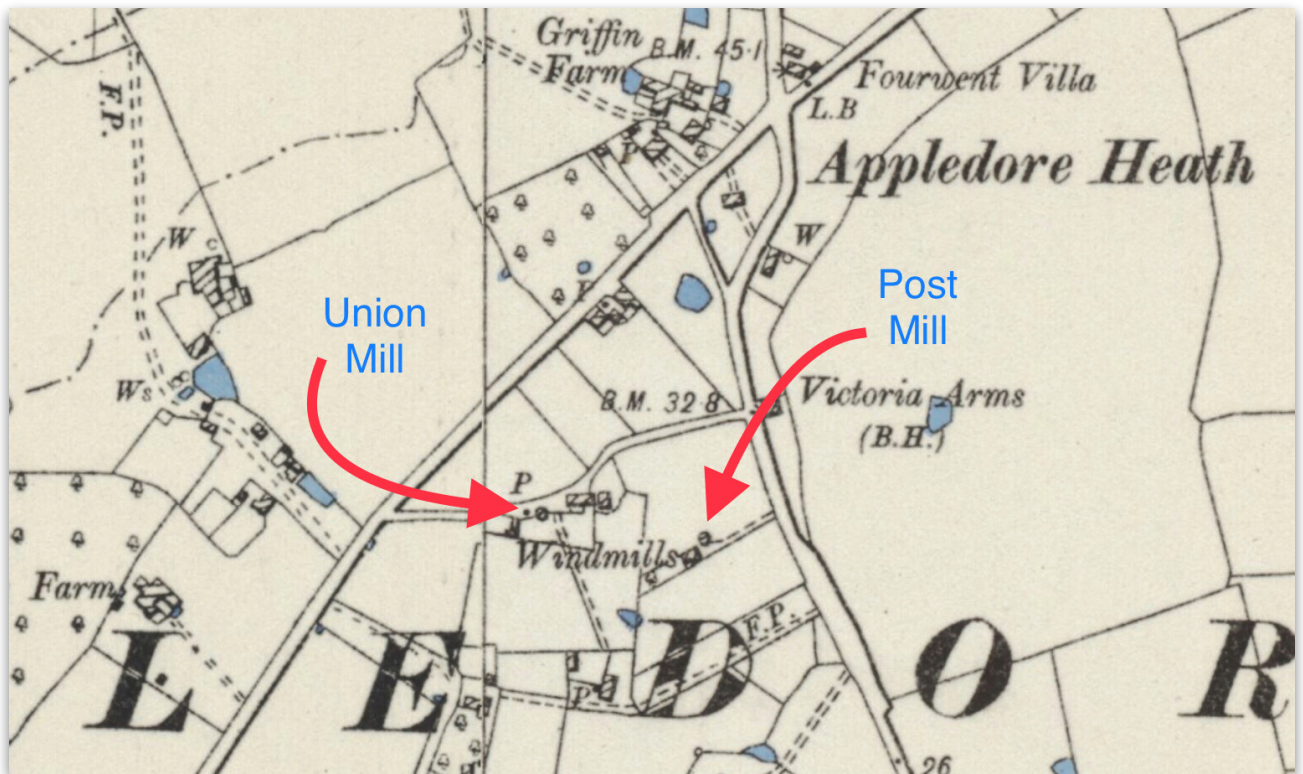
The trestle could be open or enclosed. With some mills, such as the one at Rolvenden, the trestle was originally exposed and was later enclosed in a roundhouse.



When considering the apparent longevity of some post mills, it's worth bearing in mind that they were constantly being repaired. With the exception of major structural timbers, the parts of a windmill could be replaced without great difficulty, and they didn't have to look nice, they just had to work. If houses could last hundreds of years, so could mills.

# Appledore Heath Mills

There were two, in close proximity. The earlier was a post mill, the later was a smock mill.



Ordnance Survey, 1896



Spot the mills. The post mill is in a corrugated tin shed (third right).



## Post Mill (Great Mill)

First recorded 1804, demolished 1900.

The mill was moved to Appledore from Playden, on the cliff above Rye. In Playden, it was known as the 'Great' Mill, and as Playden Southern Mill. The earliest date for the Playden Mill is c1567, and there is a record of a small post mill in Appledore in 1804, which would presumably be the mill moved from Playden.

If Court Lodge Mill was demolished in the late 18th century, that would mean that Appledore may have been without a mill for a while. It's possible, and it may be consistent with Appledore purchasing one that was second-hand, albeit nearly two-hundred and fifty years old.

It may be relevant that there was an economic crisis at the time, as a result of the Napoleonic Wars. There was also a shortage of timber, due to Napoleon's blockade of Britain, and the diversion of home-grown timber to the navy. Naturally, all of the above is speculative, but it fits the known history and it may explain why Appledore was in the market for a second-hand windmill.

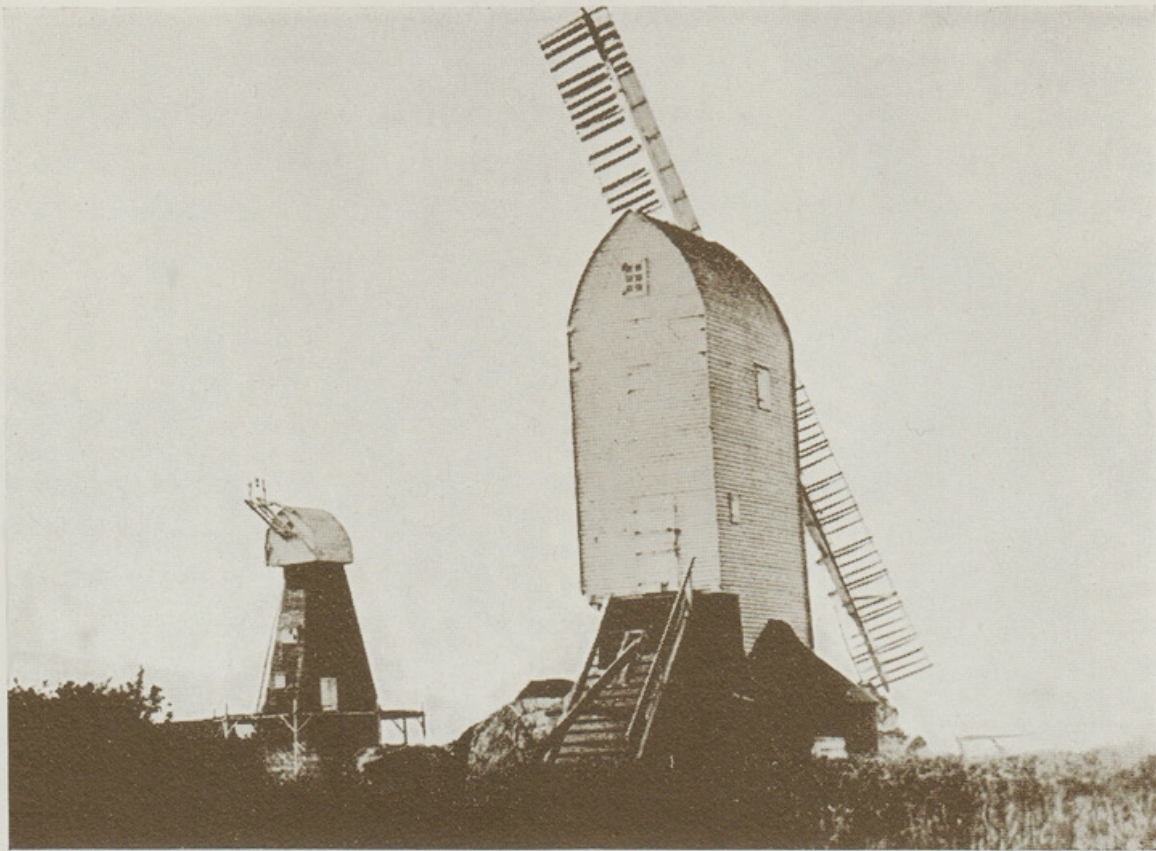
At first glance, it's a little surprising that something as large as a windmill could be moved six miles with a horse and cart, but they could be sawed down into eight sections and then bolted together again. Incredibly, some were moved intact. Perhaps windmills should be seen less as buildings and more as items of machinery that could be bought and sold, and moved.

As proof of portability, the mill was moved back to Playden before being returned to Appledore. It's hard to say how long it was gone for, but it disappeared from Appledore's tax assessments in around 1815.

The picture below might be of the Appledore mill at Playden. It's certainly a post mill at Playden, but Playden had a few mills. However, it's the right type and the right era.



The 'Great' Mill of Playden, subsequently the post mill of Appledore, was built by James Mercer. There appear to have been a few generations of Mercers as millers in Playden. Here is the post mill in Appledore, pictured with the Union Mill -



APPLEDORE HEATH

Dr. F. W. Cock

There is one noticeable difference between the Playden picture and the Appledore picture - the Appledore Mill has an enclosed trestle. Many mills were upgraded in this way. There are pictures of Rolvenden Mill with an exposed trestle before the addition of the round house that it has today.

The different number of sails isn't necessarily significant, if the the post mill was awaiting repair, as would seem to be the case with the Union Mill which has none. The power from two sails was greater than half the power of four, but produced an unbalanced vibration. The post mill usually ran with four sails, driving two millstones. A bake-house was associated with it.

The round house of the Appledore Heath post mill survived its demolition and survives to this day. It isn't readily visible, but is incorporated in a corrugated tin shed on Mill Farm.

A piece of the mill's machinery also survived, and one reference says:

*"The iron windshaft was saved by G. Jarvis and erected in his garden near Bethersden for use as a crane. It still stands there, in the possession of his son."*

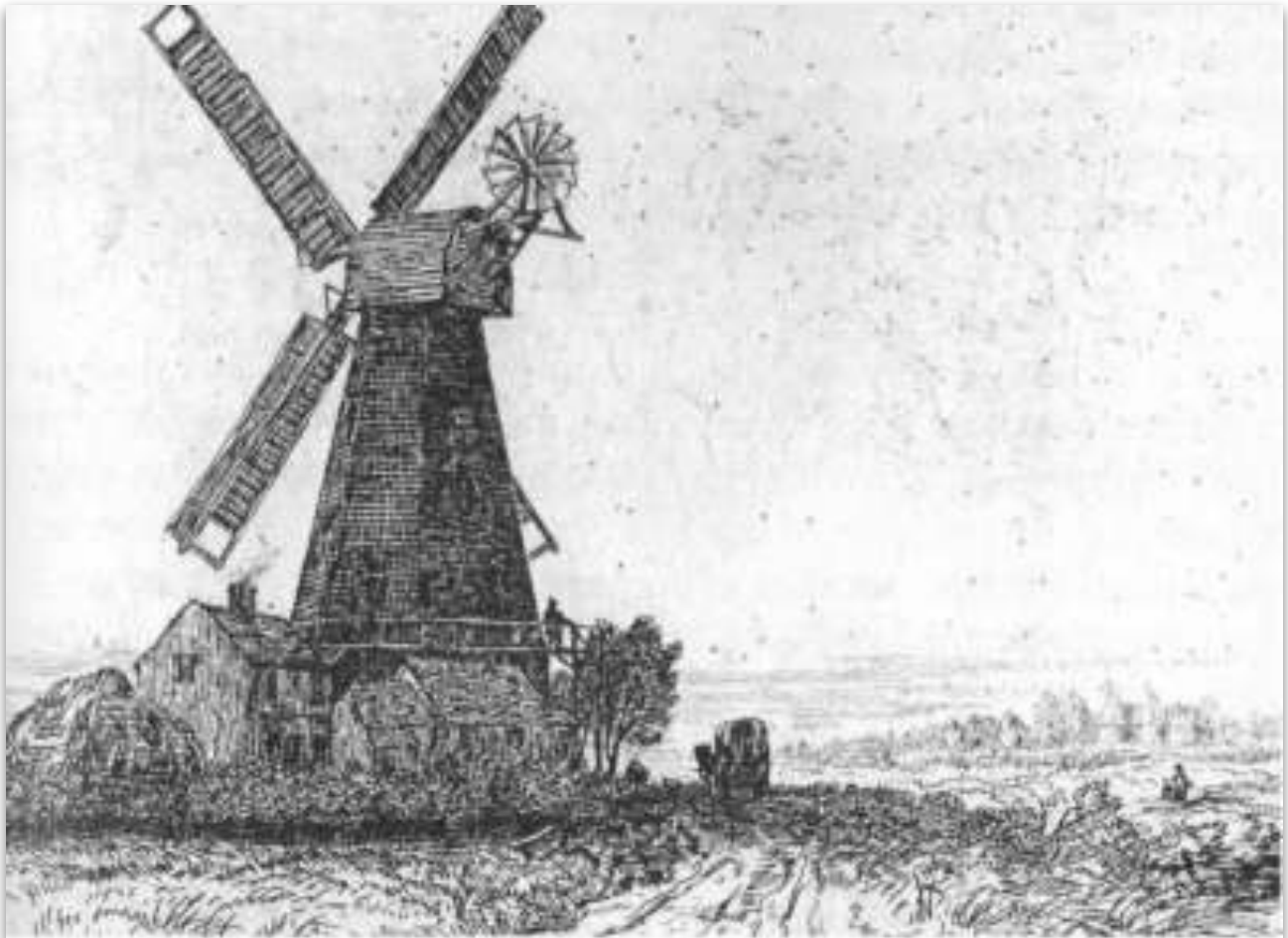
Well, almost. It wasn't his garden, and G. Jarvis was George Jarvis 'The Mill Smasher'. He was the contractor who demolished both of the mills at Appledore Heath, and many more besides. His career is summarised later in this booklet.

# Smock Mill (Union Mill)

First recorded 1791, demolished 1909.

Union Mill was a smock mill. Smock mills got their name for their resemblance to the smocks previously worn by farmers. They usually had six or eight sides, and in contrast to post mills, it was only the cap at the top that rotated. Appledore's smock mill had eight sides.

There are good examples of surviving smock mills at Woodchurch and Cranbrook. The Cranbrook Mill is seven storeys tall, and is the tallest smock mill in Britain. It is also in full working order.



Appledore's Union Mill had brick foundations up to the stage (the encircling wooden platform), which was sixteen feet from the ground. It was five storeys high and worked three pairs of stones with regulators. It could grind from eight to ten loads a week - but how much is a load?

We can't be entirely sure which of the Appledore Heath mills came first, or whether they were always in use at the same time. It seems natural to assume that the smock mill came after the post mill, but then we have a speculative first date for the post mill which is a little later than the earliest date for the smock mill. The post mill came twice to Appledore, so maybe its arrival date is in question. However, it does seem that both were functioning at the same time for around a hundred years. They weren't always under the same management and had different millers.

There are many 'Union' Mills in England. The Appledore Union was a group of farmers who joined together to build a mill, which they each used, as did others for a fee. The Union seems to have had a general concern with lawlessness in the area, and they issued a notice offering a good reward for the capture and conviction of house-breakers, horse thieves and other malefactors.



The Union Mill was broken into several times so the Union set up a 'sack trap'. This consisted of having a good number of empty sacks in the passage from the door. A watch was set, each man armed with several sacks. The next time the thieves came, as soon as they burst open the door, the watchers ran in and threw their armfuls of sacks onto the thieves, and then secured them.

On one occasion one of the Ransleys of the Aldington Gang (better known as smugglers) was captured. On another, the miller pursued the thief "and smote the calf of his leg" so that he died of a haemorrhage.

It's an unlikely security system, the Mill being guarded night after night by men with sacks, but in essence it appears to be true.

## Millstones

The Union Mill powered three pairs of stones. Two of the stones were probably used for cattle feed (oats, barley or beans), and the third for bread flour (wheat). The gaps between the stones were set according to the speed of the mill, the grain to be ground, and the degree of fineness of the meal required. The Post Mill had two pairs of stones.

English millstones were usually made from Millstone Grit, from the Derbyshire Peak District, or from French Buhr, from the Marne Valley in northern France. In southern England the material was imported as pieces of rock, cemented together in local workshops. Harder than granite (it's an unusual variety of quartz), French Buhr was a valuable commodity and was even exported to America. It was also in short supply, and was being recycled by the time of the Union Mill.

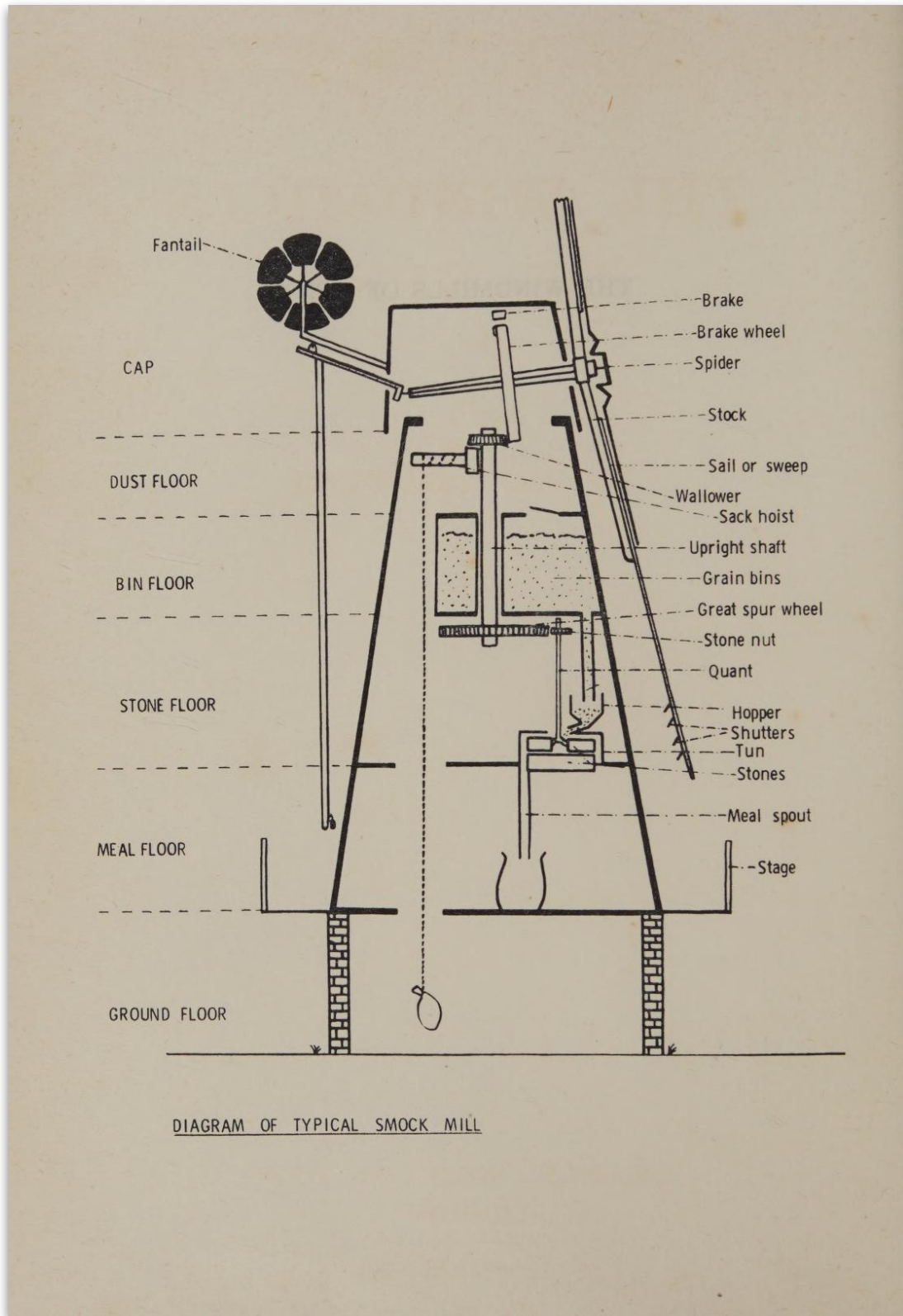
Fortunately, burr stones had a long life. Peak stones wore quickly and were typically used to grind animal feed because they left stone powder in the flour.

There is mention of the Union Mill stones having regulators. Regulators were usually centrifugal devices that automatically adjusted the gap between the stones, depending on their speed. The gap between the millstones determined the fineness of the milled grain.

Millstones had to be dressed, which was the process of restoring or sharpening the grooves in the faces of the stones. Peak stones might have to be redressed every few weeks, burr stones every few months. The miller might do it himself, but there were also itinerant stone dressers.



# Typical construction of a smock mill



Like the Union Mill at Appledore, this diagram shows a five-storey smock mill.

# Appledore Union Mill Token



The token shows a representation of the Union Mill at Appledore. A man is carrying a sack to the mill. Around the circumference it says 'The Union of Appledore Kent' with the date of 1794. On the reverse, there is a lion and lamb with the motto 'Peace, Innocence and Plenty'. Around the edge is the text 'Payable at W. Peckham's Appledore'.

William Peckham was a shop owner in Appledore, and is described as a Freeholder in the Kentish Poll for Knights of the Shire to represent the County of Kent. As such, he was a person of some social standing.

Curiously, there are copies of this token that are payable to W. Friggles of Goudhurst. Mr Friggle presumably chose an existing design rather than coming up with one of his own.

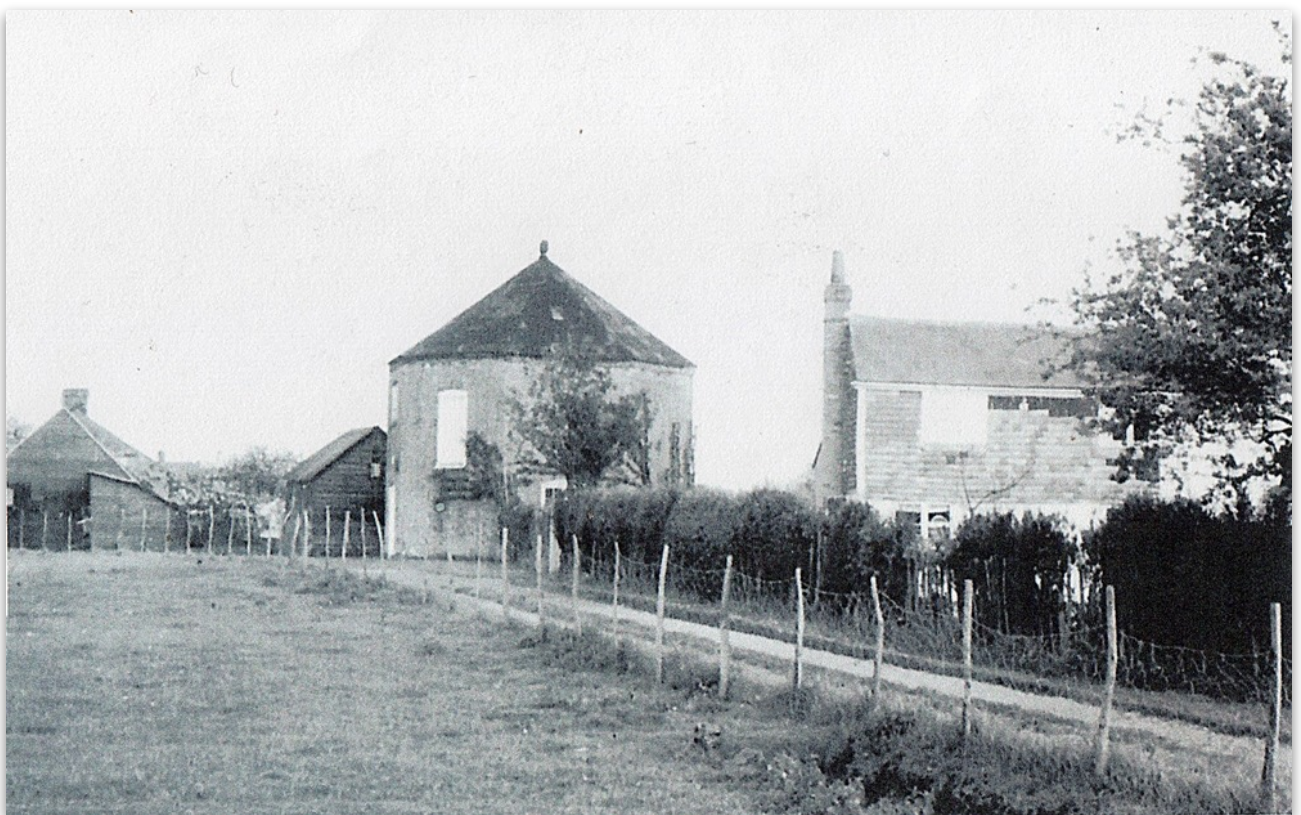
The tokens had a value of a halfpenny, although the denomination does not appear on the token. They were made from copper and were produced by the Birmingham coin manufacturer William Lutwyche. The engraver was William Wyon, R A., official chief engraver at the Royal Mint. 10,000 tokens were struck.

But what were they for? In the latter half of the 18th century there was a shortage of coinage for small change. The shortfall was made up by millions of imitations, which made up two-thirds of any change given. Tokens were a lawful alternative to fakes.

Tokens were issued in many towns and villages in Kent. Those of Tenterden had a brewer's dray, Brookland a Kentish horse, Canterbury the cathedral. The names of local tradespeople responsible for issuing the coins was usually impressed into the rim. The trader chose the design and W. Peckham chose the local landmark of the Union Mill. With the advent of the Matthew Boulton recoinage of 1797, the token coinage ceased, having served its purpose.



As we have seen above, the Union Mill was demolished in 1909. The base was converted into a dwelling, and is today incorporated into a modern house, dating from the early 1970s. The house bears the stone that used to be above the Mill door, inscribed 'Union Mill 1791'.



Both of these pictures are undated, and the first could be considered a picture of a tree.

The first is probably the earliest, with its lack of neighbouring buildings (and maybe a timber support), but the photos look as though they were taken from different points of view.





Old Mill House in 1968.



Old Mill House today.



And then there is this pen-and-ink sketch from 1937 by Karl Wood (1888-1958) -



Karl Salisbury Wood was an artist who produced 1,394 paintings of windmills. This sketch carries the description of 'Appledore, base of post mill, 8.5 miles SE of Ashford, 22/08/1937'.

Karl Wood knew his windmills and was intending to publish a book about them, so while this resembles the base of the Union Mill, it is the base of the smaller post mill. It may have fallen into disrepair before merging into the structure of a shed.

The base of the post mill has been described as a round house, but in the case of windmills a round house can have six or eight sides.

# The Decline of Windmills

We could start with the Corn Laws. During the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815), British agriculture was protected against foreign competition. Farmers got rich and prices for corn were high. When the wars ended, the first of the Corn Laws was introduced. The law stipulated that no corn would be imported until the price of domestic corn reached 80 shillings per quarter. The beneficiaries were landowners, and it was only landowners who could vote in Parliamentary elections.

The lower classes suffered, and most of their income went on corn or bread. They couldn't afford manufactured goods, so factories laid off workers who then couldn't find work elsewhere. It was a social and economic disaster, but landowners, farmers and mill owners were doing just fine.

In 1832, the right to vote was extended to what was effectively the middle class (or the male part of it) and there was pressure for repeal of the Corn Laws, most notably from the Chartists and the Anti-Corn Law League. The Corn Laws were repealed in 1846. The immediate consequence was the unlimited import of grain, and the establishment of industrial mills in the ports. Corn prices went down, farmers and mill owners suffered, but the lower classes could afford bread.

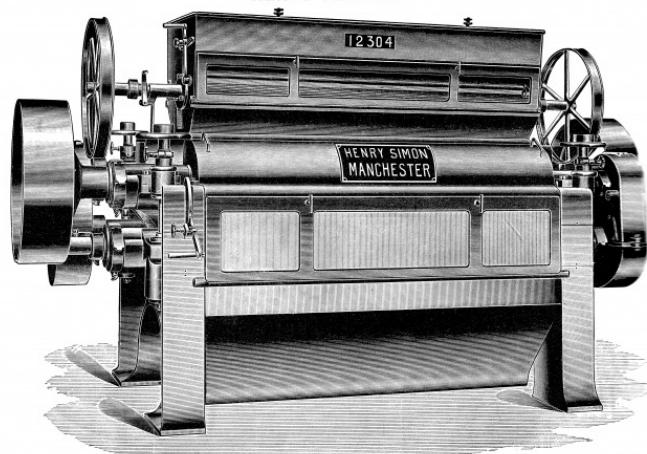
This period is reflected in Appledore. The mills on the Heath were established at around the time of the Napoleonic Wars, and there is evidence of decline from the mid-19th century.

On Romney Marsh, windmills had been in decline for some time. There were seven windmills in the early 17th century, and only four in the 19th century. The cause for this was the increase in sheep farming. We tend to think that Romney Marsh has been dominated by sheep for centuries, and that the further back you go, the more sheep there were. Not so, apparently. Arable farming decreased under pressure from sheep farming, and the human population became sparse. Or you could look at it the other way around - the population drift from country to town meant that there weren't enough farm labourers for labour-intensive crops, which were replaced by sheep and a small number of shepherds. Either way, it was part of a bigger picture, and that was the economic and social change caused by the Industrial Revolution. Appledore was as much Weald as Marsh, but the mid-19th century decline was evident there too.

Naturally, there wouldn't have been industrial mills without steam power. There had been large steam mills since 1784 (the Albion Mills in Southwark), and their number increased throughout the 19th century. Millers who could only produce flour when the wind blew couldn't compete.

Technological development was critical, but it was just one aspect of change in the 19th century, and all of these changes were related. As we have seen, there was a shift in population from country to town, which led to farmland changing from arable to pasture with its lower demand for labour. There were better roads from villages to towns, ending a reliance on more local mills. Increasingly, there were corn merchants who collected grain from farms and took it to centralised mills. Railways transported grain in bulk, and in Appledore they arrived in 1851.

THE "SIMON" FOUR-ROLLER MILL  
HEAVY PATTERN




Britain imported grain from the Canadian prairies, and from Australia, America and Russia. The grain was harder than native varieties and was milled with roller mills in the large industrial mills.

Roller mills produced a flour that was finer and whiter. There was a fashion for white bread, and the fate of the village windmill was sealed.

Some windmills turned to steam, and then to gas and oil, but increasingly they were only producing grain for livestock feed.

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 AND  
 MERCHANTS**

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Locally, these industrial developments were evident in Ashford.

Many Appledore residents will recall the Pledge's Mills in Victoria Road and at the bottom of East Hill. They might also recall 'Emazone', the packets of branded white flour that came from these mills.

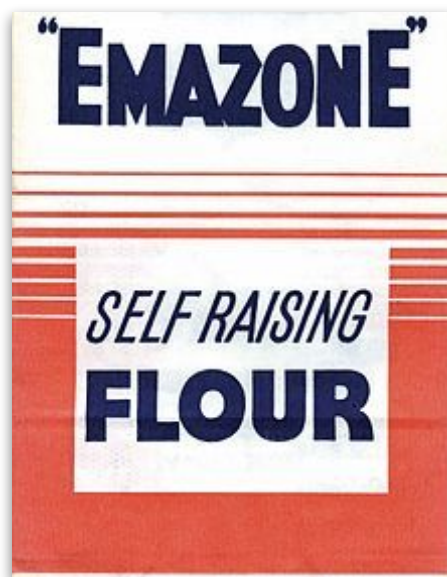
Pledge's Victoria Mill opened in 1901, drawing attention to its roller mills and the fineness of its white flour.

One of the Appledore windmills had been demolished the year before, with the other to follow eight years later.

Cranbrook Mill was a local exception, working commercially until the 1950s, but it had an auxiliary steam engine in 1863, a suction gas plant in 1954, and then an electric motor.

Today, the Pledge's flour mills are a much lamented loss themselves, and there is a strong demand for 'artisan' products, like stone ground flour.

By the way, there's some creative licence in the advertisement above. That's two mills in different parts of Ashford, made to look like one. Victoria Mill is on the left, East Hill Mill is on the right.



*Emazone - Slayer of Windmills*

# Millers of Appledore

Some of the names in this list are people who lived in Appledore with the occupation of miller. It is very likely that they worked as millers in Appledore.

## Geoffrey the Miller

13th century.

There is no surname for Geoffrey and he may not have had one. At this period, a man was commonly known by his trade or where he came from. This second name, or surname, was not yet hereditary. Sir John Winnifrith, in *'A History of Appledore'*, notes that early manorial records mention a Geoffrey the Miller.

## Henry Briggs

Recorded as miller in 1595.

From an entry in 'Canterbury Marriage Licences 1568-1618' (a book first published in 1892):

*Briggs, Henry, of Appledore, miller, and Agnes Broughton, s.p., w. April 11, 1595*

The abbreviations 's.p., w' mean that Agnes Broughton was from the same parish, and a widow.

## William Standley

Recorded as miller in 1628.

From Hugh Robert's book *'Tenterden - The First Thousand Years'* -

*"William Standley, late miller of the town mill of Appledore and now miller of Tenterden Mill, presented by the churchwardens of Appledore in June 1628 for grinding on the sabbath day. Said that the inhabitants asked him to as the wind was good that day and they had no corn to make bread."*

The public-spirited William Standley was the son of another William Standley who was a miller at Bethersden. Allowing for alternate spellings (Standley and Stanley seem to be synonymous in this case), the family were prominent local millers in the 16th and 17th century.

## John Chapman

Recorded as miller in 1634.

This reference comes from a single sheet of paper in the ALHS archive:

*"1634. John Chapman the miller buried. He used the Old Post Mill on Court Lodge Hill. This lasted till about 1790 when the new patent mill was built on the Heath in 1791."*

The sheet of paper is copied from an almanac or history which would seem to contain a wealth of information about Appledore in the early 17th century. The writer goes on to describe how lanes and tracks used to run in the area of the mill, and how his grandfather closed paths, filled ditches and found evidence of the mill. Annoyingly, this document isn't identified, but it may well have been written or compiled by Dr. F. William Cock, who lived at Well House and was a noted local historian.

No further information can be found for John Chapman, although a John Chapman was married in Appledore a year before this one is said to have died.

## **George Horton**

Recorded as miller in 1674.

George Horton was buried in Appledore in 1674, and there is a wills and probate record that says he was a miller. There were Hortons in neighbouring villages, with one reference to William Horton, miller, possibly in Tenterden.

## **William Barwick (1674-1701)**

Recorded as miller in 1701.

There is a wills and probate record from 1701 - 'William Barwick, Miller, Appledore, Kent'. He was buried in Appledore in 1701.

## **Thomas Walter (1686-1709)**

Recorded as miller 1704-1709.

The first record comes from the baptism of his son John in Appledore, in 1704. John's father is Thomas Walter, miller. The second comes from the record of Thomas's burial in 1709 where he is 'Thomas Walter a miller'.

But now it gets interesting. In 1713 there was a burial of a Thomas Walter who was 'Son of Joan Elliot & Thomas Walter (former husband)'.

## **William Elliot**

Recorded as miller in 1716 (probably).

There is an online record that says Elizabeth Elliot was buried in Appledore in 1716, and that she was a miller. The original parish register is not clear at all - see image on next page.

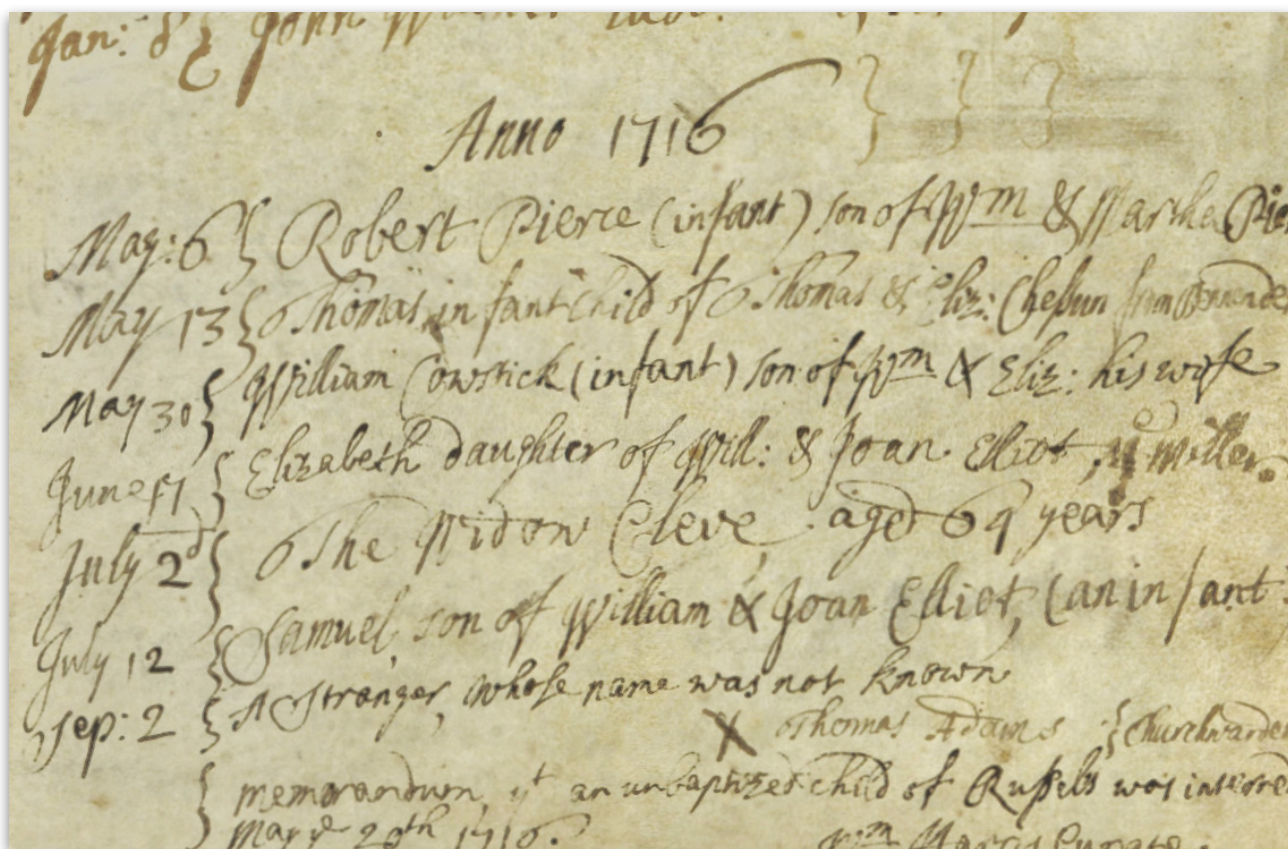
The line reads: "Elizabeth daughter of Will & Joan Elliot" - and then 'Miller', which looks like an insert in different handwriting. Elizabeth was one year old and wasn't doing a lot of milling. The miller was probably William, her father.

The excerpt from the register also records the death of: "Samuel, son of William & Joan Elliot (an infant)."



Four years earlier, in 1712, there was the death of "Thomas, the son of Joan Elliot by her former husband Tho. Walter.'

Joan was first married to Thomas Walter, who was a miller. Thomas died in 1709. She was then married to William Elliot, who was probably a miller in 1716.



The final lines on this page of the parish register record the death of a stranger whose whole name wasn't known, and a note saying that an unbaptised child of Rupel's was also interred. Presumably, an unbaptised child had no name in the eyes of the church.

## Thomas Hughes

Recorded as miller in 1727.

The record comes from the marriage of his son William in Appledore, which says that his parents were Thomas and Mary, and that Thomas was a miller. There is another record of a Thomas Hughes being born in Appledore in 1731, with Thomas and Mary as parents. There seems little doubt that Thomas Hughes was an Appledore miller in the early 1700s.

## John Webb

Recorded as miller in 1732.

John Webb was buried in 1732, with his occupation given as miller.

## William Monk

Recorded as miller in the late 18th century.

Said to be the last miller at Court Lodge. This comes from *'Watermills and Windmills'* by William Coles Finch, who was relying on information supplied by Dr F. W. Cock of Appledore: *"The last man to be its tenant was William Monk, who died at the end of the end of the eighteenth century."*

A suitable William Monk can't be found in genealogical records, but there were a good number of William Munks in Appledore. Sir John Winnifrith (*'A History of Appledore'*) has talked about "the Munk empire", and part of the empire was Court Lodge. In the late 18th century Court Lodge was owned by John Munk, son of William Munk. There were William Munks buried in Appledore in 1770, 1776 and 1785.

It may be a coincidence that the Munks employed, or sublet, to a miller called Monk - but it also seems quite likely that the Munk family (who "ruled the village") had a hand in the windmill business. The information required to sort the solitary Monk from the various landowning Munks probably exists, but it hasn't been found.

## Thomas Turner

Recorded as miller in 1796.

From 'The Turner Family' papers in the ALHS archive: *"From notes given to me by Ruth Addison, a Thomas Turner, miller from Appledore, died in 1796."*

A genealogical database shows that a Thomas Turner was married in Appledore in 1787, but the above reference to him being a miller cannot be verified. There were later Turners at the mill, and a family story says that a Tom Turner was the first of the Turner millers.

## William Packham (1763-1841)

Recorded as miller and corn dealer in 1805.

The first thing to know about William Packham is that he isn't William Peckham...

William Peckham was the Appledore shopkeeper who issued Union Mill tokens in 1794. William Packham was the licensee of the Red Lion in 1807, and also a part-owner of the Union Mill.

Confusion is inevitable because they were here at the same time, both were associated with the Union Mill, one was at the pub and one was at the shop. To add to the confusion, many sources have conflated the two, leading to statements that the tokens were issued by the miller, not by the shopkeeper. It's an easy mistake to make. I nearly made it myself, until the penny (or halfpenny) dropped.

An 1805 entry in the London Gazette shows that William Packham was a miller and corn dealer in Appledore, or had been up to that point. He had been in partnership with William Pix and John Wilkinson in the firm of William Packham & Co. They were millers and corn dealers in Beckley in Sussex and Appledore in Kent. The partnership was dissolved by mutual consent, and the business was carried on by William Pix and John Wilkinson, without William Packham. Curiously, this announcement was made on Christmas Day.

An 1810 entry in the London Gazette shows that William Packham was declared bankrupt, and was required to surrender himself to the Commissioners at the Saracen's Head in Ashford. He was described as a 'Victualler, Dealer and Chapman'. A Chapman was a trader, especially an itinerant pedlar.

William Packham and his wife Mary had eleven children, all born before his bankruptcy. He was buried in Appledore and it was noted that he was "many years clerk of this parish". A history of bankruptcy was no barrier to being a parish clerk in Appledore, especially if you ran the pub and did a bit of this and a bit of that.

Some of this information comes from a family history that at one point makes a reference to 'Packham (Peckham) genealogy'...

So back to William Peckham for a moment. The Universal British Directory of 1791 lists him as 'William Peckham, Shopkeeper', and that's almost all that is known about him. The Directory lists twenty traders in Appledore. If Peckham had been a victualler, corn dealer and mill owner, as well as a shopkeeper, the Directory might have said more than just 'shopkeeper'. This entry would seem to suggest that William Packham and William Peckham were different people.

Windmill researcher Chris Viney has written:

*"Not much is known about W. Peckham, apart from that he was a shop owner in Appledore and is described as a Freeholder in the 'Kentish Poll for Knights of the Shire to represent the County of Kent 1802' His inclusion in this list suggests he was relatively wealthy and of some social standing within the community."*

Looking at the Kentish Poll, William Peckham was one of twenty-five Appledore residents on the list. They were the Freeholders in Appledore, the only people in the village who could vote in the election of representatives to Parliament. Kent had two representatives in Parliament. William Peckham wasn't that notable, but he does sound like a different person to William Packham, who wasn't on the poll list. Unless the token engraver made a spelling mistake, the mill tokens were issued by William Peckham.

Genealogy records show that there were Packhams and Peckhams in Appledore at around this time, with quite a few Williams in both families. The records don't conclusively disentangle the two we are interested in here - and you can have more than enough of researching William Packham and William Peckham...

## **William Pix and John Wilkinson**

Recorded as millers and corn dealers 1805-06.

As noted above, Pix and Wilkinson were the ex-partners of William Packham. They went into another partnership with Edward Palmer, where all three were described as millers in Appledore. This partnership hardly got off the ground and was dissolved in 1806.

John Wilkinson was made bankrupt in 1811, and William Pix followed in 1815.

There is a curious postscript to the bankruptcy of John Wilkinson. A formal notice appeared in the *Kentish Gazette* in January, 1812 -

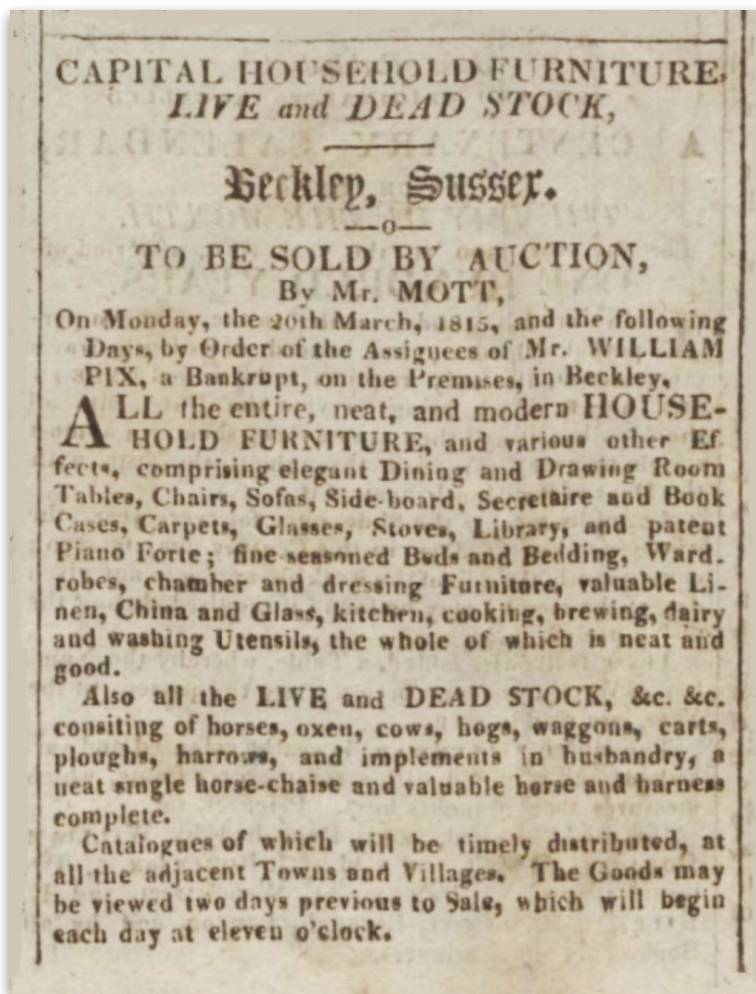
*All persons having any Sacks in their possession, the property of JOHN WILKINSON, a Bankrupt, are desired forthwith to deliver the same to Mr. GEORGE MUNK, at the Swan Inn, Appledore, otherwise they will be prosecuted for detaining them.*

*Jan 6th, 1812*

*THOs, WILKINSON. Assignee.*

A family member may have been trying everything possible to reduce John Wilkinson's debt.

At one point, William Pix had been doing very well, with his valuable linen and piano forte -



He owned three farms in Northiam, where he was born in 1765. They were now auctioned off, and included oast houses, hop gardens, granaries and cottages. No scuffling about for sacks here. His debt must have been quite substantial. He had also been a timber merchant. A partnership with Thomas Pix (his half-brother) had been dissolved in 1813, with William continuing alone.

William Pix went to a Debtor's Prison - or did he? There is a record of him being discharged from the King's Bench Prison in 1821, and only at this point, six years after he was declared bankrupt, were creditors invited to make claims on his remaining assets.

The King's Bench Prison was dirty, overcrowded and prone to outbreaks of typhus. Characters in the novels of Charles Dickens found themselves in 'The Bench'. Debtors had to provide their own bedding, food and drink. You could also pay to be 'on bail' at an address within three miles of the prison. How you had access to funds isn't clear.

The prison was in Southwark, and on discharge, Pix was said to be "late of No. 6 Durham Place, Lambeth" - less than a mile from the prison. Durham Place was a terrace of fine Georgian houses, and a very smart address for a bankrupt. Captain Bligh (of *The Bounty*) lived at no. 3 until his death in 1817. A Baronet lived at no. 1.

It looks as though William Pix lived in comfort for five or six years, while his creditors were waiting for a payout.

At some point, he and his family went to Liverpool. There's no indication of how they lived, but Pix wasn't a nobody if his death (in 1832) was announced in the *Liverpool Albion* and the *Liverpool Mercury*: "After a severe illness, aged 67, Mr. William Pix, formerly of Beckley, in the county of Sussex." He was also mentioned in the death notices of his daughter Caroline, who died from consumption in 1838.

We've wandered a long way from Appledore Heath, but William Pix is interesting.



## William Boon and James Boon

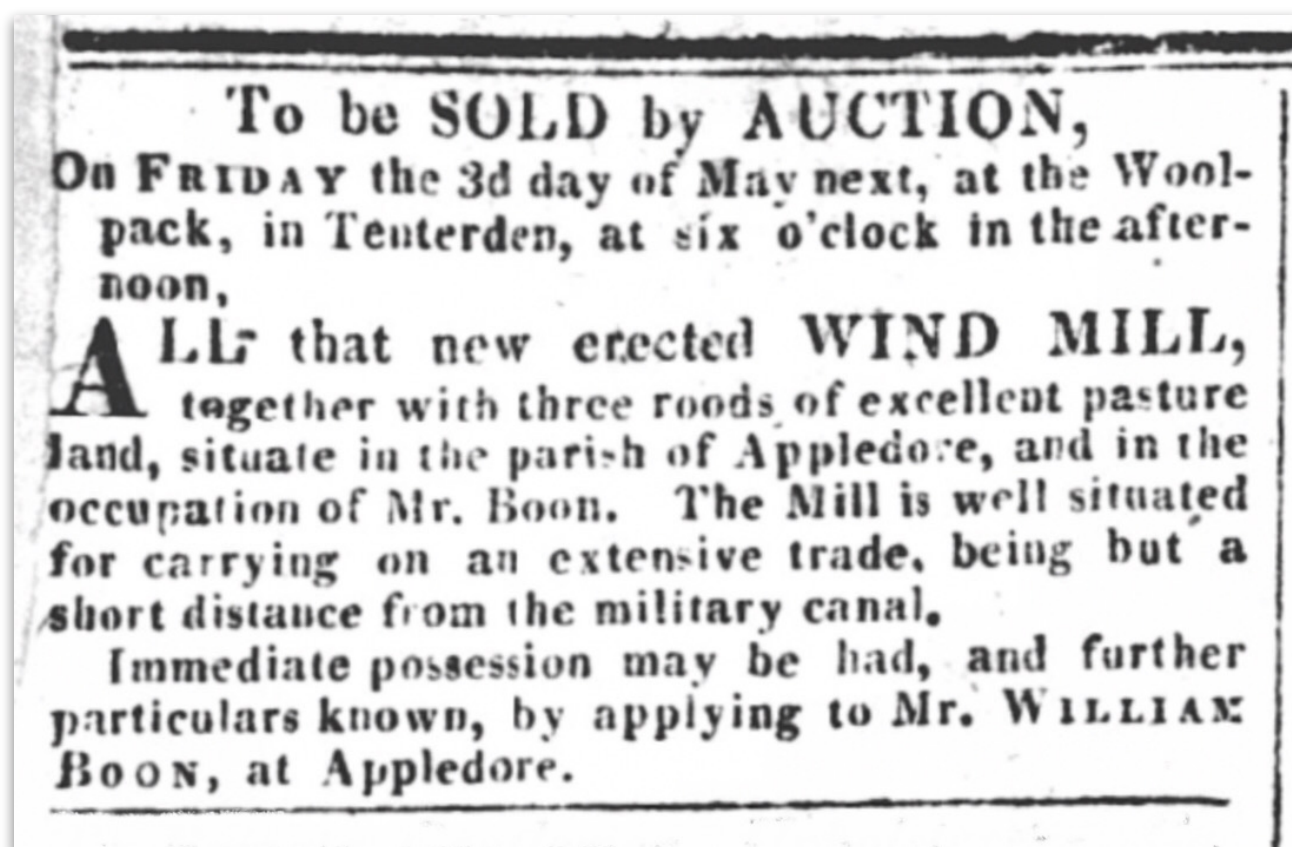
Recorded as mill owners in 1811.

The Boons were an established Appledore family by 1811, and remained so well into the future. William and James were probably father and son, with James born in 1763. William Boon was declared bankrupt in 1816 and was imprisoned in Maidstone Gaol. He was released not long before his death in 1818. Auction notices (see below) show that James was selling the post mill in February, and William was selling the smock mill in May -

*To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, AT APPLEDORE, A POST MILL, with two pair of stones, a bolter, and three quarters of an acre of land; it is well situated for wind, and for trade, being about a quarter of a mile from the Canal leading from Hythe to Rye, and adjoining the road from Appledore to Tenterden. For further particulars apply to Mr. JAMES BOON, grocer, Appledore, Kent.*

*(Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal, 5 February 1811)*

Note: a 'bolter' (in the first auction notice) was a piece of mill equipment that sieved the flour into different grades and removed the bran, which was then mostly used for animal fodder.



**To be SOLD by AUCTION,**  
**On FRIDAY the 3d day of May next, at the Wool-**  
**pack, in Tenterden, at six o'clock in the after-**  
**noon,**  
**A**LL that new erected **WIND MILL,**  
together with three roods of excellent pasture  
land, situate in the parish of Appledore, and in the  
occupation of Mr. Boon. The Mill is well situated  
for carrying on an extensive trade, being but a  
short distance from the military canal.  
Immediate possession may be had, and further  
particulars known, by applying to Mr. **WILLIAM**  
**BOON,** at Appledore.

*(Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal)*

## **Emmiar Strickland**

Recorded as mill owner by about 1815.

The Turner family papers say that she was negotiating to buy the Smock Mill by instalments at around the time that Daniel Turner came to Appledore as a miller. In those papers she is called Emmian, but she is almost certainly the Emmiar Strickland born in Appledore in 1788. Records show the names Strickland and Turner together in connection with the mill.

Emmiar was unable to keep up the payments. Daniel Turner had agreed to buy the Smock Mill from her and the original creditors, but "it was inconvenient for him to do so."

## **Daniel Turner (1790-1867)**

Recorded as mill owner 1817-1862.

In 1817, Daniel Turner purchased the Union Mill, Mill Cottage, Mill House and a three-acre field, with the help of a large mortgage. In 1819, he also bought a house in the village from Henry Venis. The house is now known as Venus House.

There is evidence of Daniel Turner enlarging his property by appropriating what was common land on the Heath. For several years he was summoned to answer to the Court Baron in Appledore but never attended, sending excuses such as he was ill. Most of his illicit enclosures were removed. In 1837 he got up a petition to enclose the common, and acquired more land by that process. He was, in effect, the person responsible for bringing an end to common grazing on the Heath. Following the expansion of his property he is recorded as 'Miller and Farmer'.

In the 1851 census he had twenty-three acres, and was employing three labourers. At his death in Appledore, aged 77, his occupation was 'Miller Master'.

Venus House was sold by auction in 1864, with the following description: "A freehold, modern, brick, weather-tile and slate-built residence, with verandah in front, situate in the town of Appledore, having parlour, shop, dairy, pantry, cellar, bakehouse with four-bushel oven, and four bedrooms. There is a pump of excellent water, good two-stall stable, and cart lodge, with mill-wright's shop over, walled-in garden in the rear, frontage to the town of 33 feet. The whole contains 14 perches, more or less, and is in the occupation of Mr. Daniel Turner. Land tax 14s. per annum. Quit rent 9d. per annum."

Daniel Turner married three times and had sons who became millers. John George Turner, born in 1830, and Edward Maylam Turner, born in 1842.

## **William Hinds**

Recorded as miller 1831-1834.

At the baptism of Eliza Jane Hinds in Appledore in 1831, her father William is recorded as having the occupation of miller. At the baptism of Alfred Hinds in Appledore in 1834, his father William has the occupation of miller.

William Hinds married Elizabeth Wimble in 1830, and the witnesses were James Boon and William Packham, clerk. William Packham is the Appledore miller, corn dealer and publican, also noted to be 'clerk of this parish' who was declared bankrupt in 1810.

These are the only records of William Hinds in Appledore. Elizabeth Hinds (née Wimble) died in Appledore in 1839.

## **John Blackman (1793-1876)**

Recorded as miller in 1834, corn dealer in 1841, cornfactor and coal merchant in 1861.

John Blackman was born in Rolvenden and was buried in Appledore (although living in Maidstone at the time of his death). His occupation was recorded as miller at the baptism of his daughter in 1834. His address was 'In the Street', and in 1861 the household included a general servant and a housemaid.

Also in the household in 1861 was his son Henry William Blackman (1832-1922), also with the occupation of cornfactor and coal merchant. In 1881 and 1891, he was a cornfactor and grazier, living at Forstall Hall, Appledore. In 1901 he was a farmer living at Stone Farm, Stone cum Ebony. In 1911 he was a grazier living at Oxney House, Appledore. In 1921 aged 89 and still at Oxney House, he was back to being a cornfactor (retired).

It looks as though John Blackman moved from being a miller to a corn and coal dealer, with those occupations being carried on by his son.

## **Henry Crux (1810-1911)**

Recorded as miller and mill owner 1839-1864.

Henry Crux was born in Dymchurch, the son of George Crux, a grazier. By the age of 29, he was married and a miller in Appledore. In 1851 he was living at Griffin Farm, and in 1861 he was living at Mill House, Upper Heath.

Henry Crux was miller at the Smock Mill and the Turner family papers say that he leased the Mill and cottage from Daniel Turner. The same papers say that Daniel Turner sold the Smock Mill to Crux's father-in-law in 1842. Henry Crux's wife was Mercy Ann Esther Sacree from Hythe, and her father was probably Thomas Sacree from Hythe. There was an Alfred Sacree and an Alice Sacree (aged 10 and 15) living with Henry Crux and his wife at Appledore Heath in 1841, but Thomas Sacree is elusive. Alice Sacree became a shoemaker and married into the Pearson family.

The 1841 census records the presence of Richard Crux and Stephen Kelsey, both miller's apprentices. The 1851 census records the presence of Isaac Bates as miller's apprentice.

Richard Crux was likely to be the younger brother of Henry Crux. He was described as a miller, when marrying Eliza Riddles in Appledore in 1842. He was an insolvent debtor in 1853, having been a journeyman miller and then a greengrocer in Hastings, and then a journeyman miller in New Romney. He was still a journeyman miller, and still in New Romney, in 1861. He was in New Romney in 1871, but with no occupation given. No other record of Stephen Kelsey in Appledore can be found.

Henry Crux put the Mill up for auction in June 1857, and again in July, 1864.

There is also a record for Henry Crux, under 'Bankrupts' in the London Gazette, dated 1868 -

*Henry Crux, of 2, Albert Place, Commercial Road, Peckham, Surrey, baker, previously of Appledore, near Ashford, Kent, miller, a prisoner for debt in Horsemonger Lane Gaol, Surrey, (in forma pauperis).*

The Crux family history also mentions him becoming a baker, but not a bankrupt baker -

*"By 1839 we find Henry Crux and his wife Mercy listed as running the Appledore Mill. Appledore is a little village 8 miles Southwest of Ashford in South Kent. By 1861 they had four daughters, but no sons. The mill was very large, and running it must have been hard work. In 1864, aged 54, Henry sold up and moved to London, where he became a baker."*



## **James Pearson (1841-1885)**

Recorded as miller in 1861.

James Pearson may or may not have been a miller in Appledore. He was the son of Thomas Pearson, farmer, and in 1861 he was living in the family home at Hall House. He was 20, with the occupation of miller. He was again described as 'miller' when he married in 1868, but was then living in Lyminge. In 1881, he was living at Windmill House in Warehorne. At that point he had five children, and the eldest had been born in 1871, in Buffalo, USA. The next eldest child was born in Appledore in 1873.

James Pearson may have done his apprenticeship in one of Appledore's mills before becoming a miller in Lyminge, which then had two Smock Mills, the White Mill and the Old Black Mill. Shortly after his marriage he and his wife emigrated to the USA. Buffalo had at least five large industrial mills, and its position on the Great Lakes meant that its millers could choose the best wheat from the American Mid-West and the Canadian Prairies. Buffalo became the flour milling capital of the USA, and the high quality of the flour meant that 42% of Buffalo's production was exported to Western Europe. It looks as though James Pearson was in America for three or four years before returning to Warehorne. Warehorne's mill was a small and antiquated post mill that was almost mediaeval compared with the industrial leviathans of Buffalo, USA.

James Pearson died in 1885, aged 44, and is buried in Appledore. Windmills were in decline at the time of his death and Warehorne Mill was demolished in 1900. Part of the reason for the decline of such windmills was the importation of cheap, high-quality flour from Buffalo.

## **John George Turner (1830-1912)**

Recorded as miller in 1864.

The evidence for John George Turner being a miller at Appledore is inconclusive. He was a miller, he was the son of an Appledore miller, he was the brother of an Appledore miller, and when he was of working age he lived at Mill Cottage, Appledore. However, the 1861 census recorded him as an agricultural labourer whilst living at Mill Cottage. He was later a miller's grinder at Lydd (1881), a journeyman miller at Black Mill, Headcorn (1901), and in 1911 (aged 80) he was a 'corn miller old age pensioner', still at the Black Mill, Headcorn.

The Turner family papers note a record of him being a miller in 1864, and speculate that he was working the smaller post mill at Appledore (while Henry Crux was at the larger mill), possibly with his father and/or his brother. The 1864 reference may come from a Post Office Directory but hasn't been located.

## **Edward Maylam Turner (1842-1920)**

Recorded as miller 1864-1876.

In 1871, Edward Maylam Turner was living at Poplar Place and was a miller. Poplar Place was the name for Poplar Hall at that time. The Turner family papers note other references in the Post Office Directory in 1870 and 1874. He was probably the 'Mr Turner' mentioned in *'Watermills and Windmills'* by Coles Finch, identifying him as miller in 1876.

Edward Maylam Turner had been miller at the smaller post mill and had also inherited the Mill House. Both were sold in 1872. The railways had arrived in Appledore in 1852 and the heyday of windmills had passed. By 1881 Edward was a Railway Porter in Hastings, where he died in 1920.

## **John Wraight (1798-1876)**

Recorded as mill owner 1864-1871.

John Wraight was born in Pluckley, where in 1861 he was a farmer with 120 acres. He was on the electoral register for Appledore from 1865-71, but in the 1871 census he was living in Kingsnorth. Curiously, the 1871 census says that he is 72 years old and a 'looker' (shepherd). That's quite a shift from being a farmer with 120 acres. Maybe it was a retirement occupation. Maybe, like a few others, the Union Mill had led to his financial downfall. He was buried back in Pluckley.

John Wraight made the newspapers a couple of times while he was in Appledore. On the first occasion, he found himself in court, accused of bypassing the Pluckley tollgate by using a private road. He was in fact visiting a mill with two entrances, and was found not guilty.

On the second occasion, he was a witness to the manslaughter of a boy on Appledore Heath. The boy, known only as 'George', was travelling with a chimney-sweep who used him to go up chimneys. The boy was severely beaten, and was then left to freeze to death in the snow, on the coldest night of the year. John Wraight witnessed the beating.

## **Francis Hewson**

Recorded as miller in 1868.

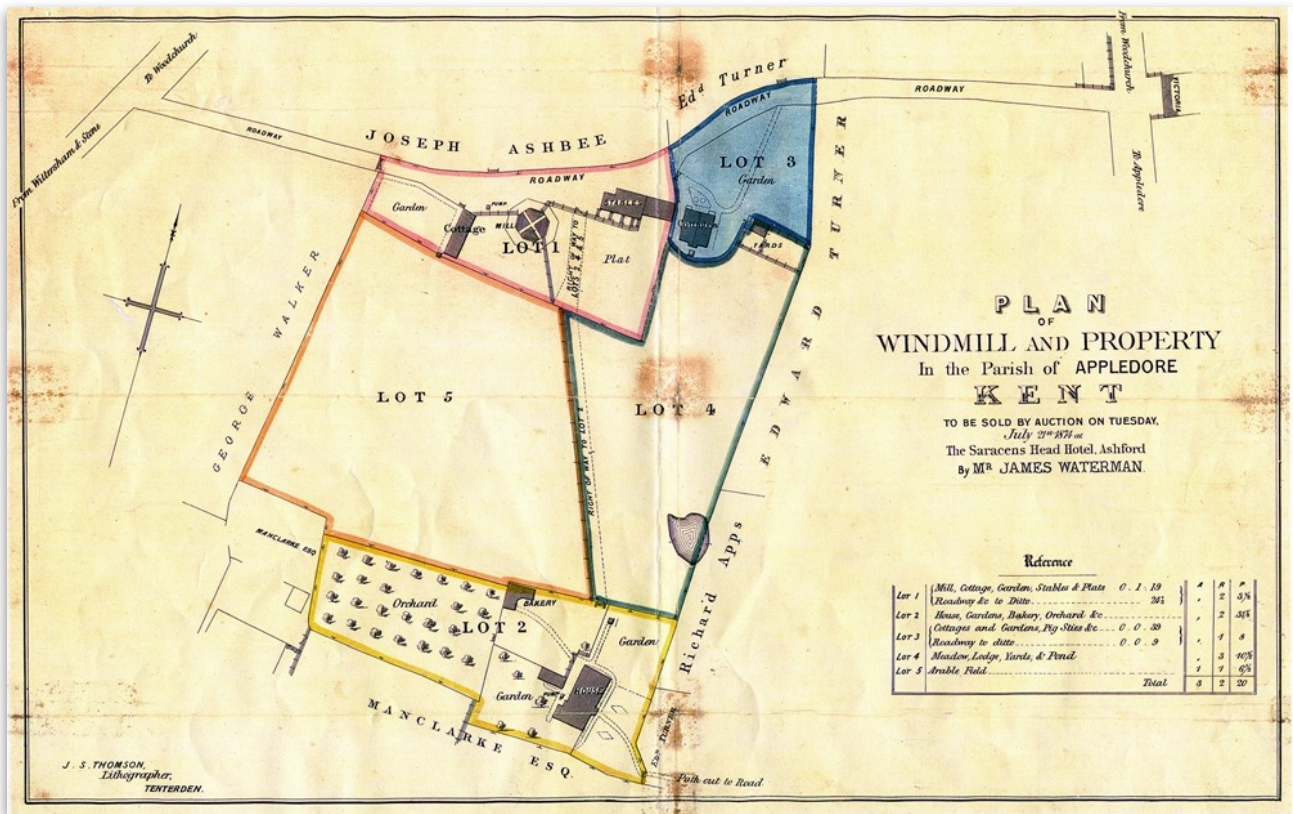
*The Canterbury Journal & Farmers Gazette* reported that Francis Hewson (miller, Appledore) was convicted of having 'unjust scales'. On the same day, two grocers, in Kingsnorth and Warehorne, were convicted of having 'several light weights' in their possession. Henry Blackman, a coal merchant in Appledore, and William Collard, a miller at Wittersham, also had unjust scales. All were fined 20s (around £90 in 2023). This is the only record found of Francis Hewson, miller of Appledore. Most references point to him being a grocer in Wickhambreaux, so this may be a journalistic error. Millers and bakers did have a reputation for swindling people.

## **Robert Marchant**

Recorded as miller 1871-1874.

In the 1871 census he was living at the Heath, with the occupation of miller and farmer. He was 42 and had been born at Monk's Horton (near Hythe). Harry Smith is at the same address, with the occupation of miller's loader. In 1874, Robert Marchant was on the electoral register, which records him as owning a house, mill and land at the Heath. He seems to have been in Woodchurch by 1875.

The document below relates to the auction of the Union Mill in 1874 -



Edward Turner (see above) is shown as the owner of the land that included the post mill, but there are other references to him having sold it two years before.

The other landowners named on the plan are -

### Joseph Ashbee (1827-1906)

Son of Richard Ashbee, publican at the Swan Inn. At 25, he became a poulterer and farmer, living in The Street, first at Ivy House and then at Stone Wall House, which seems to have had a change of name to Vine House by the time he died in 1906, aged 81.

### George Walker

A bit of a mystery, because while there was a George Walker living on the Heath, census returns say he was an agricultural labourer. Maybe the landowner was a relative who lived elsewhere.

### Richard Apps (1820-?)

A waggoner, timber and beech carrier and dealer, who lived at Prosperous House on the Heath.

### Manclarke, Esq.

Probably William Manclark, wealthy landowner and Mayor of Rochester, who also owned land in New Romney. In Appledore his tenant was Joseph Pearson who was a grazier and farmer with 14 acres on the Heath.



## Henry Raynham (1861-1940)

Recorded as miller in 1880.

There is only one reference for Henry Raynham being a miller in Appledore, and it comes from a court report in the *Kentish Gazette*, on the 23rd of November, 1880. Raynham was one of thirteen local men charged with lighting bonfires and “throwing squibs on the highway” on the 5th of November. Bonfire Night in Appledore was a high-spirited affair attended by upwards of 500 people, and the events took place in The Street, rather than a field. As well as bonfires, there was the rolling of barrels filled with tar, and the throwing of squibs and the lighting of Roman Candles. It wasn't a riotous affair. The Vicar of Appledore was present and had contributed to the cost of the tar barrels. He had congratulated those involved for organising an orderly event and spoke on their behalf in court. The police usually turned a blind eye, but on this occasion had been asked to be present by Mr Edwin Cock, a wealthy and prominent farmer who lived at Court Lodge. With some apparent reluctance, the Magistrates imposed a fine of one penny on each of the thirteen defendants

Henry Raynham doesn't appear in local records, but there was only one 'Henry Raynham, Miller' in England, and he was born in Suffolk in 1861, married in Middlesex in 1883, and died in Middlesex in 1940. He was 19 on the 5th of November 1880. He was variously described as miller, millwright and stone cutter.

## George Grist (1830-1904)

Grist the Miller...

Recorded as miller and baker in 1881, miller in 1891.

George Grist was born in Brenzett in 1830, where his father (also George) was a miller. Father and son were both recorded as millers in Brenzett in 1871.

There is a record of a mortgage for Appledore Mill between Mary Johnson and George Grist, miller, for £300 dated 5th February 1878. Mary Johnson is likely to have been a relative. George's wife was a Mary Johnson, born in Hertfordshire. They married in 1857 at Tunbridge Wells.

The 1881 census records the presence of Edwin Boon, labourer (miller) and Albert White, baker.

George Grist lived at Mill House. Also present at the time of the 1891 census were Arthur H. Grist, Miller (his son), and Daniel W. Turner, Grocer (his son-in-law).

Clearly, there was a relationship with the Turners who had previously owned and worked the Mill. A Daniel Turner had been a witness of 'old' George Grist's marriage in Brenzett.

On leaving the Appledore Mill, George Grist's family left Appledore. Arthur Grist was a cab driver and groom in Foot's Cray, Bromley by 1911. Records suggest that George Grist may have died in Bromley in 1904.



The only picture we have of a miller - or at least, of a miller's horse and van -

At a guess, the photo is from 1880-1890, when George Grist was 50-60.

It's hard to say who is in the picture. From census information, if the photo was taken in 1881, the lad on the cart could be Albert White, baker, aged 17. If taken in 1891, the man holding the horse could be George Grist's son Arthur, who was a miller, aged 20. They could both be persons unknown.

George Grist was 48 when he came to Appledore Mill, so isn't either of the people in the picture.

The emblem on the side of the van has a cottage loaf at its centre. Above, it reads 'PURE'. Below, it reads 'The Staff of Life'.

An enclosed van of this type was called a 'Coburg'. They were commonly used for bread delivery.

The census may have shown George Grist at the Mill in 1891, but he'd been intending to retire in 1886, when everything was put up for auction - two windmills, his house, a bake-house, out-buildings, market gardens, and a number of 'grinders' cottages. In all, there was around 2.5 acres. In 1892, there was a County Court judgement against George Grist for £25 13s. 3d.

The auction announcement below comes from *The Kentish Gazette* in 1886. The auction was held at the Saracen's Head in Ashford.

**TO MILLERS, BAKERS, AND OTHERS.  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY  
BAYLEY & SON,  
ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 1886, at  
Three o'clock, at the SARACEN'S HEAD HOTEL,  
ASHFORD, in one lot, a**

**FREEHOLD SMOCK WINDMILL,**  
With 4 Spring Sweeps, Fantail, and Stage, driving  
three pairs of Stones, with Flour and Smut Machines,  
situate at Appledore Hoath, Kent.

**A FREEHOLD POST WINDMILL (near the above)**  
with 4 Spring Sweeps, driving 2 pairs of Stones, also  
with Flour and Smut Machines; a **BAKE-HOUSE,**  
with **SEVEN-BUSHEL BAKER'S OVEN;**

**FREEHOLD RESIDENCE,**  
And Grinders' Cottages, Garden well stocked with  
thriving fruit trees, Stable, and Out-buildings, toge-  
ther with several Enclosures of Market Garden Land,  
the whole containing about 2½ acres, at Appledore  
Hoath, and now in the occupation of Mr. George Grist,  
the proprietor, who is retiring from business.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale will be shortly  
ready, and may be had of the Auctioneers, Ashford; or  
of Messrs. HALLETT, CREEBY, WELLDON & CREEBY,  
Solicitors, Ashford.

There was a great deal of history associated with the Saracen's Head. Dating back to the 1600s, it was used as a court and for other meetings and public assemblies. It was demolished in the late 1960s, making way for a Sainsbury's supermarket, now a branch of Boots the chemist.

It's hard to visualise a seven-bushel baker's oven, but a bushel is equivalent to eight gallons, and a bushel basket is around 18" x 12". It's interesting to see that the bake-house was associated with the post mill. Perhaps it was always that way, which might confirm that the post mill was established before the arrival of the smock mill.

'Smut machines' also needs some explanation. A smut machine was a grain cleaner that removed foreign bodies and contaminants from the grain to be milled.

The highest bid was £1,250 and the property was withdrawn from sale. George Grist had to wait another five years before he could retire. The business wasn't passed to his son, who was working with him as a miller. There could be any number of reasons for that, but the Grists had been millers for several generations, and would have known which way the wind was blowing...

The next owner doesn't seem to have done too well.

## **Edward Hammond (1849-1927)**

Recorded as miller in 1886.

Edward Hammond was the son of Henry Hammond, a miller and farmer with 300 acres in Marden. In 1886, Edward Hammond was subject to a receiving order, where he was described as miller, farmer and baker of Tenterden and Appledore.

In Tenterden, he was at the water mill on the Cranbrook Road, at the bottom of Goods Hill. Other than the receiving order, there is no other record that mentions Appledore. It is conceivable that he was renting from George Grist, who was looking to sell up in 1886. It seems more likely that he was milling in Appledore than farming.

Edward Hammond survived his financial difficulties, and in 1911 he was a corn miller at Boxley, married to the headmistress of the Elementary School. There were Hammonds at the old water mill in Tenterden until the mid-twentieth century, and the author of this booklet went to school with one of them.

## **William Killick (1862-?)**

Recorded as mill owner 1892-1895.

A book could be written about the Killick family, but this isn't the place for it. The *Killick Collection* in the online Mills Archive contains ninety pictures of mills across Kent, including the picture of the Union Mill at Appledore reduced to its base. There are Killicks involved with mills as far away as Sussex and Surrey. A history of Meopham Mill (formerly known as Killick Mill) says it was built in 1819 by the three Killick brothers, reputedly from old ships timbers purchased from Chatham Dockyard. The Killicks were serial millers...

William Killick doesn't appear in the census records for Appledore, but he was on the Electoral Register with the address of East Kent Mills, Appledore. This was the Union Smock Mill under new management.

The ALHS archive contains a photocopy of a handwritten document with no indication of its origin. It's an insurance policy, dated 1893, signed by Alfred Farquhar, the insurer. The insured party is 'William Killick of Appledore, Kent - Miller and Baker'. On closer inspection, it's the mill contents that are insured, not the buildings. The windmill machinery and millstones are included, as is livestock kept in stables, pig pounds and cart sheds. The total sum insured is £300, with £150 related to 'stock in trade', which would have been the grain. The value of the machinery was £50, 'dead stock and utensils' £50, live stock £50.

From a reference in the policy, the Mill seemed to be grinding oats, not corn. In this late period, windmills were more often grinding grain for animal feed than for bread. Imported grain from the Canadian prairies was being milled into white flour in industrial mills, and there was a fashion for white bread. In more ways than one, white bread was more refined.

Alfred Farquhar, the insurer, was the son of Harvie Morton Farquhar of Herries Farquhar Bank in St James Street, London. In 1893, the year of the insurance policy, Herries Farquhar was merging with Lloyd's Bank, also in St James. Alfred Farquhar presumably didn't travel down to Appledore Heath to itemise the contents of the mill, but the document is in his handwriting.



William Killick was declared bankrupt in June 1895. From the Tunbridge Wells Journal -

**A MILLER IN DIFFICULTIES.**  
**William Killick, of the East Kent Mills, Appledore,**  
**appeared for his public examination.—It transpired**  
**that his debts were £660 2s 9d, and his**  
**assets were estimated at £51 10s 8d. Debtor,**  
**formerly a journeyman at Horsham and Henfield,**  
**took the Appledore East Kent Mills in 1892 with**  
**borrowed capital, which he had not repaid. He**  
**attributed his failure to want of capital, competition,**  
**and bad health.—The examination was ordered to be**  
**closed.**

There were several William Killicks, but the reference to Horsham helps to identify him. William Killick was born in 1862, in Rotherfield, Sussex, and was the son of Amos Killick, who in 1881 was a miller at the Gorse Dean Mill in Cowfold, Sussex.

In 1891, aged 28, William Killick was living at Bottings Hill, Horsham, where his occupation was 'Manager of miller corn', which is a little garbled, but he probably worked at Cripplegate Mill. The bankruptcy notice may be more accurate in describing him as a journeyman, meaning that he had passed through apprenticeship but was not yet a master miller in charge of a mill. Following his bankruptcy, he can be found in Strood, in 1901, where he is a corn store foreman. In 1911 he is at Crowborough in Sussex, where he is a 'Millers traveller' - or travelling salesman.

He was thirty when he came to Appledore and was bankrupt at thirty-three. He has the look of an ambitious young man who spent money he didn't have on mills that didn't make money, and were soon to be demolished. We can't be entirely sure that William Killick was associated with the ubiquitous and successful Killick family but it seems likely, even if their heyday had come a generation or two before him.

## **Alfred Boon (1862-1933)**

Reported to be miller and mill owner 1895-1909.

There is no formal record of Alfred Boon being a miller or mill owner, but in the early 1960s the *Kent Messenger* quoted two of his daughters (Hetty Fielder and Maggie Bull) as saying that he owned and worked the Union Mill from 1895 to its demolition in 1909. He also ran the associated bakery. Another contributor to the newspaper (Dorothy Green, née Dapson) remembered playing around the windmill as a child (between 1902 and 1904), and she further recalled that it was owned by the Boon family. These recollections make Alfred Boon Appledore's last miller and last mill owner.

Alfred Boon was born in Wittersham in 1862. In 1881 (aged 19) he was an agricultural labourer lodging with a farmer in Kenardington. In 1891 (aged 28) he was a carrier living at Prospect Place on the Kenardington Road in Appledore. In 1901 (aged 38) he was a general carrier living at The Mill. He later lived (and died) at Griffin Farm where he was a farmer. An obituary notice said that he lived at Mill House "for a number of years where he carried on business as a baker".

Alfred Boon may have purchased the Union Mill (with associated land and buildings) in 1895, following the bankruptcy of William Killick. He didn't describe himself as a miller, and the mill may have been worked by an associate or employee.

Alfred's daughters also recalled their brother (Percy Boon) celebrating the Relief of Mafeking (1900) by attaching a flag to one of the sails of the windmill. Percy would have been fifteen, Hetty eleven and Maggie nine. They also said that the dismantled mill was made into storage houses for Alfred's grain.

## **Fritz Marks**

Recorded as mill owner in 1899.

The reference is from an online Mills Archive that says he was a mill owner on Appledore Heath in 1899, but offers no other information. A note in the ALHS archive has his name as Mark Fritz, but says nothing else. No other reference to Fritz Marks and Appledore can be found. He could have been the owner of either the Post Mill or the Union Mill. The latter is more likely because the Post Mill was demolished in 1900 and may not have been functional in its final year. Conceivably, Fritz Marks was an associate or employee of Alfred Boon (see above).

The identity of Fritz Marks cannot be established. There are only four records of people with that name in the whole of Britain, at any time, and all can be ruled out except one, who was born in Crediton, Devon in 1867 and then cannot be traced further. There are no records for a Mark Fritz in the period.

There was a Fitz Marks who was a miller, and he had a son, Fitz John Marks. Fitz Marks operated a water mill in Cullompton, Devon in 1901. His son was too young to have been in Appledore in 1899. There were a large number of millers in Devon with the surname of Marks and a few can be seen spreading to other parts of southern England. One of them might have come to Appledore. Alternatively, Fritz Marks may be an error in a database...

It is noticeable that there are six bankruptcies associated with the mills at Appledore, with their frequency increasing during the nineteenth century. It was an entrepreneurial age, but it was also the age of debtors prisons, with 10,000 bankrupts a year ending up in prison.

In 1818, one of those bankrupts was the vicar of Appledore, William Gutteridge Edwards, who was imprisoned in The Fleet, a well-known (or notorious) debtors prison near Ludgate Hill in London. Ecclesiastical records show that he was vicar of Appledore with Ebony from 1807 to 1829, so his debts were presumably paid, unless he was 'on leave' for more than ten years.

Finally, the miller from the watermill at Court Lodge.

## **Joseph Comfort**

Recorded as miller in 1631.

The only evidence we have for Joseph Comfort (and for Court Lodge having a watermill) is that he had incurred the wrath of the church for milling on a Sunday. His defence was that land would be flooded unless he set his mill going. That was all he ever did on Sundays "unless perchance sometimes he set by his Mill and look on it". His plea was successful.

The following year he was in trouble with the church again for "abusing the churchyard with his basones out of his window as is too manifest to be seene and smelt". He pleaded that it was his "maides negligence and fault". The verdict of the court is not recorded.

Sadly, we know no more of Joseph Comfort and his smelly basins.

## George Jarvis (1856-1938)

Also known as 'The Mill Smasher'. George Jarvis was a carpenter and wheelwright who operated the Black Mill sawmills at Bethersden.

He was also an expert on moving and demolishing mills. Among the mills he demolished were Appledore (both the post mill and smock mill), High Halden, Newchurch, Aldington, Kingsnorth and Headcorn.

Sometimes he might buy a good example for £20 and move it to Bethersden, where it would be put to use powering his sawmill. Others he received for nothing, with the mill being his payment for removing it. It is said that some windmills only survive today because he couldn't agree a price with their owners.



Dismantling and moving a windmill was a difficult and hazardous business, and George Jarvis was one of the few people in the locality who was prepared to do it.

He moved a windmill from Folkestone to Bethersden with a traction engine and three trailers. Manoeuvring through the centre of Ashford, he damaged a wall on a difficult corner, agreed a few shillings in compensation and chugged slowly on.

Having re-erected the mill in Bethersden, there was no wind for several days, but one night the wind blew up and Jarvis got out of bed and set it to work at two o'clock in the morning.

A mill might be dismantled for moving, but the Sandgate Mill was conveyed whole, by road, with two or three horses. The Sandgate Mill had five locations in the course of its life - Pluckley, Great Chart, Sandgate, and two in Bethersden.

George Jarvis was a mill enthusiast as much as a demolition contractor, and he was also a repairer of windmills. He had a large stock of parts, some of which he adapted for other uses, such as cranes and hoists.

The Bethersden Sawmills had a long history, which included the manufacture of 'Colt' houses. Furniture is still made there today.

*The Jarvis workshop at Bethersden with the six-sailed 'Sandgate' smock mill to provide power.*

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